

In memory of Mr Scott Simons.

The entire school community of Ard Scoil na nDéise was shocked and deeply saddened to hear of the sudden death of Mr Scott Simons on May 5th (R.I.P.). Scott was the husband of Mrs Evelyn Simons, teacher of English and Irish at Ard Scoil na nDéise, father of Dhara and Maeve Simons who were educated in our school.

Scott Simons (L) pictured with Mr. Declan O’Keeffe.

But Scott was also the person who designed, maintained and administered our school website. Originally from California, Scott came with his Wexford-born wife and two young daughters to live in Coolnasmear. Having worked for many years as a primary school teacher in the U.S., Scott switched to website design when he came to Waterford, and we were very fortunate to have our website designed, set up and maintained by a person who cared so much about Ard Scoil na nDéise. If there was any doubt about the correct spelling of the name of a person who featured in an article or appeared in a photo, Scott would check it out before it appeared on the website, and no apostrophe was ever put in the wrong place when Scott proofread a text!! He was a great supporter of all our pantomimes, shows, concerts and art exhibitions, and he would always stop for a chat with the students who worked on the lights and sound at the back of the hall.



Everybody who knew Scott was aware that he loved Ireland, its scenery, its wildlife, its culture, its history and its people. His knowledge of local history was astounding, and he recently took Mrs Simons’ Sixth Year English class on a historical walking tour of the town, visiting the old town wall etc. The students wrote that Scott knew far more about our history than many local people did, and since he was truly passionate about the subject they found his enthusiasm inspiring. Of course he also told some witty little stories, so that the girls were both informed and entertained!

We Irish might grumble about the rain which is a feature of our climate, but Scott didn’t mind the damp weather, and he would not have complained about the few drops of rain that fell on his coffin as it approached the beautiful church high up in Kilgobnet last Monday. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs Simons, Dhara, Maeve and all members of the Simons and O’Reilly families. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Dorothy Hughes, Principal