



THE ABBEY WAY

ABBEEY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL • NEWRY

Eamonn Donnelly Wins Abbey Debating Title.



Eamon Donnelly receives the winner's trophy from guest speaker Mr Noel Thompson (BBC).

The highlight of debating in the Abbey this year was undoubtedly the Senior Debating final for the Bro. McFarland Trophy. The final was held in the school on Tuesday 21st April and attracted a very large and enthusiastic audience. The motion for debate was: "This house believes that Ireland has become a racist society." Proposing the motion were Colm O'Grady, Ruairi Murphy, John Markey and Stephen Begley. The opposition were Daniel-Patrick Heatley, Eamonn Donnelly, Cathal Grimes and

Ruairi McAuley. The debate was chaired by Mr. Pat Mooney.

The topic of racism in our society is very much prevalent in the news at the moment and the students debated the motion with a degree of passion, gusto and maturity which belied their age. The formal debate lasted about one hour and the evening was rounded off with ex tempore motions which provided much mirth and enjoyment for the large audience.

The adjudicating panel of Mr. Noel Thompson (Guest Speaker), Mr. Rory McShane (Competition Sponsor) and Mr. Gerald Morgan (Teacher in charge of debating) agreed that this was the closest final for a number of years. In the end they decided that through a combination of confident delivery, excellent research and preparation and a subtle yet appropriate degree of wit, the best speaker was Eamonn Donnelly. Second place went to Colm O'Grady whilst Stephen Begley was third.

Congratulations On a Business Hat Trick

The Northern Ireland final of the General Consumer Council Competition was held on the 5th March in Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn, and was won for a remarkable third

time in four years by a team from the Abbey Grammar. The team of Steven Rice, Paul Henning, Colm O'Grady and Paul O'Hare beat off intense competition from Ballymena Academy,

Methodist College and Thornhill College to record this remarkable victory. The Abbey Way would like to offer their congratulations to the successful pupils and their mentor Mr. Markey.



Rosemary Nelson Debating Trophy



The sacred Heart team and their engaging travelling supporters.



Mr Morgan pictured with the victorious Abbey team: Michael Corrigan, Niall McAleenan, Kevin O'Reilly and Garrett O'Hare

The annual Rosemary Nelson Debating trophy was contested between the Abbey and the Sacred Heart on Tuesday June 1st in the school library. The motion for debate was, 'This house believes that violence is unacceptable in all circumstances.' The Abbey team of Kevin O'Reilly (Captain), Michael Corcoran, Garrett O'Hare and Niall McAleenan opposed the motion and delivered the arguments with passion, precision and panache.

The Sacred Heart team offered a robust defence of the motion and the final decision hung on the Captains' summations. In the end Kevin O'Reilly's summation was a powerful speech combining wit, incisive rhetoric and

was delivered with maturity and aplomb. Sr. Anne, the adjudicator, decided that Kevin's closing speech tipped the balance in favour of the home team.

The debate was chaired by Mr. McMahon and the audience comprised of Sacred Heart supporters and Mr. Morgan's Oriel 1 English class who posed some difficult questions during the open house session, many of which were directed against the Abbey team! When the vote was opened to the floor, many of the 'home' support voted for the visiting team and thus the motion was carried.

Champion School Chef - Peter Tumilty.

The electric atmosphere of competition, coupled with the rattle of steaming pots and pans, was the scene at Newry & Kilkeel Institute of Further and Higher Education during the Northern Ireland Regional Final of FutureChef 2004. Pupils from 8 schools from around the Province competed for the opportunity to become the Northern Ireland FutureChef 2004 and to compete in the UK Final in London in March. A culinary trip for the winning pupil and parent to Luxembourg and Germany dangles as the carrot!

This is the 2nd successful year of the competition with the UK FutureChef 2003 title won by Martina Halligan from St Ciaran's High School, Ballygawley.

Newry Institute was instrumental in developing the competition in Northern Ireland in partnership with seven Colleges – Armagh, East Tyrone, North West, North Down, Belfast, Fermanagh and Limavady along with Springboard

UK, Northern Ireland Association of Chefs and Cooks and the Tourism Training Trust.

Judges, Michael Deane of Deanes Restaurant Belfast and Sean Owens of Gardiners Restaurant, Magherafelt, spoke glowingly of the standard of work on display and encouraged the competitors to think seriously of a career in hospitality.

Sandra Gorman, Head of Hospitality and Tourism at Newry Institute, reminded the pupils that they had been judged by the best in the industry and they had all performed as true professionals under the real pressure and competitiveness of the industry.

