



THE ABBEY WAY

ABBHEY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL • NEWRY

FOOTBALL FOR THE SOUL



Special Souvenir Edition

This issue of Slí na Mainistreach is celebrating the momentous achievements of Abbey's MacRory and Hogan Cup triumphs. As well as the usual mix of Technology, school trips, debating and drama, this issue is packed with match reports, photographs and accounts of what has surely been one the most memorable years in the history of the Abbey.

A 'STRING' OF WINS AT NEWRY FEÍS

Since Christmas the Music Department at the Abbey has shown its versatility with a wide variety of concerts and performances ranging from February's Guitar Night to March's Spring Concert. A high standard of guitar playing, drumming and singing was on show at the Guitar Night. It was an evening for all styles of playing including rock, jazz and classical. The energy and enthusiasm of the performances was a reflection of the pupils' individual commitment and the hard work and hours of expertise shown by Mr Murphy and Mr Hughes made that night a tremendous success.

The Jazz Band, building on their growing reputation with performances in Newry's Canal Court Hotel and Belfast's Waterfront Hall also took part in the Abbey's Guitar Night. Their lively and dramatic performances coupled with hard work and dedication under the leadership of Mr D Wadsworth, makes the Jazz Band a unique and special part of the Abbey's Music Department.

The Choir, String Group and Instrumentalists provided reflective and spiritual performances at the Ash Wednesday Mass in the beautiful Newry Cathedral and at the Bishop's Mass for the seventh years.



Niall O Flaherty, Michael Corcoran, Benjamin Reynolds and Sean Rooney, members of the Abbey String Ensemble pictured with the Ellie Neary Memorial Cup

The variety of performances at the Spring Concert perfectly displayed the rich and varied talents of the Abbey's musicians and singers.

The orchestra opened the evening with two excellent and polished performances of Water Music by Handel and English Folk Songs, Suite by Vaughan Williams. This was followed by a debut performance of Philip Knox's A2 composition 'Baghdad'. Philip has been an outstanding and dedicated music pupil for his seven years at the Abbey and 'Baghdad' is a true reflection of the depths of his talent.

Next up was the Irish Group who, under the professional guidance of Mr Monaghan, continued to deliver a high standard of performance.

The String Group and the student-led

Recorder Group followed with two fine performances showing that their hard work throughout the year has paid off.

The concert finale saw the Jazz Band raise the roof with another explosive and energetic performance- a fitting end to a great concert and excellent second term in the Abbey's Music Department.

The Music Department entered four groups in the Newry Feis and again achieved remarkable success this year. Congratulations to the String Group who won the String Ensemble category and received the Ellie Neary Memorial Cup. Congratulations also to the Jazz Band who came second in the Secondary School Ensemble; the Orchestra who finished fourth in their category and the Irish Traditional Group who came fifth. Well

GEOGRAPHY: Abbey Pupils do their bit for the environment



Members of Slemish One plant their tree in "The Park"

On Monday 27th February 2006 Year 8 Geography students from Donard and Slemish participated in a tree planting exercise as part of the Woodland Trust's 'Trees for Schools' project.

The Geography department received 30 trees from the Woodland Trust to plant in the vicinity of the school. The trees included Wild Cherry, Silver Birch and Rowan, all native Irish species. Before taking part in the exercise students from both classes learned about the importance of trees. Trees provide an important habitat for Irish wildlife. Their roots help hold the soil together, preventing erosion and, by soaking up Carbon Dioxide during photosynthesis, trees play a vital role in combating Global Warming.

The Students from both classes are looking forward to monitoring the progress of 'their' trees as they themselves progress through the Abbey.

Drama: Gaeltalking to an Ulster Title

In the last few months 13 senior Irish students have taken part in the local Scoildramaíocht Festival. With little or no previous experience each member of the cast displayed great commitment and determination. Based on a script written by the previous Head of Irish, Mr Seán McClory, these young budding actors won Best Senior Irish Award and the Br. Beausang Award for Best Theatrical Moment in Theatre at the Newry Festival.

They were nominated to perform at the Ulster Festival which for the first time was held in the spectacular 'Grianán Theatre' in Letterkenny. The drama received a further nomination to the All-Ireland Festival in Mullingar. For each of the cast members this proved to be a worthwhile and enjoyable experience. Sincere thanks to the Art and Technology Departments for their help with the props and to Mr Pat Mooney and Mr Maurice McKevitt whose help was truly appreciated.

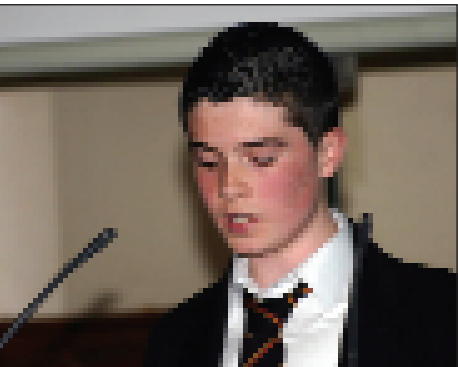


The successful cast of Gaeltalk

Irish Public Speaking: Abbey Pupils Take City Hall By Storm

The final of Gael-Linn's prestigious Public Speaking competition 'Abair' took place for the first time in the heart of what was once the bastion of Unionism, Belfast City Hall.

Amongst the numerous paintings of Royal British peers and various flags of the House of Windsor, the best public speakers of Irish, throughout Northern Ireland, came together to compete in the final of 'Abair'.



Cathal Mac Dhaibhéid, Fourth Year Student, competing in Abair

Such a momentous development in cultural tolerance was more than matched by the energy, exuberance and passion of Philip McClory. Philip's style and reputation certainly arrived in advance as both judges and audience alike waited in anticipation for Philip's speech. The second part of a two-part series, Philip's speech didn't disappoint. His 'Hell, fire and brimstone' style speech on the state of Catholicism in Ireland complemented his first speech on 'Satan'.

Although quite risqué at times, Philip's speech was immensely humorous and fully deserving of lifting the title of Best Public Speaker of Irish (U16) 2006. Comhghairdeas leis. Congratulations also to Cathal MacDhaibhéid for reaching the final of 'Abair'; Cathal's speech was based on Muslim's recent hatred for all things Danish. Cathal's speech can be heard on the BBC website.

Gael-Linn's senior section of Abair was immensely competitive with ten superb speeches on various topics from politics to smoking. Patrick Tierney's unorthodox style and superb speech on the current state of



Philip McClory receives his first place prize from Gael Linn

politics in Northern Ireland introduced a fresh approach to public speaking.

The momentous occasion was brought to a close by a superbly humorous and clever speech by Seán McClory based on the British Royal Family and the need for an Irish Royal Family. The new Irish King would obviously need to have red hair, leaving Seán 'Rua' McClory as the obvious choice. Sean and Patrick's efforts were rewarded with 2nd and 3rd place respectively. Comhghairdeas leo beirt!

Junior Chamber International: Changes in Education debated

Two representatives from the Abbey, Conor Fox (S1E) and Philip Knox (62) travelled to Belfast to take part in the JCI's 25th Youth Parliament debate: "The changes proposed for education in Northern Ireland will have a positive effect."

