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THE ABBEY WAY

ABBEY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL • NEWRY

ABBEY defeats Zambia to win the African Nations Cup

Abbey staff and students with African friends before their International football match at the Youth Community Training Centre in Livingstone Zambia, Tuesday 22nd March 2005. 'This was their first cap for Ireland'

EXCITING FINALE TO DEBATING YEAR

The Senior Debating Final for the Bro. McFarland Trophy took place on Tuesday 19th April. Around 40 senior students entered the competition with the English Department selecting the eight finalists. The motion for the debate was, "This house believes that the internment of terror suspects without trial is justified."

The debate was chaired by Mr. Pat Mooney and adjudicated by Mr. Rory McShane (Sponsor), Mr. Kieran Mallon (Guest Speaker) and Mr. Gerald Morgan (Teacher in charge of Debating).

After an immensely enjoyable and hard fought debate, played out in front of a large audience, the adjudicators agreed that Colm O'Grady was a very worthy winner with Philip Knox second and Ruairi McAuley in third place.

Mr. Mallon presented prizes to students in first, second and fourth year for their respective class debates, as well as the senior winners. He then shared some stories of his own experience of debating and public speaking.

Mr. McGovern, Headmaster, with Guest Speaker, Mr. Kieran Mallon, and Mr. Rory McShane, Sponsor, with the participants from the Senior Debating Final. Following his fascinating Bloody Sunday Seminar, Mr. Mallon provided the Abbey with an invaluable archive of the tribunal testimony.

ESAT BT YOUNG SCIENTISTS PAR EXCELLENCE

Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry, Technology Department are congratulated by Mr. Val Kane, Vice-Principal, after scooping numerous awards at this years annual ESAT BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition. Included are pupil's: James McClean, Ryan Devlin, David McGovern, Vincent O'Rourke, Gavin Myers, Gerard McGarvey, John McAteer, Michael Stanyer, Rory O'Rorke, Ryan O'Hare, Sean Donnelly, Keith Mooney and Darren Marshall. Staff that have assisted include Technology teachers: Mr. Gerard Savage and Mr. Mark Rodgers, Mr. John Rath, Senior Teacher, Sean Higgins (Technology technician) and Mr. Tony Mooney, Head of Technology.

The Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry, have returned from this Year's Esat BT Young Scientist and Technology Competition with an unbelievable number of trophies and cash prizes following the presentation of Awards by President Mrs. Mary McAleese last Friday night in the RDS, Dublin. Each of the 14 pupils spread across eight projects won an award, ranging from Overall Runner-Up, Category Awards, Special Awards and Display Awards. It is quite unique that every pupil representing the school received something to recognise their hard work put in over the last few months.

Fifth year student Kevin O'Reilly took the individual runner up prize, one of the top four prizes in the overall competition. Kevin's project was an attempt to classify the Freshwater shrimp, Gammarus Pulex, into a functional feeding group.There was much evidence of the gammarus species displaying omnivorous, cannibalistic and, to a lesser degree, detritivorous tendencies.This has made it difficult to classify these macro invertebrates into one functional feeding group. There was no doubt that their adaptability, in relation to feeding, has been a contributing factor in their successful colonisation of Irish waters. Kevin worked under the guidance of Mrs Margaret Lane (Head of Biology) and Miss Deirdre Mulgrew. At the prize-giving Mrs Lane received the British Council Teacher Award for the Biological and Ecological section. This award is presented to the teacher, selected by the judges, from the nomination of the students in the competition. This was a wonderful accolade for the hard working staff of the Biology department.

Fifth year student Kevin O'Reilly from Bessbrook being congratulated by Mr Val Kane, Vice-Principal (on right) on winning the Individual Runner Up prize for his project 'Feeding behaviour of the Fresh Water Shrimp Gammarus Pulex'. He discovered new information about its lifestyle in his project which netted him a cheque for £750 and a specially designed Waterford Crystal Trophy. Kevin worked under the guidance of Mrs. Margaret Lane, Head of Biology (second right) and Miss Deirdre Mulgrew. Also included is John Rath, Senior Teacher.

Not to be outdone, the Technology Department excelled themselves yet again. Ten awards were won for their seven projects. The two category winning projects were both group projects. 'Signal Expre won the Technology Junior Group section. It was an eye-catching display that modelled a school technology workshop and demonstrated how a teacher could shut off power to the machines using a remote control. The three boys who impressed the judges with this project were Darren Marshall, Keith Mooney and David McGovern. They also won a Display Award. Mr. Tony Mooney, Head of Technology assisted the boys.

'H2 Sensor' won the Technology Senior Group Section.This was designed and manufactured by Rory O'Rourke, Ryan O'Hare and Sean Donnelly. This device sensed the high levels of Hydrogen Sulphide gas in a slurry tank/cattle shed. It warned the farmer and extracted the gas. The judges were quite amazed with this project and al awarded it one of the Special Awards 'the

Intel Bursary Award. Mr. Gerard Savage assisted the boys with this project.

Michael Stanyer's 'Forklift Load Differential Display' won another one of the Special Awards' 'the Dublin Institute of Technology Award as well as third in the Technology Senior Individual Section. This is a sensing device that indicates if the load on the front of the forklift is balanced in dangerous situations. This will activate the intelligent counter balance system. Mr. Tony Mooney assisted Michael with this project.

Vincent O'Rourke's 'Farm Alert' project was given second place in the Technology Intermediate Section. This is an article of clothing that a child on a farmyard wears. It transmits a radio signal to the operator of a moving vehicle to alert them that they are in close proximity, thus avoiding a serious accident. Mr. Gerard Savage assisted Vincent with his project.

In the Technology Intermediate Group Section the innovative project 'Hotpot' was awarded third place.This is an aid for a visually impaired person to indicate that something is cooked or reaching different temperature levels. This project was designed and manufactured by Gavin Myers, Gerard McGarvey and John McAteer. Mr. Mark Rodgers assisted the boys with this project.

Indeed, like Mrs. Margaret Lane, Mr. Mark Rodgers got an unexpected surprise when he was called to the stage to receive the British Council Teacher Award for the Technology section, after his pupils had nominated him. Another two of his pupils were presented with Display Awards, both in the Technology Junior Individual Section. James McClean designed 'Natural Aid, a device that assists people who suffer from bowel problems. As people sit on the toilet this device helps posture by raising the level of their feet. Ryan Devlin's project, 'Baby Water Safe Guard,' alerts parents when a child's head goes below the water when the child is in the bath or the pool.

