



THE ABBEY WAY

ABBAY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL • NEWRY

ABBAY MacRORY TEAM MAKE THE FRONT PAGE



This year's Abbey MacRory team have played magnificently in the league stages of the senior schools' competition. Reports suggest that all members of the panel have performed to their utmost throughout the campaign, and tremendous results against the fancied teams suggest that the Abbey boys will fear no-one in the knock-out stages proper. The Abbey Way will carry a report on their opening match against local rivals St. Colman's, a match that turned out to be highly competitive and very sporting. We look forward to following their progress in 2005, and the whole school wish them well in their difficult campaign.

ABBAY STAFF RETURN TO ZAMBIA



Pictured with young school children from the Linda Community School, Livingstone, Zambia, are Mr Hugh Markey and Mr Mark Grogan of the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry. They have just returned from a 9 day trip to Zambia, where they have been preparing the way for themselves, school Chaplain, Sr. Anne Lyng and seven pupils to go and work in the Livingstone area next March. During this

two week period they will work in schools, orphanages and hospitals. The cost of this venture will be met by fund-raising by the pupils of the Abbey.

A Gala Benefit Night was held on Friday 22nd October in the new Dundalk Greyhound Stadium and a tremendous amount of money was raised by staff, pupils and friends of the Abbey for this worthy cause.

ABBAY PUPILS EXCEL IN THE ACADEMIC WORLD

GCSE RESULTS



Mr. Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, congratulates the top achievers in this year's GCSE examinations. Pictured are the nine boys that got at least 11 or more A grades. Included are Stephen Begley, David Boyle, Daniel Carroll, Steven Corcoran, Austin Donnelly, Donal Kane, Philip Knox, Sean McClorey and Kevin McManus.



20 pupils from The Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School got at least 9 or more A grades in their GCSE examinations. They are Stephen Begley, David Boyle, Daniel Carroll, Steven Corcoran, Ciaran Dinsmore, Austin Donnelly, Chris Donnelly, Darren Fegan, Colum Grogan, Caolan Hollywood, Donal Kane, Philip Knox, Sean McClorey, Kevin McManus, Michael O'Hare, Cailam Quinn, Aidan Rush, Mark Rodgers, Turlough Trainor and Christopher Woods.

Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, gives this group of high flyers advice on which subjects to choose for A-level.

A LEVEL AND GCSE RESULTS HIT AN ALL-TIME HIGH

ABBEY A-LEVEL RESULTS ARE THE BEST EVER



The Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry retained its position as the top boys' Grammar School in Northern Ireland following the release of 'A' Level results on Thursday. Indeed the school celebrated its best ever A-Level results, 45% of which were grade A's with an outstanding 77% achieving grade A or B. The school is confident that following the publication of AS results this exceptional trend will be maintained.



Four pupils achieved 4 A grades and 22 pupils achieved 3 or more grade A's. Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, congratulated this exceptional group of pupils on their results. He indicated that virtually every boy achieved his first choice university place. He paid tribute to his hard-working staff and thanked them for 'going the extra mile' in the interests of their pupils. He acknowledged the strong school-parental links that helped the boys to achieve their best and he highlighted the positive impact at the Abbey with the news that we would be moving to a new school on a 22 acre green field site within the next two years as a contributing factor to these record breaking results.

THE ABBEY WAY SPOTLIGHTS FROM A QUALITY STUDENT

My Short Narrative

Once upon a time in a large city called New Metropolis there lived a young gardener called Lucy Simpson. Lucy was very intelligent and an expert in horticulture. She lived in a small, red house on New York Street with a colourful, little garden outside it. Lucy loved flowers especially white lilies and red roses. She was not just a gardener but also a researcher of the medicinal properties of all plant life. Lucy didn't know it but she was about to develop a cure for a strange and man-made genetic disease called Thick Tongue or Augeo Labra, its scientific name. Some people believed some foreign government made the disease as a biological weapon, but no one knew exactly. Anyway, the United States Intelligence Agency, the CIA, had been tracking her research, thinking Lucy was on to something big when one day their thoughts came true. Lucy had printed a story in her local newspaper stating she was on her way to finding a cure for Thick Tongue.

The CIA officials handling this case were in a state of panic thinking if word got out to the people who made the disease they would try to jeopardise Lucy's important research or, worse, they might even try to kill Lucy. To stop this from happening they decided to send their best agent, Michael Garner, to save her.

CIA Headquarters, Washington D.C., District of Colombia, U.S.A

"We're sending you on a mission to protect the life of Lucy Simpson. She lives in New Metropolis. Your plane leaves in an hour," said Agent Kendall at the briefing. "I'm ready to do what I can" said Agent Garner. Exactly an hour later Agent Garner left on his plane to the city of New Metropolis.

Grimsby Airport, New Metropolis

Agent Garner got off his plane and headed in an armoured car to New York Street to tell Lucy that she might be in grave danger and he was there to save her. He and Agent Manderley, a computer tech from the CIA, arrived at Lucy's house 30 minutes later. Garner went up the white path to the door of Lucy's house and knocked three times. Lucy opened the door. Garner introduced himself and said why he was at her house. Lucy was

startled at what was happening and she didn't understand how her research could endanger her life. Garner explained about how Thick Tongue was a biological weapon and that the deranged leader of Genovia, a small country between Spain and France had made it. He said the leader, called Savvaim Blossain, would stop at nothing to get what he wanted, which was world dominance. Garner told her an assassin could be on her way to New Metropolis to kill Lucy at any moment. Lucy was very frightened and didn't argue about Agent Garner protecting her 24 hours a day.

Savvaim Blossain's Headquarters, Genovia

"Sir, I think you should look in this paper" said an anonymous henchman.

"What is it? You nincompoop!" exclaimed Savvaim Blossain.