The Speaker of the House opened proceedings in the Council Chambers of Belfast's City Hall and members of the House were addressed by Martin McGuinness (Sinn Féin MP for Mid-Ulster and former NI Education Minister) who spoke in favour of the

motion and by Sir Kenneth Bloomfield (former Chief Executive of the NI Civil Service).

Questions from the floor followed then members split up into committees headed by Robin Newton MLA (DUP), Cllr Tim Atwood (SDLP) and Michael Ferguson MLA (Sinn Féin).

Abbey pupils participated in the Westminster Committee and returned after lunch to present their reports with subsequent committee debates. They successfully defeated the motion which, despite a more than 60% majority

against (as voted by the people of Northern Ireland), still continues on target for implementation.

Given the huge impact such measures will have on our current education system this forum was of tremendous benefit to the pupils of secondary, comprehensive and grammar schools across Northern Ireland who debated the proposed changes and their effects at the highest level.

All that remains is for our democratically elected politicians to listen to them.

Technology: “TODDLER TUCKED IN” secures the latest success at the ESAT Science and Technology

Once again the Abbey Technology and Science departments competed in the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition. The school had nine projects in total entered in the competition: seven in Technology and two in the Biology categories.

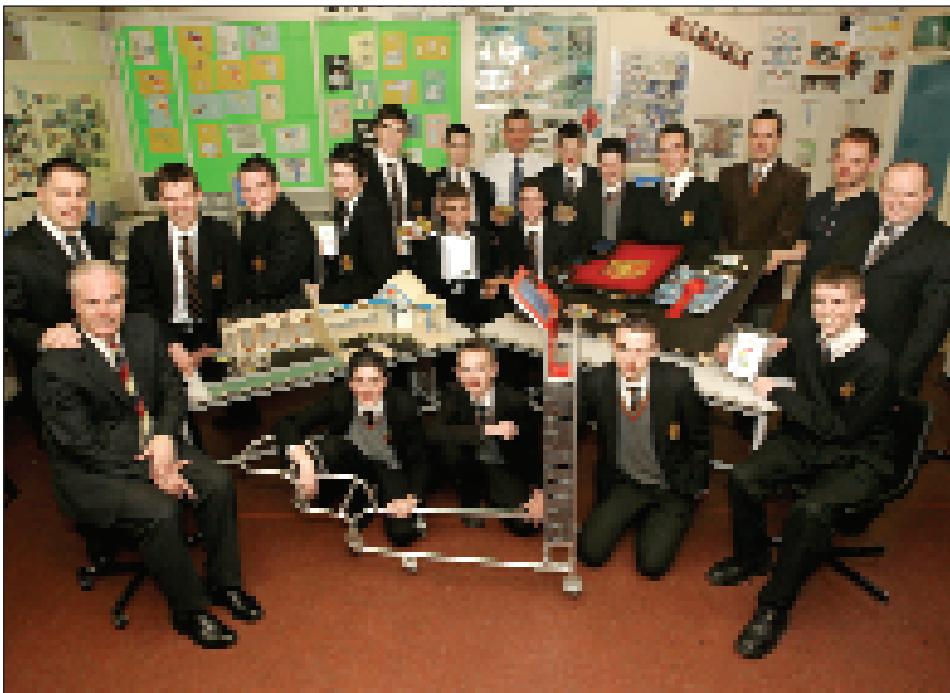
I myself competed in the competition with a project called Plug Safe, Live Safe, Be Safe. I did not win in my category but I was beaten by a project from the Abbey made by Declan Carville. His project was called Toddler Tucked In. With the help of our great Technology teachers; Mr Rodgers, Mr Mooney, Mr Savage and Mr Higgins the Technician, and the Biology department, the school won a variety of awards in different categories. The entire event is a great experience in itself. As well as competing in the actual competition there are other activities such as the Robot Show, the Bush Tucker Trial and many more to be enjoyed. I myself was a contestant on the bush tucker trial. And yes, it is just like that one on ‘I’m a celebrity get me out of here.’ I had to eat insects such as morio worms, locusts and mealworms. I reached the final of the Bush Tucker Trial where I had to eat reindeer testicles, which I must say are not the most tastiest thing I have ever eaten. But, it was a very exciting experience that I will always

remember.

The competition is not all about competing for prizes. There are activities at night such as discos and quizzes. They are great craic and there are plenty of women with whom to become friends. The whole event is well run and there was not a minute in the day that I was sitting bored with

nothing to do. All the students did themselves, their school and their families proud. I would strongly recommend the BT Young Scientist and Technology to anyone who is thinking about competing as it is a once in a life experience and a great learning opportunity. So put your thinking caps on!

Ruairi Cowan 5th Year



Headmaster, Dermott McGovern, congratulates the pupils and staff who took part in the ESAT Young Science and Technology Exhibition in January.

The morning that we were to set out for the Esat BT Young Scientists and Technology exhibition was quite a gruelling experience. The butterflies in my stomach had turned to ferocious bees by the time that we had everything packed up and ready to go.

I was travelling down with my teammates Eoin and Patrick and our trolley. As we entered the combustion of the M1, the teachers reassured us that we would do alright. Yet I was still anxious that I would be unable to answer the questions that some of the judges might throw at me. So I basically kept reiterating the speech over and over in my mind.

When we arrived at the gates of the RDS I was a bit astonished. I had often heard of the RDS as being a vast hall where many concerts were staged. What faced me was an early 19th century building, but as the old saying goes ‘never judge a book by its cover’. Inside I discovered a huge hall that stretched back a

brave distance. There were at least 500 stalls bursting with a lot of original ideas. After shaking off the bus ride we set up our stall and were soon ready for the daunting judges. It felt like a life age for the judge to reach our stall.

We were a bit shaky at the start but we soon got into a rhythm and by the end we were quite pleased that we had covered at least every aspect. After the judging we went to get something eat and in doing so we discovered several other halls. The meals were ‘dead on’ as there were a few places to choose from.

The rest of the day we just stood by our stall and told people about our trolley or had the craic with people from other stalls. The greatest entertainment was the opening ceremony, where there was a breathtaking show including drummers, life size robots and excitement. Mary McAleese herself even attended.

After a long day we walked to our hotel, which was great craic; I had a load of sweets,

which kept us awake at night. We could either stay in the hotel or go back to the RDS for a quiz, karaoke or a disco. If you got up in time for the breakfasts in the morning they weren’t bad- a good old fry, that kept you going for most of the day. The second day was much the same as the first except with two judgments and then the never-ending questions from the public. Our judging went quite well and we were silently confident that we might scrape a prize.

The third day dawned and we were quite optimistic but prepared for defeat. Everyone poured into the ceremony arena and we all sat in the same row with our fingers crossed. When the presenter finally reached our category I was so nervous. This had to be the highlight of the week; our names were called out for second place, out of oceans of other entries. The months of hard work had finally paid off. All I had to do now was wait for the cheque in the post.

