



Old Portora News 2011.

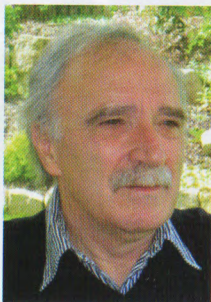


Schools' Head of the River Race 2011



President's letter

Dear Old Portorans,



It is now almost a year since I had the honour of taking over the Presidency from Robert Northridge and one of the pleasures has

been meeting Old Portorans at the various functions organised in Belfast, Dublin and Enniskillen. I look forward to a similar round of events in the coming year.

We are all indebted to our small but enthusiastic committee for organising such events and keeping the Union moving forward. Robert Northridge, our secretary, is the main 'driver' ably assisted by Ian Crawford, David Hassard, Hamish Logan and James Pattison. We should remember that they all give freely of their time and indeed bear their own expenses in service to the Union.

As you will see from the accounts 2010 has been a quiet year in terms

of contributions to the school but we have already committed £3000 this year to help fund sports equipment and coaching with more to come. Our only source of income is, of course, from those members who have converted to annual membership and we are grateful to all those who have.

The committee realises that one of the difficulties in the past has been communications with members and improvements in this area should be our aim in the coming year. To date we have relied mainly on mail shots which are both costly and time consuming and this obviously reduces the frequency of contact considerably. Email has been used more and more but on an ad hoc basis. We now intend to survey each year to build up an email address database.

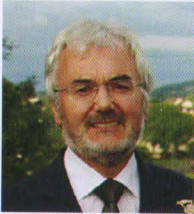
We also intend to have a permanent Union response available at the school for both mail and email.

Roy McMullen



Headmaster's letter

Academic Achievements



We started this academic year as one of the top schools in the north. Our public examination results were outstanding and our students

have achieved individual results of the highest order in school and university. Last week, it seemed that every day brought good news:



Paul Johnston was the top candidate at A level technology and design in NI (CCEA) while Ross Chapman achieved the third highest mark in the same subject. To have

two of the three top A level students in any one year is a truly amazing achievement for any school

- Jonathan Wilson achieved the second highest mark in Biology. Jonathan represented Ireland in the Chemistry Olympiad in Tokyo during the summer: one of five students to be selected through a rigorous procedure.
- At GCSE, Nathan Brunt achieved full marks in NICCEA GCSE Art, thus ranking first equal in Northern Ireland.
- James Saunderson, after a remark in one subject, joins Henry Millar as having achieved 11 subjects at A* at GCSE.

- At the graduation ceremony of Harper Adams University – the UK's centre of excellence for rural economy – of the 600 students who graduated, four were Portorans. Between them they claimed four of the major academic awards – nearly 10% of all academic awards made in 2010.

I regularly receive good news of this sort: Portorans do well at university. This year we were delighted to hear of Alan Irvine and Iain Snoddy (left 2008) both winning Trinity Scholarships and of William Melanophy coming top of his class at the end of his first year studying mechanical engineering at Queen's University.

This year, Andrew Riddles has been made a conditional offer to St. John's College, Oxford to read Bio-chemistry and Eoghain Ellis has been accepted to study Languages at Oxford from September 2011. Eoghain achieved two A* and one A at A level in August but deferred his entry to University in order to teach English in our partner school in Lyons this term.

A Level and GCSE Results 2010

Our students excelled themselves in this year's examinations and placed the school in the very top group of high performing schools in the north.

At A level, over 91% of the students achieved at least three A levels at grades A*-C, producing the best results in the school's recent history. None of these results were the result of Double Award inflation where students



undertake a vocational qualification in a subject which is accredited as two A levels. A particular statistic of which the school is proud is the high percentage – 21% - of A* at A level grades.

There were exceptional individual A level performances from Andrew Morrison and Paul Johnston both of whom achieved four A* grades while Head Prefect James Houston achieved three grades at A*. Both Andrew and James played for the school's 1st XV while James was also a star of the Mount Lourdes production of Grease. Indeed, it is extremely gratifying that so many of our top academic performers are active in the busy extra-curricular activities offered at the school.

GCSE students also produced the best results for a generation with 99% achieving at least 7 GCSEs at grades A*-C.

Sporting And Extra Curricular Achievements

Rugby



The Rugby Club began the season with a line-up of coaches. Mr Dempster is Director of Rugby, Mr Adrian Walker, an Ulster Branch Development Officer (and a senior player), has been appointed Rugby Development Officer and is assisted in that role by



Mr Ross Finlay who holds a range of coaching qualifications. Teachers who continue to be involved are Dr Wilson and Mr McClure Mr Drennan and Mr Beddard. We continue to be supported by the Rugby Parents' Support Group and we are very grateful for their encouragement and the hard work they undertake in the background. On Saturday 5th February they held a very successful Wine and Cheese Night which raised a magnificent £1887.20. The Junior Rugby Club went on tour in December. Despite the threat of snow, ice and extreme cold, Mr Clarke and Mr Finlay led their team to Bedford School to renew the friendships established during the first leg of the fixture at Portora. The coaches, pupils and their parents have expressed great appreciation of the hospitality extended to the team when they visited Fermanagh earlier in the term. The hospitality was warmly returned even





if the weather meant that a game of rugby was not possible.

During the half-term break, Mr Dempster and Mr Walker led the senior rugby squad on a training break to Belfast. Over two days the team trained and played a game against a Harlequin's youth team which they won comfortably (despite the driving rain). It is a very young squad, lacking experience and the usual Fermanagh bulk, but the players displayed great gusto and discipline. The referee of the match wrote to me congratulating the players on their good manners and demeanour on and off the pitch.

