



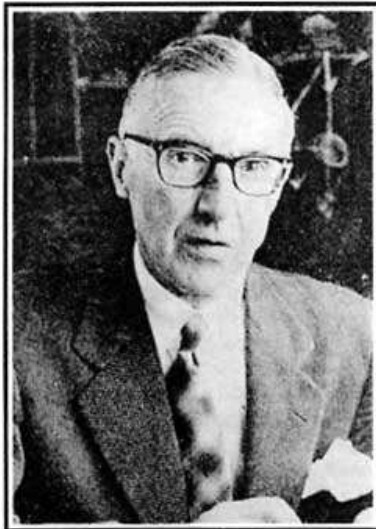
OLD PORTORA NEWS

No: 38
1997

PRESIDENT OF THE OLD PORTORA UNION: PETER ROWAN

PRESIDENT OF LONDON BRANCH: DAVID PORTEUS

PRESIDENT OF FERMANAGH BRANCH: ROBERT SCHOLES



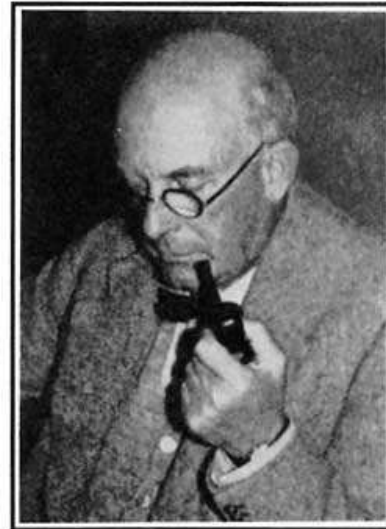
OLD MASTERS

In 1996 four outstanding
Portora teachers are
remembered:

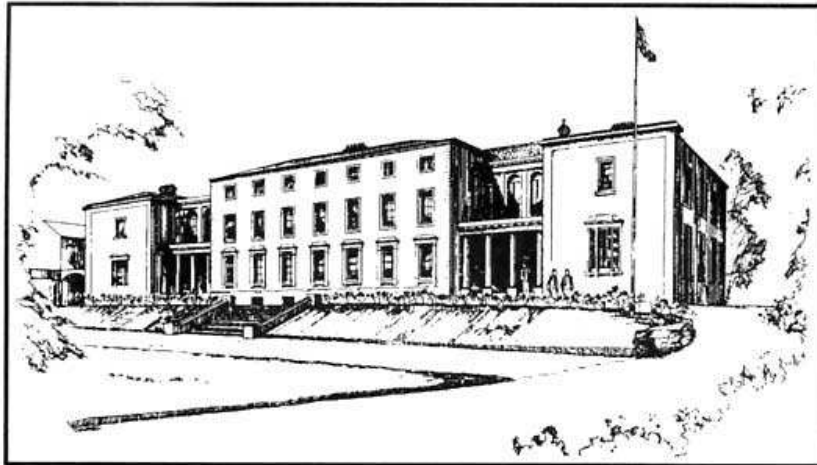
Mr A W Barnes and
Major Wheeler died;

OPs from the 1940 era
have subscribed to put
up in the new reading room
a memorial to

Major G V Butler;
and George Andrews has
written a monograph on the
life of A T M Murfet.



IN AFFECTIONATE MEMORY
OF
GERALD VILLIERS BUTLER, T.D., M.A.
HOUSEMASTER OF LEINSTER, 1926 - 1949
SOLDIER, SCHOLAR, SPORTSMAN
AND TIRELESS SERVANT TO THIS SCHOOL



HEADMASTERS LETTER No. 157

Dear Old Portorans,

In reflecting on the life and work of the school, I found the last seven days particularly revealing, and twin elements within the community of Portora most strikingly illustrated. The two elements are continuity and development. I was minded to consider this as a consequence of a visit to the school by Professor John Connor, Professor Economics at Acadia University, Nova Scotia, OP 1948-52.

On Saturday evening the Music Department produced a concert to a full house, in the Ardhowen Theatre. A mixture of ensemble music, solo performance and singing, the concert was compered by Billy McBride in his immutable style of fluent patter, liberally sprinkled with insult and amber liquid, which he assured was cold tea! On Sunday evening Choral Evensong was sung in the School Chapel. On Monday I took two boys to the BBC in Belfast to record a reading of a Christmas poem, to be broadcast on Radio Ulstr. Tuesday and Wednesday were spent at a residential conference for head teachers, designed to prepare us for a Government initiative to be applied to all heads and teachers, called Staff Development and Performance Review. This is an immensely complex and bureaucratic structure which has developed out of the Government's abortive attempt to bring in appraisal for all teachers. One wonders what measurable benefits will come to our pupils from all this? On Wednesday we played a rugby match against a visiting Australian touring side from Cairns, in Queensland. Having just arrived from 35°C, the visitors played a match in 2°C. I could not help sympathising with them as they went down 40 - 0. Our families hosted the visitors for two nights, and I am sure the hospitality had an appropriate warmth!