Abbey Grammar teachers win awards at ESAT BT Young Scientist and Technology Competition. Mrs. Margaret Lane, Head of Biology and Mr. Mark Rodgers, Technology teacher are congratulated by Mr. Val Kane, Vice-Principal for winning a British Council Teacher Award each at this years ESAT BT Young Scientist and Technology Competition in the RDS, Dublin.

Mr. Dermot McGovern, Headmaster was delighted with the success. He felt that the standard of projects and the level of organisation at the exhibition was improving every year." The atmosphere at the awards ceremony was electric. I was very proud to see Abbey pupils and staff walk onto the stage so often to collect awards." He wished to thank everyone involved, "It's great to be able to congratulate all the pupils on their success after all the months of hard work and dedication. The staff deserve the highest praise for yet again 'going the extra mile' in the interests of the pupils. This included many hours after school, in at weekends and during the Christmas holidays." Mr. McGovern was glad to see teachers getting recognition for encouraging the pupils to achieve their best. "Following on from Mr. Tony Mooney's success last year when he won the Teacher of Excellence Award, his colleague Mr. Gerard Savage was shortlisted for this award this year. Congratulations to Mrs. Margaret Lane and Mr. Mark Rodgers for winning the Teachers Awards. The Headmaster also paid special thanks to Miss Deirdre Mulgrew, Science teacher and Mr. Sean Higgins, Technology Technician, for their invaluable help and support to the pupils both before and during the competition.

BARRISTER PRESENTS HISTORIC DOCUMENTS FOR THE LIBRARY OF HIS ALMA MATER

Guest Speaker, Mr. Kieran Mallon, delivers some tremendous insight arising from his working knowledge of The Bloody Sunday Tribunal to an enthusiastic audience.

Mr. Kieran Mallon, Barrister, presents Mr. McGovern, Headmaster, with a folio of evidence from the Bloody Sunday tribunal.

ABBEY TO THE FORE OF THE GAELIC SPEAKING WORLD

Garrett Doran collects his winner's trophy after winning Gael-Linn's prestigious public speaking competition 'Abair'. Garrett's satirical speech on the recent Royal Wedding, and an earlier speech based on the Price of Driving ensured that the Forkhill man won the approval of both spectators and judges alike. Garrett's winning speech can be heard on-line at the following address http://www.bbc.co.uk/northernireland/irish/blas/education/abair05.shtml.

Only the second time ever to take part in the Raidió na Gaeltachta Senior Quiz, the Irish Department has now achieved back to back success in the competition. Last year's quiz team reached the All-Ireland semi-final only to lose out to eventual winners Coláiste na Coirribe of Galway. Team members Sean McClory, Stephen Corcoran and Danny McAlinden (captain) beat St. Colman's College in the first round, and then faced St. Patrick's Academy Dungannon in the semi-final. Despite a determined comeback by the Dungannon team, the Abbey held out to win. The Ulster Final of the quiz, held in Kelly's Inn, Omagh, saw the Abbey Team win easily against Coláiste Lorgaigh of Clones with a final score of 122 – 60. Sean, Danny and Stephen faced the 'Men and the West' Coláiste Múire of Galway in the All-Ireland Semi-Final only to lose out by one question with a final score-line of 106 – 100. Comhghairdeas leo uilig!

ROSEMARY NELSON DEBATING TROPHY

The Abbey team of Seamus Brannigan, Gary O'Hare, Dermot Markey and Padraig Poland retained the Rosemary Nelson Debating Trophy today in a tense and informative debate with the Sacred Heart.

Sr. Anne delivered the adjudication and sided with the Abbey team who shaded it with their ability to refute and rebut the opposition more effectively. Mr. McMahon chaired the debate whilst Oriel 2 provided the audience.

Mr. Morgan wishes to thank Sr. Anne, Mr. McMahon and the Sacred Heart team for their contribution to a very successful and enjoyable debate. Congratulations to the winning students.

CONSUMMATE WINNERS

For the fourth time in the last five years, Abbey Grammar School pupils have won the N.I. Young Consumers Competition! The team consisting of Colm O'Grady, Paul White, Paul Henning and Kevin Waddell qualified for the National Final by winning their Regional Heat in Belfast on 24th. November 2004.

On Friday 4th March 2005 they travelled to Lisburn to defend the trophy they won last year against the other Regional winners - St. Patrick's College Armagh and St. McNissi's College Garron Tower. At the end of a tough series of questions the Abbey pupils once again were victorious!

The winning team was presented with individual prizes and £500 for their school.

Abbey Staff and pupils return to Zambia

Abbey pupils bring fun and laughter into the lives of Double Orphans at The Lubasi Children's Home in Livingstone.

'Educating The Unknown'

Zambian Immersion Project 2005

Mark McGuigan

Look around. Notice where you are, and what you are doing. Sitting on chairs in a warm assembly hall, in your tidy uniform, just after lunch, in one of the best schools in the country, watching a presentation on a large display.We have all become so accustomed to this sort of thing that it is no longer unusual, in fact, it never really has been.

I want you to try, for just a few minutes, to imagine how life would be without all of these nice things, normal things, things we take for granted. How easy would life be then?

While in Zambia, I spent a lot of my time teaching in Ngwenya Community Baptist School. For 8 days I taught a Grade 5 class, the equivalent of a Primary 5 class, from 7:15am – 1:30pm with only a short 20 minute break in between.

What immediately struck me was the broad age gap in the class. The youngest pupil was a young boy named Joe, he was ten years old. The oldest pupil was a boy named Eustas, he was sixteen years old. There are a number of reasons for this broad age gap. Many people don't start school at the correct age, many dropped out of school and returned a few years later, many are forced to leave school to look after their family due to their parents dying, and some are just repeating a year.

I also noticed a broad standard of knowledge in the class. Of the 30 or so pupils in the class, around half understood everything that was being taught to them. They would complete the work given quickly and quietly, and would sit in silence when they had finished. The other half didn't understand basic Maths and English. They had great difficulty in doing any of the work which was set for them. In fact, I am still unsure as to whether some of them could actually speak English.