Oliver Hearty Iv 3

WHATEVER IT TAKES



SEVEN PAGE SUPPLEMENT CELEBRATING THE HISTORIC DOUBLE

Match reports from the road to Carlow. Action Photos.
Personal Experiences of the famous finals. Players’ Reflections.
Views from the terraces and a fantastic Souvenir Team Photograph.

Dungannon fall after Extra Time

The Long Road to Carlow began on Feb 11th in Monaghan when Abbey CBS took on the MacRory Cup Champions of two years ago, St Patrick's Dungannon. The game was, as one expects for this stage in the competition, edgy and close, with neither side showing much of the flare that would earmark the replay. Abbey CBS hit the opening four points of the game but the early introduction of substitute Blaine Kilgallon helped to get the Academy back into the game. Dungannon had to chase the game in the second half but five crucial points from Conor Bayne helped their comeback. Abbey's superiority was not reflected on the scoreboard and when Bayne secured the draw with an equalising point in the final minute, Abbey were the more relieved to hear the final whistle. In a game of few goal scoring chances, the best chance fell to Abbey's Rory Cunningham but his effort came back off the woodwork and rebounded to safety. That miss ensured that both teams would meet again a week later at the same venue.



Conor Bayne and Kevin McKernan pictured with referee, Pat McEnaney

Thankfully for the large crowd who attended the replay seven days later, there was much more to cheer about, as the Abbey came out on top in a classic. The game produced over thirty scores and an equalizing goal, for Dungannon, four minutes into injury time, from the man of the match in the drawn game, Conor Bayne; we also witnessed an exhibition of attacking play from Kevin Dyas. Dyas managed to involve himself in over half of the Abbey's scores, including a personal tally of 0-5. His



The calm before the storm

first major contribution to the game was to slip a perfectly weighted pass to his captain Kevin Mc Kernan for the Abbey's opening score of the game- a clinically executed goal. Dungannon stayed in touch throughout the game, and when Tiernan O Hagan hit the



Mr Jody Gormley delivers some words of wisdom at half time

Abbey net on 51 minutes they had finally pegged back their Newry rivals. The teams then exchanged points before Darren Rowland and Kevin Dyas opened out a three point lead for the Abbey men going in to injury time. However, if anyone in the crowd had learned anything from the previous 120 minutes of this absorbing contest it was that as long as the Tyrone school had Conor Bayne, they had a chance. It was he who conjured up a goal out of nothing to send the game into injury time. With both teams being pushed to the limit of their physical endurance it was the Abbey who had the extra edge. In injury time and substitute Ruairi Gillen, tapped over a simple score to send the Newry school through to the semi final for the first time in five years.



The Abbey squad ready for their semi final showdown



Abbey supporters celebrate in Casement Park



Mr. Ruddy at the final whistle



Some Abbey supporters cheering from the terrace

Abbey battle all the way to MacRory Glory

On Saint Patrick's Day, 2006, the majority of the Abbey School was boarding buses. It was a fantastic atmosphere: cheering, laughing and the occasional shout of 'Abbey Abbey Abbey!' ringing all round. Today was the day everyone had been waiting for- today was the day the Abbey would be playing in the MacRory Cup Final.

Everyone had been preparing all week for this one day. Abbey hats, Abbey flags, Abbey scarves and even Abbey wigs were being bought and worn proudly for the match.

The buses were heading for Casement Park, Belfast. Everyone was talking excitedly on the buses, chanting and cheering.

When we arrived, we got out of the buses, lined up and entered Casement Park. The Abbey was facing St Louis, Kilkeel and both teams had worked extremely hard through the various games, and now it all came down to this.

There were no seats, so we stood up watching. As we waited for the team to emerge onto the pitch, we cheered. Looking out on the crowd, you could see Abbey flags and scarves, proudly waving in the cold air. We cheered and chanted, singing lines like 'We love you Abbey, we do' and 'Abbey Abbey Abbey' for what seemed hours.

A giant Abbey flag was being passed through the crowd, while the cheerleaders and the band played and sang happily. Finally, after what seemed hours, the Abbey team emerged at exactly one o'clock. The crowd roared with phenomenal volume as they ran onto the pitch! The chanting was well organised: we all chanted the same thing at once, so everyone could hear.

After we had our turn at chanting, the St Louis team ran onto the pitch. You could

hear their school cheering and chanting.

Finally the game started, with the Abbey playing well and going into the lead, St Louis' was slightly behind. Every time a player scored a cheer would be heard all around the pitch from the supporting school. The Abbey scored a fantastic goal at the start of the first half but, by the time the first half was over, St Louis had made a last minute score, and the schools could not have been closer.



Andrew Fitzsimmons and Sean Garrivan both Donard Three, pictured before leaving the Abbey.

During half time we still cheered, but some of us were in discussion about how well the first half had gone. Some supporters left to buy chips, and others were buying the MacRory Cup annual programme to hopefully have a Memento of this great occasion.

The cheering excelled as the second half

began, and the players ran onto the pitch. St Louis played very well, and by the time the second half was midway through, the Abbey and St Louis were still neck and neck. Then St Louis shot a point three quarters of the way into the second half. The Abbey was now behind, but the chanting didn't stop. A dull hush came over the Abbey crowd as St Louis put us behind, but we soon recovered, and the cheerleaders just kept on cheering, encouraging the Abbey.

The end was near; most of us were panicking, others were still cheerful and some were convinced we had already lost. We needed a goal to win, but there were only two minutes left. We kept cheering and chanting as loud as we could, half wanting to be heard by the Abbey players, half wanting to drown out St Louis' supporters.

One minute left, there was nothing we could do... it was gone, until.....

the Abbey scored a goal! The cheering was incredible! Everyone was cheering but not in a sloppy way. We were all singing a chorus of 'Abbey Abbey Abbey,' followed by 'Oi Oi Oi!' We were cheering because of that fantastic goal. Suddenly the game ended. We had won! We had won the MacRory Cup! We did it!

Everyone ran onto the pitch in joy, the St Louis' players getting off the pitch as fast as they could, the St Louis crowd slouching home, half disappointed, half embarrassed.

The MacRory Cup was lifted, shining in the sunlight, by team captain Kevin McKernan. He walked up to the stands, Abbey flags waving behind him, as he gave his speech.

We went home; proud of our school's great achievement. We chanted and chanted on the buses home, celebrating our great victory!