The first outing of the 1st XV in the Schools' Cup (2nd Round) took place on the 15th January at home against Larne Grammar School. Unfortunately, we lost a tightly contested competitive game. However, the team was then faced with the challenge of the trophy competition and won the quarter-finals against Antrim Grammar School at Antrim. The following week, the team hosted Wellington College and continued their winning ways. The final was played on the 3rd March at Dungannon Rugby Club against Omagh Academy and Portora won its first schools rugby trophy in several generations by 24-5.

The Senior Squad competed in a prestigious schools' tournament against some of the top public schools last weekend (12th March) at the home of London- Scottish where they. I believe this invitation came about through the agency of an OP active in that club.

Individual successes this season have been registered by Charlie Sargaison and Rory Gibson. Charlie was on the squad of the Ulster Schools' U19 team and was subsequently selected to represent Ulster against Munster at that age-group while Rory was a member of the Ulster schools' U18 squad.

Football

Andrew Nevin, Jack Milligan and Gareth Carrothers all represented the county (once again) in football. Andrew and Jack have already represented NI at Youth level. Both U19 and U16 teams were entered in the Schools' Championships this year.

Rowing

Matthew Monteith, Mark Coalter, Henry Millar, James Byrne and Alex O'Reilly all represented Ireland. Matthew rowed in the European Junior Championships in Belgium where he finished 9th. Mark, Henry, James and Alex all rowed in the Home Countries Internationals, achieving 2nd.

In the Irish Championships in Cork in July, the Boys' 1st 8 finished in 3rd place as did the Boys' J16 8.



Sculler



Trinity Winners with coaches

As the top rower in his age group in Northern Ireland, Matthew Monteith won an Emo Sports Award, an award sponsored by the oil company in partnership with the Mary Peters trust. The season opened with the Limerick Head of the River on the 5th February. Portora had two boats entered with Matthew Monteith, Lloyd Seaman, Henry Millar and Cormac McLaughlin winning the division with 10.37, one of the fastest times of the day. Gary Thornton, Alex McElroy, Rory Elton and Alex O'Reilly came in 2nd overall in 11.09. Matthew Monteith and Lloyd Seaman convincingly won the double sculls category, beating several fast crews, including Irish champions Skibbereen. The national junior men's scullers was incorporated into this day of racing and Portora excelled. Matthew finished 3rd with all eight Portora boys in the top 20. The girls mirrored the success of the boys: in her category Holly Nixon recorded the fastest time of the day beating all the senior athletes and some

30 seconds clear of the next fastest junior woman. Our junior Women's 4 took on a strong crew from Methodist College over a 3.5 Km course. The judges couldn't separate the two crews at the end with both of them recording a time of 12.10, winning the category. Portora will be in the mix for multiple Irish vests in the summer.

The Portora Rowing Club jointly won the Fermanagh Junior team of the Year with Holly Nixon picking up the Junior Sports Personality Award in the Fermanagh Sports Advisory Awards. At the Erne Head on the 12th March, Portora won two sections, the men's and women's J4. The school was at the London Head on the 17th March.



Pair



Athletics

Jordan Hylton followed a win in the Ulster Schools' 100m in June with first place in the All-Ireland Age Groups Championships at Tullamore in July. He is the first Ulster Schools' Track Champion from Portora in many generations and is the recipient of an Ulster Sports Council award for outstanding achievement in Athletics.

Jordan Robert Baloucoue (Year 9) dominated their age groups at the Sportshall Athletics competition in December. Jordan, the Ulster schools' and Irish Age Group Champion, won three events and Robert, runner-up in last year's Ulster School's Cross Country, won two events. Jordan won the Athlete of the Day award. Both athletes reprised their successes for the Fermanagh team on the 3rd February and helped Fermanagh to reach the finals to be held in Belfast later this term. Jordan was selected to represent Irish Schools at a schools' international event in Cardiff at the end of January and finished second in the 60m.

In February he won the N Irish U15 60m title.

Tennis and Table Tennis

Both Stephen Slater and Connor Donaldson continued to perform at the highest level in their varieties of tennis. Conor had a series of notable wins in championships throughout the season and Stephen was once again selected to represent NI in the inter-counties' Youth Games.

Duke of Edinburgh

In June a number of students were involved in a very successful Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award expedition in the Bluestacks in County Donegal. This involved planning a route, walking for three days and camping for two nights. They were highly commended by the expedition assessor. They were: Neill Allen, Rory Gibson, Aaron Johnston, Lee Wilson, Daniel Keys, Ryan Kells, Tristan Jones, Adam Davison and John McClaughry.

Music

For the second successive year Kristan Swain was invited to the Sir James Galway Summer School held in Switzerland for outstanding young flautists. Unsurprisingly, Kristan achieved an A* in GCSE Music.

The Annual Performing Arts Showcase was held at the Ardhowen Theatre on Thursday 20th January 2011.

With our four years of specialist status coming to an end in June, our artists, film-makers, actors and musicians presented a showcase of some of the creative work being developed in the school. The evening was an enormous success and a great testimony to the creativity and commitment of the students and their teachers. Many of our performers took part in the Feis this month. I offer you the results as a picture of the range – and quality – of our provision in the creative and performing arts:



Instrumental Solo Categories

Grades 3 & 4, 1st place, Ryan Fallis, Piano

Grades 5 & 6, Highly Commended,
Ryan Moffitt, Cornet

Grades 7 & 8, 1st place, Ashley Elliott,
Xylophone, 2nd place, Jonathan Beatty,
Piano

Best Pianist Of Festival

Jonathan Beatty

Best Instrumentalist Of Festival,

Ashley Elliott

Ensemble Categories

String Trio, 2nd place, Jonathan Beatty,
William Carrothers, James Wallace

Solo Jazz Category

Tied 1st place, Ryan Morrison, Drums
3rd place, Usna McErlane

Jazz Ensemble Category

1st place, The Rocksters

Best Instrumental Ensemble Of Festival

The Rocksters

Vocal Categories

Vocal Solo, KS3 *1st place, Samuel
Watson

Pop Solo, * 3rd place, Andrew Irwin

Drama

The Year 11 GCSE class took part in the annual commemorations of Holocaust Memorial Day at the Castle Museums. They performed four pieces of drama focusing on the untold stories of the Holocaust: the kindness of strangers, miraculous escapes and the horrors of T4 medical experiments. They were praised by the audience of pupils from other secondary schools and the guest speaker, a holocaust survivor, for their sensitive and moving portrayal of these issues.