On the positive side, I was in a school which has just recently been built. It has individual classrooms for each class and the buildings are very modern. It also had some qualified teachers, as opposed to some of the schools which the other boys were in.

Linda Community School and Libuyu School were just large buildings, about the size of a school assembly hall. But there were large holes in the roofs, and all of the classes were in the one room. None of the schools we visited had an abundance of materials. My class had two text books for each subject to share between them.

The YCTC (Youth Community Training Centre) which Michael and Kevin McManus visited was a breath of fresh air. It was run by two of the Sisters based in Livingstone. Sister Josephine, one of the sisters, is an Irish woman. She dedicates most of her time to the young adults who attend the center. The center consisted of a number of very up-to-date buildings, with a new hall drawing towards the end of its construction and had a number of very modern computers and other machinery for the use of the pupils. It focused on the more vocational skills needed in the labour market.

The people in the YCTC were mostly those who dropped out of school. They were being taught basic Maths and English skills, as well as being taught how to use the computers and the machinery for wood-work, and clothing design classes. The YCTC is a place which gives the local people another chance to gain a good education which can give them a good future.

There is clearly a difference in teaching methods in Zambia. Here in Ireland, we are taught the material and encouraged to learn it to the best of our ability. In Zambia, the children are not taught the material fully, but are expected to know it.

And now we are back in the Abbey Assembly Hall. I have just one final thought about my experience in Zambia. Please, no matter what, don't take anything you have for granted. The people in Zambia have so little, yet they were able to live life to the full. But we all seem to forget just how lucky we are!

If you ever get the chance, which many of you here will, to do something which involves giving a little back to those less fortunate than yourselves, jump at the chance.

A typical Zambian mud hut in the Maramba Compound which housed 6 people in one room. There are two houses pictured here.

The Abbey Group pictured with Bro. Mick Doyle outside St. Raphael's School, the 'Abbey of Livingstone'.

Meeting the people living in the Sawmills Compound in Livingstone. 1 in 4 live with the AIDS virus.

The Abbey group arrive in Lusaka (the Zambian capital) after a long ten hour flight.

The Happy faces of the Double Orphans at the Lubasi Children's Home.

Personal Reflection

Zambian Immersion Project 2005 Kevin McKernan

'Seeing is believing' – We saw, we heard, we lived the African Mission'

Before going out to Zambia I felt anxious, partly due to the fact that I felt I was personally ill prepared and it was definitely of my own doing. I want to take this opportunity to thank Sr. Anne, Mr Markey and Mr Grogan for all their help and guidance in making my own trip a truly memorable two weeks.

It wasn't just 2 weeks but a year long Immersion which started with getting to know each member of our group on a personal level including the three teachers. We had to let down our guard and learn to trust in each other and I'm proud to say that we became very much a strong group. A lot happened out in Africa and I want to share some of that with you. I want to begin by thanking the whole school community, because without your very generous contributions we wouldn't have been able to take part in such a life changing experience.

When we arrived in Africa it was, on the surface, a very scary place. We had been prepared to expect a culture shock - but believe me nothing could prepare us for the culture shock we all received. That might sound like a cliché but believe me we experienced the cliché. Before going to Africa we all had seen the pictures, watched the video footage from organisations such as our own Trocaire, but seeing really is believing and our senses of seeing, smelling, hearing, touching and tasting Zambian life was the eye opener.

Seeing lots of black people standing around doing very little and women balancing huge buckets on their heads holding children's hands as they walked along, brought it home to us that we were not in Newry, but a different city in a different continent, that city being Lusaka, the capital of Zambia.

As we travelled along the 7 hour 'straight road' from Lusaka to Livingstone (the Tourist Capital) we all felt nervous – what were we doing here, why did we leave the safety and comfort of our lives in Newry? Livingstone is where we lived and Fawlty Towers was to become home for our duration.

Yes, when we arrived at Livingstone we were all told to be prepared for a culture shock but I don't think any of us were prepared for what we saw, and I don't think we could have been, it was unreal.

The boys just sat there all night pondering what they had seen. I was speechless myself, and felt very homesick. I had only been here about 12 hours.

Over the next few days I experienced many new things and visited many people and places. One place that sticks out in my mind and in the minds of the rest of our group was the Lubasi Home. The Lubasi Home is run by Indian nuns and funded by people like ourselves, and is home to 40 "double-orphaned children." This term "double-orphaned" was a new term for us and meant that these children had no-one to look after them as most relatives were dead.

This was where I received greatest satisfaction. I loved coming here and playing with the children. To see the delight and love that they received from us has been etched in my heart forever. It really inspired me. It inspired me because these children had lost so much in their short lives and it made me feel grateful for what I had at home. These children were so confident, they just kept asking questions about my family and where I had come from.

We met a lot of people in Zambia but two stand out in particular. These two people will not mean much to you as you will have never heard of them before, but two people we will never forget; Brother Mick Doyle and Sister Sheila Rice, and like us, they are Irish.

Sister Sheila (who hails from Ravensdale) will be celebrating her 80th birthday in April, a legend as some of the boys described her. She has worked for 56 years in different African countries and greets you with the enthusiasm of an 18 year old and works like a Trojan. Some of us were unable to keep up with her whilst out on the home-based care visits. Each one of us takes for granted the great health we have, but some in Zambia are bedridden or simply cannot afford the money to get to hospital and it is Sheila's job to try and make what is left of their lives as easy and comfortable as possible. She is a straight talking woman, **inspiration would be her middle name**, truly unbelievable. So much so that they boys started to quiz Anne about how someone becomes a saint. I think in the 2 days which I spent out in compounds with them I saw some images which will live in my memory.

I saw people in their homes and was welcomed in to greet the family. I saw blind people and deaf people, others had only days to live, others maybe hours. I felt sick and sad at what I was seeing.

Mick Doyle, the other person whom I would like to highlight, has been working in the Abbey of Zambia, St. Raphael's, for 23 years. He helped to co-ordinate most of our daily visits. Without him the trip would not have been possible.

One thing which he said his pupils had was the enthusiasm for education and for leaving Zambia. Their enthusiasm for education is far greater than our own. We found this very provocative considering how materially deprived they are in comparison, and to a certain extent this has aided our own appreciation of the extremely high standard of education we are blessed with here.

