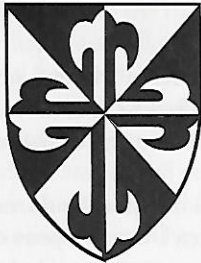


Muckross Mail

April 1995



President's Address

Dear Past Pupils,

It really is a pleasure to welcome you to this edition of the Muckross Mail, as I am very happy to be able to tell you that Noreen Quinn has returned to us as editor. We all know what a good editor she has been; the magazine developed a very professional style under her care, and I'm sure she will continue at the helm in the same vein. Thanks, Noreen, for coming back. And, of course, our thanks to Sheila Hughes (nee Nally) whose company-Lantz Press-prints our Newsletter every year. We're very grateful.

Like all committees we find it very hard to come up with new ideas for fund raising and as we have a number of charities, apart from our own Benevolent Fund, to which we contribute it has become a matter of urgency that we raise money immediately and we are therefore including in this issue a super postal quiz

which we hope you will all enter. The Grand Draw will take place at the Fork Supper which, because the last Sunday of April this year will be part of the Bank Holiday weekend, we will be holding on the second Sunday in May, the 14th.

On Sunday 7th May at 11.15 a.m. the Mass for the Combined Dominican Past Pupils Union will take place.

As you know, we only had two functions during the year - the Fork Supper and Annual General Meeting in April last, and the Christmas Dinner in November. Both these occasions were very successful with increased numbers attending each function. The committee worked very hard to gather the members and to decorate the hall for the Fork Supper, and our thanks are due especially to Edie Goff and Eileen White for their contributions of balloons and flowers, and everybody attending had a most enjoyable evening.

The Christmas Dinner was harder to organize from the point of view of contacting the members. I did give the date in my letter of March 1994, but with the big time lapse, we had to work from the list of names and numbers we collected at the Fork Supper, and if you were not contacted please let us know and we will put your name on our list for Christmas 1995. The dinner was



Presidents of Dominican Past Pupils' Unions at our PPU dinner in Sach's Hotel, December 1994. From left: Pat Mansfield, Eithne Bolger, Phil Mitchell and Catherine Kearns.

Forthcoming Events

Fork Supper

&

AGM

Annual General Meeting.

Date: 14th May 1995

Venue: Muckross Park

You are invited to the Ard Fheis of the Past Pupils Union, the big yearly event when you choose the people to represent you in your Union for the coming year.

Every Past Pupil of Muckross has a vote – come and use yours!

Perhaps you would like to let your name go forward for election? New faces and new ideas are always welcome – very welcome. Ring or write to the President or Secretary of the Union for further information for potential candidates.

Booking form inside.

very well supported, with twice as many members attending as last year. However, we must emphasise that we cannot take bookings for any of our functions without payment, as we have to pay the hotel and caterers for the meals ordered whether the members attend or not.

This year's Christmas Dinner will be held on Thursday, 23rd November 1995 at Sachs Hotel, Morehampton Road, at 8.30 pm. Please make a note in your diary to contact Katherine Duffy at 2885843 not later than 20th November.

As the agm will bring my term of office as president to a close I would like to take this opportunity to thank each member of the committee for their hard work and support during the last two years; I would like to thank Sr. Louis Dominic and Sr. Barnabas for their encouragement and help, particularly Sr. Barnabas for endeavouring to interest the school in the PPU and I hope you will all continue to support our union in the future.

Yours sincerely,
Eithne Bolger *President.*

.....
At the Annual Past Pupils' Mass on 24th April 1994, one family was represented by three generations:

1. Kathleen Waldron (Caitlin de Bhaldraithe) who left Muckross in 1932
2. Kathleen' daughter, Deirdre Garrett who left in 1964.
3. Deirdre's daughter, Nora Shortall, (pupil in 2nd year) who is a member of the Special Choir who sang during the mass.

One class was fully represented – Leaving Certificate 1932.

*Kathleen Waldron (Caitlin de Bhaldraithe).
Sr. Meabh Ni Chleirigh. OP.*

.....
COMBINED DOMINICAN UNION

GOLF OUTING

24th JULY 1995.

RATHFARNHAM GOLF CLUB.

For further information contact
Marie Boyle 4933754.



Muckross memories

Siobhan Connaughton

Leaving Certificate 1970. Teaching in St. David's Co.-Educational Secondary School, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

I have been teaching since 1978 and have often wondered whether my pupils will remember their school as fondly as I remember Muckross.? And more to the point, will any of them remember me as fondly as I remember many of my teachers! I can only hope so!

Muckross holds so many memories for me. I still occasionally dream of it; I can smell the polish, hear the bells. I went to Muckross when I was five years old and I can still remember sitting outside Sr Polycarp's room with my father tying the laces of my 'indoor' shoes. There was a row of blackboards along one long wall, just the right height for 5 year olds. I remember my First Communion day; the photos taken outside on the statue steps; the smell of incense in the chapel; and then – like Brendan Behan in 'The Confirmation Suit' being carried out fainting. In 2nd Class Italic Script pens were handed out; mine was bright yellow. They were so special we couldn't bring them home. And then there was the smell of our new books, (why can't someone bottle that smell) I'd stick my nose deep into the covers and breathe in– marvellous !

My memories of Secondary school are very vivid. Sr Innocentia taught us English in First Year. One of the poems we learnt was 'the Ballad of Paul Revere'. We all had to gallop around the hall reciting

'Listen my children and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere...'

I can still recite all of this poem by heart. I often tell my own first year pupils this story to inspire them to learn their poetry. They are not impressed! In first year we were allowed to join the school orchestra. I learned the violin. Miss Crean conducted us, with great patience as I remember! My years in the orchestra remain as a very fond memory. Music was of course so important in Muckross. Miss Piggott taught us singing. I know that many of us still remember 'The Cowboy Carol'. And of course Miss Cranny; who could forget our pageant for the 1916 50th anniversary? I recall our trip to France in 3rd year; Sr. Patrick and Sr. Barnabas riding horses up in the mountains near Lourdes; Sr. Patrick drinking her small bottle of wine at dinner. (we were allowed a sip!). Many of us realised on that trip that nuns were actually human! All these cultural aspects of life in Muckross gave us so much. There is no comparison with today's schools where so much of this is lacking due to the points race.

