



# SOLAS

St. Aidan's Community College, Dublin Hill, Cork,  
Newsletter Issue 8 Summer 2001

## Class of 2001

The time has come again to bid farewell to yet another group of pupils. The Class of 2001 is on the verge of graduation. In a few weeks the last of the Leaving Certificate examinations will be over and they will have gone on their respective ways into the future. We wish them well. We wish them well in the forth-coming examinations and we wish them health and happiness in their lives there-after.

May the light of Christ show them the best way ahead through all of the twists and turns of life. May the Grace of the Spirit give them wisdom and strength in every single predicament. May the love of God keep them always safe. May they be the people they were born to be and match the destiny for which they were created.

Go dté siad slán agus go raibh a solas riamh ag taitheamh.

Dr. F.J. Steele, Principal



Photo: St. Aidan's students pictured at the "Youth Working For Justice" project, which was held at the Rochestown Park Hotel on April 2nd.

L to R: Laura Whelan, Sarah Doolin, Yvonne Moylan, Sinead O' Shea & Gavin Golden



Photo: Year Group Council - Sixth Year 2001

Also included are Principal, Dr. Steele, Deputy Principal Mr. John O'Brien, College Chaplain Fr. Shem Furlong OSA & Ms. E. O'Reilly, Year Tutor - Sixth Year

## Graduation 2001

On Thursday May 24th the Leaving Certificate Class of 2001 formally graduated from St. Aidan's. The evening's events commenced with mass, celebrated by College Chaplain, Fr. Shem Furlong OSA. This was followed by a very moving graduation ceremony where each graduate of the college was presented with a commemorative scroll and a pen engraved with their name and the year of their graduation.

Happy memories of the 6 years spent in St. Aidan's were evoked. The teamwork and responsibility of the Sixth Years in helping to co-ordinate all aspects of this event was commendable.

We wish the Classes of 2001; Ailbhe, Barra, Eanna And Fiontan the very best in the future

Go neirí libh amach anseo sa todhchaí

Elizabeth O'Reilly

Year Tutor - 6th Year

## *St. Aidan's; A Centre for developing skills for the Technological Age.*



In the past three years, St. Aidan's Community College has been a hive of activity in the area of developing computer competence through the provision of the ECDL, the internationally recognised information technology certificate.



Since 1998, over 300 people, comprised of 4th and 5th year students at St. Aidan's, along with members of the wider community have successfully completed the ECDL. In the past 2 years, over 40 employees of Cork County Council and over 20 members of the staff of the college have attained the ECDL at St. Aidan's.



The Co-ordinator of all aspects of the course at the College is Mr. J. Buckley, Head of Computer Science. The other instructors for the course this year are Mr. K. Flannery and Ms. M. Queally.

The ECDL syllabus is covered as part of the 4th and 5th Year Computer Studies Programme and the students have the option of registering for and completing the 7 examinations. At present over 120 students in 4th and 5th year are completing the ECDL in this academic year.



Pictured above and right, with their teacher Mr. J. Buckley, are a number of Fifth Year students, who are presently completing the ECDL Course.



In the coming year, the College will provide further opportunities for its students and indeed the wider community to develop the skills necessary to embrace the technological revolution.

Mr. J. Buckley  
ECDL Co-ordinator



In the past 2 years, over 40 employees of Cork County Council and over 20 members of the staff of St. Aidan's have attained the ECDL at St. Aidan's. Shown above are two of the three Adult Classes completing the ECDL this year.

# Students engineer a constructive future!



Above; A selection of Leaving Cert. Construction Studies students pictured with their completed projects.

Right; Kevin Moore & Alan Hoare, Leaving Cert. Engineering students, pictured with their projects - a model carburettor.

## Engineering Project 2001

First day back after the Halloween mid term all of the Leaving Cert. Engineering class got handed a pink page: the Leaving Cert. Engineering project 2001. It was the beginning of the Leaving Cert. exams and once I was handed that page I knew I had a long and daunting task ahead of me.

