



# GRAPEVINE

ISSUE 67 / EASTER 2016



U-Live2016

1916

ONE-ACT DRAMA

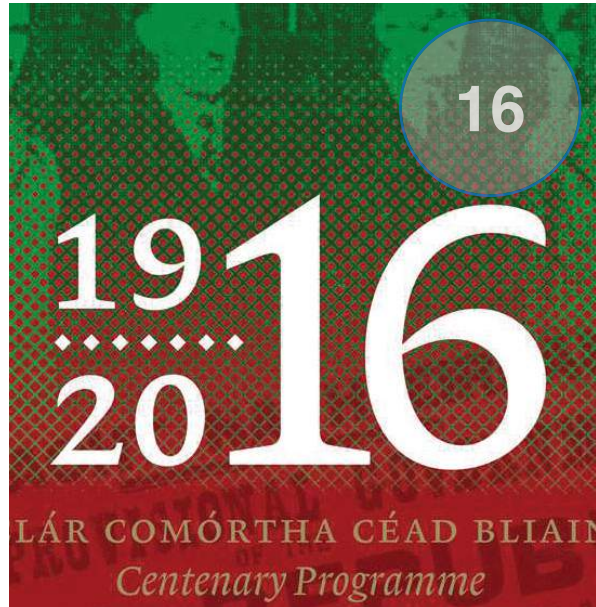


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Check it out.



## Grapevine Staff

Grapevine Coordinator  
**Ms G Mockler**  
**Mr C Hamill**

Editor  
**Lili Mae Boorman**

Head of Layout & Design  
**Tom Harley**

Journalists:

**Lili-Mae Boorman, Katarzyna Plesniar, Yasmin Ryan, David Tuohy, Yan Lee, Alex McGinn, Shane Hynes, Liam Bean, Marc Corbuzzi, Rupert Zarka**

*Back Cover:*

Photographs by:  
**Mr Micallef, Ms Jennings**

Front Cover: **Cara Fearon**

Thanks to:  
**Ms Kirby, Ms Lynott, Ms Jennings, Ms Chapman, Mr Micallef, Mr Walshe, Ms Chellar, Ms McGrane, Ms Harte, Sarah Webb, Natasha Murtagh**

# Editorial

Lili Mae Boorman

## A Homage to *Harper Lee*

In late February of this year, literary luminary, Harper Lee, passed away at the age of eighty-nine. It was her courageously truthful depiction of racism in the 1950s American South, told through the narrative voice of six-year-old Jean-Louise Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, that brought her critical acclaim and popular recognition upon its publication in July, 1960. Concerned with the issues of rape and racial inequality and the theme of lost innocence, Lee's novel quickly rose to uncharted heights of social and political prominence for a work of fiction and has maintained that standing over the past fifty years.

It was in those fifty-plus years, and indeed for the rest of her life, that Lee shied away from the limelight: seldom making public appearances and giving just one interview which would become merely a single chapter in Michael Freedland's *Gregory Peck: A Biography*. However, for her readership, the most significant event after the publication of *Mockingbird*, was her vow to never pen another novel in her lifetime. And this promise seemed as though it was to be kept, until the unexpected announcement of the publication of *Go Set a Watchman*.

However, following in the tradition of *Mockingbird*, *Watchman* too caused outrage among its readers, including a wave of copies of the novel being re-

turned to booksellers in the US. But while the shock caused by *Mockingbird* was due to the blunt delineation of the extent and immorality of racism, the upset caused by *Watchman* was for precisely the opposite reason: the long-loved character of Atticus Finch was portrayed, not as the personification of justice and impartiality that we knew from *Mockingbird*, but as a prejudiced and discriminatory man, whose characteristics alienate Jean-Louise and the readers.

However, we should not reduce Harper Lee's life and work to an obituary. *To Kill a Mockingbird* is hailed as one of America's greatest pieces of literature for its ability to shock and provoke thought. I would boldly speculate that it was not Harper Lee's aim, with her life being as dissociated from *Mockingbird* as it could possibly have been, to reach the status of an untouched idol, and so, in commemoration of her life, we should not treat her work as artefacts: *Mockingbird* deserves to be read, discussed, written about and actively learnt from, because its lessons are immense. Reading *Mockingbird* has almost become a necessary part of understanding our society. For many, reading it at age ten or eleven, led us to our first full comprehension of the extent of racism. It invites us into the fictional town of Maycomb, acquaints us with its inhabitants and its story, then exposes to us the truth

and injustice of the trial of Tom Robinson, which we, like our narrator, later discover is only a metaphor for the US's racial divide.

You may be asking what relevance Harper Lee has to the *Grapevine*, and, while I believe that her life warrants, at the very least, an editorial in a school magazine, I do admit that it was my own relationship with *To Kill a Mockingbird* that spurred me to write this homage and not any inextricable link I found between the two. However, finding those links is certainly not an arduous task. Whilst Lee's medium was fiction, the principles she exercised, to reveal truths and change perspectives, are applicable to writers of all forms. At the very least, we can all aspire to her level of courage in our writing: to follow our moral convictions past the obstacles of circumstance. (At best, we could all *practise* that level of fortitude, although the rift between aspiration and application is a challenging one to overcome). And so, for the lessons taught and the inspiration provided, we should mourn Harper Lee in death and celebrate her memory and legacy.

Lastly, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to both Ms. Mockler and Mr. Hamill, on whom so much, if not all, of the *Grapevine* depends.

# Farewell

Ms Joan Kirby

## Mr Peter Fraser: *Headmaster 2014-2016*

The St Andrew's College community was saddened by the announcement just before the February mid-term break of Peter Fraser's decision to retire because of ill health. In the two years since his appointment as headmaster, Peter managed to impress the staff and the student body with his brisk and energetic approach and his obvious commitment to the College. Getting to grips with the running of a large school like St Andrew's was a daunting challenge but one to which he rose admirably, thanks to his many personal qualities and his past experience as headmaster in his previous schools in England and Brazil.

Peter made a point of meeting regularly with different class groups and quickly got to know a large number of students on an individual basis. In morning assemblies he spoke with conviction and passion on a wide number of topics and conveyed a sense that uppermost in his mind was the desire that all pupils should strive to achieve their best. His commitment to student endeavour and the life of St Andrew's College was evidenced by his attendance at countless sporting fixtures,

debates, musicals and theatrical productions - sometimes several in the same week. Pupils and staff alike found him approachable, friendly and open.

*Pupils were sometimes alarmed to be summoned to his office only to discover that Peter simply wished to mark their birthday with a friendly word and a bar of chocolate.*

In his dealings with the teaching staff Peter showed himself to be consistently courteous and thoughtful. One notable feature of his approach to his staff was that he made it his business



to thank people personally for their efforts with their classes or their extra-curricular activities, often acknowledging their hard work with a note, some chocolate or even the oc-

casional bottle of wine. Pupils were sometimes alarmed to be summoned to his office only to discover that Peter simply wished to mark their birthday with a friendly word and a bar of chocolate.

His wife, Sara, also managed to make a significant contribution to the College in a short space of time. She accompanied groups of students on many school trips, most recently to a M.U.N. conference in The Hague. She helped out frequently in the library and assisted with reading programmes in the Junior School. She was particularly active in the International Parents' Committee where she proved herself to be an extremely efficient secretary. Sara and Peter were gracious and generous with their hospitality, taking in their stride the massive task of hosting a party for the entire teaching staff in their apartment.

The St Andrew's College community would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter and Sara for their contribution to the life of St Andrew's. We all wish Peter a speedy recovery to full health and a happy and fulfilling future.