Bob McDonald, Vice-Chairman of the NIACC, presented medals to all the finalists while Christine McKenna from NI Seafood presented the two runners up Kirsty Cassidy – St Fanchea's College, Enniskillen and Danielle Mellon

– St Ciaran's High School, Ballygawley with recipe books.

Mr Raymond Mullan, Director of Newry Institute, presented a knife set and all expenses trip to the winner to London to compete in the UK Final against 11 other regions to Peter Tumilty, Abbey Grammar School, Newry. The winning menu was:

Herb roasted supreme of chicken with smoked bacon and red pepper risotto, pesto and wilted wild rocket.

Hot chocolate pudding soufflé with raspberry sorbet.

With this menu and the skills and focused approach of Peter, Northern Ireland stands more than a good chance of bringing home the title for a second year.

Peter Tumilty sandwiched by the judges, Sean Owens and Michael Deane.



London Trip 1st – 3rd April 2004

A large contingent of boys who went to London (sixty-two) and five teachers were up early to catch the coach outside the Abbey.

After the coach journey to Dublin, the plane arrived in Stansted Airport and the group was picked up by a double-decker, which, apart from the good views upstairs, had screens on which the boys watched a film if they were not looking out at the sights of London. A guide gave detailed explanations of the various landmarks around London and this was enjoyed by all.

After lunch at Saint Catherine's Docks near London Bridge, there was a tour of the Imperial War Museum. This institution is a must for all those

interested in military history and the boys looked in awe at many of the exhibits.

On the first evening there was a visit to the Phoenix Theatre to see a highly entertaining performance of Blood Brothers and as usual the gunshots at the end of the show gave many hearts a jolt. As usual the singing was impressive.

The accommodation in Chestnut Youth Centre was of a high standard (it was opened to the public in November 2003) and the meals were enjoyed by all.

On Friday Madame Tussaud's was the destination and the boys enjoyed posing alongside their idols. If Ant and

Dec can be displayed surely it can't be too long before some member of the Armagh panel appears in this museum!

There was also a boat trip along the Thames and in the evening a visit to the Namco Centre which houses lots of video games and turbo bumper cars. It was difficult to prise the boys away from this place especially when some still had prizes to claim.

On Saturday the group went to see the Changing of the Guard, Hamley's Toy Store and Covent Garden.

All in all the group enjoyed their stay in London and although it is not a cheap trip, it is one which many pupils will remember fondly years later.

Abbey pupils dwarfed by the guns outside the Imperial War Museum.



Move over George and Tony - we're in charge now!



Did the Pope really visit London?

Abbey Technologists Enjoy Yet Another Successful Year at the Esat Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition

This year was EsatBT's sixth year as sponsor and the 40th anniversary of the Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition. The level of response from schools has overwhelmed them. 1,060 students representing the 480 projects competed in the final, in comparison to 1965 when 230 students took part in the first ever event. The pupils entering covered the length and breadth of Ireland with pupils from 30 out of 32 counties taking part.

Ten pupils from the Abbey CBS Technology Club competed against over two thousand students back in

October to secure their place in the final. They are naturally delighted to have once more achieved great success securing 7 major awards along with other category and highly commended awards.

Fearghus Heatley secured three awards for his project 'Detect-A-Line', an electronic device which attaches to a JCB Arm. This device detects the proximity of high-voltage cables and remotely alerts the cab driver. His awards included The Intel Student Bursary, the Health and Safety Authority

special award for his innovative approach to agricultural safety and a category award in the Individual Senior Technology section.

Rory O'Rourke and Donal Myles secured two awards with their project Ladder Leveller, an electro-mechanical device to ensure the safe use of ladders. The pupils won the prestigious Patent Office Award which recognises the most innovative use of technology with the potential for commercial exploitation. The pupils also secured a category award in the Senior Group Technology



Mr Savage, Mr Rodgers, Mr Mooney and technician Mr Higgins with the highly successful Abbey pupils.

section. Rory also received The Intel Student Bursary.

Sean McClory received the 'Midas' award for the project with the best electronic content 'Money for Old Rope' a dual purpose product which could measure the amount of rope a climber has left or the amount of cable run of a coil. Sean also received a category award in the Individual Intermediate Technology Section.

Sean Murphy secured success with his device 'Safe Socket,' a novel innovation to ensure small children don't get a nasty shock from an unused plug-

socket! Sean won the Health and Safety award for his innovation and also secured a 1st Place in the Junior Individual Technology Section.