'Barney' was of course Principal then. She seemed so tall and imposing. At assembly she appeared to tower over us as we lined up dutifully in the hall. She terrified me then. (Sr. Barnabas, if you're reading this could you let me in on your secret?) If I could inspire HALF of the respect in my pupils that we had for Barney I'd be a happy teacher! Miss McCarthy taught us French. I can still remember all my French verbs and the 'Cahier de Gramaire' Miss O'Donoghue taught us History. We all loved her as she had taught us all in the Junior School. She inspired a love of History in us all. Sr. Patrick of course was omnipresent. Her stooped figure commanded great respect and her love of and enthusiasm for Geography were infectious. In my first year in. U.C.D. there were actually four of us studying Geography from Muckross; Jeanne Meldon, Auveen Byrne and Ann O'Dowd and myself. I remember 'Paddy' bringing us to Killiney beach and showing us bits of Ailsa Craig granite which had been carried there by glaciers. On another field trip we clambered (rather dangerously!) over the rocks near Glenmacnass waterfall. Miss Kinsella taught us Irish. It is to her external credit that I passed my Leaving Certificate, Irish and thus my whole exam.

One of my great loves in Muckross was hockey. I remember all the Cup matches we played at Minor, Junior and Senior Level. For some years I even kept the mud from the pitch where we won a Senior Cup Match! Miss Ennis and Mrs. White had such enthusiasm and dedication. It is only now that I fully appreciate them - teenagers can be very trying.

School Link-up

All these memories and many more are what Muckross means to me. It was a school where we were allowed freedom to develop and were, for the most part, trusted. This is epitomised in the memory of my final days there. We were allowed to camp out in the back field for a night. We had a marvellous time -and were very well behaved!! We were up at dawn to cycle around Sandymount to see the Sun rise. We sat around the old wooden pavilion and played our guitars - and took daft photos under the weeping willow on the front lawn. They really were the days of 'innocence and wonder'.

.....

CLASS REUNIONS

CLASS OF '55

Reunion at the Fork Supper

Contact: Bernadette Dowling
Telephone 2981412 or
Mairead O'Brien Telephone 2884253
as soon as possible (evenings).

CLASS OF '75

Reunion at the Fork Supper

Contact Susan O'Flynn (nee Killian)
Telephone 2840904.

If you would like a reunion of your class at the Fork Supper why not volunteer and help us to help you contact Katherine Duffy telephone 2885843 as soon as possible. The classes of '25, '35, '45, '65, and '85 would be especially welcome. Even two or three from every year would help to make it a better night for all.

It's up to you, so act now!

Mother's Maiden Name	Married Name	Daughter + Class
Mary Duggan	Boyce	Rachel Boyce (1st Year)
O'Leary	Murphy	Sharon Murphy (2nd Year)
O' Callaghan	McMunn	Lisa McMunn (2nd Year)
Gannon	Nolan	Joanne Nolan (2nd Year)
Bagnell	Cullen	Fiona Cullen (2nd Year)
Prett	Conlon	Rachel Conlon (2nd Year)
Sheehy	Kilmurray	Clodagh Kilmurray (3rd Year)
Sheerin 1972	Monks	Emily Monks (3rd Year)
Gannon	Nolan	Emma Nolan (3rd Year)
Fallon 1972	Donnelly	Jennifer Donnelly (3rd Year)
Keegan	McPhilips	Aoife McPhilips (3rd Year)
O'Flynn	Cadwell	Jacyntha Cadwell (3rd Year)
Kennedy	Nunan	Sarah Nunan (3rd Year)
Christie 1949	Dorley	Mary Dorley
Madigan 1971	Haughey	Niamh Haughey (4th Year)
Freney	Mulloy	Helen Mulloy (4th Year)
Fallon	Irwin	Jane Irwin
Morgan 1972	Lee	Karen Lee (4th Year)
	Parker	Roxanne Parker (4th Year)
Kenny 1968-69	Hickey	Maureen Hickey (4th Year)
O'Sullivan 1966-67	Keeling	Libby Keeling (4th Year)
Allen 1968	O'Connor	Winifred O'Connor (5th Year)
Maloney 1977	Doherty	Emma Doherty (5th Year)
Meldon	Thurston	Katie Thurston (5th Year)
O'Kelly 1961	Prendergast	Meabh Prendergast (5th Year)
Linehan 1964	Smyth	Grace Smyth (6th Year)
Keogh	Kelly	Sally-Ann Roche Kelly (6th Year)
Nagle	Walsh	Claire Walsh

Jennifer's £1 Idea

The Young Entrepreneur Programme was introduced in Muckross in 1993/1994. Sixty first years participated in the programme. The underlying aim of the programme is to encourage students to become more resourceful and enterprising and use their imagination and initiative to plan and operate real businesses of their own at a time of high unemployment.



Jennifer Murphy

The girls, either individually or in small groups, set up a business producing a product or service. They are encouraged to trade outside the school. A market day was arranged in early December. A committee of parents / teachers organised sponsorship and judges for the competition held early in the second term. On that particular night the participants and their parents attended. Each child was awarded with a certificate and a surprise for their hard work. The overall winner from that night goes forward to represent Muckross in the Regional Finals.

We are happy to report that Frieda Gormley, our representative, was chosen to go forward to the national Finals held in the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham in April. Freida became National Young Entrepreneur 1994, (junior section).

In 1994/1995 the competition was opened to all non-examination classes. The entries this year were:

Senior section: 3 businesses - 5 participants

Intermediate section: 10 businesses - 19 participants

Junior section: 36 businesses - 69 participants.

Market Day in December was a great success. Two prize-giving nights were organised due to the high level of interest. At the Regional finals our Junior representative (Susan Farrell - first year) and our senior representative (Jennifer Murphy - fifth year) were selected for the National finals. Our Intermediate entry (Lydia McKeogh, Nora Salmon and Aimee Williams - second year) were placed second in their category.