*'Design a working model to demonstrate the principle of operation of a simple carburettor'*

As with all practical projects we had to go through a process of research, investigation, design and manufacture. To begin with we didn't even know what a carburettor did never mind building one. We had to go to many sources to find out what they did and how we were going to replicate this. We got information from the Internet, car manuals, libraries and even mechanics. By the time we had researched the project we knew everything you need to know about carburettors

The next stage was design. We had to come up with the design, which we would base the finished product on. The designing involved playing around with a couple of ideas until a final solution was reached and drawn up. These drawings had to be complete and accurate with full dimensions listed.

The next stage was to manufacture the final product. This was the most interesting and enjoyable part of the project. Just from making the various parts you can learn so much about how good your own workmanship and ability is. This is valuable especially when it comes to doing the day exam. However it is the longest part of the process and because of the lack of time often destroys projects, which were designed with great potential. Everyone had access to the machinery when they wanted it. There was no queuing for equipment and everyone finished their projects.

St. Aidan's provide excellent equipment and facilities for those studying engineering. All the machinery and equipment is of a very high standard, allowing students to work with accuracy, speed and efficiency.

The Leaving Cert. Engineering course as a whole has been very enjoyable. From practical work alone, students can learn a lot about how to 'do things', and develop an appreciation for the thought and pride that can go into producing good quality work. It is a very valuable course to cover for anyone considering studying Engineering in college.

Kevin Moore  
Leaving Cert. Engineering Class 2001

Blood, sweat, sometimes even tears and always buckets of saw-dust, are just some of the ingredients needed for a leaving Cert. Construction Studies project. Add a Master Chef in Mr. Kelly and some quality utensils in the form of the Class of 2001 and you have the right recipe for some outstanding projects.

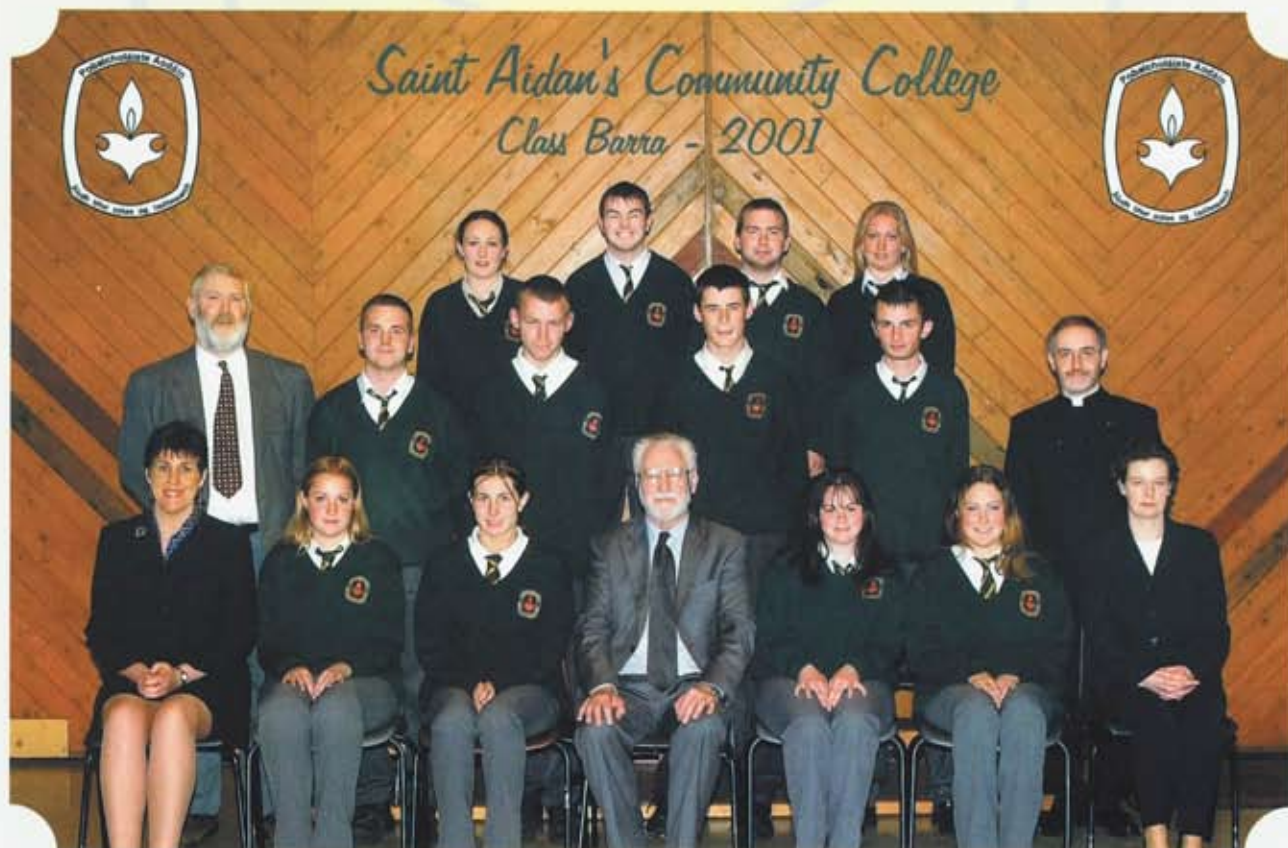
When the projects commenced last January, myself along with the rest of the class didn't have an iota on what to make.

