



**Cistercian
College**
A Place To Grow

ROSCREA Review



No. 104 - NEWSLETTER OF THE CISTERCIAN COLLEGE ROSCREA UNION

Spring 2023

Remember this photo?

From the cover of the Summer 2017 Review – first years, Niall O’Sullivan, Peter Collins, John Nolan and Callum McEntire show their delight on hearing the news on 16th March 2017 that CCR was not going to close its doors.



See how they’ve grown!

The same four posed for the camera shortly before their Leaving Cert five years later in June 2022. Congratulations to all who brought the College safely through this adventure!

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EDITORIAL

In keeping with the theme of the front cover, it is great to celebrate the moving on of the last cohort of students who were present in February 2017 when the shock announcement was made that CCR was to be closed. We will be eternally grateful to the many people who refused to accept that, and worked day and night, and in many cases are still working day and night on behalf of the school we love so well. My thanks, too to the four young men who having been snapped on the day when it was announced that CCR would not be closing, were on hand and agreed to pose for the camera five years later just before their Leaving Cert examinations.



After just about getting to know him, we say goodbye to Gavin Clark who along with his wife Cherie is moving to Singapore where both will take up exciting posts there. We wish them and their two boys well and thank them for their huge contribution to CCR these past two years.

2022 was the year when Union events came back with a flourish. The South East Branch were first into the breach with a very enjoyable Dinner in Kilkenny in March, followed in May by the South West Branch Dinner. Both are showcased in the following pages, as are the Dublin Golf outing, the Abbot's Cup, several reunions (including the first ever CCR reunion held on Zoom) and the Dublin Branch's Business Lunch. Great credit goes to the organisers of all of these – some of them were facing a leap into the unknown wondering would people go to Union events in a post Covid era. They did in their droves – many thanks to all involved. One event which didn't appear on the calendar in 2022 was the Dublin Dinner: this year it makes a welcome return and will be held in the National Yacht Club in Dún Laoghaire where it was due to be held in March 2020 but was cancelled just a week earlier when a dark cloud of uncertainty hung over us and we wondered would we ever again be able to hold such events.

As the year went on the Dublin Golf outing at Elm Park and the Abbot's Cup at Roscrea drew good crowds so that by

the time of the Dublin Business Lunch in October, it was almost like there'd never been a break. In a change from the standard format of one speaker addressing the gathering, the recent event in Fitzwilliam LTC had a moderator, Kieran Fitzgerald and three eminent media figures (all CCR pastmen) talking about the future of the Fourth Estate. Honourable mention also goes to two other events that have made a post Covid return – the CCR Day at Galway Races and the Gala Ball, the first event on the 2023 Union and College calendar held recently with Dick Spring as guest Speaker.

This Review contains reports and photos from most of the Union events of the past year and I am very grateful for those who composed those and supplied photographs from the events. I am also indebted to Conor Brady for his very interesting article on John Currie the artist who, more than a century ago painted the Mural in the Refectory, and to recent pastman James McKeon whose poem is included on page 34. I am greatly indebted to Séamus Hennessy and Felix Ross who arranged with some effort to supply me with a photograph of the Mural. As is obvious from the photo on page 17, expertly taken by photographer Jozef Vrtiel, the Mural underwent a major restoration recently. Last but not least, I want to thank Pat Kelly, Treasurer of the Dublin Branch for his great help and encouragement, particularly in proof reading this entire edition.

Finally, the death of Dom Kevin Daly (Fr Kevin to so many of us) last April brought an end to an amazing life spent in the service of the College and the Monastery. What an extraordinary life of dedication and self-sacrifice! He certainly left his mark – may he rest in eternal peace.

Here's hoping that the rest of 2023 brings great crowds to Union events, great success to the students sitting examinations and health and happiness to all, including for the monks in the Monastery new vocations to swell their numbers.

Pat Hanratty, CCR 1962-'67
pathanratty@gmail.com

DAVID HERNAN (CCR 1983-'89) UNION PRESIDENT 2022-'23



Our new President hails from Ballygar, Co. Galway, the youngest of four brothers who attended the College in the 1980s, Ray '82, Robert '84 and John '85. During his time in CCR, he was part of the Senior Rugby team for three years, 1987, 1988 and 1989, winning the plate competition in both '88 and '89. David played on the Senior Hurling team of 1987 who reached the All Ireland 'B' final. He also represented Galway at Minor Football in 1988 winning the Connacht Final and losing a tight semi final to Dublin.

David went on to represent both Leinster and Irish Schools in both the 1988 and '89 seasons as a winger/centre gaining a

record number of eight Irish Schools' caps over the two years playing with future Irish stars Paul Wallace and Victor Costello and against notable future stars of England, Martin Johnson and Lawrence Dallaglio. David went on to further honours with Ireland representing Irish U-21s and Ireland Students at the Students' World Cup in 1992 and gaining caps for both Leinster and Ireland B in 1990-'91.

David was Chairman of the Dublin Branch for two years starting in 2008 and he currently works for Bulmers Ireland, managing the retail sales channel.

He is married to Susan Kelly from Carlow and lives in Kildare Town with their two young sports mad boys, Jesse 8 and Sam 6.

MESSAGE FROM UNION PRESIDENT

Greetings to the Roscrea diaspora near and far. Not since my Leaving Cert English exam (over 30 years ago!) have I looked at a blank page and screamed in my head, 'what shall I write?'. Knowing paper never refuses ink I do appreciate the responsibility of delivering a message to our captive audience of the Roscrea Review, something that informs and maybe holds your attention. It would be easy to wander down memory lane recounting my own personal memories of my time in CCR during the 1980s (Sony Walkmans, Neighbours, lunch time TV, three hour match journeys on the old N7 to Dublin and the many characters who populated our lives at the time) but I'll try and stay on message!

It is my great honour to represent the Union as your President in the forthcoming year, 2022/23. While the less official motto of the College might be 'we are the boys, the boys from Roscrea' the sense of identity this 'motto' calls out still holds strong with Pastmen, we are always the 'boys' from Roscrea!

To John Yurky, last year's President, congratulations on a job well done and on delivering the new Union Constitution as adopted at our AGM last September. To Sean O'Sullivan the 'legal expertise' behind the project and his sub-committee, who spent many hours drafting and redrafting, many thanks. Sean's effort is a great example of the many volunteers who support, help and maintain the fire in the engine that keeps the Roscrea Union running, and without

which we would not have the vibrant Union we have. To that end special mention to Katherine Donovan, the Union Secretary and also Pat Hanratty Editor of the *Roscrea Review*.

To refresh memories, the Roscrea Union has 6 active branches throughout Ireland and the world! From Cork to Dublin, Galway to Kilkenny, London to New York, Branch Committees run several events from the Dublin Business Lunch, the Galway Race event, the Dublin golf outing to various branch dinners including those in Cork, Kilkenny and Dublin. A 'dinner' is also hosted in New York each year drawing attendance from alumni across North America and includes a guided tour of Manhattan's most illustrious drinking establishments. On one such occasion,

MESSAGE FROM UNION PRESIDENT CONTINUED

the Union President's 'bling' proved very successful in achieving entry to a very exclusive VIP night club! London is a biennial pilgrimage for many and ties in with the England v Ireland 6 Nations fixture: excellent scheduling which sometimes overlaps with St Patrick's Day and the Cheltenham festival!

Huge effort goes into organising these events and providing us with the opportunity to celebrate and renew friendships. These gatherings are the heartbeat of the Union and give physical expression to the Union's three guiding missions, community, celebration and support. These events continue to prosper with nearly 100 pastmen attending the recent Dublin Business Lunch. On the day we were treated to an engaging and entertaining round table discussion on the state of the Irish newspaper industry. Thanks to Conor Brady (former editor of the Irish Times), Cormac Bourke (editor of the Irish Independent) and Stephen Miller (managing director of Laois Today) for providing a lively insight into the world of the Fourth Estate! Roscrea has and continues to produce many entrepreneurs and Stephen's own story driving the online Laois Today website is a fine example as he rises to the challenge traditional print media face, finding new ways to successfully engage and connect with their audience.

Union events regularly celebrate numbers over 100. The Galway Race Meeting event though has now grown to a size previously unheard of and while a certain POTUS continually bragged about the size of his events, the Galway Branch can be very proud of its success, drawing numbers over 300 in recent years. The West is truly awake! These events are only as successful as the support they receive from pastmen so a huge thanks to all who attend.

Class reunions are another centre piece in the Union calendar. Every year is an anniversary year for some class so the College and our unofficial host hotel the County Arms is kept very busy on Past Pupils weekend in September. Please note for any prospective reunion classes the official weekend for 2023 is October 7th and 8th. It is much appreciated for coordination with the College and organising various tours of the campus that the Union weekend in Sept is the preferred date for gatherings. To the classes of 2013, 2003, 1993, 1983, 1973 and 1963, Katherine Donovan awaits your call!

Appreciation and thanks again to the vital support from pastmen who gave of their time and financial assistance to help avert the College's closure back in 2017. Without this support and that of the parents whose boys were present at the time, the College's doors would have shut. We will be forever indebted for this effort and resolve in shaping and delivering the 'rescue plan'. Since that day the school has emerged stronger and can now face the future with renewed confidence. Numbers have been growing year on year, exciting new plans are afoot and ongoing improvements are keeping pace with both the needs and expectations of the students and parents. Bright times beckon and we wish the board and the wider team in Roscrea the very best as they drive the school onto greater things. We as a Union will continue to aid and assist whenever and however we can. Ongoing investment is required supporting the various projects active and planned, so if you can, all donations are welcome and every contribution helps. Please contact the College directly or you can process a donation at ccrunion.org

In terms of enrolment, as noted, numbers are climbing back to historic heights,

tipping nearly 270 boys this year. To this end one of the most important roles I see of pastmen is the positive impact we can make as ambassadors for the College. This can be with friends, family, colleagues, communicating the positive impact of a Cistercian education for their prospective boy(s). We all appreciate the positive impact it had on our own growth and character in those formative years but also the ongoing community it has provided in our adult life.

The *Roscrea Review* continues to be ever popular, playing a vital role in keeping past men up to date on matters 'Club CCR'. Although over 2000 copies issued annually I would note that only approx. 200 pastmen pay a subscription. I encourage you all to find a few minutes to log onto ccrunion.org and set up an annual subscription to the Review through the 'donate' link, all contributions welcome.

As Past Pupils of Roscrea we have been fortunate and privileged to receive the education and opportunity we did in Cistercian College. I believe this puts a responsibility on us to be generous in our outlook to those less fortunate and in the service we give back to our country and our communities. We are living through unprecedented times both locally and internationally...the housing and cost of living crises, the climate crisis, global economic disruption, regional war and tensions, unprecedented levels of refugee movements....As we look towards the New Year, 2023 we might pause for a moment and appreciate how lucky we are and consider what we can do to make things better.

*Every good wish for 2023!
David Hernan (CCR 1983-'89)*

MESSAGE FROM MR KEVIN KEEGAN

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF CCR



With the end of the school year 2022-2023 coming into sight, I am grateful to the editor of the *Roscrea Review* for affording me this opportunity to report on the operation of the college, to look back over the year gone by and to look forward to the year ahead.

I am happy to be able to state that the college is in very good order with 250 enrolments and with stable finances. Enrolments for 2023-2024 are expected to improve somewhat on the current figure.

As ever, the well-being and safety of the boys is paramount and both policies and practices in this regard have been constantly monitored by management during the year. Significant changes have been implemented to strengthen the academic offering. Renovation continues throughout the house and the refurbished senior dormitories have had the seal of approval from both boys and housemasters.

Early in March, the Board of Management learned with regret of the intention of the President, Gavin Clark, to relocate to Singapore, along with his wife, Cherie and their boys, in order to pursue attractive career opportunities there. In his short tenure since 2021, Gavin facilitated and led change across many key areas of college life. His work on long-term strategy reflects his international experience as an educational leader and has helped us to put in place excellent foundations upon which to move forward.

Steps towards finding Gavin Clark's replacement are currently under way. In the meantime, I will be seeking the views of key stakeholders in regard to the appointment. In the interim, the college patron, Dom Malachy, has nominated Kevin Keegan, Inez Heenan and Fergal Cox to discharge the President's functions. It is expected that the new President will be in situ over the summer, in good time for the start of the new school year in September.

Leadership in 21st century education requires an amalgam of skills. Mastery of modern educational theory, practices and standards is a sine qua non. So too are values that reflect a school's vision and ethos. Additional to these qualities, a successful school president needs to be both a leader of people and a manager of resources, never losing sight of the reality that the institution has to pay its own way.

Individuals who can combine these qualities are rare enough. And they are in strong demand both within Ireland and internationally. Nonetheless, the Board of Management is confident that the process now under way will yield a positive result. Expressions of interest have already been received from a number of potential candidates, reflecting, I believe, a very positive perception of the College in wider educational circles.

The current Board of Management, appointed by Dom Malachy at the beginning of the year, is working well. There is a strong dynamic and a great sense of common purpose between the Abbot's nominated members, the members nominated by the parents' association and those elected by the college staff. Considerable work is taking place in reviewing and, where necessary, updating policies across all areas of college life, from health and safety to pastoral care and anti-bullying.

On the academic side, two important developments are worth noting as having been put in place during the year now ending. Following an assessment of the curriculum and the timetable, there is a renewed emphasis on the core subjects of Maths and

English and additional teaching hours are being allocated to these. Additionally, it has been decided to reintroduce CAT4 testing for all new enrolments, enabling the college to accurately assess students' cognitive capacities, thus, to help plan their academic journey more effectively.