## CHARITY WORKS



### COPPER CRAWLERS

After weeks of collecting many copper coins and with almost ten buckets, the Second Years have spread out more than 1269m in copper coins. The winning form, 2T, (pictured above) collected many coins and their line measured just over 254m. All the money collected will be given to the charities Therapy Dogs and Solas. Thank you to all the Second Years for their enthusiasm and willingness to collect coppers and participate in the event. It was a great team effort enjoyed by all.

### WORLD VISION

During Intercultural Week the charity team raised €556 in aid of World Vision. This money will go towards the Syrian Refugee Crisis. The team would like to thank everyone for their generosity and help in raising the funds.



Isabelle Maoney, Rebecca Boyles, Yasmin Ryan

## CHESS TEAM QUALIFIES FOR FINALS

**The St Andrew's U16 A team** have qualified for the league finals at the first time of asking. Congratulations to Tom O'Gorman (1st Year), Ross Beatty (2nd Year), Alice O'Gorman (3rd Year), Sacha Bistany (2nd Year) and William Walsh-Dowd (2nd Year) on winning all four matches in their section. It was a close-run affair with the team edging Gonzaga B by only the one point, having beaten them 4-1 in the first round. Thanks to Ms Carter, Ms Murphy and Ms McEnergy.

## FRIENDSHIP WEEK



**EVENTS** The idea of a week celebrating friendship and understanding was initially a small one. Thanks to the dedication of teachers and students, it became a week of activities that challenged stereotypes, promoted acceptance and taught us the importance of respect.

The activities ranged from workshops on internet safety to class discussions on bullying and its affects. Posters promoted the concept of friendship and could be seen throughout the school, created by students who gave of their time to highlight the importance of respecting others. The week culminated in a concert held in the Senior Hall. The band *Taken* made a huge impression on the students and gave a fantastic performance to promote Anti-Bullying week. Thanks are due to Ms Devally and all those who organised the week-long event.



## ENTERPRIZING YOUNG THINGS



**TY** The Senior Hall was filled with 21 exhibition stands as alumni Jack Kirwan of *Sprout & Co.*, Jill L'Estrange of *L'Estrange Designs*, Kevin Cassidy, Co-Founder of *100minds* and Joseph Keating from the Student Enterprise Awards Scheme came to the College to select the teams to go forward for the County Finals on 10 March in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire. It wasn't easy but, after much deliberation, the following Teams were selected to represent St Andrew's College in the next round:

ITSACALENDER  
Choc-o-Lait  
EmbroidMe

Well done to everyone who took part - according to the judges the standard of this year's exhibits was very high which made their job very difficult.

## LINGUISTIC OLYMPIADS

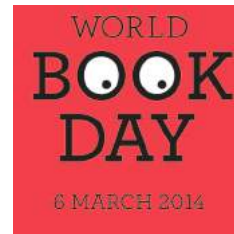
**Congratulations** to Richard Neville, Ross Beatty, Lucy Dornan and Sadhbh O'Mahony who qualified for the National Finals of the All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad, finishing among the top one hundred students from the 1,277 who participated in the Regional Finals.

The four best finalists will be chosen to represent Ireland in India for the international competition. We wish them the best of luck!

Special congratulations are due to Ross Beatty who finished the second highest entrant in the Junior Category.

## LIBRARY NEWS

**Reading** There has been a lot of activity in the library this term. Miss Ryan is encouraging first and second year students to take up the *Gold, Silver and Bronze Reading Challenges*. First Year students can take up the Bronze and Silver challenges and Second Year students can challenge themselves by pursuing the Gold Award. The challenges have to be completed in the current school year and involve reading a certain number of books based on your chosen challenge category. It was also World Book Day on March 5 and the whole school dropped everything and read (DARE) at 11am. This was a great way to promote reading and literacy in the school.



## TY Chinese Culture Trip



Ms Harte and the TY Chinese culture students

**TY** The Transition Year Chinese class went on a trip to a Chinese restaurant on Monday 25 January as part of our culture module. We left the school, got off the bus in town and then walked to Capel Street, which is where the restaurant is situated.

The restaurant we went to is called *Ha-Lin*, and serves Korean food as well as Chinese. When we walked in, we were greeted by friendly staff and we were seated at our table. The table was laid with a small bowl, a pair of chopsticks, a napkin and a glass for each person, and the idea was that we would be getting several dishes and that we were to try all of them.

The first thing that we were brought was a big bowl of rice. The idea is that you have either rice or noodles in your small bowl, and then add bits of the individual dishes to your bowl. The sweet and sour pork was a big hit, along with the spicy beef.

We all ate until our stomachs were going to burst, and we thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



# ULive Concert 2016

SCHOOL NEWS

IN AID OF UGANDA







# FOOD MILES

Geography

YAN LI DISCUSSES THE IMPLICATIONS OF *FOOD MILES* ON THE ENVIRONMENT

**Learning to effectively evaluate the environmental and social impacts of our food choices will help us to make wiser decisions and will prove to be a vital step for predicting and improving the sustainability of our food production and supply chains for the future.**

In recent years, with the rising concern of the long-term influences on the environment, there has been a push to quantify emissions associated with food production and consumption. A proposed method to assess the impact of the food we eat was to count the distance it travels from farm to plate: food miles. If our food has to travel further to reach us, it releases more carbon emissions in its journey. Right? This report will be evaluating this particular measure of the environmental implications of our food.

In the US between 1997 to 2004, the average distance covered by food consumed increased from 6760km to 8240km (22%) yet the associated greenhouse gas emissions only increased by 5%; not all modes of transport have equal emissions. Furthermore, food miles only looks at the transport of food, and ignores other aspects like production and processing. In fact, in the UK, transportation accounts for just 10% of the emissions associated with the food chain. This highlights the fact that food miles may not be a perfect way of measuring the environmental sustainability of food. Transport alone accounts for only a fraction of total emissions,

and is not a robust enough basis for judging the environmental friendliness of food. For a better look at the overall sustainability of food, we should broaden our view of the issue and take into account other aspects of the agricultural process and food supply chain.

For example, agriculture seems to be the main contributor to greenhouse gas production in the food supply chain. Tillage of land, livestock, electricity use, fossil fuels and fertilisers all contribute to the high emissions. "A tomato grown in Essex is not necessarily more eco-friendly than those flown from Spain" (Oxfam Report).

The general impression is that local food is more sustainable, but this generalisation ignores the countless variables in play: much energy is needed to heat such local greenhouses in winter. We need to look at the entire food supply chain, the energy use, emissions, and livelihood opportunities. Researchers must also consider many variables since our food is subject to a vast range of different processes, each with their own levels of environmental burden.



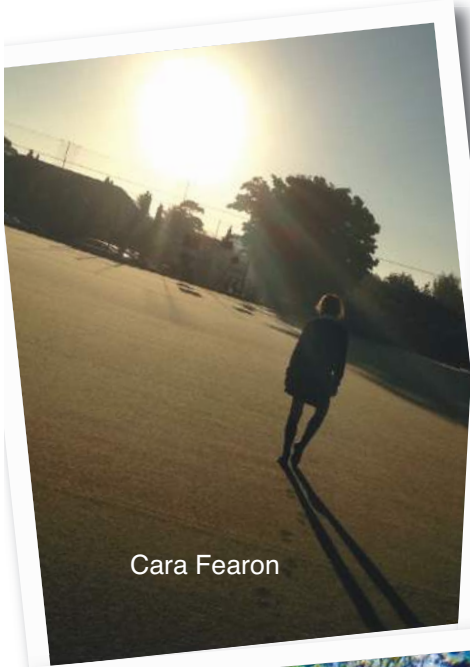
Because of the complexity in the quantification of sustainability, it is important to understand what "ethical choices" really are. Research has clarified that food miles are only a small part of the greater context of sustainability. Each food product comes with a complicated set of environmental benefits and costs, and we have not even begun to consider the social and ethical implications of our eating choices. Combining these factors would allow us as consumers to make informed judgements. Many organisations are now beginning to work on making the holistic analysis of food more widespread. The UK's Carbon Trust, DEFRA and BSI British Standards have been developing a Carbon Reduction label to display greenhouse gas emissions that come from a product's manufacture, distribution, use, and disposal.