Designs were drafted, most of them were thrown away, but in the end, everyone in the class, had a project which they had designed, constructed and finished, which is no mean achievement. Along the way mistakes were made, lessons learned, but I can speak for my class and say we all enjoyed the experience. Some priceless moments were shared during the year, moments which some of you will experience for yourselves in years to come.

Liam Lynch  
Class Fiontán.



# Graduation 2001





Photos: Class Ailbhe with Tutor Ms. Dineen (top left), Class Barra with Tutor Ms. Queally (bottom left), Class Eanna with Tutor Ms. O' Reilly (top right) and Class Fiontan with Tutor Mr. Kelleher (bottom right). Also included are Principal, Dr. Steele, Deputy Principal Mr. John O'Brien, College Chaplain Fr. Shem Furlong OSA.

## Poverty in a World of Plenty

Mike Forde, presently on career break from St. Aidan's, is on a teaching assignment with APSO, the Irish Aid Agency for Personnel Service Overseas

The British Airways 747 Jumbo ascended into the clouds like a giant mythical creature leaving behind the urban sprawl of London and for me the last experience of life in the western world for what was to be most of the next year. Heading eastwards on the 16-hour flight, I sat back and admired the view from 30,000 feet. I reflected on how this trip had come to be. The visit to St. Aidan's last year of Sean Farrell- a Columban lay missionary who had just returned from the Philippines having spent 3 years there provided me with a contact resulting in a teaching offer and the fulfilment of a long held ambition of mine. Night fell with astounding rapidity as the jet headed eastwards whilst the sun disappeared in the western sky. Nothing now but the shining stars above guiding us on our way and the intermittent jewel-like shimmering lights of the distant cities below. A brief touchdown in Hong Kong, then onwards again to the Philippine capital. Manila, home to anything from 10 to 18 million people, nobody is really sure, the world's 2nd most devastated city of WWII, now rated as the third most polluted city in the World. 100,000 of her children live on the streets in conditions of appalling squalor. Poverty and riches side by side, towering skyscrapers and cardboard huts: Air-conditioned Mercedes with tinted glass protect the elite from the stares of the working class travelling in overcrowded jeepneys, black smoke spewing into the thickened air whilst the children cough and beg on the overcrowded streets.

