

Old PORTORA Union



Old PORTORA News

2007



President's Address

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow OPs for entrusting me with the honourable position of President of the Old Portora Union.

School News



It is a very exciting time at Portora as our Rugby and Rowing squads have had very successful seasons followed closely by the Soccer and Tennis teams. We offer our congratulations and sincere thanks to all the coaching staff, support groups, parents and friends of Portora who have contributed in many ways to the successes in 2006.



We also congratulate Senior Drama for their performance of Samuel Beckett's famous play 'Waiting for Godot' as part of the Beckett Centenary celebrations. Many OPs will remember the previous performance in 1961, which achieved great acclaim nationwide. We want to thank all those concerned in the wonderful performance.

Thanks to the generosity of an Old Portoran, we were able to employ a new Marketing and Development Officer, Jane Fisher Holland, Jane has a marketing background in the London publishing world and we look forward

to much more exciting editions of the School and OPU magazines, Jane is married to Derek Holland our rowing coach and they make a super couple giving a lot of their time and effort to the Boat Club.

Members

I am pleased to report also that we have had a good response from our Life members to commence paying the Annual Membership fee of £20 in order to provide regular income to meet printing and postage costs. I know that Jane and Hamish Logan, our secretary, are working very hard to update our mailing list. In order to do so we must have your help and co-operation in providing us with your change of address and e-mails. Please do respond.

In order to acknowledge contributions of money either by standing order for annual membership or single large donations from Old Portorans, I have decided to sponsor an OPU lapel badge. The badge will be suitable for wearing at all OPU functions and will be despatched to existing qualifying members within the next three months.

50th Reunion



In 2005 we celebrated the 50th Reunion of the Day Boy class who joined Portora in 1955; now thanks to the effort of Arthur Ovens the Day Boy class of 1956 held their 50th in the Killyhevlin Hotel on 16th September 2006. I thank them for their kind invitation and I really enjoyed renewing old acquaintances not to mention the excellent hospitality. I would like to officially thank Arthur and his classmates for the generous donation they made to Portora towards the cost of the new President's Board in the Reading Room.



Christmas Cocktail Party

We held our Annual Christmas Cocktail Party in School on Saturday 9th December and very enjoyable evening was had by all. I want to personally thank our visitor from Boston, Jeannie Munroe, who entertained us on the grand piano. The 2007 party will be held on Saturday 8th December.

Belfast Cocktail Party

Past President, Sir Anthony Hart hosted a reception at the Ulster Reform Club on Friday 23rd March for all the Belfast based Old Portorans. This was a very successful evening as bright Spring sunshine streamed in the windows and old friends were reacquainted.

London Branch Dinner



The annual London dinner was held on Friday 16th March and Neill Morton, Robert Northridge, James Elliott (Head boy) and the London bursary prizewinner Thomas McLoughlin: all attended from the school this year.



OPU Annual Dinner and Golf Competition

Our OPU dinner will be held in School on Friday 14th September (see booking form) and I hope it will be as successful as last year when 100 sat down to dinner in the Dining

Hall. As last year a buffet meal including wine will be provided. I have arranged a President's Challenge golf competition at Enniskillen Golf Club, Castlecoole on Saturday 15th. Teeing off times are 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. My thanks to my good friend Robert Scholes, who is making the arrangements. Hopefully OPs will make a weekend of it and enjoy the many attractions Fermanagh has to offer in late summer.

We would like to establish an annual Golf Outing for OPs depending on the support we receive on this occasion. Perhaps there is an ardent OP golfer who would like the opportunity of sponsoring such an annual event!

Development

At present the school has many opportunities for generous sponsorship – to name just a few

1. A new boathouse
2. Secure storage container for use of the rugby club
3. Appropriate chairs for the Headmaster's Reception area
4. A new heritage fence along the Front Avenue
5. Plant a tree in memory of a loved one (Old Portoran)

I am pleased to report that plans are in hand to erect a permanent memorial in the School Chapel to Old Portora members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary who were murdered during the Troubles – something very dear to my heart.

1608 Royal Schools

Arrangements have been made by the five Royal Schools to celebrate the quatercentenary of the Royal Charter issued by King James I in 1608. There will be many sporting events organised between Portora, Armagh, Dungannon, Cavan and Raphoe with Portora hosting cross country, rowing and golf. OPs will be circulated when the programme is finalised.

Please make a special effort to attend.

I look forward to meeting many of you at some of the events in 2007-2008!

IAN CRAWFORD
President, Old Portora Union



Head Master's Report

Dear Old Portorans,

As the President has agreed to give a run-down of the year's activities at school, I thought it an ideal opportunity to outline the vision for Portora Royal School.



Curriculum Changes

Northern Ireland is undergoing a period of profound change. Central to the movement towards a better society are schools. (www.sec-ed.co.uk/cgi-bin/go.pl/article.html?uid=2434) Not only are schools enjoined to teach good citizenship and inculcate sound values, they are being required to offer broader curricula to include a judicious balance of general – or traditional – subjects alongside professional and technical ones (formerly "vocational"). The object is an entrepreneurial culture where transferable skills can enrich a fast growing and inclusive economy. This means radical changes for school heads and governors, many of whom have had little cause to think about the curriculum since Mrs Thatcher's educational prescriptions of the 1980s.

At Portora, over the past five years, we have sought to more securely embed those educational experiences which identify us as a Grammar School. We have committed ourselves to reviving Additional Maths at GCSE and Further Maths at A level. We have introduced Religious Education at A level (in collaboration with the Collegiate) and in September will offer a full GCSE course in the same subject. It is hoped that we can attract a Chinese teacher to teach Mandarin and we will also return to offering the separate sciences for our most promising students at GCSE.

Creative and Expressive Arts

At the same time we have embraced the opportunity to develop and expand our provision beyond the traditional. The major initial change

was the introduction of creative and expressive opportunities, both as a post-16 BTech qualification and a carousel hour in the Creative and Expressive area at Key Stage 3 (the first two years). The BTech was a collaborative programme developed with the College of Further Education. At the end of the first very successful year, the College could no longer sustain the course and we fell back on our resources to offer a GCSE and an AS level in Drama at the end of an extended school day (9.10 am to 5.30 pm). Further developments mean that we now offer the GCSE course to girls from the Collegiate and - from September - from Mount Lourdes.



ICT

ICT was an area of development four years ago. With Key Stage 3 (the third) assessment and A level successfully embedded, we sought to extend provision throughout the school. The A level course – heavily theoretical – was replaced by an Applied A level and a short course GCSE was offered at Key Stage 4. These changes have proved to be unsatisfactory. The coursework requirements at A level were very heavy and put enormous strain on our single-teacher department and the short-course GCSE proved to have little currency among the pupils. For this academic year, we signed a partnership agreement with the College of FE to have the post 16 courses delivered by their teachers at the school. During this year, I have been in discussion with the College to develop their areas of provision for schools to include iMedia courses. iMedia comprises of options which hold enormous promise for our students: Gaming, Music Technology and Web Design plug into the employability strand of education offering potential for development within the county and the larger economy. It is the intention to offer these courses at Keys Stages 4 and 5, starting at the age of 15 and leading up to university entrance. Thus we offer development and progression.



Moving Image

Introduced three years ago, The Moving Image is well established at A level. Designated as a professional and technical course in the application of the new technologies, Portora was one of the first schools to offer the course which has been instrumental in determining career choice for a number of our students. Stephen Neill – Ricky's son – achieved the second highest marks in the province in the subject last year. We anticipate that we will introduce it at GCSE when it is available.



We see the introduction of Drama, the Performing Arts, The Moving Image and iMedia as part of the same thrust to place creativity at the heart of a Portoran education. Every pupil will have a chance to experience the transformative impact of the creative arts. With our new courses in Information Technology we can flag up the full economic potential in areas such as tourism and the wider creative industries. An aspiration is that Portora with the support of the larger educational community can build and develop an Arts Centre to serve the needs of county and drive the development of the creative experiences for all young people. It is only fitting that the school which educated two global literary icons should take the lead in such endeavours.

Staff Changes

These additions to the curricula will be accompanied by changes to the structure of the school. Learning Areas will be established in the place of Subject departments to accommodate staff development, dissemination of good practice and accountability while our pastoral system will be enhanced by the addition of Heads of Key Stages to facilitate pupil monitoring and whole school improvement. These structural changes are a response to the major staffing adjustments which are occurring this year. Seven of our most experienced teaching colleagues are retiring

having served the school selflessly for many years. We have just appointed their successors: a group of teachers whose knowledge and skills will enrich the lives of generations of Portorans to come.

Those leaving in August are Dr Matt Gilfillan (Chemistry), Geraldine Herdman-Grant (English), Lisa Hulme (English), Douglas Hutton (Art and Design), Eileen McNeill (MFL), Richard Neill (History) and Martin Todd (Biology). The school owes them an enormous debt of gratitude.

Among those coming to the school in September are an international 800m runner, a Combined Ulster Colleges rugby representative and a qualified soccer coach as well as teachers with special interest and qualifications in music, drama and the CCF. As you might surmise, the Portora Project – the Achieving Community – will be well served by our new colleagues.



When I started at Portora Royal School in September 2002 there was a staff complement of 27 full time teachers. Five years on, there will be 34 including the Rugby Development Officer/Coach and Boatman. The expansion of teaching staff numbers is proportional to the increase in the curricular and extra-curricular opportunities being offered to the pupils. As I have said before, we are a Big School operating on a small school's resources. That we can keep within budget reflects the expertise of the Bursar, Alison Stronge and the Officers and members of the Board of Governors. That we aspire to excellence in all that we do is given; that we achieve it is a testament to the teachers and students.

