

## **School Tours**

In the early days, tours were largely day trips to places of interest in the area. But as early as 1967 longer day trips were organised even to places as far away as Scotland. This was possible by taking an early coach to Larne and getting the boat across to Stranrath returning to Belturbet late that night. In the 70's trips to England and the Continent using the ferry became the norm. Here Mr Liam D'Arcy was the main organiser. Mrs J Johnston, French Teacher, was an invaluable asset on all these trips and Miss M Stafford greatly assisted with the student management. In more recent times Mr P Brady became tour organiser and with the introduction of low fare airlines now air travel is the normal transport. France, Spain, and Italy were the most recent countries visited.

Another very successful event in transnational mobility was the student exchange program with France. Our principal, Mr Mc Énri, had been the chief organiser of a town twinning arrangement with the town of Cavan in Brittany. There were many visits each way of groups from Belturbet and Cavan and Mrs E Bane became involved. She then extended the concept to include the schools in each town and went on to organise the student exchange.

Mrs E Bane also organised many other educational outings like the visit to the Bronte Country in England, visits to Dublin theatres and so on.

As well as the normal student tours, St Bricin's has a long history of teacher trips. The first in 1972 was a road trip to Istanbul with later trips to New York, Madrid, Helsinki, Rome and London. Last term

ends each year with a cruise on the River Erne organised by Mr D'Arcy who also supplies the cruisers.

### **2003 tour to Paris**

Stade De France was a big attraction for both boys and girls. Mr Brady and Mr Bane lead the team.

### **Stage Shows**

The annual Christmas concert was introduced about 1969 by Mr Gilleece and Mr Patton. It has been a focal point of school year ever since. In the early days it was held in the Town Hall. Then it was moved to the double room in school and recently to the Railway Hall.

The show took many different forms down the years but usually had some form of play with a variety of music song and Irish dance. One of the longest standing acts is Mrs Johnston's play – usually a Roald Dahl play performed by a first year class.

'At The Races' from a typical Dahl play. A soloist during a choral performance.

### **SPECIAL AWARDS**

#### **Raymond Gaffney took top place in Ireland in Technical Graphics in The Junior Certificate 2006 Examination.**

Raymond was presented with his award by Senator Mary O'Rourke at a special presentation ceremony in the Mullingar Park Hotel. Also present at the awards ceremony were Raymond's Technical Graphics and Woodwork teacher, Paddy Brady, Daniel Keane, Chairman of the Engineering and Technology Teachers Association of Ireland, and John Gildea Principal of St Bricin's Vocational School.

## **Mathematics Olympiad**

The International Mathematical Olympiad is a very prestigious worldwide competition for mathematically gifted students representing their countries. A cohort of students is selected each year by the Department of Mathematics at NUI Maynooth to train for the team to represent Ireland. The course is organised by professor A. O'Farrell and Mr Gilleece is a regular visitor at his IMO lectures there. Students who received almost 100% in their Junior Cert Maths examination are selected.

The following students from St Bricin's received this honour.

2000. Jennifer Gilleece selected and attended the course lead by Professor A O'Farrell at National University of Ireland Maynooth. Jennifer continued to study Electronic Engineering in NUI maynooth and is now Telecoms Engineering Manager with Network Rail UK.

2002. Gavin Maguire selected and attended the course in University College Dublin lead by Professor TJ Laffey. Having completed his mathematical studies in Dublin City University, Gavin is now working as an Actuary with Irish life Dublin.

### **Comment from former student**

Dr. Sean Brady B.Eng., Ph.D.

Structural Engineer

Brisbane, Australia.

2005. Maria Kearns selected and attended the course in University College Dublin lead by Professor TJ Laffey. Maria isnow studying Medicine in Queens University Belfast.

The encouragement given by teachers and staff was great. They told me to go for it and helped me out as much as possible..... The teachers were interested that I'd do well and get into University.....

Respect from teachers was one of the most important aspects of the school. You were always given respect, encouraged to excel in what you were good at and shown options about your career. It was the encouragement that I got from the teachers in St Bricin's that enabled me to follow the profession I now enjoy so much.

### **Annual Awards and Conferring**

As well as the special awards above there are the annual school awards. These take place at the end of last term each year. The headings for the awards are; Academic, Attendance, Personal Development, Sport, Projects in Woodwork, Metalwork and Home Economics.

The Annual Conferring and presentation of Year Books to leaving Certificate students takes place in conjunction with these awards. The Year Book is prepared by the staff and includes pictures, messages, memories, autographs etc personalised for each leaving Cert student

Parents of award winners are invited to attend as well as Board of Management members and members of Parents Committee. The event concludes with refreshments.

## **Annual Awards**

### **NUI Maynooth Academic Award**

**2007** Ronan Fitzpatrick Presented by Ann Fallon

**2006** Catriona Fitzpatrick Presented by Ann Fallon

**2005** Marie Kerns Presented by Mr Gildea

**2004** Leslie Trennier Presented by Kay Mitchel

**2003** Claire Kerns Presented by Kay Mitchel

## **Science Fair**

St Bricin's annual Science fair was introduced by Miss Stafford in 2000. It grew each year and by 2003 it had become a major school event. It was open to Junior and senior non exam classes. Students were expected to find a suitable project from Biology, Physics or Chemistry using library, test books, Internet or any other sources. Teachers were available to suggest suitable apparatus and possible display techniques but all work had to be carried out by the students and all background notes and work made available to the judges. The science teachers Mr D'Arcy and Miss Stafford insisted that all entries have a strong science content.

## **Recent winners**

**Winning entry 2003 - Giant Vortex Cannon**

**Shauna O'Reilly, Fiona Brady and Ciara Leddy.**

**2004 Winning entry was The Hydro Electric**

**Generator presented by James Charles and**

**Finbar Rudden.**

**2005** This year the Fair was visited by the Minister for Education.

Entry is the Potato Gun and waiting for the launch are; Councilor Vessey, Minister Dempsey, Mr Gildea, Deputy Smith T.D., Mr D'Arcy and Miss Stafford watch while John Mc Mahon and Raymond Gaffney prepare to fire.

**2006** The Overall Winner "Hydraulic

System" Finbar Rudden and James Charles