



OLD PORTORA NEWS

President Of The Old Portora Union: Maurice Walker

President Of The London Branch: David Porteus

President Of The Fermanagh Branch: Robert Scholes

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Secretary and Editor: Mark Scott
Portora Royal School, Enniskillen BT74 7HA. Phone 01365 322658

SUCCESS



Gareth Knox, first in Northern Ireland 'A' Level Music



Rory Lunny (St Michael's) Andrew Jackson and Christopher Noble won two silver medals for Ireland



Creighton Boyd, capped for Ulster Schoolboys



Richard Parke, Raymond Speer and Timothy Johnston were third equal and second in Northern Ireland GCSE Technology



HEADMASTER'S LETTER TO OLD PORTORANS, NUMBER 158

Dear Old Portorans,

The school and the Enniskillen community have just been marking the tenth anniversary of the IRA bomb which killed and injured so many people on Remembrance Sunday 1987. To us here it scarcely seems that ten years have gone by, and yet when I looked at the school assembled in the Steele Hall on Friday 7th November for the school Act of Remembrance, I realised that a complete generation of Portorans had passed through since 1987 - the only point of continuity with those events really was the adults. Yet so much has happened in the Northern Ireland community during the ten years. Our preacher that morning, Very Rev John McCarthy, who was rector of St Macartin's Cathedral ten years ago, said that he felt that the current peace talks began out of the suffering of Enniskillen in 1987. Perhaps our province will reach that optimistic conclusion that we all hope for, in spite of the obstacles.

I draw a faint comparison with our school over the last ten years when I say that we have developed a process of rebuilding and renewal. Old Boys and Girls who visit us leave with a tremendous feeling of pride and pleasure at the developments they see and feel. They see a physical renewal, and they feel a sense of confidence. To all of us who work here that is very satisfying. But difficulties remain. The Chairman of the Board of Governors, two Board members and I recently attended a meeting in the Department of Education. The meeting was at our request, and I know similar meetings have been requested by many of the Province's voluntary grammar schools. As you know, since 1948 our voluntary grammar schools, have developed and provided an education the quality of which has been the envy of our colleagues on the mainland. Our schools have enriched the education of our boys and girls both in the classroom and far beyond. Unfortunately there seems to be an agenda with the Department, possibly from the government, which will undermine what our school, have achieved. And I give you two examples. The Department is proposing to withdraw funding for the maintenance of school playing fields; and it is also planning to end the voluntary grammar schools' unique relationship with the Department. Instead of that cooperation which was so beneficial in the past, there is to be imposed a new relationship with the Education and Library Boards. Recent events would not encourage much confidence in the ability of the Boards to manage their own affairs efficiently. This second proposal has potential long-term implications, undermining the management independence of our schools. The first proposal, if implemented, has more serious immediate consequences. As Old Boys and Girls you will have fond memories of our magnificent site; perhaps not so fond memories of our muddy playing fields (though those are now rectified). But together these facilities added a wonderful dimension to your life here. It is disheartening to discuss with Department officials a scenario for the disappearance of funding.

I am sure we will weather this crisis. Portora has come through many in the past (in 1891 there were just two pupils in the school!). And just as our Province looks forward to better times, I can assure you, our friends and supporters, that we at Portora will fight to sustain and develop our position in Co Fermanagh and the educational scene generally.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Bennett

SCHOOL NEWS

Rugby 1996-97

The First XV, ably captained by Michael Cromie, had an excellent season. Though young and inexperienced, they began the season well, defeating Foyle College and going on to other significant victories. A combined 1st and 2nd squad went on tour to the Republic, Dublin, Cork and Limerick. The highlight was a victory over one of Munster's strongest schools, St Munchen's. In the Schools' Cup the team lost in the second round to BRA, who went on to win the competition. The game was recognized as the most difficult faced by BRA in their cup-winning run. Five of the team gained representative honours: Gavin Elliott, James Cathcart and Michael Cromie played for Ulster South Country against Connaught, Andrew Emerson played for Ulster against Yorkshire, and in the Ulster 20 side, and Creighton Boyd played for Ulster against Leinster and Munster. The club has a splendid Parents' Support Group, which ran some legendary parties to fund the tours and a new scrummage machine.

Rowing

The Boat Club set itself an ambitious target of 30 wins at the beginning of the season, and achieved 29, from Junior 14 to Junior 18. The two most successful crews were the J18 Four and J15 Quad, which suffered only one defeat each, the former's at the Irish Junior Championships at Cork, where they reached the final. At the Championships a Pair, Christopher Noble (Portora) and Rory Lunny (St Michael's), won a Bronze medal. These two, plus the cox Andrew Jackson, were then chosen to represent Ireland in the Coupe de la Jeunesse, a Western European Championship. Two silver medals were won.

The Boat Club is delighted with the response to its appeal to former Portora oarsmen for funds to finance new boats (a new Eight now costs £11000). The appeal stands at £17000 already, and the Club would love to hear from any oarsmen they may have missed.

