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SLÍ NA MAINISTREACH

THE ABBEY Way

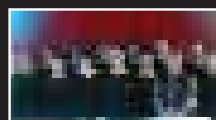
THE ABBEY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

INSIDE THIS EDITION

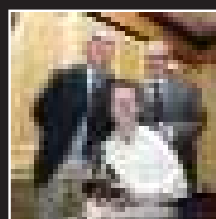
- Full Coverage of West Side Story
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- Students selected for Zambia Immersion Project



- Sport
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WEST SIDE STORY



WEST SIDE STORY is the talk of the town!

POLITICS REVIEW: **Seventh Year Student James Patterson reviews the strained relationship between Gordon Brown and Tony Blair.**

Tony Blair, and not for the first time, is feeling **BROWN ON HIS LUCK**

THE GORDIAN KNOT

Poor Tony. He's had to endure a lot over the past two months. The unrestricted media access to his ever-dwindling influence within the Labour Party, the humiliation of the attempted Brownite coup last month and, of course, having to put up with Cherie's opinionated, pseudo-intellectual cries of "you're better than this" every waking day and night. It was difficult to watch.

It was almost like being a spectator in a Veterinarian's operating theatre to watch an old dog being put out of its misery, the traditionalist Labour vets crowding around the animal on the surgeon's table, all eagerly anticipating their reward from the owner when they'd completed their task.

We've watched his hair turn greyer over the past nine years and his trademark grin being reduced to a feeble smirk whenever he finds something vaguely amusing. Don't get me wrong, I, like many in the general public who have supported Labour as a leftist alternative, have found it immensely cynical that Blair has treated his party as a Thatcherite guinea pig - abandoning the solid Labour principles of Nationalisation and support for Trade Unionism in order to get in bed with Britain's Middle-Class. Indeed, praise for his work as W's poodle can only be falling from the mouth of the muted because I certainly cannot hear it. Perhaps everyone is disillusioned with the 'War on Terror'. Perhaps everyone is sick

of hearing about the soldiers who have to pay for their own equipment in the midst of an intensifying Middle Eastern conflict.

But, nonetheless, I feel a certain degree of pity for the man. It's not as though his gravitation toward neo-conservatism was malicious or deliberate, perhaps he just lost his way. Whatever the reason, Gordon it seems, will be the one who reaps the rewards.

And not a moment too soon. Mr. Brown has been waiting for this opportunity to arise for over twelve years and he'll be damned if Tony makes him wait any longer. Look at the man. He's been waiting so long his charisma has dissolved...

HAPPY FAMILIES

Their turbulent relationship has often been described as a marriage, implying that they started out contented in one another's company and simply lost interest as the years progressed. The truth is that the pair bonded on an unsteady footing from the very beginning. It was never a model friendship.

It all began for Tony and Gordon in June 1983, the year that, for the first time, the tartan-tainted duo entered the Commons as two up-and-coming backbench MPs. They shared an office, promised to change the Labour Party for the better and were so full of ambition that Gordon was even able to venture a smile from time to time. Even at this early stage Tony was being hailed as the charismatic ex-hippy with a talent for seducing the lens, whilst Gordon was just...Gordon.

VIVA GRANITA!!!

Skip forward eleven years and you arrive in May 1994. John Smith, the man hailed as Labour's Messiah, the man who was to take the Party out

of the electoral wilderness, passed away unexpectedly. This then left just Gordon, his protégé, and Tony, the young Home Affairs spokesman with a promising future, to battle it out for the Labour leadership. What happened next, though, is still a matter of much debate. Some have speculated that following a meeting at the Granita Restaurant in Islington, Gordon agreed to step down from the leadership race to give Blair a straight run in exchange for his assurance that he would one day step down as leader to give Gordon a stint as Prime Minister. This speculation has filled countless newspapers and even inspired a TV drama called 'The Deal' starring David Tennant as Tony Blair. If only Dr. Who were our real Prime Minister...

WHELAN IN THE BUSINESS DEAL

Anyway, it doesn't take a genius to work out that Blair eventually became leader with the absence of Brown and won in a landslide leadership victory against Prescott and Beckett. Of course, if such a deal actually took place, then there was always going to be tension at the top whenever Tony became Prime Minister in 1997. Gordon was becoming irritated that Blair was refusing to name a departure date. He disliked his market-orientated financial policy and couldn't stand the introduction of University fees or foundation hospitals. Aside from this, we, the adoring public, were treated to a very public Punch and Judy performance: Mr. Campbell describing Gordon as 'psychologically flawed' on behalf of Tony, Mr. Whelan expressing distaste at Tony's 'untrustworthy grin' on behalf of Gordon. And all the while, the two men themselves concocting an almost comical charade that everything was A-OK. ➡

DELIVERANCE

Of course, then, who better to blow the whistle than John Prescott, who said in The Times in May 2004 that there had been "a pretty serious breakdown in relations" between Gordon and Tony early in the life of New Labour but that things had 'since improved.' "About bloody time!" yelled the country, amused at first by the Tony and Gordon show but soon coming to the realisation that they might as well be watching a repeat, this double act was getting old.

OLD DOGS, OLD TRICKS

Unfortunately relations frosted once again between the two men when Blair told Brown at the beginning of January 2005 that he would serve 'a full third term', thus relying on the supposed terms of the 1994 Granita agreement. Upon hearing this Gordon coldly retorted, "There is nothing you could say now that I could ever believe." But hey, this was the Tony and Gordon show; there was bound to be an anticlimax to this ever-fascinating relationship, something completely unexpected. And there was.