Learning to effectively evaluate the environmental and social impacts of our food choices will help us to make wiser decisions and will prove to be a vital step for predicting and improving the sustainability of our food production and supply chains for the future.

Yan Li

# PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

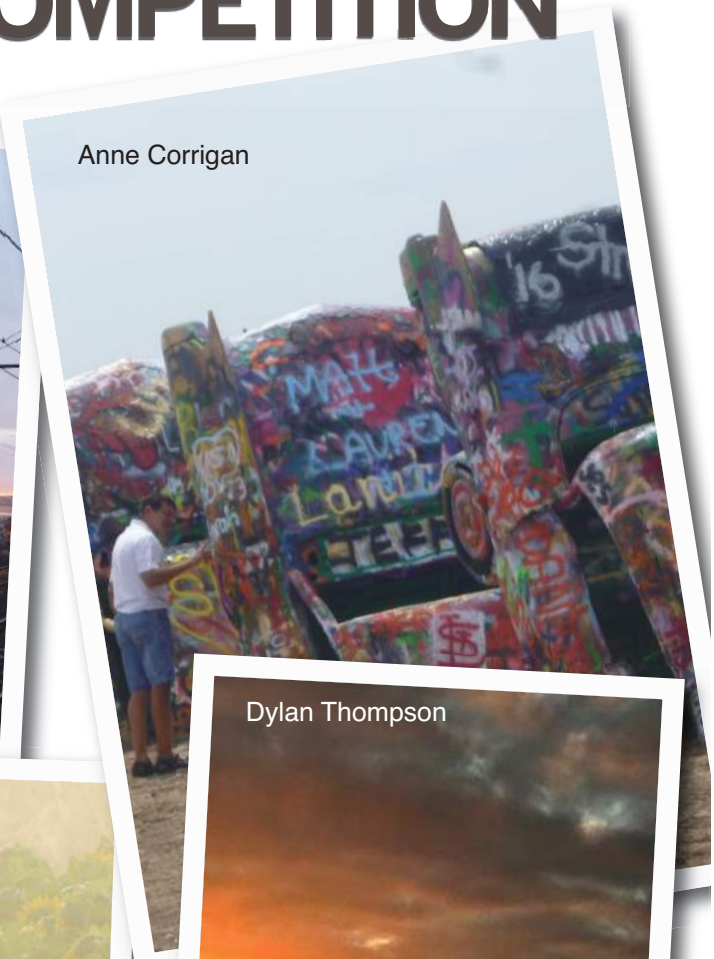
some entrants



Cara Fearon



Evie Kelly



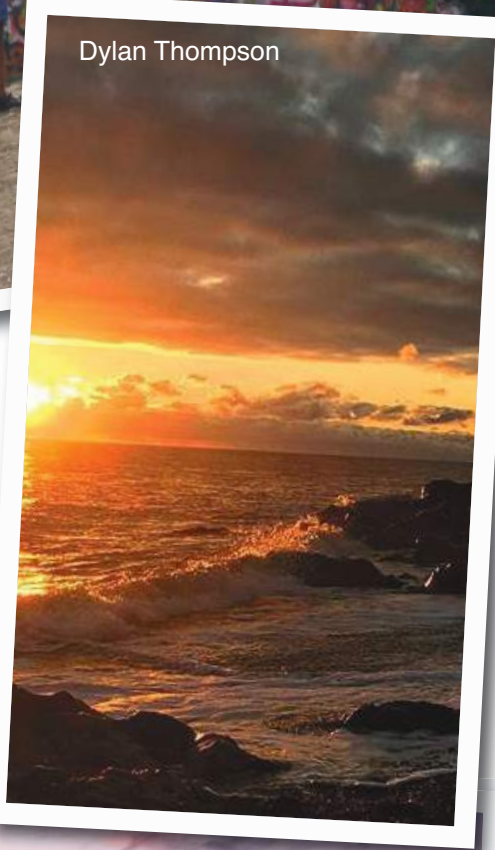
Anne Corrigan



Tara Rossiter



Angus Meade



Dylan Thompson



Both: Cormac Campbell

Rupert Zarka

ENGLISH

# Sailing

Rupert Zarka describes the most terrifying experience of his life. What began as a sixteen hour sailing trip became a struggle to survive against the elements.

I am not one to scare easily, yet there is one time I remember being truly terrified. It was a late July day and the weather, the week prior, had been fluctuating between calm and tepid and huge, cold squalls. We were planning a two week long trip to Wales. The only catch: we had to sail there and back. The estimated length of the journey was to be around sixteen hours. We passed the harbour mouth and swung the boat into the wind. The sails were hoisted quicker than I had ever seen before. The engine was killed and the beautiful silence returned. I had a feeling as if nothing could stop us.

The first hour into the journey flew by. So did the second. Nothing but the consistent rocking of the boat on the waves and the gentle rhythmic flapping of the sails. Up on deck all the unused ropes were tidied away and as I looked towards our destination I could see the sun glinting off the silver anchor chain at the bow of the boat. I could not yet see the Welsh coastline, however, as I turned around and looked back, I could barely make out the harbour and last few remaining rocks of the Irish coast.

The boat was cutting cleanly through the waves in a graceful, repetitive rhythm. Occasionally a salty spray from the bow of the boat would blow back over the deck and into our faces. Being as tired as we were this kept us alert. The sun was shining, the sky was cloudless and off in the

distance a pod of dolphins could be seen.

Soon, the waves which had been long and shallow were becoming shorter and higher. This coupled with increasing wind created an eerie mist which blew off the peaks of the waves which were now sharp and not rounded as they had been. The boat was now bouncing and pitching and was heeled over at a near 30 degree angle. To counteract this we all sat up on the gully of the windward side of the boat.

*Only when I thought things couldn't get any worse, I heard the most almighty bang followed by a violent thrashing sound.*

The wind, which normally is not heard, was now audible, even over the splashing of the boat in the waves. It ran along and over the side of the boat and between the mast with a creepy and nerve racking whistle. The peaks of the waves were beginning to crest and white horses forming. The colour of the sea had changed since departing. What had once been a light, mellow blue, was now harsh and dark, almost black. The boat was now riding up on the crest of each wave and then diving into the trough of the next, only to spring right back out with tremendous force and with spray rolling down the deck into the cockpit. It was at this point that we decided to reef the sails. The boat was now keeling more than 45

degrees and decreasing the sail area would make it more comfortable and easier to steer.

Rain had started falling and as soon as we had felt first drops on the back of our necks we had all pulled on our waterproof overalls. Again the wind speed increased but this time it also changed direction. This caused the rain, which now flew nearly horizontal, to hit us, like a million burning needles, in the face. The wind shift also caused the sails to lose wind and now the sails flapped like the fallen in a strong winter storm. Tightening up the sails stopped the incessant billowing but it caused the boat to instantly lurch up onto one gully. The boat, now at near 60 degree angle and with water gushing over the side and down into the cabin, ploughed, like an unstoppable mass, into each oncoming wave, only to shrug it off and face the next one like a staunch and steadfast rock. All of the bags were moved to ensure they remained dry and all loose items were tied down to prevent them from being strewn about the boat.

Peering out from under my hood, squinting my eyes to shield from the rain, the sea looked to be in a state of turmoil. The now four metre high waves coupled with the 50 knot (100km/h) wind, threw up an enormous amount of white spray, to the extent that the sea appeared to be boiling. The boat was being tossed and turned. It moved up, down, left,

# to Wales

right, forward and backwards. With little to no predictability or coherence, the random, somewhat violent movements began to take their toll on the crew both mentally and physically. Soon my brother started moaning. Then he started claiming he felt unwell. My mother soon followed suit. An old sailor's trick, when one feels queasy, is to focus on the horizon. However, at that stage one could barely make out the bow of the boat, let alone the horizon and within minutes the two of them were hanging over the edge of the boat having been violently sick.