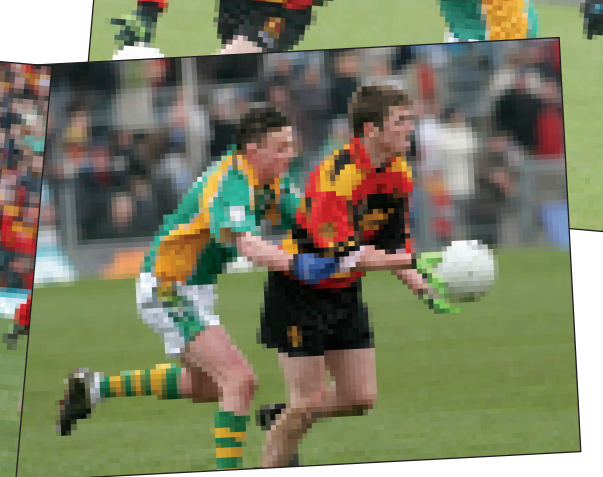
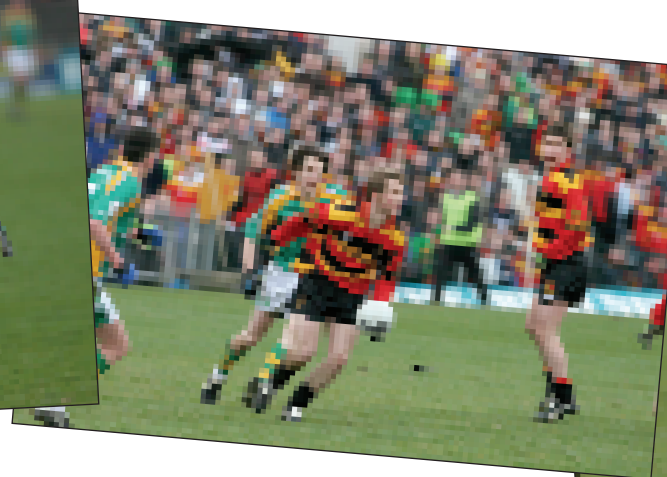
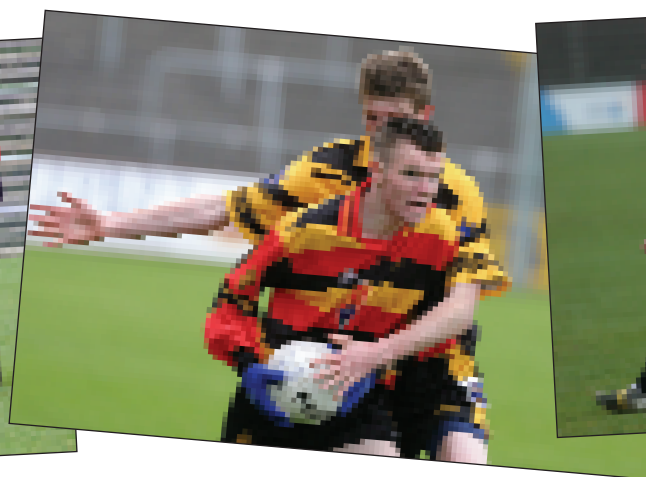
Connor Hogan, Breffni 1.

Abbey CBS - Hogan Cup and MacRory Cup Champions 2006



Abbey CBS, Newry – MacRory Cup & Hogan Cup Champions 2006

Back Row (l to r) Mr Jody Gormley (Coach), Ruairí Cunningham, Cathal Magee, Darragh Dobbin, Darren Fegan, Paul Moran, Cathal Murdock, Cailám Quinn, Patrick McShane, Conaill McGovern, Mark Digney, Colm Murney, Mr Frank Quinn (Physio) **Middle Row (l to r)** Mr Seán Gallagher (Coach), Seamus Grant, Conor Daly, Gerard McGarvey, Ruairí Digney, Niall Mulvaney, Ciarán Coffey, James Shannon, Ruairí Gillen, Seán Murdock, Darren Rowland, Mr Mark Grogan (Coach) **Front Row (l to r)** Daniel Clarke, Thomas Courtney, Richard Gilmore, Niall Devlin, Kevin McKernan (Captain), Mr Dermot McGovern (Headmaster), Kevin Dyas, James McCavitt, Michael Brady, Conor Murphy, Rory Grant.



ABBAY CBS CLASS TELLS IN HOGAN CUP SEMI

Abbey CBS, Newry 1-10
De La Salle, Macroom 1-8

Abbey CBS, Newry scored a merited two-point win over a fine De la Salle, Macroom side in this high quality Hogan Cup All-Ireland Colleges SFC A semi-final at Dr. Cullen Park, Carlow on Saturday 1st April 2006. This clash of the Ulster v Munster champions brought an attendance of about 1,500 to the neutral Carlow venue and they got first class value for money.

The Abbey played bright, inventive, combination football and were worthy winners of a semi-final which puts the Down school through to a first All-Ireland final at this level where they will meet former All-Ireland champions St. Pat's of Navan, coached by Colm O'Rourke.

They made a faltering start to this game and found themselves 1-2 to 0-1 in arrears after just eight minutes. That Macroom goal came in the eighth minute from a splendid strike by their centre forward David Goold. Two minutes earlier, Abbey's goal keeper Cathal Murdock had made a splendid double save from Macroom's David Goold and Donal O'Sullivan to keep his goal intact. But he had no chance two minutes later when Goold stormed through for a fine goal.

After an indifferent start, the Abbey's centre back, Kevin Dyas, stormed into the game, scoring two superb points from play and setting up his side's only goal. Right full-back, Mark Digney, was also extremely prominent – the red haired Newry Shamrocks clubman caught, intercepted and cleared a lot of ball.

By half-time, the sides were deadlocked at 1-3 to 0-6.

Within two minutes of the restart, substitute Ruairi Cunningham pointed a free.

This score was quickly followed by another from Kevin Dyas, the Dromintee clubman, as he stormed from defence into attack to split the posts.

Richard Gilmore, the Ulster Champions' influential



Kevin Dyas delivering the perfect pass



Cathal Magee holds on to the ball under pressure

midfielder, quickly added another point from play as Abbey led 0-9 to 1-3.

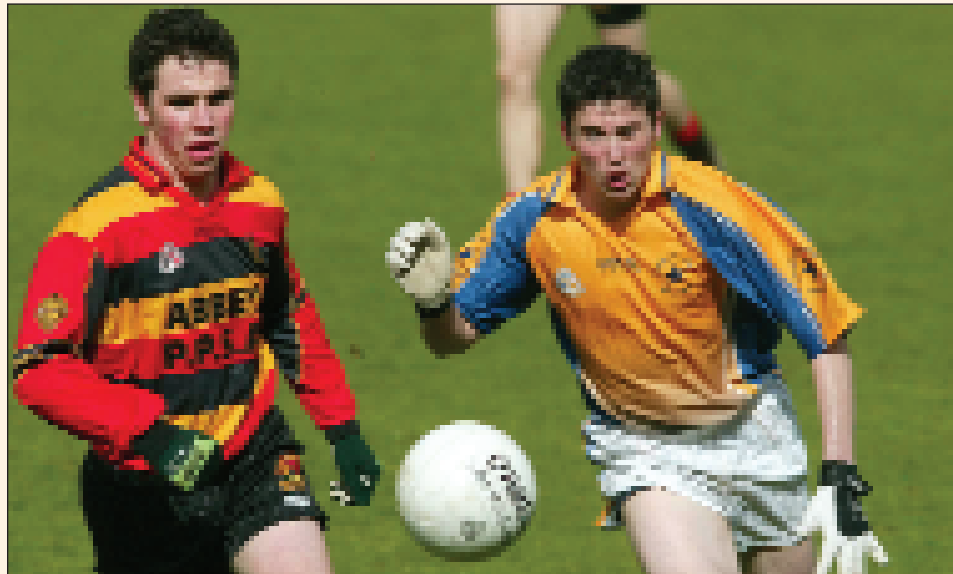
In the 38th minute, Cathal Magee, from Mayobridge, crashed home a great goal after taking a pass from Dyas.