Other Projects which were highly commended by the judges include; Michael McNiell and Patrick McShane who made a device that accurately determines shoe size. Stephen McClelland who invented 'P.A.L.', an electronic diary which helps children with learning disabilities structure their day and Keith Mooney and Ethan Toner who constructed the interactive teething ring which helps babies cut new teeth.

Mr Tony Mooney won the prestigious analogue devices award. This award is presented to the teacher who is deemed to have contributed significantly to this competition. Mr Mooney's reward for his efforts is an all expenses paid trip to visit analogue devices sites on the east and west coasts of America. This reward reflects greatly on both Mr T Mooney (Head of Technology) and the other members of the Technology department. The Abbey Technology department has had great success over the years in this competition and this prize is just rewards for their efforts over the years.

The Great Man

Mr. Pat Mooney.



I will always be grateful to Pat for making my transition to the world of teaching in the Abbey so easy. He is one of those gentlemen who go above and beyond the call of duty, someone who always made a point of putting his hand on your shoulder to ask you how you were - and meaning it. As someone once said at a staff meeting, if you cut Pat Mooney in half he would have the

word Abbey moulded into him just as you would see on a stick of rock.

I have been fortunate to share the stage with Pat as a member of N.M.O.S. and Newpoint Players, and ever since I first encountered him, having directed the highly successful Warrenpoint Players' "Diary of Anne Frank", I realised that he can be summed up with one word - PASSION. Pat wasn't just an Abbey

teacher, he was The Abbey.

We at the Abbey Way know that wherever Pat goes or whatever he decides to do, he will approach his new horizons with that same PASSION, and the new world he inhabits will, like our own, be a much richer place.

Abbey Way

Big Pat

Giving a teacher credit for years of dedicated service to a school can sometimes read like a CV for future beatification but in the case of Pat Mooney it's hard to overstate the contribution he has made to the life of the Abbey.

I first met Pat in January of 1992 and at first did not know what to make of him. His giant frame and shock of grey hair suggested authority, his welcoming words and genuine warmth declared sincerity. And that's how I think of Pat Mooney - as someone who is a friend and a rock of sense. He is someone who chose teaching because it was his vocation. How many pupils will remember Pat as a larger-than-life character?

When it came to teaching Shakespeare he didn't have an equal. How many boys sent on messages found Pat crouched in the corner of the classroom playing the shivering Poor Tom, or saw him standing arms aloft as Lear raging against the storm? Many a member of staff going through the car park has had to do a second take when walking past the

open windows of M2. What's going on? Does Pat always challenge the boys in blank verse? It can never be said that Pat Mooney's English class was boring.

Pat is a character; a great servant and a great leader. He helped to develop so many areas of school life and represented the staff both as Teacher Governor and Union Representative; he was a pair of safe hands.

Pat brought much energy and colour to the Abbey and few of us will forget him. I wish you well, Pat and extend my gratitude for being such a great friend and one of the best role models one could ever meet within the teaching profession.

Mark for thirty six years' work: 10,000+/10

PS Your mark schemes were always interesting!

Mr. McMahan

A Legend

PAT MOONEY - this name will always be synonymous with the Abbey. "Big Jed", as he was affectionately known, will never be forgotten by his pupils because he was the true Abbey man and there are none to equal him today. He gave his time unselfishly to the Abbey in all aspects of school life. His students are indebted to Pat in many ways - be it in the area of Sport, Drama, Music or Academia - the "big fella" was there!!

Pat spent many extra hours in school helping individuals to further their careers in sport, on the stage or through extra English classes - he was there to help in the best possible way.

He nurtured Ronan Rafferty, Raymond Burns, Peter O'Hagan and others to success in school and later to further their own careers in their chosen sport. It would be impossible for me to mention all the diverse qualities of this gentle giant but he

helped produce plays, shows and musicals; he helped Dr. McDonnell in winning a Corn na n-Óg; he was always present whenever and wherever the Abbey boys were competing; he would constantly organise Abbey students to support those representing the school. Whenever the Abbey got to any football finals, it was Pat who would spend his time and energy urging support and using his vocal chords to teach the Abbey songs; he would support quiz and debating teams; in fact anywhere Abbey pupils were representing the school - Pat was there!!

Without doubt the famous chant of, "there's only one Pat Mooney," will last forever in the annals of the Abbey Christian Brothers. Yes, this was a man - an Abbey man and there will never ever be another to equal him!! Enjoy your retirement Pat - by God you deserve it!