"Someone has written a story about a cure for Thick Tongue," whimpered the anonymous henchman.

"What? Give it here!" shouted Savvaim.

He read the article amazed someone dared to oppose him.

"Where is this newspaper from?" he asked.

"It's from the city of New Metropolis in the United States, sir," replied the anonymous henchman.

"Well, don't sound so smug about it and get a plane ready; we're going to pay the person who wrote this a visit," said Savvaim.

"Right away, sir" said the anonymous henchman.

Boeing 747, Mid-Atlantic

"Are we there yet?" asked Savvaim ignorantly.

"Sir, we've only been in the air for ten minutes," said Pilot Jones flatly.

"Are you questioning my intelligence, Jones?" asked Savvaim dangerously. "Talking to me in that tone, if I cared I'd say you were patronising me."

"No sir, I was just saying," replied Pilot Jones.

"Good. I wouldn't want my personal assassin, Mr Flint, to get his hands dirty so soon in our journey," said Savvaim.

After Jones' polite conversation with Savvaim he kept his mouth closed in fear of his life.

About six hours and much complaining from Savvaim later they reached their destination of International Airport, New Metropolis.

International Airport, New Metropolis

"What a nice airport, good food, fine vintage Gönivian champagne, none of that French trash and waiters at the ready to tend to all my needs," said Savvaim pleasantly- it was probably the nicest thing he'd ever said.

"Yes sir, it's only for the most elite rich people like you," said Mr. Flint in his deep, European-Asian accent.

The pair walked on through the airport as crowds watched, amazed at the sheer size of Mr. Flint, who was 6'9" in height.

They got into a black limousine with tinted windows and drove to the office where The New Metropolis Daily was printed.

New Metropolis Daily Printing Office, Michigan Road, New Metropolis

Mr. Flint walked into the office and asked for the newspaper editor and a secretary led him to a small room with a glass door.

"Just go right in Mr. ..ehh... what did you say your name was?" asked the secretary.

"I didn't" Mr Flint replied.

"Good morning. I am Mr. Flint of Prolix Industries (a fake name to cover him from suspicion) and I've come on behalf of Sir Benjamin Worthy (another fake name) to congratulate a Miss Lucy Simpson and offer her a job at Prolix Industries for her excellent research on Thick Tongue," said Mr. Flint with ease (he was great at lying).

"Well now really" said John Haney, the newspaper editor, "where is this Prolix Industries based?"

"The company is based all the way down in Texas," said Mr. Flint.

"Lucy must've come across something big for news to reach all the way down there," said John.

"Yes, she did, but the only problem is that we can't seem to find where she lives and Sir Worthy was hoping you could tell us."

"Well, of course, Lucy lives in New York Street; her house is number 5, I think, and it's small and red," replied John.

"Why thank you. I'd better be off, good-

QUALITY WORK



bye,” said Mr. Flint, ending the conversation. Mr Flint left the office happy with the information he’d got, but silently disappointed that he didn’t get to hurt anybody.

Traffic Lights between South Street and New York Street, New Metropolis.

“Finally our journey draws close to an end and we silence whoever opposes us once again,” said Savvaim triumphantly.

Clearly he got what he wanted far too often.

“Yes sir, once again we win. I wonder, has anyone ever beaten us before?” asked Mr. Flint.

“No, I don’t think so, unless you count spiders, those nasty, festering creatures,” answered Savvaim.

If there was anything on earth Savvaim Blossain hated and feared it had to be spiders. He couldn’t stand the things and they were his greatest weakness. He always kept his phobia secret so that none of his adversaries could exploit it. The traffic lights turned green and the chauffeur drove on down the road. They neared Lucy’s small, red house. The pair got out of the limousine and opened Lucy’s gate and walked up the white path just as Agent Garner had done less than 24 hours earlier.

They too knocked on the door three times but Lucy took longer to open the door than last time.

One hour earlier, Lucy Simpson’s Residence, New York Street, New Metropolis.

“News just in Lucy, an undercover CIA agent at International Airport just reported a rich looking, Caucasian male and an Asian male of about 6’9” leaving the airport,” announced Agent Garner. “The agent thinks it could be Savvaim Blossain and his bodyguard.”

“Does that mean he knows who I am and where I live?” asked Lucy worriedly.

“Not necessarily, he might just have seen your story in the newspaper and tracked it to New Metropolis. But if he does find you remember I’m here to protect you and I’ve never failed a mission,” said Agent Garner reassuringly.

Lucy still hadn’t come to terms with what

was happening but at least she had Agent Garner, but she got the feeling there was something he wasn’t telling her. But there was also something Lucy wasn’t telling Agent Garner. She had once also been an undercover agent for the CIA, but she had worked in a Black Ops division called SL-6 that no one knew about. It was one department of twelve working to stop world terrorism and tyranny. SL-6 studied biological and chemical weapons. This is where Lucy started her research on curing Thick Tongue. She kept her secret occupation from everyone she knew, even her family and best friends. Because of this lying became second nature to her, it would also get her out of a lot of sticky situations in the near future.

“Lucy, there’s something I have to tell you. The agent at International Airport mentioned Blossain’s bodyguard looked a lot like Comoro Flint,” said Agent Garner.

“Who’s that?” asked Lucy.

“He’s a very bad man, Lucy. If it is really him then you are in terrible danger. Comoro Flint is an assassin, and a good one at that. He was the only person that ever beat me. I mentioned earlier I’ve never failed a mission but that was only because when we fought I ran away. After our clash I had internal bruising and I was out of action for weeks,” said Agent Garner ashamed.

Lucy was really afraid now. If the CIA’s best agent couldn’t beat this man then who could. She started to reconsider thinking she was safe with Agent Garner. Lucy suddenly thought of something.

“I could run, run away from New Metropolis to somewhere where Savvaim and Flint couldn’t find me.”