In the sporting sphere, with regret, I am unable to report the capture of silverware by any of the college teams. But I can tell you that the spirit and the endeavour of our boys on the pitches has been inspiring. Even where matched against vastly superior firepower – for example in the SCT fixture with Blackrock – CCR players did not flinch and played to the final whistle with everything they had.

On a positive sporting note, I want to tell you of an exciting new development at the college with the appointment of Munster and IRFU coach Mark Butler to the role of Director of Rugby.

Constraints of space do not allow me to detail the myriad activities and events that have characterised the school year 2022-2023, including spiritual and faith development, music, opera, drama, debating as well as continuing work on the wider Mount Saint Joseph campus, notably the restoration of the Walled Garden.

Thus, on behalf of the Board of Management, I would simply wish to acknowledge the continuing support of the Cistercian community, led by Dom Malachy; the enormous input of staff across all areas; the enthusiasm and co-operation of parents; the loyalty of the Cistercian College Union and, above all, the participation, energy and commitment of the boys in making CCR the unique and special place that it is.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Keegan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue rectangular background.

*Kevin Keegan
Chairperson*

Board of Management.

DOM KEVIN DALY (CCR 1947-'53)



Dom Kevin Daly died in the early hours of Holy Saturday, 16th April 2022, just a few weeks shy of his 88th birthday. He had been in failing health for some time, though even up to the very last, he always perked up at the sight of or mention of a CCR past student. How many thousands passed through CCR during his seven decades in the College or Monastery? He was a student in CCR himself from 1947 to 1953, entered the Monastery in 1958, was ordained in 1965' and in Autumn that year he began a very long presence in the College.

He started as Dean of Discipline and Games Master and made an extraordinary contribution over several decades. His arrival coincided with the departure of his erstwhile CCR classmate Gus Martin to UCD – which left a gap as someone was needed to coach the Junior Rugby team. He relished the challenge and even though he declared that he had

not much knowledge of Rugby, by 1967 his Junior team reached the Cup Semi Final, going down to the eventual winners Terenure College. Over the years, he was responsible for the development of many excellent teams, even if the Holy Grail eluded us until 2015, and, boy, did he enjoy that day!

Hardly any of us who were in CCR in the mid 60s knew that as well as his duties as Dean and Games master, Fr Kevin was still doing his studies: he can't have had much free time to spend studying, but spend it he did. As well as Rugby, he started coaching the Athletics teams with Liam Spooner and Mick Sherry (Hurdles) and Mick Garvey (Pole Vault) among those who shone in his first years of involvement. The centenary book, *Céad Bliain Faoi Rath* (CBFR), has details and photos recalling the many CCR athletics successes. Of course, CCR's great tradition in Athletics didn't begin with Fr. Kevin, but he and the coaches he brought in inspired athletes to phenomenal success in the 1970s and 1980s. According to Michael Slattery (Class of 1972), this success was built on organisation, coaching expertise, the recruiting of other coaches, the use of technology and innovation and experimentation, the ability (well before sports' psychologists were the norm) to communicate and motivate, and on the human side, going out of his way generously to facilitate those involved.

After 19 years as Dean of Discipline, Fr. Kevin became President of CCR, a post he held until 1997. He was

President when the Link Building was constructed - the first large building project since the classroom block with its provision of a modern dormitory for seniors, common rooms, locker rooms, concourse area etc.

His period as President saw great change in the management of schools and he saw the introduction of a Board of Governors for the College. As a teacher myself, I was well aware of the trends in "the points race", whereby ever greater points were required for courses at third level but a comment from Fr. Kevin in 1990 illustrated it very clearly. I called to his office on a Summer's day after a funeral in the Monastery and he told me just how hard the then students were working, contrasting it with the less pressurised atmosphere in my day when a Pass Leaving Cert with just one Honour sufficed for access to any course, except possibly Engineering, where Honours Maths was a requirement. *We did work in the 1960s, but by all accounts nothing like as hard as those in the 1980s or 1990s!* That day he also suggested it was time our 1967 class had a reunion and indeed four classmates, all of whom had sons in the College at the time, took up the mantle a year later. He greatly encouraged class reunions and attended them, whenever he could.

As President, Fr. Kevin greatly encouraged the CCR Union – the pages of CBFR testify to his attendance at Union functions in many venues, including New York where he helped to launch the North

American Branch in 1997. Pastman Jim Lyndon recalled him very fondly as an enthusiastic Athletics coach as early as 1966, running over to celebrate Jim's winning the Triple Jump (then known as the Hop, Step and Jump!), thereby contributing to CCR winning the Triangular Sports against Rockwell and Garbally. Many years later Jim worked with Aer Lingus in New York and, having been approached by some CCR men in the Big Apple, was delighted to be able to arrange First Class travel for Fr. Kevin. In Jim's words:

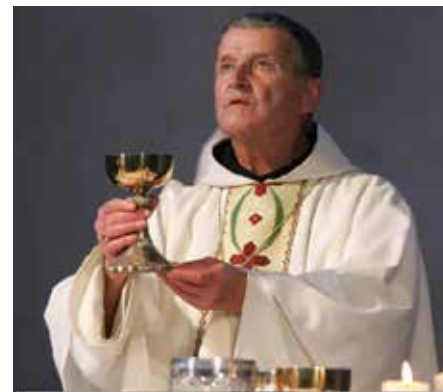
"Talk about precious cargo - although I imagine he only took one glass of champagne, he was the life of the party and that's when I realised that this good man had such love for his students and for the men he helped to make us."

When he finished his time as College President in 1997, he went on a sabbatical year which included visits to monasteries in the U.S. and Australia, though clearly his heart was always in Mount St. Joseph. Then, late in 2003, Dom Laurence resigned as Abbot (on health grounds!) and in the subsequent election, Fr. Kevin was chosen as Abbot. One of the high points of his tenure was the celebration of the centenary of the College in 2005, which as well as the launch of *Céad Bliain Faoi Rath* in September of that year included a landmark day on 1st October with Mass in the Monastery attended by many dignitaries, including Uachtarán na hÉireann Mary McAleese and her husband Martin, a

reception and tour of the College and the Centenary Banquet in a marquee, specially erected for the occasion. Some of us who arrived early in the marquee were wondering why many people were so slow in arriving. The truth is that photographs were being taken in front of a College banner and Dom Kevin had agreed to pose with hundreds of pastmen and others before joining the banquet. He was nothing if not photogenic!

On reaching the age of 75 in 2009, Dom Kevin retired as abbot to be succeeded by Fr. Richard Purcell. Thereafter, he was Guestmaster in the Abbey for some years before declining health precluded him from that service to the wider community. One of the saddest days of his life was 17th February 2017, the day the closure of CCR was announced: it was a day when all of us who love CCR and all it stands for felt a deep void but our grief was as of nothing to that of a man who had spent nearly forty years in the College, and seventy years in Mount St Joseph between College and Monastery. His joy a month later when the closure announcement was reversed, knew no bounds.

As many pastmen will know, Liam Spooner was a great help to Fr. Kevin in latter years, driving him to matches and medical appointments, and generally keeping him company. According to Liam, a regular question from him was "how are the student numbers?" He was also always inquiring about the progress of the "Boys" in CCR. Invariably he listened attentively to visiting pastmen with



problems and often helped to solve these. He really enjoyed attending the two Gala Ball events organised by the Parents' Association in 2018 and 2019 and he felt he was still part of the school. He had a great love for the local and surrounding Communities and they in turn had great respect and fondness for him.

For the Daly family, his passing is that of a brother or an uncle – this was brought home to the large congregation who attended his funeral Mass by the warmth of the eulogy given by his nephew, Martin (CCR 1975-'80), before Dom Kevin was laid to rest with his confrères in the Abbey Cemetery.

*Well done, good
and faithful servant...*

Pat Hanratty with help from Jim Lyndon, Liam Spooner, Michael Slattery and Mark Coen.



South East Branch Dinner

4TH March 2022

There was great delight in early March when the South East Branch hosted its first dinner since pre-Covid times. There was real delight that the easing of restrictions allowed this to happen and a great night was had by all.

As ever, members of the O'Shea family were hugely involved in the organisation of the event. It wasn't just Kilkenny folk who attended – in all, seven former Union Presidents were there along with Union General Secretary Katherine Donovan and Chairman of the Board of CCR, Kevin Keegan and pastmen and their wives and girl friends from Cork, the Midlands and Dublin among others.

Kevin Keegan brought us up to date with events in the College and we all rejoiced in the CCR Juniors' exciting victory over Cup holders Newbridge College a few days earlier. *Little did we know then that they would go all the way to the final.*



Pat O'Shea presents a nice bouquet to daughter in law Elis in recognition of the great work she did in organising the event.



Pat O'Shea with sons Joe, Rob and Liam.



Pat Crotty with the Phelan twins Conor and John and their wives.



Chairman of the Board Kevin Keegan and Michael Brannigan.



Liam Spooner with two young mpastmen James Hayes & Jeremy Farrell



Brendan Hyland and Margaret O'Shea.



Jim Keating and Gerry O'Meara

Junior Rugby team reach 2022 Cup Final

Those of us who regularly attend CCR cup matches have had some great outings in Donnybrook and other venues in the last decade or so albeit fewer than in the heady days of 2013-2016. So often it's the Seniors who provide most of the excitement, the conventional wisdom being that not having a Junior School most of our students hadn't played Rugby before going to CCR and therefore take more time to develop the necessary skills.

It was therefore fantastic to enjoy the amazing run to the final last year of an unfancied team who were up against the Cup holders, Newbridge College in the first round. In the first half of that game, Roscrea were definitely second best and were lucky to be only 12-3 down at the interval. Bit by bit, our lads grew into the game and scored a converted try which gave us hope. Then five minutes from time a second converted try gave Roscrea the lead and they grimly

held on against sustained Newbridge pressure to win.

Next up were Clongowes Wood. This was a hugely entertaining game with the lead ebbing and flowing throughout. The final denouement saw Clongowes scoring to take a 20-18 lead with the stadium clock already in red, yet somehow Roscrea managed to force a penalty after the drop out. It was do or die territory for outhalf Jack Deegan with a kick from about 40 metres, but he sent the ball straight between the uprights with the last kick of the game, to the immense of joy of the now growing black and white army. And after the match, the draw for the semi finals Blackrock and St. Michael's were drawn together leaving Roscrea to face the surprise packages, St. Fintan's Sutton playing at that level for the very first time.

In the Semi Final, Roscrea showed their superiority in the first half and deservedly

led 22-0 at half time. Just as well – St Fintan's came back bravely with two tries and made a real game of it. Our lads just about held out on a scoreline of 29-21.

And then the final – starting with a take over of The Donnybrook Gastro Pub (formerly Tom O'Connell's) where CCR pastmen of all ages converged for an excellent pre match lunch. St. Michael's were raging hot favourites but Roscrea gave them a heck of a game and there was no disgrace in losing 26-19 to a team from a school that has become THE nursery for the Leinster academy and were winning their fourth Junior title in just over a decade.

To all involved – thanks for the sheer pleasure you gave us!

This year, the JCT were drawn against Clongowes again and in another nail-biting contest, came out on top by a score of 17-14.

South West Branch Dinner - Southern Comforts

14TH MAY 2022

On a fine summer's evening on the banks of our own lovely Lee the members of the South Western Branch gathered to reminisce, remember and celebrate our connection to Cistercian College, Roscrea. Some 50 pastmen, family members and guests with Roscrea connections enjoyed a sumptuous feast at the Mardyke Tennis and Rowing Club in Cork City on 14th May 2022.

Branch Chairman Gerald McCarthy was master of ceremonies and welcomed guests with open arms to the beautiful venue in the real capital of Ireland. Gerald was joined by his wife, Neans, and their daughter Derabhail O'Callaghan who attended with her husband, Brian. We were especially pleased to welcome guests from around the country and it is testament to the ever-enjoyable evening that is the South West Branch dinner that past men and friends support the event every year. In particular, Aidan McNulty, accompanied by his wife Theresa, Liam Spooner and Gerard Malone, accompanied by his wife Joan, made the trip south. Cathal and Marion Bredin, Peter and Elizabeth Sommerfield, Kevin and Frances Morrissey, P. J. Hourican and Fidelma Collins, Gerry and Kay O'Meara enjoyed the occasion along with brothers Billy and Michael O'Neill accompanied by their respective wives Mary and Maureen. Pat O'Shea, Carmel O'Hara and Neans McCarthy joined at Dom Malachy's table for dinner while College President Gavin Clark and his wife Cherie joined Conor O'Hara and Gerald McCarthy, for the meal. Dermot Cronin and family took a table and met past men from down through the years. Brothers James and Robert Murphy joined Pat Dalton, who has supported the dinner in recent years. Robert O'Shea, Pat Walsh and Robert Horgan joined Katherine O'Donovan in the company of Aiden and Theresa McNulty.

Gerald McCarthy, welcoming pastmen and guests commented on the high quality of the meal. He said "we took a typical menu from Roscrea and on one of those

kind of off days, on a Wednesday when things are not particularly of a high standard and we asked several firms to put their quotes in and present their wares to us and I am happy to say that Brook Lodge [catering company] won it this year and that is the basis upon which your meal was organised."

Gerald noted with sadness the passing of Fr. Kevin Daly saying: "I would like to on all our behalf to offer our sympathy to Dom Malachy and to the community of Roscrea for the loss of Fr. Kevin we are all really sorry. He was a wonderful person and on attending his funeral I was struck by a number of past pupils who turned up. He got a great send off and I was particularly impressed that even though it was the Easter time there was a guard of honour of the students who were on holidays but who turned out on that day, and I think Fr. Kevin would be proud of their presence and the send off that he received, and we send our sincere sympathy to the community."