The School Formal was held on Thursday evening. How this has changed in a generation! There was a time when well brought up young ladies and men attended dancing classes to prepare for the event. There was a time when it was as much a social event for staff and wives as for the boys and girls. There was a time it was held in the Steele Hall. The name hasn't changed: constant through

an evolution of names from Dance, to Hop, to Disco. Other aspects of the evening will not have changed! Human nature. However, smoke, jumping, beat, flashing lights have replaced more sedate environment and movement. A theory as to why young people find heavy beat music so attractive is that the beat resembles the heart beat of the foetus in the womb, and is therefore very warm, protective and comforting. When I made this comment to an Old Boy who was at the formal, he said, "*I must have been an unhappy foetus, I don't like it.*" It was a successful evening, by most accounts.

On Friday Richard Neill took a group of sixth formers to Clongowes, though to his not inconsiderable irritation, some didn't quite make it into school that day. Plus ca change! And it was on Friday that John visited us. During our tour we visited the Sixth Form Common Room - but that turned out to be not such a good idea, in the aftermath of the Formal.

John will have found enormous changes in the School since his days here under Douglas Graham. The physical environment and condition of the buildings, new buildings, technology in the classroom, a different attitude to authority amongst the pupils. He said, "*If Graham had walked into that Common Room everyone would have leapt to his feet.*" But we found John's photograph in the Rowing Gallery, a record of continuity and development; he noted with pleasure the plaque to the memory of G V Butler, and we unearthed John's name carved in a shutter in Liberty Hall.

It was a hectic week, and staff were busy with the normal business of teaching, marking tests and writing Christmas reports. On your next visit to Portora you will find a changed school, but you will also find much that is familiar. Continuity and development are the themes of all living organisms, and I know that you will find these elements in abundance in Portora.

My best wishes to you and your families in the New Year.

Yours sincerely

RICHARD BENNETT

SCHOOL NEWS

ROWING (Captain: Simon Janes)

In an era of fast-rising standards in Irish Rowing, Portora Boat Club (including, as usual, members of St Michael's College) has been well up with the leaders in 1996. There has been excellent input by Old Portorans in coaching the various squads: Robert Northridge, Patrick Parke, and in particular Sebastiaan Peeters, whose dedication in coaching the 1st VIII was recognised by his selection to coach the Irish team for the Coupe de la Jeunesse, which covered itself (and him) in glory.

The 40th Erne Head of the River, sponsored by First Trust Bank, attracted an entry of 81 VIIIs and IVs, of whom 71 completed the race. The overall winners were DUBC, with Portora VIII finishing 3rd overall, and winning the Junior VIIIs for the first time since 1972. We also won the Junior 16 IVs.

Once again Portora hosted the Irish Junior Championship, sponsored by Fermanagh District Council, NITB and Janousek Racing Boats. Portora VIII won bronze in the Junior VIIIs, behind a talented Muckcross crew and St Josephs.

Four oarsmen, Connor Kells, Simon Janes, Stephen Jackson and Andrew Jackson, were selected for Ireland, and all won gold medals at either the Home International or the Coupe de la Jeunesse.



"He's not heavy - he's my brother".

Stephen Jackson declines to join his fellow Irish Gold Medal winners Simon Janes and Connor Kells in lifting his brother Andrew, the Irish Cox.

RUGBY (Captain: Graham Little)

This year a younger Portora XV developed a tenacious battling spirit against much larger opponents, only losing to RBAI, Methody and Campbell by a single score each. The 1st XV played 27 matches - perhaps a record. In defence they were formidable, but lacked the killer instinct in attack. Injuries were a problem for a club with only small reserves to call on. Following a successful week's tour in England, which bonded the team together, the side returned to deliver thumping victories over Limavady GS and Sligo GS, and a commendable draw with Coleraine AI. After a tense 15-14 win over Larne GS in the Schools Cup, Portora were put out 11-5 by RS Dungannon.

We did better in the Sevens, beating Cambridge House and Campbell, and losing narrowly to BRA in the quarter-final.

CRICKET (Captain: David Latimer)

As so often, the 1st XI's season was badly restricted, and most of the action fell to the Midweek XI (comprised of pupils, staff and OPs). The highlight here was the final of the Art-Green Constellation Cup against North Fermanagh 2nd XI, which was won on the last ball by a 6 hit by David Young.

The Cricket Club is most grateful to the OPs of the Fermanagh Branch for their gift of a set of outdoor nets and bats and metal return stumps for nets.



Sports Day

Gareth Rogers watched by Mickey Murfet lookalike Glen McNeill.

SAILING CLUB

Captain: Ché Finlay, Vice-Captain: Jimmy McVeigh

1995-6 has been an excellent year for the Sailing Club for the simple reason that we have had a great group of members.

Fine afternoons in April sometimes produced 30 sailors, when Ché's leadership was invaluable in getting them crammed into lifejackets and suitable boats. May was rather thin by contrast, as sailors gave a laudable priority to exams - even internal ones. Attendance picked up again in June, and seven sailors attended the Western Sailing Regatta at Lough Erne Yacht Club. Michael Ternan was pipped for first place by only a fraction, after some really steady, thoughtful sailing. Rory Finlay's tenacious sailing brought him in 3rd overall, followed by a fine effort by Andrew McCrea (4th), who won the Novice Cup. The cup for the most improved helmsman went to David Veitch, who showed terrific potential in his first year at Portora and his first year's sailing.