She considered it carefully for one moment.

“I’ll do it,” she thought again. Now there was the problem of giving Agent Garner the slip. She passes him on the way to the kitchen trying to hide the anxiety from her expression. She would have to take out both Agent Garner and Agent Mandrel.

Lucy reached up and pulled something from a small cupboard. It was a mini-crossbow! She loaded it with five tranquilliser darts.

She walked out of the kitchen slowly and entered the hallway. As she did she heard a noise coming from the sitting room. There was a crash and then a thud. Lucy ran into

the room and there

was Agent Mandrel lying on the floor, unconscious with Agent Garner standing over him with a gun in his hand. She quickly hid the mini-crossbow behind her back. “Ahh. What’ve you done!” exclaimed Lucy, “You’ve killed him!” Blood was now leaking onto the carpet. “I haven’t exactly been honest with you, Miss Simpson. I’m not who you think I am. I do not work for the CIA and I am not here to protect you. All this time I’ve fooled you and the CIA. I’m a double agent working for Savvaim Blossain himself and now that you know my little secret you’re going to have to go to sleep like Mr Mandrel here,” said Agent Garner triumphantly, pointing at Mandrel’s body. He was pointing his gun at her now. Lucy was gobsmacked, Agent Garner was an evil, lying cheat and he wouldn’t hesitate to kill her but she had a trick up her sleeve. While working for SL-6 she was trained in seven martial arts, she could assemble and disassemble almost any weapon commercially sold, blindfolded and she could resist all torture, both physical and psychological. Agent Garner didn’t know any of this so she had the upper hand. “There’s something I haven’t told you either, I was once a secret agent too,” said Lucy suddenly. Agent Garner looked surprised for a second and using this second to her advantage Lucy took the mini-crossbow from behind her back and shot him three times with it. She then finally knocked him unconscious with a well-aimed punch to the nose.

Lucy dragged Agent Garner’s limp body down to her basement and she tied him to a chair. Lucy was about to go and get a jug of cold water to pour over Agent Garner when, to her surprise, he woke up.

“It’s so sad, isn’t it, Miss Simpson?” asked Agent Garner.

“What’s so sad,” you sneak,” Lucy said angrily.

“It’s just we never got to be proper friends and I have to say I was quite unhappy that I had to tell you that I was a double agent and all, but I had to get rid of Agent Mandrel.

**Christopher Cunningham
Breffni 1**

SHE'S BEHIND YOU! OH NO SHE ISN'T!

ABBEY FIRST YEARS WENT TO THE GRAND OPERA HOUSE, BELFAST FOR THE CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME. HERE IS A SELECTION OF THEIR THOUGHTS ON THAT MEMORABLE DAY.

This year's pantomime was about Jack and the Beanstalk. It was brilliant because Jack's mum was a man and he was always making jokes like, 'Oh my poor Daisy, she is Friesian.' In one of the scenes Jack's mum had to take off her clothes because it was night time and she had about seven layers of clothes on her.

Then there was Simple Simon and he was only seven (not really). Every time he shouted out 'Hello boys and girls!' we had to shout out 'Hello Simple Simon!'

After that came King Crumble and he had a stage Irish accent and had a crush on Jack's mum. It was really funny every time he brushed up against Jack's mum, saying nice things and then she would reply back with something nasty.

Two of the minor characters were Jack and Apricot Crumble (King Crumble's daugh-

ter) and they loved each other-aaaah!

This is what happened when they all met. Jack was just coming home from Australia when all the townspeople started cheering at him and he soon discovered that he was chosen to kill the giant. Hence he had two problems- first he had to help his mum with the business and sell Daisy the cow; then he had to try and defeat the giant. So Jack went off to the market to sell Daisy but he came back to his mother with beans instead. His mum roared the head off him, and threw the beans out the window. When Jack woke up he found that a beanstalk had grown in his back garden, so he ran and got his mum up and Simon up and Jack started to climb up.

When he got to the top of the beanstalk he could hear roaring and then his mum, King Crumble and Simon came dashing in in a golf cart! Jack was surprised when he

saw this and so they walked and walked until they came to an entrance with a large spider protecting the door. They could only enter when the audience told them the password. Having walked all the way up to the castle they found Apricot and the giant who was asleep. So, King Crumble woke Apricot and they ran off. However, the giant also woke up and Jack had to distract him by spraying giant killer into his mouth. When Jack eventually got down from the beanstalk he then had to chop it down with an axe and all that was left of the giant were his boots.

In the end Jack and Apricot got married and Jack's mum found out that Daisy went to the laughter house instead of the slaughter house.

So, as you can see, we all had a great time at the pantomime.

RYAN WALSH

On the 18th November, we were all given letters confirming that we were going on a trip to see Jack and the Beanstalk in Belfast, and this is what happened on our first year day trip to the Grand Opera House, Belfast.

After an early lunch we all queued outside anxiously in our classes. We were skipping the queue and joking with each other, trying to get to the back seats of the bus. We talked and sang the whole way to Belfast. The atmosphere was great and everyone was having fun, although the teachers had a hard time trying to settle everyone down.

When we arrived in Belfast we scanned our surroundings for that towering historical red brick building. We checked the pictures for the Jack and the Beanstalk billboard. We were all excited when we saw May Mc

Fetridge, who was starring as Jack's mother. On our arrival the staff greeted us and the teachers led us to our seats. We all got comfy and waited excitedly for the curtain to open and reveal the opening scene.

Overall the pantomime was a brilliant show and all the actors performed well. The songs were catchy and the choreography was well put together. The giant's helper sang the song 'Toxic' by Britney Spears after the interval. As tradition demands, when the baddie appeared on the stage we all hissed and booed. The beanstalk was inflatable and rose up to the ceiling. The scenery was very decorative and colourful and it contained a vivid house in which Jack, his mother and his brother lived. I recognised Jack as being Drew out of the T.V. soap, Neighbours. When I saw the giant I thought that he

resembled a leprechaun, with his ginger hair and beard.

