



Clongowes Union

Newsletter

Edition No. 1

May 2021

Dear Fellow Clongownians,

Welcome to our inaugural newsletter. The objective of this newsletter is to keep you updated on news, events, projects, and stories of Clongowes Past Pupils which you may find interesting. The Union Committee has proposed this newsletter as a way of promoting and maintaining contact with all Clongowes Past Pupils. We aim to produce two newsletters per year, Spring and Autumn. Should you wish to contact us or post a story of interest please send it to union@clongowes.net

School News: All pupils have returned to CWC after the Easter break. The Union would like to congratulate the Headmaster and Staff on their excellent work over the last 15 months and in ensuring that pupils suffered as little disruption as possible.

A recruitment process to engage additional prefects has commenced.

Your Union will be sponsoring a presentation in 2021 where the successful 2020 Senior Cup Team will be presented with their Leinster Schools Senior Cup winners' medals. The Union would like to mark the terrific achievement of the team and ensure that they receive the recognition due to them.

Event update: Union AGM: Sunday, 23rd May 10am by Zoom. To join the Zoom meeting the details are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84005679445?pwd=cEhLbVVMNFNCbGhFVHhqWTlwWllmUT09>

Meeting ID: 840 0567 9445 Passcode: 858500

Union Golf Society: Abraham Sutton Trophy – TBC. Contact clongowesgoldsoc@gmail.com for further details.

Business Lunch - Marker Hotel, Dublin Docklands. 15th October 2021 (This event will be subject to Government guidelines and will be confirmed in August.)

Annual Dinner – Friday, 25th February 2022.

We look forward to hearing from OC's of any events or reunions that will take place in 2021 so that we may publish them in our Autumn edition – union@clongowes.net

Data Collection: In recent weeks we have undertaken an advertising campaign to request past pupils to update their contact details in the Clongowes Union database. This program

has been extremely successful with over 1,000 Clongownians updating their contact details. It allows us to inform you of events that the Union are holding this year and especially as we approach our 125-year anniversary which kicks off in 2022. Please feel free to share the link with anyone who may want to update their details. <http://forms.gle/UrAVDGyneLq3bdew6>

125 Year Anniversary: Commencing in June 2022 we will embark on our 125-year anniversary as a Union and hold events in all 4 Provinces. We will be sharing details of these events in due course. The updating of our database will be key to communicating to OCs of the events that will take place.

Rugby: It was unfortunate that during his term of office, Mr Nicholas Comyn (OC'64) President of the IRFU was not able to witness Clongowes play Newbridge in the Senior Cup Final 2020. A medal presentation is being sponsored by the Union, hopefully in the RDS at a time suitable for all parties.

With the departure of Daryl Maxwell to Ulster Rugby the school is in the process of appointing a Director of Rugby. Early indications point to a strong interest and an announcement is expected shortly. A profile of the successful candidate will appear in our next edition. We are grateful to Daryl for his efforts and wish him all the best in the future.

In Australia Rob Kearney (OC 04) is making new fans in Perth, playing for Western Force in Super Rugby AU and at time of writing Western Force have reached the play-offs for the first time in their history.

Alumnus of the Year: It is with great pleasure that we can announce that your Committee have nominated Mr. Simon Coveney T.D., as Alumnus of the Year 2020 and he has gratefully accepted the award. The presentation of this award will be at a future date.

Peter McVerry SJ: Our involvement with Peter McVerry and the Berkeley Street Centre has come to an end due to the centre being closed for the past 14 months. We would hope the centre will reopen later in 2021.

Old Clongownians Take on the Freezbrury Challenge and Raise €43,500 for Pieta

The Gollymocky Whalers swimming group was set up in May 2020. We continued swimming during the winter months as the days got shorter and the sea colder. Although it was tough on the mind and body, nobody wanted to throw in the towel. Then in late January, Tommy Kearns (OC'95) proposed the idea of the Freezbrury challenge.

Freezbrury was first initiated in 2019 by Damian Browne, a former rugby player turned extreme adventurer. The idea is to spend a minute longer in the sea for each day of February, culminating in a 28-minute swim on 28th February. The premise of Freezbrury is to focus on the power of the mind over the body; to push yourself mentally and physically. Some days are a struggle, and you feel (literally) out of your depth, but with the right support you find that you can overcome most obstacles.

The Freezbrury Challenge was immediately and enthusiastically taken up Tommy's classmate, Rory "8-Pack" Hussey. For those

of us on the wrong side of fifty, we thought this was a reckless idea and we imagined ourselves succumbing to hypothermia, frostbite and perhaps even cardiac arrest. However, we ran out of excuses when the Brothers Mullan, Johnnie (OC'93) and Richie (OC'95) announced that their firm, Murphy Mullan Estate Agents, would sponsor a set of hoodies in aid of **Pieta**, if we signed up. When they put it like that, we didn't really have much choice. Johnnie and Richie proposed that **Pieta** would be the ideal charity to fundraise for given the mental health crisis we are currently experiencing. We thought we might have a good chance at raising €6,000 in total. However it wasn't long before we blew through that number and ended up raising an amazing €43,500!