J NEILL MORTON
Head Master



The Beckett Joyce Award Ceremony



As you may already know, 2007 marks the 20th anniversary of the Beckett-Joyce Literary Award, the creative writing competition between Portora and its twin school, Clongowes Wood College, Naas. The award aims to nurture the talents of a new generation of writers and is named after two of the schools' most illustrious past pupils - Samuel Beckett and James Joyce. The magnificent sculpture was commissioned through the generosity of Patrick McAfee of Portora and his friend Bill Finlay of Clongowes, who wished to ensure that once a year their old schools would come together to celebrate another friendship between a Clongowonian and a Portoran; the twinning of the schools; and the creative ideas of a new generation.

The title of this award takes no cognisance of that other illustrious past pupil - Oscar Wilde - and so the balance was somewhat redressed this year when we were honoured to have Merlin Holland, his grandson, as adjudicator. Students from Clongowes, their teachers and friends travelled up to Portora to join the Portora competitors, teachers and friends to enjoy a reception, generously sponsored by the Ulster Bank.

Ian Crawford welcomed everyone before handing over to Mark Scott who reminded us of some previous judges and competitions. To understand the effect of Oscar's tragedy on his family Mark recommended Vyvyan Holland's book, 'Son of Oscar Wilde', beautifully written, under-stated and touching, by a man who was dealt a very difficult hand at an early age and played it with great courage and sensitivity. Mark himself came to Portora nearly 60 years ago and at that time, according to Richard Bennett, the governors decreed that Oscar's

portrait should not be hung in public. The boys had no such reservations and were proud that Oscar was a Portoran. This, Mark concluded, was what a good school like Clongowes or Portora could teach a pupil: to abandon some of the baggage of his ancestors.

Merlin told us that in his father's diary he had found an entry which told of how he, as a child of five, had asked his father if he had to be a writer. As an author who had come late to words, he now felt that he had - if the creative urge is inside a person, then it would come out and in what better way than through words. A common theme or mood of the stories in this year's competition, he noted, had been a rather dark and gloomy one - perhaps a reflection of the world the young people live in. Merlin spoke of the competitors' work with warmth; he was critical but kind, speaking writer to writer. He said that the craft of writing had to be developed and practised - now and then a spark of magic would be struck and the words would become poetry. He suggested that the writer had to drive the words and the plot or plots along, rather like a coach and four and commended the control that some of the authors had over multiple plots. He was extremely impressed by the standard as a whole. His detailed appraisal was warmly received, particularly when the results were announced. Michael O'Donohoe (Leinster) was awarded first prize for his short story 'Parallel Lives'. Luke O'Connell from Clongowes received second prize for 'Darkness, My Old Friend' and Alan Elliott (Ulster) third prize for 'Driving Along in my Automobile'. The next best, and worthy of mention he felt, was Clongowonian Jack Maher's 'Annals of Time Gone By'. He was particularly impressed at his use of quotation, both in English and Latin.

Mr. Mark Loughrin thanked him on behalf of Clongowes for a most stimulating and thought-provoking talk and careful adjudication of the scripts. He also thanked the Ulster Bank for their ongoing sponsorship of this competition. The evening finished with a delicious meal. It was obvious everyone had an enjoyable evening as nobody wanted to leave.

We would like to thank everyone who made the long journey from Dublin and our sponsors and look forward to the Beckett-Joyce Literary Award next year at Clongowes.

EK HULME

The Wilbur Temple



The Wilbur Temple

A family with a strong affiliation to Portora, paid a special visit to the school in early January for the official naming of the boat club's new eight, The Wilbur Temple.



The naming was performed during a ceremony on the Terrace by Mrs Margaret Temple, in memory of her husband, Wilbur (Connacht 1928-1933). She was joined by her son, Mark (Connacht 1971-1977), her daughter Celia, Mark's wife, Una, and their children. 'We thought it would be a lovely, continuing link with the school,' commented the Temples.

Robert Northridge, Master in Charge of Rowing, in reference to the Temple family's long association with Portora, mentioned that Wilbur Temple, originally from Donegal, entered Portora in September 1928 and was in Connacht House under Mr. Mickey Murfet. He became a House Prefect and played in the second Rugby XV and for the first Cricket XI. In 1933, the school magazine recorded: 'R.W. Temple has played a number of times for the First XI. His batting is of a defensive type and he takes a long time to settle down before scoring. A safe fielder.'

After Portora, Wilbur Temple studied medicine at Trinity College, Dublin, and spent most of his career as a doctor in Coleraine. He was a consultant physician in Coleraine and Ballymena Hospitals from 1949 until his retirement in 1981. His only son, Mark, a physician, entered Portora in 1971. According to Margaret Temple, her husband had been very keen that their son would also go to Portora. Mark was a very successful rower at the school winning the Irish Championship in Junior Eights and rowing for Ireland in the Home International Regatta.

A former student of Birmingham University, Mark is working in Birmingham Heartlands Hospital, a teaching hospital. He also rows with Worcester Rowing Club. He has kept in touch with Robert Northridge over the years and he and an old school friend from Portora, William Baxter, who was also present, have completed three long distance rowing trips, their most ambitious trip, Dublin to Enniskillen in October 2005 for which they used a Portora boat and Mark mentioned that they had kept strong links with Portora. 'I could see a window for a new boat for the school,' commented Mark.

Robert Northridge, reflecting on Portora's success in sport during the last century, pointed out that the new boat, very generously donated by the Temple family, would enable the Boat Club to be able to compete successfully in the present century and that the school and the current pupils were being given the opportunity to compete at the highest level. He thanked the family for giving the new eight to the school. Derek Holland, rowing development officer, spoke about the importance of the gift to the success of the Boat Club. The Head Master Mr Neill Morton, School Governors, including Chairman, Bishop Michael Jackson, Old Portorans, rowing coaches, rowers and parents were among those delighted to share in the naming ceremony, which concluded with afternoon tea.



50th Erne Head of the River Dinner

Nine rowers who raced in the first ever Erne Head of the River event, 50 years ago, were among those who returned to Portora for an anniversary celebration on March 3rd.



Guests who marked the milestone at a celebratory dinner in school after the race included four members of the first placed 1957 Trinity crew; Hugh Delap (Leinster 1949-1954), Bryan Kidd, Tom Molyneux (Ulster 1946-54) and Nick MacGillycuddy and two members of the second placed Queen's crew; Dusty Anderson and Ivan Nelson. Also present were former Portora crew members Frank Tisdall (Ulster 1949-1957), Stuart Moore (Ulster 1953-1960) and David Porteous (Ulster 1951-1959), who was in this year's winning crew in the veteran class, from Molesey Club.

Two rowers, who pre-dated the Erne Head, were John Connor, who had travelled from Canada to share in the celebrations and Robin Tamplin. Both men are former Portora and Trinity rowers. Robin, who rowed in the 1948 Olympics in London, was actually one of several former Olympians present. He was joined by Iain Kennedy and Noel Graham (Moscow Olympics, 1980) and Derek Holland (Atlanta Olympics, 1996).

With 124 guests in attendance at the dinner, the event proved an enjoyable reunion for

many people, who had travelled from near and far to be part of the historic occasion. Twelve veteran rowers from Molesey Boat Club, London, who have been coming to the Erne Head for ten years, were back in the county for the weekend, while eight guests from Royal Chester spent a week in Fermanagh. Many veteran rowers from all over Ireland shared in the night as well as those from across the water. Almost 70 crews competed in the Erne Head this year - and by all accounts, those who attended the celebratory dinner felt the venture had been a great success.

This year's organiser was rowing master Robert Northridge (Munster 1955-1962), former Portora, Trinity and Lady Margaret (Cambridge) rower, who has been at the helm since 1983. George Andrews ran the popular sporting pursuit from 1957 to 1971, followed by David Robertson, from 1972 to 1982. Tribute was paid to his predecessors by Robert, who also acknowledged Mr. Robertson, who put together a much enjoyed exhibition on the history of the Erne Head. A long established sporting event, which has gone from strength to strength over the years. Held in high regard by rowers, the sportsmen and women enjoy participating in the course - regarded as one of the most challenging in Ireland for a race.