THRILLA IN VANILLA

The May 2005 election was comedy at its greatest. Not only did Gordon and Tony act as if they were best pals and always had been, Tony bought Gordon an ice-cream, a potent symbol of their bond as PM and Chancellor; sweet at times but, overall, pretty cold. And then...Gordon didn't show up for the G8 summit in Gleneagles, not a good sign. The men and the country were back to square one.

August 2006, and after returning from his Caribbean holiday, Tony looked relaxed, not worrying about his leadership, or Iraq or Gordon. He was mellow, and thus was completely flabbergasted when he arrived back to a letter calling for his resignation.

"No" he said "I'm not declaring any resignation intentions until the Labour Conference."

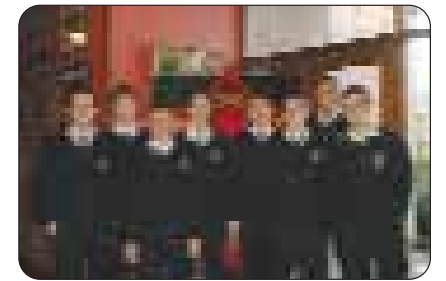
THE FINAL WILTING OF THE LABOUR ROSE

One would have thought, "OK fair enough, he needs time, that's understandable." Surely Gordon and his band of merry Brownites would capitulate. Nope. All hell broke loose and the messy affair ended with the resignation of a Junior Minister and Seven Government aides, as well as making Gordon look devious.

Ultimately this failed coup attempt could ruin Brown's chances of ever becoming Prime Minister; at least for any considerable amount of time. There was a lot of hostility at the way in which he conducted himself during the whole affair and his conduct has the potential to disillusion traditional Labour voters en route to the ballot box (provided, that is, that's it's he and not John Reid who becomes Party Leader.)

But, in the happiest of endings, there was something of a reconciliation between the two men this week, as both took the podium at the Labour conference to congratulate one another. Gordon called Tony "the most successful Labour Prime Minister ever", admitting that it was "a privilege to work with him." Tony called Gordon "the most competent Chancellor...a good man" and joked, after Cherie's alleged temper tantrum that he "won't have to worry about her running off with the man next door."

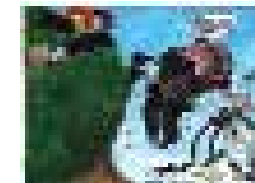
Perhaps their relationship is not like a marriage, and never was. The men's bond was that of Siamese twins; joined at the hip because they have no choice. Well, it appears now as though they've been surgically detached. And they couldn't be happier!



YOUNG ENTERPRISE

This year a group of 13 students have set up their own company, MKM Enterprises, hoping to successfully sell a range of products. They have appointed their Board of Directors and meet twice a week to discuss company policy. They launched the company on Monday 13th November in school. They expect to capture the school market before Christmas and have plans for expansion in the New Year. The project is part of a national competition in which they hope to compete for the top prize of Young Enterprise Company of The Year UK - although they have to win the regional and Northern Ireland heats first! The company directors are:

Niall Black, John Paul O'Hare, Sean O'Hagan, Padraig Poland, Patrick Courtney, Sean Kearney, Michael Williams, Dermot Markey, Watch this space!



DEBATING: **ABBEY BOYS STAR ON THE POLITICS SHOW**

THE QUESTION IS ACADEMIC

Four Abbey men made their Politics Show debut on Friday 20th October in fine style. They were four stalwart campaigners chosen to argue on the topic of academic selection and to put a twist in the tale. Our neighbours, Newry High School, were asked to argue in favour of academic selection while the Abbey CBS team was to argue against.

Newry High opened the argument and Ryan Martin was quick to question their alternatives for academic selection in the light of the 11+ transfer tests being abolished. Seamus Brannigan demonstrated the flaws of the current system set out by the Butler Act while Conor McGuigan strengthened and expanded on the evident

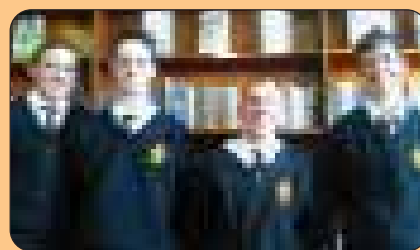
weaknesses to a grade boundary approach in marking the tests. Philip McClory argued that the current system was indeed as Newry High suggested, unfair, but only in that it was equally unfair to every child. He went on to open the argument for the Abbey with a convincing and considered look at the outcomes of the current selection procedures.

Both schools coped extremely well with an argument for which style they had direct, yet very different experiences. Indeed a most positive result of this televised debate was the fact that it was the first time both schools met for this type of competition.

The Abbey students did us proud and they are all to be congratulated for their skilled performances and lucid arguments - something perhaps our politicians are still striving for. Ryan Martin suggested, in his

closing speech for the Abbey, that politicians should not ignore the youth- they are the future. It is fitting then to also thank the large number of staff who passed on their best wishes and congratulations to the boys who took part and for me to thank the team members for their professionalism at each stage of the process: research, rehearsal and filming.

Ms A. Reynolds, Debating



Conor, Seamus, Philip and Ryan pictured before the debate.

CHARITY

Last Year The Abbey Way brought news of the great efforts of our pupils to help with the Tsunami Relief effort. Below are the fruits of their labour, two fishing boats now helping bring practical help to Sri Lanka.



GCSE CLASS OF 2006:

Play their part in the academic success during the Summer



EXCELLENT GCSE RESULTS AT ABBEY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The class of 2006 continued the good work of their predecessors by chalking up yet more impressive GCSE results in August.