Only when I thought things couldn't get any worse, I heard the most almighty bang followed by a violent thrashing sound. Deep down I knew what had happened but, clutching my knee, I turned around to see for sure. There at the front of the boat the jib (foresail) had come loose and was now flying perpendicular to the boat, half in the water and all out of reach.

Bringing the boat about, into the wind, it took us ten agonizing minutes to rectify the problem. With my father keeping the boat pointed into the wind, it was my job to go up to the front of the boat and retrieve the sail. Fetching a safety-line from below deck I tethered myself to the boat in case I did fall overboard. Slowly I made my way up the slippery deck, my boots finding grip in places where it seemed impossible for grip to be found. Making my way to the foot of the loose sail, and with the boat rolling constantly in the waves, I stumbled and, had it not been for the safety line, I would surely have ended up in the water. I couldn't make it to the front of the boat as my tether was too short. Reluctantly I unclipping myself. Terrified, I grasped the railing with both hands and ventured forth



to the bow of the boat.

We tightened up the sails again, bring the boat up onto a steep keel and picking up an enormous amount of speed. The sudden change came as a shock and I grabbed the railing to stop myself falling across the boat. A sudden gust of about 60 knots (120 km/h) hit the sail side on and toppled the boat to such an extent that the mast was nearly parallel to the sea. The rain which had been brutal had eased off slightly. In the distance, under a rainbow and basking in post storm sunlight, I could see the port of Caernarfon. It was a much needed sight and soon spirits were raised.

We powered through the final few kilometres of the storm, keeping Caernarfon castle in sight at all time. With only a few kilometres to go the storm finally abated. The clouds parted and the sun shone down on upon us. The wet deck glistened in the light and seagulls circled overhead before diving into sea and emerging with fish in their beaks. Looking at the birds ahead of me and then back from where we had come, I thought how hostile the world could seem in

times of bedlam, such as during the storm and how all of that hostility could vanish so suddenly.

Dropping sails and turning the big diesel engine on, we prepared to enter the harbour. The tidal gates were opened and we slowly moved from the open ocean into the secure confines of the harbour walls. We moored the boat against the pontoon with a soft bump and the ropes were tied to the cleats on the wooden deck of the marina. I stepped over the edge of the boat and onto dry land. I took one step and fell to my knees. This was partly due to extreme exhaustion and partly due to a severe case of sea-legs. Never had I thought I would welcome dry land as I had that day. With my face red with wind burn and plastered with dried on salt and my land legs still to return to me, I made for the showers. I didn't even want to begin to think about the return trip.

# ONE-ACT DRAMA

*AN INTERVIEW  
WITH Marc Corbuzzi*

The One-Act Drama Festival is an annual theatre competition held in St. Andrew's College with schools competing from all around Ireland. It is truly an honour to host such a prestigious competition and we, as the students of St. Andrews, are proud to say that we compete at the highest level and have won many awards in the name of our school.

This year, the play we chose to put on is called 'Arcane' which was written by a past pupil by the name of AJ Beatty. It is a spectacular piece of drama that encompasses distress, confusion, love, passion, affairs, pride, ignorance, and fury all within a mere forty minutes. The most important aspect of this production is that it is told in retrospect, or told backwards, by two narrators sitting at a chessboard, in order to show the consequences of one, or more, person's actions and how they can, unknowingly, affect the lives of other people.

The cast of this production included Richard Neville, Clara Kuh Hogan, Marc Cobuzzi, Erin Woods, Julie Gallagher, Katie Kellett, Berry Murphy, and Imogen Macaulay. The crew included Katie Ivory, Charlie Bracken, Sophie McCormick, and Emily Cranwell. This play was directed by John Denvir and assistant-directed by William Mansfield and Luke Doyle. The cast and crew of this production pulled this show off incredibly well, if I do say so myself, winning awards for Runner-Up Best Production, Best Stage Management (won by Katie Ivory), and Most Promising Performance (won by Imogen Macaulay). We also received many nominations including Best Director (John Denvir), Best Actor (Richard Neville), Best Actress (Clara Kuh Hogan), and Most Promising Performance (Berry Murphy). The competition as a whole was a huge success for St. Andrews College.

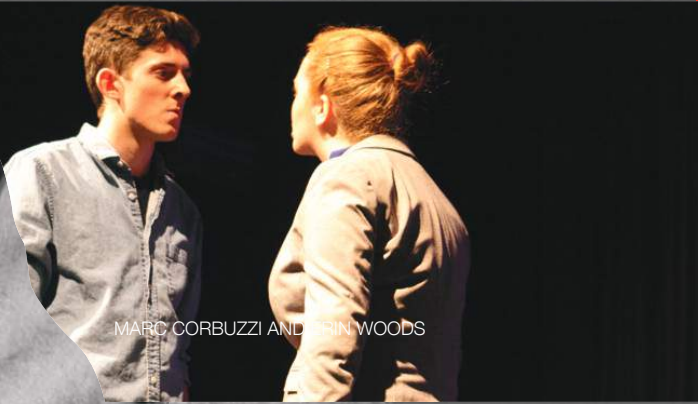
Being part of this production was one of the best experiences I have had in my life, and especially so far at St. Andrew's. After being cast in this production, I only knew three other cast members, and the rest I had never properly met before. Within a week, it seemed as though I had known both the cast and crew for years. As we had limited time to prepare for the show with only two months and two rehearsals per week, we were thrown head-first into preparation. We spent the first two rehearsals getting to know one and other and developing our characters. I remember one day we sat in a circle with one person sitting in the middle, and everyone asked the person questions about the background of their characters and we had to come up with every detail on the spot. It really helped us to understand and engage with our characters so that we could show more of their thoughts and emotions in our acting. We did many interesting exercises to prepare for the show, such as reading the play backwards, or technically forwards as it is told in retrospect, and doing what is called the 'Italian Soap-Opera Method' where we run through the show as fast as we possibly can, spitting out lines at a mile a minute. Overall, the sense of family within the cast and the crazy, yet oddly helpful, exercises made the production reach its full potential, and impress and engage the audience.

The 2016 One-Act Drama Festival was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that brought my love of theatre to a whole new level and I am already so excited about what is in store next year!



# ARCANE

BY AJ BEATTY



MARC CORBUZZI AND ERIN WOODS



Richard Neville



Bery Murphy and Imogen Macauley

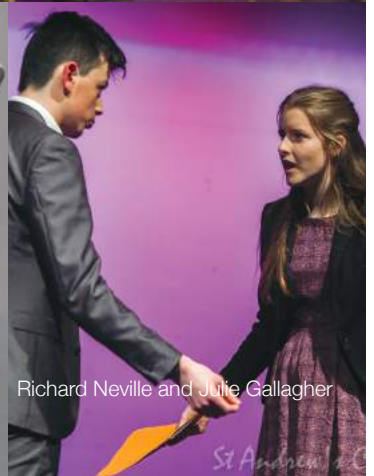


Julie Gallagher and Erin Woods



Imogen Macauley

Richard Neville and Clara-Kuh Hogan



Richard Neville and Julie Gallagher



The Cast

photography by Ms Jennings and Mr Micallef



HISTORY



## ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE IN 1916

St Andrew's College opened its door on the 8 January 1894 to 64 pupils in its first location at 21 St. Stephen's Green. By 1916, there were approximately 260 pupils and the headmaster was A. S. M. Imrie.