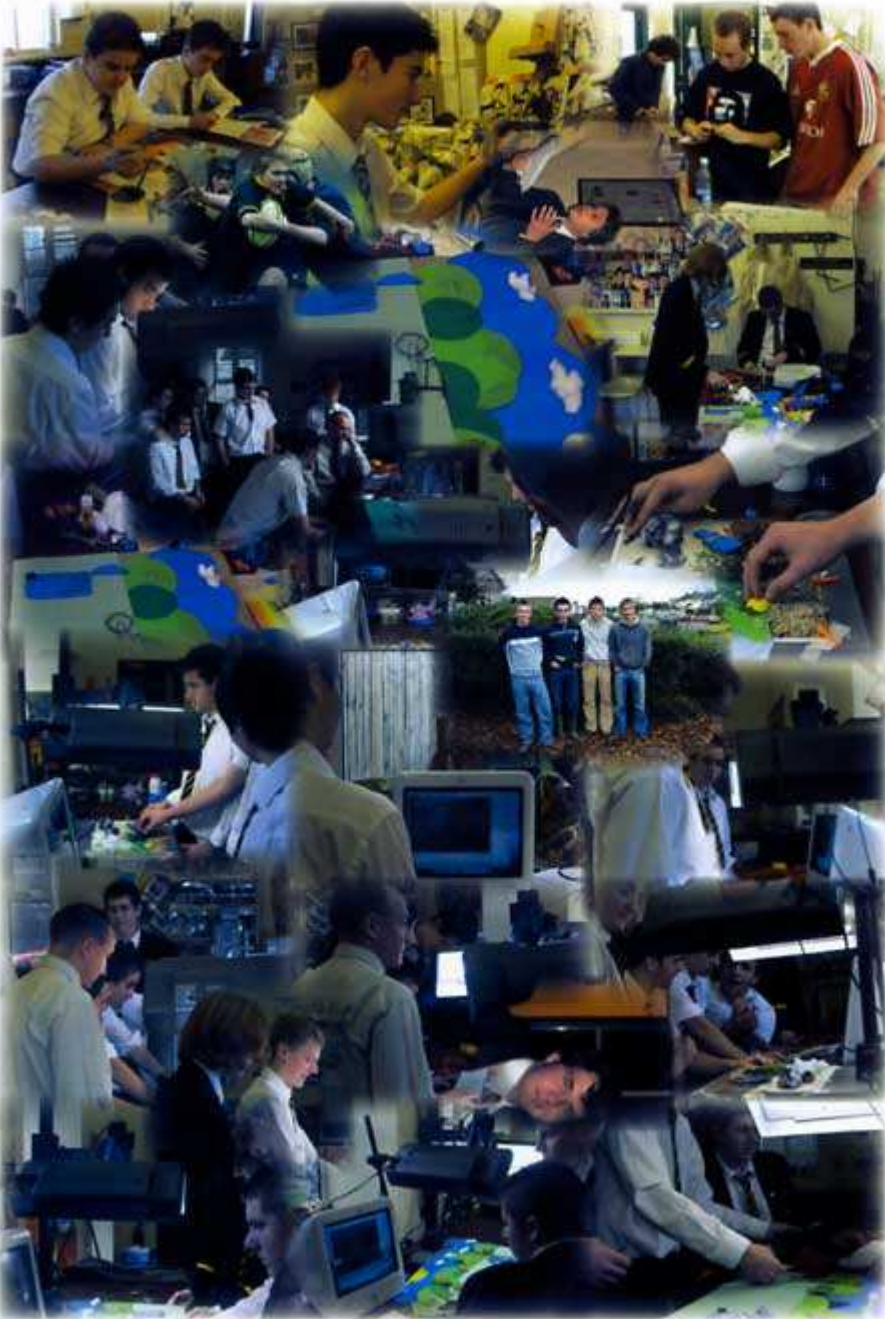
"Everyone enjoys it," said Robert Northridge, who believes it is a really good course. A course for tough, well trained crews, it is the same length as the Oxford Cambridge boat race. Robert also extended thanks to Enniskillen architect Chris Allen who sponsored the prizes and to his fiancée Janice Creighton, who presented the honours during Saturday afternoon's well-attended prize-giving.



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Drama



Waiting for Godot

As part of the school's commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Old Portoran and Nobel Prizewinner Samuel Beckett, the Fermanagh Winter Arts Festival 2006 began with the Portora Players' production of Beckett's famous play, *Waiting for Godot*.

Beckett once remarked that 'We are all born mad. Some of us remain so,' and I think that, a few weeks into rehearsals, we must have thought that we were mad to attempt this play! Although we had all acted before, none of us had ever done a play like this. Both surreal and obscure *Waiting for Godot* is an extremely difficult play, even for professional actors.



The premise is deceptively simple. In the first act, two men Vladimir (Matthew McFrederick, Leinster) and Estragon (Matthew Fox, Munster) are waiting for someone named Godot, for reasons not entirely explained. Two other men arrive, the four of them talk, and the other two leave again. A boy arrives to explain that Godot will not come today 'but surely tomorrow'. In the second act, events transpire more or less the same way.

We soon got to grips with the play and began to enjoy ourselves, although to be honest I am still 'waiting' to figure out what it was all about. As is inevitable, there were a number of difficulties: cast members needing to be replaced, lights needing to be fixed and the fact that the prompt copy was never there!

The play was performed to an audience of students, staff and guests on 17th November and to the public the following night and it was generally agreed to have been a resounding success. Not bad for a play in which 'Nothing happens, nobody comes, nobody goes!'

**MICHAEL O'DONOHUE
(LEINSTER YEAR 13)**

Shakespeare Schools' Festival



In January Portora performed *Romeo and Juliet* as part of an arts and education



initiative which enables 11-16 year-olds to perform a half-hour production of a Shakespeare plays in a professional theatre (in this case, the Ardhowen). Head of Drama, Caroline Peel organised two performances at Portora before the festival. The festival did not permit stage scenery or props so the Portora cast used Venetian style masks, and two students wrote the music. The cast of 21 included 10 girls from the Collegiate.

The school Brass Ensemble and Pipe Band have also been busy throughout the year, performing both in school – at the Commencement Service, the Remembrance Service and Schools Cup matches - and out of school in the Christmas Parade and lunch time concerts in Enniskillen Library.

Talented Year 9 student, Kristan Swain (Connacht), won the Under 15 section of the Northern Ireland Young Flute Player competition following on from his success in the Under 13 category two years ago. The competition is one of the biggest of its kind in the Europe and has built up a reputation for showcasing the most talented young flute players. Kristan was awarded with a Trevor James Virtuoso silver flute.

Music



In the Autumn, 16 year old, John Sheridan (Ulster), became one of the youngest people to achieve a London College of Music Diploma for piano. This is a remarkable achievement for anyone of John's age as it is often the sort of thing a student would do at university. John's piano tutor is Billy McBride, retired Head of Music at Portora.

Portora's Carol service is always a much anticipated event on Enniskillen's Christmas calendar, however this year the congregation at St Macartin's noticed a difference – not only was there a new face at the helm but there were more cornets, French horns, trombones and tubas as brass instruments took centre stage. In September the new Head of Music, Ian Hodgson, took over from Billy McBride (Connacht, 1958-1965), who had held the position for over 30 years. Ian's expertise is in brass so he decided to give this a bigger emphasis in the service which he had arranged along the lines of a traditional carol service. Although the service had a different emphasis it was enjoyed as much as ever!

John was also named Fermanagh's first 'Young Musician of the Year'. John won three competitions in the Fermanagh Feis/Forgather scoring the highest mark of any competitor in the instrumental classes and winning a bursary.

Rugby





Following last year's success in reaching the semi-final for the first time since the team of 1948 faced RBAI, this year's team had both the ambition and the confidence to go one step further. After a strong Autumn in which the team were unbeaten, but for Methody, and with a victory over the eventual cup winners, RBAI, for the first time in 15 years, Portora entered the School's Cup in the fourth round – an achievement in itself.

A large part of this year's success can be attributed to a professional approach in terms of strength and conditioning. Australian, Lachlan Ferguson, in his second season as coach at Portora placed the emphasis on developing explosive power and speed as well as improving the players' handling abilities. The electrifying free flowing approach of keeping the ball alive and supporting the ball carrier has made watching the Portora First XV a pleasurable prospect for its many supporters.



Head of P.E, Damien Dempster, was in charge of producing a weights and conditioning programme for the senior squad. Training commenced in May with 7am sessions four mornings a week in the newly equipped weights room in the gym as well as two afternoon speed sessions on the Galbraith Track. The boys also took part in three field sessions a week. A squad of 45 boys trained throughout the school holidays and it was this level of commitment which predominantly contributed to their success.

Having overcome a determined Limavady side with a somewhat nervy performance in the previous round, a good showing against Foyle and Londonderry College away set the home team up for their match at Ravenhill.

Sixteen coaches full of supporters made the journey from Fermanagh to Ravenhill on a day when conditions ranged from hailstones to bright sunshine. Unfortunately however Portora they faced a stronger team and Wallace High School were totally dominant on their way to a resounding 37-3 victory, as Portora's players failed to live up to pre-match expectations. It is 65 years since a Portora side reached the final of the School's Cup, and the wait will go on for at least another year despite the current campaign promising much.

After a great run of results, it was cruel to end the cup campaign with such a crushing defeat. However, it has been a very good season and the players have worked hard and played well. The fitness levels are outstanding, the commitment to each other is excellent. It is a big achievement to reach the semi-finals two years in a row. The squad have a tour of Australia in June and July and will then be straight back into it for next year.

Although the team trudged off the Ravenhill pitch with heads bowed for the second season in succession, there is now a new found belief in Portora's rugby. With an experienced coaching team supporting a squad of huge potential, there is a real feeling that this season's tears will be next season's motivation.

There are several very talented athletes among the squad and of note are Paul Galbraith (Munster) who was selected as the Ulster Under 18 Out Half as well as making the Irish Schools Trials in Dublin and Gareth Beatty (Connacht) who made the Ulster Under 19 side.

LB FERGUSON

Rowing

A strong rowing season last year, concluded in July, with two wins at the Irish Championships in Cork. The Junior 16 coxed four and Junior 15 coxed quad both finished first and the Junior 16 eight came a close second to St Joseph's, Galway in one of the most exciting races of the weekend.