Members of the **Rowing Club** continue in their efforts to raise sufficient funds for a new boat house. Fund raising has been ongoing for some time under the innovative direction of Mr Robert Northridge. We have reason to be grateful to several Old Portorans for their generosity.

Development Plan

Given our curriculum development, the fine examination outcomes and our commitment to support regular and rich extra-curricular activities, the Board of Governors has decided to publish a development plan aimed at extending opportunities to succeed in this broad range of endeavour. We have decided to cluster some of our creative subjects and offer access to them under different criteria from the traditional academic menu. If a student wishes to study a combination of academic – or general - subjects, for instance, the Sciences and Maths, Geography, History, Literature or MFL, then our existing entry requirements remain the same. If, on the other hand, a student would like to study a cluster of our creative and expressive subjects such as Art, Performing Arts, The Moving Image, iMedia and ICT with a specific career pathway in mind, then the entry criteria given priority will be evidence of commitment and success in these subjects. We would anticipate that these choices would be available to all young people who wish to study post-16 at Portora, regardless of gender. To that end, the Board of Governors has commenced a consultation process within the community in advance of submitting a development proposal to the WELB and DENI for Portora to become co-educational, initially at post-16.



Obituaries

Mrs. E.M. Benson (1957-78 S)

Mrs. Eirene Benson died in Enniskillen on 28 May 2010 aged 95. Her funeral took place in Enniskillen Cathedral and it was attended by many Old Portorans. In the unavoidable absence of Canon Desmond Kingston (OP), Robert Northridge (OP) gave an appreciation of her life and contribution to the community in Fermanagh and Portora.

J.T. Bloomfield (1940-45 C)

of Carrickfergus died in July 2008.

Cecil N. G. Bruce (1945-48 C) Cecil Bruce died in Lisburn on 16 April 2010.

M.W. (Willie) Cathcart (1933-35 C)

passed away peacefully at his home, Benaughlin Park, Enniskillen on 12 August 2010 aged 91 years. Willie left Portora to work on the farm at Killycramphand continued to do so all his working life. From Portora Willie got his love of sport: rugby, cricket and badminton. He was a keen watcher of sport all his life. He was predeceased by his brothers Alfie and Noble and is survived by his wife Florence and by his nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Sheila Chillingworth, widow of D.A..R. Chillingworth (Staff), died in Belfast on 13 August 2010.

R. Francis (1934-42 C) Robert Francis passed away on 16 February 2010.

Dr. John Barrington FitzSimons (1933-37 U) Dr. John Barrington FitzSimons passed away on the 23rd

March 2008 in his 89th year. He lived in Bantry, Co. Cork as a young boy and went to Portora from 1931 until 1935. From there he went to Trinity College, Dublin where he won a "pink" for outstanding sports excellence. He qualified in medicine, worked in the Adelaide Hospital in Dublin before going to Pontypool in South Wales to work as a G.P. from 1942. There, he met his wife, Mary, and they lived there until he retired at the early age of 55 when he and Mary moved to Kinsale, Co. Cork. They both enjoyed fishing, gardening, golf, badminton and sailing for many years. He is survived by Mary and their two "children" Robert and Patricia.

G.F. Good (1933-37 C) The Very Rev. George Good died in the spring of 2010. He had been Dean of Derry and his funeral took place in Portnoo where he had been rector.

Richard Keatinge (1960-65 C) (Dublin) died in February 2008.



Kevin McElderry (1977-84U) Kevin McElderry died on July 21, 2010, after a courageous two-year battle with



cancer, aged 44. He was AFP's former Asia-Pacific news editor. Acknowledged as one of the agency's finest writers and editors, he joined AFP in Paris in 1995.

Born in Nigeria, but really a native of Northern Ireland, he worked in Paris, Berlin, London and Hong Kong and undertook many reporting missions further afield.

Highlights of his reporting career included accompanying Tony Blair to the US presidential retreat at Camp David, recounting the death pangs of the Mobutu regime in Zaire, covering the election of Pope Benedict XVI, the assassination of Benazir Bhutto and following the case of the German cannibal who escaped a murder conviction because his victim had agreed to be eaten. Kevin, who attended Portora with his twin brother Dermot, left Northern Ireland in 1984 to study French and German at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne. There, he met his future wife and fellow French and German undergraduate, Ailsa, whom he married in 1991. After graduation he spent a year as a language assistant in Rostock, GDR, then completed his NCTJ training before starting his journalism career on the Kettering Evening Telegraph and subsequently joining wire agencies in Leeds and Newcastle and AFP in Paris. For three years from 2006, he was Hong Kong-based news editor and deputy editor-in-chief for the Asia-Pacific region. Diagnosed with cancer while in Hong Kong, he continued to work during treatment, including after

his return to Paris in 2009. Known in the agency for his great writing style, kindness - chipping in with suggestions when someone missed something and forgiving when they slipped up - and sense of humour - including his less-than-credible claim that he always tried hard to avoid exercise and non-essential work - he is survived by his wife, Ailsa and their two children, Sophie and Tristan. AFP created a website in his memory which can be found at: kevinmcderry.wordpress.com

J.T. McConnell (1954-59 C) James McConnell died on 11 March 2008. His wife Maxine wrote to say that this ends her long association with Portora; her late father Roger H. J. McNeill and her late step-father Edward I. Johnston both enjoyed their days at Portora.