We are very proud of all our participants. We feel the Irish economy has some very enthusiastic entrepreneurs in the making

A single sheet of paper costing £1 won the coveted first prize for Dublin schoolgirl Jennifer Murphy at yesterday's Young Entrepreneur Awards ceremony. Jennifer (16) of Muckross Park College, Donnybrook, designed an 'ideas page' for students containing bus and school timetables, calendar, handy phone numbers and a conversion chart translating grades into points equivalent for university entrance, 'she called it SID (Student Information Directory) and patented it. 'All the information I needed was scattered everywhere in my bag' said Jennifer, 'so I thought that by putting it into a handy fold-over page everything would be more accessible.'

Twenty-six schools and 2,600 students competed in the event. (Irish Press)

MONTHLY MASS

On the First Sunday of every month (other than July and August) there is a Past Pupils Mass in Muckross at 11.15am. Why don't you come along and keep in contact with other past pupils?

Class of 92

I remember quite clearly my Leaving Certificate years in Muckross Park College. The air of tension as the exams drew nearer. The jokes and stories and laughs shared at lunch time, planning the final social events and various concerts and most of all a feeling of some sadness or doubts about the future. I had quite firmly made up my mind in early 5th year that I wanted to study law. However when the results came out I found out I was to be studying BESS (Business, Economic and Social Studies) in Trinity College. Needless to say, I was disappointed. However, three years later, I have no regrets. I thoroughly enjoy my course, it is both challenging and interesting, and I have made numerous new friends.

The first two years of BESS are spent studying a variety of subjects, economics, maths, management, sociology, politics, French etc. In your third year you make a choice of what subjects you want your final degree to be in. I chose economics and maths which is surprising since I had always hated maths at school. One of the most interesting factors of studying BESS, is the amount of friends you make. Due to the fact that everybody chooses different subjects, all your lectures are comprised of different people. The Society of BESS, called DUBES also organise various social events and balls throughout the year.

Looking back over the last three years, I would have to say, I owe a lot of my good fortune to Muckross Park and my parents. Not only was I prepared academically for life after school but I also learned a far more important lesson. I developed confidence and self-esteem from Muckross and an ability to adapt to and to try new situations. Even now meeting friends from Muckross, we still recall our school days and the incidents and stories are told again, over a cup of coffee. Those special days will never be forgotten.

Caitriona Murphy

Thoughts on a Ten Year Reunion

Neasa Hardiman

A couple of years ago, when I was living in Germany, a friend commented to me that Irish women of her acquaintance were substantially different from their German counterparts. She said that the Irish seemed to be more assured and self-reliant. We talked about the possible roots of such differences, and came up with the fact that most Irish girls are the product of a convent school education. But what is it about convent schools that they produce such singular young women? Last November there was a ten year reunion of Muckross girls in the Burlington (we did the Leaving in 1984). I went along with a TV crew to film the event - I was training as a Television Producer/Director in RTE at the time.

I admit I was concerned about how the women there might react to having their party crashed by a nosey/ officious RTE crew - an all-male crew at that, so there was no chance of their blending in. But I had forgotten the good humour, generosity and sheer vivacity of the girls I went to school with. Not only did they respond to the crew with great wit and charm, they also consented to be dragged from the party proper to discuss their memories of school for the camera. As they spoke, I began to understand what it is that makes convent schools - and Muckross in particular - so good at turning out bright, successful, balanced young women.

Each woman I talked to that night spoke very positively of the single sex atmosphere of the school. They seemed to be making three main points. The first point concerned unconscious stereotyping on the part of both the teachers and the pupils. The social pressure to conform to gender stereotyping appears to be particularly strong during adolescence. In a single sex environment- the girls have a chance to speak up and to develop relatively freely. The fact that the school was-run by a convent, the women said, meant that the nuns were effectively in charge. This gave the girls 'very positive role models' of independent women in all the major positions of authority- role models less likely to be present in a mixed, secular school.

The third point raised was that girls between twelve and seventeen appear to develop intellectually at a greater rate than boys, and that teaching them in isolation from boys aided their academic progress.

I should also add that one (rather glamorous) woman commented 'It would have been a nightmare getting ready for school every morning if there'd been boys in the class!'

Which point brings us on to the topic of the uniform. Emotions ran high on this subject, even ten years later. Everyone had stories of being caught in the wrong shoes, socks, shirt, sportsgear, or of being criticized for the ostentation of their earrings. The women all seemed to agree that the individualisation of the uniform, the constant irrepressible urge to deviate from the group, engendered tremendous creativity and fashion sense. We have only to look at the success of Muckross alumni in the world of clothes design to see how important those early exercises in sartorial invention can be!

The women I spoke to were grateful for the strong emphasis of the school on the academic. In contrast with some girls' schools, they felt Muckross instilled in them an ambition to succeed academically and to pursue a fulfilling career. The school instilled a love of subject among so many of the young women I met that night that I cannot begin to list them all. There was a feeling that Muckross as a girls' school is unusual in being particularly strong on the sciences: Biology, Physics and Chemistry This point was born out by the number of women at the reunion who are working as doctors, geologists, nurses research chemists, engineers and in a whole host of other related careers There was however one recurring criticism. It seems that many women felt positively discouraged from studying Higher Maths. There seems to have been little encouragement or support for pupils anxious to succeed in this area. In contrast with other (boys') schools in the area, Muckross produced very few Honours candidates.

There was a vivid sense of the commitment of the nuns at Muckross. Some women told very moving stories outlining the generosity and support that the nuns provided for girls who were in trouble or who needed help. In particular, there were many fond memories of Sister Patrick, who had taught some of the women there. Her

freedom of spirit and easy, unforced friendship with the girls in her care has inspired enduring love and respect. It was clear from everyone that I spoke to that night that they remembered Muckross as a secure, safe place where they spent some very happy times. I thank the nuns for providing us with that atmosphere.

I came away from the reunion feeling that the rather unfashionable principles of generosity, respect and care for one's fellows that the nuns upheld, combined with their commitment to discipline and academic excellence have produced a group of fine, independent, assured and happy young women. My German friend would be impressed.