Mr. A O Rourke

Just a few wonderful memories from the magnificent "Guys & Dolls"



Musical Notes – Summer Term

After the successful debut Spring Concert, the next venture for the music department was the Newry Feis. The Jazz Band came first in their category ably led by Gerry Morgan. Chris Cull gave a powerful rendition of Acker Bilk's famous Stranger on the Shore. The choir came second in the Boy's Choir category, performing Panis Angelicus (Franck) and Peace of God (Rutter). The orchestra, making their debut, were pipped at the post by one point, coming second to the Sacred Heart with St. Colman's in third, the adjudicator praising the balanced programme and good ensemble.

The next extravaganza was the fundraising "Cabaret" with Mr Smyth as front of house compere, Mr Wadsworth behind the scenes and on the stage, star acts from the students, staff and friends from outside - a great night was had by all. Non-stop entertainment:

music from the Jazz Band, Cold Porter and the Traditional Group, dancing from the Nolan School of Irish Dancing, comedy and drama prepared by Mr Smyth and Mr Mooney, and much more. A feast of fun and laughter. Many thanks to all involved on and behind the stage, helpers in the hall and behind the bar, and to all those who supported the event.

Profits from the "Cabaret" went to support the Choir & Trad. Group on their tour to England this June. They will perform in England's oldest Catholic School (St. Edmund's, Hertfordshire) as well as venues in Essex. A Mass, two concerts and a céilí in five days! Well done to all those who played in the various events this year. There will be lots more music to look forward to in the new term.

Dominic Wadsworth – Head of Music



Mr Smyth serenades Lady Bracknell, or was it Mr Mooney?



The world famous Nolan School of Dancing

Chemistry trip to London

Last April, after several weeks of waiting, studying and hoping that they would make it home, four pupils from the Abbey flew to London to take part in the Royal Society of Chemistry's National Secondary Schools Competition, along with teams from Britain and Ireland (and one team from Belgium who looked quite lost).

Ronan McDonald (that's me), Kevin O'Reilly, Conal O'Hare and Christopher Cunningham (3rd year, 4th year, 2nd year and 2nd year respectively) weren't just looking forward to the thrill of taking Chemistry tests in a museum, as we had two spare days to sight-see, eat, take the underground and occasionally get lost at the expense of the RSC. Among the places the group visited were Trafalgar Square, Harrods, Westminster, Hyde Park and Piccadilly Circus.

Dr. Fee, Head of Chemistry, organised the trip and chose the students who

would compete. Patrick McDonald, who, despite what anyone at the competition may think, is not a Chemistry teacher at the Abbey, accompanied the pupils to London and was a very capable and competent guardian. He also happens to be my father.

The competition consisted of a written Chemistry paper, questions on demonstrations and information around the National Science Museum and, what everyone agreed was the most difficult component, a practical "problem-solving" test, in which we had to change the temperature of water using three chemicals. The day was, all in all, very enjoyable, though the school didn't finish in the top five. The scores for those outside the top five are not disclosed, so we can only assume the Abbey came sixth.

By Ronan McDonald

The Phone, My Sister and Me.

My Sister is always on the phone
She is like a dog with a bone.
If you try and get it off her
She will give you a stainful stare.

She spins the phone's cord
As she must be bored!
She talks for hours on end!
Which drives me around the bend!

One day I had to make an important call
But once again I found my sister talking
in the hall.
I told her to get off!
But instead she gave a sarcastic cough.

In the end I told my mum
Who smacked my sister on the bum.
My sister was then grounded for a week
Now she hardly uses the phone to speak.

Seamus McNamee

Abbey Pupils Celebrate St George's Day - "Barcelona Style"

On 21st-24th April 46 pupils from The Abbey spent a very enjoyable time in Barcelona, Salou and Port Aventura.

Diverland, a bowling alley and returned to their hotel at around 1.00 am.

the Olympic Stadium. We also saw some of the remarkable buildings designed by Antonio Gaudi.



After a refreshing picnic lunch we spent some time in the Aquarium and had the opportunity to see Barcelona by boat on the famous 'Golondrinas'. That evening we also went shopping on The Ramblas- the central Avenue of Barcelona.

Friday night's meal was eaten in an Italian restaurant in Salou.

On Saturday we made our way back to 'El Prat' airport and from there the journey to Dublin lasted about 2 1/2 hours.

The trip was an unforgettable experience, the pupils and teachers were impeccably behaved throughout and we hope to return to Spain in the not too distant future.

The pupils had an extremely early start on the Wednesday, departing at 3.30 am!! Our flight to 'El Prat' airport in Barcelona departed Dublin at 8 am. On arrival in Barcelona we made our way directly to the Mare Magnum Centre in central Barcelona to try out the traditional Spanish cuisine in McDonalds! Afterwards we spent the afternoon in The Nou Camp Stadium, home to Barcelona F.C. Some pupils were lucky enough to meet Ronaldiño and all savoured the special atmosphere of the stadium.