Regrettably, many regulars at the dinner could not make it this year due to family events and commitments. Several sent apologies and hope to join us at the dinner in future years.

Dom Malachy travelled from the Monastery for the occasion and addressed attendees with an update in relation to the developments within the Cistercian Order itself, noting that there are five Monasteries in Ireland with a modest compliment of monks. The reality is that monastery closures are inevitable and he spoke of Roscrea's central position as a dynamic and vibrant campus blending the monastic settlement with a successful farming enterprise and vibrant college with a bright future. Dom Malachy was at his second South West Branch dinner having joined us in 2019. He said that he "feels a very strong connection with the Past Pupils' Union and I've seen over the last number of



Cathal Bredin and Maureen O'Neill



Fidelma Collins and PJ Hourican



Mick O'Neill and Marion Bredin

years how important it is to both the College and also the monastic community.” He shared with the attendees the sadness of the community at the loss of Fr. Kevin who was the last member of the community to work in the College where he served as President for many years. Dom Malachy informed us of the establishment of a Patron Trustee Board which comprises of members of the monastic community, past students and members of the Board of the College to maintain the sustainability of the whole campus at Mt. Saint Joseph’s Abbey. He believes that the Abbey *“will be at the centre of excellence for Cistercian life in Ireland.”* We certainly support him and the community in that hope for the future.

Gavin Clark was introduced to attendees, being the new President of CCR. Gavin has had a varied and interesting career from Qatar to New Zealand, then Malaysia and now Ireland. As a Scotsman he is certainly proud of his roots and has very much enjoyed the experience of coming to Roscrea to lead the College into the future. He gave a passionate speech outlining his and the Board’s ambitions for CCR. He was delighted *“to be connected with so many people with so much history associated with the College.”* Gavin joined the College in October 2021 and it is clear to him *“that Cistercian College is a very special place to be. It’s a place to grow and a place to learn and a place to make friends.”* Events like the dinner show that those friendships last a lifetime. Gavin said that he *“was immensely impressed by the brotherhood you get from CCR and tonight showcases the impact that CCR has on the lives of its people now and forever.”* Gavin has worked in schools around the world and described CCR as *“world class within terms of its people, its facilities and what it brings in an education for its boys.”* Gavin is working very closely with the monastery and all stakeholders to grow the College and make the college as vibrant place as they can. There has been *“significant capital expenditure with improvements in our 3G pitches, our sports hall, our gyms and our golf academy.”* The college is getting enrolments and enquiries all the way up to 2030 *“which shows that Cistercian College is a very vibrant place that is being seen around the country as the right place to grow boys now and into the future. This is a fantastic initiative for us to have and its great for us to be talking about [the college] way into the future.”* Gavin wants to model the College on the idea *“of being the best that we can be, to be a place to grow all boys of all abilities. We want our boys to find their passions, talents and interests and for them to find out what they are good at and to pursue that for the rest of their lives.”*

Amongst the attendees were past men, parents of past men, spouses/partners of past men, children of past men and connections of the College. Old friendships were rekindled. Billy O’Neill was Seán Feehan’s best man many moons ago and they were delighted to meet again at such a happy occasion. Seán and his wife Jin live in Fermoy and they found connections with Tommy and Mary Coughlan from Cappoquin, parents of Tom Coughlan, as they chatted about life on the Blackwater river and the many people they have known down through the years. The Murphy brothers, Robert and James were particularly delighted to meet the O’Neill Brothers, Michael and Billy to learn that the ancestral family home of the O’Neills in New Castletownbere is now the family home of the Murphy family. This previously unknown coincidence struck a chord with the timeless and intergenerational weave of history that runs through the college where friends are made for life and a brotherhood exists between past men of all generations through their common connection with the college. Other attendees included PJ Hourican (CCR 1958-’63), a former Fine Gael Lord mayor of Cork and Peter Sommerfield (CCR 1957-’61), who was accompanied by Elizabeth, and Pat O’Shea from Kilkenny, former CCR House Captain (1955-’56).

The dinner committee consisted of Gerald McCarthy, Gerry O’Meara and Tom Coughlan and the trio hoped to come together again to host next years’ event on Saturday the 27th May 2023, at the same venue of Sunday’s Well Tennis and Boating Club, subject to the usual exigencies of life. After organising the dinner for many years, Gerald McCarthy has shared the mantle of responsibility with Tom Coughlan for the coming years, a position previously enjoyed by Gerry O’Meara. All three members of the committee will collaborate again next year. It is hoped to extend the invitation to a wider cohort of past men using the computerised database available online on the past pupils union website. Pastmen may include their contact details and all are encouraged to do so, so that invitations can be issued for the dinner next year to all who live/work in the South West of Region. Anyone living and working in the South West of Ireland is invited to contact Tom Coughlan at tom@thomascoughlan.com to be added to the invitation list and, indeed, to assist in contacting other past men in the South West Region for next year’s dinner.

Tom Coughlan (CCR 1988-’93)



Peter Sommerfield



Pat Walsh and Rob Horgan



Seán Feehan renews acquaintance with Tommy Coughlan.



Aidan and Teresa McNulty



Dearbhail McCarthy and Brian O'Callaghan



Mary Coughlan and Robert Murphy



James Murphy and Pat Dalton



Billy O'Neill, Joan and Kevin Morrissey



Liam Spooner and Gerard Malone



Joan Malone, Gerry and Kay O'Meara (Dermot Cronin in the background)



Dermot Cronin with his daughter Anne



Katherine Donovan and Tom Coughlan



Dom Malachy and Neans McCarthy



Gavin Clark and Gerald McCarthy



Cherie Clark and Conor O'Hara

Dublin Branch Golf outing

Elm Park GC 22ND July 2022

Friday 22nd July 2022 was a beautiful day as pastmen and friends took on the challenge of Elm Park. As in 2021, there were a number who don't have a current handicap so a separate competition was held for them. Afterwards we sat down to a lovely meal and presentations were made to the delighted recipients.

The Matt Hyland Cup was won by Brian O'Donnell (CCR 2001-'07) thus preventing fellow Mayo man Michael O'Sullivan (CCR 1993-'96) from making it three wins in a row. They at least showed that if Mayo can't win the Sam Maguire Cup they can certainly dominate the CCR golf scene.

Runner up was regular participant Diarmuid O'Loughlin (CCR 1967-'72).

The Dom Peter Garvey trophy (for those with handicaps above 18) was won by Liam O'Brien (CCR 1960-'65) with Liam Nicholl (CCR 1965-'70) using his local knowledge to come second.

The Windle Cup was won by Mary Romeri, who with her husband Graziano has long been a supporter of the event, with last year's winner Kay Garvey in second place.

The team award was won by Brian O'Donnell, John Shanahan and John Verling (all from the Class of 2007) with Michael O'Sullivan getting some consolation when he and his guests Robert Bourke and Alex Saul came second. Michael also won the men's Longest Drive and Robert won the Visitor's Prize. The prize for the ladies' Longest Drive was won by Colleen O'Neill, whose husband Hugh (CCR 1964-'69) as ever helped us greatly sorting the cards.

A special prize was awarded to Colin Payne (CCR 1977-'82) who had a hole in one on the 12th hole. Colin hadn't intended staying for the meal – thankfully he changed his mind! *We think this was the first ever HIO in this competition – well done Colin!*

The competition for non-handicap golfers was won by John Verling with Dan Lavelle in second place.

Plans for this year's event on Friday 2nd June are well in hand – we would ask all who plan to play to have their handicap details to hand and furnish them to the committee before teeing off.

Pat Hanratty.



Chairman John Verling presents the Matt Hyland trophy to Brian O'Donnell.



Runner up Diarmuid O'Loughlin is congratulated by John Verling.



Kay Garvey presents the Dom Peter Garvey trophy to Liam O'Brien.



Liam Nicholl, runner up to Liam O'Brien gets a handshake from the Chairman.



John presents the Windle Cup to a delighted Mary Romeri.



Last year's Ladies' winner, this year's runner up, Kay Garvey with John Verling.



2019 and 2021 Matt Hyland trophy winner, Michael O'Sullivan accepts the prize for the Longest Drive from Chairman John



Colleen O'Neill accepts the prize for the ladies' Longest Drive.



A delighted Colin Payne accepts a prize to commemorate his hole in one.



The incoming Union President David Hernan says a few words.

CCR at Galway Races

30TH July 2022

Another event returned to the calendar in 2022 – the very popular CCR gathering at Ballybrit. As ever it was a fantastic event, greatly embellished by Breandán O'Rourke's excellent tipping, which helped us go home in good spirits.

There was a special welcome for CCR President Gavin Clark, his wife Cheri and their sons. It was the first opportunity for many to meet the new President. A special presentation was made to Ronnie Culliton who had retired from the board of Management in 2021 after four eventful years when he presided over the rescue of CCR from the threat of closure. Ronnie was

presented with a beautiful painting of CCR by Irish artist Sarah Kyne which will remind him for the rest of his life of the school he loved so well and for which he did so much.

As ever, champion trainer Willie Mullins (CCR 1969-'74) was on hand as was his nephew Emmet (CCR 2002-'08) who earlier last year saddled Noble Yeats, the 50/1 winner of the Aintree Grand National. Another very special guest was retired National Hunt trainer Henrietta Knight who will be forever remembered as the trainer of triple Cheltenham Gold Cup Winner, Best Mate.

And in 2022, Willie Mullins continues his dominance of National Hunt Racing in Ireland and the UK – he was recently the leading trainer at the Cheltenham Festival, yet again!

Willie Mullins continues his dominance of National Hunt Racing in Ireland and the UK – he was the leading trainer at the Cheltenham Festival in 2022 with ten winners and this year with a further six! We wish him well as he recovers from a recent hip operation.

The Western Branch are looking forward to another CCR Day at the Galway Races on Saturday 5th August – put it in the diary now!



Chairman of the Board of Management Kevin Keegan, College President Gavin Clark, Board of Management member Inez Heenan and Ronnie Culliton with the painting of the College presented to Ronnie in recognition of his huge role in saving CCR and putting the College on a sound financial footing.

CCR at Galway Races

30TH July 2022



Breandán O'Rourke interviews Willie Mullins as Henrietta Knight looks on.



Three men who made the day possible: Barry McCann (CCR 1994-2000), Breandán O'Rourke (CCR teacher 1971-2000) and John Sherry (CCR 1960-'65).



Barry McCann presents Emmet Mullins with a souvenir photo montage of his various visits to CCR.



Barry McCann presents Breandán O'Rourke with a mounted photo of him welcoming Emmet Mullins and Grand National winner Noble Yeats on a visit to CCR.



Lorcan O'Brien (CCR 1977-'82), Andrew Cody (CCR 1977-'82) and Peter Hynes (CCR 1982-'87).



CCR parents J.P. and Finola Kehoe with Inez Heenan.



Members of the Meagher family, Gavin (CCR 2013 - '19), Tim (CCR 1976-'82), Shona and Simon (CCR 2010-'16).



Mairead Cannon Walsh and Teresa O'Neill Madden. Were they wearing their colours in solidarity with Ukraine?



Liam Spooner (CCR 1962-'68), Sean O'Brien (CCR 2011-'13) and Fergal Cox (CCR 1987-'92).



John O'Meara (CCR 1967-'72) with his cousin Tim Meagher (CCR 1976-'82).



Katherine Donovan and Marc Kelly (CCR 2008-'14).



Catherine Smyth and Marcelline and Donncha Cody look very happy!

JOHN CURRIE, THE MAN WHO PAINTED THE REFECTORY MURAL.



John Currie, self-portrait

The name John Currie probably means little to most of those who have passed through Cistercian College Roscrea down the years, whether as students or staff. But he is a figure of some significance

for us. His evocative and complex painting *The Offering of the First Fruits to God*, has gazed down from the Refectory wall on more than 6,000 men and boys, for almost 115 years.

Most of us probably never gave it more than an occasional glance, as we scrambled to the tables at mealtimes. Down the decades it suffered various assaults, from bread-loaf missiles to lumpy porridge. In the 1950s, someone hurled a fork that lodged in the eye of one of the monastic figures in the tableau.

Though little known or appreciated for many years, there is renewed interest in the artistic reputation of John Currie. English born (though he sometimes claimed to be from Galway,) he is now coming to be viewed as a significant lost talent of early 20th Century English painting.

The Irish Arts Review devoted a six-page feature (by TCD art historian Dr Philip McEvansoneya) to Currie in its edition of Autumn 2022. This included a high-quality, 2-page reproduction of CCR's Refectory picture.

In 2017, Lady Margaret Hall, a college of Oxford University, raised thousands of pounds in an (unsuccessful) effort to keep possession of a portrait painted by Currie in 1912.

So who was John Currie? And how did his work end up adorning the Refectory at CCR? Alas, his story was both violent and tragic.

He was dead before his 30th birthday, his life ended by his own hand, having first murdered his young model and lover, Irish-born Dorothy or "Dolly" Henry.



Currie's muse Dolly Henry

Currie was born in Staffordshire in 1884 to an Irish railway worker from near Tuam, Co Galway and an English mother. He worked as a glazier-painter in the potteries before going on to the Royal College of Art in London in 1905. He married in 1907 but he abandoned his young and pregnant wife, Jessie Brandon, soon afterwards. In 1908 we find him with a studio in Wicklow Street in Dublin and in 1909 he is acclaimed in an exhibition of "young Irish artists." He begins to move in Dublin artistic circles and at some point he gets a job as a temporary instructor at the Dublin Metropolitan School of Art.