This strong Junior 16 squad have returned as Junior 18s this season with renewed vigour and experience. It is still early days for this squad, who all have another year in this age group, however they have already notched up a win at Erne Head of the River.



This year's Junior 16 eight have taken up where last year's left off and have had a strong Winter season winning on the Lagan and the Erne.

As regatta season gets into full swing, following a successful trip to the Schools' Regatta and Queen's Regatta, the Junior 18 coxless four, Junior 16 eight and Junior 14 quadruple scull are emerging as the boats to watch this season. They will travel to Ghent Regatta in Belgium in May and will need to do well there to set themselves up for the National Championships in July.



Australian Coach

Since January the boat club has been lucky to have the experienced coach

Peter Toon on board. Peter a semi-retired architect from Brisbane has been coaching in Australia for 15 years and both his sons are involved in rowing – his younger son Michael winning a bronze Olympic medal, coxing the Australian eight in Athens.

50th Erne Head of the River

Portora Boat Club celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the Erne Head at the beginning of March. From modest beginnings the Head has grown from a four crew race in 1957, a training exercise for the Eights Head in London, to a 70 boat race with its own history and status attracting crews from England and all over Ireland.

The winner of the Erne Cup for the fastest time was Trinity College in 19 minutes and three seconds, a full 12 seconds ahead of Commercial Boat Club. Also from Dublin, University College Dublin were rewarded with wins in the Intermediate eight and Novice eight classes.

As the host club, Portora Boat Club put out eight boats of both women and men's crews. They were successful in winning three classes which Coach Derek Holland was very pleased with, telling all crews that: "This was a club effort which all contributed to, regardless of the individual crews' result".

Portora won the Junior 18 quadruple scull in a time of 21 minutes and 18 seconds, a tight four seconds in front of Methodist College Belfast. In a time of 21 minutes 18 seconds the Portora Junior 16 eight was over a minute in front of their main opposition, Methodist College Belfast.

The fastest veteran crew included Old Portoran David Porteus (Ulster 1951-1959) who now rows at Molesey.

Football

Before the school year had even commenced Portora players were making huge strides forward. Over the summer, I was one of several Portorans who enjoyed a trip to Glasgow with the Premier Fermanagh Milk Cup squad to face Glasgow Rangers



at Murray Park. One Portoran, Andrew Little (Munster 2000-2006), was offered a contract by the Glasgow giants; he seized the opportunity and was delighted to sign on the dotted line.

The Northern Ireland Milk Cup in August was a major event for Portora's top footballers. In the Premier squad six Portorans were selected and in the Junior squad four Portorans represented their county. So, before the school term had even kicked off, Portora's players were making the headlines.



With the start of the academic year members of the team focused on the Northern Ireland Schools' Cup. Last year's tie with La Salle had left Portora chomping at the bit to get back into schools' football and bring silverware back to Portora. Our first competitive game was against local rivals Erne Integrated College in what was billed as the tie of the round in national newspapers. Portora won the Battle of the Lakelanders with two goals from Andrew Thompson (Ulster) and Jamie Khan (Munster).

In the second round game Portora faced North West Institute. Despite missing several regulars Portora fought out a gritty win; Andrew Johnston (Ulster) and Darren Higginbotham (Connacht) both scoring. This result was a sign that Portora were a team to be reckoned with, willing to fight for every result.

The next round brought up a contest against Regent House. Once again, Portora were forced into another reshuffle with injuries taking its toll on the squad. A nervy and gritty 1-0 was fought out with skipper

Higginbotham once again getting in on the goals. A quarter final place was secured. The quarter finals had been a bit of an unlucky stage for Portora soccer teams in the past few years. However, this PRS side were confident that they could dispatch of Portadown College and take their place in the semi-finals.

It just seemed as if it were not meant to be. Playing on a dodgy council pitch in Craigavon, Portora were knocked out of the competition with two rather fortuitous goals from corners. Portora did everything but hit the back of the net in this frustrating tie. It was a heartbreaking moment for the Portora lads. For several of the side, this was the last occasion they would represent the school.

Needless to say, the season has brought about new friendships and superb team spirit and on a personal note, it is a pleasure to have played with the Senior squad guys.

**SAM GAMBLE
(ULSTER, YEAR 14)**

Tennis

Portora's tennis team had a superb win at Portadown Tennis Club in the final of the Intermediate section of the Ulster Schools' Cup against the fancied team from Friends School, Lisburn, past winners of the competition.

The Portora team members are extremely young in terms of the age of players in the Intermediate section for which pupils up to fifth year are eligible. The team was Connor Donaldson, Adam Donaldson (Connacht), Alistair McClurg (Connacht) and Glen Mowat (Connacht). All four are underage next year.

The young Portora tennis team will now be among the favourites for the Intermediate Ulster Schools' Cup and it will be interesting to see if they can retain the title.

Later in the year Adam Donaldson went on to achieve a top ten ranking in Ireland.



Golf

Golf in the school is in a strong position with competition for both the Senior and Junior teams.



At senior level, teams were entered for both the Ulster Schools' Match Play Championship and the Winter League. The latter was run in September and October when the demands of rugby take precedence. This, plus long journeys to Monaghan and Carrickmacross, meant that the team did not progress beyond the group stages.

In the early spring a match was arranged against St Michael's and victory against this local opposition seemed to be the ideal preparation for the main contest of the year.

In April the Ulster Schools' competition was played at Kirkistown Castle Golf Club on the Ards Peninsula. The course was in good order and the club were very welcoming. However, the organisers could hardly have picked a venue further and more difficult to get to from Portora! As a result of this distance problem it was not practical to arrange a practice round before the event and this creates a big disadvantage in relation to the schools from the greater Belfast area.

The first stage of the competition involved teams of four from 36 schools accumulating Stapleford points off scratch. Portora's total of 112 was enough to secure joint first place. Finishing in the top four meant that we qualified for the knock out stages the following Thursday, with the semi-finals in

the morning and the final in the afternoon, to establish who would represent the province in the all Ireland final against the other provincial winners. At this stage the competition became Match Play and five man teams were used.

Once more the distance to Kirkistown was problematic as meeting our tee time would have necessitated leaving Enniskillen at 5.30 am. Clearly this would not have been a recipe for good golf and so it was decided to stay the night in Belfast. This was facilitated by Allyson Hastings OP (Head, 1980-82) of the Hastings Hotel Group. The team enjoyed the experience and Allyson's kindness is much appreciated.

The team arrived at Kirkistown well rested to face Campbell College in the semi-final and the decision to stay overnight was fully justified when Portora defeated a much fancied Campbell side by five games to two. This left the school in the final of the Ulster Schools Competition (played the same afternoon) against an RBAI team of very low handicap golfers who had comprehensively won their semi-final. Unfortunately the effort required to defeat Campbell had taken its toll and the level of intensity could not be maintained resulting in RBAI winning all five matches.

Despite this disappointment the team had a very rewarding and exciting few days, finishing the second ranked team in the Province. To appreciate the extent of this achievement it should be remembered that this is a scratch competition with no allowance for handicap and that Portora had no opportunity for practice on the competition course. Two of this year's team will be leaving school this year but there is a good crop of young players that can be developed for the future.

RG McNEILL



Ulster Coarse Fishing Federation Schools' Angling Competition

7th October 2006.

This annual competition was held at the usual location on the River Bann at Portglenone where Portora took the title in last year's competition.

The day had an early start as pegs were to be drawn in the school hall at St. Mary's College in Clady at 9.30am. Our anglers quickly took up their allocated positions and fishing began at about 10.45. Although the fishing was slow to start things picked up and soon roach and bream were being landed. The four hours of fishing soon passed and the catches were weighed on the riverbank after a stop was signalled at 2.45pm. Everyone then returned to St. Mary's school hall where prizes were to be presented at 3.45pm.

The Portora team weighed in at fourth position out of a total of 30 competing teams. The champion's title had been held by Portora for the previous two year's competitions and perhaps it is only fair that some other school should win the accolade, on this occasion it was Lisnaskea High School, thus keeping Fermanagh Anglers at the top.



Waterways Ireland Schools' Coarse Angling League

April 2007

This competition was run over three successive Saturdays in April and proved a very successful event for Portora.

Richard Henderson was first, James Todd second and Richard Ogle third. Each received a £50 voucher. Furthermore, Richard Mayne, James Todd and Alex Atwell all won their sections and received £25 vouchers.

TM THIRGOOD

News of Old Portorans



News of Old Portorans

Lieutenant Keith JA Barton (Munster, 1986-1992) - made a flying visit to school in the Autumn when he landed by Lynx helicopter on the Parade Ground. He is now an Air Engineering Officer with the Royal Navy and Royal Marines and was giving a presentation on his life and experiences with the services to senior PFS boys.

Barry Dowling (Leinster, 1981-1986) - Was the best man at the wedding of Johnny Boyd (Leinster, 1980-1985) in Australia last July. He married a very beautiful Australian girl called Andrea de Kauwe (Sri Lankan descent) and he is currently living in Melbourne. Unfortunately he was the only Old Portoran to attend which is possibly why he was asked to be best man! In January Johnny moved to Helsinki, Finland for two years so that is another 'dot' on the Portora world map!

Alistair Dunne - Appointed principal of Fivemiletown High. Following Portora Alistair graduated from Stranmillis and then entered the teaching profession. His career includes posts at Lurgan Junior High, Newtownhamilton, Royal School Dungannon and the headmastership of Aughnacloy High School.