A Portora team of Christopher Scott, Michael Ternan, Jimmy McVeigh and Ché Finlay gained a very creditable 4th out of eleven teams in the NI Schools Team Racing Challenge.

THE STEELE HALL ORGAN

The Steele Hall now has an electronic organ with a fine sound, thanks to the good offices and enthusiasm of Tony Smith, former Director of Music at Portora, and to the generosity of a select list of Old Portorans, whom Tony targeted for subscriptions.

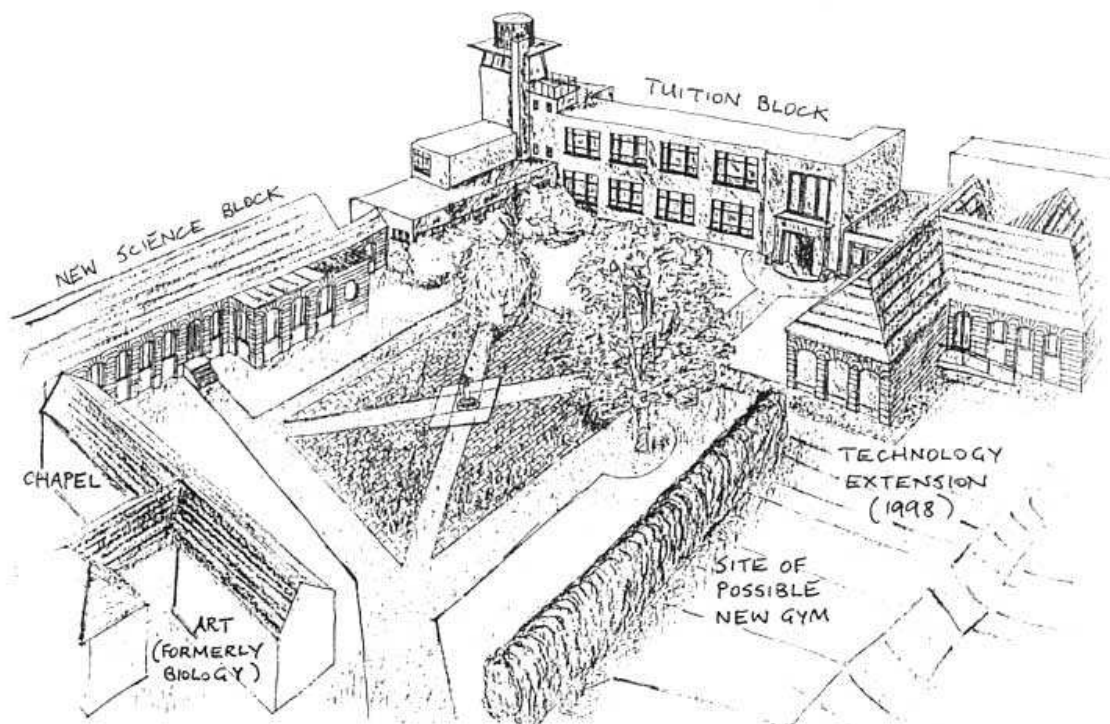
We plan an inaugural concert on Sunday 23 February 1997. Meanwhile the music department, under OP William McBride (c 1958-65), has done its usual charity concert in the Ardhowen Theatre, and a lovely choral evensong in the school chapel on Advent Sunday.

UNION SQUARE?

The completion of the new Science Block, the removal of the old Art hut, and our plans to extend Technology and build a new gymnasium are creating an enclosed space of real potential. Richard Pierce's design aims to provide a tranquil and pleasing space, with a focal point linking all the buildings. We do not expect DENI to release funds for this, and would be grateful if any Old Portoran can come up with a bright idea to find the £20,000 required.



Jimmy McVeigh chasing Jonathan Taylor and Peter Kennedy



NEWS OF OLD PORTORANS

BIRTHS

BRYCE Major Rev MAG (L 1957-67). To Jan and Michael Bryce, a son, Andrew Henry Gilpin, in Preston on 9 December 1995.

SCOTT AH (C1980-85). To Sarah and Alister Scott, a son, Joe, born 1 October 1996 in Eastbourne.

MARRIAGES

BANGAY Sasha (H 1980-81). Sasha Bangay has married John Black of Enniskillen.

BELL JH (1980-85). James Bell married Stephanie Alison Clarke in St Bartholomew's Church, Billis Virginia, in May 1995.

BRUNT AWT (U 1984-6). Andrew Brunt married Joanne Coulter of Clogher, in June 1995.

OSBORNE Janet (H 1975-82). Janet Osborne has married Steve Johnston, from America.

DEATHS

RAE MAY (1915-16)

Dr ROBIN PATTON (U 1959-64)

Rev MT PORTEUS (M 1922-28)

RI RICHARDSON (M 1961-69)

DE SWAN (U 1928-34)

MT CROMIE (U 1928-32)

OBITUARIES

Mr and Mrs AW BARNES (S 1932-66). "Barney" died aged 94 in February 1996, just a month after his wife Clarice. They had moved to Portora in 1932 and stayed 34 years. During that time Barney was housemaster of Ulster, first headmaster of Gloucester House, founder and commanding officer of the Air Training Corps, housemaster of Connacht, head of Mathematics and lastly Vice-Principal. He was a formidable teacher of Mathematics, and many of us found on leaving that we were very much ahead of our contemporaries from other schools. He was encouraged and supported by Mrs Barnes in all his school activities. From Portora he moved to Millfield School in Somerset, and then retired to New Milton on the edge of the New Forest. They had an active life during most of their retirement together, enjoying tennis, bridge, dancing and travelling. At 90 years Barney was diagnosed as having Parkinson's Disease, and they spent their last years quietly in a retirement home, both mentally alert right to the end. Their daughter, Rosemary Hamilton, lives in Islington, and they were very proud that both Rosemary's daughters went to Oxford, following in their grandfather's footsteps.