On Friday 23rd, St George's Day (the Patron Saint of Barcelona) we visited the city. Our guide showed us the main places of interest and we visited the famous Sagrada Familia Cathedral and

We stayed in Salou, some 110 km from Barcelona.

Thursday was spent in the Port Aventura Theme Park where pupils enjoyed the attractions and teachers explored the delights of the Wild West!!

On Thursday evening the pupils went out to the



Abbey pupils at the Nou Camp Stadium in Barcelona

Abbey pupils were very impressed with the Nou Camp Stadium in Barcelona



El viernes 23, día de San Jordi, patrón de Barcelona, visitamos la ciudad. Nuestra guía nos enseñó los principales sitios de interés y visitamos la famosa cathedral de la Sagrada Familia y el estadio olímpico. También vimos algunos de los más sorprendentes edificios diseñados por Antonio Gaudi. Después de un reconfortante picnic pasamos alg'n tiempo en el Acuario y tuvimos la oportunidad de ver Barcelona en barco a bordo de las famosas "Golondrinas". Aquella tarde fuimos de compras a Las Ramblas, una avenida en el centro de Barcelona. Por la noche la cena tuvo lugar en un restaurante italiano en Salou.

El sábado, ya de regreso a Irlanda, nos dirigimos al aeropuerto de "El Prat" y desde allí el viaje a Dublin duró unas dos horas y media.

El viaje fue una experiencia inolvidable. Los alumnos y profesores se comportaron de forma impecable a lo largo del mismo, por lo que esperamos regresar a España en un futuro no muy lejano.!

VIAJE A BARCELONA

Del 21 al 24 de abril 46 alumnos del Abbey pasaron unos días muy agradables en Barcelona, Salou y Port Aventura.

El miércoles los alumnos comenzaron su viaje extremadamente pronto, saliendo de Newry a las 3.30 de la madrugada!! Su vuelo al aeropuerto de "El Prat" en Barcelona salió de Dublin a las 8 de la mañana. A su llegada a Barcelona nos dirigimos al Mare Magnum, en el centro de Barcelona, para probar la tradicional cocina española en McDonalds! Después pasamos la tarde en el estadio de Nou Camp, sede del Fútbol Club Barcelona. Algunos alumnos tuvieron la suerte de conocer a Ronaldiño y todos saborearon el ambiente especial del estadio.

Nos alojamos en Salou, a unos 110 km de Barcelona.

El jueves lo pasamos en el parque temático de Port Aventura donde los alumnos disfrutaron de las atracciones y donde los profesores exploraron los placeres del lejano oeste!! Por la noche

los alumnos fueron a "Diverland" para jugar a los bolos y regresaron al hotel hacia la una de la madrugada.



Abbey pupils cooling off at the Port Aventura Theme Park.

International Success for Abbey Students in the USA.

Fergal Garvey and Darran Treanor, sixth year students in the Abbey Grammar School, represented Northern Ireland in the International Science and Engineering Fair held in Portland, Oregon, last week.

They qualified in Belfast at the Young Innovators competition, organised by Sentinus last June. There they became the Northern Ireland Young Scientists and Young Innovators of the Year.

Their project was a study of the group dynamics and variation in the Beadlet Anemone (*Actinia equinia*) population on the rocky shore of Greencastle and was carried out over an eighteen month period. The students found variation in terms of coloration, zonation, post settlement of juveniles and seasonal migration. Their study suggests that speciation is taking place on the shore,

and is considered to be a significant step forward in the understanding of these primitive creatures.

The students were accompanied by their teacher, Mrs Margaret Lane, and representatives from Intel Ireland and Sentinus. The competition was covered by RTE, and Darran and Fergal will be featured on a future programme of Scope.

This was a highly prestigious competition, sponsored by Intel, with students from forty-five countries exhibiting one thousand five hundred projects. The Abbey boys received a Fourth award in the overall competition and third place in the Northern American Benthological Society award. It was a memorable week and a remarkable achievement for the students and their teacher.



Fergal Garvey and Darren Treanor who represented N. Ireland in the International Science and Engineering fair in Portland U.S.A.

Hard-hitting message for teenagers on road safety *By Jonathan McCambridge*

TEENAGERS from the Abbey Grammar School in Newry were served up a hard-hitting road safety message by the police and Fire Service.