Shaun T Dutton (Ulster, 1974-1977) - He completed a Merchant Navy Engineering Cadetship before returning to Zimbabwe in 1982 where he has been ever since. He now runs his own Electronics Contracting business and is in the process of moving from Zimbabwe to Botswana. Having spent his school years avoiding sport, on reaching 40 he took up long distance road running and has since completed the 89km (56 mile) Comrades Ultra Marathon in South Africa twice as well as several other standard and short ultra marathons.

Neil Hannon (Ulster, 1982-1988) - His band The Divine Comedy took the Choice Music Prize Irish album of the Year for 2006. Tipped as a rank outsider in the run up to the awards, the album, 'Victory for the Comic Muse' beat off the favourites including Snow Patrol, Duke Special and David Kitt to take the top prize. The prize celebrates and acknowledges the work of Irish musicians, rewarding artists for their musical ability rather than commercial success.

Keith Hill
Appointed principal of Omagh Academy

Dr Alan Irvine - Working with colleagues he has made a scientific break through which could relieve the suffering of millions of people with eczema and an associated form of asthma. He studied medicine at Queen's University Belfast and is currently a consultant paediatric dermatologist at Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children in Dublin from where he led the research project. With collaborators in Dundee, Dublin, Glasgow, Seattle and Copenhagen he has identified the gene which predisposes people to eczema and the findings were published in two consecutive papers in the top genetics journal - Nature Genetics. This breakthrough gives scientists a target to develop a more effective treatment that gets to the heart of the problem.

Andrew M W Little (Munster, 2000-06) - Signed with Glasgow Rangers last Summer. The former Ballinamallard Youth and Portora footballer has been playing with both the Under 19s and Reserve squads. He also captained the Northern Ireland Under 19 team.

Captain Paddy McAlpine (Ulster, 1976-1982) - Received an OBE in recognition of his work as Commander of the Multi National Task Group in the Northern Arabian Gulf. He was responsible for the day to day co-ordination of the Task Group which included the Royal Navy and Iraqi war ships and associated auxiliaries and aircraft. He last visited school in 200 when his ship visited Belfast and on that occasion he planted a commemorative oak tree at school. He lives in Somerset with his wife, Janette, and two children.

Gavin Noble (Ulster, 1992-1999) - Ireland's number one ranked triathlete ended last season on top form. Early in the season he secured 15th place at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, despite carrying an injury. He also won an ITU Premium Cup race in Erdek, Turkey, a bronze in the Asian Cup races in Hong Kong and Plover Cove and retained his Irish title in Ballyronan. This year he will compete in the first round of the Olympic qualification races.



News of Old Portorans

Alan J.L. Robinson (Munster, 1986-1993) - Following two recent appearances for the Irish Rugby League side he hopes to represent Ireland at next year's Rugby League World Cup. At university, he captained the Great Britain Student team in 1997 before going on to sign with Sheffield and Featherstone Rovers. After finishing his degree he moved across the English Channel to play in France, before returning to his local Coventry Bears. He was brought into the squad after successful games with the A team and was invited to train with the full international set-up. He came off the bench in games against Russia and Lebanon and played alongside a number of Superleague players. He now has a fantastic opportunity to strive for the World Cup in Australia in 2008."

Sinton Spence (Ulster, 1966-1973) - Received an MBE for services to commerce and the community in Papua New Guinea.

Gareth Wallace (Leinster, 1991-1996) - Drove from Plymouth to Banjul, the capital of The Gambia, West Africa with his team, The Sand Dodgers, as a charity challenge. They set off on December 27th on the journey of 3,000 miles and arrived on January 14th, raising over £17,000 for Tearfund and Macmillan.

Dr Kevin Yeo (Leinster, 1991-1993) - Dr Yeo now works for Wyeth Pharmaceuticals in UK as Medical Advisor. He recently got married (15th May 2006) at St Paul's Church Hadley Wood, north London. This was followed by a reception at Forty Hall, Forty Hill, Enfield. The couple went for their honeymoon in New York.

Bishop David R Chillingworth (Ulster, 1962-1967) Was consecrated and installed as bishop of St Andrew's, Dunkeld and Dunblane in March 2005 in St Ninian's Cathedral in Perth. Formerly he was rector of Seagoe, Portadown and Archdeacon of Dromore. He is married to Alison and they have three children.

James A Hamill BDS MFDS RCSEd (Munster 1988-95) Won the 'Best New Practice in Northern Ireland' at the Dentistry Awards last year. He established Blueapple dental practice in Belcoo in 2004. As well as offering high standards in all aspects of modern dentistry the surgery is also a highly successful dental implant and cosmetic practice.

Dr David Lee (1991-1994)
David T-G Lee graduated from Portora Royal School in 1991. With his wife, Penny P-Y Leow and daughter, Siu-Yan Lee, recently returned to Ulster to visit Ian and Margaret Crawford in Bellanaleck. After Portora, David went to Queen's University of Belfast and received



his B.Sc. degree in Applied Mathematics and Physics in 1994. He went back to Malaysia. While in Malaysia, he met his wife and they got married on Boxing Day 1996. He left for Kansas, USA in 1997. At Kansas State University, David earned his Ph.D. degree in Theoretical Physics in 2003; a year after his wife received her B.Sc. in accountancy. David is currently a research scientist at historical Oak Ridge national Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee while Penny is now a full-time mom.

Graduations

Mark GG Elliot (Munster, 1996-2003) - Queen's University Belfast BSc Honours Degree in Environmental Planning

David W Finlay (Leinster, 1996-2003) - Queen's University Belfast BSc Honours in Management

Scott W Gilfillan (Ulster, 1994-2001) - Leeds University BA Joint Honours Degree in French and Italian

Stuart MV Gilfillan (Ulster, 1991-1998) - Manchester University PhD in Earth Sciences

Andrew JW Gray (Munster, 2000-2002) - Stranmillis University College BEd Honours Degree in Technology and Design

Michael W Kennedy (Leinster, 1995-2000) - University College Dublin BBL Hons in Business and Legal Studies

Timothy MJ Law (Connacht, 1995-2002) - University of Dundee BSc Hons degree in Regional Planning. Cooke Prize for Best Overall Coursework.

Jonathan R Millar (Ulster, 1996-2003) - Queen's University Belfast (in association with The Belfast Bible College) Honours degree in Divinity

Mark Nixon (Munster, 1995-2002) - University of Edinburgh BSc Honours degree in Immunology

Richard MH Northridge (Munster, 1995-2002) - Trinity College Dublin BA Honours in Economics

Matthew J Stuart (Munster, 1998-2005) - winner of 206 Elanco Scholarship to Harper Adams University College. Matthew is undertaking the degree programme in Rural Enterprise and Land Management.

Michael R Todd (Munster, 1995-2002)
Edinburgh University BSc Honours Biological Sciences and PGCE

Obituaries



Obituaries

EDWARD MAURICE FREDERICK BRADSHAW

(Leinster, 1929-1936)

Born on 26th August 1918 the son of Rev Canon Edward James Bradshaw and Valerie Georg of Basel, Switzerland. Edward Bradshaw was educated at Portora and Trinity College Dublin where he read Mental and Moral Science, graduating in 1940 with a second class Honours degree. During World War II he volunteered for service in the British army, joining the Middlesex Regiment as an infantryman. After the war he held a commission and served in the Education Corps. Leaving the army as a Captain, he joined the Colonial Service as an Education Officer. In the years preceding independence he served in eleven of the twelve districts of what was then Eastern Nigeria. Subsequently he taught in schools and colleges in Britain, Sierra Leone and Australia. He died on 7th May 2006 and is survived by three of his four children.

LS BREADON – HAS DIED

MICHAEL BREDIN HEFFERNAN CANTILLON

(Munster 1936-1949) – Dunmore East, Co. Waterford - died on 4th December 2005

SAMUEL BERESFORD IRVINE

(Connacht, 1939-1943)

Born at Gola House, Lisbellaw on 17th August 1926, the eldest son of William and Martha, Samuel Irvine died in hospital on 29th October 2006. Ernie, as he was known to his friends, attended Derryharney Public Elementary, the Model and Portora Royal schools. When his mother died suddenly he left school to work the farm for his elderly father. Ernie helped to keep the home going for his two younger brothers Bertie and Billy, who were still at Portora, as by this time their elder sister Betty had left home for college and work in Belfast.

Ernie quickly learned the many different skills of which he was capable – building, welding, mechanics, cooking and mending; there was

nothing he didn't try to do. Ernie was also always willing to help his neighbours. In 1951 he married Gladys Foster, a local teacher. They had three children, Malcolm, Heather and Tom.

A severe stroke in 1993 left Ernie disabled. Although wheelchair bound, he endured his limited life style with true character and courage.

In his early life Ernie was a member of the Army Cadets, the Home Guard, the Ulster Special Constabulary, the Ulster Defence Regiment and later, the Regimental Association. He was a founding member of Lisbellaw Young Farmers' Club and a member of Lisbellaw Bowling Club. He was a serving member of Belle Isle LOL 1314 and Lisbellaw RBP Crimson Arrow No. 392, and had previously held high office in both. His Christian upbringing and sense of humour helped him keep his dignity to the end.

(With thanks to The Impartial Reporter)

JOHN BENNETT JERMYN

(Ulster 1931-1935) – Clonleigh, Kinsale, Co. Cork – has died

GENERAL SIR CHARLES EDWARD WEBB JONES, KCB, CVO, CBE, GENTLEMAN USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.