Very Reverend JAG BARRETT (U 1944-47). Alan Barrett died at his home at Cabinteely, Dublin, on 12 July 1996, after a long battle against cancer. At Portora he held colours for rowing and swimming, and was an NCO in the JTC. He went first into business, and managed a

laundry in Galway. He then trained for the ministry of the Church of Ireland at the theological college, Rathgar, was made Deacon in 1959 and ordained Priest in 1960. He was Curate in Bray, and Rector successively of Kingscourt, Navan and Rathdrum. In 1989 he became Rector of Trim and Dean of Clonmacnoise. Speaking at his funeral, the Most Reverend Dr Donald Caird recalled his first meeting with Alan and the discovery of a common interest in Portora, where the Archbishop had been a master and Alan Barrett a pupil.

Professor WK BECKETT (1924-28). Walter (Terry) Beckett, a second cousin of Samuel, was a distinguished musician, Professor of Harmony and Composition at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, and elected Fellow. He composed a symphony, a string quartet and other chamber music, and wrote a biography of Liszt. As Irish Times music critic he earned much respect for being kindly, without ever lowering his standards.

GW CAREW (U 1949-52). After Portora Gerald Carew studied agriculture at Queen's, and then worked for the Department of Agriculture in Southern Rhodesia 1957-81, where he developed an interest in beef cattle. He was a member of the police reserve throughout his time there, and took the degree of MAgr. On return to UK he found employment in the meat industry in Shropshire. He visited Portora in 1994 with his brother Lionel (a solicitor), and enjoyed the London dinners. He died in January 1996 at Ellesmere, after a long illness, and is remembered at school as dignified, humorous and good-natured.

Rev ALBERT EDWARD CRAWFORD MA (1930-32). After graduating from TCD, Albert Crawford (who has died) was ordained in Liverpool, and served as RAF chaplain, curate of Inishmacsaint (where he met his wife, Amy Elliott), and rector successively of Milltown, Camlough and Mullaglass, and Bessbrook, an area much affected by the troubles. He was a kind and gentle person, who endeared himself to people of all creeds as chaplain of Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry.

TREVOR DAGG (S). Trevor Dagg, who taught in Gloucester House for a time, has died. He was an Irish hockey international on the 1950s, and was twice headmaster of Sandown Park School in Dublin.

Sir COLVILLE DEVERELL GBE KCMG CVO (1920-23). "Dev" Deverell died a year ago aged 88, after a distinguished career in the Colonial Service in which he rose to be Governor of Mauritius. He read law at TCD, did a 12 month course in local politics and languages at Trinity College, Cambridge, and sailed for Kenya in 1951, where he was a district officer and clerk to the legislative and executive councils. He was commissioned in the war, and served in the civil affairs branch of East Africa Command, rising to Brigadier. He returned to Kenya in several senior posts, and then moved to become colonial secretary in Jamaica. In 1955 he was the last governor of the Windward Islands, was knighted in 1957, and became governor of Mauritius in 1959, retiring in 1962.

He became secretary-general of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and chaired UN family planning missions to India and Ceylon.

CR DUNLOP (C 1947-53). Colin Duniop died in December 1995. He was one of the leading lights of Irish orienteering, and coached the Irish team.

DB GLOVER (1961-4). David Ballintine Glover died on 5 May 1996, in Ontario, Canada. He was born in Londonderry in 1949, and emigrated to Canada in 1974. For 20 years he was employed by Forest Products Ltd, Espanola. He leaves his wife, Judy, two sons and a daughter.

PETER HUXLEY (S 1960s). Peter Huxley has died in Melbourne. He was born in Cheshire, educated at Birkenhead and Keble College Oxford, and taught in Gloucester House, Moose Jaw, Kenya, New Zealand, and Tasmania before moving to Ivanhoe Grammar School to teach English and Geography and make his name in drama and debating.

PETER W LARMOR (C 1940-42). Peter Larmor, who died in May 1996, came to Portora with his brother John, and they both boxed for the school. Peter became the third generation of his family to work in the Irish linen industry, serving his time as a flax spinner in Belfast. In the 1950s he joined the family firm, The Ulster Weaving Co, and did much to modernise its mills in Co Down. He became chairman of the company, and ultimately of the Central Council of the Irish Linen Industry. He was a keen fisherman and shot, and a knowledgeable amateur Irish historian, and was president of the Northern Ireland Association of Youth Clubs at a crucial stage in its history. He is survived by his wife Brenda (nee Patton), son Paul, and daughter Jessica, who recently married OP Michael Muckle (L 1959-65).

JOHN VB MITCHELL (M 1965-71). John Mitchell, who has died at 43 at Maguiresbridge, taught History and English at Fivemiletown High School from 1978, and became Youth and Community Tutor in 1981. In 1985 he married Lorna Managh, and their son Alan was born in 1988.

