



Red Sokz



Editorial

We're Back! The originals, the best, Catherine, Sarah and Jane, the Founders of Red Sokz have returned for one week only. While Form IV are off on work experience our expertise was called upon!

In this issue we have the stories of the triumphant hockey girls and another all the way from Uganda. We also discover what happened on Mr. Hardy's mysterious trip! Cristian Toral the Spanish coach is leaving sniff! sniff! Much to the disappointed of some girls...especially SARAH HOLMES

In school, Out of school

Where was Mr. Hardy last week? Believe it or not, he was in School! The Irish government invited him to represent Ireland in Denmark with nine other EU representatives. Doing what? You may ask. Well, quite rightly, Denmark are very proud of their schooling system and

wanted to show it off to the rest of Europe. Mr. Hardy visited a Folk School in Aalborg, Denmark. The schooling system is very different to what we have here. The children of Denmark start school at the age of 6 and stay until they are 16. There are no text books or exams and the educational motto is "Learn by Doing". School life consists of week long modules spent away from the classroom – e.g. Farming, Drama & Dance school, Mechanics, Marine Science, Zoology, Home Economics and Art & Design. In these places they do mostly practical work like calving cows, repairing cars, cooking for numbers of up to 250 people with the guidance of top class chefs. These children range from the age of 10 up to 16. Languages are learnt in specially designed houses which are specifically

orientated to show the students how people in other countries live. They live in the houses for a week and are taught by native speakers, most of their learning is done through action and integration rather than our way of reeling off verbs! A huge smile appeared on Mr. Hardy's face while telling us about these houses and how they sat on beanbags instead of chairs. He thought that the students were very well behaved (there was not a bit of graffiti in sight) as well as being enthusiastic, he had the opportunity to talk to a group of teenagers about schooling in Ireland. They were really interested and sat through their lunch to listen. When he mentioned our uniforms and the girls red socks they all burst into fits of laughter. Mr. Hardy found the trip enjoyable, educational, fun and by the look on his face we could tell he wished Villiers could be that way too.

Features

The Uganda Story

On February 23rd, Mrs. T. Ryan and Maeve Stone (Form IV) travelled to Uganda along with a group of teachers and students from around the country.

Their aim was to see at first hand, the projects in rural Uganda which were sponsored by Self Help Development International. After a smooth landing in Entebbe they travelled Northwards for Arubella. They discovered that the children have to walk 3 kilometres to school every day with no food provisions. There are 80 - 100 pupils to one teacher and teachers receive a salary of 50 dollars per month. They also found it a little disconcerting to discover that the children were no longer taught in their native language.

At this stage they were beginning to come to terms with the sheer numbers of people, their slim bodies, their busy nature but most of all the outwardly happy disposition of the men and children chatting in groups and the seemingly endless number of solitary women carrying heavy water cans and babies. They visited a clinic in Asumuk completed by Self Help in December

2002. There are 45,000 people served by this one clinic. There were six beds and three mattresses. There is obviously need for way more.

When they visited the villages many people wanted to tell their story and explain their successes and failures in growing and harvesting crops. It was very obvious to them that it was a source of great pride that their children were going to school.

They learned about the norms and customs of the Ugandan people. Interestingly, many of the traditions are based on tribal ones.

On their trip they saw one tractor, poor infrastructure, a lack of basic necessities for help and hygiene and the population pressure in most districts giving ground for pessimism.

Self Help believe that things can only get better in time and with support they can overcome shortcomings and limitations of a stagnated economy and make Uganda the "Pearl of Africa" again.

The visit was a memorable one and they will never forget the openness and 'willing to please' mentality of all the Self Help workers. Their self belief that

"things can only get better" is evident in their attitudes and their unselfish and untiring approach to tackling almost insurmountable tasks.

The trip really touched the hearts of all who went and they will never forget the experience. We have it so easy here in the Western World and it takes a trip like this to make us realise how lucky we are.

Euro Survey 2003

In Ms. Storey's C.S.P.E class we undertook a survey on the Euro for Junior Cert. Action Project. We surveyed Forms I - III and people from outside the School in three age groups: 0-18, 18-65 and 65+.

These are some of main results: Asking "Which currency do you prefer, Irish pound or the Euro?" we found a surprising 55% went for the Irish pound and 45% for the Euro. A huge 90% thought that the Euro will be good for the Irish economy.

Check the café for graphs of results and for more information.

Daniel Eve Form IIIM
& Derek Harvey IIIP.



Sport

Athletics is starting. If you are interested talk to Mr. Sutton. See the summer sports time table on the notice board.

We want to wish the following people the best of luck in a **Munster Golf Championship**: Andrew Gray, Alex McClean, Jasper Schultz and Tony Cusack.

Senior Girls Hockey - Victories!