'Top of the class' was Damian Mc Parland from Newry who achieved a new school record with 12 A* grades. He had scooped Irish and Mathematics A* last year and excelled this year in Additional Maths, English Language, English Literature, French, History, RE, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Spanish. Another 7 pupils obtained 11 A*/A grades. These were Stephen Campbell, Martin Davidson, Fergal Mc Alinden, Ronan Mc Donald, John Paul O'Hare, Homesh Sayal and Conor Sweeney. Other top performers were Philip Mc Clory and Adrian Mc Namee with 10 A*/A grades, Michael Boyle, Conor Mc Guigan, Aiden Murphy and Vincent O'Rourke with 9 A*/A grades, Conor Bell, Kevin Holsgrove, Michael Lynch, and Ruairi Williamson with 8 A*/A grades.

A delighted Headmaster, Mr Dermot Mc Govern, thanked staff and parents and congratulated all the pupils who received GCSE results – not only the boys who had done exceptionally well but also the boys who had done as well as they possibly could. He believes that a number of factors have combined to help

with this year's success, including a very dedicated, committed and highly professional staff who got the best out of this year's group. The most valuable gift any teacher can give a pupil in the Abbey is their own time and this was given in abundance.

Support from parents was another area

highlighted by Mr Mc Govern that facilitated these results, working in harmony with the Abbey by attending parent/teacher meetings and helping to implement recommendations that were agreed at 'Progress Meetings' that were set up to support pupils.



NON ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS CELEBRATED



Pupils were recognised for achieving individual success either inside or outside school at the Abbey Grammar Achievement Prize giving ceremony. Included with Mr. Raymond Cassidy, Guest Speaker and Mr. Dermot Mc Govern, Headmaster are: Conor Mc Cormick (Rugby); Michael Mc Cann (Sailing); Ryan Walsh; Gavin Donnelly and Seán Donnelly (Kickboxing); Colum Mackey (Trampolining); Dan Madden (Irish Dancing); Adam Magill (Art); Niall Burke (Fundraising) and Laurence Mc Givern (Special Award).



Mr. Raymond Cassidy congratulates last year's winners of the Year 8 five a side football league. Slemish were the eventual winners of the annual competition.



Pictured at the Annual Achievement Prize giving are the Year 8 Credit Union Quiz winners, Cormac Linden; Connor Hogan; Daire Mc Ateer; Christopher White and Keith Connelly.



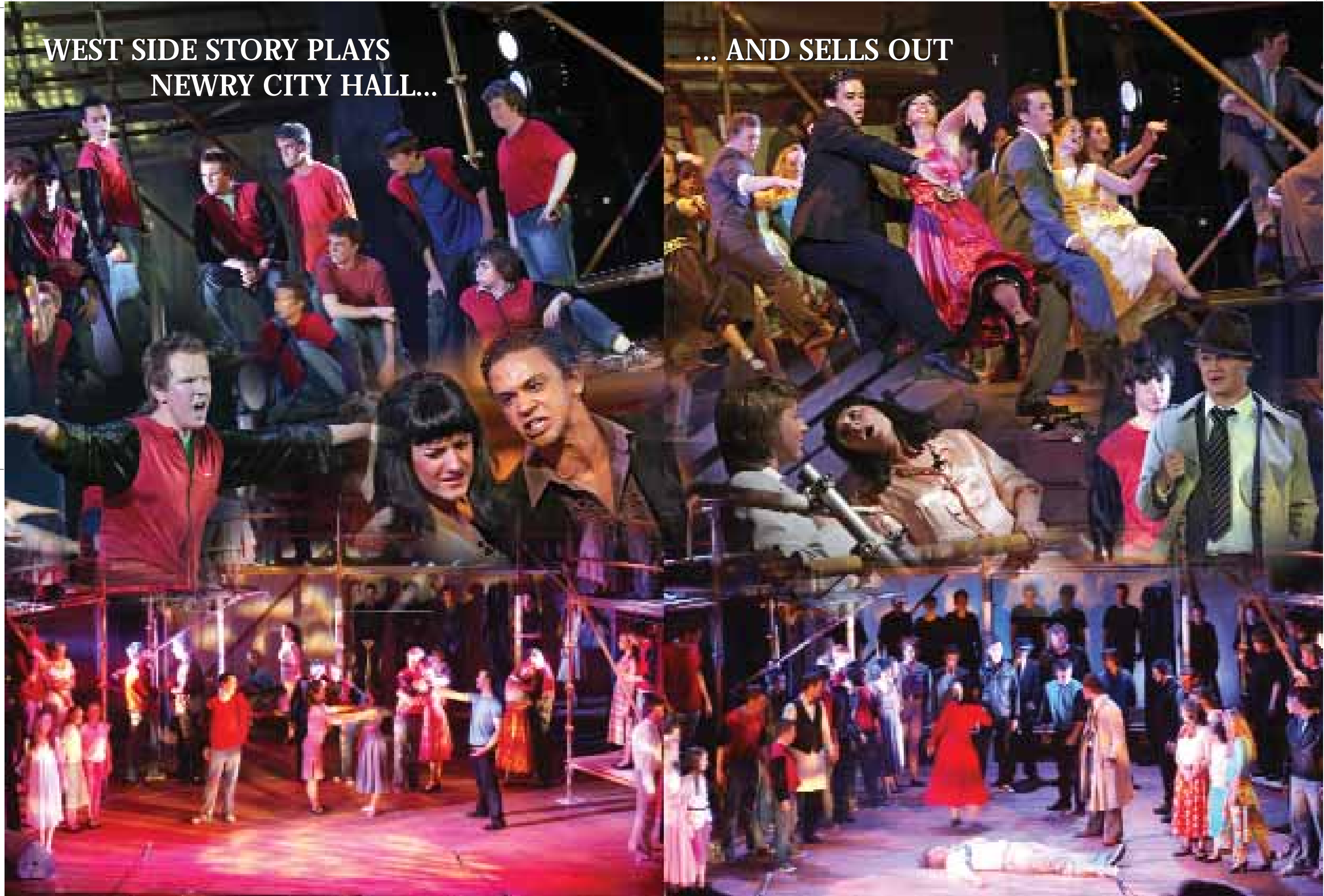
'Hitting the right notes' Mr. Raymond Cassidy, Guest Speaker, congratulates Music pupils at the Abbey for a variety of extracurricular events throughout the academic year. Included are Michael Corcoran; Garrett O Hare; Kilian Foy; Cormac Boyle; Dermot Markey; Niall O'Flaherty; Declan Magee; Daniel Sutherland; Benjamin Reynolds; Ryan Cunningham; Fergal Boyle; Niall Burke and Ronan Kearney.