After the show, we made our way down from the balcony seats to the waiting buses and once again our classes were called out separately. On the way back, we boarded the double decker bus again. Oriel, on the trip back, got the top seats of the bus. We arrived back in Newry City at 5 o'clock and by that time it was dark. Exhaustedly, we all clambered off the bus to our awaiting parents' cars.

I knew that all the first years had a thoroughly enjoyable day and that it would be the topic of conversation over the next few days - indeed years.

DAVID MORGAN ORIEL 1

On the day of the Pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk' we did not have to bring in our bags as we only had three classes that day- what joy! We were given an extended break that would fill in for our lunch because we had to be leaving the Abbey at twelve noon sharp. The journey on the bus would have seemed forever if the craic on the bus hadn't been so good. When we got to the Grand Opera House we were lined up in our classes and then we entered the Theatre. Where we were sitting was very steep but we had a great view nevertheless.

Before the show began there was a lot of bustling between people going to the toilet and those who were going to the shop, which was quite expensive. The show itself began with a couple of songs and then the real fun began. It was mainly the tale that everyone was familiar with - if Jack could kill the Giant he could marry the King's daughter Princess Apricot. May Mc Fetteridge was acting as Jack's mum and she pulled off a few good jokes. During the break the corridors were filled with children from all different schools who were going to the shop. When the show began again it started off with a

few songs and then Jack left the village to go and kill the Giant; but to his surprise he found out that he had to rescue Princess Apricot as well. So he climbed the Beanstalk and when he got there he found out that most of the village had followed him and were getting in the way. In the end Jack killed the Giant, saved the villagers and married Princess Apricot. On the way home we just talked and laughed about the pantomime. We arrived home at about half past five that evening. What a great day!

JOHN MCALINDEN ORIEL 1

ABBAY SPORTS ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES PAST GLORIES

ABBAY GRAMMAR SCHOOL THANKS LAST YEAR'S UPPER SIXTH MACRORY CUP FOOTBALLERS AT A DINNER DANCE WITH SPECIAL GUEST KEVIN MORAN.

The Abbey Past Pupils' Sports Association organised a very successful Dinner Dance and Cabaret at the Carrickdale Hotel on Friday 17th September. It was an opportunity for the Abbey community to gather and say "thanks" to last year's upper sixth MacRory Cup footballers who are leaving the school. The twelve pupils that are getting ready to begin a new phase of their lives by starting university courses within the next few weeks were presented with Abbey football jerseys by special guest Kevin Moran. These future stars can keep the Abbey 'colours flying' by wearing these jerseys at their respective university football training sessions.

Special guest, Kevin Moran, spoke to the large crowd focusing on the highlights in his career. He began by discussing how he won two All-Ireland medals with Dublin in 1976 and 1977. He mentioned his disappointment of not winning the 'three-in-a-row' when Dublin were beaten in the '78 final, and paid tribute to a magnificent Kerry team at the time. Kevin then moved the focus to his soccer career, discussing how he had been invited to a trial with Manchester United, the offer of a contract, his dilemma of leaving 'The Dubs' or becoming a 'Red Devil' and then winning two FA Cup winners medals with United in 1983 and 1985. He relayed his annoyance at not getting a medal in one of these matches when he had been sent off, only to have it presented to him the



following season after a lot of media pressure. He had fond memories of his days with The Republic of Ireland especially representing his country in the 1990 and 1994 World Cup Finals.

Comperre for the evening was UTV's Adrian Logan who kept the craic going, referring to his beloved Tyrone whenever he could. Kevin Moran then invited the audience to ask him questions and Adrian Logan operated a roving microphone. A lot of interesting questions were asked including; Which medal means the most to you? Who was your toughest opponent? Who was your favourite manager? What was the difference between training for Dublin and training for United? and why did Sir Alex Ferguson not renew your contract at the age of 31?

However the most humorous interaction between Kevin and his audience was when APPSA committee member Collie Bell realised that he had a lot in common with the Irish International as he too had been torn between Down Minors and Newry Town FC.

There was an unexpected surprise for Mr. Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, when he was called to the stage to be presented with an Abbey jersey signed by past pupils who had won All-Ireland medals playing for either Down or Armagh, including DJ Kane, captain of Down in 1994 and Kieran McGeeney, captain of Armagh in 2002.

An auction for two tickets to a Manchester United game of your choice and a signed football by Kevin Moran was won by Armagh's Joe Kernan and Colin Burns and raised over £1,000.

Before the famous 'Luv Bug' group played a variety of hits spanning the years, Galway star, Brian Geraghty, had the Abbey crowd in stitches as the after dinner speaker. Brian won three All-Ireland medals in Galway's 'Glory Years' of 1964, 1965 and 1966.

The Abbey Past Pupils' Sports Association exists to benefit present and future pupils in the pursuit of sporting excellence by providing additional funds for facilities and equipment. A lot of credit must go to its Chairman, Aidan O'Rourke, with his hard-working committee that organise numerous events every year for the benefit of the school. Indeed, people are still talking about the Gala weekend trip to the City West Hotel in Dublin last March that was organised by the APPSA.



THERE WAS A LOT OF STRUM

Wednesday 24th October: Guitar Night

Few schools can boast a Music Department which offers a huge variety of opportunities for its students as the Abbey: with an orchestra, a traditional group, a jazz band, a choir, a recorder ensemble and a brass group, the Abbey is unparalleled, catering for every player and every taste. Mr Wadsworth's latest project, the Guitar Night – which took place on Wednesday 24 October – demonstrates irrefutably how our school is ready to nurture an interest in all genres of music, and everyone who helped bring about this wonderful showcase of the world's most versatile instrument must be congratulated and thanked wholeheartedly. Special mention must of course be given to Mr. Wadsworth and Mr. Mickey Murphy, who devoted colossal amounts of time to the preparation of the performance, organising sound, lights, refreshments, programmes, not forgetting the guitarists themselves, to produce a fabulous night's entertainment.