Abbey now led 1-9 to 1-4 and looked set for a comfortable win.

However, De La Salle rallied strongly and the forwards Donal O'Sullivan and Sean Kiely shot four unanswered points as the Cork School came within a point of their opponents by the 59th minute.

But the Abbey had the final say. They forced a 45 in injury time and Saval's Niall Devlin pointed the resultant kick.

The Abbey deservedly emerged as winners of a game which was a great advertisement for Gaelic football.



Darren Rowland battles for possession

Abbey CBS:

C Murdock; M Digney, C Murney; R Grant; D Rowland; K Dyas (0-2); C Coffey; K McKernan (Captain); R Gilmore (0-2); G McGarvey; C Magee (1-0); D Clarke; N Devlin (0-3, 0-1 45), S Murdock, C McGovern (0-1)

Subs: R Cunningham (0-2 frees) for McGarvey injured; R Gillen for McGovern.

De La Salle, Macroom:

S Casey; JJ Murphy, Peter Lynch, J Corkery; R Buckley, D Cotter, I Casey; J Ambrose, M McDonagh; J Ryan, D Goold (1-0), P Healy; D O'Sullivan (0-4, 0-2 frees), S Kiely (0-4), Paddy Lynch.

Subs: J McCarthy for Murphy; C Dunne for McDonagh. Referee: M Deegan (Laois).

ABBAY TOPS IN ONE OF THE BEST HOGAN FINALS EVER

May the 1st was an exciting, fun and historic day. The school had an air of excitement throughout the week and finally the day had come for the team, fans, pupils and teachers. Abbey supporters came steadily through the main gates. The buses were ready; the fans were on, so we were off down to Carlow. The trip was four hours but that didn't stop me going. I was sitting at the back where the craic was. Getting down there only took half the time as we were having so much fun; singing, telling jokes and talking. Dr. Cullen Park was in our sights. The bus stopped. We got off and went into the stand. It quickly filled and when the hurling match was over, the Abbey players came out to a cheering crowd.



Kevin Dyas and waterboy, Martin Hearty in company of some young Abbey fans

They lined out and the referee threw in the ball – the match began. The match was exciting and fast as St. Patrick's went into a five point lead. The Abbey responded with a well-worked goal. That made the crowd go wild. The first half drew to a close. The atmosphere around the stand was incredible. I could hardly hear the St. Patrick's support. We kept producing



Hero, Sean Murdoch with the Hogan Cup

chants, songs and noise. The teams came out after the break. The first-half was history. The second-half started. Within the restart the Abbey had drawn level. They scored some more points to put them ahead. It looked as if the Hogan Cup was coming up Courtney Hill but St. Pat's scored a goal with minutes to go which put them ahead. It was going to be a nail-biting finish. St. Pat's added another score. But in the heart of injury-time The Abbey drew level with a goal. Kevin Dyas received the ball and hammered into the back of the net. One minute we were cursing our luck the next we were jumping for joy. So the game was to be decided by extra-time. The teams took a well-needed rest and I noticed that St. Patrick's lay down while The Abbey ran on the spot. Maybe that had something to do with the cramps.

The first period of extra time began and St Pat's scored a goal and some points which put them two points ahead. It was heart-stopping stuff as the Abbey were losing. In the second period however The Abbey had an edge in fitness. They drew level and then took the lead. The Abbey sealed it with a point which put them two ahead. I knew they had won, so I jumped over the fence. Within seconds the ref blew his whistle and The Abbey had won their first Hogan Cup ever. The supporters were on the field, the players were surrounded and Kevin McKernan walked up to lift the cup. Jody and the coaches' never-say-die attitude had paid off.



Abbey supporters celebrate Kevin Dyas' late equalizer

Kevin thanked the coaches, the team, the fans, our school and the opposition. Then there was only one thing left to do - lift the Hogan Cup. He lifted it with a tremendous roar from the supporters. Soon after we celebrated with the Hogan Cup. We had to get on our buses. I thought of the journey home but it wasn't bad as we had won and were bringing home the cup. Everyone was delighted but tired.

Later we arrived at The Abbey and speeches from the captain, Kevin McKernan and manager, Jody Gormley and the headmaster, Mr McGovern were received with roars and applause. The crowd came for one thing – The Hogan Cup being brought to The Abbey. It was held aloft with a momentous cheer from the crowd. The day had ended the way I wanted it to with The Abbey winning for the very first time and I was privileged to be there at this historic moment – I will remember it forever!

Michael McKay - Donard 1



Magic Moments: Kevin Dyas fires Abbey to Hogan glory

Players' Reflections

Ruairí Digney

What this year has meant to me?:

This year has been about the panel and friends I have made. Helped me to develop as a player. Makes me feel proud to have been part of this group of players and achieved what we have this year.

Advice to anyone wishing to represent the school:

Go into every training session and be fully focused on giving your all, work hard everyday to improve as a player, always be willing to listen to advice from managers and also your team-mates. Don't get hung up on winning a MacRory but take each game as it comes, be prepared to work to the final whistle every time.

Any further comments:

This is a period in my life I will never forget.

Conor Daly

What this year has meant to me?

This year has meant a lot to me as I won my first All-Ireland medal. Everyone in the panel got on well and I always enjoyed training even if we did a lot of running. People always gave their best and each of the managers taught me a lot.

Advice to anyone wishing to represent the school:

Always work as hard as you can until the final whistle. Have discipline as you are not only representing your school but your club and your family. Always have confidence in yourself.

Any further comments: I would just like to thank Mr Gormley, Mr Gallagher, Mr Grogan, Frank and of course the team for a great year that I will never forget.

Darren Rowland

Highlights this year:

Burpee's, MacRory Cup Campaign, Hogan Campaign, Winning two titles

What this year has meant to me?
Huge milestone in my footballing career. Represent yourself, your family and your community at the highest level.

Advice to anyone wishing to represent the school:
Be very mentally strong to make the commitment. Never give up.

Ciarán Coffey

What this year has meant to me?

It has shown me that if a team works together, trains hard and has a great bond like we have, and never lose that bond then you can achieve anything. This year was great craic, and it has also made me enjoy my sport more. I have established lasting friendships and although I may never play with a team with the bond that we had, and may never do, that I will always remember the year, not just for football, but for the whole team, and the friends I made.

Advice to anyone wishing to represent the school:
Go for it! It's full of great pride in yourself and you'll make some great friends on the way. You may also be successful as we were.

Any further comments: Thanks to Jody, Mark, Sean and Frank and all the lads for a great year. I came here as a new kid on the block and you made me more than welcome. It may be the end of a brilliant year, but friendships last forever!

James Shannon

What this year has meant to me?:

This year has meant a lot to me. I have seen my confidence increase rapidly since the start of the year. As a footballer I feel that I am even better than I was at the start of the year mainly due to the fact of the high standard set in training. Our training was something I have never seen before, the professionalism of our approach to training and games was something else. Having won a Hogan and MacRory medal has led me to becoming captain of my minor team which I feel is a great honour.