Cricket

In Cricket the school continues to field three teams. The First XI played four friendlies, and reached the semi-final of the Sterling Trophy. It was good to see the Clongowes fixture revived. The Colts played with great enthusiasm in what was for many their first season. The third team, called the Midweek XI, plays on into the summer, after school has finished. The Old Portora Trust Fund bought new nets for the Club, and the Northern Ireland Cricket Association has contributed substantially to an all-weather Nottinghamshire wicket, which in Fermanagh will be a real advantage.

Outdoor Pursuits

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award continues to be over-subscribed, and this year included the planting of hundreds of native hardwood trees on the steep slope overlooking the Narrows. The Scheme is driven by the ever-youthful enthusiasm of Miles Hulme, who also runs canoeing in the autumn and summer. The Sailing Club now has 14 boats, largely self-financed through its annual lakeshore littersweep. The latest acquisition is a fast Hobie 405, designed to put a scare into those who thought they knew it all. Our regular sailors include boys from St Joseph's and girls from the Collegiate and Enniskillen High School. In the Western Schools' Regatta Michael Ternan was again runner-up, and in the Northern Ireland Schools' Sailing Challenge Jimmy McVeigh and Ryan Graydon reached the final against some pretty smart competition. Sailing attracts



some enormously cheerful members, for whom the main thrust is seamanship, self-reliance, and unashamed fun.

Music

Music at Portora is thriving and hugely enjoyable. In addition to Gareth Knox's success (see front page- he has gone on to the Royal Academy of Music), Nigel Edwards (euphonium) was judged Fermanagh Young Musician of the Year. The new organ, funded last year by OPs thanks to the tireless importuning of Tony Smith, our former Director of Music, has really lifted school assemblies, and we had a lovely inaugural concert in February. The school concert in Ardhowen raised £1700 for charity, and the irrepressible Billy McBride won a national prize for one of his anthems. The 1997 Carol Service will be the 50th, so it will be good to be back in the Cathedral, always packed for Portora's annual burst of muscular Christianity

NEWS OF OLD PORTORANS

Birth

BELL JH (M 1980-85). To James and Stephanie Bell, a son, Jack Joseph, on 15 October 1996.

Engagement

Mr CD NEWELL and Miss G OZEN. Clive Newell (L 1967-71) is engaged to Miss Gamze Ozen, of Ankara, Turkey.

Marriage

FAULKNER JT (L1978-85). John Faulkner to Rita Macale, in Australia in 1995.

Deaths

WA BLEAKLEY (1923)

HG BLOOMFIELD (C 1940-46)

DJ BRADFORD (U 1944-45)

NGS BROWN (C 1957-61)

JA CODD (U 1929-34)

WE DICKIE (C 1940-44)

JG GIBSON (M 1925-32)

EA GREAVES (U 1953-58)

JMcF HAMILL (M 1940-45)

C KIRKPATRICK (1935-40)

Chief Inspector EJ McLEER (L 1947-54)

RG NELSON (U 1936-41)

M NIXON (1993-97)

WH PHAIR (1922)

Air Commodore RH PRATT (1923-29)

PL RAVENHILL (M 1956-58)

TTG ROBINSON (C 1937-46)

CG SLOAN (1930)

Dr JS RUDELLE (U 1923-26)

Major RL WILLIS (M 1952-55)

MW WINSLOW (U 1925-30)

Obituaries

WA BLEAKLEY (1923). Billy Bleakley was one of the top archers in Ireland. After the death of his wife, he met and married his childhood sweetheart, 50 years after they were parted by the war. He died after a short illness.

HG BLOOMFIELD (C 1940-46). Gordon Bloomfield was captain of Ulster schools rugby team and also of Portora rowing, among many sporting honours. He joined the family drapery business, and when it closed served in various local businesses in Fivemiletown. He was a real pillar of the community, district commissioner of the Scouts, conductor of Murley Silver Band, and President of the Chamber of Commerce.

JOHN A CODD (U 1929-34). John Codd died in August 1996. He was the eldest son of Sergeant John Codd, RUC. He won first prize for Mathematics in 1933, and often spoke of the influence of Mr Alec Barnes, who taught him.

EA GREAVES (U 1953-58). Sandy Greaves has died at 55. After working for Taylor Woods, he became a technical officer with British Telecom until early retirement in 1992. He served in the TA and the RUC Reserve.

CHARLES KIRKPATRICK MBE (1935-40). Charlie Kirkpatrick, who has died at 75, was on the last Portora team to win the Ulster Schools Cup. He had war service in the RAF, trained as a teacher, and eventually became the much-respected headmaster of Brookeborough Primary School. In 1980 he was awarded the MBE for his service to the National Savings movement.

Chief Inspector EDWARD J McLEER (L 1947-54). Ted McLeer has died at 59, after a distinguished career in the RUC. While at Portora he rowed in the first VIII and was drum-major of the CCF pipe band. He used to regale us with stories of evenings spent on patrol with the B Specials. Two of his children followed him into the RUC, and both won the Baton of Honour on their training course.

ROBERT G NELSON (1936-41). Robert Nelson has died in Southampton at 73, after a long illness. He worked successively in the family business, as rate collector for the

Borough of Enniskillen, and for the Housing Executive. He gave tremendous service to Enniskillen Cathedral, was an enthusiastic Freemason and Orangeman, and was chairman of the local branch of Age Concern. He is survived by his wife, four sons (all OPs), and two daughters.