Every performer involved sacrificed hours of their time to practice, which led to stunning performances all round. Upwards of 30 students, ranging right across the school years, from 1st to 7th, playing either solo or in groups, and with a colossal variety in their styles, came together on Guitar Night to give further proof, if indeed it was needed, of the scale of the musical talent in the Abbey Grammar.

The show started with a powerful instrumental Metallica piece, Orion, expertly performed by Conor McCormack and Sean Darling; a wonderful early indication of the calibre of the musicians taking part in the performance. Sean Darling then remained on stage to give a stunning rendition of Spanish Fly by Eddie Van Halen, followed closely by what was, personally, a definite highlight of the evening: an absolutely incredible performance of Ozzy Osbourne's



Crazy Train by the two youngest participants in the evening: guitarist Ryan Archer and bass player and singer Christopher Payne, both first-years. Kindly supported on drums by Peter 'Stickliman' Gordon, these two juniors resolutely persisted through innumerable technical difficulties like professionals, and came through to give a riveting rendition of their chosen piece, complete with a jaw-dropping guitar solo from young Ryan. Mr. Stevie 'Satch' Love quickly cooled the audience down again with an extremely moving performance of Joe Satriani's Tears in the Rain - flawless, of course.

Next, guitarist Kieran Jennings, with bass



by Conor McCormack, drums by Niall Hurson and rhythm guitar/vocals by Mikey Corcoran, performed a piece by perhaps the most influential and famous guitarist of all time: Jimi Hendrix. The classic Purple Haze was given an excellently original slant, and proved to be yet another great act. After this, the mood was again relaxed with a beautiful rendition of 'Tears in Heaven' by Kyle

Haughey, who provided both the vocal and the guitar parts. The audience was then treated to another rock classic, Fear of the Dark, by Iron Maiden, with Seamus Brannigan showing off his excellent lead guitar skills, accompanied by Daniel Rua's rhythm playing, Conor McKeown's vocals and Dermot Markey's phenomenal drumming. Conor McKeown had another chance to demonstrate his vocal expertise in the next number, Whole Lotta Rosie, by AC/DC, with the guitar part impressively delivered by Kevin Markey. To close the first half of the evening, we had an excellent rendition of Don McLean's Castles in the Air by Mikey Corcoran.

Refreshed by the interval, the audience was ready for Atreyu's Right Side of the Bed, performed by Kevin Holsgrove (lead guitar), Seamus Brannigan (rhythm guitar), Conor McKeown (Bass) and Gavin Markey (Drums). One of the biggest bands on stage that night, their performance was extremely impressive. After this, the audience was taken from the 21st Century to the 18th, with my own performance of a Bouree by



MIN' GOIN' ON THAT NIGHT



J.S. Bach. After this, the mellow mood persisted with the popular Cannonball by Damien Rice, sung by Conor McKeown, with guitar and backing vocals by Gavin Myers.

This acoustic set was followed by what was, personally speaking, another highlight of the evening: Steven Corcoran's bass guitar solo. This collection of pieces composed by Stu Hamm placed the greatest of technical demands upon Steven, demands which he met effortlessly, performing, among other things, an arrangement of Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, and a piece in the country style which was welcomed with resounding applause.

This performance would be extremely difficult to follow, and there were no better candidates for such a task than Steve Love and Gareth McGivern, who, supported by Kyle Haughey on bass, myself on rhythm guitar and Peter Gordon on drums, delivered a flawless duet – Joe Satriani's 'Always with Me, Always with You'. Next, the audience chilled out to Easy (Like Sunday Morning) by the Commodores, performed by myself on guitar, the excellent Garrett O'Hare on keyboard and vocals, not forgetting the wonderful impromptu beats of Pete Gordon on drums. The Guitar Night came to a close with a rousing performance of Bob Dylan's Knocking on Heaven's Door, performed by no less than eight guitarists – Jamie Campbell, Mark D'Arcy, Keith Mooney, Conor McQuillan, Sean Connolly, Darren Carlisle, Michael Carlisle



and Mark Forte – many of whom have been playing for well under a year, and most of whom belong to the junior school. Garrett O'Hare provided vocals and keyboard backing, while Niall Brady gave an excellent performance on bass.

Before the audience left, Mr. Wadsworth gave a brief closing speech, thanking all the performers, their parents, and their teacher Mickey Murphy. However, one comment he made seemed particularly significant. Essentially what he said was that the Guitar Night hadn't been



about individuals or bands being showcased on stage, rather, the most important factor in the whole project was the music itself: young people coming together to make music, to entertain an audience with the wonderful pieces they played. This, to me, seems particularly significant in relation to the guitar – classical, acoustic and electric – a beautiful, totally versatile instrument whose popularity increases every day, but is still dismissed by so many classically-orientated institutions. To see our Music



Department adopt such progressive, inclusive attitudes towards music as whole, without ignoring any style or instrument, is truly heartening, and leads me to thank, on behalf of all those who played at Guitar Night, Mr. Dominic Wadsworth, Mr. Mickey Murphy and indeed all Abbey staff who helped make Guitar Night possible, for giving us such a fantastic and rare opportunity. Rock on.

PHILIP KNOX



SUCCESSFUL FUND-RAISING NIGHT AT DUNDALK RACES FOR THE ZAMBIAN IMMERSION PROJECT



Pictured at the Dundalk fund-raising night are the eight Abbey pupils who will accompany Sr. Anne, Mr. Markey and Mr. Grogan on their return trip to Zambia.