Advice to anyone wishing to represent the school:
Represent the school at any opportunity, the support that is given by teachers, and all of the staff when you are being successful is something to grab with both hands, as you will probably never get the same support ever again.

Ruairí Cunningham

What this year has meant to me?:

It has meant a lot to be able to play with such a great group of players and to be involved with great coaches, also. It is great that now we have won, we will be forever in the school's history.

Advice to anyone wishing to represent the school:
Train hard, play hard but most of all enjoy yourself, you may only get one opportunity to play MacRory Cup football.

Any further comments: Take everything seriously and always give 100%



GAA President, Nicky Brennan and Headmaster, Mr. McGovern are pictured with members of the players and management at the celebration banquet held in the Carrickdale hotel on Friday 12th May 2006. Over 500 guests attended the event including players, their families, Abbey staff and past pupils. Tributes to the team were paid by Danny Murphy, Secretary of the Ulster Colleges' Council, Bernard Dunne, Chairman of the All-Ireland Colleges Council and GAA president, Nicky Brennan.



Nicky Brennan, President of the GAA and Dermot McGovern, Headmaster congratulate team captain, Kevin McKernan, and Vice-captain, Kevin Dyas. Also pictured are the winning management team, Frank Quinn, Sean Gallagher, Jody Gormley and Mark Grogan, along with the team statisticians, fourth year students, John McAteer and David Digney.



Headmaster Dermot McGovern celebrates with the members of the Newry Shamrock's club who were involved in this year's success. Back row l-r: Thomas Courtenay, Ciaran Coffey, Patrick McShane, Seán Gallagher (team mentor), Conor Fegan (PE Department) and James McCavitt. Front row l-r: Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, Mark Digney, Ruairí Cunningham and Conor Daly.

Trips: ABBEY FIRST FORM VISIT EDINBURGH

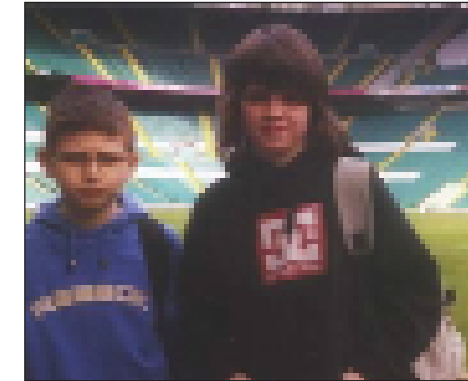
The 1st year Edinburgh trip began when we boarded the bus at 1.00am. We had just said good bye to our families (or members of our families) that had left us off at The Abbey. We prepared for the hour long trip to Dublin airport where we would board our flight to Edinburgh.

When we arrived outside the airport we met our friends who had travelled on the other bus. We waited in a line and talked until Mr. O'Neill called us up and told us which rooms we were in. I was in room 13 with some of my class mates, then we all had to line up and wait to check-in; this took about half an hour which was fairly annoying.

After we had checked-in we went to the departure gate. We had a whole gate to ourselves! When I was on the plane the person beside me started drawing pictures of planes crashing... this was slightly scary even though it wasn't my first time on a plane. Anyway, after 45 minutes we came down to land to thunderous applause. We collected our luggage and boarded the bus which would take us to our hostel and then on a tour of Edinburgh ending with a guided tour of Edinburgh Castle.

The tour was good; some of the architecture of the buildings was amazing. We eventually got to Edinburgh Castle. All the cannons and towers AND Crown Jewels were cool. I could understand why it is such a big tourist attraction.

At the hostel we had dinner and got ready for the show, 'This Is Elvis'. The first half of the show was terrible, but they made up for that in the second half because it was like an actual Elvis concert in Las Vegas. We were all wrecked; and went to sleep eventually, excited about Parkhead the next day.



Friday was started with a bowl of cereal and a bus trip to Celtic's football ground, Parkhead. We got to see the pitch, the trophies and when I left I thought I knew everything there was to know about Celtic. But I think the place we all liked the best was the gift shop where hundreds of pounds were spent on goods from jerseys to Celtic ties!

On the way back we went to a heritage centre in Lanarkshire. There were cotton mills and exhibitions on the people and owners. We went to an old fashioned sweet shop where everybody had

paper bags full of sweets. When we went back to the hostel we had dinner and went bowling where most of our money was spent on arcade games and slush puppies. We all left without pleasure because every body had wanted to stay another couple of hours.

Next morning we woke up late and Niall and I rushed down to see if breakfast was being served. Everyone had missed breakfast! The first part of that day was spent at 'Dynamic Earth'. It told you about the earth's climate; it was a geography thing. After that we went to a huge shopping centre where we ran round game stores and HMV trying to find cheap CD's and games. We then went back to the bowling alley where we had chips and played on the arcades. Then we had a McDonalds!



Finally our trip came to an end. We got on the bus and travelled back to Edinburgh airport. We arrived back at the school where our parents were waiting for us it was 1.00am Sunday morning and we went straight home to bed.

Henry McLaughlin Breffni 1

Philip McClorey picks up the Br. McFarland Senior Debating Cup

The Br. McFarland Senior Debating Competition is one of the most prestigious and well attended events in the Abbey school calendar. From a strong tradition of debating that began with Br. McFarland, the Abbey has continued to go from strength to strength in producing high calibre debaters across a range of subject areas.

The preliminary rounds of the Senior Debating Competition, chaired by the English Department teachers, saw an initial 36 debaters compete to get through to the last eight for the 28th March final. Competition was tough, the debates fluent and the speakers confident. These rounds highlighted a number of strong newcomers to the Senior Debating Competition, from the earlier rounds and the last eight speakers, who will no doubt put their experience to the test again next year when they return to compete for the trophy.

The final night showcased a wealth of talent with no less than five focussed Year 12 pupils making it into the final eight.

Our sponsor of the competition, Mr Rory McShane (Solicitor and President of the Law Society of Northern Ireland and an Abbey past pupil), remarked on the research undertaken by the debaters, their poise and command of

language and the very difficult task of deciding the winners. He was seconded in this by our guest speaker for the evening Mr Mark Devenport (BBC Northern Ireland's Political Editor).



Mr Devenport's career is notable with time spent working for the BBC in London, Belfast and New York. He began with the BBC as Northern Ireland reporter in the mid 1980s covering the peace process and moved to New York in 1999 where he was United Nations Correspondent before returning to Northern Ireland to take over the role of Political Editor. His work has taken him to Somalia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Israel, while in Northern Ireland he has reported on such major events as President Clinton's visit to Northern Ireland in 1995, the

Good Friday Agreement in 1998 and the Omagh bombing in the same year. In his talk to the House, he highlighted the importance of language and communication as part of our education and complimented the articulate delivery of the speeches, commenting later that he was particularly impressed at pupils' ability to think on their feet and command the attention of the House during the 'ex tempore' motions.

