

Andrew Dolan

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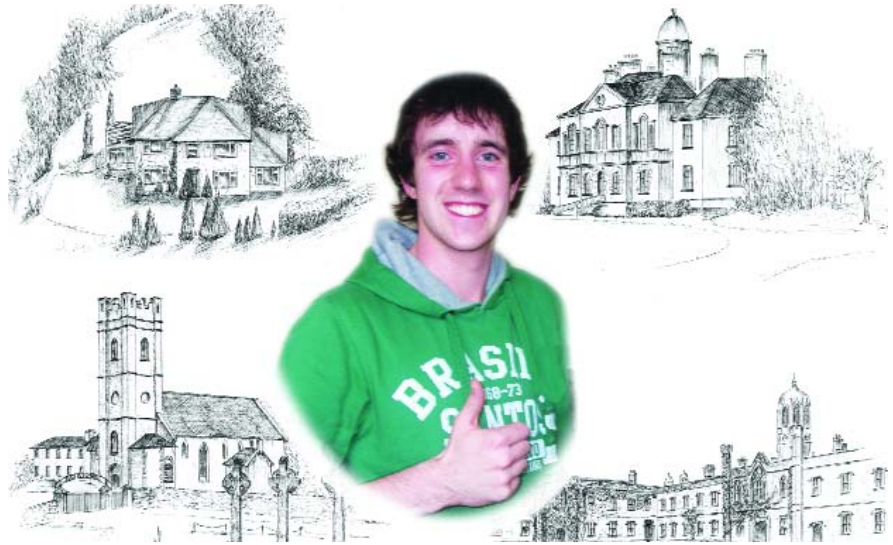
THE COMMUNITY OF Carrick-on-Shannon and beyond were shocked and devastated by the senseless and untimely death of Andrew Dolan who died on New Year's Day following an unprovoked assault in Mullingar on Dec 23th.

To some his death might have suggested Ireland to be a darker and more dangerous place, but in the days, weeks, and months that followed, there has been a constant reminder of the goodness of others, the spirit, the solidarity, the camaraderie in our community, not least among young people.

Shannon Gaels U-21 team dedicated their 2012 football season in honour of Andrew and on the 19th Nov after many many years won the U21 County Final (Gavin, his brother age 17 being a sub). After the final whistle, and the presentation of the cup, the team repaired not to the local pub, but in rain and darkness to Ardcarne Cemetery to pay respects to Andrew at his final resting place.

Organ Donor Awareness

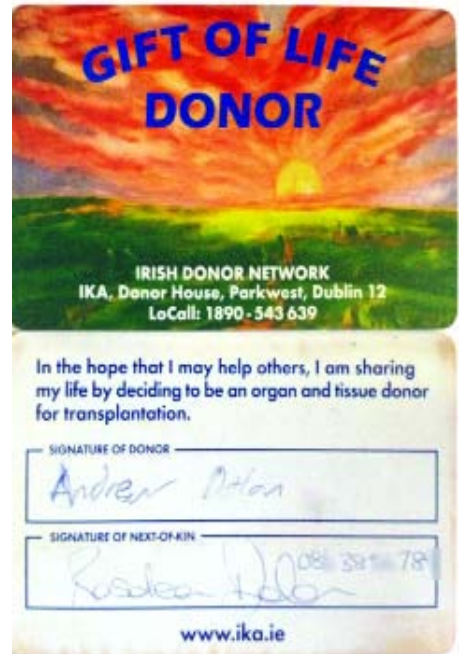
Andrew made the decision, while still in school, that if he were to meet an untimely death he wished to donate his organs. This decision, and the way he went about it,



perhaps best sums up Andrew.

As a minor, he needed a parent's signature on the donor card. Andrew presented the card to his mother, who, shocked at even the thought that something unpleasant might happen to her beautiful son, hesitated in signing it. Andrew, who always knew his own mind, insisted that she did so, making it clear that this was not a flippant decision on his part. He carried that card with him wherever he went and, in the days leading up to and following his death, it was a huge consolation to his family that Andrew's wish to be a donor was to be realised.

When Andrews family were leaving the hospital on the night of the 1st of January, they were heartbroken, but three families were celebrating, because they had just been informed that their loved ones, whose lives had been severely curtailed due to ill-health, were going to receive good healthy organs.



On his behalf, Andrew's family would urge all to consider carrying a donor card.

An organ donor awareness event was organised in honour of Andrew by fellow biomedical students at NUIG. Almost 1000 people signed up as donors in just one day; dedicated wrist bands were distributed.

Editor