Air Commodore RH PRATT (1920-1930). Robin Pratt, son of Archdeacon Pratt of Rossorry, graduated in medicine at Trinity and served in the RAF medical service. He gained five rugby caps for Ireland. He died on 4 August 1997 after a long illness.

PHILIP L RAVENHILL (M 1956-58). Son of a Methodist minister, Philip Ravenhill, who died on 13 October 1997, was an anthropologist; Director, West African Museums Project and Senior Research Fellow, International African Institute, London 1982-87; and Chief Curator, National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institute, Washington DC.

TREVOR TG ROBINSON (C 1937-46). Trevor Robinson died in November 1996, after dining with his old friend of 60 years John Gill (C 1936-45). John writes: Trevor was born in 1927 in Shanghai, where his father was with the RAMC. At Portora he excelled at mathematics under Mr Barnes, went on to Trinity to read Economics and Political Science, and received the Historical Society's silver medal for oratory in 1951. He went into insurance. Although in poor health in latter years, he was always to be found in the University Club studying the Financial Times and making his advice on the markets available to all. He was an excellent raconteur, whose good sense and generosity of spirit won him much respect.

Dr JS RUDDELL (U 1923-26). John Ruddell qualified in medicine at TCD in 1932, joined the RAMC, and served on the Northwest Frontier of India and in Persia, 17 years in all. He then practised in Cardiff, Kuwait, Yorkshire and Cheltenham, qualified in anaesthetics, and moved with his wife, Audrey and small son Simon to Alberta, spending his last 22 years in British Columbia.

CECIL G SLOAN DL (1930-34). Cecil Sloan, who has died at 80, joined the family shoe business in Enniskillen. In 1939 he joined 9th (Londonderry) Regiment Royal Artillery and was sent to man the air defences of Alexandria. He was commissioned in 1941, and posted to the air defence of the Lower Lough Erne air bases. Later he served in the 8th Army. He returned to the family business, served in the RUC Reserve during the troubles, was made a DL, and was joint Master of the Fermanagh Harriers.

Major RL WILLIS (M 1950-55). Richard Willis has died of cancer, leaving his wife, Heather, and three sons. He was commissioned in the 7th Gurkhas, where his huge enjoyment of life gained him many friends. His driving was legendary - I remember ending up in a Herefordshire grave-

yard with him in the middle of the night. His latter years in the army were spent as a Ground Liaison Officer, and his RAF comrades from Bosnia overflew his funeral in a Harrier. A Gurkha firing party completed the farewell to a cheerful and popular officer.

Captain MERVYN W WINSLOW DL (U 1925-30). Mervyn Winslow, who died in July, was by profession a solicitor. In 1939 he joined 9th (Londonderry) Heavy Anti-aircraft Regiment Royal Artillery, was commissioned in 1941, and served for most of the war in the Middle East. He rejoined his father's practice after the war, and in 1951 was appointed Clerk of the Crown and Peace for County Fermanagh. He had wide outside interests: a member of the Enniskillen rugby team which won the Towns cup twice; president of the Tennis Club; and an enthusiastic bridge player and fly fisherman. In later years he and his wife, Phyllis, created a splendid garden, which they opened to the public for charity. As secretary of the Board of Governors of Portora for 25 years, he was much appreciated by succeeding chairmen for his wise counsel. Mervyn and Phyllis were immensely welcoming and hospitable to newcomers, and his kindly presence in Enniskillen will be sadly missed.

Other News

ARMSTRONG A (M 1966-74). Alan Armstrong is headmaster of Inch Marlow Preparatory School in Belfast.

ARMSTRONG JA (U 1975-80). John Armstrong won a Bronze Medal at the World Rowing Championships, in the Irish Quadruple Scull.

BARTON KJA (M 1986-93). Keith Barton has graduated B Eng (Hons) from the Royal Military College Shrivenham, is now doing an MSc in Aerodynamics at the College of Aeronautics, Cranfield University. He has been appointed Sub Lieutenant Royal Navy, and reports to Dartmouth in January 1997.

BOYDADM (U 1946-49). Tony Boyd, who visited Portora in 1997, has recently retired as an engineer in Vancouver. He played hockey for Canada against an Irish team including HD JUDGE (L 1949-54). Tony's brother Malcolm (M 1947-52) is now enjoying retirement after 27 years with Beechams. As senior virologist, his most notable achievement was the discovery, evaluation and bringing to the marketplace of a new anti-viral product for the treatment of herpes virus infections, including shingles.

BYERS KW (C 1986-93). Keith Byers has graduated from the University of Wales, Bangor with a BSc in Forestry.

CAIRD Most Rev DAR (S 1954-57). Donald Caird has been appointed Visiting Professor of Anglican Studies in the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church of the USA, New York.

CAREW LR (U 1949-55). Lionel Carew has presented an oar he won at St Catherine's College, Cambridge whilst on the Colonial Service course. He became a district officer in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia), and ultimately a Crown solicitor in Northern Ireland.

DICKSON R (U 1964-66). Roy Dickson is headmaster of Parkhall Secondary School, Antrim.