Airborne again, the Archipelago's 7000 islands shimmer like paradise islands in the aqua-marine sea. 90 minutes later and touchdown on an isolated airstrip lined with coconut trees. And yet three hours more by minibus, through twisting winding roads and beautiful rolling plains, vast mountain ranges and banana and coconut trees. People everywhere, nipa huts, little sari-sari stores and churches line the route. Overcrowded rickety old buses and trucks like remnants of WWII speed recklessly along, seemingly totally oblivious to the waving children, malnourished dogs, and heavily laden water buffaloes that share the route. We reach Immaculate Conception College La Salle, Ozamiz City as night falls. The armed security guard stands to attention and salutes as we enter the campus and the sounds of crickets and mosquitoes fill the humid tropical air.

Next morning's peace is shattered at 6.30am by the arrival of the 5000 elementary, high school and college students all neatly dressed in blue and white uniforms. They arrive for the education that, for them, is the key and the hope to a chance of a better life and an escape from the



Photo: A little farming girl

grinding poverty which fate has found many of them in. They are exceptionally well mannered, humble, smiling, welcoming and ever eager to learn.

The intensity of the tropical sun, the sapping humidity, the ferocity of the afternoon thunderstorms, the difference in food, and the subtle cultural differences all make the initial adjustment somewhat taxing. But what bothers me most is the noise-the blaring of TVs, stereos, motorcycles as loud as chainsaws and the unending chatter of people from daybreak to night time. The richer one is the more space and solitude one can buy but with the poor one is never alone. Once I get used to these factors I begin to live more freely. But the people more than make up for it all. They are friendly, welcoming, respectful and ever smiling even in the face of hardship. And they love to celebrate. In a world of unhappiness one has to create happiness. A fiesta is celebrated, not because there is something to celebrate but often because there is nothing to celebrate. Week by week things become easier as I begin to find my way.

Not men but giants, the G.A.A.'s catchphrase for this years hurling championship might well be used to describe the many Irish Columban priests who first arrived in Mindanao in the 1930s and who have positively affected the lives of hundreds of thousands of Filipinos. It is in getting to know them and to see the work that they do that I gain a real insight into the poverty and the struggle of the people. Missionaries such as Fr. Martin Ryan, from Kilkenny, Fr. Dave Cribbin from Galway, Fr. Paul Glynn from Mallow, Fr. Neil Collins from Derry and Fr. Sean Martin from Louth continue to do Trojan work here. Their daily life involves living in isolated Muslim villages, learning the Muslim dialect, working in the area of Muslim Christian reconciliation-over 100,000 people have lost their lives in this conflict in Mindanao since the

1970's-setting up drug and alcohol rehab centres, living with the Subaanen tribal peoples and helping them fight for their rights against the powerful multinational mining corporations. Columban Sr. Clement Sheehy from Union Hall has spent over 40 years here and continues to work tirelessly with the handicapped. Their dedication, honesty and humility continues to be a source of inspiration to me and having got to know and work with them would in itself have made this trip worthwhile.

I set out on this journey to teach but now realize that it's I am the one who has learned, and The Philippines has taught me much: lessons of poverty in a world of plenty, privilege of a select few and of others working hard so that we might reap the fruits of their labours. Lessons of exploitation and injustice, of workers rights and corporate wrongs, of hardship and suffering yet dignity and hope in the light of seemingly impossible odds. The lesson that happiness is related to wealth and possessions in ways much less than the Celtic Tiger would have us believe, and the importance of the roles that both education and faith in God play in unshackling the chains of poverty.

But, above all, it has reaffirmed for me the words of Gandhi that, in this world, there is enough for everyone's need but not enough for everyone's greed.

And I would hope that in the midst of our newfound prosperity, we might open our minds to an increased awareness of the continuing plight of the world's poor. Then we might realize that, as long as poverty, injustice and exploitation exist in any part of this earth, that none of us can claim to be neither truly wealthy nor truly free.

Mike Forde.