Constable Warren Todd from the PSNI's community police team showed over 120 16 and 17-year-olds a written-off car as part of an address on the dangers of speeding and drink-driving.

The issues were highlighted by explaining the driving licence points system and figures for the amount of fatalities and serious injuries for Northern Ireland and especially the Newry area.

A police spokesman said: "It is hoped that this event will make young people stop and think about the seriousness of safety when driving and the consequences of taking a risk on the road."

Rory Dumigan, Fire Service liaison officer, also addressed the teenagers regarding attending serious accidents.



Science Success for Abbey Student in London

There was further success for Abbey Grammar School student Stephen Begley when he won first prize at the BA Science CREST fair, London. BA CREST Awards accredit Creativity in Science and Technology. BA CREST is a nationally recognised project-based scheme for students aged between 11-19. BA CREST awards enable students to develop their scientific curiosity as well as problem-solving, practical and

communication skills for use in the 'real world'.

Under the direction of his Biology teacher Mrs O. McGinley Stephen first submitted his project, entitled A study of the Antibiotic Properties of Lichens, at the BA CREST regional event held in Belfast in June 2003. In this competition Stephen took first prize and was also awarded a special AstraZeneca award.

In addition to these prizes Stephen was selected to represent Northern Ireland at the prestigious national BA CREST Science fair, London. Here Stephen competed against other regional winners from across the United Kingdom and took first prize - The Research Council's UK best Silver CREST project.



Mr McGovern and Mrs O McGinley with Stephen Begley who won first prize at the BA Science Crest fair, London.

APTA News Committee

APTA has concluded another successful year. New members have volunteered their services, replacing stalwarts like Mary Murphy and John Thornton who left the committee last year, while Mary Flynn and Kathleen Mulholland conclude long years of service this summer. APTA wishes to thank them all for their sterling work.

Committee meetings

As always APTA provides a conduit for parental views on topical issues in the school. This year opinion was sought on diverse matters such as Parent Teacher

Meetings, Careers provision in the school, while the committee also took part in a review of the school uniform. The APTA committee is also contributing to a review of The Abbey Grammar School as part of a new cycle in the School Development Plan.

"Fun Quiz"

In a change to normal routine APTA ran its ice-breaking Fun Quiz for First Years earlier than usual. The September date proved a huge success with a turnout in the hundreds. Even the stage had to be pressed into action. Thanks must go to Miss Mary Black and her team of First Year Form Teachers (Mr Sean Gallagher, Miss Mairé ad Quinn, Mr Dominic Wadsworth, Mrs Lisa

McKeever and Mrs Denise Simpson) for ensuring that this event passed off so successfully. The support of parents and members of extended family circles is also greatly appreciated.

Liturgy and Reflection on Bereavement

During the month of the Holy Souls, November, APTA held a liturgy and reflection on Bereavement. A touching mass was celebrated in the Library by the school chaplain, Father Wright. This was followed by an informative presentation by Mr Laurence Evans on the issue of sudden death, particularly in relation to young men.

Another Magnificent Year for the Abbey Irish Department

Pictured below are the 2004 entrants for the Gael Linn Public speaking competition ABAIR. The SELB area heat was hosted in the Abbey CBS library and on that occasion Diarmaid Dillon qualified for the Ulster finals in the A Level section while Seán Mc Clory proceeded to the Ulster finals in the GCSE section. The venue for the final was The Cardinal Ó Fiaich Memorial Library in Armagh and a total of 40 competitors delivered a 4 minute prepared speech.

The judges were Pádraig Ó Baoill from Rann na Feirste in the Donegal Gaeltacht and Lynette Faye from the BBC Irish Language Unit. The school has achieved success at A level in this event in 2002 with John Dougan, and at GCSE in 2003 with Macdara Ó Graham and yet again in 2004 when Seán McClory emerged as overall winner for GCSE. The prize was a trophy, a scholarship for a course in the Gaeltacht and a full expenses paid trip to Edinburgh for the student and his teacher to participate in a joint Scots

Gaelic/Irish Gaelic convention.

The Abbey team of Tiernan Millar, Ciarán O'Neill (captain) Seán McClory, Danny McAlinden and James McSweeney, also scored a major success. They were members of the Abbey team for Raidió na Gaeltachta's Tráth na gCeist which is broadcast on 102.7 FM every Sunday at 5.30pm. After many years of attempting to enter this competition the school finally managed to gain acceptance in 2004 but were drawn against the 2003 champions, Pobalscoil na nGleanntach in the first round and travelled to Letterkenny expecting to face stiff opposition. They emerged successfully however with a convincing win of 106 to 86 and proceeded to eliminate St. Michael's Lurgan in the Ulster semi-final held in Kelly's Inn Ballygawley with the impressive score of 110 to 74. The opposition for the Ulster Final were St. Patrick's Academy Dungannon, with the winners qualifying to play the 2004 Connaught Champions in Sligo.