D.B. McNeill, MSc, PhD, F Inst P, TD (1923-30) "DB" died peacefully on the morning of Sunday 8th August at Movilla House Nursing Home in his 100th year after a short illness. Until his last days he remembered every detail of his seven years at Portora and he could recall members of staff who had come to Portora in the 1880s and for many years he was a supporter of both the Rugby and Rowing Clubs at Portora. He rowed on the first four and, after going up to Queen's University, Belfast was a founder member of the Boat Club becoming captain in 1932. After completing his PhD he joined the staff of University College, Southampton in 1938 where he had a distinguished academic career, interrupted by the war



in which he served in the Royal Corps of Signals, until he retired in 1971. In 1974, on the death of his brother Sean, he became chairman of the McNeill Group which had been founded by his father early in the 20th century. He was a man of many interests; physics, rowing, transport, military matters, and the Church. He wrote two volumes on Irish steamships and three transport handbooks produced by the Ulster Museum where he served on the Board of Trustees, becoming Chairman between 1978 and 1983. A memorial service for "DB" was held on 2nd October 2010 in Newtownards; it was attended by over 200 people including several Old Portorans.

Peter Ross Todd (1947-54 C) died in Canada in December 2010.

R. S. Swan (1938-41 C) Robert S. Swan has died.

Dr Timothy Webb (L 1948-52) died on 10th October 2009. After Portora, he studied science and got a PhD in Trinity and an MA in Cambridge. He went on to work as a brewer for Arthur Guinness in breweries in Dublin, Waterford, Dundalk and Kuala Lumpur. He then joined Allied Breweries in Burton-on-Trent and finished as Director of Research and Quality Control at the Tetley Brewery in Warrington. On retirement he returned to Dublin and was for five years Secretary of his local golf club. Four years ago he was diagnosed with cancer and he passed away peacefully at the age of 74.

James Wilson (1930-33 M) James Wilson of Boltown House, Kells, Co. Meath has died.

William Wilson (c1968-75) has died in Clogher. After leaving Portora he was employed by the Ulster Bank before moving to R.A. Noble, auctioneers and estate agents. He is survived by his wife Maeve and daughter Heidi.

Marriages

Mark Stockdale (1994-01 M) Mark Stockdale married Eloise Wilson in Enniskillen Methodist Church on 3rd April 2010.

News Items



L-R: Bishop Sam Poyntz, Archbishop Michael Jackson, Former Archbishop Walton Empey and Bishop David Chillingworth, Primos of the Episcopal Church of Scotland.

M. G. St. A. Jackson (1967-74 U) Michael Jackson, Bishop of Clogher and Chair of the Board of Governors of Portora, was elected Archbishop of Dublin on 1st February 2011 and was enthroned in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin on 8 May 2011. His enthronement was attended by Old Portoran bishops David Chillingworth, Walton Empey and Sam Poyntz. After leaving Portora Archbishop Jackson



had distinguished academic careers at Trinity College, Dublin and St. John's College, Cambridge. He held various positions before becoming Chaplain at Christ Church College, Oxford in 1989, and in 1997 he was appointed Incumbent of St Fin Barre's Union and Dean of Cork, before becoming Bishop of Clogher in 2002.

Charlie Altekruise (1972-73) lives in the USA and writes "Just returned from Boston where I competed with the 1980 US Olympic 8+ in the Head of the Charles. It is a fabulous fall head regatta and this boat has been returning for 30 straight years now (only now we compete in the Masters division)."

Richard Bolster (1951-55 L) has retired from his post as Senior Lecturer in French in the University of Bristol, and lives in that city. After Portora he did a B.A. in TCD, followed by a doctorate in the University of Paris, and then taught for some years in the University of Kano, Nigeria. His most recent book is: Marie d'Agoult, the Rebel Countess, published by Yale University Press. It is an account of the life of a French aristocrat who eloped with Franz Liszt.

George Brownlee (1991-98 U) also featured in an article in the Impartial Reporter in December 2010. George, a qualified vet, has developed new software which enables farmers to record and analyse information about their animals.

S. Caswell (1992-99 M) Stephen and his band "The Lowly Knights" have launched their third EP; it is entitled "The Even Keel". The band has had a number of dates as support for Snow Patrol.



Marshall Coalter (1971-77 C) met Olympic sculler and Coleraine man Alan Campbell at a recent reception in Stormont. Marshall's son Mark (2003-10 C), together with Andrew Little (2003-10) is part of the very successful rowing squad at Queen's University, Belfast and they won a silver medal in the British Universities Championships in Nottingham in May 2011.

Michael Graham (2002-09 L) Michael acted the part of Manus in Brian Friel's play "Translations" which was put on by Barbarian Productions in Oxford in May 2010.



Neil Hannon (1982-89 U) In April 2010, Neil Hannon of Divine Comedy was nominated, along with Thomas Walsh, for the Ivor Novello Award for the best Album Prize. The nomination was for the album entitled "The Duckworth Lewis Method" which includes a tale of "The Ball of the Century" bowled by Shane Warne to dismiss Mike Gatting in the 1993 Ashes.

Bryan Kee (1984-91 M) has been appointed Head of the 1200 pupil Larkhall Academy in Lanarkshire in Scotland. The school is a non-denominational local authority secondary school for boys and girls aged 11-17.