Annual Fork Supper

The Annual Fork Supper takes place on Sunday, 14th April, 1995 in St Catherine's Hall at 8.00 p.m. The Annual General Meeting of the Past Pupils Union will start at 6.30 p.m. with Mass followed by the Fork Supper at 8.30 p.m.

The meal will be a buffet as usual with tea and coffee afterwards. It will cost £12.00 per head. Wine and minerals will be on sale.

Early booking is advisable as the number of places is limited. The closing date is Wednesday, 10th May.

Telephone bookings will be taken but payment must be received by Wednesday, 10th May.

I will be present at the Fork Supper and enclose cheque/postal order for £12.00

Name

Address

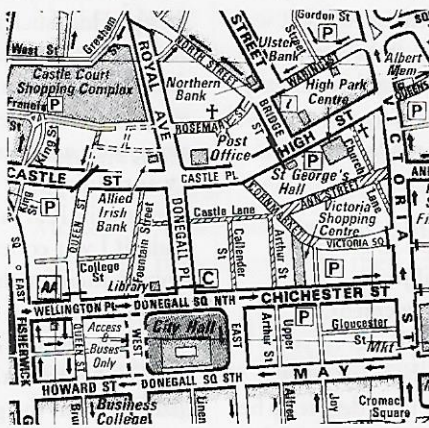
Please detach and post to:
Katherine Duffy,
22 Stillorgan Wood,
Telephone 2885843
Stillorgan, Co. Dublin.

A Trip to Belfast

In our house the Christmas shopping is always left till the last minute; very often all the presents are bought on Christmas Eve. Each year I vow that next year it will be different and the presents will be purchased well in advance, I have even gone as far as to say some presents will be purchased during the summer holidays!

Our extended family has many small children, nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand nephews not to mention various god-children (and now the children of god-children), so toys are very important. This year was no different and it was the week before Christmas and not a toy had been purchased, so I decided that the quickest way to do all the shopping on one day was to go to Belfast, to the bigger toy shops, and if Mary Ann would accompany me we should get through the list in a few hours.

We decided to go on Thursday on the early train from Connolly station. The last time I used the station car park was about three or four years ago, and the entrance was to the side and up behind the platform. When we arrived at the side entrance with ten minutes to spare there was a small sign on the wall saying "Entrance to car park by Commons Road." Did you ever hear of Commons Road? Well I certainly hadn't. Mary Ann got out of the car and went on up to the station to get the tickets. I looked around to see if I could ask for instructions to Commons Road, and low and behold out of the dark appeared a security guard at the side of the Financial Services Centre. I quickly asked him where was the said Commons Road, to which he replied in a strong Belfast accent "I'm not from around here, I'm sorry I don't have a clue! Maybe the guard on the front of the Financial Services Centre will be able to help you - he's from Dublin." I drove on and the guard did know and gave me instructions to turn down the quay and take the first left. At



this stage I was beginning to panic, but pulling myself together I drove on for what seems miles to the first turn left, which had no street name sign or no notice saying "station carpark" or any such helpful information. The road was dark and all I could see were derelict warehouses. I drove down to what seemed like a dead end, and found that I was at the end of Sherrif Street where I knew the exit from the car park used to be. Eventually I saw a hut with a barrier sticking up in the air, and out of the gloom I could just make out a few cars. I drove in, locked the car, and legged it into the station to see the Belfast Express departing from platform 4. "Oh bother!" said I. "Where were you" said Mary Ann. The ticket collector was surprised that I couldn't find the car park as very few people had asked him where Commons Road was, and yet many people has asked him where O'Connell Street was!

What should we do now- the next train was not until 11, and it was only 8 am! We had had our breakfast. We decided to wander up Talbot Street and see could we find a nice Coffee Shop and have a sit-down and reconsider our situation. We found that the Irish Life Centre was open and it had two options- one restaurant and one coffee shop, both advertising breakfasts. The restaurant had a big notice outside saying "Continental Breakfast - Coffee/tea & croissants 99p." We opted for this and I went to the counter. "Could we have two Continental Breakfasts please?" "Do you want the full breakfast or the mini breakfast?" was the reply from the girl behind the counter. I repeated "Continental Breakfast - Coffee and Croissants". "Coffee and what?" came the reply. "Croissants" I repeated. "She turned to a tall skinny youth at the other end of the restaurant and shouted 'Joe do we have krossents?'" "No" was Joe's answer. "What do you have to offer for a Continental Breakfast?" She looked at me as if I was the lowest form of intelligence imaginable and said "Toast, of course." "Toast it is then" I said "for two." She picked up a plate, slapped it down

on the counter and banged two pieces of toast on it and poured the coffee into the cups. I made my way to the table Mary Ann had chosen, sat down, buttered the toast and took a bite. There was a strange sensation in my mouth - a feeling that I had bitten on a stone, and then the horror of the situation dawned on me. I had broken a tooth - not just any tooth but one of my very expensive crowned teeth. This was not one of my good days - in fact it was fast turning into a nightmare. Earlier in the week I'd had another tooth replaced at a cost slightly above that of my first car, and now on the Thursday before Christmas another one gone! and it takes three weeks to have a crown made. What to do. There were all those presents to get, we had bought our tickets, Belfast should be cheaper than Dublin, there might be a better selection in the clothes shops for the niece who wanted a party dress. Should we go on or try to get everything in Dublin? We opted to go on to Belfast; returned to Connolly, waited for the 11 am train, which was delayed until 11.20.

All went well, we got our toys in large toy shops with a million to choose from! Got our various bits and pieces in the other big shops, and started looking for the party frock. This niece of ours will not be four until next August, but she is quite a big child for her age so we decided it would be wise to get the frock two sizes bigger, and after much deliberation picked a dress for a six year old. All the shopping taken care of we made for the station, got our train with no bother, arrived in Connolly on time, and found the car still in the car park, covered with ice, but all in one piece. We were clapping ourselves on the back as we had spent much less on the presents than we had budgeted for - and trying to forget that the tooth would have to be replaced!