For the second time in three years the news reached the school that the Ashbourne Shield was awarded to the GCSE and A level students of the Abbey Grammar for the most fluent spoken Irish in the 6 counties. Having won previously in 2001 it was not expected that the school could repeat the success in the fierce competition for this coveted honour so soon again. There have been several explanations for the victory. Sarah Murphy, our Irish Language Assistant 2003-2004, claims to have played no small part in the achievement. Willy McCullough, the caretaker/janitor, insists that he made a favourable impression on the visiting examiner when he greeted her with "Maidin mhaith, cad é mar atá tú" in the school foyer. An Máistir Mac Ruairí explains that his presence was the decisive factor despite his having arrived in the school after the inspection occurred. Meanwhile the 'oul dog for the hard road' Mr. McKevitt, who actually teaches 97% of the winning students, goes about his daily chores as humble and unassuming as ever!

Pictured here with Mr. Maurice McKevitt are Micheál Brady, Cailam Quinn, Seán McClory & Diarmaid Dillon



Poetry now.

Quiet!

The night was so quiet,
That the buzz of the lamp,
Came to my ear,
A headache thumping to
Get out!

The night was so quiet,
That the breeze in the trees,
Came to my ear,
Like the whispers of a mouse
Lost in a maize.

The night was so quiet,
That the quiet of quietness,
Came to my ear,
Like the drum of my ear
DEAF!

*Oliver Hearty
Iveagh 1*

The day was so hot!

The day was so hot that all solids had
melted, sheltered
people all bothered and sweltered, the
sun looked over
cities and towns the sun glared down
at people with frowns,
turning the people from white to
brown.

People in desperate attempts to cool
down, jumped into
rivers, sprayed hoses, threw buckets.
Cool down, I think not for the sun was
too great they
could never escape their merciless
fate.

*Michael Valley
Iveagh 1*

The night the cold fell!

The night was cold,
The air was crisp,
The snow was falling,
Through the night,
You've got frostbite!

Slipping,
Sliding everywhere,
Falling, falling,
Through the night air.

Curtains blowing,
In the night
Cold, cold, cold, crisp air,
Feels like a devil's bite,
Falling, falling, falling into
the night air.

*Michael Mc Kevitt
Iveagh 1*

Terminal?

I sat there that late Sunday
Evening, head in my hand resting
Against the wall on the staircase.
Terminal they say... How terminal?

They say that it is because she
Will die, but is this not the way
With everyone? Will we not
All die? At least at some point.

At one point even I thought that

Terminal was a bad thing but I must
Have been wrong, with all those
people

Saying it will be alright, all is well

I've seen how people react to the
News but the truth is, it always was
There. But she has gone now with
Her lips like the late autumn sun

That rises, falls and then settle into
Night, shone into the future as a ray
Of light, for her once held, but now

is gone. The woman in the garment

Of death has fallen and been placed
In the body of an oak that has once
Been felled. The cracked casket buried
Six feet above twelve feet under

Rotted readily as I said my sorrows
And lived in the requiem of what her life
Had once meant to me and ask myself
The vital question... What next?

Kyle Haughey

Book Review - Machine Gunners

The book I am reviewing this week is called the Machine Gunners. It is a tense, dark, comedic drama about some children who find a German machine gun during World War 2. It shows what a tense time this was for the nation and how everyone suspected everyone in this dog-eat-dog world. It is based on the author, Robert Westalls', own experience during this era. This book won the Carnegie Medal in 1975 when it was first published and enjoyed great success along with his other books, e.g. Gulf which won the Guardian Children Fiction Award in 1993. Not soon after this Robert Westall passed away.

The book follows the path of young Chas McGill, a small spirited boy who wants to do everything he can to help the war effort. He is a reputable and eccentric souvenir collector second only

to Boddser Brown, his arch nemesis. He is described as "a great, gangling grown up body. He was stupid and a bully. An arm twister who made his pleasure last a long time".

While walking through the woods one day he spots a downed German Luftwaffe Plane with its rear machine gun still attached. His journey of trying to hide the gun and evade the police, teachers and his parents, is described beautifully and expressions are incredibly detailed. His patriotic actions are guided by his hormones and every one is pumped with testosterone just like a real teenager so you know it isn't an artificial character.