Imrie, the third headmaster, oversaw the running of the school from 1911 to 1919 during the very turbulent years of the First World War amid the growing support for nationalism that followed the Home rule Crisis of 1912-1914, the Easter Rising and the build-up to the War of Independence in January 1919. Imrie, originally from Scotland, taught physics and was known as '*the one who always wears a cap and gown*'.

In 1911, St Andrew's College became one of the first Irish schools to form an Officers' Training Corps (OTC). The OTC provided students with military training in schools to encourage them to join the British forces. Four Irish schools had an

OTC - St Andrew's College, St Columba's College, Campbell College Belfast and Cork Grammar School. The OTC's officer commander was English teacher W. J. Johnston; Mr Norminton, the chemistry teacher, was his lieutenant. The OTC activities included map-reading and military drills. Many of the boys were attracted to joining the OTC because of these activities and the OTC band which had two camps that were compulsory for the OTC every year. Membership of the OTC did not necessarily mean transfer to the armed services, even with the outbreak of the Great War in August 1914. However, when the war started the numbers in the OTC increased to 80 members; by 1917, the number of cadets in the OTC had dropped to 64. Past pupils who had joined the war effort often visited the OTC on leave. For example, in 1916, Lieutenants Ellerker and Beckett attended a camp at Kilbride. The Ellerker family later donated a cup to the school

for rifle-shooting which is on display in our school today. In the 1917 camp at Kilbride, St. Andrew's OTC shared the camp with 100 Royal Scots and 75 members of the 11<sup>th</sup> Royal Dublin Fusiliers who were taking a course in 'musketry preparatory' prior to their departure overseas. We only have anecdotal evidence from writings of past pupils such as Denis Johnston on the impact of these links between the school and the armed services.

On Easter Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 1916, a group of rebels led by Patrick Pearse and James Connolly marched from Liberty Hall to the GPO. There, Pearse read the Proclamation of the Irish Republic as the Tricolour was raised over the GPO. St. Andrew's College was closed that day because of the Easter holidays. Interestingly, on that day, St. Andrew's College had an advertisement in the Irish times announcing that the school would reopen on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> April. It also advertised the fact the school



had a strong OTC contingent and provided specialised tuition for army, navy and civil service candidates. It also mentioned the four hundred former pupils 'serving with the colours'.

One of the sites taken by the rebels was St Stephen's Green. The group was led by Michael Mallin and second-in-command was Countess Markievicz. By Tuesday 25 April, British reinforcements had arrived with General Lowe taking charge. The rebels in trenches in St. Stephen's Green came under fire from British forces in the Shelbourne Hotel. They were forced to retreat to the Royal College of Surgeons, located diagonally across from St. Andrew's College where they hoped to secure the rifles and ammunition belonging to the OTC attached to the RCSI. At this time in St. Andrew's College the OTC had 80 rifles and 10,000 rounds of ammunition. There was concern that this might attract the attention of the rebels but it seems Johnston had taken the precaution of buying new locks. It appears the Trustees may not have agreed to the new locks. According to the minutes of a meeting of the Trustees on the 7 March 1916 'Miss Haslett was asked to write to Mr Johnston to enquire why additional locks had been put on the lockers provided by the Trustees for the use of the Officers Training Corps'. Further precaution was taken. Norminton recalls '*we immediately collected a few senior NCOs (non-commissioned officers) to remove the bolts from the rifles and bid the ammunition until the rebellion was over*'. The armoury in St. Andrew's College was not at-

tacked. The OTC continued in the College until the official notification came in 1921 that OTCs were to be disbanded in the new Irish Free State.

Many past pupils took part in defending the city from the rebels whether as part of the British army or members of their university OTC. In particular, there were a number of past pupils involved in defending Trinity College, a strategic position in the centre of Dublin between the GPO and the College of Surgeons. Major G.A. Harris, adjutant of the Dublin University OTC was tasked with writing a report for the military authorities on the defence of Trinity College during the period 24 April to 6 May 1916. As he was not in Trinity when the Rising began he relied on reports written by members of the OTC and who were central to the successful defence of the College in the days after the outbreak of fighting on Easter Monday 1916. One such report was written by a past pupil, C. B. Mein, a Trinity student and a cadet sergeant in Dublin University. His report 'The Sinn Fein Rebellion, 24th April 1916 and the

*served out to each member of the guard a service rifle and fifty rounds of ball cartridge*'. It appears that Mein was the most senior military person in charge of defending Trinity College on the first day of the Rising. Other past pupils mentioned in the reports on defending Trinity College were A.H. Matthews, Cadet W.S. Allardyce, Cadet Sergeant Keating, Cadet G.H. Wood, and Cadet Sergeant Wigoder. After the Rising, these past pupils of St. Andrew's received a special trophy, the Moira Cup, and a commemorative scroll from the grateful business owners on Grafton Street who felt the successful defending of Trinity College against the Rebels had deterred the repetition of the looting that took place on Sackville Street (now O'Connell St).

In October 1914, St. Andrew's Volunteer Training Corps was set up. This was a group of past pupils and friends of the school. They were a unit of the home reserve and had their headquarters in the College. Indeed, a month before the Rising in the minutes of a meeting held by the Trustees on the 7 March, there is

mention of '*a letter from Mr Andrew Smith with reference to accommodation of Rifles for the St Andrew's volunteer Training Corps... Miss Haslett was asked to write to Mr Smith*



St Andrew's Staff 1915

Defence of Trinity College' is a good primary source of events that day. He recalls '*at midday Patrick Dowling a Trinity porter brought in word that the Sinn Feiners had broken out in revolt in the city...on receiving this news I ordered the Lincoln Place Gate to be locked...I then*

*and inform him that the trustees would be pleased to accede to his request*'. On Easter Monday, the St. Andrew's Volunteer Training Corps had paraded at Beggar's Bush Barracks and then marched to Ticknock Hill for exercises. On hearing about the Rising

HISTORY



The St Andrew's OTC

they returned to Beggar's Bush where they spent the remainder of the Rising. Five past pupils appear to be involved at Beggar's Bush - Granville Beckett, John Gill, John Miller Pirrie Hamilton, William Johnston and John Henry White.

There were some students who had a conflict of loyalties. For example, Denis Johnston and his family were



21, St Stephen's Green

taken hostage by four rebels in their house in Lansdowne Road and held for five days. He grew to like his captors and this may explain Johnston's change in political views and his becoming a Republican sympathiser. Johnston had a picture of Pearse in his room but continued in the OTC. He recalls in Easter of 1917, the St Andrew's OTC were involved in guarding the College of Surgeons in case the rebels tried to reoccupy: *'it was assumed that the Rebels will try to do exactly the same thing every year...so the school boys in the OTC were sent...including me a newly fledged Rebel armed by England with a Lee Enfield and ball ammunition'*. The only former St. Andrew's College student known to have joined the IRA and be active in War of Independence and Civil War was Robert Briscoe, later a Fianna Fail TD and the first Jewish Lord Major of Dublin.

From the school's records, there appears to be little evidence of the

events from 1916 to 1921 having any real impact on the day to day running of the school. Perhaps one glimpse we can see is in the advertising of the school. In the papers of 1920, an advertisement for St. Andrew's College still mentioned how it has an OTC and the importance that was attached to physical training. However, there is no mention of the war service of past pupils. Instead, there is simply a commitment to prepare student for professional and business life in Ireland.

*Extracts from St Andrew's College 1894-1994 by Georgina Fitzpatrick and the Minutes books of the Trustees and the Executive committee.*

*Ms McGrane*





## 1916 SCHOOL SURVEY

As part of the 1916 commemorations all members of the school community are invited to complete a survey detailing what their family members were doing in 1916. We hope to compile an archive of information gathered. It may be that some families were involved in the fight for Irish independence, or had family members fighting in the trenches of World War One. Given the international profile of our school some pupils will have stories about the lives of family members in places far removed from Dublin. We are interested in gathering all those stories. (If you have a filled in survey please submit to any member of the History department).