Christmas day came at last. All the presents were wrapped and passed out to the various relations and friends. The niece for the party frock was delighted with her present until we held it up to her to discover that it was a bit on the small size. I checked the label and, horror of all horrors, we had taken up the wrong size - it was for age four! Next year I'm cancelling Christmas.

Eithne Bolger

MUCKROSS PARK: SPORTS YEAR 1994-95

SEPTEMBER

EIGHTY-NINE TRANSITION STUDENTS ON A THREE DAY OUTDOOR PURSUIT COURSE IN DELPHI, CO. MAYO.
ORIENTEERING: EVENTS IN BELFIELD, DALKEY, DJOUCE WOODS
BASKETBALL AND HOCKEY EVERY DAY AND SATURDAYS.

OCTOBER

START OF LEAGUES FOR JUNIORS, CADETTES AND SENIORS IN BASKETBALL
HOCKEY: JUNIOR INTER AND SENIOR LEAGUES BEGIN
TRANSITION YEAR STUDENTS COACH FIRST YEARS IN HOCKEY.
BASKETBALL AND CROSS COUNTRY.
TWENTY SIX STUDENTS TAKE A REFEREEING COURSE FOR BASKETBALL.

NOVEMBER

FIRST YEARS ENTER KELLOGGS INDOOR ATHLETICS MUCKROSS "A" TEAM
QUALIFY FOR LEINSTER FINAL.
SQUASH: MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY COACHING IN RIVERVIEW.

DECEMBER

MUCKROSS SWIMMING TEAM ENTERS LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP.
SIX STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR ALL IRELANDS IN BELFAST.

JANUARY

EAST LEINSTER CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP. MUCKROSS INTER "A"
WINS GOLD MEDAL WITH OUR MINOR "A" TAKING SILVER.

FEBRUARY

LEINSTER CROSS COUNTRY; MARIA LYNCH. T.Y. STUDENTS WINS
GOLD IN INTER COMPETITION.
HOCKEY ALL TEAMS QUALIFY OUT OF THEIR SECTIONS.
JUNIOR A BEATEN IN LEINSTER SEMI-FINAL.
JUNIOR B AND MINOR A BEATEN IN QUARTERS.
BASKETBALL : SENIOR "A" BEATEN IN SEMI-FINAL OF S.D.L.
JUNIOR C LOSE BY ONE BASKET ALSO IN SEMI-FINAL.

MARCH

BASKETBALL. CADETTE C WIN S.D.L. DIVISION (I) TROPHY
SQUASH: UNDER 14 WIN LEINSTER LEAGUE.
UNDER 14 WIN LEINSTER CUP.
UNDER 16 WIN LEINSTER LEAGUE
UNDER 16 WIN LEINSTER CUP.
UNDER 19 WIN LEINSTER LEAGUE.
UNDER 19 WIN LEINSTER CUP.
THE MUCKROSS UNDER 19 TEAM WILL REPRESENT LEINSTER IN THE ALL
IRELANDS IN MAY.

APRIL

BASKETBALL: MINOR A WIN S.D.L. DIVISION II TROPHY.
MINOR B GO DOWN BY ONE BASKET IN DIVISION III FINAL.
ATHLETICS: MINOR AND JUNIOR SQUAD TO GO TO BELVEDERE.
MARIA LYNCH GETS BRONZE MEDAL IN ALL IRELAND AND THIRD PLACE
ALSO IN WORLDS SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP.
GYMNASTICS: 16 GIRLS REPRESENT MUCKROSS IN A COMPETITION
AGAINST MOUNT ANVILLE. MUCKROSS WIN BY TAKING FIRST AND
THIRD PLACE.
HOCKEY: 24 TEAMS TAKE PART IN INTER CLASS TOURNAMENT--GREAT
EXCITEMENT AND GREAT NOISE.
BASKETBALL: INTER CLASS TOURNAMENT STARTS TOO.

MAY

TENNIS: NINE TEAMS IN LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP.
CRICKET: UNDER 14 TEAM IN LEINSTER.
ATHLETICS: MAY 5th EAST LEINSTER.

Fifteen year old Maria makes her mark on track.



Golden girl Sonia O'Sullivan had better watch out - a 15 year-old Dublin schoolgirl athlete is out to steal her thunder.

The 15 year-old~from Ballinteer, Co. Dublin, made history this month when she beat the previously unbeaten Dawn Adams, ranked fifth in the world, in the 800m and 1500 m at the British Under 17 AAAs Track and Field Championship in Bermingham.

When not in training with Dundrum athletic, Maria runs for her school Muckross, and has found the time and energy to sit eight Inter Cert. exams, the results of which she is expecting shortly.

.....



Ann Harper is a Senior lending Manager at AIB Finance and Leasing. Educated at Muckross Convent in Donnybrook, Ann trained as a secretary and joined AIB in 1971

Networking

NAME : Anne Brady
 ADDRESS : 32 Morehampton Road,
 Dublin 4
 TELEPHONE: 6682170 Fax: 6681895
 OCCUPATION : Chartered Accountant
 SERVICE : Accounting and auditing services.

NAME : Hilary Brophy
 ADDRESS : Stillorgan Shopping Centre
 OCCUPATION : Optician

NAME : Aideen Carron
 ADDRESS : 79 Main Street, Blackrock,
 Co.Dublin
 TELEPHONE: 01 2885091 Fax: 01 2881232
 OCCUPATION : Insurance Broker
 SERVICE : Advice on Life Cover, Pensions,
 Mortgages, and general insurance.

NAME : Carol Fay (nee Cluskey)
 ADDRESS : Windmill House, Garristown,
 Co. Dublin.
 TELEPHONE: 8354249
 OCCUPATION : Beautician
 SERVICE : Advice on skin care.

NAME : Mary Golden
 ADDRESS : 4 Foxrock Ave., Dublin 18.
 TELEPHONE: 2896027
 OCCUPATION : Artist
 SERVICE : Painting Workshops and Courses.

NAME : Monica Hurson
 ADDRESS : "Santa Maria" Guest Accommodation,
 45 Woodbine Road, Dublin 4.
 TELEPHONE: 01 2837958
 OCCUPATION : Guest House Owner
 SERVICE : Guest Accommodation.