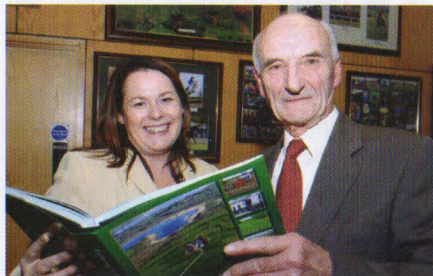
Sam McGredy (1942-48 C) wrote from New Zealand reminiscing about his English Speaking Union trip to the USA in 1948 where he stayed with his old Headmaster, Ian Stuart, who was director of student guidance at Mercersberg Academy in Pennsylvania. Sam left Ireland in 1972 and his grandchildren have been heavily involved in rowing at Auckland grammar School and Epsom Girls' School.

John Maxwell (1946-54 L) was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List. He received the award for voluntary services to education in Northern Ireland.

Tom Molyneux (1946-54 U) wrote recalling the building of the Boathouse Slipway in the early 1950s. Under

George Andrew's direction, the work was done by boys using tools brought from Derrygore in a whaler donated to Portora by the American Armed Forces after WW2.

John Nevin (1960-67 M) was awarded the OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 2010. John has recently retired from his post as Assistant Director of Operations (Benefits Assurance), Social Security Agency.



Agricultural Minister, Michelle Gildernew, with Sam Morrow at his book launch.

(Photo courtesy of the Fermanagh Herald.)

S.B. Morrow (1949-55 M), vice-chairman of the Board of Governors, launched his new book entitled "Farming in County Fermanagh, Development in the Twentieth Century", at a well attended ceremony in the Enniskillen Campus of CAFRE on 8 November 2010.

S.L. Ross (1956-62 L) Leslie Ross was tasked by the NI Government with co-ordinating the Government's response to the situation at Quinn Insurance. Neill Jardine (???) has been returned to the position of Treasurer of the Irish Football Association.



Nigel Scollan (M 1977-84) Professor Nigel Scollan of Aberystwyth University is the new President of the British Society of Animal Science.

Trevor Whittaker (1965-72 U) Professor Trevor Whittaker was featured in a long article in the Impartial Reporter in December 2010. The article described how he was pioneering new developments in wave energy.

John Michael [Mike] Creery (1961-66 U) Correspondence between Ian Crawford and Desmond Creery, an Old Portoran now in his 90th year and living in Guernsey, brings us news of his son Mike's long, and very distinguished career in distance running in Canada.

Mike was born in London in September 1947 and began running when at Prep School in Belfast showing promise and winning races from the early age of seven. Not surprising really, since his grandfather had been a British universities champion and his father a university athlete.

He attended Portora in early 1960's and he won national representation as a school boy. After Portora, although always involved in running at club level in Cheltenham and Bristol, he concentrated on qualifying as a chartered accountant.

He married in 1971 and immigrated to Vancouver in 1972 where he became involved in serious running and training again with the Vancouver Olympic Club, concentrating mainly on cross-country running. He also had some

success on the track winning various British Columbian championships but it was not until he teamed up with the renowned coach Ivor Davies that road running, and the marathon in particular, became his main interest.

Mike's training regime was increased to 80/100 miles per week and his first major road success was winning the 1975 Lions Gate 20-mile race in a good time of 1:49:00. More hard work followed and in 1977 he came 2nd in the Vancouver marathon in 2:24:00.

The team then set their sights on the 1980 Olympics with a three-year plan and training twice a day for the first time in his life became the norm. A bad knee injury just at the wrong time in 1979 left him with only ten weeks to get an Olympic qualifying time. With only a solo 20 mile time trial behind him Mike entered the New Orleans marathon in February 1980 and in spite of it being run in below freezing conditions, and nursing a groin injury all the way, he shattered his best time to date with 2:14:32.

He was selected by Canada for the Moscow Olympics on the basis of this run only to learn the next month there would be an international boycott of the games. It was a cruel blow after so much hard work and even though he is still listed as an 'Olympian' by the Canadian Olympic Association it must have been cold comfort!

Mike soon gave up full marathon running but continued to run 10 and 20K's at both individual and representative levels and moved into the 'Masters' category [40 years+] in 1987. In the early 90's he



was still in the top six in the world in the 45/49 year category.

The last press report we have available was from 1994 when at the age of 47 he finished 28th out of 4500 in a 10K in Victoria. His son Mark obviously inherited the Creery running genes – he finished 21st in the same race!

His coach Ivor Davies said of him – ‘He’s the most determined athlete I’ve ever met. He would never quit, but he uses his common sense. And he’s most disciplined’



Mike Creery



Desmond Creery

Academic News

Christopher Armstrong (2000-07 C) has graduated from Queen’s University, Belfast with a Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Zoology. He is now proceeding to a Masters Degree.

Christopher Barrett (1999-06 C) has graduated from the University of Newcastle with a Masters of Engineering with first class honours in Mechanical and Automotive Engineering.

Gavin Bell (1998-05 L) has graduated from the University of Newcastle with a Bachelor of Dental Surgery with Honours. He also won the British Dental Association Prize for the best performance in the final examinations. He is currently working for the Newcastle-upon-Tyne NHS Hospital Trust.

Darryl Boyd (1999-06 U) has graduated from Harper Adams University College with a BSc Honours degree (2:1) in Agriculture and Mechanisation. He has taken up a position with Foyle Meats.

Jason Collum (2000-07 M) has graduated from the University of Newcastle with a BSc Honours degree in Natural Sciences.

Mark Crawford (1999-06 U) has graduated from Queen’s University, Belfast with a Masters of Engineering (MEng) First Class Honours. He is currently working on civil engineering projects in Scotland.

Clive Donaldson (2000-07 U) has graduated from Queen’s University, Belfast with a Bachelor of Science Honours degree (2:1) in Geography. He is now proceeding to a Masters Degree in Environmental Management.