**Shane Hynes** 3G writes about what he found out about his great grandfather:

My great-grandfather William P Corrigan was born in 1889 in Dublin. He attended Blackrock College and Trinity College. He joined the Irish Volunteers during the 1916 Rising as a Lieutenant in the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion which was led by Eamonn Ceannt. During the Rising he was defending South Circular Road in Dolphin's Barn from British Soldiers in the Church. In the building they were defending they were ambushed and William was shot through a window in the face. The 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion surrendered and were brought to Richmond Barracks.

While William was awaiting trial he recognized the British Prosecutor William Wylie. They were friends and William owed Wylie money in a wager. Since Wylie felt the British were being unjust in the trials, he decided to defend William P fiercely. His defense was that if William was

to be executed Wylie would never receive his payment. William P was sent to Portland Prison and was incarcerated with many of the famous leaders of the rising such as Con Colbert and Michael Mallin.

After leaving jail, William became a solicitor and five years after (during the War of Independence) William P was approached by Wylie (who represented the British) asking would he be able to ask Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins to meet with a British representative. William P was now the solicitor to the Irish Volunteers and was close to the leaders. He interviewed Griffith and they agreed to have the meeting in William P's office, Corrigan and Corrigan, in St Andrew's Street. This was the first time the two sides had actually met and this was described by William as '*The first steps towards peace negotiations*'.



William became the Head Solicitor to the Attorney General and went on to become the very first High State Solicitor. In his later years he became the President of Blackrock Rugby Club from 1936-1943. Corrigan and Corrigan is still there today in 3, St Andrew's Street.

## A STUDENT EXAMINES *THE IRISH PROCLAMATION*

Printed in the old Wharfedale Printing Press, *The Irish Proclamation* was imprinted on double crown paper. Despite stress, time pressure and lack of resources as well as it having it to be printed in two halves, they managed to print 1,000 copies. This goes to show the skill and ingenuity of the Irish Rebels.

It was composed by Padraig Pearse and edited and brought to the press by James Connolly and Thomas Mac Donagh. Although it is the document that created the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic there are many flaws and imperfections within it.

For example the "C" in "The Republic" is actually an "O" printed on its side. The first "E" in "THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND" is actually an "F" converted to an e with sealing wax. In the entire document there are 32 "E"s printed in the wrong font with one being printed upside down. Yet you can see the faith, passion and pride for Ireland's freedom is clearly stated.

There are some powerful messages in this composition. For instance, the proclamation states that women will be viewed and treated equally to men; this was incredible considering that across the sea at the time was the Suffragette

movement. The seven signatories Thomas J Clarke, Sean Mc Diarmada, Thomas Mac Donagh, Padraig H Pearse, Eamon Ceannt, James Connolly and Joseph Plunket all believed that it wasn't just them, but the entire population of Ireland that would make it a strong, independent and prosperous nation.

And it was on that day, 24 April 1916 when Padraig Pearse proudly proclaimed Ireland's independence, the 1916 rising started and Ireland's journey to freedom began.

*Liam Bean*

# Everything Sports.

## U-13 A and Junior A Mixed Fortunes



Mixed fortunes for the U-13 A and Junior A sides in their respective league finals with the U-13s going down 1-0 to a very strong Wesley side. There were outstanding displays on the day from the St Andrew's keeper Matthew O'Brien-Holohan and centre back Stephen Nevin whose great work in defence kept their side in the contest until the very end.

The Junior game was as keenly contested. A goal from Mark Gibbons in the fifth minute gave St Andrew's College an early lead. Outstanding work in goals from Nick Judge who pulled off a number of top saves on the day, coupled with a double take off the line by Daniel O'Donovan, preserved the lead as far as half-time. Wesley equalised mid-way through the second half and that's the way the score stayed with a couple of half chances either end.

The game was decided on strokes and leading 3-1 after three rounds of strokes it was left up to Daniel O'Donovan to slot the winning goal for St Andrew's College, which he duly did.

Thanks are due to the coaches and all who turned out to support the boys.

## First Year Boys' Rugby Sevens Success



Congratulations to the First Year Boys' Rugby Sevens Squad that won the Blackrock RFC Sevens Blitz on Wednesday 24 February.

The boys won all four of their games beating Newpark, Willow Park 1 and 2 and St Columba's College. There were some fantastic performances from the whole squad and David Baker finished the tournament as the top try scorer.



**CHESS** Tom O'Gorman 1st Year (2135), Ross Beatty 2nd Year (1752) and Alice O'Gorman 3rd Year (1563) have been selected for the 2016 Irish coaching panel.

**IRISH U18s** John Guilfoyle, Ben Walker, Guy Sarratt and Ben Bradley have been selected in the Irish U18 training panel of 24 as they prepare for the European Championships this summer. The squad have a series of training camps in the coming weeks with a couple of test matches lined up over Easter against Scotland.

Well done to **Aisling Beecham-McAr-dle** on reaching the Leinster Championships. She was our sole representative at Santry Demense on Wednesday 10 February and came home in the middle of the field.



# SAM STEWART WINS 83KG LIFT



Sam Stewart training

Congratulations to **Sam Stewart** 6C who won the U23 Mens 83kg weight class at the Irish Powerlifting Federation competition on 24 January. Powerlifting totals are ranked using a "Wilkes" score and Sam was also ranked 8th best lifter overall on the day out of 150+ competitors.

# CRICKET



Best of luck to **Gaby Lewis, Robyn Lewis Lucy O'Reilly and Shauna Kavanagh (Class 2011)** as they jet off to India to compete for Ireland at the T20 Cricket World Cup. The girls will kick off their campaign on the 18th March against New Zealand before playing against Sri Lanka, South Africa and Australia.

# Alumni Association Honour Rugby Internationals



Ronnie Dawson, Michael Gibson, Felix Jones

On Friday 5 February St Andrew's College Alumni Association held a lunch in Wanderers Rugby Club in honour of its three former Rugby International Alumni, Ronnie Dawson, Michael Gibson and Felix Jones. The caterer was former pupil Alison Davis of Ali Davis Food Company. After lunch Sunday Times Rugby Correspondent Peter O'Reilly hosted a Q&A session with the three guests. With 146 in attendance the lunch was a resounding success.



St Andrew's Supporters

# BRITAIN VOTES ON LEAVING THE EU

## WHAT WOULD A BREXIT MEAN?



On 23<sup>rd</sup> June, the British people, for the first time in a generation, will be given the opportunity to decide on whether or not they should stay in the European Union. I think that it is overwhelmingly in the interests of Britain to stay. (For this discussion I shall not be considering the interests or writing from the perspective of Ireland or any other EU member nation.)

There are three key reasons to stay. Firstly, trade competitiveness. If Britain chooses to leave the EU then it is losing access to the free un-tariffed and taxed markets of the European Union. Once outside British, goods and services would come under the same taxation as any other nation outside the EU and so lose competitiveness against other nations inside the Union. First and foremost, the European Union was founded on the principle of a free trade zone and the UK deciding to remove itself from the bloc of countries participating would put itself at a disadvantage.

Secondly, their financial security and influence in making decisions that “in or out” affect the UK. If the British people were to decide to leave then the UK would be losing access to a natural forum that allows it to promote its interests and access to financial assistance abroad. Britain would need to form bilateral agree-

ments with many European Nations to compensate. The interests of the British people would then come second to those of Europe from the perspective of their prospective partners. While staying, Britain has considerable power over the decisions made in Brussels and Strasbourg. (This is a testimony to British diplomatic influence with other European nations) witnessed by David Cameron returning from negotiations, with new concessions on Britain’s relationship with the EU. Not only this, but the British government has shown their influence with the Schengen Area, FTT and Immigration Benefits just to name a few that all allow Britain to form its own policy.