We know he stayed at Mount Saint Joseph during the summer of 1908, just three years after the college opened, and it was during this time that the work known initially as *The Fruits of Monastic Labour* was painted. It is possible that he came to the Guest House for spiritual renewal or to "dry out" – not uncommon at the time. But it is more likely that he was commissioned and directed by the Abbot, Dom Camillus Beardwood.

The painting, oil on canvas, was executed by Currie, aged just 24, working on scaffolding around the wooden frame which had been assembled on the refectory floor before being raised to the perpendicular.

But by 1910 Currie was back in London where he embarked on a tempestuous relationship with the young "Dolly" Henry, perhaps 10 years his junior. She became his muse and his model and he portrayed her in many different styles and images. But the relationship was characterised by violence and threats and Dolly attempted to put distance between them by moving to Cornwall. When he followed her she returned to London, taking a small flat in Chelsea. There, on 8th October 1914, after a noisy quarrel, Currie shot her dead before turning the gun – a .38 revolver – on himself.



Today, Currie is recognised as an unfulfilled talent among the artistic cohort of his era, known as "the primitives." These were part of a wider, modernist movement in European art that included Matisse, Gauguin and



Picasso. Nothing else by Currie resembles his Roscrea work. His principal output was portraiture, including some remarkable representations of rural and seaboard folk in the west of Ireland. It must be assumed that he was working to prescription at CCR.

The energetic Abbot Camillus Beardwood, who founded the college and whose architect brother, William, designed it, would have been the ultimate director of the project.

This primary adornment to his foundation would have had to reflect his spirituality.



The Christian and monastic symbolism within the picture is very powerful, with the artist perhaps seeking to amplify them by the sheer scale of the work. Fr Emmanuel and Fr Ciaran, both sadly now deceased, have written more extensively about the symbols and the composition of the painting and the messages that may be taken from it.

It is not known who re-titled the painting as *The Offering of the First Fruits to God* or who directed a number of modifications to the original. A mallet, once held in the schoolboy's hand, was removed. The abbot's crucifix was replaced by a bible. Some parts of the painting also appear unfinished while mystery surrounds the inclusion of an ecclesiastical façade that bears no resemblance to the Abbey Church. Fr Emmanuel identifies some of the 13 figures portrayed in the tableau (including members of the monastic community) but it is possible that he may have been mistaken in some of these.

The story of the murder of Dolly Henry and John Currie's suicide became something of a *cause célèbre* in war-time Britain, with innumerable newspaper articles and short stories being written about the case. Some depicted Currie as a disturbed and violent man and Dolly as a hapless victim. Others sympathised with him, casting Dolly as a difficult woman who played upon his vulnerabilities and passions. But one thing that has commonly been agreed upon is that the man who gave CCR its iconic painting was a considerable loss to the world of 20th Century art.

I would like to thank Dom Laurence OCSO for his kind assistance in researching and compiling this article.

Conor Brady (CCR 1962-'66).

ABBOT'S CUP 2022

On a damp day in early September, dozens of pastmen (and some present pupils) descended on Roscrea Golf Club for the annual Abbot's Cup competition. The numbers were enhanced by Class groups holding reunions and as a group, the Class of 1972 reigned supreme with what seemed a colossal score of 118 points, until those of us who hadn't read the small print (or didn't listen to Katherine Donovan's instructions) found out that for the Class prize three scores on each hole were to count. *It still seems a marvellous combined score!*

Results:

1st Prize: Abbot's Cup	Michael Fogarty (1967)	21 H/C	43 Pts
2nd Prize	John O'Meara (1972)	25 H/C	40 Pts
3rd Prize	Frank Thompson (1968)	9 H/C	39 Pts
Visitors' Prize	Mark Gavin	24 H/C	35 Pts
Student Prize	James Kennedy	25 H/C	44 Pts
Nearest the Pin	Paul O'Shea (1987)		
Longest Drive	Peter Gavin (Visitor)		

Fr Dermot O Colmain Cup – Class Group Prize Class of 1972 – Simon Coyle, John O'Meara, Diarmuid O'Loughlin and Fergal Keane: 118 Pts.

Our thanks as always to Roscrea Golf Club members who facilitate us every year with a shotgun start and our compliments to the catering staff on the excellent meal.

PLEASE NOTE: because of a clash of dates, this year's Abbot's Cup will be a month later than usual on 7th October 2023.



Union President John Yurky presents the coveted prize to Michael Fogarty.



John Yurky presents a delighted John O'Meara with the runner up prize.



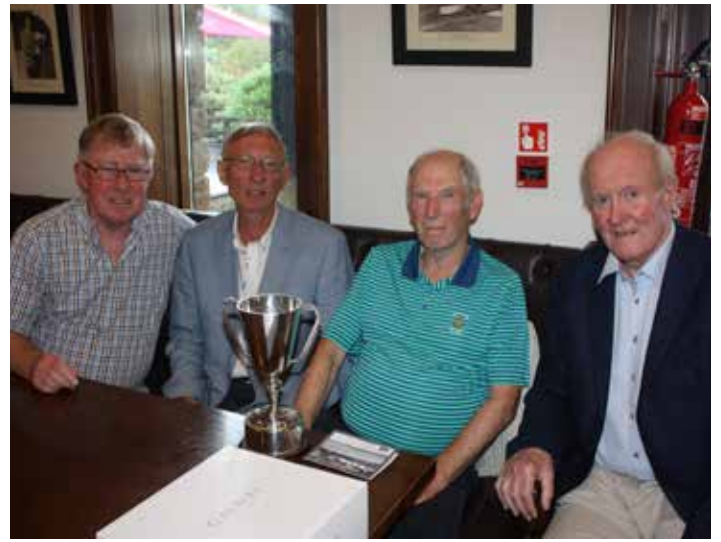
Frank Thompson receives the prize for third place.



John Yurky presents the Fr Dermot Cup to the team from the Class of '72 at their 50 year reunion: Simon Coyle, Dermot O'Loughlin, John O'Meara and Fergal Keane.



Shane McInerney and Mick Dooley (both Class of '92) and Arthur Spring (CCR 1989-'95).



Class of '67 group with the winner: Pat Hanratty, Michael Hanly, Winner Michael Fogarty and Frank O'Meara.



Team of Four from the Class of 1968; Dick Spring, Sean McCann, Michael Brody and Frank Thompson.



Union President John Yurky speaking at the presentation of prizes.



Four Members of the O'Shea family with the Union President – in front Paterfamilias Pat and Paul with Rob and Liam behind them.



Frank Greene (CCR 1965-'69) with Sherry cousins John (CCR 1960-'65) and Michael (CCR 1964-'69).

REUNIONS!

CLASS OF '61 REUNION MAY 2022

While this gathering for our 60th was postponed for one year, due to Covid, it was well worth the wait for all 22 classmates, some 7 accompanied by wives or partners, and all enjoyed one very special weekend!

Coming together that Saturday afternoon, in the Front Hall, we were joined by Katherine Donovan of the Union Office, and our former teacher John Shanahan, whose niece had driven him all the way from West Limerick! Fellow pastman, 94 year old Dom Laurence Walsh (CCR 1941-'46), joined us from the Monastery, to then celebrate Mass, in the College Chapel. Unfortunately for Fr. Billy Meehan, last minute parish duties at Clonmel, kept him from joining, to concelebrate. Our time in the Chapel brought back many memories, especially the musical rendering of *Salve Regina*, led by Joe Buckley and Paul Robinson.



Dom Laurence looks on admiringly as Paul Robinson presents the statuette of James Joyce, the C il n Owens Award for English Studies to College President Gavin Clark.

After group photographs, compliments of Peter Sommerfield and his wife Elizabeth, we retired to the old Billiard Room, for a warm welcome and reception, hosted by the College President, Gavin Clark. On behalf of the Class, and in memory of a very dear friend,



C il n Owens Award



**Front : Joe Buckley, Gerry Moloney, Paul Robinson, Julian Hennessy, Fr. Laurence Walsh oeso, Colman Ryan, John Shanahan, Peter Sommerfield, John Joyce, Tom Hainsworth.
Back : Tom Garvey, Joe Doherty, Jimmy Lennon, George Mullan, Ray Gibbons, Paddy Boland, Donald Gallivan, Ned Comerford, Phillip Cleary, Tim O'Dwyer, Ray Ballantyne, Ronnie Owens, Joe Hoban, Sean Dineen.**

Paul Robinson then presented CCR with the C il n Owens* Award, in the form of a Joycean statuette, for English literary achievement. Ronnie Owens (CCR 1959-'64) responded with many memorable recollections of his late brother's extraordinary career, and academic achievements, leading to his status as a Joycean scholar of world eminence. With his brother Fergus (CCR 1961-'66), many of us also recalled his athletic achievements, including his winning contributions to College of Science Cup (1960), and All Ireland Athletic Shield (1961), together with his classmate, House Captain and outstanding fellow athlete, Colman Ryan. Head of Boarding, Felix Ross then facilitated all who wished with a tour of the College, after which it was off to the County Arms, Birr.

After earlier reunions, for the years 10, 25, 40, 50, 55, one can say that we have never had other than good memories of our stay in Birr, and this time was excellent too. As at the College, our M.C. was that most distinguished of toastmasters, Joe Doherty! Grace, from Fr. Aodhan McDunphy of the Monastery, was followed by great words of wisdom & philosophy, recollection & joviality from those most distinguished of pastmen, Colman Ryan, Michael Keohane, and Donald Gallivan. Later, it was recalled by Tom Garvey how, only 5 years previously, the very future of the College was under threat, and he acknowledged the phenomenal progress & achievements emanating from the inspired leadership, and commitment of pastmen such as Ronnie Culliton (1984), Jack Kennedy (1979), Fergal Cox (1992), and Graham Ross (1995), to mention but a few.

In response to Colman Ryan, we had an update on progress at the College, from Fr. Aodhan, including his own involvement with Transition Year Students, and their work

on restoration of the Walled Garden and Orchard.

Sunday morning was enjoyed over long breakfasts, followed by more tea and coffee at reception, as we planned for a possible lunch in Dublin, during the Autumn.

Heading away, a few went by way of the Monastery, attending Sunday Mass, and enjoying a quiet saunter, around the grounds. It certainly was a very special weekend, and those of us living in Ireland were so appreciative of that extra effort, and travel undertaken by each one from overseas - George Mullan (Thailand), Paul Robinson (Zimbabwe), Colman Ryan (California), Paddy Boland (New York), Tim O'Dwyer (Scotland), and of course that eminent raconteur, Donald Gallivan (London).

Tom Garvey.

Editor's Note: C il n Owens (CCR 1956-'61), a native of Rathkenny, Co. Meath died in 2019. He was Professor Emeritus of English Literature at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, USA. In CCR, as well as his athletic achievements mentioned above, he was outstanding in a class of very high achievers, four of whom were in the top 25 in Ireland in the Inter Cert in 1959.

With six full scale reunions, they are now probably No.1 in the CCR reunion charts!



C il n Owens at a previous previous Class of '61 Reunion.



Gavin Clark looks on in admiration as Ronnie Owens (CCR 1959-'64) speaks about his late brother C il n.

CLASS OF 1967-'72 REUNION.



Back Row: Richard Ryan, Ted Doyle, Myles O'Connor, Patrick Kennedy, Fergal Keane, Tom Kelly, Shay Garvey and Pdraig Dolan.

Middle Row: Ted Doyle, Gerard Ryan, Diarmuid O'Loughlin, Callaghan O'Flynn, Michael Slattery, James Sherry, Jim Kelly and Denis Molloy.

Front Row: Simon Coyle, Vincent Mockler, Tom O'Connell, Michael O'Brien, John Boyan, John O'Meara, Johnny Dolan, Anthony Duignan, Martin Mulligan and Bernard Molloy.

Insets: Dermot Duncan, Frank Lynam and Peter Collier.

On the weekend of 2nd–4th September 2022 the Class of 1967–'72 gathered in Birr to reconnect and celebrate 50 years since leaving CCR. Thirty two of the class responded enthusiastically to the call. Eleven stalwarts arrived on the Friday afternoon, six of whom undertook a tour of Birr Castle leaving five “athletes” to undertake a “5 Ball” in the most welcoming but virtually deserted Birr Golf Club.

The Union President and Fergal Keane's chauffeur, John Yurky, was on hand to see the golfers off and indeed at the conclusion to purvey Fergal back to the group Hotel – the County Arms. John O'Meara (aka Dick Turpin – Highway Bandit!!) took the honors on the golf course on what was a warm up for his performance in the Abbot's Cup in Roscrea GC on the Saturday. The Birr Castle Touring Party had an equally entertaining but substantially more informative/educational afternoon in Birr Castle under the expert guidance of Shay Garvey. All 11 gathered later for refreshments in the hotel before proceeding to dinner in Birr's best Indian Restaurant. Amusing to reflect that 50 years ago eating an Indian would have implied taking a bite out of the College Barber – aka Geronimo!!