## Bon Voyage en France

### In Remembrance of



Margaret O'Connor

We recently lost our colleague, Margaret, teacher of Geography and C.S.P.E. in St. Aidan's since 1996.

We again extend our deepest sympathies to her family and friends and we pray for her eternal repose. May she rest in peace.

Ó bhás go crích, nach críoch ach ath-fhás, í bparthas na nGrás go rabhaimid.

Dr. F.J. Steele  
Principal

The excitement began with a 'Wet & Wild' day in Eurodisney. There was a wide variety of attractions which were enjoyed by all. Our friendly bus drivers, Bill and Bob, laid on luxury accommodation en route to Switzerland. Cork's newest boy band, "Daniel Buckley & Co." supplied the entertainment. Sleep was rapidly induced by Mr. Kelleher's crooning.

All were captivated by the spectacular scenic views which greeted us on arrival in Switzerland. After a rapid check-in to our accommodation, the day was spent exploring the surrounding areas. Nightly entertainment was supplied and a guest appearance was made by the Spice Girls



Photos: (above) 'St. Aidan's on tour'. (Below left) Mr. Kelleher on a 'bad hair day'.

accompanied by Freddie Mercury, (Miss Scanlon, Miss Hickey & Mr. Kelleher) which drove the crowd wild.

Day two in Switzerland was spent in the mountains. A wall of protection had to be formed to ease the fear of some students, en route to the Schiltarn revolving restaurant, by cable car. Snowballs were thrown from all angles but all was not well when Ms. Doyle was caught in the line of fire.

In the days which followed we saw the sights, including the Glacier Gardens, The Rail & Technology Museum and the spectacular Trummelbach Waterfalls. Rumour has it that Mr. Kelleher was seen sporting a long pink wig in the streets of Lucerne. Our final stop in Switzerland was the skating rink where we gracefully blended in with the professional skaters all around us. Miss Hickey was seen doing the triple-axle by a passer-by.

Our day of departure was spent in Paris seeing the sights; The Eiffel Tower, The Arc de Triomphe & The Sacre Coeur Cathedral, after which the students were set loose and they 'shopped till they dropped'.

Et alors nous sommes arrivés sains et saufs à Cork!!

### St. Aidan's Hurling Club



Photo: St. Aidan's Second Year Hurling Team.

### St Aidan's Hurling Club News

It has been a frustrating last two terms, with Foot and Mouth Disease and Industrial Action affecting fixtures. The Under 14 1/2 team have been a great example to all players intent on developing their game. Some of the players have shown a remark-

able improvement since September and if they maintain this level of progress they will develop into outstanding hurlers for both their clubs and school. The need for a coach has never been greater in St. Aidan's, to cater for both male and female students, who love Gaelic games.

On Wednesday 16th May, at Ballincollig, the U14 hurlers took part in a blitz to play for the Cork Colleges U14 Cup. We had convincing wins over Deer Park, Cobh and Bishopstown. We took part in the final only to be beaten by Mitchelstown C.B.S.

The Under 16's are looking forward to a semi-final meeting with Colaiste an Phiarsaigh in the Cork Colleges Competition and we wish them well.

At this time of year we again look forward to the Harty Cup. Despite last year's early exit with an exceptionally young team, we are pressing ahead with Munster Colleges A hurling. The team is ready to give it a go and as the saying goes: "Fortune favours the brave".

Mr. P. Kelleher

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## Opening Hours:

Monday:	9.15am - 4.00pm
Tuesday:	9.15am - 4.00pm
Wednesday:	9.15am - 4.00pm
Thursday:	9.30am - 4.00pm
Friday:	9.15am - 12.30pm 1.30pm - 7.30pm
Saturday:	9.15am - 12.00pm

## List of Services and Budget Payments:

Gas	VHI	Foreign Exchange
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ESB	Rail Tickets	Insurance Benefit
Multichannel	Gift Drafts	Financial Counselling

PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH ST. AIDAN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE