



In tribute to Derek Bailey (Shimna Integrated College - 1994-2023)

"The book of nature which we have read is written by God"

Derek Bailey, the first Shimna teacher I met. A firm footing.

There at the founding of the College, foremost and formative. Part of the furniture.

1993: a fateful trip to Newcastle, felicitous talk of a new school and a more hopeful future.

Forsaking England, flitting across the sea, fetching up in Dundrum.

Fearlessness forges the way.

Fast forward thirty years and a generation of students flourish in your fatherly care.

Foundation of knowledge, latter day Faraday. Factotum.

Fundamental to your classroom: fascination and fulfilment. Refreshing to the end.

And always fun. A fabulous Father Ted. Frugal with it. "The money is resting in the account."

And, along the way, facing - and overcoming with fortitude - fatality, the fragility of things.

At the fulcrum, a formula: faith, family and fellowship. Firm foundations.

No time for falsehood or fakery.

Unfailingly fair, befitting a cricketing aficionado.

Fabric of the community, tending the flock. Always finding time for others.

The future foretold

Freedom

Langue francaise - "formidable, mais tirez sa flemme!"

Al fresco, flowers and foliage

Fairway, fine leg and football (forever blowing bubbles)

Film star in the making. A fitting finale.

And, unfailingly, family first.

Farewell, Derek.

Fine fellow. Force of nature. Forever a friend.

Our good fortune to have served with you.