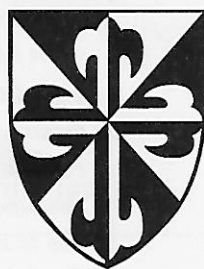


# MUCKROSS MAIL

April 1997



## President's Address

Dear Past Pupils,

Once again it is my privilege to welcome you to our Muckross Mail.

As you have realised by now, we did not have our Annual Christmas Dinner, we felt we would put all our energies into our Fork Supper (details inside) and so I look forward to greeting you all in April.

As I go out of office at that time, I would like to thank my committee for the past two years. We are so pleased that we have some new young blood on the committee. I have felt very honoured to have been your President.

Whilst it's never a good idea to single out any one person, I simply have to mention our own Sister Barnabas (Barney). No matter what we ask her to do, it's never a problem and she has attended all our meetings. We must also thank Sheila Hughes (nee Nally) whose company prints the Muckross Mail for us; also Billy Bolger for his help in putting it all together, and last but not least Noreen Quinn, without whose help we would never get to the print stage.

My successor is Katherine Duffy, who has been our hard-working treasurer for several years, and apart from her many talents she has youth on her side. I wish Katherine a very happy two years as President.

With best wishes to all.

Yours sincerely

Edie Goff  
President

## Forthcoming Events

### Fork Supper & AGM

Date: 27th April 1997

Venue: Muckross Park

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

Perhaps you would like to let your name go forward for election to the Committee—we'd love to have some new blood. New faces and new ideas are always welcome. Ring or write to the President or Secretary of the Union for further information.

#### Bridge Drive

Date to be arranged – in  
mid-September/mid-October:  
Venue: St Catherine's Hall, Muckross

#### Monthly Mass

There is a Past Pupils Mass in Muckross at 11.15 am on the **first Sunday** of every month (except May\*, June, July, August). The Mass in November is offered for all deceased Past Pupils.

*\*The Combined Dominican Union Mass is held in Muckross on the second Sunday in May.*

Why don't you come along and keep in contact with other Past Pupils. We would particularly welcome Past Pupils to the Mass in May and November.

*If you have any ideas for functions please let us know as we are always looking for new ideas.*



## The Class Reunion

It was my class reunion and all through the house,  
I checked in each mirror and begged my poor spouse  
To say I looked great, that my chin wasn't double,  
And he lied through false teeth, just to stay out of trouble,  
Said that 'neath my thick glasses, my eyes hadn't changed,  
And I had the same figure, it was just a mite rearranged.  
He said my skin was still silky, although looser in drape,  
Not so much like smooth satin, but more like silk crepe.

I swallowed his words  
Hook, sinker and line  
And entered the fork supper  
feeling just fine.  
Somehow I'd expected my classmates to stay,  
as young as they were  
on that long ago day.

We hugged farewell hugs, but like me, through the years,  
They'd added grey to their hair, 'n pounds to their rears,  
But as we shared a few memories and retold some class jokes,  
We were eighteen in spirit, though we looked like our folks,  
We turned up hearing aid volumes and dimmed down the light,  
Rolled back the years, and were young for the night.

*So how about it girls. What about that special reunion, 10-20-30-40-50 etc years. Why not get on the 'phone right now and ring around to organise a get-together. We will organise a special table for you at the Fork Supper - many thanks to those who undertook the job last year, and also to Eileen White for the beautiful floral arrangements.*

*Katherine Duffy is waiting to hear from you now.*

*'Phone her on 288 5843*

## A Common Mistake



No gentlemen, you want the Mick Ross re-union – in the next hall



# Countess of Wicklow

**E**leanor, Countess of Wicklow who died in February 1997 was an architect by profession. She designed the chapel in Muckross, and later became a home-planning adviser and housing consultant to the Irish Countrywomen's Association. Her father was the eminent architect, Prof. R M Butler who designed the Earlsfort Terrace facade of UCD.