Lt Col JD NIXON MC DL (L 1932-38). John Nixon was born in Dublin to the Belcoo Nixon family. He joined the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers as a regular officer, and was awarded the Military Cross for his part in the breakout from Anzio, as a company commander in the 2nd Battalion. My father, as CO, put him up for the award, and by coincidence John was my first company commander when I joined the 1st Battalion in 1958. His care for the soldiers earned him the nickname "Daddy" Nixon, and young officers learned a lot from him. His rockets were delivered very quietly, but with deadly effect, and he would then buy you a drink at lunchtime! After leaving the army he became secretary of the RAC for ten years, then secretary of the Yorkshire and Humberside TA Association. He died at 76 after a long battle against Parkinson's disease. (MRHS)

ROBERT STORRS (M 1978-85). Robert Storrs, who died tragically in October 1995, was one of Portora's outstanding oarsmen, winning four Irish Junior Championships, the fours, the pairs and the doubles twice. He represented Northern Ireland at rowing in the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 1986. After a spell in the Royal Air Force he returned to Northern Ireland and did a degree at Queen's. A memorial service was held for him at Portora, and the new boat named after him was much in evidence in this year's successful rowing season.

HGS WEBB (1922-7). George Webb and his brother Arthur (AP Webb 1917-23) both died during the year. On leaving Portora George went to join Arthur in Canada. He returned to Ireland in 1933 and then went to London to set up in advertising. When the war started he joined the Buffs, and was commissioned into the Maharattas in India in 1942. He saw action in the Middle East and Italy and was awarded the MBE. After the war he joined the Civil Service, working in National Savings in Hertford. DB McNeill writes that Arthur was one of the first boys in the prep school at Portora, and the first "prep maggot" to become head boy, which greatly pleased Miss Lizzie Hunt, who was then in charge.

Major JT WHEELER (S 1948-94). Portora's old soldier, Jack Wheeler, finally faded away in June 1996. He came to Portora in 1948 after regular service in the Rifle Brigade, in which he became the youngest RSM in the British Army. He was commissioned in Portora CCF, and ultimately commanded it. He was a superb rifle shot, and coached several Portora Bisley teams. His initial responsibilities were for PE, woodwork and drawing, but his enthusiasm spread into so many other fields of school activity: boxing, fencing, coaching the rowing teams, and the new subject of Technology. He was still on the payroll as Technology Assistant in 1994 - that was Jack's idea of retirement. When a school chapel was required, it was Jack who refurbished the old hay-loft, and it is there that his memorial service will be held. His greatest achievement was Portora Holiday Swimming Club, in which he and Kay devoted 32 summers to teaching children of all communities in Enniskillen to swim, and it is in their memories that his name will live.

NEWS

ANDERSON C (M 1955-63). Colin Anderson owns the Killiekrankie Hotel in Perthshire. He learned his trade at the Shannon College of Hotel Management.

ARMSTRONG CDC (L 1978-83). Colin Armstrong has been reviewing books for the Spectator, including "Before the Dawn: an Autobiography" by Gerry Adams, and "The Fight for Peace" by Eamonn Mallie and David McKittrick.

KINGSTON MGR (U 1985-92). Michael Kingston has graduated from St Andrews with a BSc Hons in Management. He has moved to Norwich, where he is employed in the Programming department of the Norwich Union.

BAKER JEK (L 1956-62). Keith Baker has published a political thriller "Inheritance". He learned his trade as journalist with the Impartial Reporter, where his father was editor, and is now Chief Editorial Advisor to BBC Northern Ireland. He was guest speaker at the dinner of the Fermanagh Branch of the OPU in October.

DOWLING JEP & WB (1976-86). Peter and Barry Dowling are now working in CM Marketing, Belfast.

ELLIOTT IA (M 1966-73). Ian Elliott has been appointed Director of Housing at BIH Housing Association, Russell Court, Belfast. He is studying for an MA in Human Resource Management at the University of Ulster, having won the Bruce Cooper Industrial Relations Award last year.

EMPEY, Most Rev WNF (C 1944-52). Walton Empey has been appointed Archbishop of Dublin, in succession to Most Rev Dr D Caird (S 1954-57).

ENNIS Vanessa (H 1975-84). Vanessa Ennis is Sales Office Manager for a stationery wholesaler. Her sister Genevieve (H 1981-90) is at the University of Ulster doing Combined Social and Behavioural Sciences. Their brothers Breconne (C 1975-85) and Scott (C 1979-86) are with the family firm in Virginia, Co Cavan.

HANNON N (U 1982-89). Neil Hannon has achieved 14th in the hit parade and considerable acclaim for his pop group "The Divine Comedy", which has on occasions included Ivor Talbot (C 1983-90) and Bryan Mills (C 1979-90).

JACKSON Very Rev MGStA (U 1967-75). Michael Jackson has been appointed Dean of Cork, following two other distinguished Old Portorans, William Magee (later Archbishop of Dublin) and his successor Robert Burrowes, the headmaster who befriended Henry Francis Lyte when he was abandoned by his parents. Michael obtained a First Class Moderatorship in Classics at Trinity, followed by a First in Theological and Religious Studies at St John's College Cambridge. In 1986 he was awarded his PhD for a thesis on "Prayer and Miracle in the Spirituality of St Augustine of Hippo".