(Connacht, 1949-1954)

Edward Jones was born on September 25th 1936, the son of General Sir Charles Jones – the only father and son to both be members of the Army Board in the 20th century. He was educated at Portora Royal School, and, with a view to the Diplomatic Service, went up to Pembroke College, Cambridge. After what he characterised as "ten glorious days", he decided, probably mistakenly, that he would not achieve the requisite academic level.

His early years included plenty of active service. Commissioned from Sandhurst into the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in 1956, winning the Infantry Sword, he was involved in counter-Eoka terrorist operations in Cyprus and against Indonesian military incursions into northern Borneo during President Sukarno's ill-judged



Obituaries

confrontation with Malaysia in the early 1960s. He commanded 1st Battalion The Royal Green Jackets, as his former regiment had become, on an emergency tour in South Armagh in 1975, for which he was mentioned in dispatches, and with the UN force in Cyprus in 1976.

His first appearance on the national and political scene was as a young colonel in charge of the Ministry of Defence branch responsible for a gravely troubled Northern Ireland.

After his student's year at the Royal College of Defence Studies, Jones was promoted to command the 6th Armoured Brigade in Germany. This was followed by a surprise appointment as commander of the British military and training team in Zimbabwe in 1983. Promoted major-general on leaving Zimbabwe, he took up the new post of Director-General Territorial Army and Organisation in the MoD.

After two years in Whitehall came his nomination as commander of the 3rd Armoured Division in Germany in 1987 but he was recalled to London after 15 months on his promotion to Quartermaster General. The end of the Cold War demanded a thorough reappraisal of the Army's logistic structures, and he had just the knowledge and freshness of mind to carry this out. The restructuring of the logistic services that Jones began was implemented in full and later proved itself in practice.

Promoted to four-star general in 1992, he became the UK's military representative at Nato's headquarters in Brussels. Since he was a fluent French speaker and in many ways a natural diplomat, this suited his talents well, but as this appointment neared its end without any diminution of his energy he began to look for something new. The impending vacancy of Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod was the solution.

He had galloped through his military career from one exacting post to the next without much opportunity for reflection but Black Rod was no sinecure. It proved quite different from the relative "good order" of the Army. He was a respected and popular servant of the Palace of Westminster who kept many of the friends he had made there.

Jones was appointed CBE for his services in Zimbabwe, knighted KCB on promotion

to lieutenant-general and invested CVO by the Queen on retirement as Black Rod. He was Colonel Commandant of the Royal Army Education Corps 1986-92 and of the Royal Green Jackets 1988-95, a commissioner of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, 1995-2001, chairman of the Council of Territorial Army, Volunteers and Reserves Associations 1995-2001, vice-patron of St Dunstan's, a governor of Wellington College 1997-2007 and chairman of the governors of Eagle House 1999-2007.

He married Suzanne Leschallas in 1965. She survives him, as do two sons and a daughter.

He died of a heart attack while fishing on May 14, 2007, aged 72

(With thanks to The Times)

ROBERT JAMES LITTLE KERR

(Connacht, 1950-1957)

The sudden death of Robert Kerr, at the age of 68 took place on March 21st, 2007, in Jamaica where Robert had gone to support the Irish Cricket Team in its debut at the Cricket World Cup.

He delighted in seeing Ireland against all odds, beat Pakistan and draw Zimbabwe and was looking forward to Ireland's next game against the West Indies, however he suffered a major heart attack during the night and died immediately. The game between Ireland and the West Indies instead became a moving tribute to him with 15,000 people standing for a minute's silence after Robert's contribution to international cricket was recalled.

Robert was born on August 24th, 1938, the only child of Thomas and Margaret Kerr, Tempo. He grew up on a farm and formed a close bond with his cousin James Brady, whom he regarded as a brother. In 1968, he married Hope Kidney from Ballycassidy.

Robert was educated at Portora where he became a senior prefect and where he played cricket for the 1st XI as well as rugby. He then went to Stranmillis University College and qualified as a primary teacher. His first teaching post was in Enniskillen Model Primary School where he remained until 1969. During that time he took on the role of coach of Portora's cricket colts.



In 1969, he was appointed as Vice-Principal of Jones Memorial Primary School, Enniskillen and in 1979 he became Principal of Dungannon County Primary School where he remained until his retirement in 1999. Robert was also prominent in the wider educational world. He was a member of the Board of Governors of Stranmillis University College and was elected President of the Ulster Teacher's Union. In October 2005, Robert and Hope returned to Fermanagh.

Robert was a talented all-round sportsman. In 1960s and 1970s he played table tennis and was the Fermanagh Table Tennis Champion for several years. However, it was in cricket he truly excelled. Having learnt his cricket at Portora, he played for North of Ireland as a student, and for Enniskillen Cricket Club on his return to Fermanagh. In the early 1970s he accepted an invitation to join the newly formed North Fermanagh Cricket Club which he served as player, captain and administrator. Robert was one of the driving forces in establishing the Western Counties team.

It was in the administration of cricket that he became a real leader and international figure. In 1996 he was elected on to the Executive of the Irish Cricket Union and, in 1999 he was elected as Chairman of that organisation – a position he held for two years. In 2004 he was installed as President, a role he carried out with honour and distinction. At the time of his death, Robert still held many central positions on the Irish Cricket Union's Executive where his wide experience and knowledge were highly valued. He also was Chairman of the North-West Cricket Union where his influence is sadly missed.

There is no doubt that Robert Kerr's accomplishments and talents were numerous. However, his most endearing and special qualities were his absolute honesty, his integrity, his humility and his ability to see all people as equals.

(With thanks to The Impartial Reporter)

CANON CHARLES HENRY LLOYD (Ulster, 1925-1930)

The following is from the address given by Canon Desmond Sinnamon at the funeral service, held in Christ Church, Taney, Dublin on Saturday 29th January 2005.

Born in the year before the outbreak of the First World War, Charlie died in his 93rd year. Gifted with longevity and good health, Charlie and his sister Louie, felt the death of their father, then rector of Virginia, Co Cavan, when Charlie was only twelve years old. His widowed mother's move to Dublin led to Charlie going to Portora Royal School, from where his fine mind and sporting abilities brought him to Trinity College, Dublin. At Trinity, his moderatorship in classics and theology was matched by his skill on the sports field where his all round abilities were recognised in rugby, cricket, rowing and golf. At the age of 23, following his father, he was ordained for ministry.

The 'log book' of ordinations in the See House, Dublin, makes interesting reading: 'Ordained by Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Gregg – June 21st 1936. Deacons: CH Lloyd, EC Mack: Priests: AH Butler, J Wheeler. On the previous page, there is another ordination to the priesthood: George Otto Simms and towards the end of the same year, another Deacon: MB Taylor. The note at the foot of the page says it all, '1936 was a good year!'

During his first curacy in St George's, Dublin, Charlie met Eva, who was to become his wife. For sixty years, they shared their lives together, giving each other love and support and with a warmth of friendship that has enriched all who ever knew them. Following a second curacy in Rathfarnham, Charlie was appointed rector of Moynalty and Moybologue, Co Meath in 1943.

Charlie was deeply committed to the missionary outreach of the church and to third world aid and development and in 1954, he entered the service of the Church Missionary Society, first as Southern Irish Secretary and then as General Secretary for Ireland. His impact on the national church was to make mission a priority.



Obituaries

After sixteen years' service with CMS, he returned to parish life as rector of New Ross, Diocese of Ferns, in 1970. His sterling work was recognised when he achieved one of the greatest honours in the Church of Ireland, his election by his own peers to a chapter canonry in the National Cathedral of St Patrick. His election as Prebendary of Tassagard in St Patrick's was in itself due recognition by his own fellow clergy of his achievements in ministry. After 46 years in the active ministry, Charlie retired in 1982.

His wise counsel, his sound common sense, his depth of scholarship and sense of the spiritual radiated through his friendships. Here was a priest who cared for his people, and whose love of God and people was nurtured in the daily round of morning and evening prayers which he never missed.

RAYMOND BLAKELY McCARTNEY

(Munster 1950-1956)

Born on November 16, 1937, in the Reform Stores, Kesh, a son of Blakely and Maud McCartney. Survived by his sisters, Pat and Maureen, but was predeceased by his two brothers Norman and Garry.

Raymond was educated at Kesh and the Model Primary Schools, followed by Portora Royal School. He worked in the family grocery business. His father died suddenly in 1956 and Raymond went on to run the business alongside his mother until it was sold in 1967. In the same year, Raymond married Caroline Moore and the couple had two children - Jayne and Terry.

In 1966, Raymond converted the old Kesh Police Station into the Lough Erne Hotel. Five years later, he bought the Killyhevin Hotel and eventually selling the hotel in Kesh and moving to Enniskillen. Raymond went on to become involved in further business interests, including the purchase of Necarne Castle, the Fairview Bar and McCartney's Inn.

A man who retired several times, in 1989 he established Belmore Court Motel. Although he officially retired in 1995, he still took an active interest in the motel.

Outside his business commitments, Raymond pursued a busy social life. He was a founder chairman of Kesh Development Association and he was a founder member of Erne Vintage

Car Club. He served as Chairman of the Club until several years ago and then became Honorary President. A highly regarded member of Enniskillen Rotary Club, he was a Past President and recipient of a Paul Harris Fellow.