Drama, Debating and Spelling were acknowledged at the Prize giving Ceremony. Conor McKeown was Best Supporting Actor at the Warrenpoint Drama Festival. He also had a lead role in the Ulster Youth Theatre. Conal O'Hare was Best Actor at the Warrenpoint festival. Philip McClorey won first place in the Senior School Debating Competition. Ryan Martin was third in the same competition. Paul Mallon, Niall O'Donnell, Conor Fox and David McCracken participated the 'Mental Health Awareness' debating competition. Also pictured are Abbey 'Hard Spellers' Garbhan Mc Kevitt, Conor Shields and Darren Marshall.

WEST SIDE STORY PLAYS NEWRY CITY HALL...

... AND SELLS OUT



Poet's Corner

A tissue of frost laces the ground,
Out in the street there isn't a sound,
As I walk on down the street,
All I can hear are the leaves under my feet,
Bare trees,
All around,
There is not a wild animal to be found,
Animals hibernate,
Birds migrate.

Winter Days, Winter Days.

The icy wind nips my skin,
All the elderly are bullied in,
The frozen canal has a layer of ice dense,
thick and cold,
Surely this must have been the coldest day ever:
So I've been told.

Winter Days, Winter Days.

Declan Doyle SL2

On a cold winter's morning,
My dad still snoring,
I look outside my window,
And see white, fluffy snow.

All the people still asleep,
Outside not a peep.
My cold breath plumes the air,
And all the trees are so bare.

At midday everyone's out,
And everybody has a cold snout.
Everybody is off school.
And they act so, so cool.

At 8 o'clock it's getting dark,
Everyone comes in from the park.
At 10 o'clock it's time for bed,
And my ears have turned back from red.

By Ross Flynn

I wake up in the early morning,
Feeling heavy and weak,
I pull aside my curtains,
And the landscape looks so bleak.

The trees are not the same,
Stripped of leaves and fruit,
The colours are so dreary,
And the sound is almost mute.

A blanket of ice layers the ground,
Bathed in a winter light,
The sleet beats the window,
And the fog descends at night.

But inside the fire's blazing,
My mother is sipping tea,
My thoughts then turn to Christmas,
With presents, baubles and tree.

By Stephen Grant

King of The World, Muhammad Ali and the Rise of an American Hero.

Author: David Remnick

In an ever changing world where the term 'legend' is all too often applied to a plethora of film / showbiz, TV and sports stars, none surely can be more deserving of this title than one Muhammad Ali. Ali changed the world of sports in the 1960's and 70's, with his electrifying performances in the boxing ring. Ali transformed the world of boxing but he also changed the world itself. He became the most recognised face on the planet- a dynamic figure in the racial battles that gripped America at this time. For millions of African Americans he was a symbol of defiance and resistance against a government that preached civil rights and equality but all too often failed to translate these into practice.

This book is less interested in the classic battles that Ali had with fighters such as Frazier. Instead, the author devotes his focus to examining Ali's rise from humble beginnings in the racially segregated surroundings of Louisville Kentucky, to becoming world heavyweight champion in 1964, with his win over Sonny Liston.

Remnick gives an excellent insight into what the world of boxing was like in the 1940's and 1950's. It was a murky world, controlled by the Mafia. They controlled every aspect from the betting on a fight right down to the actual boxers themselves. Sonny Liston (who Ali would defeat

to win the title in 1964), is exposed as being completely controlled and manipulated by the Mafia. Indeed his manager, Frankie Carbo, controlled hundreds of fighters.

Time is spent on Ali's early years, growing up in Louisville, Kentucky. Remnick aptly captures the mood of the times in America. Racism was everywhere in American society and this manifested itself in a number of forms: whether it be the segregation of almost all public facilities or the role of groups such as the Ku Klux Klan. The impact of all this upon Muhammad was immense and he often cited the reason why he became a boxer as being the 'fastest way for a black person to make it in this country. In an interesting anecdote the author tells the story of how, at the age of 12, Muhammad (then known as Cassius Clay), had his bike stolen and it was this incident that motivated him to take up boxing as he wanted to 'whup' whoever had stolen his bike.

The book provides great insight into how single minded and determined Cassius was once he took up the sport of boxing. As a teenager he never worked. He just trained and boxed morning, noon and night. Indeed, at the age of 12, he would wake at 4 or 5 in the morning, run several miles and then work out at the gym all afternoon.