DODDS NA (U 1971-77). Nigel Dodds, who in 1988 became the youngest ever Lord Mayor of Belfast, has been awarded the OBE for services to local government. He graduated in law at Cambridge, and was called to the Northern Ireland Bar in 1981.

FAULKNER JT (L 1978-85). John Faulkner is a purchasing officer for an alloy wheel company in Adelaide.

FRAZER RA (C 1947-55). Ronnie Frazer has retired from the Midland Bank and moved back to Templepatrick. He sang in the choir at the grand opening of Belfast Waterfront Hall.

GRAY JD (U 1946-55). Desmond Gray has retired as vice-principal of Terrington Hall Preparatory School, York and has gone to live in Whitby.

GREY GW (M 1990-92). Gordon Grey has graduated BVMS with commendation at the University of Glasgow.

HASTINGS Allyson (H 1980-82). Allyson Hastings has been running her own catering business near Gibraltar in Spain, and is now back in Co Down.

HUGHES JW (C 1950-57). John Hughes has retired from the IDB and been awarded the OBE for services to industry. He had distinguished TA service, culminating as commanding officer of Queen's University OTC and later Honorary Colonel of 4th Battalion The Royal Irish Rangers.

HUTCHINSON JF (C 1987-94). James Hutchinson has graduated from Queen's College, Cambridge with a 2-1 in Management Studies.

IRVINE MG (C 1961-66). Michael Irvine, who will be proposed as the next President of the Union, is a solicitor in Dublin. He travels the world, doing legal work for the World Bank, and drafting laws: on free economic zones in Russia; on telecommunications in Bangladesh; on com-



Donald Caird & Patrick McAfee at the Beckett-Joyce Ceremony.

mercial law in Lithuania; and other things in Armenia, Slovenia and Vladivostok.

JOHNSTON J (C 1949-54). Jack Johnston and his wife visited Portora while cycling round Ireland. He works for Alberta Government Telephones.

KELLY Dr TL (1930-35). Tom Kelly joined the RAMC after graduating in medicine at Trinity, and served in Burma, Egypt and India, where he met various OPs. His brother JGM KELLY (1930-34) served as padre to the RAF in North Africa and Italy, and to the Royal Ulster Rifles in Korea. Tom is glad to know that his friend Terry Hosie (1931) is commemorated on the school memorial to those who died in the war.

KEMP BV (U 1977-84). Brian Kemp is one of several OPs serving with the RAF at Leuchars. Brian is in 111 Squadron flying Tornados, and is shortly to become a test pilot for the Eurofighter. BLYTHE CRAWFORD (C 1982-89) has acted as navigator for him, Rev MICHAEL ROEMMELE (L 1962-67) is padre at the base, and BRUCE WATSON (M 1990-97) is learning to fly there as part of the RAF Reserve whilst at St Andrews University. GARY McILFATRICK is also a Tornado pilot, with 9 Squadron at Lossiemouth.

KILFEDDER Sir JAMES (1943-45). North Down Borough Council has set up a Memorial Bursary in memory of Jim Kilfedder.

KINLEY JG (L 1942-50). Jim Kinley is Captain of Royal Portrush Golf Club.

KNOX D (C 1986-93). I met David Knox on a flight to London. He has graduated from Queen's with first-class honours in Computer Science, and started work as a software engineer with British Telecom in Belfast.

LEIGHTON JMN (L 1970-77). John Leighton has organised an "enthralling" exhibition centred round Seurat's "Bathers at Asnieres", in the National Gallery's Sainsbury Wing.

McAFEE PJ (L 1951-58). Patrick McAfee is now back in Dublin as Chairman of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell Ireland. Our photograph shows him enjoying a bit of crack with Donald Caird at the presentation of the Beckett-Joyce Prize, which Patrick generously funds.

McBRIDE WJ (C 1958-65). Billy McBride won third prize in the 1997 RTE Church Music Competition, with his anthem "How amiable are Thy dwellings".

McCLELLAND JS (M 1949-56). Seigneur McClelland visited Portora with his wife and mother, having recently retired as Assistant General Manager of the NHS in Bristol. His brother Edward (M 1955-62) is an accountant with Coopers and Lybrand in Larne.

McMULLAN J (L 1964-71). James McMullan is a solicitor with his own practice in Belfast.

McNEILL DB (C 1923-30). DB McNeill (photo elsewhere) has published a wonderfully nostalgic and beautifully illustrated book "Early Bus Services in Ulster".

McWILLIAM DJ (C 1963-68). After reading Engineering Geology at Durham, Des McWilliam did site investigations for Wimpey Laboratories, taught at Oxford Polytechnic, and eventually set up McWilliam Sailmakers in Cork. His large boat sails have enjoyed considerable success at UK regattas.

PATTISON JA (L 1985-92). James Pattison has graduated BDS at the University of Glasgow.

PHAIR D (L 1961-68). David Phair is Director of Administration with Fermanagh District Council.

SCOTT JRE (C 1942-48). John Scott is Hon Sec of Portrush Lifeboat, having retired from Gallaher's.



SLAVIN W (C 1947-52). Walter Slavin has retired after a lifetime working for Short Bros.