Earlier in his career, Raymond enjoyed playing badminton and he participated in boxing championships at Portora. Over the years, he loved following the successes of the Enniskillen, Ulster and Irish rugby teams. He was a life member of Enniskillen Rugby Club; a member of the Royal British Legion; and the Rolls Royce Enthusiasts' Club. He was a former High Sheriff (1978); a founder member of the Lakeland Hotels' Association and had been a member of the Federation of the Licensed Retail Trade.

For a large part of his life, a major interest was his love of the cine camera. His amateur video coverage of the Enniskillen Remembrance Day Bomb made national headlines and the footage went on to be shown worldwide.

Raymond held a great passion for travel and it took him all over the world. His home and family were hugely important to him. A people person, Raymond delighted in walking through the town and having time to meet up and chat to people. He loved Enniskillen and Fermanagh and he was eager to follow developments in the locality.

(With thanks to the Impartial Reporter)

GEORGE BLAIR McMEEKIN

(Munster, 1949-1958)

While at Portora he coxed the 1st VIII and was Scrum Half in the 1st XV and was awarded Senior Colours for both Rowing and Rugby. He was also Head of House in his final year at school. He was commissioned into the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and spent much of his army career in the Army Air Corps. He died on 11th May 2006 and his funeral took place in Stockbridge (Hants) on 19th May 2006.

BRYAN CHARLES WALLIKER

(Ulster, 1959-1967)

Died 29 July 2006 aged 56 years.

Bryan was a boarder at Gloucester House and Portora, representing Portora at rugby and



Belmore and Ulster houses at swimming and cross-country running. His artistic streak was evident in his studies and it manifested itself in some memorable performances on the stage in house and school plays. He also showed natural leadership and organisational skills as a keen member of the Scout troop and as a house prefect.

After Portora, he studied business management in London and Lagos before taking over the management of two branches of his father's marine agency in Nigeria, working close to the front line during the Nigerian Civil War. He took up sailing and became the youngest ever commodore of the local yacht club.

Bryan returned to Northern Ireland in 1983 and worked with the Belfast City Centre Partnership, promoting the benefits of the City in its 'Belfast is Buzzing' campaign. He moved to the NSPCC as a fundraiser before being employed by Diabetes UK as the National Fundraising Manager for Northern Ireland, with responsibility for developing the national and regional network of fundraisers. For nine years Bryan dedicated himself energetically to this important work and he proved himself to be an accomplished administrator and organiser and an inspirational leader, instigating many unique and enjoyable events to help raise funds and keep the charity in the public eye. He was recently installed as a Fellow of the Institute of Fundraising.

Even after being diagnosed with cancer Bryan continued to work tirelessly and still travelled to various meetings throughout the UK. He was a natural social mixer who maintained contact with his many friends from Portora, Nigeria and elsewhere. Bryan was married for 25 years to the sister of another old Portoran, and he is survived by his partner, Sandra, and his children, Kerry and Peter.

(John A Walliker Ulster 1959-66)

JOHN AUBREY GEORGE WILSON
(Leinster 1943-1947)

The death of Aubrey Wilson took place at the Erne Hospital on March 7, aged 77 years. He was born on March 6, 1930 at Brumawill, the son of Mr and Mrs John Brownlee Wilson.

He attended Jones Memorial Primary School and then Portora Royal School. Following his education, he worked as a clerk at the Transport Depot in Enniskillen before joining the staff of County Cars Ltd, Irvinestown Road, where he thoroughly enjoyed his work as a car salesman for the rest of his working life. He retired ten years ago.

Aubrey married Laura in 1961 and had two children.

Throughout his working life, he was actively involved with the Masonic Lodge in Enniskillen and the Granshagh Orange Lodge. He took a keen interest in sport, supporting the Irish Rugby team and Manchester United football club.

His big interest was in bowling and in particular with the Enniskillen Masonic Bowling Club, for which he was secretary from 1978-1988, and the Wellington Club. He was also interested in boating and took part in many Erne Boat Rallies over the years.

Aubrey made many friends throughout his life who will remember him for his sense of fun and warm personality.

(With thanks to the Impartial Reporter)

Dedication

THOMAS ALBERT ELLIOTT
(Ulster, 1948-1955)

A plaque was dedicated to the memory of Thomas Elliott in the Chapel on 14th May 2006. Thomas featured largely in the life of Portora for more than half a century and it was appropriate that Portorans past and present played a major part in the dedication service. The plaque was dedicated by the Bishop of Clogher and Chairman of the Board of Governors, Rt Rev Dr Michael Jackson (Ulster, 1967-75) and the service conducted by Rev'd Canon Desmond Kingston (Ulster, 1952-59). Hymns written by Henry Francis Lyte (OP) were sung and lessons read by two of Thomas's nephews, themselves OPs. A touching appreciation of Thomas's life and his extraordinary contribution to Portora was given by the Vice Principal, Robert Northridge (Munster, 1955-62). Two of today's Portorans, Andrew Gordon and Kristan Swain, played instrumental solos.



Forty Years A-Growing

The Old Portora Masonic Lodge was 40 years old last year. To mark the achievement, John Hughes (C1950-57) has compiled a 24-page Record of the Lodge.

Old Portora Lodge is sometimes referred to as the 'George Andrews Lodge' and with good reason. It was the realization of a dream and George Andrews' greatest concern was that it should be stillborn. To parody Maurice O'Sullivan, that it has been "Forty Years A-Growing" is testimony to his foresight.

The Record is in 17 sections. It traces the origins to an OPU dinner in the Manor House Hotel, which led to the formation of the Lodge in 1966. Special occasions and anniversaries are recalled, as are the ancient and immemorial customs established over the years. 24 OPs are remembered for their special contributions. The names of 169 past and present members are recorded. And much more.

The Record contains much about George Andrews, who exercised enormous influence over the Lodge, especially in his support for the Boys Masonic School.

Copies of the Record may be obtained directly from the author at a price of £5 including postage. Please write to John Hughes, 1 Rannoch Road, Holywood, BT18 0NA

'2008 Old Portoran Weekend

20th and 21st September 2008

Details from Ian Crawford

(President OPU)

Pine Lodge

Bellanaleck

Co. Fermanagh

BT92 211

pinelodge150@freenet.co.uk'

1608 Royal Schools



1608 Royal Schools

Portora Royal School History

To mark the four hundredth anniversary of the School, the OPU London Branch decided that a exclusive history of the school should be written and published in September 2008, to mark the year 1608. This will be published a year after the joint schools history.

OPU London has formed a sub-committee comprising Hubert Schaafsma, Miles Henry and Ian Scales, having respectively experience in the publishing and printing business, designing and writing, and writing and editing history.

Many of you have already contributed reminiscences of your school days as well as tales of earlier times along with photographs and other material. For those of you who have thought of contributing but have not done so yet - please do and do so quickly! It doesn't matter how sketchy the story, we shall get the details.

Help us with your knowledge of Portora's history and the London Branch OPU shall produce a book you can be proud to own and proud to show to less fortunate friends because we shall acknowledge your contribution with your name in print.

Please contact Ian Scales, 49 Bradmore Way, Coulsdon, Surrey , CR5 1PF. Telephone 01737 553704. E-mail ianscales@btinternet.com

Five Royal Schools History

As part of the celebration of the foundation of the 1608 Royal Schools, the five schools – Armagh, Dungannon, Cavan, Portora and Raphoe - will publish a joint history. This book, illustrated with full colour photographs throughout, includes an introduction by Jonathan Bardon outlining the context of the schools' foundation. Former Headmaster and historian Richard Bennet has written the Portora history.

The book will be available from school in November.

It will cost £12 per copy including postage and packing (within the UK).

For further details or to order your copy please contact

Jane Fisher Holland
Portora Royal School
Enniskillen
BT74 7HA

Email: jfisherholland330@portora.enniskillen.ni.sch.uk

Telephone: 028 6632 2658





Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Old Portora Union was held in the Board Room at school on 20th May 2006. The following were present:

- **SIR ANTHONY HART** (Connacht, 1955-64) (President, in the chair)
- **IAN CRAWFORD** (Munster, 1955-59) (Deputy President)
- **TIMOTHY QUINN** (Connacht, 1953-60) (Vice President)
- **JOHN HUGHES** (Connacht, 1950-57) (Vice President)
- **DAVID HASSARD** (Munster, 1976-83) (Hon Treasurer)
- **HAMISH LOGAN** (Leinster, 1966-76) (Hon Secretary)
- **WILL WILSON** (Leinster, 1945-50)

Apologies were received from Robert Scholes (Ulster, 1957-60) and Ronald Hurst (Ulster, 1961-71).

Minutes and matters arising therefrom

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved. Sir Anthony reported that he had hosted a drinks party in the Ulster Reform Club on 10th March and despite the fact that numbers were down to about forty he reported a profit of £162. He regretted the apparent neglect of members from the Dublin area.

Sir Anthony also reported that he had been unable to attend the presentation of the Beckett-Joyce award but that Robert Northridge (Munster 1955-62) had represented the OPU.

The planned President's Ball had been cancelled despite enormous effort on the part of Ian Crawford and Robert Scholes to generate sufficient support from OPs. This had resulted in unrecoverable costs of approximately £360.