Saturday 3rd September saw the balance of the attendees gather for participation in the Abbot's Cup, Afternoon Tea (in the Old Billiard Room) and a tour of the College. Our group was made very welcome by College President, Gavin Clark, Head of Boarding, Felix Ross, and a group of the senior boys. The College Tour was an eye opener for all who partook. The level of progressive change has to be seen to be fully appreciated. Dormitories have been converted to individual cubicles with personal storage. The

resultant demand on space has seen the old Science Laboratories converted to individual cubicle space with an attendant social area complete with flat screen TV!! Our group was taken through areas now barely recognisable from the days when they bore the monikers of Trunk Room, Farmers Dormitory, Senior and Junior dorms. Equally impressive were the Sports Facilities on offer in the College including an indoor Golf Academy, complete with sand bunker and Trackman no less!! These facilities are comparable and better than the best on offer in any College nationwide and were a source of bewilderment and great pride to our group. A group photograph on the College Steps was de rigeur albeit some attendees were MIA!! Around the back of the Pav for a quick fag??

Saturday evening saw the entire group gather for a pre-dinner drinks' reception and an extensive a la carte Dinner in the County Arms. The Hotel must be congratulated for the quality and manner of the reception afforded us throughout. The group was delighted to warmly welcome and have the company of Nicky Cummins whose formative years as a 23-year-old teacher in CCR mapped exactly our years of 1967 – '72. Nicky went on to further his successful teaching career with Castleknock College.

We were also joined by the very popular Brendan O'Rourke who could be described as a “CCR Lifer” having contributed immeasurably to the education of several generations of CCR pupils (ours was his favorite!!) Apologies were regrettably received from other teaching stalwarts John Shanahan and Pat Kilbane who were sorely missed. The gathering held a minute of silence to name and remember our deceased fellow classmates including Gerry Maher who served both College and Union with distinction. Shay

Garvey as First House Captain made an interesting address to the gathering. Amongst themes he referred to was the fact that our generation was one which witnessed some of the most significant changes/evolutions of any in the College's history. Reference was made to the Paris Student Riots, the Apollo Moon Landing, the Vietnam War and Middle Eastern conflict of '67 and Woodstock, all of which had to some degree or other a profound affect on society and youth at the time. Entertainment was provided by John O'Meara whose voice appears to have benefitted immensely from the coaching afforded by Frankie Bergin allied to that of his local choir in Galway.

Michael O'Brien reacquainted us with some of the music of '67 to '72 and provided lyric sheets to assist all to sing along. Honourable mention must go to Tom Kelly from outside Drogheda, whose farm supplies Baileys with the milk for their eponymous product. Tom made an impromptu speech where he complimented the organisers of the reunion, the College and the Union and then, Gaybo style, he announced that there was a bottle of Baileys for everyone present. Thank you Tom!

Towards the end of proceedings, we were joined by the Union President fresh from the Abbot's Cup Dinner in Roscrea GC. His trip not only necessitated by our presence but also to award John O'Meara his prize as runner up in the Abbot's Cup competition with a tremendous score north of 40 points and to award our group the Class Prize on a tremendous combined score of 118 points. The last to make it to the bed included a group featuring amongst others Johnny Dolan and Diarmuid O'Loughlin at 4.0 a.m. Needless to say the effects of those exertions were evident at an early breakfast on Sunday Morning.

The event concluded with 10.30 a.m. Mass in the Monastery presided over by the Abbot Dom Laurence Walsh, himself a past student at the College. His reflective homily referred to the Cistercian Community's love of the College and its students, past and present, those who have gone on to great success and achievement and those who have encountered and perhaps not dealt as successfully with life's challenges.

His 5 years in the College as a student followed by 76 years in the Monastery are truly a remarkable testament to the man. Proceedings were brought to a close by a visit to the Monastery graveyard for those who wished to pay their respects to many of the monks who served our generation, those before us and indeed those after us with great dedication and affection.

There was universal agreement that another such gathering should take place in 5 years time and not 10 as it traditional. Why? Why not? The craic was mighty!!! See you in 2027.

Simon Coyle

P.S Non attendees who sent apologies for unavoidable absence included Sean Gearoid O'Riain, John Garahy, Joe Byrne, John Kavanagh, John Langan, Eamon Meade and Edward Wall.



Jim Kelly, Patrick Kennedy, Fergal Keane and Anthony Duignan.



Shay Garvey addresses the gathering.



Ted Doyle, Myles O'Connor and Tom Kelly.



Diarmuid O'Loughlin, Denis Molloy, Vincent Mockler and Bernard Molloy.



James Sherry, Tom O'Connell, Frank Lynam, Richard Ryan, Pádraig Dolan and Gerard Ryan.



Dermot Duncan and Johnny Dolan.



Michael Slattery and Peter Collier.

CLASS OF '81 REUNION 20TH NOVEMBER 2021

This was held in the County Arms Hotel in Birr on 20th November 2021. The class had hoped to link up with some of the staff in the College over the weekend but alas, it was closed that weekend.

We have always made a weekend out of our reunions down the years. A few of us always make it for the Friday night and then are joined by the main crew who come for the dinner on the Saturday night. With some Pandemic restrictions still in place, namely bar closing strictly at 11.30pm, this was certainly something that we never had to contend with before, hahaha! However, it certainly didn't take away too much from the occasion as the vast majority of the group were still bright eyed and bushy

tailed and chatting away at 3.0 a.m.

A group of us did manage to head over to the College around 11.0 a.m. on Sunday and had a lovely stroll around the grounds, into the Monastery and around the outside of the College whilst reminiscing on many memorable moments spent in each other's company between 1976 and 1981.

Though the night itself was a fabulous success, it was marked with a tinge of sadness as we had lost two of our classmates since we previously met as a class five years previously.

Sadly missing were Patrick Murphy and Tony Dolan who passed away relatively recently and they join our colleague Gerry

Donnelly as the three guys who sadly are no longer with us. May they all rest in peace.

We marked the occasion by asking everyone present to sign three separate framed pictures of each of the guys that we had got made up prior to the reunion. We have since presented the pieces to the families of each guy to let them know that we will never forget them as long as we continue to have reunions.

They were very fondly received by each family and came as a big surprise to them.

Enda Carthy.



Back Row (left to right): John O'Callaghan, Mick Moriarty, Vincent Touhy, John Lovell, Hugh O'Donnell, John Geary, Maurice Fitzgerald, John Purcell, Brendan Walsh, John Finlay and Mick Dwan.

Middle Row (Left to Right): Pat Walsh, John Cahill, Stephen Brady, Joe Rice, Paddy O'Boyle, Mick Roche and Tony Booth.

Front Row (Left to Right): Pat Gallagher, Enda Naughton, Pat Nicholas, Peter Geraghty, Enda Carthy, James Gavigan and Justin Phelan.

CLASS OF '82 REUNION 12TH NOVEMBER 2022

On Saturday 12 November, the class of 1982 gathered in the college to celebrate their 40 year reunion. They were welcomed by Dom Malachy Thompson OCSO, Superior of Mount Saint Joseph Abbey and Patron of Cistercian College, Union. Also in attendance was the Union Secretary, Ms Katherine Donovan and retired members of the teaching staff, who taught this group during their time in Roscrea: Mr Pat Sheedy, Mr Dan Smyth, Mrs Mary Spain, Mr John Shanahan and Mr Pat Kilbane. They enjoyed refreshments in the College Centenary Room and were given a tour of the college campus and new facilities by Mr Kevin Kelly, Senior Housemaster and the three House Captains, Charlie Naughton, Max Flynn and John Finlay.

Later that evening the class group made its way to the County Arms Hotel in Birr for drinks and dinner and chats into the night. It was a most enjoyable occasion for the 24 attendees. A special thanks to Andrew Cody who co-ordinated the reunion and acted as MC.



*Back: Feargal Ó Dubhghaill, Fr Michael O'Sullivan, Brian Harnett, John Cody, Peter Dunne, James Casey, Pat O'Loughlin, Joe O'Shea, Tim Meagher, Vincent Booth, Donald Collins, Andrew Cody, Brian O'Loughlin, Justin Lynch.
Front: Seadna Ryan, Matthew Kennedy, Colin Payne, Conor Moloney, John O'Sullivan, Ray Hernan, John Nolan, Brian Culliton, Sean Williams.
Missing from picture: Peter Geraghty (holding the camera)*



Some of the Class of 1982 with teachers who taught them and present House Captains.



Feargal Ó Dubhghaill, Donald Collins, Seán Williams and Brian Harnett.



John O'Sullivan, John Nolan, Brian Culliton and Colin Payne.



Peter Dunne, John Nolan, John O'Sullivan, Brian Harnett, Feargal Ó Dubhghaill, Brian O'Loughlin, Donald Collins, Andrew Cody, Michael O'Sullivan, Seán Williams, Brian Culliton, Matthew Kennedy, Vincent Booth, Conor Moloney, Tim Meagher, Colin Payne, Joe O'Shea and Seadna Ryan.



Matthew Kennedy, Tim Meagher, Seadna Ryan, Conor Moloney and Senior Housemaster Kevin Kelly.

CLASS OF '92 REUNION

I WROTE THE FIRST ESSAY BELOW AS A 17-YEAR-OLD. THE PLAN WAS TO WRITE A FOLLOW-ON 5 YEARS LATER. AFTER 30 YEARS I FINALLY MANAGED TO FINISH MY HOMEWORK!

BRIAN BROSAN

Graduation Essay 1992

At last... it's over, passé, finished. The C.C.R. Class of '92 has finally graduated and despite the inevitable reunions and resurrections, be they formal or exceedingly informal, its ghost may stir, but never will it rise again. A volatile mixture of relationships will soon be altered forever by environment and circumstance. Having spent five years trudging, with the occasional run, along the same trail as sixty others, different routes now beckon. Only by comparison with what is to come will we come to assess the C.C.R. experience as good, bad or indifferent.

Writing this a mere month later, I feel a sense of achievement and loss, because I survived it and because I no longer have it to survive. At twelve years of age, a five-year sentence is an interminable, agonising length of time. It is not only a page that has been completed but a chapter. The cornerstone has been laid on which the future skyscrapers, bungalow or hovel will rest. At the moment, all we can envisage are skyscrapers. Emerging from its reclusive environs, anywhere beyond Monty's has a glittering allure. Legend boasts that life gets better on the outside causing us to cross off the days in expectation. By sixth year, we had finally decided to enjoy the ride.

There is an oppressive security about being able to predict with reasonable certainty that at exactly 5.40 p.m. tomorrow, next week, next month and next year, you will be driven with the herd towards the Study Hall. I am glad to escape the unrelenting routine, the shrill misery of the bell on an icy morning. To think how many pints of beer will be drunk nostalgically in its honour! No doubt, the sauce of time will render it more appetising. The grimness will be erased, the escapades magnified, double Chemistry forgotten, and the camaraderie romanticised.

I am addressing an audience of past students of which I am now a member. Perhaps it would be more accurate to brand us "Just Past Students", who, like newly-weds, ostentatiously displaying a "Just Married" sign for all to see, are enjoying a honeymoon period. From the student's viewpoint, the union funds the odd amenity, distributes emergency aid in the aftermath of a cup defeat or submits their car and wife to assessment on past students' day. It is only when presented with the tie after the "Last Supper", that it assumes real importance. It is, after all, past students who need it most.

Living at close quarters yields insight into human nature. You learn to "be your own man" as it is impossible to keep a mask constantly up. A common bond

develops that is stronger than having mere acquaintances. However, a little time to stop and think is great, but if you are stopped long enough there is little left to think about. As a new 'kid', there existed a powerful sense of independence, standing on my own two feet. Five years later, it sometimes feels as if I am still standing while others can run. To catch up, a few of us will run and probably fall. There is always a temptation in boarding schools to keep trouble at bay and all will be well. How well does this unisex, regulated, drug and alcohol-free environment prepare us for what is to come?

The mid-February bravado that "I will be glad to get out of this hole" is gone. That is not to say that the fifth years take the gratified "Have a nice sixth year" message sincerely. Yet, you cannot spend five years in any place without it becoming a part of you. Despite the gradual accumulation of privileges, one feels a longing to move to a new stage, to perhaps play a different role. I have been part of the C.C.R. experience and I have benefitted personally and by the friends I made. Already, I can perceive a future feeling of security, of well-being and of innocence on returning. In five years time (when I write part two of this article) I hope to be a small bit wiser, even sentimental, and be able to say *Ah, those were the days!*



Shane McInerney, Eoin McGinnity and John Shanahan (French Teacher)



Jonathan Quinn and Shane McInerney.

CLASS OF '92 REUNION CONTINUED

Reunion Essay 2022

"The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there", LP Hartley

Dear Pastmen,

Reading my essay from 30 years ago evokes mixed emotions: nostalgia for the camaraderie of school life, envy of youthful vigour and wistfulness for the expanse of ocean that still lay ahead.

Have you been asked about your boarding school experience? If you are a few decades out of CCR, your description is liable to sound Dickensian. Sitting comfortably in the present, be glad for simple pleasures! It was rare to have a clean jersey, a warm shower, a decent meal. As every generation of pastmen declares: the current students don't know how easy they have it!

From the call of the morning bell, our days followed a regimental cadence. We negotiated the peculiar rituals of boarding school life: feigning getting out of bed, suspiciously dividing communal food portions, scheming up pranks and planning surreptitious escapades.

Cocooned on a monastic island, life beyond the cloistered walls seemed a distant continent; the only 'message in a bottle' - a few glass-encased pages from the Irish Times. Nevertheless, we did make a rare incursion into geopolitics on our 1989 school tour - the Review's report somehow missed the spikey headline, "The USSR: CCR's part in its downfall". Otherwise, excluding the odd match at a mixed school, sightings of teenage girls were about as common as UFOs.

