

## FROM THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

### MEETING WITH AREA REPRESENTATIVES IN PENMAENMAWR

Our meeting with the Area Representatives (28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> October) began with the joy and excitement that always raises the noise level in Noddfa when a number of RSHM come together. Once we started the meeting, Pauline Darby SHCJ, helped us to feel calm and focused as she led us through the stages of gathering, widening, deepening and returning. We had some fun as we created pictures of the RSHM body today – some strange-looking beings emerged.



*Team work*



The outcomes might not have been what we expected, but the journey took us to deeper topics. All the groups spoke about the essence of community and we committed ourselves to talk about this when we give and account of the weekend in our areas. We hope that all of us will be able to share in this conversation as we meet in areas in the next few weeks.



*Offering our gifts*



*Pauline Darby, the facilitator, with Agnes*

*Enjoying French wine.*

*The stone circle was a symbol in the final prayer.*

**NEW PRINCIPAL OF ABBEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, FERRYBANK**

Miss Detta Cahill was appointed as Principal of Abbey Community Ferrybank, Waterford in September of this year.

We wish Detta well in her new role and are happy that the school is in such capable hands.



*Detta with the new Deputy Principal Colm Rice*

**DISCOVERING SOMAIN Marie Jean Barthès**

From the 6th to the 13th September 2011 I left the burning heat of my native South of France to plunge into the mists of the North....

Somain ! I had heard a lot about this small town with its communist majority and famous for its miners but had never been there. But that's where two of our sisters, Dominique and Cécile, live.

They were part of the original community of four, along with Chantal and Marie France, who came to live among the people of Somain. I had never been to their community but, suddenly, there I was, having accepted a pressing invitation to visit them.

I could say a lot more, but what stays with me from my experience of the sisters' life in Somain is that it embraces more than an extended family; it's a whole "extended community". Their welcome is so simple, open and warm that they make you feel at home, and I thank God for the opportunity I've had of sharing their mission so that "All may have Life"!



## MEETING WITH PAST PUPILS - HOLYWOOD

*“On Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> September, founding staff and pupils from the Sacred Heart of Mary Grammar School, Hollywood, met in the scenic surroundings of Hollywood Golf Club to celebrate the opening of the school forty years ago. It was a fabulous occasion and a real treat to see Sisters Bridget, Ellen and Clare looking so well. All three made excellent speeches in which they expressed their affection for former pupils and their families. The school was established in 1970 and took pupils from a wide area including Bangor, Donaghadee, Newtownards as well as many parts of Belfast. During the early years of the school, there was considerable political upheaval, yet the Sisters, their lay colleagues and the pupils soldiered on resolutely and made the school truly unique.*

*The pupils were so glad of the opportunity to see their teachers once more and tell them their news about their own families and personal achievements. On the evening itself, everyone remembered the great times they had together: the personal attention they received from all the staff, the school trips that were organised, the competitions entered, the musical achievements, the fun and games and of course the hard work that was done in the classroom . . . sometimes! The Sisters were presented with a beautiful framed photograph of the original building which they really appreciated.*

*As a result of the evening, old friendships were renewed and everyone was determined not to let another forty years elapse before another reunion.*

*(Finola Cassidy on behalf of the past pupils in Hollywood 1970)*



*A view of Hollywood Golf Club, Co Down*