ABBEY CONSUMERS FEAST ON YET ANOTHER SUCCESS

On the 24th of November, the General Consumer Council of Northern Ireland held a regional heat of the Young Consumers' Competition in the Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast, with 12 top schools from across the region competing.

The quiz format consisted of 7 rounds of 7 questions dealing with areas such as: Consumer Law, Health And Safety, E.U, Travel And Tourism and Food And Drink.

Abbey took an early lead, which they never relinquished and ended with an excellent score of 46 points.

In second place with 41 points were Assumption Grammar School, Ballynahinch, and Royal Belfast Academical Institution finished third with 38 points.

The Abbey now go forward to their 5th consecutive National Final appearance on the 4th of March 2005 in Lisburn. Pictured L-R are: Mr. H. Markey, Paul White, Paul Henning, Colm O'Grady and Kevin Waddell.



RICH MEMORIES FOR Mr. MARKEY AND Mr. GROGAN FROM THEIR RECENT VISIT TO AFRICA



Members of the Christian Brothers Community throughout the World gather in Africa.



Mr. Grogan goes to school the African Way.



Mr. Markey and Mr. Grogan spending quality time with the children.



And we complain about resources and facilities - put yourself in their shoes.



THE ABBEY CHOIRS AND MUSICIANS VISIT ENGLAND

– A GREAT END TO A GREAT YEAR FOR Mr. WADSWORTH AND HIS MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Musical Notes

The musicians at the Abbey started the term with many stories to share, especially following the Choir & Traditional Group tour to England. Many friends were made, music shared and performed, and much laughter on the way. The main cry now is; "When is the next trip?"



The Jazz band were immediately in demand with two gigs in September. The first at Canal Court as a part of a dinner presentation for President Mary MacAlesse, and the second at the Carrickdale Hotel for the Abbey Past Pupils Sports Association. New tunes such as Mack the Knife have been added to the repertoire as well as including a vocalist to the line up. This new dimension proved invaluable at the recent Christmas charity event at the Canal Court as "Santa Claus is comin' to town" and "White Christmas," and other sing-along carols were much in demand. You may even have spotted the Jazz Band on UTV but it was only for two seconds!

The Abbey Orchestra is in full flow in rehearsals, preparing for both the Spring Concert and the Newry Feis. After their first



attempt last year, beating St. Colman's and coming second to Sacred Heart by one point, motivation is at a high. (Whoever said the Arts and competition do not mix? Probably me!!)



With the introduction of a second guitar (Mr Monaghan - also teaching all the traditional instruments) to ease some of the demand from Mr Murphy, the number of guitarists seem to be increasing at an exponential rate. The more experienced of these gave a fantastic presentation of their skills at a recent guitar night. The full range of repertoire for the guitar was explored; from



Baroque Bourée to smooth Satriani, Black Sabbath to the Commodores, bass solos to bands - something for everyone. The hall was packed, the spotlights on, and a good night had by all. (A CD of the night should be available soon.)



The Choir, First Year Choir, Brass Group & Recorder Ensemble all joined together for the Carol Service in the Cathedral. Much planning and thought had been put into this event by Sr. Anne, not only to raise money for the Zambia Immersion Project, but to make the service powerful and prayerful. The music, readings and presentations all helped to make the service a great preparation for Christmas.

The efforts of all the Abbey musicians and staff are much appreciated. I hope you all had a good rest over Christmas and are ready for another music-packed term.



Included are some highlights of the tour of England Last June by our school choir and talented musicians.

Abbey Grammar Help First Year Pupils To Settle Into Their New School Changing Schools Can Cause Students Stress

Making the transition from primary to senior school can leave students feeling stressed, says Young Enterprise Northern Ireland. So the organisation is conducting seminars to help make the transition easier, and make "big school" a positive experience for 11-12 year olds.



"Facing a new situation, meeting new people, and understanding new expectations can leave students feeling isolated and scared," says Valerie Ingram, Chief Executive, Young Enterprise Northern Ireland. "We've developed a way to ease the stress and make the experience a positive one for students."

YENI conducts seminars in the classroom that focus on skills the students will need to be successful in their new school - skills like communication and team work. The students can also be teamed with 6th formers and prefects so they can have an older student to call on.

The students make new friends and meet other students who have experienced the transition themselves.

Even getting a "hello" in the hallway from



an older student makes the younger student feel at home," says Valerie.

"Our aim is to make school as positive an experience as possible for these young people. The skills they learn can now be applied in any situation and will therefore help them prepare for success in their working life when the time comes."

Student Focus AT THE ABBEY WAY

IN THIS ISSUE, THE ABBEY WAY HAS DECIDED TO THROW THE FOCUS LIGHT ON TO KEVIN MARKEY, WHO RECEIVED A SPECIAL AWARD FROM THE ABBEY SCHOOL IN RECOGNITION OF HIS CHARITABLE WORK IN THE COMMUNITY.



Charity in Newry by Kevin Markey

In 2002, a cousin of mine told me that they were looking for volunteers to be of assistance with people with special needs. I thought about it for a while and then I decided I might as well go and see what's its like down there.

Of course I was a bit anxious the first time I went into the Gateway, I had always had limited contact with people with special needs, and the fact that it is in a social situation, makes it that bit harder to try and get a bond or friendship going. I didn't enjoy my first night and I was actually surprised that I came back- but there you go, I did.

When I walked into the club I worried about what I was going to say to people with special needs, and how I was going to communicate with them-but I did, and it was just the same as if I were talking to my mates. When I heard that we would be playing pool and football I thought how this would be easy, but I soon discovered other-

wise when one of the lads 'cleaned' me and scored, so it was exactly the same as playing with my usual mates.