The author captures brilliantly how Cassius loved to shoot his mouth off and how this infuriated opponents prior to fights and how he was able to use this to his advantage during fights. Throughout his fights, Cassius would constantly chatter to his opponents with taunts such as, 'Come on sucker. Can't you catch me!'

Another fascinating aspect of this book is the insight it gives you into Ali's relationship with the Nation of Islam. These were the Black Muslims of America. They preached separation from White society and were regarded with fear and

suspicion by many in America. This was how Cassius Clay changed his name to Muhammad Ali, signifying his membership of the Nation. The response from the American public when Ali announced that he was a member is captured superbly in the book.

Focus is also given to the road to Muhammad's title fight with Sonny Liston, looking at the training of both men, the difference in character and how Muhammad used his mouth to work Liston into such frenzy that he actually wanted to kill Muhammad! Ali defeated Liston, much to the shock of everyone except him. Liston had been previously considered unbeatable. The book shows how Ali found it hard to gain acceptance from any group in American society, largely because of his ties to the Nation of Islam. At this time, many black people were even unsure as to what to make of Ali.

For me, the finest part of the book is at the end, when it looks at Ali's decision to refuse the 'draft' to go and fight in Vietnam. You get a real sense of a man of conviction and of principles on which he wouldn't compromise. For Ali, the Vietnamese people were inoffensive and he wasn't going to be forced into going and fighting a white man's war. Indeed he said 'I ain't got no quarrel with the Vietcong'. This quote transformed his image. For the rest of his life he would either be loved or hated.

I would recommend this book to anyone who has any interest in Muhammad Ali. The author captures the essence of the man, his values, his determination to succeed and his refusal to compromise on his core beliefs, no matter what the potential consequences of this could be. This book merely serves to reinforce my opinion that Ali is a true legend, an icon and an inspiration.

Rating: 10/10

LAOCH ARD MHACHA:

le Pádraig Mac Thiarnáin. (Óráid a bhain comórtas abair.)

Is é an peileadóir is iomráití le teacht amach ó na hoileáin seo choíche. Chuala muid i gcónaí thar na blianta an comparáid seo a dhéanamh idir Maradona, Pele, Cruyff agus a leithéid ach níl na daoine seo ar dhóigh ar bith inchurtha le laoch s'againne. Ní bheadh fir crua sacair ábalta é a láimhseáil, ní bheadh Chopper Harris in ann é a chopáil, ní bheadh Norman, Bite your legs, Hunter; in ann é a bhiteáil, ní bheadh Vinnie, Nuts, Jones in ann a nuts a squeezeáil. Sea a chairde cé gurb iomaí iarracht a rinneadh chun an fear seo a cheansú níor éirigh le duine ar bith é a dhéanamh. Tá an fear seo i mbéal an phobail le blianta anuas agus is iomaí conspóid a chruthaigh sé mar gheall ar a stíl neamhghnách agus scil mináidúrtha.

Sea, a chairde, tá Francie Bellew ar an imreoir is cáiliúla agus is conspóidí le teacht ó na hoileáin seo le blianta fada anuas. Is iomaí bainisteoir sa tír atá go mór in éad le Joe Kernan de thairbhe go bhfuil an fathach mór cineálta seo aige. Bhí peileadóirí, a raibh na scileanna céanna acu i gcónaí le sonrú i stair an pheil ghaelach doaine macasámhail Brian Mullins ó Bhaile Átha Cliath

agus The Red Collier agus Mick Lyons ó chontae na Mí. Is iadsan na daoine is tábhachtaí ar fhoireann ar bith, is iadsan cnámhdroma na foirne.

Nach raibh an-díoma orainn uilig anuraidh nuair nár roghnaíodh Francie Bellew le dul chuig an Astráil le páirt a ghlacadh sa sráith idirnáisiúnta idir Éire agus an Astráil. By God scóráil Pete McGrath own goal millteanach nuair nár thóg sé Francie agus a leithéid chun na hAstráile. Dar m'anam bhí scileanna Francie go mór in easnamh sna cluichí sin.

Dá mbeadh airgead mór i gceist sa pheil ghaelach cosúil leis an sacar Bheadh Francie Bellew ar na himreoirí is mó tuarastal, samhlaigh é féin agus Rio Ferdinand ag imirt taobh le taobh, a chairde tá mé ag déanamh go bhfuil a fhios againn uilig cén duine is éifeachtaí den bheirt sin.

Agus muid ag labhairt faoi chúrsaí sacair cuirtear samhnas orm chan mar gheall ar an airgead mór a shaothraítear sa chluiche sacair ach mar gheall ar an aisteoireacht agus an gheaitsíocht atá le feiceáil ann. Bíonn na peileadóirí clúiteacha idirnáisiúnta seo ag titim

agus ag tumadh mar a bheadh rinceoirí ballet ann agus iad ag scamhláigh agus ag scairtigh le pian. Ó a Dhia is mór an trua nach mbíonn Francis Bellew ag imirt sna cluichí seo agus ansin bheadh cúis gearáin acu.

Samhlaigh, a chairde, dá mbeadh Transfers idirchondaetha ceadaithe sa pheil ghaelach, bhuel más fiú 30 milliúin Rio Ferdinand cad é an luach a bheadh ar chloigeann Francie. Cé hiad na himreoirí a mbeadh an tóir is mó orthu agus cé hiad na contaetha a mbeadh an t-airgead mór acu leis na peileadóirí seo a cheannach. An mbeadh Joe Kernan sásta Rio Mc Mena, gabh mo leithscéal, Ryan McMenamin agus Eoin Mulligan a cheannach? An mbeadh duine ar bith sásta Jason Sherlock a cheannach?