In recompense for the hardships, we enjoyed large helpings of camaraderie; amid the daily bustle to classrooms, sports' fields, and dormitories we were never alone. Whether in guest house or smoking saloon, we had ample time to vent frustrations, confess aspirations, and indulge in whimsical speculations.

Nowadays my middle-aged classmates are busy with work and family. Occasionally, a postcard from the past intrudes: an old school report in the attic, a chance meeting with an ex-classmate, an

invitation to a school reunion.

Some pastmen may be apprehensive about attending a reunion; perhaps it feels too much like an exhumation of who you used to be. Should we bother to go back? After all, there are no return tickets to the point of adulthood embarkation.

It is a personal choice. If you struggled, then be assured that with distance comes compassion towards the petty brutalities of teenage life. I take encouragement from Kierkegaard's aphorism that life is lived forwards but understood backwards. Maybe in revisiting our schooldays we can see how far we have come and reassess in what direction we are going.

After 30 years the monastery bells are tolling for the class of '92 to return. Driving up the avenue to CCR, I am unjustly pleased by how familiar the vista appears - verdant fields where generations of boys competed, and those stony-grey buildings standing resolute. It sparks a thought that survival requires both change and continuity. I am grateful to those who have contributed to addressing the school's challenges.

As I approach the reception gathering, the sound of chatter rises, and I feel a momentary surge of anticipation - wow how wonderful to see everyone! Though our recognition is sometimes hesitant, we soon fall into conversation, as if resuming from where we last departed decades before.

Meeting fellow travellers years later engenders both curiosity and goodwill. We implicitly ask: How are you faring on life's journey? It is a question of concern rather than of passing judgement. We learn of paths we may have followed and challenges we too could have faced.

As the evening progresses, the memories flood

back. Silly incidents long forgotten, reappear as if from yesterday. The libations continue into the early hours. There is an undercurrent of togetherness. For a brief interlude, a school reunion really is a substitute for time travel.

The class of '92 would like to thank the staff who guided our way; we mourn the two classmates we have lost; we commiserate with classmates who have suffered tragedy; we celebrate being together again; and we resolve to reconvene in years to come.

The foreign correspondent (in his preceding report from 1992) correctly predicted "a feeling of innocence, of well-being and security on returning". I appreciate his confidence about reaching this milestone of 30 years hence. While he had a lot to learn, he was right to err on the side of optimism. Though fate may foil our plans, optimism enhances the journey. I am glad of the reminder, especially at times when the path ahead is unclear.

There are many messages I would like to send back to the foreign correspondent. Unfortunately, it seems to be technologically impossible at present. However, I heard a rumour from a 1962 alumnus, that on a faraway shore the writer of a third essay is sending a message: be kind to yourselves and to each other.

*Carpe diem,
Brian Brosnan
- House Captain 1991-'92.*



Mel Deane looking back in time.



Dave Lawlor and Ronnie Kiernan



Brian Hogan, John Ryan, Frank O'Hara (lower step), Barry McCormack (higher step), Trevor Leydon and John O'Carroll.



Geoff Barry and John O'Carroll



Seamus Duggan and Mark McGrane.



**Back Row: Pdraig McGillacuddy, Michael Brannigan, James McCormack, Trevor Leydon, Mark McGrane, Dave Lawlor.
 Row 4: Sean Duggan, Dan Smyth (Teacher), Peter Ormond, Declan McNulty, Hugh Liston, Jonathan Quinn, Geoff Barry, Barry McCormack, Shane McInerney, Dave Whelan, Pat Sheedy (Teacher),
 Row 3: Pat Hayes, Shane O'Neill, John Ryan, Roland Davitt, John Behan, Patrick Callinan, Eddie O'Sullivan (Housemaster), Frank Smyth (Principal), Kevin Kelly, Eoin McGinnity.
 Row 2: (starts at middle) David Ryan, John O'Carroll, Seamus Duggan, Mark O'Byrne, John Shanahan (Teacher)
 Front Row: Brendan O'Rourke (Teacher), Mel Deane, Brian Hogan, Frank O'Hara, Ronnie Kiernan, Maurice Phelan, Brian Brosnan, Fergal Cox, Pdraig Kelly.**



Kevin Kelly, Mark O'Byrne and Dave Whelan.



Trevor Leydon and Michael Brannigan.



Brian Brosnan, Patrick Callinan and David Ryan.

CLASS OF 1960 REUNION

Class of 1960 hold the first ever Zoom Reunion

Due to Covid restrictions at the time, the Class of 1960 were unable to celebrate their 60 year reunion back in 2020 (or even in 2021) but not to be outdone, their determination culminated in the organisation of our first official class reunion conducted entirely via Zoom on Wednesday, November 16th. The Union Secretary, Ms Katherine Donovan, joined the nine members of the Class of 1960 who logged on to the Zoom meeting to reminisce about their time in CCR, their classmates and former teachers. A minute's silence was observed for the deceased members of their group and for the monks of MSJ who are no longer with us. To keep communications going between the group, they intend to set up a WhatsApp Group, organise a lunch get-together next summer and maintain the Zoom reunions on an annual basis. Where there is a will, there is a way!

This is not to say that the group were technological nerds or social media gurus. In fact the opposite! When the word went forth by email or phone some of us took fright and immediately summoned the more advanced assistance in all things tech of our partners/wives, children and grandchildren! Even the convener

was lucky enough to get help from UCC. We also had helpful input from Katherine Donovan.

On the date (16th Nov) and at the time appointed and in response to a hit on the Zoom link nine faces appeared on screen, out of the 18 who had been contacted. A few were travelling or on holidays as indicated by Willy Ryan who had exchanged the winter climate of York, UK for the sun of Spain. We envied him! Willy and another classmate Tom Breen of Fethard, County Tipperary regularly attend the York Races together. In Summer of course. Many other topics came up for mention, to use a legal term, in a mood of joviality following an informal agenda.

We were able to trace the names of 11 classmates who had died from a class of 51, including Paddy McMahon, Kevin McDonagh, Sean Murphy, Noel Cheevers, and Joe Moran, who passed away, since our last reunion in 2005. All were fondly remembered by a minute's silence, and a reading from St. Paul to the Corinthians by Norman Jennings.

A number of coincidences to the current era from our time at CCR (1955-'60) were recalled by Tom Enright, John Kenny and others. Currently there is the arrival of the Ukrainians. Back in 1956 Hungarian refugees arrived, also resulting from another "Little military intervention", by Russia

into Budapest. Two teenagers from Budapest were sent to CCR. These streetwise lads created quite a stir! Sean Peyton recalled visiting them when they were spending Christmas in an Army camp near Limerick. He said their conditions there were quite poor. We also remembered another coincidence: the 1957 influenza epidemic which resulted in practically the whole school becoming bedbound, except for a resilient seven or so.

Cathal Bredin updated the group on events at the South West Branch Dinner in May 2022, convened by Gerald McCarthy and Tom Coughlan. Notable items included a presentation by the Lord Abbot on the possible relocation of all the Cistercian monks in Ireland to one site. There was also an update by impressive new President, Gavin Clark on CCR events.

In wrapping up the meeting we decided to meet again electronically in a year, and to set up a WhatsApp group, as well as organising a Summertime lunch. In all a very happy occasion without having to venture out into inhospitable mid-November weather!

*Cathal Bredin(1955-60):
cathalbredin@gmail.com*

OBITUARIES

Gone but not forgotten – pastmen who have passed on.

A tribute to Dom Kevin Daly OCSO (CCR 1948/'53) who died on April 16th 2022 appears on page 6.

Jim Fogarty

(CCR 1945-'47)

from Cashel died on 14th April 2022. He was one of the last survivors of the Leinster Hurling Championship winning team of 1947. His nephew Paul is also a CCR pastman (1964-'67).

Ray Gibbons

(CCR Class of '61)

died in UCH, Galway on 3rd December 2022. A native of Ballyheane, Castlebar, his family moved to London in 1959 from where, during 1962 he joined the RAF, leaving in 1971, with a qualification in mechanical engineering. He later established, with his brother John, a very successful plumbing & air conditioning business, which for very many years was a major service supplier to the Farnborough Airshow.

During 2007 Ray completed the building of his dream residence, at Inishmicatreer, near Cong, on the shores of Lough Corrib. With a boat moored by his own pier, at the end of the garden, he could enjoyably pursue his two favourite pastimes of fishing and gardening! From early 2021, he had bravely battled with serious illness, but it failed

to prevent him joining his 1961 classmates for a memorable 60th Reunion, eventually held on 18th May 2022. Right up to his final days, he retained a keen interest in CCR, regularly exchanging messages with four or five of his former classmates, especially fellow "Mayo Mafia Member", Joe Hoban, who was ever supportive throughout Ray's illness. From the UK, Donald Gallivan rarely missed making weekly contact.

His chosen place of rest was his native Ballyheane, and the funeral was attended by classmates Michael Keohane, Gerry Moloney, Joe Hoban and Tom Garvey. He is survived by his wife Joan and daughters Nicola (Bristol), and Sarah (Sydney).

Michael Hayden

(CCR 1947-'51)

died on 26th November 2022. An engineer by profession, he had a stellar career with ESB and spent time abroad with ESB International. A member in both Foxrock and Lahinch Golf Clubs, he was a regular at Dublin Branch events. He was a classmate of Union stalwarts Larry Branigan and Tom Ambrose.

Pat Hartnett

(CCR 1945-'48)

formerly of Rosemary Street, Roscrea, died February 27th 2022.

Tom Joyce

(CCR 1964-'66)

Tom Joyce (Class of '66) a native of Clonmel, Co Tipperary died on 6th January 2023. Tom was a most kind, gentle and caring individual with a low key sense of humour and an infectious smile. Tom worked in various branches of AIB throughout Munster and at his passing there was an outpouring of tributes from colleagues, many of whom he had mentored and provided with cherished memories over the years. An avid sports enthusiast with a great passion for greyhound racing, coursing and naturally Tipperary hurling. Tom was most amiable and built a great rapport with so many both in business and in his private life. In the last decade Tom suffered greatly from ill health, but bore his illness with great dignity. One of nature's gentlemen, may his gentle soul rest in peace.

John Rafferty (CCR 1963-'66)

**Tom Kerin
(CCR 1951-'56)**

died unexpectedly on 10th August 2022. A native of Co. Clare, Tom had an interest in and fascination with engines and bridges from a very early age, so it was no surprise that he decided to study Civil Engineering. A visionary and pioneer, Tom enjoyed an impressive career leaving behind a legacy of cutting edge buildings and infrastructure changing the face of Ireland's physical infrastructure and educational landscapes as MD of Kerin Contract Management Ltd and formerly as MD of PJ Walls Construction, Limerick. Described by many as the ultimate standard bearer, Tom strived towards excellence in all areas of life, always bringing out the best in people.

As a young graduate engineer, Tom worked on large scale projects including the Limerick to Shannon dual carriageway and Tynagh Mines where US senior management spotted his potential and invited him to the top table as a promising young engineer. His talent and work ethic fast tracked him to his appointment as Managing Director of PJ Walls Construction, Limerick at just 28 years of age in 1967. There he managed many large scale builds including the successful construction of Tralee Hospital, and the prestigious construction of the University of Limerick's first campus buildings then known as National Institute for Higher Education, Limerick or NIEL.

A year's overseas project in Bahrain in the mid 1980s preceded his decision to branch out on his own as a Construction Project Manager setting up Kerin Contract Management (KCM) Ltd. in Limerick. Early projects included the Arthurs Quay Shopping Centre and The Square in Tallaght. However his greatest professional accomplishment was undoubtedly the development of the greenfield site of the University of Limerick into a world class international university campus where every building project he managed bore his stamp of excellence. Tom became a valued member of the UL Strategic Design team who came up with the blueprint of the amazing college campus that exists today. The pioneer in Tom thrived as he managed ground-breaking projects ranging from the country's first ever on campus student accommodation, 'Plassey Village', in 1987, to Ireland's first Olympic 50m swimming pool in 2001 to the first world class concert hall outside the capital and the extension of UL across the River Shannon in County Clare by developing a bridge linked North Campus. There were state of the art computer and science laboratory buildings to attract world leading scientists and engineers; elite athlete training facilities which would train his beloved Munster rugby team, the University Concert Hall and World Music Academy to bring world class music and culture to Limerick and the futuristic Glucksman Library with its specialist climate

controlled world class special collection storage facilities. Tom passionately researched the best in class internationally for each and improved on it and UL became the world class university campus the UL Design team had dreamed of.

Tom had two sporting passions, Rugby and sailing. Like all of us he revelled in the success of the CCR Senior team winning the Leinster Cup in 2015 and was an avid Munster fan through thick and thin. At 82 years of age he sailed from Kilrush to Dingle and keenly followed the fortunes of his son Emmet in winning his class in the Sydney to Hobart race.

To his wife Anne, his children Tanya, Duncan (CCR 1984-'85), Lorna, Nadine & Emmet, his brothers Noel (CCR Class of 1962) and Gerard and their extended family we offer our heartfelt sympathy.

I am indebted to Tom's daughter, Tanya Ní Céirín for assistance with this tribute.

**Tim Lane
(CCR 1956-'61)**

died on 6th December 2022. I met Tim when I went to Roscrea in September 1957, we discovered that we lived in neighbouring towns, he in Mountmellick and I in Portarlinton. We became friends then and I am proud to say we remained friends all our lives. We shared a love of sports and also shared a flat in Avoca Road in Dublin for a few years.