NAME : Patricia O'Reilly (nee Dain)
 ADDRESS : "Sharavogue" 32 Goatstown Road,
 Dublin 14.
 TELEPHONE: 01 2985294
 OCCUPATION : Writer and Broadcaster
 SERVICE : Anything to do with writing.

NAME : Nollaig Rowan-Downey (nee Rowan)
 ADDRESS : 16 Cullenswood Gardens, Ranelagh,
 Dublin 6.
 TELEPHONE: 01 4976344
 OCCUPATION : Psychologist
 SERVICE : 1. Assesment of children's
 learning difficulties.
 2, Parenting courses.



A brother and sister team from Trinity College, Dublin has won the annual The Irish Times/Gael-Linn Irish language debating championships, which were held in University College, Cork. Ms Caitríona Ní Dhúbhghaill (a past pupil of Muckross)and Mr Eoghan Ó Dhúbhghaill, representing TCD's Cumann Gaelach, were speaking in favour of the motion 'Is maith an rud é gur oileán í Éire' (It's a good thing that Ireland is an island).



'Start very small even in your own room'

Jacinta Stacey is Managing Director of Trident holiday homes in Sandymount. The company owns and markets holiday homes throughout the country. The eldest of five girls Jacinta was educated at Muckross Convent in Donnybrook. She completed a secretarial course at Alexander College and worked as a secretary for 15 years before joining Trident. Earlier this year Trident took control of Rent an Irish Cottage.

The Value of Transition Year

I have never thought of myself as a person who enjoys work. In first year, I was in on the first day, on which I naturally felt very self-conscious. But that night, as a result of anxiety or other reasons, I had to go to hospital with an asthma attack. This is certainly not uncommon for me, so I took it in my stride, but I found when I got back to school that I was not nearly as comfortable as everyone else seemed to be.

Having missed the initial "settling in", I felt for a long time that I didn't really belong and perhaps I still do feel that way.

I think it was as a direct result of this that I did not want to work in first, second and third year. (I had major problems when I tried to study for the Junior Certificate, because my favourite subjects are Art and English, and these are subjects where there is no way of 'cramming' for an examination. In Art, there is a very long-term (4 month) project to complete, and in English I had missed most of the reading the class had done. I managed to do reasonably well but I found that the pressure I had put myself under had made me resent the subjects that I had enjoyed so much before.

In September of last year, everyone told me that I wouldn't have to work this year because it's transition year, and for a while I believed them.

I have had several chest infections and bouts of Asthma this year, and as a result I have missed chunks of the modules, but when I started my journal in November. I decided that I would really like to accomplish something this year.

I realised that if I entered a project in the Aer Lingus Young Scientist Exhibition, it would have to be something that really mattered to me. So I researched the ignorance in the public about Cleft Lip and Palate a condition which has affected my self-esteem since I was in playschool. Being able to talk openly to complete strangers about how the defect

has affected my life and to educate the public about this has made the world of difference to me.

Word of mouth spread fast in the R.D.S. and people who I had talked to would go away and come back with dozens of people that they had wanted me to talk to also. I was asked to put up my project in the school along with the others, but I was reluctant to do so, because it had been easier to talk to strangers about my project than friends. I found however, that people were just as kind and responsive in the school as out, and this was a huge boost for me.

Having seen what I can achieve when I work for it, I have been working much harder in school - and enjoying it.

I did a project on the weather with 3 of my friends for the Maths module, and I worked on the Advertising team for the Horticultural Christmas decorations.

Two of my friends and I researched the furnishing of a Conservatory for Interior Design, and I am currently writing a book report, and project for History.

In English, I got a B3 and B2 for my last two essays, and the extra creative work we do in modules is really developing my artwork.

I hope to do work experience in animation and/or theatre make up or something similar.

Having been asked what use I make of Thursday afternoons, I can't honestly say I do anything. I do not own or have access to a guitar, but I am considering taking up Yoga.

It is because of transition year, that I now work to enjoy myself, and it has made me realise my true potential.

I would not ask for more than that.

Aoife Hand Heaney. 4th Year.



Have You Moved House Recently?

Have you Married and Changed Your Name?

Then the chances are that your Newsletter is not reaching you. Please notify the Editor of any alteration in name/address, etc. and ensure that you receive your Newsletter. Of course, there could be another reason if your Newsletter fails to arrive. Perhaps you forgot to renew your annual subscription to the PPU? Being a fully paid-up member has loads of advantages. The trouble is, you rarely realize how fabulous they are until you join up. We do try (honest!) to send Muckross Mail to people who haven't paid but the Post Office Authorities are most inconsiderate and insist that we stick stamps on every single Newsletter we post!

Seamus Heaney's Visit To Muckross Park College.

The 31st of January 1995 holds a very special memory for me and the rest of Transition Year. After studying his poems for three years, the 4th years of Muckross were finally going to meet Seamus Heaney in person. We had been informed of his visit two weeks in advance and had plenty of time to prepare ourselves. Finally the big day arrived!

After laying out the chairs and galloping for the front row we not-so-patiently awaited the big arrival. An atmosphere of curiosity hung over the four classes, until the grand entrance of the one and only Mr. Seamus Heaney. Almost immediately the atmosphere changed to one of quiet relaxation, and Sr. Rita politely conveyed the first words of welcome.

Seamus Heaney began by reading one or two of his poems, and plunged into personalised stories from his childhood. With wide eyes and jaws dropped, I had never before seen the 4th years so silent, and an air of great awe quickly arose. Heaney told us a story about the time he was forced to read a poem for a blind neighbour. He described the embarrassment he had felt but also about the reward he received in the end. The poem he read was one about a well he visited in his childhood. After finishing the poem the blind woman told Heaney she was able to see "the reflection of the skies" at the bottom of the well. This would be enough encouragement for any aspiring poet, and it certainly put no stop to Heaney.

The most surprising factor of Heaney's personality was, for me, his meek modesty. He never showed any signs of the fame going to his head, and it was perfectly clear that everything he said and wrote came straight from the heart. Lunch-time arrived far too quickly and instead of the usual charge for the hall door, the girls lingered to watch and listen to anything else he had to say. Autographs were signed and photos were taken for the 1995 yearbook.