Ní bheimid ábalta na ceisteanna seo a fhuascailt choíche ach a lucht éisteachta thig linn a bheith cinnte dearfach de rud amháin, sé sin nuair a bheas dearmad déanta ar na ghnáthpheileadóirí, beidh cuimhne go de oar laochra móra an pheil ghaelach agus ina measc siúd beidh ainm Francie Bellew.

SCHOOL TRIPS

In June 2006 a group of third years went to Tanagh Outdoor Education Centre for a weekend.

The weather was beautiful and the centre was previously used as a training ground for the Irish Army.

An unusual feature of this centre was the church which is now used for practising rock climbing. One wall has a series of stones jutting out as grips. Archery is also done there.

We did forest walks as well as kayaking and for a number of boys the highlight was the slippery slope where a shiny lorry-cover is rolled out down a hill and soapy water poured on it before the boys slide down it on their tummy. It doesn't sound like a lot of fun but try it once and you will go back for more. The only downside to it is that you end up in mud at the bottom. It might not be as sophisticated as a theme park but it is claaa!

In October 2006 this year's Third Years went to Killowen and experienced a range of outdoor activities.

In April 2007 our first years are going over to Manchester and while there the main attraction will either be Old Trafford or Alton Towers. There will also be some parents accompanying the group.

There will also be a Paris trip in September 2007 which is only open to those pupils who are studying French.

Ice Skating in Dundonald

On Friday 23rd of October, the first years headed on a trip to Dundonald Ice Bowl. As I boarded the bus to school I felt so comfortable, due to not having a schoolbag to carry and being free from the restrictions of wearing uniform! I was so excited. When I arrived at The Abbey the buses were just pulling in for our departure at 9.30. I rushed to my form class, anxious to get roll call over so that we could head off on our day out. We boarded the bus with my form teacher, Miss McAleese, Iveagh I, Slemish I, Miss. Mulgrew, Mrs. Boyd and also our year head, Mr. Rodgers. It was a long journey to Dundonald, but our excitement, chatting and laughter ensured that we hardly noticed the time going by!

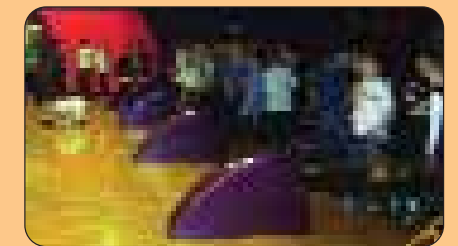
When we arrived at the ice bowl, we lined up in our class groups before entering the foyer. We excitedly swapped our shoes over for skates and quickly put them on, anxious to get on the ice. As I stepped hesitantly on to the ice I began to laugh because of all of the slipping and falling - it was very funny! I had been at the ice bowl twice before, so I found it easy to skate, but the majority of the boys found it very difficult, resulting in many 'slips' and much amusement!

After about two hours, we reluctantly changed our shoes and headed for lunch.

There were three lines, depending on what we wanted to eat - burgers, sausages and nuggets. The meal was very tasty and it certainly filled us up, reviving us for going bowling!

We headed off to our lanes and the fun began. I had three strikes but still drew with top score. After bowling, we played snooker and pool until it was time to go home. As we waited out in the foyer, announcements were made about lost jackets and behaviour on the bus. We then headed back to the Abbey, reminiscing about the great day we'd had.

By Conor Hoey Oriel I



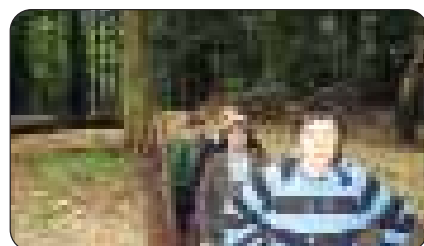
6th YEAR HISTORY STUDENTS VISIT BELGIUM

The experience I had on the Messines Youth programme is one that I will remember for the rest of my life. I was told that it was to take place in Belgium during a school week with a few of the lads -to me it was a good reason to go! However, when I found out more about the programme I became very excited about our week in Belgium. The reason was because it not only involved us going around Belgium visiting World War One memorials and historical sites but it also brought us closer to understand the people of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. This was because the Messines Programme was about bringing the different religions and cultures of the whole of Ireland, both north and south, together so that we could understand each other and try to work with one another to create a shared future.

During my stay in Belgium we visited many breathtaking and memorable sites and places. It was a packed week with a big schedule to cover but in the end it was well worth the long walks under the hot sun! The programme gave us a great in depth history about our forefathers who fought in World War One and widened our eyes on how tragic war can be. Such memories like grave yards with thousands of young men buried

in them do not justify the necessity of war in my eyes. During our time in Belgium we visited many sites but one which stood out to me was the German grave yard which in a way looked like a very dark place and made me feel that the Germans were an evil population. However, the Messines experience allowed me to explore in depth, the German side of the war and how they coped in the trenches and on the battle field. We visited numerous trenches and guard posts. Both the Allied trenches and German trenches were similar. They were cold dark places with little or no shelter, and this was over 80 years ago, so to picture the conditions which both sides fought and lived in for four and a half years made me shiver. I found it very interesting and worthwhile and would encourage the youth of today to go on such programmes if the opportunity arises.

Daniel Clarke



'Knee deep and dirty'. An Abbey student gets to experience first hand what a trench looked like in World War I



'Abbey Students at Thiepval Memorial, Somme Valley. This memorial contains the names of over 72 000 missing soldiers who have no known grave.'