After a year there I got a letter to see if I wanted to go and stay in Glasgow for the weekend and watch a Celtic match. Naturally I said yes and on my return I learnt that I had been nominated for the Millennium Volunteers Award for having dedicated over 200 hours in one year to the Gateway. A night of celebration was organised in our honour in Armagh and our awards were signed by the Home Secretary - which certainly looks good on your c.v.

So, not only do you get to help people who will bring a lot of cheer to your life, but you will also get to reap the awards with a good c.v. and develop friendships with helpers and members; and the fact that many of the helpers are female is just another fringe benefit.

My advice for all of you idle students out there who are seeking something different in your life is to get down to the Gateway, or a similar club, and HELP OTHERS TO HELP YOURSELF !

The Ballad of Brian Mc Coy by Stephen Begley

'We are gathered here together
For the late Brian Mc Coy,
Who loved this ancient mountain
E'er since he was a boy.
And although his eternal soul
May never be destroyed,
Together now we wish him,
For a short time, Oiche mhaith.

The priest stood still and sombre
In the still and sombre air.
'Twas a still and sombre duty
He was performing there.
Brian's wife, she stood, too, crying,
A black ribbon in her hair,
His mother-in-law behind her,
With a pained, yet distant stare.

'And it is foretold by Elijah,
And the teaching of the Son,
That after life's short passing
We shall all rise as one,
And that may be an age from now,
Or by setting of the sun,
But only the Lord may truly know
When our service has been done.'

Then there was no more to say,
Time's past for psalm and prayer;
For all the heaven that Brian could want
Was on the sweet Slieve Gullion air.
And as his ash was lifted,
With great sorrow, pride and care,
He wrapped the wind round those he
had loved,
For the times that they had shared.

As the troupe then left the mountain,
Tears and ribbons flowing free,
They knew that in the sky above them
Things were as they meant to be.
And always, no matter where they went,
Although they could not see,
Brian would be there with them,
As the wind hushed through the trees.

POETRY

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT FOR Mr. O'NEILL

LAST YEAR'S FIRST YEAR WINNERS PICTURED BELOW

A team from Breffni 1 won the first year 5 a-side and here they are proudly showing their trophies.

The winners were:

Niall Daly,
Niall McCartan,
Ethan Toner,
James McClean,
Daire Henry,
Shay Henry and
Conor McCaul.

The runners-up from Donard 1 received plaques and they are:

Marcus McKeown,
Fintan McAleenan,
Cathal McAdams,
Patrick McCoy,
Niall O'Neill,
Paul O'Connor and
Eoin Donaghy.

This is a knock-out competition organised every year by Mr O'Neill. Judging by the passion which the players put into their games, this is a competition which will run and run.



Conkers by Stephen Begley

The human life, it seems to me,
Is much like the fruit of the Chestnut tree.

It sits up on high all its younger days,
Growing and shaping, contriving of ways
To shape pricklers, and scratchers, and plating and furls,
To protect itself from the outside world.

But eventually they all must fall to the earth,
So far from the branches which gave them their birth.
And find themselves, although free,
In a strange and bewild'ring society.

If they should choose to hide in the grass
And, fearing the children, allow them to pass,
They only ensure that they never are found,
Left to rot, to fade away into the ground.

And those who will not let go of their shells,
And prickle and jag, will find it compels
Them to suffer the hammer and saw-blade and tack
Until either they are forced to open or crack.

But as for those who give up their fears,
They will be polished and held up for years
While all of the others are out in the dark,
And all those who see them will surely remark:

'What wonderful conkers! See how they shine!
Oh how I wish that they were mine!
And perchance they'll be planted, and become a tree,
And father their very own plant family.

So now I will tell you, and mark my words well,
Do not be afraid to cast off the shell
And let others see how that inside you shine,
And that, by some tremendous design,

You need not your spars or insults or jibes
To protect the meaning of your lives.
Then shall all those around you see
You're less of a conker, and more of a tree.

POETRY

I know what you did last Summer by Stephen Begley

My name is Frankie Meldru
I'm a fairly average plumber,
But I've got a tale to tell you,
That goes back to late last Summer.

I was goin' away to Majorca,
Plane leavin' a quarter to four,
When I heard that aul' bag Mrs. Porka
Bustin' in on my front door.

'You'll have to sort this out,' she says.
'It was you that laid them pipes.'
And I was thinkin' 'Not now, B'Jayz,
Or I'll still be here the night!'

So I was hauled into her car,
And she explained to me
That before we'd get very far
There'd be a sight for you to see.
It wasn't long till we found the spot,
An' she wasn't tellin' me lies,
There was a fountain of I'll not say what
Plumin' up towards the skies.

I had only a half of an hour to go
'Fore me plane took to the air.
An' I knew I had to stop this flow
Or I'd not get anywhere.

'It's a sanitation risk!' cries she,
(Well it was in the middle of the street.)
If I hadn't approached it carefully
I'd not be smellin' so sweet.

Now beside the leak there were other lines,
With me tryin' to keep my cool,
What I had to do would be cuttin' it fine,
I'd forgot to bring me tools.

So what I did was this, with some grace
I could turn the pipes around.
An' I thought that they'd all be goin' the
same place,
Bein' together in the ground.

So I twisted the leaky pipe about
Until it joined another.
An' I was glad to be gettin' out
And away without a bother.

Now I was just back to me home,
After a week in the sun,
I got a call on the telephone
From the boss, an' he was well strung.

'There's summat' wrong
at the swimmin' pool,
It's been fillin' up with muck!
And I'm lookin' for the fool
Who brought us this bad luck.'

An' all I could say back to him
Was I'd been away the last week,
But all the same I knew it'd be grim
If he found out about the leak.

So I'm hidin' out from
the plumbin' world,
And lettin' things cool down.
With the way past events unfurled
They'd not have me back in the town.

