



St. Mary's Primary School principal Michael Madine is leaving Glasdrumman for Crossmaglen after nine years as principal. Full report on page 33.

Men in court on drugs charges

TWO local men were in court in Belfast yesterday (Tuesday) charged with offences arising out of the major weekend operation against illegal drugs.

A total of eight men were charged in connection with the seizure of drugs in Kilkeel, the Greater Belfast area and the North of England.

Detectives from the PSNI's Organised Crime Branch stopped and searched a lorry in Kilkeel on Saturday and uncovered what is believed to be six kilos of cocaine, 22

kilos of speed and 20 kilos of herbal cannabis.

Police have described the drugs haul as "one of the most significant seizures in recent times."

They have estimated the drugs seized are worth more than £2m.

PSNI Detective Superintendent Essie Adair said he was "delighted" that such a large amount of drugs had been seized.

CHARGES

The charges read out at court yesterday include conspiring to supply cocaine, amphetamines and herbal cannabis and intent to supply.

The defendants are 20-year-old

Gary Stevenson, of the Hawthorns, Annalong; Keith Laffin (27), of Ballyveaghmore Road, Ballymartin; Liam Patrick Young (32), of no fixed abode; Barry Kavanagh (19), of no fixed abode; Richard Noble (26), Mirabel Street, Manchester; Christopher McNally (25), from Leesands Close, Preston; Steve Mesquita (27) a Dutch national of no fixed abode, and Francis Christie, from Hollybrook Grove, Newtownabbey.

Richard Noble was granted bail but the others made no bail application and were remanded to appear again on Tuesday 16 March, with the exception of Francis Christie, who was remanded for one week to appear via video-link. (See page 3)

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Burglary victim vows not to be driven out of her home by thieves – page 39



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