Mick Doyle was summed up by the description of him given by some of his students. They were so grateful for the education which he was giving them they described him as "a great man." They showed him great respect when around him and respected what he had to say.

We had two days, the middle Saturday and Sunday, to be officially called tourists. The height of our experience as tourists was t Victoria Falls or Mosi-oa-Tunya (The Smo That Thunders). Mr Grogan and myself were the first to see the Falls, and as I looked back and saw the faces of the rest of the group as they witnessed this wonder of the world for the first time, it was like coming down on Christmas morning -they were stunned at what they were seeing, and all I could take in was little remarks like "it's class" and '' O my God look at the size of that". Then all I could hear from Ann was "imagine if Richard fell in".

Pictures cannot describe what we saw. How could you not be impressed with a waterfall over a mile long which discharges 2 million gallons of water a second? This was a real treat for us and took our minds off what we had seen and witnessed in our first week in poverty stricken Livingstone. However for us we could see the irony of all the water flowing over the falls, yet there wasn't enough of it a few miles away to keep the crops from dying, and they were dying, paving the way for famine in August.

Darren, Mr Grogan and I were a teachi group which visited and taught in the Linda Community School. This School provided some of the children with a bed, the dormitory, as it's known. The teachers like the others were volunteers and were only too glad to see us as it gave them a break from their teaching; I say this quite loosely because when they saw us coming they took off for the day. At the beginning I found this strange but I soon came to appreciate that they were just right to use us as they did. As I said, they were volunteer teachers and got paid about 40p a day, that's if they did get paid as some months they didn't.

I taught a class of 18 children in a very small classroom about the size of a small garden shed, but I was very lucky. I had an older and smarter class, Darren was not so lucky. Mine were able to grasp the concepts that I was trying to get across comfortably. As I have said, Darren was not so lucky It was a pity, they had all the enthusiasm in the world to learn, and some of Darren's teaching will have helped them in some way.

The 'Whip' was used a couple of times in the school, and Mr Grogan and myself got a

The awesome Victoria Falls

Kevin Dyas is greeted in Chitonga by a Blind Man during a day care visit on St. Patrick's Day.

The sun provides a show as a new day breaks over the African Horizon.

glimpse of this horrific event. It was unbelievable. I lay in my bed that night and I couldn't get it out of my head that the lovely woman who gave us profiteroles for break and was really nice to us, could do this, but Mr Grogan made it aware to me that this was part of their culture and we could do nothing about it.

However I did get great satisfaction out of knowing that the children had actually learned something from me. The children were so appreciative and extremely well disciplined. Every morning we took great delight in greeting them, as they greeted us so well. 'Yes Sir' or 'Yes my teacher', was heard many times. They always had a smile on their face and I don't think I ever heard anyone cry.

I thoroughly enjoyed the teaching and on our last day we had a fun day, no teaching except the homework from the night before. I think I did get a little angry when a few hadn't their homework completed – hypocritical maybe on my part.

The last day I wanted to make a memorable one and I think I did. I got each child to write a personal profile, which I have at home and have read regularly since I have come home. Most of the children had lost a parent (through AIDS) and were living in the school's orphanage. It was awful. We had brought gifts with us for the children and we presented the school football team with a set of Gaelic Gear jerseys.

It was amazing to see the gratitude on their faces and on numerous occasions they said to us "God Bless You Sir". We gave our own class an Armagh T-shirt saying "Go Armagh: 2003," a smile lasted about 5 minutes on their little faces. This was now their uniform.

The teaching gave me an opportunity to really get to know the children and I received great satisfaction from seeing them getting the questions right from the topics I had taught. Who knows, maybe I have travelled to Africa to find that perhaps I want to become a teacher.

During the preparation for our trip, people were asking the question, and maybe rightly so, "would the project be worthwhile, why not send out all of the money raised, instead of spending some on getting us out there"? After experiencing what we did, the Immersion group have only one answer – that is yes, it is worthwhile.

'If you give a man a fish it will feed him for a day, but teach him to fish and you will feed him for life': we all experienced this.

No amount of money can give the personal attention we gave to the people we came into contact with. To see the crying faces of the children as Darren, Mr Grogan and I left Linda Community School for the last time, we had obviously meant so much to these people and given them so much in such a short period of time. To see the satisfaction on the people's faces, to see the delight in these people, makes us think twice about what we have. What we have here in the Abbey and our homes is paradise.

The people of Linda Community School had nothing, yet they were the happiest people I have ever met, and in comparison to us they had nothing to be happy about. The world is ill divided and whilst we cannot do much here about that it does not stop me thinking about Emmanuel and Finness every day.

I will conclude where I began.
There was culture shock.
There was poverty.
There was illness.
There was loneliness and homesickness.
But,
There was also joy and happiness.
There was inspiration and hope.
And above all, there was life.

The seed has grown into something that, dare I say it, even Edmund Rice could not have imagined. So, for those of us who travelled to Zambia from Naas, Belfast, Dublin, Portlaoise, Thurles, Cork, and Down, we have heart-warming memories that will live with us forever. I am convinced,

"Seeing is believing" and boys, we saw, we heard and we lived the African Mission.

Health

Zambian Immersion Project 2005

Kevin McManus

On Friday 18th March 2005, we were greeted outside the hospital by Fr. John, chaplain of hospitals and prisons in Livingstone. His role is to visit the patients on a day-to-day basis, support them, pray with them and help them through their time of need. He kindly offered to give us a guided tour of the grounds but first he gave us some background information on the hospital itself.

Background Information

It was built in the 1950s and can cater for approximately 250 patients However, at the time of our visit only 60% of the hospital beds were in use. Meanwhile many sick people remain at home, where they are forced to endure the sweltering heat and go without medical attention for several days. Reasons for this are varied but they can often be as simple as a lack of money to pay the taxi fare to the hospital.

Maternity Ward

To begin with, we visited the maternity ward. We were directed to one mother who had given birth to a girl that very morning. As we approached her bed, I was surprised to discover that black babies have what can only be described as white skin for the first few weeks of their lives.

The baby looked perfectly healthy, and yet I wondered what the future held in store for her.

- Would her parents live to see her grow up?
- Would she ever learn to read and write?
- Would she contract AIDS in later life?

If her mother was HIV positive, perhaps she already had the virus. Even for one so young, growing up in Zambia means tragedy is never far away.