'Gas Attack'. Abbey students sample what it would have been like to have suffered a gas attack, then march blind for miles across trenches and the area around the battlefield.

IN JULY OF 2006 TWO STAFF MEMBERS, MRS OONAGH BYRNE AND MISS DEIRDRE MULGREW VISITED KENYA AS PART OF THE KARIBOU 2006 PROGRAMME

KARIBOU 2006

AN INTERNATIONAL CROSS-CULTURAL PROGRAMME

July 2006 was going to be a very difficult time for me. I had just wound up a forty year teaching career (thirty eight of which were spent in the Abbey) and was suffering withdrawal symptoms. Then I was offered the opportunity of taking part in a Cross-Cultural Programme in Kenya! I jumped at the chance of doing something very different and very worthwhile but had some reservations. At my age I wondered if I could stick the pace of an intensive programme and I was apprehensive about going to Africa! I was delighted when I heard that Miss Mulgrew was also going from the Abbey.

The programme allowed 34 participants to experience cross-cultural living and community service in Africa and to situate life and work in a Global context. The month long residential programme was based in Nairobi and involved 8 Irish, 12 Australian, (one of which was an Aborigine), 4 African, 2 from the States, a young

married couple from Canada, 4 Indians and 4 English.

We had lectures, with speakers being invited from the local Catholic University on Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays we were out on Immersion work. We were divided into small groups and some were involved in Schools, Orphanages, Women's Aid Centres and street kids centres, (most of which were in the slums and the conditions were horrendous). The abject poverty of the area presented a real cultural shock and it is hard to believe that there are places so very poor in the world in 2006. People lived in small tin shacks. The sewerage was flowing down the middle of the narrow laneways and the smell was abominable. The people, however, were wonderful. They were so delighted that we would come to their homes. They considered this an honour and asked us to tell the "outside world" about their plight; they were invariably in good form, always laughing and making the best of what they had. They were particularly delighted to talk to Irish people. We must have done something right in their country. There was one particular example of the Irish being singled out for special treatment for whatever reason! On one weekend the group travelled to Tanzania to visit the Tarangara Safari Park. At the border all the Nationalities with us (Australians, Americans,

English and Canadians etc), had to queue for Visas while the Irish were issued through-no Visa required!

While we were on this particular visit to Tanzania we were invited to visit a local Masai chief; we met his 9 wives and some of his 70 children! His children were educated by the Christian Brothers in Arusha and were doing particularly well and he was very grateful.

There are a number of very good schools started by the brothers and they are really well run. In fact Edmund Rice is a very Big Name in both Tanzania and in Kenya. I was astounded on one occasion while walking in one of the very poorest slum areas to suddenly come across an Edmund Rice community centre! It was quite Surreal! On another occasion I saw a sign for a Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre. I was amazed to find that this centre was named after "our" Brother Beausang.

My experience in Africa was truly wonderful and I really would like to set up some Market for the goods produced by the workers in a Woman's Centre to which I was assigned. They prefer to get markets for their enterprise rather than depending on charity. In any case I have loads of food for thought. I am so grateful for the experience. It is one I will never forget.

Oonagh Byrne

Ambassadors for the Immersion Project selected

On the 21st March 2007, a group of ten students and four teachers from the Abbey Grammar School will travel to Livingstone in Zambia. The purpose of their visit is to raise awareness of and combat the problems of poverty and lack of educational opportunity in the Developing World.

Since the first, groundbreaking immersion in 2002, the wider Abbey community has linked the generosity and compassion of the Newry and Mourne Area with the challenge of daily poverty in Christian Brothers' schools in Zambia. The Brothers, with four decades of experience in education and charity work in the country, are in a unique position to realise the hopes and dreams of those in Ireland and in Zambia.

While in Zambia (a nation in southern Africa about nine times the size of Ireland, with around 11 million people), this year's group will teach in the severely under-funded schools, in the Southern town of Livingstone, bringing valuable skills and hope to children and teachers alike.

During their two-and-a-half weeks' work they will experience the harsh realities of extreme poverty in a way that can only otherwise be imagined.

Since the inception of the project in 2002, a total of fifteen students and six teachers have been to Livingstone. The difference this has made to lives, both to the privileged and to the needy, cannot be fully comprehended by anyone without first-hand experience of the project's effects - in fact, the importance of first-hand experience is a fundamental feature of the project. The hope is that the experience of life for the world's most disadvantaged people will change the outlook of everyone fortunate enough to be involved is the cornerstone of the Project. The students return with a renewed energy to work for change (many hope to revisit Africa in their adult lives), with a deeper understanding of what must be done to bring justice to developing nations, and, in the furthest-reaching effect of the experience, bring their enthusiasm and knowledge into the school and local community.

The fundraising efforts for the project mean that the work for the group begins months before their journey to Zambia. The team's key financial aim is to donate as much money as possible to local, specific projects in southern Zambia. In this manner, the group is able to provide the most direct possible link between where the money is raised and where the money is needed most. As education is a central aspect of the Immersion Project, the Abbey has pledged to refurbish a school, providing teachers' salaries and students' fees for the foreseeable future.

On Friday 1st December, at 8.00pm, a Night at the Races in aid of the Zambian project took place in the Aylesfort House, Warrenpoint. Included on the evening was a raffle, race prizes, a 70's disco and buffet, and it proved to be a great night's entertainment - and the money raised benefited an extremely worthy cause. The support of the entire Abbey Community enabled the students and teachers to realise their dream to make a difference.