CHAMBERS RW (L 1958-64). head of the First Trust Bank handing over the bank's sponsorship cheque for the Erne Head of the River 1996 to Robert Northridge.

KINGSTON MGR (U 1985-92). Michael Kingston has graduated from St Andrews with a BSc Hons in Management. He has moved to Norwich, where he is employed in the Programming department of the Norwich Union.

KIRKPATRICK Rev NDJ (L 1980-87) Nigel Kirkpatrick was ordained deacon in St Anne's Church, Dungannon on 20 June 1996, to serve in the parish of St Columba, Portadown.

LE FLUFY Cdr EF (M 1930-35), Ernest Le Flufy's wife died in September in Tavistock. He would welcome contact with his contemporaries at Portora.

LEIGHTON JMN (L 1970-77). John Leighton has moved from the National Gallery to become Director of the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam.

LLOYD Rev Canon C (1925-30). Charles LLOYD has celebrated 60 years in the priesthood of the Church of Ireland.

McELDERRY KP (U 1977-84). Kevin McElderry graduated in French and German at Newcastle, and worked in East Germany for the academic year before the Wall came down in 1989. He studied journalism and worked for various newspapers before joining his present company, Agence France, in Paris. In 1991 he married Ailsa, another linguist, who now teaches financial English to French bankers. His brother Dermot (U 1977-84) is a freelance translator in Peterborough, married with two children.

McNEILL DB (C 1923-30). DB writes: "So far I am still fairly alive but am getting very absent-minded and very tottery, otherwise I am enjoying life and annoying the long-haired and unwashed; when I want to be conspicuous I go to read in QUB library where I am the only one wearing a tie and using soap! All goes to show that Portorans are not as other men."

THE SCIENCE LABORATORIES
and
ART & DESIGN CENTRE
were opened on 11th October 1996
by
ROY McNULTY, C.B.E.
PORTORA 1948-1955
PRESIDENT OF SHORT BROTHERS PLC

MASTERTON H (1960-65). After teaching in Zambia and Denmark, Harold Masterton went to work for the International Red Cross in Malawi and Turkey, and is now Head of the Training Support Service of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva.

MORROW SB (C 1949-55). Sam Morrow has been awarded the OBE for his services to agriculture.

NIXON RP (1978-81). Richard Nixon is now married and living in Arizona, and has been working as a Systems Administrator for a large firm.

OSBORNE M (L 1974-81). Michael Osborne is now married, and has enlisted the help of his father in a new venture, Osborne Telecommunications. His sister Janet (H 1975-82) has married an American, and is about to join him in the Phillipines.

PINKERTON HT (C 1927-31). Harold Pinkerton has visited the school from Canada. During his career as a teacher, he taught in two primary schools in Belfast before moving to Canada in 1953. He taught in Toronto for ten years, before becoming deputy secretary of Ontario Teachers Federation for 15 years. He retired in 1977.

RAPPO P-J (C 1983-91). Patrick James Rappo is at the London Bar studying criminal law.

ROBB AJ (L 1958-63). Alan Robb is now a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Loss Adjusters and is London Regional Director for Derek Fisher and Partners.

ROBINSON JHM (U 1984-91). Having graduated MVB in UCD in June 1996, John Robinson has taken up a post in mixed practice centred in Newport, Gwent.

ROWE J (U 1982-9). Jonathan Rowe worked for 20 months building hospitals for the Tear Fund in Uganda, and now hopes to obtain Institution Chartership as a civil engineer, and then continue his work for the Fund.

RUDDALL MF (C 1953-62). Mike Ruddell and his wife Hermione have had an interesting pilgrimage to Oman, where John Braddell-Smith (U 1961-65) and John Milling (U 1959-64) are buried in a Christian cemetery by the sea near Muscat. John Braddell-Smith, Hermione's brother, after service with the British Army in Aden, became a contract officer with the Sultan's Armed Forces, who were then fighting a communist insurrection in Dhofar region. He was promoted to Major, received the Sultan's Bravery Medal, and was killed on Christmas Day 1974, posthumously receiving the Sultan's Gallantry Medal. His exploits are related by John Blashford Snell's book "A Taste for Adventure". John Milling was killed piloting a helicopter in 1977. Mike Ruddell is a director of Boots and deputy chairman of Nottingham Trent University.

SPENCE MG (L 1978-85). Mark Spence is married to a Dane and they have a son. He is having to re-take his nursing qualification to work in Denmark.

SWITZER JFQ (U 1934-42). To mark his work as Chairman of the Cambridge Society since 1991, Jeffrey Switzer's portrait now hangs in the Society's common room. His thoughtful letters to the Times on the Northern Ireland question provide a lucid contrast to some of our politicians' contributions.

TROUGHTON BHP (U 1949-57). Brian Troughton is a Technical Director in Industrial Fabrics in Kent, his brother Paddy is an accountant in Belfast, and his brother Terry has his own civil engineering business near Durban, South Africa.

WEBB TJB (1948-52). Timothy Webb worked in the brewing industry in England from 1971, and has now retired to Stillorgan to concentrate on Hong Kong philately, which includes editing a specialised stamp journal. He would welcome contact from any OPs with the same interest.