Ward 9

The next ward we visited was the female medical ward. Fr. John explained to us that these patients suffered from life-threatening conditions, such as tuberculosis and malaria. 4 out of 5 had AIDS, making their chances of recovery extremely remote.

As we approached the entrance, the atmosphere among us was rather more subdued. From the uplifting sense of life associated with the maternity ward, we got the impression this room was to tell a different story. Behind Fr. John, I was first in. The room was dark, the sun beat down outside and it was very hot. An eerie hush descended as we filed in. I became anxious that our presence was perhaps unwelcome.

As I scanned the beds I saw many were occupied by motionless bodies, often too weak to return our tentative waves We approached some of the beds and shook hands with the patients but the language barrier made conversation difficult. Even when I could communicate with a patient I was stuck for words. What can you say to someone who has experienced a realm of suffering far beyond your own understanding? To that I had no answer.

As we left the room, Fr. John told us one patient's tragic story. A mother of two, she had recently lost one of her children. Her husband, from whom she had already contracted AIDS, divorced her and took her remaining child with him. She now lay sick in the hospital and all alone. Her state of depression was so overwhelming that she was refusing to speak to anyone, even Fr. John. For her I knew there would be no recovery.

Before we left, we gave Fr. John £200 to put to use in the hospital. He assured us it would go a long way, but in terms of tackling the underlying causes, its long term effect will be minimal. Without proper education and a drastic change in attitudes in both the developed and undeveloped world, AIDS will continue to plague the Zambian people far into the future.

Musical Notes –

Spring & Summer Term

This last term has been a very varied and exciting time for all involved in the Music Department at the Abbey.

In February the Abbey Jazz Band were invited to take part in a charity concert in Belfast, an event that was run by the Ulster Youth Jazz Orchestra. Apart from UYJO there were many other bands, or rather jazz orchestras (they outnumbered our band in players by 3 to 1 making ours seem like a traditional jazz combo) from prestigious schools such as Methodist College, Campbell College and Belfast Royal Academy. Although the Jazz Band initially felt a bit intimidated, they rose to the occasion and brought the house down with their more intimate and individual style. Garrett O'Hare on vocals developed a good rapport with the audience and strong improvised solos from Philip Knox, John McEvoy and Cormac Boyle helped to bring the house down.

In March the Music Department held their second Spring Concert. To a packed hall the orchestra opened the evening with Rossini's "William Tell Overture" played with speed and tightness of ensemble. This was followed by the more demanding "Arrival of the Queen of Sheba" by Handel. Two outstanding performances came from Kilian Foy and Donal Fullerton performing on the descant recorders. The orchestra concluded their set with a grandioso e maestoso rendition of Mussorgsky's "Great Gate of Kiev" ably supported by three members of staff; Miss Quinn on violin, Miss McAleese on piano, and standing in at the last minute to save the day, Mrs Carvill on timpani (what a talent – Gerry Morgan had better watch out!). The Junior Trad. Group made their debut, ably led by Mr Monaghan on Uillean Pipes, with junior boys on an accordion, a fiddle, a few tin whistles, many bodhrans and countless guitars. The recorder ensemble displayed their virtuosic talents again and the Junior Wind Band came up trumps. The choir performed three pieces including: a lively rendition of Irvin Berlin's "Steppin Out" Other groups included the Barbershop, the Senior Trad Group, with the Jazz Band concluding the evening. A great night was had by all with over 110 Abbey Boys singing and playing and many others helping as stage hands.

April is the time of the Newry Feis and all the Abbey entrants were looking forward to a successful event. The orchestra played out of their skins, raising the dynamics & tempos further; unfortunately it was not to be our day. The Jazz Band retained their first place and for the third year on the trot an Abbey boy won the composition category, Philip Knox coming first with Sean McClory and Steven Rice a close second. The junior members of the choir held their own ably directed by Mrs Carvill and accompanied by Darren Magee. Unlike previous years the adjudicator's comments were not constructive or consistent, even so much fun was had by all.

Later in April the GCSE & A level candidates performed some of their recital and ensemble pieces to a small but appreciative audience Many of the boys raised the music to that special level where the music becomes their own and is communicated with great sensitivity and control. There would be too many to mention here, but certainly Patrick Courtney's rendition of "She moved through the fair" will not be forgotten too quickly – for connoisseurs of music don't miss the event next year!

In May the Abbey Choir made their debut live performance, broadcasting for BBC Radio Ulster from the Abbey Monastery. The focus and professionalism was excellent and all accomplished on two extra rehearsals plus a bribe of Friar Tuck's chicken burgers and chips. The choir and some of the orchestra have joined forces with singers from the Cathedral for a performance of John Rutter's "Requiem". This took place in Newry Cathedral on Sunday June 19th at 7.30pm. Forthcoming events to look forward to are an "Irish Night" in September, our third "Guitar Night" in November and in December the Carol Service.

A personal thanks to all boys, staff & parents who have helped make another busy year successful and great fun.

Mr Wadsworth – Head of Music

Abbey Choir – live broadcast – final pep talk

ABBEY PRESSES FORWARD

This year saw the publication of two new titles by the Abbey Press: Whereabouts by Mark Roper and 43 Poems by the late Attila Jozsef. Mark Roper hails from England but is currently living in Co. Kilkenny where he teaches. This is his fourth book of poems and his second to be published by Abbey Press. He has been described by Bill Tinley as "…one of the most accomplished and engaging poets writing in Ireland at present." He has won several prizes for his work and is currently on the long list for the Michael Hartnett Poetry Award.

Attila Jozsef (1905-1937) has been described by George Szirtes as "…probably the greatest of twentieth century Hungarian poets- certainly the most moving and most loved- and a figure of enormous European stature." Although dead for many years, UNICEF recently referred to Jozsef as a figure of major literary importance. Abbey Press, therefore, feels privileged to have co-published this book at this time.

If you would like more information on books please see your English teacher or Mr McMahon in M18.

Here are two poems from Mark Roper's Whereabouts.