APPSA Honour Heroes Past and Present



2006 Hogan Cup Winners are presented with a Galway Crystal Football to commemorate their historic victory. Picture with the squad are Mr. Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, Mr. Aidan O'Rourke, President of APPSA and Special Guest Sean Boylan, former Meath Manager.



Left: David Barron, Ulster School's Golf Champion is congratulated on behalf of APPSA by Mr John Burns and Mr. Aidan O'Rourke.



Right: The 1956 Corn Na nÓg and MacMahon Cup winners pictured at the presentation night in the Carrickdale Hotel.

Cross Country Winners Celebrate



The Abbey's outstanding athletes were honoured at this year's Achievement Prizing giving. These include Mark Cox; Niall McCartan, Michael Clarke; Andrew Fitzsimons and Ryan Hudson who came first in the team event at the Down District Cross Country Championship. Niall O'Flaherty came second in the All-Ireland 'A' Shot Putt and Peter O'Hare came second in the All-Ireland 'B' High Jump.

Iveagh Lift the First Year Title

**Abbey Grammar First Year Blitz Final
Iveagh vs. Oriel**

The Abbey playing fields hosted the first year final between Iveagh and Oriel. These two teams had dominated the league and deserved a place in the final. Weather conditions were ideal with little or no breeze.

Oriel got off to a great start and found the net through a Michael Fitzpatrick penalty. Aiden Conlon steadied the ship, knocking over two points for Iveagh before Connaire Mackin also scored a penalty giving Iveagh a two point advantage. Mark Sands, the Iveagh goalkeeper, made a couple of fine saves but could not prevent Jack Maguire firing the ball home from close range. Oriel then tagged on a couple of points through their captain, Conor Martin. In the space of about three minutes Iveagh were in front through the in-form Aiden Conlon who scored a point from a free. Iveagh were now cruising - the influential Tadhg Murdock scoring a goal and a point followed by Connaire Mackin who scored his second goal of the match. Oriel corner back, Peter Doran, ended this period of Iveagh dominance by getting his foot to the ball in a goalmouth scramble and this put Oriel one point ahead. This was before a scrappy period with both teams giving the ball away and fouling unnecessarily. As half time approached, full-forward, Joe Byrne, finished off a fine Iveagh move by rounding the keeper and coolly slotting the ball into the net leaving the half time score:

Iveagh 4-4 (16 points) to Oriel 4-2 (14 points)

Although this match was tightly contested in the first half, Iveagh began to pull away in the second. Connaire Mackin got Iveagh off to a good start with a point early in the second half. Soon after centre half forward, Cathal Foye, hit his first point after he was played in by Cathal Mc Keown, his half forward partner. Aiden Conlon then added to his tally with a well taken goal to put Iveagh seven points up. Oriel came close on a couple of occasions through Brian Murphy and Jack Maguire but Rowan Cull opened the scoring for Oriel in the second half. They then added another point through Michael Fitzpatrick. This is when Iveagh started to get a grip on the game again and Cathal Foye, this time put through by Cathal McNamee, fired the ball into the top corner of the net. Aiden Conlon hit yet another point and Connaire Mackin yet another goal. Iveagh then made their final substitution and brought on Donal Burnes for Ryan McKinley.

Oriel's captain, Conor Martin, then scored the goal of the match by hitting a fierce shot into the top corner of the net from twenty one yards out. Aiden Conlon scored the last point of the game to bring his personal tally to 1-5 (8 points). Ciaran Murphy, Darren Mc Govern and Paul Hearty all had solid games for Iveagh in defence and Jonathan O' Hare also had a fine game in midfield. Michael Martin, Rowan Cull, Deglan Jennings and Paddy Reel played well for Oriel.

**Final Score: Iveagh Oriel
7-9 (30 points) 6-3(21 points)**

Kick Boxing Ryan Goes For Gold

Mark Millar, Slemish 3, talks to his classmate, Ryan Walsh, about his experiences representing Ireland at the World kick boxing Championships. Mark discovers that Ryan could possibly be world champion some day, as he is already a success for the Irish team, picking up many medals including gold, silver and bronze, at various events.

Q: Well Ryan, how many years have you been involved in kickboxing?

A: I have been involved in kickboxing for six years now and I think it's great.

Q: Who inspired you to begin kickboxing?

A: My dad inspired me to begin kickboxing because he used to do it when he was younger.

Q: Have you recently been in a tournament outside the country? If so, where was it and what was it like?

A: Yes, I have been in a tournament recently. It was the world kickboxing championships in Croatia and it was the best craic I have ever had. It was a brilliant experience as we met loads of people from different places around the world, such as the USA, Canada, Portugal, England, Hungary and loads more.

Q: Did you pick up any medals at these tournaments?

A: Yes, I got third place at the world championships.

Q: Who all went with you to these tournaments?

A: My dad and my sister went with me along with the other qualified members of the Irish team. These people were from Sligo, Cork, Derry, and all over.

Q: When do think you will have your next spar?

A: My next tournament will be in Carrickmacross on the third of December.

Q: Do you think we will see you competing as a professional in years to come?

A: I hope you will see me in years to come as I progress through my kickboxing career.

The Abbey Way wishes Ryan and our other Kick Boxing Champions, the Donnelly brothers, Gavin and Seán, every success in the future.

HURLING GETS A KICK START

Hurling is the fastest field sport and here in the Abbey we are looking to set up a team. We are looking for as many people as possible and then hopefully go on to play other schools. It is a sport that I love playing and I'm sure that if you start playing it you will love it as well. There are many people in the school who play for clubs and are very good hurlers so if you come to the training you will learn to play hurling and make some friends.