PORTEUS DM (U 1951-59). David Porteus is President of the London Branch of the Union. Our photograph shows him with his veterans' eight at the Erne Head of the River.

ROBINSON DW (M 1990-92). David Robinson has graduated from the University of Central England, Birmingham with first class honours in Visual Communication. He also won the award for the best overall student, with an average of 80%, and is now working in London for Magnum, one of the world's premier photographic agencies.

SEYMOUR AOL (1935-37). Oliver Seymour is now in retirement in South Africa after a long and varied career. He boxed and played rugby for Portora, went to TCD, and served in the Intelligence Corps during and after the war in UK, India and the Far East. In 1948 he settled in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and spent the rest of his career working for the Ministry of Education. He recalls being felled with an uppercut by IMB Stuart for singing after lights out.

SMYTH Elizabeth M (H 1983-90). Lizzie Smyth has qualified as a veterinary surgeon at the Royal Veterinary College, London.

SPENCE MG (1978-85). Mark Spence is completing a degree in occupational therapy at Arhus, Denmark, where he lives with his wife, two sons, numerous animals and a large organic garden.

STEVENSON BC (U 1986-93). Brett Stevenson has graduated as Bachelor of Laws at Dundee, and won a scholar-

VANCE T (C 1983-90). Trevor Vance studied sculpture and printmaking at Falmouth School of Art, graduating in Fine Art. He has had four exhibitions, and recently gave a lovely etching to hang in the school gallery.

WILLIS Major BR (M 1950-55). Brian Willis sadly lost his wife to cancer in 1991, (and now his brother, qv) but



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ship to study criminal law at Trent University Bar School, Nottingham.

THORPE Virginia (H 1983-87). Virginia Thorpe is doing freelance research and production for Radio 5 in Belfast and London.

TROUGHTON TCP (U 1949-56). Terry Troughton graduated in civil engineering at Queen's, and went to South Africa, where he has his own company, Andru. His wife died in 1992, and in due course he met his present wife at church, where he is a lay preacher. She too had recently lost her husband, so a happy union resulted. They visited Portora during the summer, and his physical strength is still evident - I once tried to tackle him, but he ran straight through me. In case anyone was wondering, it was Terry who wired the piano for the school concert in 1955.

USSHER JNB (1930-35). Neville Ussher was son of the manager of the Bank of Ireland in Enniskillen. He joined the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, landed in Normandy, and fought right across to the Kiel Canal, finishing as major commanding a squadron of tanks. He enjoyed Portora, despite slipping with his tuck box on the Stone Hall steps on his first day, neatly mixing his jam with his new Sunday suit.

soldiers on as a weapons project engineer on RN and RAF weapons, at Hunting Engineering, Bedford.

WALKER JM (M 1946-50). Maurice Walker is this year's President of the Union. Our photograph shows him in characteristic pose. After a good grounding at Portora (he says) he graduated in civil engineering at TCD and got colours for boxing. His first job was to put in foundations for an extension to St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. He then surveyed a railway in British Guiana, and helped to move houses on the St Lawrence Seaway and to generate electricity at Niagara Falls. After a spell in road, bridge and dam construction in Northern Ireland, he did port construction in Lagos, power stations and desalination plants in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and MOD engineering in Oman.

WEST Dr JM (C 1949-55). Michael West has been awarded the honorary degree of DSc (Eng) by Queen's University, for services to geotechnical engineering. A Queen's PhD graduate in Civil Engineering, Michael became Managing Director of GKN Keller, geotechnical contractors in the English Midlands. When GKN withdrew from this activity in 1990, Michael coordinated a highly successful management buy-out. In 1994 he established the largest public British-owned ground engineering company by floating Keller Group on the Stock Exchange. He is now its Chairman.

DATES FOR 1998

Sat 28 February

12 noon Buffet lunch for supporters of the Boat Club appeal

2.45 pm Erne Head of the River

Fri 27 March OPU Reunion at 30 Herbert Street, Dublin (courtesy of Matheson Ormsby Prentice)

4 pm AGM. Michael Irvine will be proposed as President. A new constitution will be approved.

7.30 for 8pm Buffet supper for OPs, partners and guests £20 per head including wine. Cash Bar. Dress Informal.

A weekday in March 6.30 pm Beckett-Joyce prize presentation, Ulster Bank Chambers, Dublin, dress informal.

Fri 3 April London Branch Reunion at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, for Old Portorans (male or female) only. Black tie. 7 pm AGM; 7.30 pm Drinks; 8 pm Dinner. Cost £39 including wine. Contact John Brady 0181 748 7295.

Sat 9 May Portora Regatta, Killyhevlin Hotel.

Sun 21 June Old Portora Cricket match. Contact Peter McMorran 01232 761192

In October Fermanagh Branch Dinner.

Sat 12 December 6.30 pm Fermanagh Branch Cocktail Party.