I look forward to telling my children and hopefully my grand children about the day Seamus Heaney visited Muckross Park. It was a day to remember and was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

By *Aoife Cotter* 4th year,

HEANEY'S VISIT

(In remembrance of Seamus Heaney's visit to Muckross on Tuesday 31 January 1995)

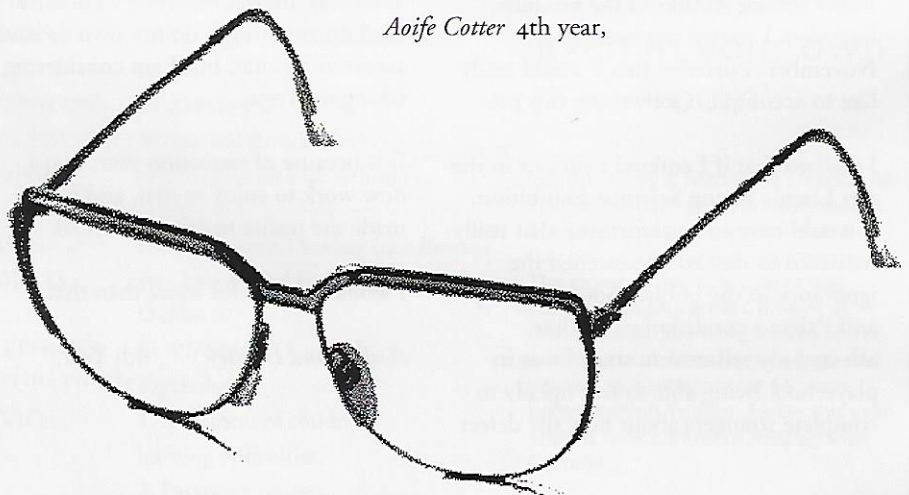
*He strolled in with an aura of words
lying around him like a flock
of birds
He had that poet's look of worldly
knowledge and confidence with language.*

*He used words like chemical
substances experimenting and combining
He told us stories from his life with
a sort of honesty, a meek modesty
He was unassuming*

*He read the poems we'd read a hundred times
Yet they were different; he had
recreated them with his voice
He read them as they were meant to be read
in a way we'd never heard before
His Northern-Ireland accent gave an
edge to the words
A sharp awakening touch putting
thoughts into our heads*

*From simple everyday duties
he placed a sense of reflection in the tasks
that maybe one day we could
write about old wells or
picking blackberries
But never ever in the way
Heaney creates that
heavenly life-like image
in everything he writes.*

Aoife Cotter 4th year,



EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

This edition of the Muckross Mail has a very varied content, which makes for very interesting reading. I am very pleased to welcome lots of news items from the present pupils in Muckross which serves as a great link with the school for many of us who have actually very little contact with the school to-day. In the P.P.U. we have made a great effort to contact as many people as we could to get material for this edition, the response was very good and we have articles ranging from school stories to sports items, I am very grateful to everyone who contributed and invite more articles for the next edition, its never too early to start writing!

I am aware that in the final compilation of articles some information or names may have been missed out and I'm sorry about that, hopefully we can include it in a future edition.

Lastly, I would welcome any suggestions or ideas from any of our readers that could enhance further editions.

The Editor.

A Rare Re-union

Three weeks ago, this very day, was the date of the Muckross Fork Supper of 1994, and for me, and most of my class-mates, it was a very special day, as this year we are 40 years left school Wow!! A lifetime.

Before the memory fades—or completely disappears—I thought I would try putting my thoughts down on paper, and so on this absolutely miserably wet Sunday afternoon what else could I possibly have to do but try and put a few lines together on how our Class Re-union went off.

And where did it all start? It has to be said that it was the class of '53 who gave us the idea of making an effort to gather people from far and near for our re-union. We got so carried away at the thought of celebrating 40 years, that we almost agreed to the suggestion of Joy Campbell—that we wear school uniforms to the Fork Supper in 1994! We were going to buy a quantity of green material and make up uniforms etc. etc. however, happily that suggestion finally went out the window. Were we too lazy—or perhaps we just didn't fancy seeing ourselves, and our figures, 40 years on, in a school uniform?

We started off with an old photograph of most of our class, and took it from there. About six of us sat around and it was quite amazing how, between us, we reckoned we could contact quite a number of our class—then it was a case of the phone-book getting in touch with someone who knew someone etc. etc., till eventually we had an address for practically our whole class. At this point, Muireann took up a large part of the work. Thank God for computers, as she (or one of the men in her family) did a letter out to everyone, and from then on it was a case of counting the numbers etc., making yet a few more phone-calls, and finally, with about two days to go, ending up with 21 class members coming—all rather amazing, considering there were only 17 in our Leaving Certificate class!!

Finally Sunday 24th April 1994 dawned, and dragged on until it was time for me to leave my home and drive into town to pick up Lola Bugatto (nee Lambert) who had flown here from San Fransisco to celebrate with us. We then drove to Muckross—a little early, as we had to do a few bits and pieces

in St. Catherine's Hall before the start of the evening. We met Muireann immediately and were chatting to her when the first of our class started to arrive. Ann O'Reilly (Harpur) and Veronica Cunnane (Hurley) were the very first two people we met (that we had not seen in many many years)—and it was a case of hugs and kisses all round—from then on, every few minutes someone else from our class would walk in—we would stare for a minute or two—'do we recognise, or do we not—who on earth is that' etc. etc. Luckily I had done out name tags for everyone—which was a great help, as someone had said to me that she finds these occasions a bit of a nightmare, trying to remember people's names.

Mass was at 6.30—a Mass that was all the more enjoyable as Sister Barnabas had arranged to have the Muckross choir along and they are always a pleasure to listen to. The AGM was next and then over to St. Catherine's Hall for the supper—but most important of all—THE CHAT!!! It was a really wonderful occasion, and we had Mother Hilary at our table, which made it all the more realistic, if that is the right word!! We took many photos—should be good to see what 40 years have done to us all, and moved about the table, trying to get a few minutes with different people. We had a fruit-cake, iced and decorated, and this was cut—with panache—and eaten—with relish, and all too soon the much-awaited-for evening was drawing to an end.