WELSH JCMcM (C 1971-80). Murray Welsh obtained a BSc in Pharmacy in Cardiff before going on to the Royal Veterinary College in London. After five years in veterinary practice in Hertfordshire, he returned to Enniskillen to set up the Benmore Small Animal Clinic. His brother Chris (C 1974-83) works with their father in the Erne Veterinary Group.

WOODHOUSE Rev Professor HF (L 1924-30). Professor Woodhouse encourages Portorans not to be afraid of a career change in mid-life. He went at 39 from being parish rector in Newtownards to full-time teaching in Canada, then at 51 back to TCD as Regius Professor.

WOODS J (L1981-84). Jeremy Woods manages a group home for the Westminster Society in London, an organization catering for people with learning difficulties.



THE JOYCE BECKETT PRIZE 1996

The Adjudicator for the 1996 Joyce-Beckett Prize was Jennifer Johnston, the Irish playwright and novelist, well known for sensitive and challenging works such as "Shadows on our Skin" and "How Many Miles to Babylon". The presentation was organised by Patrick Kilbride of the Clongowes Union in the congenial surroundings of the Ulster Bank Chambers in Dublin. Patrick has been the leading light in the administration of the award, and those Old Portorans who have attended have received the warmest of welcomes from this benevolent and hardworking Clongownian.

This year it was good to be able to welcome Bill Finlay of Clongowes who with Patrick McAfee of Portora commissioned Ann Henderson to design and make the striking bronze trophy. Patrick is hoping to move back to Dublin soon, so we hope to have them both present at a future presentation. Patrick also generously funds Portora's share of the money prize.

It was decided this year that the £100, instead of going to a single winner, should be split £75/£25 between the two best.

Richard Bennett, Lisa Hulme (Head of English) and Mark Scott travelled from Portora, along with participants Andrew Elliott, Adam Cairns, Gerard Kelly, Stewart Farrell, John Emerson, and Bruce Watson, and our two Australian gap students James McKay and Daniel Hastings. We were joined by the President of the OPU, Iain Pratt, and OPs John Aiken and Rory MacNeary, and of course a fine gathering of Clongownians past and present.

Tim Healy, President of the Clongowes Union, welcomed everyone and introduced Jennifer Johnston. As on Portora Speech Day 1994, she spoke directly to the students in their language. She had spoken that day to a group of schoolgirls who did not envisage reading books as a part of their lives, indicating sadly low expectations of themselves. It was a refreshing contrast to read the work of a group of boys who clearly not only read books, but were prepared to take the first steps in writing. She was disturbed at the amount

UNIVERSITY RESULTS

Dean Acheson	BSc (Hons) in Economics	Bath
Keith Acheson	B Mus (Hons)	Ulster
Alwyn Barton	BA (Hons) in Public Policy & Management	Ulster
Niall Hogg	BSc in Agriculture	Harper Adams
Alan Irvine	BA (Hons) in Banking and Finance	Ulster
Michael Kingston	BSc (Hons) in Management	St Andrews
Kwok Philip Cheung	BSc (Hons) in Computing Science	Newcastle
Robert Phair	HNC in Public Administration	Ulster
Michael Pickles	BSc (Hons) in Environmental Biology	St Andrews
John Robinson	MVB	UCD
Paul Stronge	BA (Hons) in Banking and Finance	Ulster

of reference to drugs and violence in quite a lot of the scripts. These were natural preoccupations in the writers' world, but she hoped that they would consider other things were worth writing about too. Every script had something new and individual, and she hoped that they would all continue writing.

She awarded first prize to Malachy Sweetman of Clongowes for his short story. Second prize went to Gerard Kelly of Portora for his poems about French H-Bomb tests and she awarded a special commendation to Daniel Bennett of Clongowes for a piece written after a previous meeting with herself. All the prizewinners received a signed copy of her novel "Shadows on our Skin".

Richard Bennett thanked the Clongowes Union and the Ulster Bank for all their hospitality, and Jennifer Johnston for her perceptive talk. A delicious supper followed.

The 1997 presentation will be the 10th on Thursday 17th April 1997 and Seamus Heaney has agreed to act as adjudicator. On this occasion we hope to invite former winners, former adjudicators and the sculptor of the trophy. The competition is alive and well!

UNION NEWS

DATES FOR 1997

- 23 February 1997 Organ recital and concert, Portora
1 March 1997 Erne Head of the River, start 2.45 pm
14 March 1997 London Branch Dinner 7 pm at Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, London. OPs (male or female) only, £38 including wine. Black tie.
21 March 1997 4 pm: AGM. 7.30 for 8.00 pm: Union Dinner at Portora, black tie, ladies and guests welcome, £25. Rooms available at Portora.
17 April 1997 Joyce-Beckett prize presentation by Seamus Heaney, Ulster Bank Chambers, Dublin. 6.30 pm, informal. Contact Mark Scott if you would like to come
17 May 1997 Portora Regatta, Killyhevlin - all OPs welcome
22 June 1997 OP Cricket Match. Contact Peter McMorran 01232 233455
13 December 1997 6.30 pm. Fermanagh Branch Cocktail Party, Portora
19 December 1997 11.00 am Young OPs Coffee Party, Portora

Application forms for dinners are on back page.