The comedy relief is provided by Clogger, a strange Glaswegian who speaks on impulse with his comical catchphrases like 'Ach no' and 'Tripe'.

From about the middle of the book it gets a lot darker and the characters become a lot more adult from the childish caricatures they are at the start. There is a surprise death of someone close and an unexpected capture of a stranger, which makes it a tale of jumps and shocks.

The only criticism of the book is the ending. It seems very abrupt, especially after the exciting build up. The characters are all very lovable and the way they can form a fortress worthy of keeping themselves undetected so long shows how children aren't as vulnerable as people think. But then they don't communicate and observe the situation properly which shows children need to be organised like adults. This book was outstanding and exceeded my expectations even with the bad ending. This book deserves 8/10.

Daniel Sutherland

Colleges' All-stars Total 37 For The Abbey Over 17 Years

James was vice-captain of the Down minor team in 2003, and he was top scorer with Abbey CBS in this year's MacRory. With Burren, he collected a south Down under 21-medal and a Down Premier Reserve League medal in 2003. James is son of former Down senior player Brendan.

No fewer than five of the team selected play with Derry clubs (4 different schools), four more with Monaghan clubs (1 from St. Patrick's Keady), while Tyrone have three representatives (1 from St. Michael's Enniskillen), Armagh two and Down's James McGovern is the only one from his county selected.

The selection now means that St. Patrick's, Maghera and Abbey CBS Newry are tied on total All-stars collected over the 17 years, with 37 each (Maghera top the hurling chart with 58), while one each for the two Tyrone schools means that they are still neck-and-neck with 15 awards each.

Full-forward: James McGovern

School: Abbey CBS, Newry

Club: St. Mary's, Burren



James McGovern receiving his Allstars Nomination.



The Gallant MacRory Abbey Team who just failed at the Quarter final stages.

Third Time Lucky !!!

For the third year running The Abbey Senior Quiz team, which comprises Peadar Coyle (captain), Colm O'Grady, Kevin O'Reilly and Philip McClory have defeated school teams from across Northern Ireland to win the prestigious Senior Challenge Schools Quiz.

In heated competition, The Abbey defeated Sacred Heart, Saint Louis's Ballymena and Royal Belfast Academical Institution to win the



coveted Tyrone Crystal trophy. The Abbey Quiz Team accompanied by Mr McClory, went on to compete against eight other schools from Scotland, Wales and England at Westminster School, London at the National Senior Challenge Competition

on the 7th of May. In a nail-biting contest the Abbey were narrowly beaten by King Edward School, Birmingham, who eventually became grand final winners for the second year running. Teacher in charge of quizzes: Mrs Fiona McAreavey

Abbey Golf Team Face St. Colman's

The Abbey's junior golf team are currently involved in the Newry and Mourne Schools' golf League which is being played over three different golf courses: Warrenpoint, Kilkeel and Armagh. The team have attended regular golf sessions in Burren Driving Range and gave a good account of themselves in their opening game against St. Louis, Kilkeel, eventually tying the match at 3.5 points each.

The team are due to play St. Colman's College in their next game and all schools involved will attend the finals day, in Warrenpoint Golf Club, at the beginning of June where there will be some professional coaching and prizes sponsored by Titleist Ireland.

The team which represented the Abbey were: Ryan Gribben (Captain), Homesh Sayal, Declan McConville, Mark Rafferty, Fergus Boyle, David Burns and Jack O'Callaghan.



Abbey Chess Kings

The Chess Club has been taking place in Mrs Simpson's room after school on both a Monday and Thursday throughout the year. An enthusiastic group of pupils from 1st year to 5th year, and of all abilities, enjoy playing and learning about chess.

This year we have teamed up with Our Lady's Grammar School, Newry on a Monday afternoon and the presence of the 'fairer sex' has provided added interest and competition.

We have had another successful year in competition. Our senior team drew with Methody School, an experienced chess playing school. Six boys qualified for the N. Ireland School Finals: Stephen Mullan, Eamon Sloan, Kevin Holsgrove, Joseph Begley, Mark Docherty and Stephen Begley. Mark Doherty and Stephen Begley became 'Chess Supremos,' winning the Under 16 and Under 17 sections respectively, a fantastic achievement, and have qualified for the UK finals in Manchester in the Summer.

We are fortunate to have Paul Cable, an Abbey parent and a very competent and experienced player, who comes every week, and from whom all the boys and girls can learn.

We are looking for new players all the time, so why not come along to the Chess Club to learn about chess- you might find it fun!

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