Was it a success? I think—an enormous success, and worth all the effort that was put into the organising of it, and for those who travelled from the USA, from Edinburgh (Margaret Collins), Banbridge (Sally Hughes), and Wexford (Ann Harpur), I think they all were absolutely delighted that they had come. As I said that evening I think it is a great tribute to Muckross that their past pupils are still keeping in touch with each other so much, and still enjoy coming to the school on occasions—not just once in 40 years, but quite a few of us appear once a year, and some more so, at the Mass each month. For most of us they were very special days, TG, and ones to cherish.

With great memories of a wonderful evening, and thanks to all the organisers.

Anne Maher (Smith) – 15 May 1994

A MATTER OF OPINION

Wait'll you see me in my mink coat next year!' said Mrs. Dobrinski. She would say it jokingly, as they huddled around a gas stove while the snow fell thick on the street outside. They weren't long in Montreal at the time. Those early years were very difficult indeed. Anyone who has lived there knows how necessary it is to shuffle, gingerly, up and down its hilly streets after the snow ploughs have cleared away the bulk, leaving the residue frozen on the footpaths. Brisk walking is out of the question and, as a result, you don't warm up too quickly.

It was during those years that her husband, Jack, began to observe her sterling qualities. There were few who could surpass her in the beneficial management of day-to-day affairs in the family circle. To her way of thinking there was no obstacle of a pecuniary nature that could not be overcome. She was to be seen—unashamedly—with pencil and paper in the supermarket, as she compared prices. No bargain escaped her practical eye.

She had one overriding defect, though. She was a little too hasty when confronted; cross her and you were sure to be brought down to size. No one knew that better than Jack. However, he loved her. He had learned over the years, to handle this little shortcoming with great dexterity – most of the time, that is. He was even-tempered himself and inclined to be detached from trivial happenings. 'Live and let live' was a favourite phrase of his, especially when she got heated over some event.

'My dear, it's safer not to force your views in matters of opinion! It doesn't make for harmony.'

This too, worked wonders many times. Her retort to it would be; 'and what if *they* are the ones to force their views?'

Just such a situation had presented itself during the sales after Christmas. Jack had bought her the fur coat at last. He had worked overtime so often – and for so long – without saying a word. The fur coat was on his mind. The day arrived when he walked into their living room and left the parcel for her on the sofa.

'Here it is' he said, as he waited for her reaction. She was speechless with delight. Was it really a dream come true after the hardships of so many winters?

Next day found her in her lovely coat standing outside a shoe shop window. The shoes she liked were rather expensive -more than she had planned to spend. They would, however, go perfectly well with her new coat. Would Jack like them, she wondered? What if she bought them?

Just as she was turning these thoughts over in her mind a female voice from behind shouted:

'YOU shouldn't be wearing that coat.'

She wheeled round in amazement, dumbfounded. There in front of her stood a young woman with frizzy hair, a long beige skirt with several slits, and flat – oh very flat – shoes. Her dark coat almost touched the ground.

Before Mrs. Dobrinski could catch her breath the young woman repeated her statement:

"YOU shouldn't be wearing that coat!"

She couldn't wait to tell Jack about her adventure with the coat when she got home. He was a little anxious, not knowing what to expect.

"And what did you say, my dear? You ignored her, you did, didn't you?" he asked fearfully.

'Oh, NO! I did not!'

'What did you do?'

'I glared at her... and waited... waited to see where she was going! I saw her walking on up the street and I decided to follow her! She hesitated outside a restaurant, and then she went in. When she didn't come out again after a few minutes, I decided to go in myself. The place was full but not overcrowded. I spotted her seated in a corner with a friend. over I went! There was a nice piece of juicy steak on her plate, with some vegetables and chips. When she realise-I someone was standing beside her, he looked up and saw me. I pointed to the steak and said as loud as I could:

'YOU shouldn't be eating that meat!'

Then I stormed out of the restaurant and let the door bang! 'OH, NO!' he groaned, threw his eyes up to Heaven and shook his head. 'Can't you see, it was only another way of looking at the whole affair', he lamented.

'What could I do?' she asked. "She was the one forcing her views!"

'I know, I know', he replied. 'But she was young, with less experience of life than you. Had she had more years in which to learn to temper her ardour, she would have been less aggressive and would have understood that you had the right to differ. You could have ignored her, gone into the shop, bought your shoes and come home. She would have made her point and you would have made yours. Tit-for-tat doesn't further rational discussion.'

Bríd Ní Curraóin

MUCKROSS PARK PAST PUPILS UNION QUIZ 1995

1. What is the second most common word in written English?
2. What is the collective term for crows?
3. What facial feature doesn't feature on the *Mona Lisa*?
4. What is Lech Walesa's trade?
5. What cargo was *The Bounty* carrying when the mutiny occurred?
6. What subject did the 'Mr Chip's teach?
7. Who is considered the King of Rock and Roll?
8. In cooking what does the term 'bonne femme' mean?
9. In what film is the song 'Raindrops keep falling on my head'?
10. Where does the word biscuit come from?
11. What stone can float?
12. Name the four 'little women'.
13. In what country is Prague?
14. Complete - You can lead a horse to water, but
15. When Polly put the kettle on, who took it off?
16. What was Walt Disney's first cartoon?
17. Who were the stars of *Riverdance*?
18. Where is *The Rover's Return*?
19. What would you see at Sadler's Wells?
20. What city is known as 'The Eternal City'?

Prize: Meal for two at the Courtyard, Donnybrook.

Winner will be the first all correct entry opened at the Fork Supper. You may enter as often as you like provided each entry is accompanied by £5.00 entry fee. Extra copies may be obtained from the address below or may be photocopied.

Closing date: 10 May 1995

NAME:

ADDRESS!

Please send completed forms together with £5 per entry to:

Katherine Duffy, 22 Stillorgan Wood, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. Telephone 2885843.

TRK No.