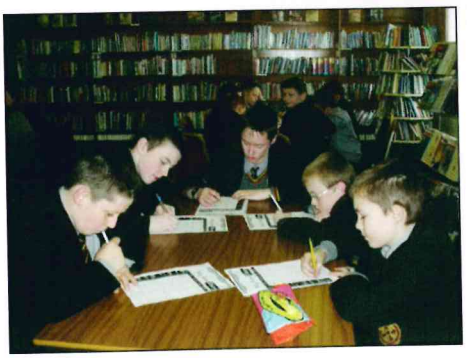
SWALLOW

A spent firework
on the lawn.
Tiny feet still
hooked on space.
Wings wind-sleek,
head sleek with wind.
So full of flight
it must have died
of ripeness.
In the tail's V
a stalk of sky.

RED ADMIRALS

Of the reddened leaves
drifting to earth
three or four seem
jerked into life,
soft, erratic flames
wandering on wings
too gorgeous for gravity.
Drunk on windfall
they settle
on a white wall,
bloody fingerprints,
small fires
on the edge of night.
The world wheels
under pitiless stars
into dark –
after such dark
what colour
can there be?
A robin's dull ember
in the wreck
of a tree.

PSHE IN THE ABBEY



Abbey pupils gorging on a feast of information concerning healthy lifestyles.

This year has been a busy year for PSHE in the Abbey, particularly for KS3 classes with a number of presentations by various agencies on a range of issues.

In December, Newry and Mourne Drug and Alcohol Partnership gave an interactive presentation on the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse to Year 9 students. The presentation included a DVD entitled, 'Catching the Dancing Dragon' followed by a question and answer session. Students were then presented with a drugs and alcohol information awareness pack to reinforce the information received in the presentation.

Year 10 students attended the popular 'Icebergs and Babies' Relationships seminar provided by Dr. Barr and the Love for Life team in March 2005. The presentation is a multi-media, interactive presentation and deals with the pertinent issues of relationships, sexuality and adolescence. Students responded enthusiastically, honestly and openly to the question and answer session as well as the survey at the end.

In April of this year, each Year 8 class were treated to a novel approach of learning about healthy eating and dietary habits. The Dietician from Daisy Hill Hospital presented a hectic and fun-packed half hour to each group where they learned about food groups and portion sizes and gained valuable information on healthy lifestyles. The session was followed up with information sheets being sent home to parents suggesting healthy snacks, brain booster tips and alternative menus.

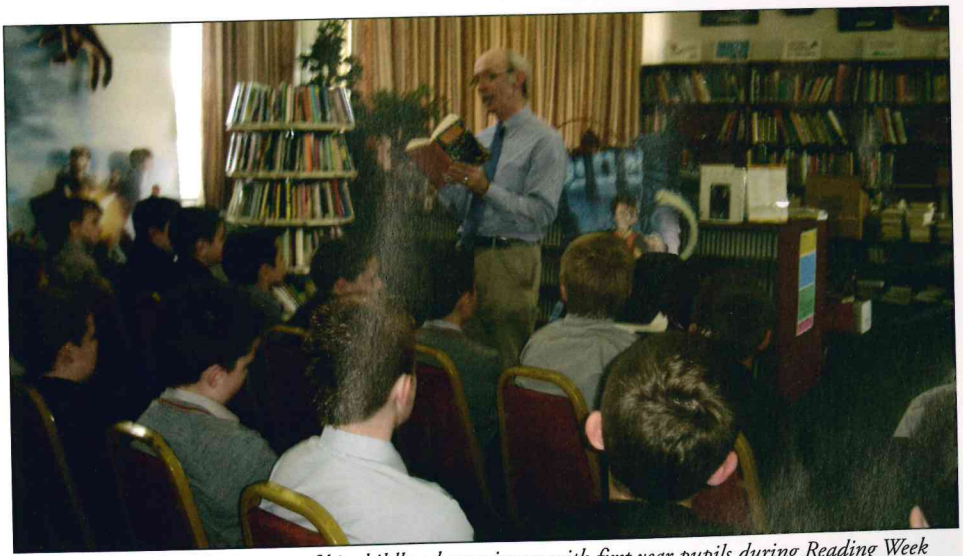
ABBEY READING WEEK: MAY 23rd – 27th

KS 3 English classes were involved in an enjoyable and successful reading week recently. Students were encouraged to bring in material to read for Reading Week and also had an opportunity to discuss books and magazines which they found enjoyable. Each class also participated in a book swap.

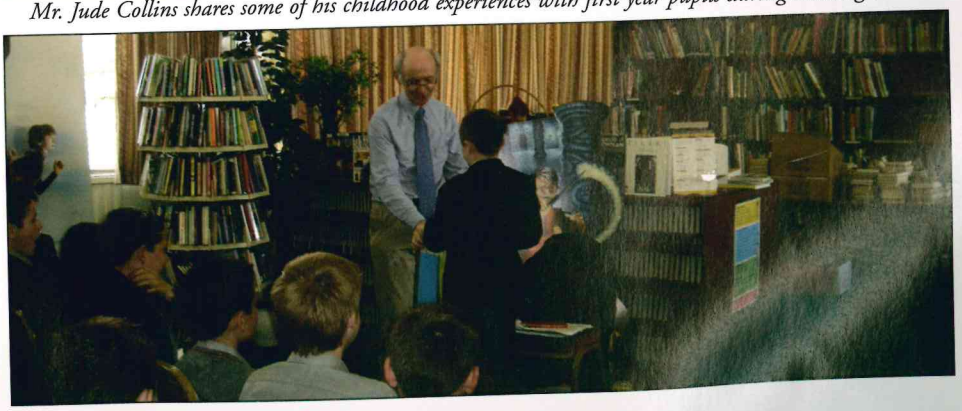
A successful library quiz was also organised for the duration of the week with book tokens awarded to prize-winners in Years 8, 9 and 10. The winners were: Gerard Watters, Donard 1; Owen Carlisle, Slemish 1; Niall Cunningham, Oriel 2; Eamon Murphy, Oriel 2; Rory O'Brien, Oriel 3 and Karl Heaney, Donard 3.

Students also produced colourful and attractive posters and bookmarks promoting reading week, with individual teachers rewarding the best work with prizes.

The highlight of the week was undoubtedly the visit of author and media contributor Jude Collins. Jude spoke to a number of classes about his experiences of reading, writing and school and also read a number of entertaining and witty extracts from a selection of his short stories. The boys then quizzed Jude on a range of issues, mostly revolving around how much money he made from writing!