Fri 18 December 11.30 am Young OPs' Coffee Party, Portora

Application forms for reunions are on back page.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

at Portora, 21 March 1997

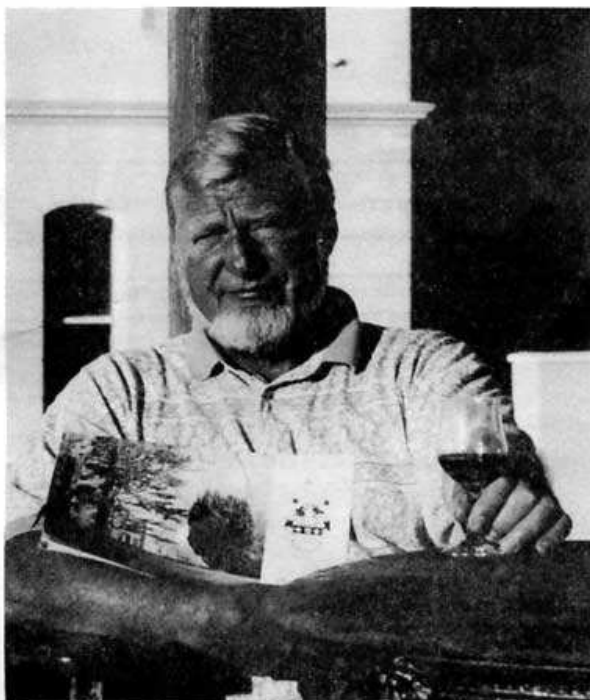
Peter Rowan presided over the 10 OPs present. Old Portorans who had died were remembered in a moment of silence.

The treasurer, David Hassard, reported that thanks to 110 regular subscribers of £10, the accounts had stabilized, though more subscriptions would allow creation of a reserve. The secretary, Mark Scott, felt that he had run out of steam in eight years, and pleaded for replacement. Maurice Walker was elected President, Peter Rowan Vice-President, and Michael Irvine Deputy President (next President). Treasurer and secretary were re-elected.

On subscriptions, it was agreed that life members would continue to be asked for a "top-up" banker's order; those who don't would still be circulated; school leavers would receive a free circulation on payment of a one-off £5.

A committee was appointed to recommend a revised Union constitution, to be circulated with OP News (qv) and voted on at the next AGM.

Future AGMs would be at Portora. The 1998 reunion would be in Dublin if possible.



Maurice Walker, President of the Union

THE OLD PORTORA UNION

Proposed 1997 RULES

- 1 **Preamble** The following shall be known as the 1997 rules, and shall replace all preceding rules.
- 2 **Name** The Association shall be called "The Old Portora Union."
- 3 **Objects** The objects of the Union shall be
 - a To promote good fellowship between past and present members of Portora Royal School.
 - b To advance by every means in its power the interests and welfare of the school.
- 4 **Membership** All former pupils, governors and staff of Portora Royal School shall be eligible for membership, which shall depend on payment of the subscription. The Secretary shall keep an up-to-date register of members' names and addresses.
- 5 **Structure** Branches of the Union shall include those existing in Fermanagh and London, and others may be set up in Belfast, Dublin, and anywhere else, following approval by the Committee of a petition signed by at least ten Old Portorans. Branch members must be paid-up members of the Union. The rules for the conduct of Branch business shall follow the same principles as those of the Union itself (see below).
- 6 **Annual General Meeting**
 - a Place: As decided by the Committee.
 - b Timing: In the spring, if possible to coincide with a school or Union event.
 - c Notice: to be published in Old Portora News, at least 14 days beforehand.
 - d Quorum: four members.
 - e Business: Statement of accounts.
Election of officers: President
Deputy President (to be next President)
Vice-Presidents (usually former Presidents)
Secretary
Treasurer
Trustees of the Old Portora Trust Fund
 - f The President, or in his absence the Deputy President, shall preside over all meetings and will have a casting vote.
- 7 **Special General Meeting** The Secretary within one month from the receipt of a written request signed by at least 12 members of the Union shall summon a Special General Meeting for the consideration of such business only as is specified in the request. The notice convening such meeting shall state the nature of the business to be transacted.
- 8 **Committee**
 - a **Task** Entrusted with the administration of the Union.
 - b **Membership** As listed in paragraph 6e, plus the Head Teacher (ex-officio) and all Branch Presidents and Secretaries.
 - c **Meeting Place** As arranged
 - d **Frequency of meetings** As required
 - e **Notice of meeting** 14 days
 - f **Quorum** Four members
 - g **President** As for Union (paragraph 6f)
 - h **Coopting** The Committee may co-opt members as necessary.

9 **Maximum Duration of Office**

President and Deputy President: two years.

Vice-Presidents: 10 years.

Secretary, Treasurer, or Committee member: 10 years

Trustee of Old Portora Trust Fund: 10 years

10 **Accounts** Accounts for the preceding calendar year shall be presented to the AGM by the Treasurer, after being audited by a member of the Committee.

11 **Alteration of the rules** The Rules may only be repealed, altered or added to at the Annual General Meeting, and by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, provided also that the proposed change has been published in Old Portora News beforehand.

12 **Distribution** A copy of the Rules shall be given to each member on his election.