Richard Duncan (2000-07 L) has graduated from the University of Ulster, Jordanstown with a Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Sociology and Criminology (2:1).



Alan Irvine (2001-08 C) and **Iain Snoddy (2006-08 M)** were both made Scholars of Trinity College, Dublin on Easter Monday 2010. Alan is studying Engineering and Iain is studying Economics. Alistair Irvine has graduated from the University of Warwick with a PhD in Mathematical Biology with Biophysical Chemistry. He has taken up a position with Nanyang Technology University, Singapore as a Research Fellow in the School of Biological Sciences.

Richard Jackson (1998-05 M) has graduated from the University of Glasgow with a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery degree. He was also awarded the McCall Award for being the most distinguished in Veterinary Clinical studies.

Dean Johnston (2000-07 U) has graduated from the University of Ulster, Belfast with a BA (Hons) degree in Architecture (2:1).

Lloyd Loane (2002-07 U) has graduated from the University of Ulster, Coleraine with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology. He is currently employed in Belfast.

Matthew McFrederick (2000-07 L) has graduated from Queen's University, Belfast with a BA 1st Class Honours Degree in Drama with English. Matthew has been awarded the Brian Friel MA Scholarship in Drama and has returned to Queen's to continue his studies. David Norton (1998-05 C) has graduated from Dundee University with a Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Biomedicine.

Mark Ovens (2000-07 U) has graduated from Queen's University, Belfast with a BSc Honours Degree in Politics; he has commenced work as a Policy Officer at Stormont.

Matthew West (1996-03 C) has been awarded a PhD from the School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at Queen's University, Belfast. He has obtained employment in the pharmaceutical industry.

Richard Wilkinson (2000-07 L) has graduated from Queen's University, Belfast with a Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Biochemistry; he is now studying for a masters degree specialising in biomolecular structure and function.

Visitors

David Cromie (1957-65 L) visited the school in September 2010. He has worked in the agriculture business in Lincolnshire for most of his life. His father, Marshall, attended Portora in the 1920s; during that time his fellow



Portorans signed his autograph book. Among other groups, the first IV of 1929 signed the book and the crew includes the late D.B. McNeill who died earlier in 2010.



John Gill (1936-45 C) visited the School in May 2010 and recalled the difficult conditions in the Boarding Department during the war: poor food, cold dormitories and beatings being just some of the hardships.

Anniversaries 1911-2011; Denis Burkitt

Denis Burkitt CMG MD FRCS FRS was born in 1911 and died in 1993 and to celebrate the centenary of his birth the library in Enniskillen mounted a small exhibition about his life. His father J.P. Burkitt, was the County engineer and is well known for his work on the life of the robin. Denis attended Portora, Dean Close School in Cheltenham and then studied at Trinity College, Dublin. After graduating in medicine he went to Uganda where he spent many years. He was the first to describe a form of cancer now known as Burkitt's Lymphoma. He also noticed that African patients rarely had symptoms of colon cancer or heart disease which he

linked to the fibre in their diet. During World War II, Burkitt served with the Royal Army Medical Corps in England and later in Kenya and Somaliland. He returned to London in 1966 and worked with the Medical Research Council and he led a campaign advocating the importance of fibre in the diet. He wrote a book entitled "Don't Forget Fibre in your Diet" which was published in 1979. He was appointed a FRS in 1972 and CMG 1974.

Correspondence

From Brian E. Reid (1939-49 C)
Coleraine.
27 May 2010.

Dear Headmaster,
I have been reading the Old Portora News for 2010 and, in particular, the article on Hockey at Portora written by David Judge. I attended the School from 1939-49 so we overlapped and I remember David very well.
As an aside to Hockey he draws attention to Portora having won the Ulster Schools Tennis Cup in 1949. It was the brainchild of Mrs. Winifred Templeton who, with her husband, was very much to the fore in the administration of Ulster Tennis and Ulster Hockey. Portora won this cup in its inaugural year, 1949, and the team who did this was myself, Peter Webb, Derek Whaley and Bill Roberts. I have already "rebuked" my very good friend Ian Scales for this omission from the Tennis section in that wonderful Quatercentenary book "The School



on the Hill". David Judge also alludes to the omission of any mention of the 1953 team.

I would be grateful if you could pass this information to the editorial staff of the Old Portora News and perhaps this achievement could be recorded in a future edition. It is, of course, a unique achievement to have won the trophy in

its first year. This, and the winning in 1953, having been missed from "The School on the Hill", I think that it would be nice to have it recorded somewhere for posterity.

Very best wishes to all at Portora,
Yours sincerely,
Brian E. Reid.

Boat House Redevelopment



For the last two years a Development Committee has been working on upgrading the facilities at the Boathouse and below is a summary of its work.

Current problems which must be addressed

Thirty years ago, when most of the rowers were boarders, changing facilities at the boathouse were not a problem as the boarders changed in

the main school. Over the last twenty years the Club has managed, on a hand to mouth basis, to deal with the issue of a larger club and how to provide facilities appropriate to the 21st century. The current rowers have to make do with very inadequate facilities in old boat sheds where there is neither proper sanitation nor changing facilities. The boat storage facilities and landing slips are not adequate for the current needs of the Club.



The Proposal

The proposal is to refurbish the McNeill Boathouse, to upgrade the landing slips, and replace the two sheds shown above with proper facilities which will include showers and toilets for both boys and girls, a crew room, a covered bay for safety launches, and a small office and a workshop.

A new slipway (shown right), a new access road and new roller-doors on the McNeill Boathouse have already been completed, and the foundations for an extension to the McNeill Boathouse have just been laid. The final part of the Project, pictured below, will begin in early summer.