In his time in Roscrea Tim played hurling and was a stalwart regular on the Cup teams. He was also a regular contributor to The Vexillum where he challenged Mickey Spillane in the crime genre. A brilliant student, he was one of the 4 of in our Class that had the distinction of being placed in the 'Top 25' in Ireland in the Intermediate (now Junior) Certificate in the 1959 exams. We both joined Portarlington Golf club and we spent many happy hours on the course and in the clubhouse, where his drink of choice was tea.

Tim joined Aer Lingus after leaving Roscrea in 1961. He completed his UCD Arts degree part-time while at Aer Lingus, and often spoke of being taught by Garrett FitzGerald in Earlsfort Terrace. He joined AIB IT Donnybrook in 1972 as part of a group called "The Outsiders" who came in to change/modernise the systems. He completed his UCD MBA part-time in 1978. Tim was named Business IT personality of the year in the mid 1980s.

He retired from AIB in August 2002. The general sense from his colleagues was that he was a pioneer in the early days of the computer/technology industry, he helped bring both Aer Lingus and AIB into the computerised world for the first time. His colleagues comment that his legacy still lives on in the IT architecture that is in place now. Tim travelled a lot for work, sharing his ideas with and learning from other banks, IT companies and other AIB global

branches. Trips to the US, UK, and Poland stood out for him.

Tim met Helen Clifford on St Patrick's Day 1962, having been in phone contact with her for some months as she worked in Aer Lingus sales in Grafton Street. Helen was the love of his life and they were married for 55 years before she passed away in 2021. They had four children, Philip, Colum, Mark, and Clodagh.

They were both very proud of their family and were devastated when Mark died so young. They were a great couple and Sadie & I spent many happy hours in their company. I will miss them both.

There was a particularly large attendance at his funeral mass in Foxrock, with the Class of '61 well represented. His son Philip, Chief Economist of the European Central Bank and former Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland delivered the eulogy. A measure of the regard by which Tim was held can be judged by some of the terms used in the book of Condolence: highly respected, visionary, integrity, the most gentle of gentlemen, generous. Perhaps the most striking was from one of his CCR classmates 'Tim was like family to us for 5 years'.

Tim was a regular attendee at our class of '61 reunions. He missed our latest one due to ill-health, and passed away just a year after Helen; he was lost without her. Tim's younger brothers, Damien

and Seán (both CCR 1960-'65) are also CCR pastmen.

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.
Tom Hainsworth, Class of '61*

**Des Murray
(CCR 1941-'46)**

died peacefully on 11th March 2023. Originally from Glasnevin he lived in Walkinstown in more recent times. He had worked with Ernst and Young.

**Donal McCarthy
(CCR 1950-'55)**

from Aghada, Co. Cork died June 13th 2022. His sons Barry, Michael & Colman are also CCR pastmen. Donal was a former Chairman of the South Western Branch of the Union and was a first cousin of Fr. Gabriel.

**Donal McEvoy
(CCR 1972-'77)**

died on 9th September 2021 after a long battle with illness. Though born in Co. Wexford, he had roots in Clonbur, Co. Galway where he was laid to rest. A very good out-half on CCR teams, he continued his Rugby with Lansdowne and Leinster in the pre-professional era.

He founded the company Wildan Sports in 1993 which was associated with Rhino Rugby a name we see every time Leinster and Connacht play at home. The programme for Leinster's home match against Munster last October contained a full page tribute to him.

Pat Crotty recalls that he and Donal attended Coláiste na Rinne (Ring) in Co. Waterford for 6th class before they met up again in CCR. As sport was poorly catered for in Ring, Donal brought a Rugby ball back after Christmas and they organised games and were having great fun until the Máistir confiscated the Rugby ball. He was also a very keen golfer and fisherman.

He is survived by his wife Gill, and sons William, Daniel Andrew and Alex. His brother David is also a CCR pastman (1977-'82).

Eddie O'Donovan (CCR class of 1966)

He first attended CCR as a day boy and when his father who was working in AIB in Roscrea was transferred to Killarney Eddie went to a local secondary school for one year but returned to CCR as a boarder to finish his secondary education. The life of a bank manager was such that Eddie and his two brothers, Matt (1965-'70) and Michael (1968-'71) went on to enjoy home addresses in Castletownbere and in Cashel during their sojourn in CCR! (4 different homes in a decade!). While in CCR, Eddie played on the CCR hurling team and even played for the Kerry minor hurling team in the Munster Championship against Cork.

Eddie was always very amused that he got the loudest cheer of the day when he scored a point for Kerry Minor hurlers against a

highly dominant Cork Minor team in front of a huge crowd, who were waiting for the following Senior football game between Kerry and Cork.

After leaving Roscrea, Eddie studied Commerce in UCD and joined Craig Gardner, as a trainee accountant in 1968. On obtaining his professional membership of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, he was asked by Craig Gardner to transfer to its Taxation Department and to complete tax examinations, thereby becoming an Associate of the Institute of Taxation. Eddie worked as a taxation specialist with Craig Gardner, which subsequently became Price Waterhouse and later PWC, for the rest of his career life until he was 65, engaged as a tax consultant/director, specialising in Corporate Taxation.

On his retirement as a tax consultant interfacing with clients, he was subsequently engaged by PWC to work on a part-time basis as a consultant dealing with PWC's own professional practice taxation, a reflection of the respect in which he was held by the PWC partnership. He continued working in PWC until he was 70! Eddie lived in Sandymount with his wife and children and he cycled or walked to work during his years when he worked in Ballsbridge, Wilton Place and in the IFSC.

While Eddie was a very keen golfer in his teenage years, he only played golf for leisure rather than

competitively in later years. Tennis became his major sporting interest and he played at Railway Union close to his home in Sandymount. His other big interest was his grandchildren, who all lived nearby in the Dublin area.

Unfortunately, Eddie suffered ill health for 19 years but he always fought to manage it. However, during the final two years his illness deteriorated and from October 2022 to his passing in January 2023, he fought his ultimate battle. Eddie was aged 74, a comparatively young age, without getting a real opportunity to enjoy retirement.

Eddie leaves his wife, Anne, and three sons, Dave, John, and Ed. He also leaves seven grandchildren, his brothers, Matt (now living in Claremorris) and Mike and his sister, Dolores. The Garahy brothers, David (CCR 1961-'66) Hugh (CCR 1963-'67) and John (CCR 1967-'72) from Enniscorthy are first cousins.

Eoin Rafferty (CCR 1983-'88),

It was with great sadness, shock and disbelief that the news of Eoin's passing filtered through to his friends and classmates in the early evening of January 20th 2022.

Generations of Rafferty boys received the benefits of a CCR education. A native of Tipperary town and the youngest of 5 siblings, Eoin was the last of three brothers

to pass through the College, after Brian (CCR 1972-'78) and Niall (CCR 1979-'84).

Whether having a brother in 6th year was an advantage to Eoin or not I do not know. Either way, he made friends easily and immersed himself assuredly in all that college life had to offer him. He had a love of sport that he carried with him through his life. During his time in Roscrea he featured daily on the rugby and hurling playing pitches, tennis courts, soccer pitches, golf course, swimming pool. If something fell loosely under the heading of sport Eoin would 'tog-out', even down to the drudgery of cross country running! He would no doubt be cross with me if I omitted to mention his place on the Junior and Senior Cup rugby match day squads.

Following Roscrea he went into the hospitality industry as a trainee manager with the Doyle Group. His placement was in the Montrose hotel opposite UCD. As somebody who shared a house with Eoin through these years, I can attest that although he was technically working he led the lifestyle of a student with the bonus of having money most students did not have! In 1994, upon completing his time with Doyles, Eoin moved to America where he built a successful career with the Four Seasons Hotel Group in Dallas and Boston. He met the love of his life Karen on St. Patricks Day 1999, and some time later, upon deciding that they were 'for each other', they decided

to move back to Ireland to settle down. They returned to Ireland in 2002 with Eoin taking a role as Assistant General Manager of Dromoland Castle Hotel and Karen joining the HSE. They married in Cratloe Church in 2003 with a wonderful celebration following in the Castle, cleverly scheduled to tie in with a memorable Irish victory over France in the six nations. A site had been bought in Meelick and the family home was built there under Eoin and Karen's careful supervision. They moved in there the same year.

Eoin went on to work with other hotels such as the Ballykisteen hotel just outside Tipperary town. However the anti-social hours that accompany hospitality work did not fit with Eoin's desire to spend more time with his young family. A change of career was chosen and he embarked upon a sales account management role with ECollab for a few years, before finally settling on working within the local pharmaceutical industry. This ultimately gave him more regular working hours combined with no travel, and consequently he had the extra time with his family that he had been seeking.

Eoin was a devoted husband to Karen and father to his three children, Shane, Jack and Emily. He was constantly 'on the go' with one activity or another. Most of our phone calls were whilst he was in transit to or from some such activity. He was immensely proud of his family who brought

him great joy. He was particularly excited by the sporting promise of the boys in both rugby and rowing, and he would have been tickled pink by their achievements since his passing. It cannot go unmentioned that Shane won two gold medals in the European Junior Rowing championships this year. Jack looks to be following in his brother's rowing footsteps and was also a member of the Ardscoil Rís JCT team who were finalists in this year's Munster Schools' Cup.

Whilst Eoin had left the hospitality industry, he carried his inherent hospitable nature to his home life. There was always a warm welcome at his door. His culinary skills were second to none. Meals were preceded by aperitifs and followed by digestifs aplenty. A late night was assured as memories were reminisced upon and the latest updates on classmates, friends and family exchanged! He loved Roscrea and was a stalwart of class reunions. He often called to the College when passing down the road from Dublin to Meelick, sometimes just driving through the grounds and sometimes popping into the college itself to see who he might meet. Many pastmen have commented that Eoin was a gentleman, however he was also a 'gentle man' never having a bad word to say about anybody.

I have some abiding memories of the few days in and around Eoin's death. The strength of his wife Karen and their children who ensured he got the send off he

deserved; the minute's silence at Garryowen Rugby Club; the guard of honour by St. Michael's Rowing Club at his funeral service; the turn out of CCR pastmen. However, the biggest impression left on me was by the people of Meelick/Cratloe and the way they supported the Rafferty family. The ongoing support the family have received is a measure of both the community itself and the way Eoin, Karen and the children built a life for themselves within this community.

Eoin was an affable, genial type of person. Being kind came naturally to him. In latter years he had settled into a contentedness in both his professional and home life. He died suddenly and unexpectedly after some of the happiest years of his life. Personally it has been a wonderful experience to have had Eoin as a close friend and confidant since the 1980s.

He is survived and missed deeply by his wife Karen, children Shane, Jack and Emily, his mother Nuala, brothers Brian and Niall, and sisters Emer and Niamh. To all his family very sincere sympathy is expressed.

Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a anam. Shane Slattery (CCR 1983-'88).

Richard Roche (CCR 1950-'55)

died 7th January 2023 after a long illness. He was a Veterinary Surgeon in Clara Co. Offaly. He was heavily involved in Rugby teams in his day. His sons Colm, Garvan and Brian are also CCR pastmen.

Dr. Aidan Spooner (CCR 1959-'64)

died suddenly on 24th February 2023. A native of Roscrea, Aidan studied Chemistry in UCC and obtained his PhD in 1971. He worked with De Beers in Shannon and Johannesburg where he was the Director of Element Six.

Though Aidan's first wife Rosaleen died after a lengthy battle with cancer, he was blessed to have 16 happy years with his second wife Laura.

A keen hurler in his younger days, he was part of the wonderful Roscrea team which won several County titles in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He was also a keen golfer, though his real passion was for angling and he loved to fish in Lough Mask.

His funeral Mass was celebrated by Bishop Fintan Monahan, with whom Aidan did discreet but effective work on behalf of the diocese of Killaloe.

His brothers Liam and Jody and son Brian are also CCR pastmen.

James Wall (CCR 1946-'48)
from Dromcollogher, Co. Limerick,
died on 4th May 2022.

Just at the final drafting stage of this edition of the Roscrea Review, we received word that former Union President and great friend of CCR and MSJ, **John F Walsh (CCR 1944-'47)** had passed away some months ago in Dublin, and had a very quiet family funeral.

It was impossible in such circumstances to include a fitting tribute to this CCR giant here but that omission will be rectified in the next issue. To his family, we offer our heartfelt sympathies.

<https://rip.ie/death-notice/john-walsh-goatstown-dublin/504056>

Introductory Weekend/Open Evening

Friday September 29th 2023

For 6th class students considering secondary school in 2024.

Limited availability in other years.

For more information contact our admissions department at admissions@ccr.ie or phone (0505) 23344

Every day is an open day at Cistercian College, so put a date in your diary to visit us.

Dublin Branch Business Lunch

2022

The Annual Dublin Branch Business Lunch has become one of the best attended events on the CCR Union calendar and successfully attracts pastmen of all ages. This year's event on 21st October broke new ground – instead of a single speaker, three eminent journalists took part in a discussion / Q&A moderated by Kieran Fitzgerald (CCR 1974-'79), formerly of RTE and latterly a GSOC Commissioner. The three were:

- Conor Brady (CCR 1962-'66) former editor of the Irish Times and later a GSOC Commissioner,
- Cormac Bourke (CCR 1989-'94) editor of Irish Independent and independent.ie and Editor-In-Chief, Mediahuis Ireland,
- and Steven Miller (CCR 1996-'02), owner and Managing Editor of the online publication Laois Today.

All contributed to a very interesting and lively session. In some respects, one could say that Steven's story of how as a relatively young journalist married with two young children, he had taken the bold step of breaking into uncharted territory setting up a very successful online daily in the Midlands really caught the imagination of those attending.