We were absolutely stunned by the generosity of people. I think the reason for our fundraising success was two-fold. Firstly, Freezbrury is a seriously tough challenge that gets harder every day. There were a couple of dodgy moments when one or two of us stayed in the water a bit too long and emerged borderline hypothermic, but the other "Whalers" ensured that we were well looked after. Secondly, I think our chosen charity, Pieta, resonated with our supporters. We know that Covid-19 has placed a huge toll on people's physical **and** mental health. We also know that people are much more at risk when their mental health is not being taken care of. We can all certainly vouch for the "lift" an early morning swim does for your mood. When we informed Pieta that we had raised over €43k they told us we had raised enough money to fund 43 clients through a regime of therapy. It was incredibly rewarding to know that we had helped raise enough funds to help 43 people at risk.

The sea temperature has now risen from a low of 5 degrees in February to 10 degrees currently. Already seeking another challenge, the "Junior Branch" have signed us up to the "100 Push Ups" test after the Senior Whalers put the foot down to the "Under Water Rock Running" programme. We won't be fundraising for that, but we will be getting our bodies into shape for another Freezbrury Challenge in February 2022. For further information on the Gollymucky Whalers contact adammacnulty@gmail.com or 087 678-8412.

Clongowes Duck Push Event

The Duck Push is an annual fundraiser led by TY students that purchases vital medical equipment for Our Lady's Children's Hospital in Crumlin. The Clongowes 5km /10km Fun Run in aid of Duck Push 2021 took place on Saturday, April 24th. The Elements boys were the first group to set off on their 5km run taking in familiar paths like the main avenue and the rugby fields but also less trodden roads up to the farm and round the old walled garden. Each Year Group was well represented with just over 200 students taking part and nearly 140 signing up with locally-based Pop-Up-Races to support the Duck Push. In all, over €3,000 was raised for the Transition Year fundraiser. We want to thank everyone who supported the run including students, teachers, parents and OC's who took part in the run 'virtually' from all over Ireland and overseas. Web page and online shop - duckpush.clongowes.net

link to gofundme page

<https://gofund.me/896c9b94>

Deceased Old Clongownians

On Sunday 15th November Fr. Michael Sheil, S.J. celebrated a special Mass in Clongowes for our Past Pupils, in particular for those who died in the past twelve months. Due to Covid-19 restrictions this mass had to be celebrated online with a congregation of Rhetoric Students – social distancing duly respected. We keep them in our prayers.

1941	[F.] Richard COUNIHAN	Ennis	06/09/20
1942	Francis MULRINE	Ballybofey	01/10/20
1943	Thomas H. BACON	Dublin	22/11/19
1944	Dermot WALDRON	Malahide	31/10/20
1945	[Patrick] Joseph HUGHES	Donegal	06/03/20
1945	William PRENDIVILLE	Killorglin	01/07/20
1947	Raymond KEOGH	Dublin	30/12/19
1947	James KEENAN	Dublin	23/10/20
1947	Michael B. KILCOYNE	Ballymote	20/04/20
1948	Philip QUIGLEY	Keady	24/11/19
1949	[Ernest] Frank KELLY	Athboy	12/11/19
1950	Bernard J. CORBALLY	Gorey	16/04/20
1950	Donal [Daniel] HUGHES	Clogher	02/04/20
1950	Joshua Terry KEYMS	Manchester	??/??/20
1950	Seamus O'FRIEL	Sutton	02/12/19
1952	Roger CASEY	Dublin	??/07/97
1952	Eamonn MacSEARRAIGH	Portlaoise	11/03/20
1953	Michael BISHOP	Greystones	16/11/19
1953	Julian CHAPMAN	Monkstown	06/02/20
1954	Brian CONROY	Dublin	31/12/19
1955	John D. BARRETT	Dublin	31/12/19
1956	Michael DOYLE	Dublin	??/??/20
1957	Dermot BYRNES	Dublin	22/11/19
1957	Fr Philip FOGARTY, S.J.	Galway	26/11/19
1957	John McCOLGAN	Malahide	17/04/20
1957	Fr Godfrey H. O'DONNELL	Derry	14/02/20
1958	Brendan KENNEDY	Jersey	29/03/20
1961	[Joseph] Max CHEEVERS	England	22/05/20
1961	Peter MAGILL	Belfast	30/08/20
1961	Paul O'FARRELL	Dublin	02/01/19
1965	Thomas O'BRIEN	Edenderry	30/01/20
1966	Michael BOLAND	Skibbereen	25/03/20

1966	David ORR	Dublin	01/09/20
1977	Phelim O'REILLY	Dublin	05/03/20
1989	Robert BEHAN	Glencree	19/06/20
[1962-1965]	[Fr James KELLY, S.J.]	[Westmeath]	[07/12/19]
[1963-1964]	[Eric GUIRY]	[Carrick-on-Suir]	[15/04/20]

Just prior to going to print The Union were informed of the sad news that James Lambe OC 17 has passed away peacefully at his home in Drogheda surrounded by his loving family. May he rest in peace.