So there's one thing above all else that I
fear,
No hurt could make me the glummer;
Those woeful words I dread to hear:
'I know what you did last Summer.'

I Know What He Did Last Summer by Rory Devlin

Last summer he sat in the field, surrounded by small flowers that from a distance looked like bursts of joyful colours. But yet he just sat there just looking in an open space not aware of anything going on around him.

Last summer he sat on the park bench, surrounded by people having picnics in the sun, young children playing and screaming with laughter and the glittering pond of water is as cool as ice. But yet he just sat there, not taking the time to admire the natural beauty around him.

No one knows what he was thinking about but he never took the time to look at God's glorious creations.

Thoughts of a Teapot by Stephen Begley

It really is spectacular,
The range of the vernacular
That's used for those aristocrats
That live for tea and doyley mats.

However, they must be so shrewd
That they are never misconstrued.
For when they say, 'Another lump?'
Do not expect a nasty bump,

For what they're trying to convey,
They might as well come out and say
'Another suga for ya, chum?'
But no, they rather would be dumb

Than speak in terms of lower class,
Content instead to swirl their glass
And cry, without a view to end,
'A glass of bubbly for you, friend?'

For what am I, a teapot plain,
Removed from storage now and 'gain
And polished like the words of man
To meat a visitin' patrician.

So when I am then put away,
The polish fades; once more I'm grey,
And cups and saucers gather round
To listen for that vital sound

When I doff my hat and say,
'Thought 'e'd never leave.'

ABBEY OPEN THEIR MACRORY CAMPAIGN WITH A VICTORY OVER ST. COLMAN'S

**ABBEY CBS NEWRY 3-10
v ST. COLMAN'S NEWRY 1-11
Saturday 6th November 2004 in
Pairc Esler, Newry at 10.30am.**

This is the first time in five years that the two Newry schools have met in the MacRory Cup and Abbey CBS have gained a psychological advantage over their Violet Hill rivals with a five point win in their opening league game on Saturday morning in The Marshes.

St. Colman's started stronger going into a three point lead without reply in the first ten minutes. Stephen Fitzpatrick opened the Violet Hill account with a point following good work from Caherty. Two minutes later Ciaran Conlon latched onto a ball from Turley and sent over. Their third point came when C. Mackin blocked a clearance by the Abbey full back and converted a score. The Armagh Road school were very much on top at this stage. Indeed the gap could have been more with frees missed and balls kicked straight to McAllister in the Abbey Goals.

Gordon Magennis turned the game in the Abbey's favour after 15 minutes when he rounded his marker and drove low to the net. Conlon pointed a free a minute later but this was cancelled by Kevin Dyas in the twentieth minute when he started and finished a fine move by driving forward from centre half back. Séamus Grant put the Abbey in front for the first time in the game when he pointed from a sharp angle after determined play from Caolan McCaffrey and Séamus Toner.

The Abbey breathed a sigh of relief when after a fine sweeping move St. Colman's big midfielder Caherty found himself in the clear and crashed the ball against the cross-bar, the rebound was cleared by Dyas to Toner who put Cathal Magee in for a point. When Magee followed this with his second point after sterling tackling by Kevin Dyas



and Eoin McGuinness, a goal separated the two schools.

St. Colman's pulled one back when their speedy corner forward Conlon pointed from a free. Their big midfielder Paddy Downey was moved to the edge of the square and when Abbey's keeper McAllister pulled off a magnificent one-on-one save from him that resulted in a point, it looked like the come back was on. However just before the half time whistle there was a killer punch from Abbey's Séamus Grant when he blasted the ball to the roof the Colman's net.

Half-time score Abbey CBS 2-4 v St. Colman's 0-6.

Similar to the start of this match St. Colman's began this half with more determination and got the start they had planned when Gary Boyle pointed in the first minute. But this was cancelled by McCaffrey when the ball had been cleared to him out of the St. Colman's goalmouth when Abbey substitute Ruairi Cunningham had lobbed the ball in.

The Violet Hill boys tried hard to get back into the game with another two points. The first was a free from Conlon and then another free converted by Boyle after a mix up in

the Abbey defence. There was only two points between the schools.

Ten minutes into the second half Abbey's goalkeeper Michael McAllister from Banbridge was involved in another match turning incident when he saved a one-on-one shot from Ciaran Conlon. A goal would have given St. Colman's the lead again, but instead the play moved to the other end of the pitch and nippy corner forward Stephen Quinn blasted the Abbey's third goal to the roof of the net.

Ruairi Cunningham and Séamus Grant added points to the Abbey total before St. Colman's substitute Chris Carroll punched to the Abbey net on 18 minutes.

Burren's Kevin McKernan who battled the whole game in midfield tagged on a point. As the schools tired moving into the last five minutes, mistakes were made and two points from frees by Abbey's Cunningham and McKernan were matched by two Violet Hill frees from Conlon and Boyle.

Abbey held onto their five point lead until the final whistle with strong determined play especially Eoin McGuinness leading by example.

Abbey CBS : M. McAllister, R. Grant, P. McGahon, S. Bradley, R. Ryan, K. Dyas (0-1), P. Doran, K. McKernan (0-2), E. McGuinness, G. Magennis (1-0), C. Magee (0-2), C. McCaffrey (0-1), S. Grant (1-2), S. Toner, S. Quinn (1-0). Subs used: G. McGarvey, R. Cunningham (0-2), M. Digney.

St. Colman's : C. King, G. Small, D. Ashley-Magee, S. O'Hagan, M. Turley, R. Lynch, G. McEntee, P. Downey (0-1), C. Caherty, B. McArdle, G. Boyle (0-3), S. Fitzpatrick (0-1), C. Conlon (0-5), S. Murphy, C. Mackin (0-1). Subs used: C. Waters, C. Carroll (1-0). Referee Pat McEnaney (Monaghan).