It was new Union President David Hernan's first function as President and the first Business Lunch for Dublin Branch Chairman John Verling both of whom spoke with aplomb and showed how suitable they are for the roles they now have. Special credit is due to John and Branch Secretary Aonghus Cody for organising a superb event.



*The Media Experts:
Kieran Fitzgerald,
Conor Brady,
Ciaran Bourke
and Liam Miller.*



David McDonagh, Kieran Fitzgerald, Kevin Keegan and Liam Spooner.



Eoghan Quinn, Brian O'Donnell and Eoghan Madigan.

Dublin Branch Business Lunch 2022 Photos



*Liam Burke, Joe Harford
and Tony Bardon.*



*Declan McNulty, Fergal Cox
and Willie Burns.*



*Jack Culligan and
Gavin Meagher.*



*James Phelan and
David Lucey.*



*Michael McNamara and
Pat Kelly.*



*Mark O'Byrne, Barry McCormack
and Declan McNulty.*



*Ciaran Egan, Brian Kirwan
and Eoghan Madigan.*



Brothers Ronan and Barry Egan.



Seán Costelloe and Katherine Donovan.

Dublin Branch Business Lunch 2022 Photos



Pádraic Ó Máille, Kieran Fitzgerald and Brendan Phelan.



Ben Whelehan, Jerry Cahir and Liam Crowley.



James McKeon, Brian Cullinan and James Dillon.



Manus Heenan and Martin Fallon.



Jack Egan, Simon Meagher, Aonghus Cody and Niall Miller.



Union Vice President John McManus and Don Harington.



Three former Dublin Branch Chairmen and two likely future Union Presidents – Sean O'Donnell, Union President David Hernan and Vincent Coyne.



From the Class of 2007: Brian O'Donnell, Dublin Branch Chairman John Verling, Eoin Quinn and Eoghan Madigan.

IN THE GREY

*Tomorrow is never guaranteed,
That's what we're told in the aftermath of
tragedy.*

*Yet I wonder is that forgotten in the grey
area we spend waiting for the next,
Like a train rumbling down the tracks
without a set of brakes.*

*We'll stand in line,
our hats clasped in our cold palms,
And tut our heads in a silent agreement
with the old man standing in front of us,
that it's shocking sad what's happened here.*

*Before shaking the hands of
the people who are shook, without really
knowing what to say.*

*What can you say? It puts it all into
perspective, or sorry for your loss.
They lived life to the full is what we would all
want said about ourselves,*

*At the dawn of our eternal slumber,
but how many of us do?*

*If you were to sit in a courtroom tried with
limiting yourself, erecting barriers
imposing on your own potential. If you were
to sit there and be cross examined,*

*12 of your peers guilty of the same, all
listening intently, what would be the verdict?
Do you embrace the pounding of your heart
before you dive headfirst out of
your comfort zone? Do you crave trying
something new, pushing yourself, going
further today than you had managed
previously?*

*And if you do, are you living life to the full?
Do you listen when others speak, do you
applaud when others perform?*

*Do you tell yourself you wish you could do
something like that?*

*Well you can, you can do the something you
would like to do, Go out and do it.*

We spend so much time in the grey.

*Bemoaning the incalculable badness yet
offering diminutive goodness.*

*So look the stranger in the eye when they
say hello, wave at the toddler
running amok in the airport, and salute the
narky old one from down the road.*

*Nurture the growth you unearth in yourself
when you explore your constitution. Give all
you can while you can, because tomorrow is
never guaranteed.*

James McKeon (CCR 2011-'17)

This poem was written following the tragic death of
Tipperary hurler Dillon Quirke in August 2022.

RETIREMENTS



**DIARMUID
FITZGERALD**

Diarmuid Fitzgerald retired from teaching over a year ago after almost forty years in CCR. His main subject was Business but he also taught CSPE and SPHE. He also taught Music, supervised Study and was very involved in Rugby training.

His style of teaching was warm and empathetic: he was very kind to the students as was shown in the warm outpouring of tributes when he slipped away mid-year, though he is still involved in helping boys with homework. Those who know him will tell of his great sense of fairness.

In his speech at a dinner to mark Diarmuid and Chris O' Donoghue's retirements, College Principal Gerry Grealish spoke of how warm and welcoming Diarmuid was to all who

came into the staff room – we can add how warm and welcoming he always has been to pastmen of all ages, those he taught and those who left CCR before he started teaching.

Diarmuid had a Master's Degree in Chaplaincy and Pastoral Studies and won great praise from a visiting inspector during a Whole School Evaluation for his style of teaching and his interaction with the students.

He was always very respectful of the College's traditions and ethos and has a great grá for the College, the monks and the Union. He was a regular in the Abbot's Cup golf over the years and enjoys attending class reunions.

We wish him a long and happy retirement.



**CHRIS
O' DONOGHUE**

Last October saw the retirement of Mr. Chris O' Donoghue. Chris started working in Cistercian College in 1987 and as he said to me during a recent phone call "It was a very different College back then." He taught Art to students from all year groups. Chris himself is a very talented artist and two of his paintings hang in the College halls. He shared his passion for Art with all his students and his teaching afforded them the opportunity to develop their own artistic skills. Chris had many interests including Astronomy and he set up an Astronomy club in the College which was enjoyed by many students.

Chris was very caring and kind with his students and he was a great mentor to them. He was a very popular and much respected colleague. He loved both the College and the Monastery. We are all grateful for the sterling support that he has given to Mount St. Joseph during his long career with us. He will be greatly missed by his colleagues, his students, our monks and our parents. I know that you will all join me in wishing Chris every happiness and good health in his retirement.

Gerry Grealish

Visit of Emmet Mullins and Noble Yeats to CCR

Just a few weeks after their triumph in the Aintree Grand National, Emmet Mullins and *Noble Yeats* visited CCR to joyous scenes among staff, students and the community. Emmet's parents and grandmother were present as well.



Fr Lawrence pats *Noble Yeats* as Emmet looks on.
Photograph: Don Moloney



Seamus Hennessy, Gavin Clark, Emmet Mullins, *Noble Yeats*, Gavin Sheill (CCR 2003-'08), Marcelline Cody and College Principal Gerry Grealish.



Emmet Mullins and *Noble Yeats* are pictured with his grandmother Maureen Mullins, Marcelline Cody and his parents George (CCR 1972-'77) and Brigid Mullins.



Winning trainer Emmet Mullins back at his Alma Mater with winning horse, *Noble Yeats*, - the only seven-year old to have won the Grand National for the last 80 years.



Emmet Mullins looks after *Noble Yeats* beside an admiring Gavin Sheill and Seamus Hennessy.

Other photos courtesy of Irish Times and Conal O'Boyle, Carlow Nationalist.

Stations of the Cross - Transition Year Project

Following the work of a previous TY group in building An Chosán Caol, a prayer path between the statue of Our Lady and the statue of Christ near the waterfall, this years TY group took on the tasking of building an outdoor Stations of the Cross. The new stations of the cross were officially opened and blessed a few days before the Easter break by Fr Malachy.

The first year students, the Transition Year students, parents, staff, members of the monastery and board members were all in attendance for this special day. The TY students spent the last couple of weeks working hard with Mr. Smyth and Fr. Aodhan laying the foundations and erecting each station.

This project is dedicated to the TY Class of 2023 and this will be their legacy when they visit the College in years to come. A huge thank you to TY parent and CCR pastman Mr. Ronan Egan from Eganstone whose generosity made this project possible.

Mr. Egan donated the stone needed for all 14 stations and used his craftsmanship to carve out the beautiful images related to each of the stations.



First Years and TY pupils pictured with Mr. Paddy Smyth taking shelter at the grotto before the blessing of the Stations.



During the blessing of the Stations of the Cross.



Dom Malachy with Mr Paddy Smyth and two CCR students at the 13th Station of the Cross shortly before Easter.



The work of a previous TY group in building a prayer path and clearing an over grown area of the Monastery garden.

DOM MALACHY'S MESSAGES

“Friends” of Dom Malachy Thompson on Facebook will be familiar with his frequent postings which include images from the Monastery often linked to very inspiring words of encouragement. In recent weeks the blessing of the new Stations of the Cross which took place just before Holy Week featured prominently and a short video highlights the beauty of the individual Stations. This video and more photos from the Stations can be viewed on Dom Malachy’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009818292793>.



NEWS OF PASTMEN



Andrew Cody (CCR 1977-'82)

Andrew Cody (CCR 1977-'82) was recently appointed an Ordinary Judge of the District Court for Laois and Offaly. He had been a Managing Partner with Reidy Stafford Solicitors in Newbridge for over 18 years and had been with the firm for 32 years.

Alan Tynan (CCR 2010-'16)

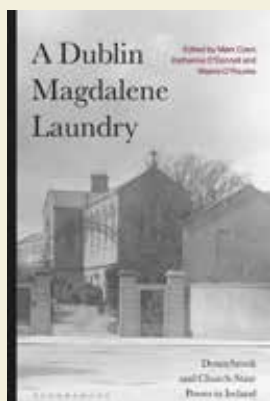
Out half on the Leinster Cup winning team Alan Tynan (CCR 2010-'16) is currently a regular at Mid Field on the Tipperary Senior Hurling team.



Mark Coen (CCR 1997-2003)

is one of the editors of, and contributors to, *A Dublin Magdalene Laundry: Donnybrook and Church-State Power in Ireland*, recently published by Bloomsbury Academic. This collection of essays tells the story of Donnybrook Magdalene Laundry, which was owned by the Religious Sisters of Charity and operated from 1837 to 1992. The book makes a significant contribution to our knowledge of the Magdalene laundries and contradicts the official state narrative about them in several key respects.

It is the first academic book to focus on one particular Magdalene laundry and this enables an in-depth examination of all aspects of the institution from researchers across a range of disciplines. Among the themes covered are the laundry business, burial practices, charitable gifts to the institution and its use as a place of detention by the criminal justice system. Sources used include interviews with survivors, files held in the Dublin Diocesan Archives, newspaper archives and correspondence and financial ledgers found by Mark on the site of the abandoned laundry.



GALA BALL

The recent Cistercian College Annual Gala Ball which was held in the County Arms Hotel Birr, and organised by the Parents Association was a huge success. This annual event brings the past and present Cistercian College Community together every year and we are already looking forward to next year's event.

A huge thank you to all involved including guest speaker on the night well known and respected past pupil Dick Spring and his wife Kristi, and to the Gold Sponsor of the event CCR pastman Diarmuid Corcoran from Chartered Capital and Bronze Sponsors PRL Group and Edel's Boutique.

The beneficiary of this year's Ball was the Cistercian College Music Department who do such great work in the College and are very worthy of our support.



Ann Marie Arrigan (third from left) with CCR staff members Katherine Donovan, Sarah Brislane, Gerry Grealish, Paddy and Catherine Smyth, Yvonne O'Rourke and Anne Harrington.



Diarmuid Corcoran (2nd from right front row) and the Chartered Capital Group who were the Gold Sponsors of the Gala Ball.



L to R: Eoin Fleetwood, Union Vice President John McManus, Seamus Hennessy, College Chaplain Sarah Brislane, Inez Heenan, Avril Finlay, Conor Brady, Dick Spring, Gerry Grealish, and Kevin Keegan



Guest Speaker Former Tánaiste Dick Spring and his wife Kristi.



CCR Parents' Association members Michelle Hyland, Maria Elliott, Sara McGowan, Ella Skehan, Edel Kennedy, Teresa O'Neill Madden and Ann Marie Arrigan.



Ann Marie Arrigan and Teresa O'Neill Madden present a bouquet of flowers to Kristi Spring.



College and Union Events 2023

Date	Event	Contact
Thursday, April 27th	Musica Vivit Concert University of Limerick Concert Hall	CCR at 0505-23344
Saturday, May 3rd	Class of 1963-'68 Year Reunion in MSJ Guesthouse	katherine.donovan@ccr.ie
Friday, May 5th	Annual Dublin Dinner in the National Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire	ccrppu.dublin@gmail.com
Friday, May 19th	6th Year Graduation Mass, Dinner & Presentation of Union Ties by Union President	katherine.donovan@ccr.ie
Saturday, May 27th	South Western Dinner Sundays Well Boating & Tennis Club, Mardyke, Cork	geraldmccarthy66@gmail.com
Friday, June 2nd	Dublin Branch Golf Outing Elm Park Golf & Sports Club, Dublin 4	ccrppu.dublin@gmail.com
Saturday, August 5th	CCR Day at the Races – Galway Racecourse This exclusive event includes entry to the races, champagne reception, lunch in the corporate suites, private bar and tote facilities and a private balcony with panoramic views of the racing.	Mr Barry Mc Cann barrymccann15@gmail.com 087 4156201
Saturday, October 7th NOTE LATER DATE!	Abbot's Cup Golf Outing Roscrea Golf Club Shotgun Start at 12.00 noon	katherine.donovan@ccr.ie 0505 31203
Saturday, October 7th	Confirmed Class Reunions:- Class of 1973 (50 Year Reunion) Class of 1983 (40 Year Reunion) Class of 1988 (35 Year Reunion)	katherine.donovan@ccr.ie 0505 31203
Sunday, October 8th	Mass for deceased pastmen at 10.30am in the Abbey Church Union AGM & installation of the Union President 2023/'24 at 12.00 noon in the College Boardroom	katherine.donovan@ccr.ie 0505 31203
Friday 20 th October	Dublin Branch Business Lunch Venue and Speaker to be confirmed	ccrppu.dublin@gmail.com



Dom Kevin Daly

1934-2022