Finally, National Security. While Britain is a member of the European Union it has access to Europol (an EU taskforce for fighting drugs and illegal immigration). Without this and many other joint initiatives, Britain will leave itself vulnerable. The rise of terrorist organisations threatening the state from within, Russia trying to renew itself as an influence in Eastern Europe and China a dominant industrialised nation shifting the traditional balance of power in the world all need a coordinated, measured response that cannot be achieved by Britain leaving itself isolated from the rest of Europe.

The objection posed by the BREXIT campaign is one of control over sovereignty. This has two facets: first, the power over national decisions today, and the trend in sovereignty and the supposed trajectory of the union. However, history shows Britain has been allowed to opt out of most decisions by the EU if desired, for example their derogation from the Financial Transaction Tax which they felt would harm their interests, deciding to curb migrant benefits, Britain’s decision to keep border checks and not participate in the Schengen Area and finally the decision not to take part in the Euro. The trend towards ever-increasing Union has been effectively challenged already by recent crises. Many other European Nations share the UK’s concern about the erosion of their national sovereignty. In consequence the union has probably reached its limit in the integration of member nations.

In my opinion Britain leaving the EU would isolate itself from trade agreements, defence partners and leave itself unable to influence decisions in an international forum that has on the whole been more advantageous than detrimental.

# POOR POSTURE

KATARZYNA PLESNIAR

SCIENCE

## THE EFFECTS OF POOR POSTURE AND WHAT TO DO TO PREVENT IT



*Most common pain areas for poor posture*

When making a New Year's resolution list, the common goals we aim to achieve are to drink more water or sleep at least 8 hours per night. Having good posture doesn't quite make it to the top 5.

However, it should. From the day a person is born until 18-20 years of age, their bones are constantly developing. It's very important to ensure that this development runs its course correctly. Trying to sit appropriately when studying or watching television can go a long way in helping our bodies develop properly. The consequences of bad posture are serious. Visible changes to our bone alignment such as scoliosis can cause debilitating pain.

The extent to which a pathology impacts our everyday life depends on its severity. We may have a deformity and be completely unaware of it. Here is a very simple test, that you can do, to check for presence of a condition called 'flat feet' - that is when the arches of the foot collapse.

Simply paint the soles of your feet with some non-toxic paint. Then, step on a large sheet of paper. If there is no inward curve on your footprint from the big toe to the heel, you may have flat feet. This can cause pain as well as problems with your ankles and knees. This condition ought to be taken seriously and be properly treated by an orthopedist. Other deformities, are not that simple to 'self-diagnose' and must be checked for during a regular visit to your GP.

But worry not, below are some guidelines to help you achieve your best posture:

1. When sitting, make sure you keep your head straight, not titled upward or downward or sideways, keep your feet firmly flat on the floor and relax your shoulders. Avoid tucking your legs under the chair or crossing over at knees.
2. When standing keep your shoulders at the back and straighten up. Remember to wear comfortable

shoes and avoid high heels when standing for a long period of time.

3. Exercise plays a vital role in the proper functioning of our bodies. It also helps with strengthening muscles, which makes it easier to maintain good posture.

So, remember to implement a sustainable and regular amount of physical activity in your weekly schedule. This will go a long way in helping you achieve your best posture and improve your health overall.



## CLUBS IN THE COLLEGE

### WE LOOK AT TWO OF OUR WEEKLY CLUBS

**Chinese Club** was a joint endeavour between the students attending and the teachers running the weekly club. The club was established simply to set up an informal environment where students could come to enjoy themselves while learning some Chinese vocabulary, tasting some Chinese food, and immersing themselves in the culture of China.

Following the long standing success of the TY Chinese class, Ms Harte, who teaches TY Chinese, along with Mr McArdle, the Chinese coordinator, ran the club on a weekly basis, each Monday lunchtime at 1:20pm. Each week, they taught a few new basic Chinese phrases and songs and brought along some typical Chinese snacks. Other activities that took place include a chopstick lessons and a chopstick pasta-into-cup tournament.

China is an example of one of the many countries which has a vastly different culture from the one we live in. It was great to see people embracing another culture in this interesting experience and I think that the club is an important reminder of the international nature of the school. It also serves as an example for the future creation of other clubs and societies in the school which are open to all students, whether those interested in participating and learning, or those just looking for a place to enjoy their lunches with others.

Yan Lee

# VS

### The Senior Debate Club

holds its meetings every Friday at lunchtime in room G.03. This student initiative was set up to allow senior pupils to evaluate controversial issues critically by forming arguments for or against a set motion: for example, the European migration crisis. Pupils are then able to test their public speaking skills by giving a speech in front of an audience. The debate is based on the Oxford style debate where a pre-debate vote is cast. This is then compared to the vote after the arguments by the two sides are made. The comparison shows which side argued more effectively and thus winning the overall debate. It is an important skill to be able to critically analyse an issue from a different perspective than one's own and furthermore to be able to convey this point in a convincing way to sway the audience in precisely that direction. The senior debate club gives students a great opportunity to do not only that, but also to improve their public speaking skills and learn the value of teamwork when cooperating with their teammates. If this isn't appealing enough, there are also biscuits for everyone and CAS hours for the IBs!

Katarzyna Plesniar



# My Most Useful Possessions

David Tuohy

I'm 15 years old and live in South County Dublin, so you can guess that my most useful possessions won't include a water purifier. Over my 15 years on this planet, I've amassed a huge number of things, junk to most, treasure to me. Here are the most useful ones to me, whether they're actually useful or not is up to you.

Seeing as I'm a teenager, I think it goes without saying, my phone is my most valued and useful possession. My *Samsung Trend Plus* - complete with a button that doesn't do anything and an extremely cracked and annoying screen.

To be honest, it's a pile of rubbish. It's laggy, glitchy, constantly running out of memory space and its battery only holds out for two hours max. In short, it's about as useful as a water purifier. However, it does keep me connected to everyone I know and, above all, away from sheer boredom.

And how about my bed? I could easily write a novel on those two little

words. I'd say I spend about 70% of my time on Earth lounging in that double bed. Six square feet of Ikea happiness.

Third of all, my American football. A Wilson crafted official NFL replica football. I love American football almost as much as I love bacon rolls, but it's hard to find anyone else in Dublin who likes the sport as much as I do. The excessive use of helmets and padding often leads to American football players being called a name usually associated with cats.

Finally, my coloured ink pens. I have a big collection of ink pens that I use in my artwork, at home and in school. By the way, I love art even more than I love bacon rolls. I like my ink pens because they are extremely robust and not as messy or as inaccurate as a paintbrush. Or at least, not as messy or as inaccurate as me with a paintbrush.

I think this random collection of junk defines me, it is as good to my personality as a lifetime of memo-

ries. My phone shows the side of me that wants to talk to and be connected with others, the side that wants to play infinitely mindless games while wishing I had an even better phone.

The latter shows the materialistic side in us all. The bed shows my comfort-loving (extremely) lazy side, in fact if it was up to me I wouldn't be writing this essay at all, I'd be snoozing in bed hoping the second I'm told to get up never comes. My football shows my sporty side, my love for the pure adrenaline rush and exhilaration that comes with one of the roughest sports on the planet. And the ink pens show my artistic and creative side, in fact as a little kid, give me a pencil and I'd draw maps and pictures of far away places for hours on end. If only I could use all of those for my Junior Cert portfolio I could then go back to bed!

To conclude, each one of these objects represents a different characteristic of mine and make up my personality. And, by the way, I really like bacon rolls.