An elevation of the new building is shown below; the architect, Chris Allen, is a past member of Queen's University senior eight and has designed a building which caters exactly for the needs of the Club.

Finance

The whole project will cost, after the recent VAT increase, £360k. The Board of Governors is prepared to contribute three quarters of the cost, with the Development Committee finding the remaining £90k.

To date £77k has been generously donated by: Old Portorans (£34k), the Lottery and Trusts (£19k), Parents (9k), the Development Committee (9k), and other benefactors (6k).

This leaves the sum of £13k remaining to be raised before the project can be completed. The Committee is very grateful to those OPs who have already contributed and asks any others including Members of the Board of Governors who may be interested to complete the form which is to be found in the centre page of this magazine.



Old Portora Union Support for School Activities.



As readers will note from the Treasurer's Report, to date, this academic year, £1000 has been contributed to School Sport.

After expenses on such items as the OP magazine and postage have been met, it is the policy of the committee to distribute part of any excess income to various clubs in school in order to

assist in the running of extra-curricular activities. Sometimes the money goes to help pay for equipment, and sometimes it goes towards coaching expenses. The picture shows the Captain of Boats, Mark Coalter (2009-10), with a new eight named "The Old Portoran" as the OPU contributed £2000 towards its cost.

OPU (London branch) - Student Bursary

Matthew Montieth was the 2011 recipient of the OPU (London branch) Student Bursary. As well as being a top academic, Matthew has been one

of Ireland's best young oarsman for several years. He writes: I wish to express my thanks to the Old Portoran Union (London Branch) for its generous



Memorial

bursary of £250. This support is greatly appreciated. The expenses of training and competing slowly add up and the bursary will help to cover these expenses as well as contribute to my savings towards my own boat which will greatly help further my rowing career and help me to achieve my aspirations.

Currently I have just returned from the final stage in gaining selection for Ireland for the forthcoming racing season, where I have been selected to row at the Munich Junior International Regatta in May, in order to test me against the Worlds best and see if I am competitive enough to go to the Junior World Championships. Your financial support was of great help in funding my entry fees, and will continue to be of great assistance for the rest of the season, which will also see me travelling to Nottingham for the British Schools Regatta in May, Cork for the Irish Championships in July, and if successful, England for the Junior World Championships or Austria for the Western European Championships in August. Next year, I intend on studying geography at King's College. I feel that London will offer me the best opportunities in pursuing my goals of one day competing for Great Britain at a senior level and winning the prestigious Henley Royal Regatta, as well as offering better opportunities in terms of my career after rowing. I look forward to being able to attend future OPU London dinners as an Old Portoran.



The Old Portora Union has been privileged and honoured to be presented with the RUC Crest from the former Police Training Depot at Queen Street, Enniskillen. A large number of Old Portorans have served in the Royal Ulster Constabulary and many have made the supreme sacrifice.

The Memorial in the Steale Hall has been enhanced with the addition of the original Crest and a wreath is laid by the President of the OPY at the annual Remembrance Service.

Mrs Charlotte Murtagh, widow of the late Inspector William Henry Murtagh, is pictured admiring the refurbished Crest mounted in a permanent position as part of the Old Portora Union memorial.



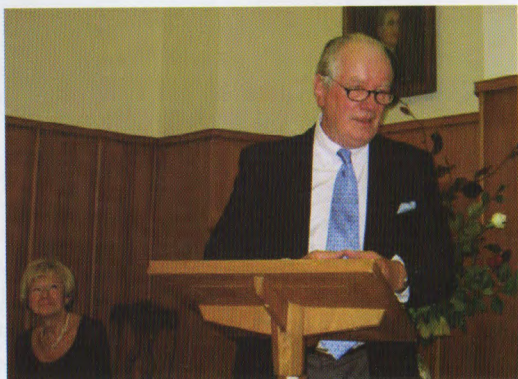
Old Portoran Reunions

Annual Dinner



Over seventy Old Portorans, their wives and guests from other schools enjoyed the annual dinner which was held in the School Dining Hall on Saturday 25 September 2010. After a very delicious five course meal provided by Marshall Coalter (OP) of Saddlers Restaurant in Enniskillen, George Harris (1953-60 C), who had travelled from America with his wife Annie specially for the event, proposed the Toast to the

School to which the Headmaster replied. The out-going President, Robert Northridge, proposed the toast to the guests to which Robert Cardwell, recently retired Vice-principal of Armagh Royal School, replied. Robert Northridge then welcomed Roy McMullen as the incoming President of the Old Portora Union and invested him with his Chain of Office. James Pattison (1985-92 L) is the incoming Vice-president.



George Harris



Hon Treasurer



Installer Robert



Belfast Lunch

Sixty five Old Portorans and their guests met for a prolonged lunch in the Ulster Reform Club in Belfast on Friday 11th March 2011.

The Headmaster updated the diners with recent events at Portora and the President, Roy McMullen, reminisced about his days at Portora in the late 1950s and early 60s.





Dublin Lunch 4th December 2010

On the day, Dublin was in the grip of the worst freeze for decades. Road conditions in the area were poor and the footpaths in the city were inches deep in snow and ice.

In spite of this the Dublin lunch at the Conrad Hotel went ahead and over 20 OP's and partners braved the elements to attend. A similar number of apologies from those unable to make it were also received. President Roy McMullen and Past President Ian Crawford from Fermanagh were also there, just to prove their 4x4's were not just unnecessary status symbols!

Formalities were at a minimum but Roy welcomed all and thanked Ian for making arrangements with the hotel. All were particularly pleased to have Bishop Poyntz there who kindly led us in saying grace.

An excellent meal was enjoyed by all and a significant number remained in the bar well into the evening.