As with all competitions, winners were decided and from entertaining and educational performances, three were chosen as class acts. Congratulations to the winner of the Br. McFarland Trophy 2006, Philip McClorey; to Ryan Martin in second place and to Stephen Begley in third place.

Lastly, congratulations to the winners and runners-up from each second year and fourth year class group who also received their prizes on Senior Debating Night. They must be commended for their skill shown in the in-house debates run by the English Department and for their contribution from the floor during the final. Their attendance along with their parents/guardians is much appreciated.

A special word of thanks to Mr. Pat Mooney for his chairmanship of the final.

Biology Department: 'CRAB' the headlines at ESAT



Damian McParland, a Fifth year student enjoyed great success at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition (2006). Damian's project involved the study of Shell Selection Behaviour in the common Hermit Crab, *Pagurus Bernhardus*. The aim was to determine the mechanism of shell selection used by these crabs and the factors affecting their shell choice. The investigation unveiled a clear three stage selection process and found shell choice to be a trade-off assessing optimum shell size and quality. Damian thoroughly enjoyed the competition; "It was a lot of hard work but it was really worth it in the end. It was a great experience and the best part was meeting new people and making new friends. There was an electric atmosphere at the RDS. To top it all off I got 3 days off school staying in a hotel in Dublin, who can beat that!" Damian worked under the guidance of Miss D. Mulgrew.

Ronan Kearney, a third year student, picked up first prize in the Junior Biological and ecological Sciences category and a display award. Ronan's project was a study of case construction in two species of Caddisfly Larvae. Ronan studied their different approaches to case construction and the logistics of the finished product. He also analysed the complex decision making

processes used in the production of the protective cases. "I really enjoyed working on this project. It was a great challenge and an opportunity to learn a lot about freshwater ecology. I made a lot of new friends, an experience not to be forgotten! Ronan worked under the guidance of Mrs M. Lane (Head of Biology).

'OPEN YOUR MIND'

The 'Open Your Mind' public speaking competition was organised by the Southern Health and Social Services Board, the Newry & Mourne Health & Social Services Trust and Menssana to promote an awareness of the factors that can impact on our mental health.

Four SIE pupils took part in the competition, which was their first such event, on Wednesday 16th November in the Newry Institute of Further & Higher Education: Conor Fox, Paul Mallon, David McCracken and Niall O'Donnell.

They spoke on the topic, "We don't feel ashamed for having a broken leg. Why is mental health so different?" and highlighted the serious

stigma associated with mental illness and particularly what can be done to combat it.

The boys faced competition from St Louis Kilkeel, St Columban's College Kilkeel, Our Lady's Grammar School Newry and St Joseph's High School Crossmaglen and were placed third overall, a significant achievement for their first competition.

Quizzes: FIRST YEARS A 'CREDIT' TO THE ABBEY

The First Year Credit Union Quiz Team of Daire McAteer, Conor Hogan, Keith Connolly, Christopher White and Cormac Linden won both the Stage 1 Competition, and then the Down/Armagh Chapter Finals. They then qualified for the All Ireland Credit Union Finals in Dublin where they performed admirably.

"Being in the Credit Union Quiz 2006 was a great experience for me, and one that I'll never forget. In the first round we were all very nervous, but we worked as a team and answered the questions as best we could. For most of the time we were in the lead, but never by far. When we won we couldn't believe it.

For the Down/Armagh Chapter Finals we were a bit more confident before the event, but this confidence

soon evaporated when we saw how many teams were taking part. Again we found ourselves ahead for most of the rounds, and we managed to hold on to this to the end. This time we were in shock, disbelief and then utter joy. It was great to be part of the quiz team, and I hope to do something like this in the future". said Conor Hogan of BR1

The All Ireland Final in Dublin was very exciting, I was glad to be part of a good team that had got to the RDS. Some of the questions were very hard and we even disagreed over the answers to a few of them. Although we didn't win this time we scored highly. It was a good day and a fantastic experience. Daire McAteer commented.



SOCIAL SPIRITUALITY

This year, as part of The Abbey's Sixth Form Social Spirituality Programme, Mr Gerard Quinn and Mr Keith Stanyer from Newry & Mourne District Citizens' Advice Bureau led a module on Personal Finance and Financial Management.

The Sixth Form Pupils dealt with issues such as credit, interest-rates and consumer rights. All those who participated in the module felt that it was beneficial and that the information they received will be most useful to them as they embark on their university or working life.



ABBAY STAFF VISIT INDIA

In the last edition The Abbey Way reported that a delegation of Abbey Grammar School staff visited India as part of a global Christian Brothers' Community Project. Mr Mark Rodgers shares his personal reflections from his diary, and gives his own, at times distressing, insight into his experiences.

1st December
6.30am... Got out of bed and had yet another cold shower, washed my hair, dried it... leaving the white towel black. I still did not feel clean. I had been dreading this day since we got our itinerary.

We were all going to be split up and put into groups, I was placed with two older generation Christian Brothers, Brother Bede from Sligo and Brother Michael from Queensland, Australia. I was very apprehensive as we were to be taken around Calcutta by two local boys called Gary and Gopal.

I soon met the people I was to spend my day with... The two boys were the oldest of all the boys that were to act as guides for our group, they were aged sixteen and seventeen.

Gopal smelt a bit if he was too close... I tried to avoid this, Mrs McKernan's Albus oil would have come in handy! We all sat on the grass and planned our day... I was worried about the extent these plans went to as I was so tired because I had not slept properly since I left my own bed in Ireland.

Our first stop was The Mother House and Mother Theresa's Orphanage. The



children were all sorted and dressed in the same colour if they were the same age, and this was amazing to see. We visited the children with Special Educational Needs and then the Children with Profound Multiple Learning Difficulties; I could not believe how happy each child here was... The place was clean and the nuns in charge were very nice. We visited all the rooms in the Orphanage, the second last one I went into housed the children aged between two and four, all dressed in navy

blue. They all seemed happy, but were glad to see people just to get an extra moment of attention. There was a small boy in a high chair in the corner; he was blind in one eye, he was so pleasant, he seemed to get little or no attention and was in his own wee world. I spent some time with him, thankful, yet guilty that this was not mine, nor my family's life... But was this fair for me to think this?

Before leaving I picked this boy up, to give him a little extra attention that he so craved, yet never received, again feeling guilty about my own lifestyle back home....

Our next stop on the tour of the 'City of Joy' was a street café that Gopal and Gary recommended.... It was dirty and smelly. I sat down and my right arm stuck to the table; my stomach churned. A waiter came over and offered water... I declined. Brother Michael and the boys ate Samosas... I declined. I took a bottle of fanta out of my bag and sipped it. The conversation was good; I was growing towards my group. Then Gopal asked us if we wanted to come to his house.... My stomach did somersaults and I broke out in a cold sweat; if he smelled this bad up close, what would his house smell like? Brother Michael said we would love to visit... He was lying... Well on my part anyway. This café suddenly became appealing and I did not want to leave.