UNION AGM 1996

The AGM was held at Portora on Saturday 9 March 1996, with Iain Pratt, President, in the chair and 13 other members present.

Iain Pratt said how much he had enjoyed his year as President and the excellent hospitality of other Unions.

David Hassard, Treasurer, reported that he had received 76 standing orders for £10, and lump sums totalling £800. He was confident that the Union's finances were on a better footing, and that the crisis had passed. (However, a standing order form is enclosed, in the hope that more OPs will subscribe and ensure a secure future for the Union).

The following officers were elected for 1996-7:

President:	Peter Rowan
Vice-President:	Iain Pratt
Deputy-President:	Maurice Walker
Secretary:	Mark Scott
Treasurer:	David Hassard

The Old Portora Trust Fund had stalled at £10,000. It was decided to make a small disbursement to school clubs, and to print a leaflet.

OLD PORTORA TRUST FUND

We very much hope that the enclosed leaflet will induce more Old Portorans to subscribe to the OP Trust Fund. The Fund has now started to support school clubs, but needs a more substantial base to generate interest for annual support of the school.

THE MURFET MONOGRAPH

George Andrews has written a delightful monograph on Mickey Murfet, which has been edited and produced by Ian Scales. It will strike chords and evoke smiles and memories in so many generations of OPs, that I can only suggest you apply quickly to the school office for your copy - only £2, payable to the OPU.

OP COCKTAIL PARTY DUBLIN 19 JANUARY 1997

Iain and Cecily Pratt generously hosted a cocktail party for OPs at Old Wesley on the night before an international. It was a foul night, and the Dublin traffic gridlocked, but nevertheless fifty OPs of all ages attended, which was most encouraging. A most cheerful atmosphere prevailed, and it was felt that this sort of informal get-together was probably the best way to entice southern OPs to stay in touch.

OPU LONDON BRANCH DINNER 1996

56 OPs dined at the Army and Navy Club on 15 March 1996. I hope the OPs will not mind if we adopt its method of seating OPs by vintage in a U-shape, which is admirable.

THE OLD PORTORA DINNER 1996

The 1996 dinner was organised by Jim Gordon in the Europa Hotel, Belfast on 22 March 1996. 70 OPs and their guests attended, including a lively group of younger OPs who did us all good.

OPU FERMANAGH BRANCH

The Branch held three events since our last issue, a very pleasant Christmas Cocktail party in the school board room, a dinner dance in the Killyhevlin Hotel in May, and a good dinner in October, at which OP Keith Baker was the guest speaker. The branch raised a magnificent total of £1500 for the school, which has bought new bats for the cricket club, a tent for the hikers, and a computer for the careers department. They also handed over the results of the previous year's fund raising - Portora post protectors for the 1st XV goal posts.

ROTARY CLUB LUNCH

In October 1996 Enniskillen Rotary Club came to lunch at Portora. In addition to Peter Little, this year's President, many OPs were present, who were delighted with developments at the school, and felt that they would enjoy opportunities to come more often, and stay in touch. This has influenced our decision to hold the 1997 OP dinner in the school, with time for OPs to wander round and reminisce, as well as getting a feel for the modern Portora.

OP CAREER PROFILES

Canon Desmond Kingston (Careers Officer, Portora) is most grateful to all those OP's who responded to his request for career profiles. There has been a steady return of profiles from all over the world, indicating a wide variety in career choice and career progression. Subscribers would be most welcome to come and see the school, and indeed speak to some Sixth Formers, and give them the benefit of the career experience of fellow Portorans.

The hairier Portorans have unequalled territory to roam in



Junior Charity Match Teams

Please complete and return to: David Hassard, Oakfield Lodge, Letterbreen, Enniskillen, BT92 2ET.

To (Name of your bank) Sort code
(Address) Account No
.....
..... Postcode

To (Name) Sort code
(Address) Account No
.....
..... Postcode

Please pay the sum of £10 to the account of the Old Portora Union No. 65772022 at the First Trust Bank, East Bridge Street, Enniskillen, BT74 (Sort Code 93-80-76), on 1 February 1995 and annually thereafter.

Signed Date

To Secretary, OPU, Portora Royal School, Enniskillen, BT74 7HA, N. Ireland.

From (Name) (Dates at Portora)

I am no longer interested in receiving Old Portora News, and would like you to delete my name from the list of members.

Signed Date

OLD PORTORA LONDON DINNER 1997

To: C J Brady Esq., 4 Hammersmith Terrace, London, W6 9TS (Telephone 0171 748 7295)

From: (Name in Capitals)

(Address)

(Dates at Portora)

I wish to attend the OPU London Dinner at 7.00pm on Friday 14th March 1997 at the Army & Navy Club, I enclose £38 (cheque to be made payable to D Porteus)

Signed Date

OLD PORTORA LONDON DINNER 1997

To: C J Brady Esq., 4 Hammersmith Terrace, London, W6 9TS (Telephone 0171 748 7295)

From: (Name in Capitals)

(Address)

(Dates at Portora)

I wish to attend the OPU London Dinner at 7.30pm FOR 8.00pm on Friday 21 March 1997 (Black tie) I wish to bring the following guests (ladies are welcome)

I enclose £ (£25 per head)

Signed Date