Mr. Jude Collins shares some of his childhood experiences with first year pupils during Reading Week



Annual Trip to London a resounding success

Just some of the memories staff and pupils shared on their stay in London

My trip started on the 10th of March at 3.00am. I got up and had my breakfast, I was so excited. I gathered my luggage and proceeded to the school for 3.45am. All my friends were there in the dark. The anticipation was unreal. I had never been to London before so I didn't know what to expect. The bus arrived at the school and we all put our luggage on the bus. We piled on and made our way to Dublin airport. When we arrived at approximately 5.45am we immediately collected our luggage from the back of the bus and went directly to the check-in desk for Ryanair.

I could feel the excitement starting to get more thrilling. Eventually we started to fly.

At 9.30am we arrived in London, collected our bags and then got into the groups that we were told to go into.

My guardian for the next few days was Willy the caretaker.

We walked to the front of the airport to meet the bus that took us to view the sights of London, like Buckingham Palace, Big Ben and then we had lunch in Mc Donald's restaurant. In the afternoon we went to see Madam Tussaud's Wax Museum; it was good 'craic'. I got to make a waxy hand in the Down county colours, red at the top and black at the bottom.

We got our dinner in an Italian restaurant which I did not enjoy, because I don't like Italian food, but the next few hours made up for the disappointing food. We then went to see THE LION KING. I had never experienced anything like this before. The atmosphere, the music, the acting were all excellent and I would recommend this show to everyone.

The first day was almost over and by this stage I was feeling pretty tired as I had been going from 3.00am that morning. Eventually we got to the youth hostel where we were staying and it was now bed time- such bliss!

I slept in a room with my cousin John and friend Conrad; we played a few card games and then fell asleep.

The next morning we got up and had our breakfast in the youth hostel; I had bacon, egg and toast. The day was planned out for us to go and visit the RAF Museum and the Natural History Museum and this took up most of the day, approximately 5 hours. Then it was teatime, I had chicken and chips which I enjoyed much more than the previous night's meal. We then went to the Namco Centre which was absolutely brilliant; although you had to watch you money as this was a well known spot for pick pocketing.

I was looking forward to the next day; it was a visit to Hamley's Toy Store, and it was like a wonderland for all age groups. I bought a few gifts to take home and spent most of my time in the games room with John and Conrad.

The day was coming to an end and it was now time to proceed to the bus to visit Covent Garden where we bought some joke objects (all too rude to mention).

The bus was waiting to take us back to the airport as it was now 4.30pm and we should be getting prepared to meet our families again.

When we checked in at the airport I rang home and explained to my mother that I would be home in Newry at 1.00am. I arrived home at exactly 1.00am TIRED AND EXHAUSTED, but I enjoyed every minute of it, and would recommend this trip to any new first years.

FERGAL McEVOY
ORIEL 1

BANK OF IRELAND MACRORY CUP QUARTER FINAL

ABBEY BOYS FAIL TO OVERCOME OMAGH CBS IN A CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE DOUR KIND

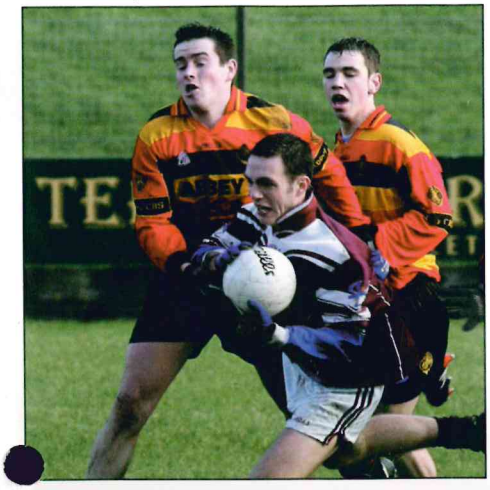
OMAGH CBS **0-7**
ABBEY CBS, NEWRY **1-3**

A goal in the last minute by Abbey's Stephen Quinn wasn't enough to get the Newry school into the hat for the next round of this year's Bank of Ireland MacRory Cup. Omagh CBS greeted the final whistle with relief at a wet and windy Monaghan Harps ground with their Christian Brothers' opponents pushing for the equaliser in this low key quarter final match. The Newry school shall be disappointed as they won more possession than Omagh CBS but a combination of not converting this possession into scores and poor passing in the final third of the field led to their downfall.

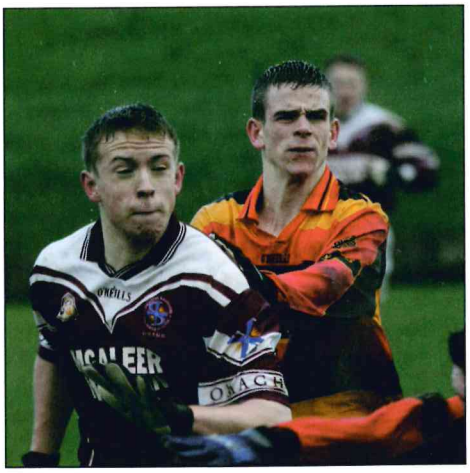
The game started with the Abbey captain and Ulster Colleges Hurling Allstar, Eoin McGuinness, leading the way and pointing the opening score after driving forward from midfield. Then Omagh got three unanswered points. The first was from Shaun O'Neill after determined work by Cathir Tierney. This was followed by a good team effort out of the Omagh defence that led to Kevin Gallagher in full forward latching onto a point. Abbey's Kevin Dyas, at centre half back, was beginning to show why he has been an Armagh county minor for the last two years with his ability to break down moves and set up attacks for his own team.

As the weather conditions deteriorated both teams, to their credit, battled with the elements. Mistakes were made on both sides as passes went astray and balls skidded on the greasy surface. Nippy corner forward Shane Coyle gave the Tyrone school a two point cushion when he gathered a ball that had slid under his marker and with only the 'keeper to beat blasted the ball over the bar. The Abbey forward line was re-organised and Stephen Quinn pointed the last score of the half after good work by his team mate Seamus Toner.

Half time score Omagh CBS 0-3 v Abbey CBS, Newry 0-2.



Omagh started the second half stronger and scored a point in the first minute when their big midfielder and Ulster Colleges' Allstar Sean O'Neill latched onto a ball following inter-passing from Shaun O'Neill and Kevin Gallagher. Silverbridge's Gerard McGarvey pulled a point back for the Abbey before Gallagher got onto a pass that had been fielded by Tierney in the middle. Another one of Omagh's three football Allstars, Stephen Donaghy, playing in full forward, pointed a free to give the Tyrone school a three point lead.