We left. We got onto a tram for a while. After this we walked for about twenty minutes, chatting amongst ourselves as we did so. The streets were relatively clean, (by Calcutta's standards) but I was happy walking. Gopal then said his house was five minutes away... I was dreading it! All too soon we got to this long alley, down which, Gopal said he lived. We began to walk down it, I was behind Gopal. He took us to the doorway. The house was about the size of the cupboard beneath my stairs. We were invited inside... it was so clean and tidy! His mother and some others were there. They were so honoured and pleased that we had called in to see them and I was disgusted with myself. Gopal was so proud, I could have cried. Gopal wanted to show us around, I was now so



humbled. His mother offered us cold drinks, but we declined as these were expensive and we knew that they could not really afford them. Instead Brother Michael said we would take some Chai (this is like a very sweet milky tea). Gopal went up onto the roof of the house; we followed. Neighbours were coming out to meet us and offer us chairs to sit on. Gopal was so proud to have us Western visitors to his home. Other taller buildings surrounded us and there were crows flying overhead. Our Chai and some biscuits came. Gopal made me take two biscuits, which out of politeness I had to eat... As I did so, I looked up to see the crows ripping apart a rat... I had visions of part of a rat falling on me... I was definitely not comfortable, but not wanting to hurt such kind people's feelings I ate my biscuits and sipped on the Chai. It was soon time to go, at this stage Gopal's entire family were there with several neighbours all to see us off and wish us well. It was amazing, then we were invited into the street temple, this was indeed a great honour. We took off our shoes and entered; again this was another unique experience, the colour, the splendour, but most of all the respect shown for this temple was unreal.

By now it was lunch time and we walked into the town; the boys chose a restaurant, not one that I would have chosen, but I was happy enough to go along with things now. As usual, I ate Naan bread. I thought this was usually a safe bet, especially in this place. I had to wash my hands five times during my stay there, but the boys were happy now and that was what concerned me most at this point. The boys ate and ate and then crunched their way through some of the chicken bones. I have never seen so much food consumed, but I knew that Gary and Gopal probably had never had so much food and were unlikely to again for a very long time...

Even now, this day stays in my thoughts. I went through such a range of emotions on that day. I can honestly say that this was probably the day that has affected me most in my life and would never wish for myself, my family or any of you to ever be in the same situation as Gary and Gopal, but their kindness and sense of pride and self contentment was something that I envied slightly... There is a true saying; the more you have, the more you want. Gopal and his family had nothing, yet wished for nothing more, they were happy and contented with their lot. How many of us can honestly say that?



OFFICIAL OPENING

Official Opening of the Edmund Rice Centre By An Taoiseach Mr Bertie Ahern TD Monday 20 February 2006 The official opening of the new Edmund Rice Centre took place in

Dublin and Mr M Grogan along with Kevin Dyas were invited to talk about their experiences in Zambia. This was followed by a video presentation of the Abbey Zambian Immersion Project 2005. Mr Bertie Ahern was the guest of honour at the Official Opening of the Edmund Rice Centre at North Richmond Street, Dublin. The two Irish Province Leaders of the Christian Brothers, Brother Michael Murray and Brother David Gibson were also in attendance as were members of the Edmund Rice Network. A Centre of Creative and Developing Initiatives The Centre serves as a hub for the Edmund Rice Network in its nationwide and international activities.



The Abbey Past Pupils' Sports Association hosted a 'This is your Life' tribute to Kevin O'Neill, in the Carrickdale Hotel. Over 300 guests attended the night to honour one of the Abbey's most famous sons. Kevin (centre) is pictured here with his former Down Colleagues.

ABBEY SCRUM DOWN FOR THE NEW YEAR



This year saw the birth of The Abbey Rugby Team. The team captained by David Patterson spent this year learning about the game under the watchful eye of Mr. Wadsworth and school promotion officer, Hamish Fraser. They played their first game against Newry Institute, which they won in style, running in five tries. Slí na Mainistreach wishes them well and looks forward to following their progress next year.

TRUE GRIT - GALLANT ABBEY BOW OUT OF THE CORN NA NÓG

Quarter Final

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Abbey | 5-9 |
| St. Mary's Belfast | 6-7 |

The Abbey's Corn na n-Óg team crashed out of this year's competition in a pulsating quarter final against a strong St. Mary's Belfast team. From the opening whistle the action was non-stop. Within two and a half minutes the Abbey found themselves eight points behind, following two early goals from Declan Lynch and Conor Mc Clelland. The nightmare start continued when the shell-shocked Abbey defence conceded a third goal on 10 minutes, Lynch again got on the end of a speculative ball to crash his shot past the helpless Tony Fearon in the Abbey goals. The Abbey desperately tried to settle themselves and a Niall Cunningham point finally got them off the mark. With the wind at their backs, the Belfast school dominated the entire half, adding a fourth goal on 25 minutes from Darren Boyd and two long range frees from half forward Brendan Conlon. Patrick Quinn then broke free for the Abbey just before the break to give them the slenderest of hopes with a well-taken goal.

That left the half time score, St. Mary's 4-6 (18) Abbey 1-2 (5).

Without doubt this game will be long remembered for the second half display by the Abbey. From the moment the ball was thrown in for the start of the second period, the Abbey set about closing the massive thirteen-point gap opened by the Belfast school. James Morgan got them off to the perfect start netting in the first minute. Michael Clarke, Ryan Hudson and Keith Sloan began to dominate exchanges in the middle of the field and the Newry boys tagged on another four points without reply, two a piece for Cunningham and Clarke. Midway through the second half Niall Cunningham picked up a loose ball and finished superbly to the Belfast net. Amazingly, in a fifteen minute burst, the half time lead had been cut to just three points.

With their tails up the Abbey continued in search of more scores and Cunningham, was their main provider. The Shamrocks player notched up his fourth point of the game and when the industrious James Morgan

added a further point the Abbey had reduced the gap to just one point. With minutes remaining, Eamon Murphy, who had been excellent in the second half, found himself one on one with the Belfast goalkeeper and his first goal of the season put the Abbey into the unlikeliest of leads. Then came what appeared to be a decisive blow to the comeback- Darren Boyd scored a breakaway goal for St. Mary's in a rare attack that broke through the Abbey's resolute rearguard in which Seán Mc Donnell and Ethan Toner were outstanding. The Abbey's response was instant; from the resulting kickout, Michael Clarke picked up the ball and delivered to Eamon Murphy, who flicked a delicate pass to Patrick Quinn who crashed the ball to the net to re-establish the Abbey's two point lead with a minute gone in injury time. St. Mary's tried desperately to work a score but were unable to break through the Abbey defence, that is, however, until the sixth minute of injury time when Brendan Conlon fisted to the net to break the Abbey hearts.



ABBEY CONGRATULATE FOOTBALL ALLSTARS

Abbey Staff congratulate the two Kevins on receiving their Ulster Colleges Football All Stars Awards at The Europa Hotel, Belfast. Back Row L-R: Val Kane (Vice-Principal), Frank Quinn, Mark Grogan, Sean Gallagher and John Rath (Senior Teacher) Front Row L-R: Dermot McGovern (Headmaster), Kevin McKernan, Kevin Dyas and Jody Gormley (Head of P.E.)