The 2006 issue of OP News had generated favourable comment from several OPs who felt that it was more relevant, more interesting and more readable than recent issues had been.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer gave his report, a copy of which is below. Subscription income had risen to £2,608 compared with £2,175 the previous year. The 2005 AGM and Dinner were at a cost to the OPU of £1,006 (compared with approximately £1,500 in 2004). The bank balance stood at £4,400 with no outstanding debts. It was likely that the 2006 AGM and Dinner would generate profit for the OPU as a result of greatly increased numbers attending, largely due to conjunction with the OP Masonic Lodge Dinner.

Income and Expenditure Account

for the year ended 31st December 2005

	£		£
BANK BALANCE 01.01.05	£5,158.62	EXPENDITURE ON MAGAZINE	£1,924.35
SURPLUS ON JB AWARD	£75.00	BANK FEES	£157.26
INCOME FROM SUBSCRIPTIONS	£2,607.73	DEFICIT ON 2005 AGM	£1,006.20
		DEFICIT ON CANCELLED BALL	£361.20
	£7,841.35		£7,841.35

This year saw a much reduced deficit compared with 2004 mainly because income has increased and the deficit on the AGM reduced.

DAVID G HASSARD FCA

Honorary Treasurer OPU

The report was adopted having been proposed by Sir Anthony and seconded by the Secretary.



OP Trust Fund

Currently stands at approximately £25,000.

OPU Constitution

Sir Anthony outlined the proposed amendments to the OPU constitution and mentioned a number of subsequent changes. The Treasurer proposed that the constitution be amended as presented. This was seconded by Ian Crawford and passed unanimously. The Secretary was instructed to ensure that the agreed constitution be published either with or in the 2007 issue of OP News and to explore the possibility of producing a "Rule Book" for distribution to members.

Election of Officers

Before standing down as President, Sir Anthony thanked the Union for the honour of having served as its President. He thanked the office bearers, in particular the Secretary. He proposed that Ian Crawford should succeed him as President. This was seconded by Timothy Quin and passed unopposed. Sir Anthony becomes a Vice President automatically.

Ian Crawford proposed Robert Northridge for the office of Deputy President. This was seconded by Timothy Quin and passed unopposed.

Sir Anthony proposed that David Hassard should continue as Treasurer. This was seconded by Ian Crawford and passed unopposed.

David Hassard proposed that Hamish Logan should continue as Secretary. This too was seconded by Ian Crawford and passed unopposed.

Sir Anthony proposed that Timothy Quin should join the committee. This was seconded by David Hassard. Mr Quin's counter-proposal that the President and Vice-President should within reason be free to co-opt local members onto the committee was agreed. Sir Anthony specifically mentioned the names of two members who might be approached.

Portora Project

A document was circulated, consisting of a letter (drafted by Sir Anthony) appealing for support for the Portora Project and a "Vision Document" composed by the Headmaster and the Vice-Principal. Sir Anthony proposed that the OPU should show commitment to the Portora Project, in return for which the school would provide practical support to the OPU. It was agreed in principle that the OPU should allocate £750 for this purpose and the Treasurer was given licence to decide on the final amount.

Other Business

Patrick Corkey (Ulster, 1939-44) has indicated his wish to retire from representing Portora and John Hughes passed relevant papers to the Secretary.

Timothy Quinn proposed a vote of thanks to Sir Anthony who had justified the former's choice as his successor. This was endorsed by John Hughes.

The meeting closed in good time for the Annual Dinner at which the Union entertained guests from Campbell College, Clongowes Wood, Methodist College, RBAI and the Royal Schools of Armagh and Dungannon. The Headmaster and Mrs Morton attended. The Guest of Honour was Graham Little (Munster, 1989-96), the sports reporter, who spared the company no detail during an engaging account of his quest for world championship in almost anything. Numbers were greatly enhanced by the attendance of brethren from the OP Masonic Lodge, and the evening was very much enjoyed by those who attended.



Rules of the Old Portora Union

(adopted at the Annual General Meeting of 20th May 2006)

1. There shall be an association called "The Old Portora Union" ("The OPU").
2. The objects of the OPU shall be:
 - a. to promote friendship between past (OPs) and present members of Portora Royal School ("the school"); and
 - b. to advance by every means in its power the interests and welfare of the school and its pupils, past and present.
3. All OPs, as well as past and present governors and staff, shall be eligible for membership of the OPU. The committee may elect any person whose service to the school or the OPU has been of particular merit as an honorary member of the OPU.
4.
 - a. The administration of the affairs of the OPU shall be the responsibility of the committee, which shall consist of a President, Deputy President, Vice-President, the Headmaster or Principal, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, not more than six other persons to be known as "ordinary members", and not more than two other members who may be co-opted by the committee.
 - b. The Headmaster or Principal shall be a member so long as he or she continues as such.
 - c. The President, other officers and the ordinary members of the committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting ("AGM") and hold office for one year or until the next AGM, whichever is later. In the event that any office is not filled, or fewer than six ordinary members of the committee are elected, at the AGM, the committee may co-opt a member of the OPU to fill any such vacancy. Any officer or ordinary member of the committee may be re-elected as an officer or ordinary member of the committee, save that a member shall only be eligible to serve as President for two consecutive years.
 - d. In the event of the death, permanent incapacity or resignation of any officer, ordinary member or co-opted member of the committee, his or her post shall become vacant and may be filled by such member of the OPU as the officers and committee may co-opt. Any such person shall hold his or her post until the next AGM.
 - e. The Vice President shall be the immediate past President of the OPU.
 - f. The President, or in his or her absence the Deputy President, or in his or her absence the Honorary Secretary, shall preside at all meetings of the committee, at the AGM and any Special General Meeting, and shall have a casting vote. The quorum for a meeting of the committee shall be four.



Annual General Meeting

5. The AGM shall be held in Co. Fermanagh, or in such place as the committee may decide, on such date between 1st April and 30th June as the committee shall decide. The President for the previous year shall preside at the AGM. The outgoing Honorary Secretary shall present a report of the activities of the OPU since the last AGM. The outgoing Honorary Treasurer shall present a statement of the accounts for the previous year ending 31st December, such accounts to be audited by a person selected by the committee. The committee for the coming year shall be elected at the AGM.
6. On leaving the school all OPs shall automatically become members of the OPU and shall not be required to pay any subscription for four years after leaving the school. Thereafter they shall be required to pay the same subscription as other members of the OPU. The annual subscription of each member shall be such amount as shall be fixed from time to time by the AGM, and shall be payable not later than 1st June each year. If any member fails to pay his or her annual subscription by 1st June he or she shall cease to be a member of the OPU, but, if a satisfactory explanation is given to the committee, his or her membership may be restored on such terms as the committee may determine.
7. Any person who has been expelled from the school shall not be eligible to become a member of the OPU. The committee in its absolute discretion may refuse to admit any person to, or may remove any person from, membership of the OPU if it considers that his or her conduct has been such as to bring the school or the OPU into disrepute, provided that the committee first notifies the person concerned in writing of the conduct complained of and gives that person a reasonable opportunity to explain his or her conduct to the committee.
8. It shall be the duty of the Honorary Secretary to keep a register of members' names and addresses. Change of address shall be notified to the Honorary Secretary. Notice of important school or OPU events shall be sent to members from time to time or published in the press or other media.
9. Dinners and other social functions may be held in such place and at such time as the committee may decide.
10. The Honorary Secretary within one month from the receipt of a written request signed by at least twelve members of the OPU shall summon a Special General Meeting for the consideration of such business only as is specified in the request. The notice convening such request shall state the nature of the business to be transacted. Such meetings shall be held in Co. Fermanagh.
11. The Rules of the OPU may only be repealed, altered or added to at the AGM or a Special General Meeting by a two thirds majority of those present and voting, provided also that fourteen days notice shall previously have been given in writing to the Honorary Secretary.
12. A copy of the Rules shall be given to each member on joining the OPU.



Old Portora Union Calendar

OPU AGM

26th June 2007, 6:00pm
Seale Room, Portora Royal School
Details from Hamish Logan (Secretary OPU)
Summerhill House,
Ballinamallard,
Enniskillen,
BT94 2ER
opu.sec@btinternet.com

OPU Dinner

14th September 2007
Portora Royal School
Reception 7:30 pm, Dinner 8:00 pm
Details from Ian Crawford
(President OPU)
Pine Lodge,
Bellanaleck,
Co. Fermanagh,
BT92 2II
pinelodge150@freenet.co.uk

President's Golf Challenge

15th September 2007
Castlecoole Golf Club
Tee Off 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Details from Ian Crawford
(President OPU)
Pine Lodge,
Bellanaleck,
Co. Fermanagh,
BT92 2II
pinelodge150@freenet.co.uk

1957 Dayboy Class Reunion

14th/15th September 2007
In conjunction with OPU Annual Dinner
Details from Brian Gilliland
20 Moira Drive,
Bangor,
BT20 4RN
028 9147 1691
bgilliland@dnet.co.uk

Dublin Cocktail Party

Autumn 2007, Conrad Hotel
Details from David Brady
David.Brady@marsh.com

Christmas Cocktail Party

10th December 2007
Seale Room, Portora Royal School
Details from Hamish Logan
(Secretary OPU)
Summerhill House,
Ballinamallard,
Enniskillen,
BT94 2ER
opu.sec@btinternet.com

London OPU Dinner

Friday 7th March 2008
The Army & Navy Club,
Pall Mall,
London,
Details from David Knox
(Secretary OPU London Branch)
opulondon@btinternet.com

Belfast Cocktail Party

April/May 2008
Ulster Reform Club
Belfast
Details will be circulated