13 **Subscriptions** The Union subscription shall be decided annually at the AGM and paid by 1 July, each year. Failure to pay after a reminder will result in automatic deletion from the members' list. Any change in the subscription rate will not come into effect until the year following the decision, so that the change may be promulgated in Old Portora News. Those who paid life subscription in former years are not obliged to pay the annual subscription, but will be invited to do so voluntarily. A member deleted for non-payment of the subscription will be automatically reinstated on payment. Branches may levy a further subscription if they wish.

14 **Old Portora News** The Secretary shall send an annual newsletter to all paid-up members, to include: dates of school and union events; proposed rule changes; changes in the subscription rates; and news of the school and of Old Portorans.

15 **The Old Portora Trust Fund** The Union at the AGM shall appoint the Trustees of the Old Portora Trust Fund, which exists to receive gifts from Old Portorans to be used for the benefit of the school.

16 **Reunions**

a The Committee, in conjunction with a local branch, will arrange an annual reunion.

b Class reunions will be encouraged. They will usually be organised by the former head boy with other members of the class concerned, and will usually be in Enniskillen. The secretary of the Union will give the organisers every possible assistance.

c Branch reunions will be in accordance with the wishes of local branch members.

d All reunions should be advertised in Old Portora News.

17 **The Beckett-Joyce Prize** The Union in association with the Clongowes Union, will support the Beckett-Joyce Prize, conferred annually upon that student from either school who shows the best skill and learning in English Literature. Costs of prizes and presentations will be shared between the two Unions.

Note. The following amendments will be proposed by Michael Irvine:

Paragraph 3 Objects. Add new sub-paragraph c:

"c. To establish, maintain and promote, by every means possible, good relations with other unions and past pupils' associations of schools."

Delete paragraph 17.

Any other proposed amendments should be forwarded to the Secretary by 31 January 1998

The Old Portora Trust Fund

At 31 March 1997 the Fund stood as follows:

Cash:	£2238
Gilts:	£7000
Covenants anticipated	£3485
Tax refunds anticipated	£1562
Anticipated value of fund	£14285

Since then, the Fund has acted as a channel for donations to the Boat Club Appeal, to which some of you have generously contributed. Those whose original covenants had run out have nearly all renewed them, and of course new donations come in steadily.

The following grants have been made:

Boat Club (oars)	£ 336
Cricket Club (nets)	£ 121
Chapel Close (park seat)	£ 816
Rugby Club (equipment)	£ 50
Boat Club (equipment)	£ 50

This is a great way to support young Portorans, especially in their outdoor activities, and we hope that you will use the form enclosed to express your usual OP generosity with a donation to the cause.

OPU Subscriptions

If you can, please consider topping up your original life subscription with a £10 banker's order (form enclosed), and help us to preserve our service and our contact with Portora.

The Old Portora Dinner 1997

A thoroughly enjoyable dinner was held at Portora on 21 March 1997, attended by 12 OPs and 25 guests. After a convivial reception in the Gallery the party sat down to a really excellent dinner by the school caterers, Compass Services, under the Presidency of Maurice Walker. Judge Robert Barr, President of the Clongowes Union, replied to the toast to the guests, and Richard Bennett and Gavin Elliott replied to the toast to the school.

London Branch Dinner 1997

David Porteus presided over the London Branch dinner, which was held at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall on 14 March 1997, and was attended by 60 Old Portorans.



Class Reunion 1986 and 1987



Portora Old (!) Girls

Class Reunion 1986 & 1987

On 28 December 1996, James Harley and Robert Kettle organized a splendid class reunion for the classes which left in 1986 and 1987, which was attended by 60 Old Portorans (well, fairly old). It started with a reception at Portora, followed by dinner at the Killyhevlin Hotel, and was still in full cry at 4 am.

I am afraid that I cannot recall what everyone is doing, but here are some that I can. Andrew Elliott (still single) is a vet in Lisnaskea; Trevor Hull (also available) is Sponsorship Manager for AIC Conferences in London; John-John (single) is working in Orkney and Shetland as a reporter for BBC Scotland; John Martin is married to Vanessa Kemp and working for United Dairy Farmers; Brian A Mills is married with two children, and is Project Manager with Tesab Engineering in Omagh. Niall Mills is a chartered engineer and married; Thomas Patton (single) is a chartered accountant, company accountant with Balcas Timber, Enniskillen. Roy Taylor is married, a civil engineer with the Water Service in the Enniskillen-Omagh area. Michael Walsh (absolutely single) is teaching A Level History and History of Art at the American School in Switzerland.

Fermanagh Branch

An evening of seasonal merriment at the pre-Christmas cocktail party was the social highlight of the Fermanagh Branch's year. With Gareth Knox providing lovely music, about 60 OPs and their guests enjoyed a congenial couple of hours in the former Headmaster's Study, a place which evoked memories of painful retribution for the petty crimes and misdemeanours of mis-spent adolescence. This time it was simple pleasure to be able to mingle and reminisce about good and not so good old days.

THE BECKETT-JOYCE PRIZE 1997

For the 10th presentation of the Beckett-Joyce Prize, Lisa Hulme, Head of English, renewed her friendship with her former teacher at Queen's, Seamus Heaney, who agreed to adjudicate provided it was in Dublin. The Ulster Bank came up trumps by offering the top floor of its fine centre across

"Music Matters" by Mark Elliott (Portora) was up to the moment, pop culture, fast paced, witty, nicely plotted, good sense of character, a story about a writing block by somebody who can write very well indeed. Cunningly constructed, seemingly artless but with the art that conceals art.