The committee intends to arrange a similar event at the Conrad on the 10th December 2011. Contact Robert Northridge at robhannort@aol.com if you think you would like to attend.

Reunion of the "Class of 1960"

Ronnie Chambers (1953-60 L) organised a very successful lunch for 25 OPs and guests in Café Merlot, Enniskillen on the same day as the Annual Dinner. After lunch everyone went on a tour of Portora guided by Robert Northridge.

Reunion of the "Class of 1983"





What happened to the last Gloucester House entry of 83? To answer this question it was agreed that a reunion should take place for 25th September 2010 a date which coincided with Portora 1st XV verses Armagh. As we met it became very apparent, as we looked in awe at the next generation, that fitness was a thing of the past. The only thing that had changed was ageing, hair or lack thereof, and a few newly acquired accents. The encouraging thing was that the wit and banter remained. Portora 1st XV didn't quite manage to win on the playing field, and so it was up the hill to lift our spirits with some wine & cheese. There followed a tour of the school by VP Glenn McNeill. The festivities began in earnest at the local watering hole, followed by an 'on-call' MV Kestrel Waterbus, bound to the Killyhevlin Hotel, the chants of 'three for the price of two' still horrify the crew behind the bar. The dinner in the Killyhevlin was enjoyed by all, and was followed by tales of the past into the small hours. A delightful evening ensued, everyone happy in the knowledge that friendships acquired at school are everlasting.



SR Nixon (1983-88 L)



Annual General Meeting

This will be in the Seale Room at Portora on Tuesday 21 June 2011 at 8.00pm. Email Robert Northridge robhannort@aol.com if you would like to attend.

Annual Dinner

This will be in the Dining Hall at Portora on Saturday 24 September 2011 at 7.30 for 8.00pm. A booking form is enclosed elsewhere in this magazine.

Dublin Lunch

This will be in the Conrad Hotel, Dublin on Saturday 10 December 2011 at 12.30 for 1.00pm. Email Robert Northridge robhannort@aol.com if you would like to attend.



Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland

Old Portora Lodge 859



W Master: W Bro Robert Richmond

Hon Treasurer: W Bro Barry Ditty

Hon Secretary: W Bro Ian Crawford

The Lodge had another wonderful year, enrolling several new members and increasing our Charity donations for 2010.

The Installation Meeting took place on Saturday 15 March in the Grand Lodge Room, Molesworth Street, Dublin, during which W Bro Robert Richmond was installed W Master of Old Portora 859 by his brother W Bro Stephen Richmond. At the close of the meeting, the brethren (40) retired across the road to Boswells Hotel for a very fine festive board where £1020 was raised in the Charity collection.

The 12th June meeting was held in the Masonic Temple, Tuckey Street, Cork and proved a very enjoyable weekend trip down South in glorious weather. Thanks are due to the hard work of V W Bro Mike Saville, who made all the hotel and catering arrangements in the Rochestown Park Hotel, Douglas, Cork.

On Saturday morning a visit was arranged for the members and their wives to visit the museum in Tuckey Street, where after a cup of coffee several hours were spent viewing Masonic memorabilia stretching over generations. The Lodge opened at 5.30pm and visiting brethren were welcomed by the W Master Robert Richmond. Rt W Bro Alan Campbell, Prov Grand Master of Munster welcomed Old Portora 859 back to Tuckey Street and during the business of the Lodge, an Old Portora Union plaque was presented to Rt W Bro Campbell to commemorate the visit.

The highlight of the meeting for W Master Robert Richmond, was the initiation of his son Andrew, and the first time three brothers participated in the Ritual. The 26 members of 859 and their 41 guests returned to the Rochestown Park Hotel for a very successful Festive Board and record charity collection.

The Autumn communication of the Lodge was held on Saturday 16 October 2010 in Lisnaskea and over 40 members and guests were present for the Election of Officers. After a very successful meeting, the festive board was held in the Don Carragh Hotel, resulting in an excellent charity collection.

The June communication in 2011 will be held in Galway City.



Old Portora Union Income and Expenditure Account FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2010

Income and Expenditure Account

| £ | | | £ |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Bank balance @ 01-01-10 | 4153.75 | Expenditure on Newsletter | 2372.64 |
| Income from Subscriptions/ Donations | | Bank Charges | 197.60 |
| Regular | 6145.11 | | |
| Ad Hoc | <u>557.00</u> | | |
| | 6702.11 | | |
| Surplus on Belfast Lunch | 100.00 | | |
| Surplus on OPU Annual Dinner and Lunch | 222.28 | | |
| | | Oak Display Case | £125.00 |
| | | Bank Balance @ 21-12-10 | 8482.90 |
| | <u>£11,178.14</u> | | <u>£11,178.14</u> |

Honorary Treasurer's Report

This has been a reasonably quiet year for the OPU account given that we had expended over £10,000 on school sporting activities in 2009. In 2011 to date, we have contributed £1,000 to school sport. We are continuing to make a positive contribution to school life but we can do better.

The President and our Committee have stressed the urgency for more contributions at a minimum level of £20 per annum. All readers will fall into one of the following categories:-

- (i) Currently paying £20 per year - Thank you for your continued support.
- (ii) Currently paying £10 per year - Thank you for your continued support but please either increase your payment up to £20 or send me on a new £20 mandate and cancel the existing one.
- (iii) Non-contributors - Please complete the standing order as soon as possible and participate in benefiting Portora Royal School, past and present.

David G Hassard FCA
Honorary Treasurer OPU



Portora Royal School est 1618

Headmaster: J. N. Morton, M.A., B.S.Sc., D.A.S.E.

Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, BT74 7HA

Telephone: 028 6632 2658

Fax: 028 6632 8668

E-mail: info@portora.enniskillen.ni.sch.uk