History has been made by the team. On Wednesday March 26th the girls played in the **Munster Cup Final** against a strong Laurel Hill side. The match went into extra time, and still scoreless with only five minutes to go, Noelle Casey struck. We had a short corner, Sarah Gray pushed the ball out, Nicola Sterritt stopped it. Noelle, waiting at the top of the circle for her opportunity, received a perfected tap from Nicola, seized the chance and struck an amazing ball into the goal, WOW! Our hearts were in our mouths as Laurel Hill counter-attacked straight away. But wonderful defending denied them and Aislinn Ryan finished them off with a magnificent goal. Victory was ours!

Villiers Senior Girls had never even been to the final of the cup before let alone winning it. This was just the start of the record breaking team. That night the squad celebrated with an *Early Bird* meal in the Jasmine Palace with parents and teachers. A great evening was had by all, however it was early to bed so as to be fit and ready for Friday's match. What a day!

Friday, the **League Final** was against arch-rivals Middleton (who we had previously knocked out of the cup). With only two minutes gone in the game Aoife Ryan scored but Middleton struck back. In the second half Noelle put us back in the lead but not for long as they got one back, 2-2 it finished so into extra time we went again.

Brilliant goal-keeping, by Maria Kelly, kept us in the game and without a score after it went to penalty flicks. It was a very tense time but Noelle saved the day with the perfect flick to the left of the goalie.

Never before had Villiers won the Senior Girls Cup, never before had Villiers won the Senior Girls League and this team managed both, all in ONE WEEK!

Sincere congratulations to the team. It would not have been possible without the Trojan work from our two wonderful coaches Mr. Sutton and Spanish coach Christian Toral. A huge thank you. The team would also like to thank all those dedicated people who came along and supported us all the way. **The squad**: Maria Kelly, Neasa Starr, Nicola Sterritt, Ciara Hereward-Ryan, Jane Hedigan, Aoife Ryan, Sarah Gray, Noelle Casey, Kathryn Buggy, Aislinn Ryan, Aislynn Craughan, Sarah Holmes, Chloe Sexton, Hollie Lawlor, Hannah McKechnie and Susan Ryan.

The **Senior Boys Hockey Team** played Old Villiers in the annual hockey match. It was a very tense game and it finished 3-3. A lovely meal in the dining hall was had by all. It was great to see some of the old faces again!

Congratulations to the Senior Boys who have won the Cup and League again! The Cup Final was played on Thursday afternoon against Newtown and our boys came through with a very convincing win. At half time the score was 2-0 but our lads were not finished yet, they blasted home another 4 goals in the second half with no response from Newtown. It was a great display of skill and expertise. Well Done Boys!!

The season has ended for the **Minor Girls Hockey Team** who did very well this year and only just got knocked out of the league by Ursulines, they finished 3rd in Munster.

Villiers have had a very successful hockey season let's hope next year is just as good!

Today, the **Junior Rugby Team** are in the Munster Development Cup final against St.Flannans, Ennis in Thomand Park. They reached the final by defeating Newport in the quarter final. In the semi final they played a very tough St. Enda's side. Villiers came through this with a winning try from Eoghan Ryan in extra time - well done! The winning squad was Luke Holmes, Eoghan Ryan, Glen Wallace, Evan Cody, Blaine Cregan, Mathew Shine, Diarmuid Quilan, Roy Stoddart, Colm Good, James McCarthy, Rowan Taylor, Oscar Barrett Cuixeres, Thomas O'Donnell, Daragh Gleeson, David Fogerty, Eric Fogerty and Connor Magner. Best of luck, lads.



Announcements The weeks ahead

The **Home Economics practical exams** went well. Well Done to everyone and to Ms. Byrne who put in a lot of work to get them ready. The corridors, on Tuesday, smelled divine!

You may have noticed the increased use of **Foreign Languages**, even Irish these past few weeks, this was because Form VI have been undergoing their orals - hope they went well!

A note from Mrs. Breen: "Just a little reminder to all those who are planning to eat Easter Eggs, recycle your boxes".

Student Council: The money raised from the Colours Day and concert on the 26th March came to a grand total of 2,200€. The funds are being divided as follows:

Milford Hospice	1,500€
Interact	250€
Niamh Keane (past pupil)	250€
Student Council funds	200€

Any questions or queries ask your year representatives.

Well done to the willing people who fasted for **The Burren Chernobyl Project**. Great determination was shown by all.

The School would like to **thank Spanish Hockey Coach, Cristian Toral**, for all his hard work. He is heading back to Spain over the holidays. He will be missed and was a great asset to hockey this season. Thank you!!

We would also like to say **goodbye** to Pauline Morley (Form IV) who is going back to Germany after a very happy few months in Villiers. She settled in very well and will be missed by many.

Fourth Form have just completed two weeks work experience and are heading off to Achill Island the week after our Easter Holidays for a week at an outdoor pursuits centre. We are looking forward to hearing from them when they get back.

Interesting fact: The Summer Term is only 5 weeks long. This is bad news for Forms III & VI and their teachers. It's good news for the rest of us; after the summer exams we are on Holidays from May 30th.

We'd like to ask David Condon "Dude where's your car". Hint! Ask Noelle!

WE WANT TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY EASTER!!!