## The Happiest Countries In The World

Recently, Gallup-Healthways produced a survey to find the countries that have the happiest populations. After asking 146,000 people, they found the 145 happiest countries in the world. But what makes a country happy? Many people would say good weather, lack of corruption, the cost of living or even safety.

The only factor taken into consideration in this survey is the well-being of the people.

Three aspects of a country's well-being were taken into account: its sense of purpose, social relationships, financial situation, community involvement and physical health.

The top three countries were Panama, Costa Rica and Puerto Rico. Why? What do these countries have that makes their people some of the happiest in the world?

During the last few years, Panama's economy and political stability have become much better. This simple improvement has allowed the population to lead much more content lives.

Ireland came in 36<sup>th</sup>, in between Finland and Honduras.

*Yasmin Ryan*

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

# Sarah Webb



I attended St Andrew's College from the age of six until I left in 1987. I read English and History of Art at Trinity College, Dublin. Being a passionate reader from childhood, I'd always wanted to work with books so, after I graduated and after nearly six months making breakfasts, working in a hotel and teaching sailing, I managed to get a job in Hodges Figgis Bookshop on Dawson Street, my first 'real' job. From there I moved to Hughes and Hughes, Waterstones and finally Eason.

In 2000, my first adult novel, *Three Times a Lady* was published and, soon after this, I left bookselling to write full time. I have published 35 books to date, from nursery rhyme collections and early readers (*Sally Go Round the Stars* and *Emma the Penguin*), to books for young teens (the *Ask Amy Green* series - the school in these books, St John's was inspired by St Andrew's) and 11 novels for adults (*The Shoestring Club*, *The Memory Box*).

My books have been published in America, Australia, Indonesia, Poland, Italy and many other countries. I'm currently writing a series called *The Songbird Cafe Girls* for age 8+. The latest is called *Sunny Days and Moon Cakes* and is about a young girl who has selective mutism. Philip Stanley, an ex-pupil of Andrew's, helped me with the research, in fact!

I have been back to St Andrew's several times to talk to the students about my books and about being a writer, which I've greatly enjoyed. I'm also the Children's Curator of the Mountains to Sea DLR Book Festival in Dun

Laoghaire, one of the largest festivals in the country and I review children's books for the Irish Independent.

*All my work is book-based and although it's hard graft at times and being self-employed is a bit of a tightrope walk some years, it's a wonderfully fulfilling life.*

I teach creative writing at the Irish Writers Centre and am a member of the Writers in Schools Scheme, visiting dozens of schools every year. All my work is book-based and although it's hard graft at times and being self-employed is a bit of a tightrope walk some years, it's a wonderfully fulfilling life.

So did St Andrew's colour my future career? In many ways it did. In Junior School, the wonderful Miss Cahill had us learning chunks of Shakespeare and reading Steinbeck in Fifth Class. I still remember many of the poems I learned off my heart at this age - Upon Westminster Bridge, To Daffodils. She believed that good stories had the power to transport you and put you in other people's shoes and she was right.

In senior school, Mrs West encourage my interest in History of Art. I'm no artist, but I have a great love of art and I adored spending four years at Trinity gazing at slides of ground-breaking paintings, sculptures and buildings.

What had the greatest influence of all on my future was being a reader. Miss Baker in the library allowed me to borrow whatever I liked and I always enjoyed talking to her about books. And I must say a big thank you to all the teachers who turned a blind eye to me reading under the desk during their classes.

# Natasha Murtagh

I don't know if this is just an Irish thing, or maybe even a Dublin thing, but when you meet someone from Ireland in another country one of the first things you always ask is; 'so what school did you go to?'

Secondary school plays a huge part in all of our lives and quite frankly some of my favourite memories are from my six years in St Andrew's College.

I remember my first day at age 12, getting the dart all the way in from Greystones and I was so excited, excited about this new start, excited about this new independence, and even excited about my uniform. It doesn't take long before you find yourself a handful of people you think you might like and

before you know it you are doing everything together. But in St Andrew's there was this lovely feeling of togetherness throughout my six years there - we were all friends really and the older we got, the closer we got. Then comes college and you think 'Oh no, I'll miss all my friends so much, but sure half of us all end up in either Trinity or UCD anyway!' But either way, I think the people you meet in your years in secondary school are your friends for life, that's the case for me anyway. St Andrew's gave me a solid batch of brilliant people to spend my early years with, helping shape the person I am today.

Now I am 23, graduated from University and living in Central America. I haven't been home in nearly a year, I haven't seen my friends or my family in the longest stretch of time ever, I miss them deeply.

I love it when I get a message from home and best when it is unexpected. I have had a huge number of emails on Facebook from my pals from the St. Andrew's school days, asking me where I am, that they are loving following me around the world, am I working, when am I home etc. I have even got a number of mails from friends asking me how I have managed to financially sustain myself for this long and that they need my secrets to help plan their trip! One message I got recently enough was



**Fast forward eleven years and here, in a small hostel in a town called Antigua, Guatemala three of us stand: two are qualified doctors and the other is a year into her big adventure around the world, writing.**

from a very dear friend, Charlotte Murphy. I remember I first became friends with Charlotte after a trip to the Aran Islands. We stayed in some kind of Gaeltacht and did lots of 'outdoorsy' things and that's when we became close. I ended up spending my Sixth Year holiday with her and a few other pals, interrailing around Europe for a month.

Anyway, I got a message from her asking me how I was doing and how I was enjoying Guatemala. I gave her my little update and she mentioned how she was nearly finished her medicine degree and was planning a holiday to Peru. She mentioned that a few of her other classmates were planning a trip through Guatemala and that they might pass through where I was living, Antigua. Two of the people in that group were Matthew Hainbach and Charles Julienne, two boys who were in my year in St. Andrews. Unfortunately I thought I would miss them, my plans then were to finish up in Antigua and head to the lake. However, there I am a few weeks down the line, standing behind the bar in the hostel I was working at, about to close up. My Australian best friend here in Antigua and manager at the time Beth, came up to me with a long face and a huff; 'I just got a confirmation for a booking of 10, so keep the bar open until they get here,' she told me. Damn, I thought to myself, I had planned on

going out with some friends, but saw this as impossible now. So time went by and I was chatting away to a customer when all this noise arrived at reception and I heard that familiar accent, the Irish are here. I squinted my eyes a little at the dark huddle of people that had ambushed reception, yup they were Irish. I carried on my business as they all checked in and then I took another glance up. I saw this little familiar face, looking right back at me and smiling, it was none other than the wonderful Matthew Hainbach.

I think I nearly gave the whole hostel a heart attack as I screeched with joy and ran out of the bar across the lounge to

Matthew where we squeezed the death out of each other. As I paused to take a look at his face, Charles

comes around the corner into view where I repeat my squeal and we all embrace.

I hadn't seen either of these boys for about two years. They both studied in Trinity and I was in UCD, maybe seeing each other briefly on a night out, but nothing more. Of course after calming down, I took them out on the town to all the little places I had managed to break down as my usual go to spots, finishing the night off with a late night street side sandwich from Eduardo, the young Guatemalan with a fierce talent for sandwich building.

It was so lovely to catch up, to hear what they had been up to, to see where they were in life now - qualified doctors, how amazing. To think we all started off together, not knowing much about ourselves or about the person we wanted to be in life. Not knowing what we would study, where we would go to university or where we would have our first job. Fast forward eleven years and here, in a small hostel in a town called Antigua, Guatemala three of us stand: two are qualified doctors and the other is a year into her big adventure around the world writing. They say it's a small world, but really it isn't, it's huge and it's full of millions of people going millions of different places doing millions of different things, but the good ones always find each other, no matter how far the distance.



*Grapevine* is a St Andrew's College Student Publication.  
St Andrew's College, Booterstown Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin  
Ph: (01) 288 2785 Fax: (01) 283 1627 [www.sac.ie](http://www.sac.ie)