Midway through the second half Michael McAllister in the Abbey goals pulled off a great save from Omagh's Conor McCullagh, diving at his feet to put the ball around the post. Burren's Kevin McKernan was trying to drag his school back into the match with his display in midfield. The Ulster Colleges' Football Allstar won possession for the Abbey as he fielded numerous balls under pressure from his opponents.

Omagh CBS moved into a four point lead in the last ten minutes when their captain Ronan McRory scored the school's last point from twenty metres. Rather than continue to attack, Omagh pulled players back to defend their lead and this nearly cost them the game as the Abbey pushed forward to get that elusive goal. In this thrilling period numerous balls were lobbed into the Omagh square but each time they were either blocked or cleared by a stubborn defence. Defenders like Hugh Gallagher, John Cassidy, Joey Kelly and Dean O'Neill were not giving up their lead without a fight.

With five minutes left Abbey's Stephen Quinn missed an important close-in free, but he made up for his miss a few minutes later when Dyas passed to him and 'soccer style' he danced around a few defenders and slotted the ball low into the net in the final minute. Much as they tried to get another score, the Newry school were out of time – the goal had come too late.

Omagh must raise their game for a semi-final against either St. Michael's, Enniskillen or St. Patrick's, Maghera as another performance like this shall not be good enough to get a day out on St. Patrick's Day in Casement Park in the final. Although they shall be satisfied that 'the job was done' they know that it was too close for comfort and that if the Abbey had possessed more scoring forwards then the result could have been different.

Teams and scorers:

Abbey CBS Newry: Michael McAllister, Mark Digney, Darren Fegan, Rory Grant, Robert Ryan, Kevin Dyas, Darren Rowland, Kevin McKernan, Eoin McGuinness, Captain(0-1), Stephen Quinn(1-1), Cathal Magee, Padraig McGahon, Seamus Grant, Gerard McGarvey(0-1), Seamus Toner. Subs used: Ruairi Cunningham and Brendan Allen.

Omagh CBS: Kerill Winters, Hugh Gallagher, John Cassidy, Joey Kelly, Dean O'Neill, Brendan Martin, Mel Cassidy, Sean O'Neill(0-1), Cathir Tierney, Conal McCullagh, Ronan McRory, Captain(0-1), Shaun O'Neill(0-1), Shane Coyle(0-1), Kevin Gallagher(0-2), Stephen Donaghy(0-1). Subs used: Conor O'Donnell and Cathal McCarron.

Referee: Michael Convery, Derry.

ALL STARS ARE WE

Eoin and Kevin cover themselves with honour

First Ever Hurling All Star For Abbey CBS

Forward: Eoin McGuinness

School – Abbey Grammar, Newry

Club : Newry Shamrocks

Eoin has been playing Hurling for 10 years.

Achievements:

- Represented Down at U-16 and Minor
- Vice-captain of Down Minor
- U-12 South Down League and Championship winners
- U-14 South Down League winners
- U-16 South Down Championship winners
- U-14 Féilé 'B' Winners
- All Ireland Feile Finalist Divison 4
- Right-corner forward : Eoin McGuinness

Eoin has represented Down at U-16 and Minor level and was vice-captain of the Minor team last year. With his club he holds under 12 South Down league & championship medals, under 14 league, under 16 championship and a Down Féile na nGael B medal. Eoin is Captain of the Abbey CBS MacRory Cup team.

Centre-half forward: Kevin McKernan

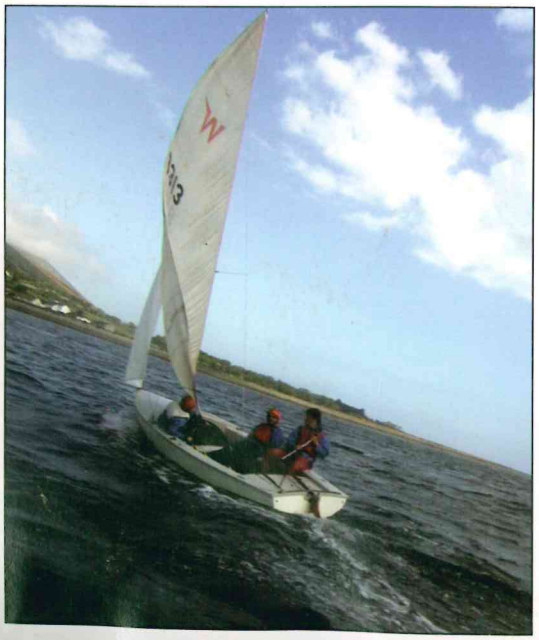
School – Abbey Grammar, Newry

Club – St. Mary's, Burren

Kevin (a lower Sixth student) is the 38th Abbey player to receive a football All Star and the 39th player to receive one overall in the 1[illegible] years of the Ulster Colleges GAA All Stars.He follows fellow Burren team mate, James McGovern, who also won a football all star at Full Forward last year. With Burren, Kevin has represented his club at minor, U-21 and Senior level. He has won an U-21 South Down Championship and in the same year helped his club reserve team to a county championship title. He is also an U-14 South Down League Winner.

Kevin is a current Mid Field player with the Abbey MacRory team. Last year he was sub goalkeeper.He was also called onto the Down Minor panel in 2004 and has been a member of the Down Development squads since U-14 level.His father is Brendan McKernan who played on the Down senior All-Ireland winning team of 1991.

KILLOWEN MAY 2005



In May 2005 a group of third year pupils went to the Killowen Outdoor Pursuits Centre for a weekend along with Mr McCullough and Mr O'Neill .

A range of activities is on offer there including rock climbing, abseiling, hill walking, canoeing, wet and dry bouldering, traversing, football and sailing .

Third Years are given the opportunity to experience these activities and the venue varies from year to year- last year we went to Shannaghmore near Newcastle which also proved very popular with our boys .

Here are some pictures giving you a small flavour of what is on offer at the Centre.

A small flavour of what the Abbey pupils enjoy every year at the Killowen Outdoor Pursuits Centre. All pupils are advised to book early with organising teacher Mr. P. O'Neill.