"Trapped in Thought" by Nathanael Adams (Portora) was experimental, Kafka-esque, taking risk of losing reader's interest by banishing realism, but gaining reader's trust by



Left to Right: Maurice Walker, Seamus Heaney, Mark Elliott, Lisa Hulme (Head of English), Nathanael Adams and Robert Barr (President, Clongowes Union)

the Liffey from the Custom House, which made for a wonderful party. As a final bonus, Patrick McAfee, who with Bill Finlay had commissioned the evocative trophy, was back as Chairman of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell Ireland, and able to attend at last.

Seamus Heaney had done a lot of work on the scripts and on his speech, and the result was enthralling. He quoted Robert Frost "The Gum Gatherer", to illustrate the sense of being in step between writer and reader, and then initial lines from both Beckett and Joyce, to show how the writer must catch the adjudicator's interest before he can start adjudicating at all.

To select a winner was most difficult. He was faced with proficient poetry and intriguing prose; variousness, humanity, inventiveness, realism, fantasy, skill, image-making, music-making.

He finally chose three stories.

its intelligence. A story about a lost memory being retrieved, very inventive and complicated, running the risk of abstraction but surviving it. Sophisticated, but serious and tender too.

Finally, there overtook him... "She loves me, she loves me not" by Daniel Bennett of Clongowes, the winning entry. The voice in this story was what held him from beginning to end. And also the wit of the writing - a bit Beckettian, just as Trapped was a bit Kafka-esque. But it had the mysterious quality of interesting one. A consciousness in a swirl as it watches clothes swirl around in a washing machine. Form and subject nicely blended. Story and tellers entirely of a piece. The sound of sense.

As you would expect, Seamus gave a marvellously witty performance, which spoke directly to the boys, and then he and his wife stayed on to supper and were marvellous company.

The score in winners stands at Clongowes 5, Portora 5. This year, everybody won.



Old Portora Trust Fund
Banker's Order and Deed of Covenant

BANKER'S ORDER

To
Name and address of donor's bank

On please pay the sum of £
Date on which first payment is to be made. This must be on or after the date of signing the Deed below. The periodic sum in figures.

(.....)
The periodic sum in words: to agree with the amount specified in the Deed below.

to Ulster Bank, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, for the credit of the Old Portora Trust Fund Account No. 27578182 and thereafter make like payments on the

..... day of (month) in each of the following 3 years making 4 payments in all

Signature of donor Account No.

Name Date

Please use block letters and state Mr/Mrs/Miss/Title

This complete form should be sent to Trustees, Old Portora Trust Fund, Portora Royal School, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, BT74 7HA, as soon as possible. IT SHOULD NOT BE SENT TO YOUR BANKERS.

DEED OF COVENANT

I of
Your name and address.

..... hereby covenant with the Trustees of the Old Portora Trust Fund, Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh (hereinafter called the "Trustees") that for a period of four years from the

..... day of 19 or during my life whichever period shall be shorter I will pay
Date on which first payment to be made; must be on or after the date of signing this Deed
each year to the said Trustees such a sum as will after deduction of income tax at the standard rate for the time being in

force leave in the hands of the said Trustees a sum which will amount to £ (.....)
The periodic sum in figures and words: to agree with the amount specified above in the Banker's Order
.....) such sum to be paid from my general fund of taxed income so that I shall receive no personal or private benefit in either of the said periods from the said sum or any part thereof

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this day of 19
To be on or earlier than the dates entered above

Signed sealed and delivered by the said
Your name in block letters.

Signature

in the presence of

Signature of Witness Occupation

The witness should not be the spouse of the covenantor. Two witnesses are required in Scotland.

Address

RETURN SLIPS

OLD PORTORA UNION SUBSCRIPTION

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

To (Name of your bank) Sort Code

(Address) Account No

From (Name)

(Address)

..... 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 7BT (Sort Code 93-80-76), on 1 February 1998 and annually thereafter.

Signed Date

OLD PORTORA LONDON DINNER 1998

To: C J Brady Esq., 4 Hammersmith Terrace, London, W6 9TS (Telephone 0181 748 7295)

From: (Name in capitals)

(Address)

(Dates at Portora)

I wish to attend the OPU London Dinner at 7.00 pm on Friday 3 April 1998 at the Army & Navy Club, Pall Mall. I enclose £39 (cheque to be made payable to D Porteus).

Signed Date

OLD PORTORA BUFFET SUPPER DUBLIN 1998

To: M R H Scott Esq, Portora Royal School, Enniskillen, BT74 7HA (telephone 01365 322658)

From: (Name in Capitals)

(Address)

(Dates at Portora)

I wish to attend the OPU Buffet Supper at the premises of Matheson Ormsby Prentice, 30 Herbert Street, Dublin at 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm on Friday 27 March 1998 (dress informal). I wish to bring the following guests (ladies are welcome)

.....

I enclose £ (£20 per head).

Signed: Date