She was a prolific social campaigner for many decades and was a founder of the Centre for Peace and Reconciliation at Glencree and of Co-operation North. She was involved in campaigns on poverty, travellers, adult education, the elderly, social housing and many others.

She was a member of the Labour Party and was nominated to the Seanad in 1948. As a senator she travelled throughout Europe, the US, Asia and Australia to promote the campaign for Moral Rearmament.

In 1959 Eleanor Butler married the 8th Earl of Wicklow. They had no family. She was in her 80s when she died and is survived by her sister, Mrs Honor Murray.

# Annual Fork Supper



The Annual Fork Supper takes place on Sunday, 27th April, 1997 in St Catherine's Hall at 8.00 p.m. The Annual General Meeting of the Past Pupils Union will start at 6.15 p.m. with Mass followed by the meeting, followed by the Fork Supper.

The meal will be a buffet – we're having a different caterer this year – with tea and coffee afterwards. It will cost £12.00 per head. Wine and minerals will be on sale. We will also have our famous bumper raffle.

Early booking is advisable as the number of places is limited. Telephone bookings will be taken but payment must be received by Wednesday, 23rd April.

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

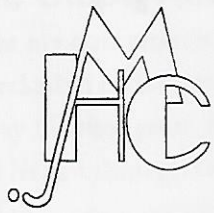
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Please detach and post to:  
Katherine Duffy,  
22 Stillorgan Wood, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin.  
Telephone 2885843



# MUCKROSS HOCKEY CLUB



Founded in 1918, Muckross Hockey Club originally consisted of past pupils of Muckross School in Donnybrook. When membership was opened, the Club grew substantially, and the Club now fields five adult teams, playing in all the Leinster League and Cup competitions. Since its foundation, the Muckross Hockey Club 1st Team has won the Leinster Senior Cup 26 times, the Irish Senior Cup 10 times, and the Leinster League title 27 times. In 1990 the team were the first winners of the All Ireland Champions Trophy and have won it three times since. This successful squad are on course for all four trophies again this season, the finals of each will be contested over the next few weeks.

The Club places great emphasis on the development of its youth section, and

has a thriving 'fillies' section comprising of one hundred and twenty girls under the age of 18. Not to be outdone, the past members of the Club have recently formed a veterans section whose teams compete in robust, but nevertheless friendly competition with similar teams from other Clubs in the Dublin area.

The Muckross Hockey Club, 1st team, has been the most successful club side in Leinster, and one of the most successful in Ireland for several years.

In the build up to the Ladies World Cup, in 1994, Muckross had 6 players on the Irish squad. In the final selection, Sarah Kelleher (who was chosen as Captain), Sandra O'Gorman (who, during the competition won the 'best goalkeeper in the world' award), Mary Logue and Teresa Hurley succeeded in making the final XI where they represented Ireland with distinction. Mary Logue and Clodagh Grealley are in the present Irish Squad which will be playing in Zimbabwe in August.

In European competition, the Club has also tasted success. In 1980, in Barcelona, Muckross became the first Irish Hockey team, men's or ladies, to win a medal in a European Championship. Since then, by winning All Ireland Cup and League competitions, the 1st team has represented Irish Hockey at European Club Championships in Amiens, France in 1990 (finishing in silver medal position), in Sicily in 1992 (finishing with the bronze), in the European Cup Winners Cup in Groeningen, Holland in 1995 (finishing fourth) and most recently in the European Club Championships in Frankfurt, Germany.

This year, having won the All Ireland League Championship the team has again gained the honour of representing the best of Irish hockey in Europe, and in May will head for the European Club Championships in Catania, Sicily.

Muckross senior hockey team won the Leinster Finals in February and went on to the All-Ireland Finals in Thurles on 6th/7th March. They won their first match on the Friday and were unfortunately beaten in their second match that day, having had two draws on Thursday. There was great excitement as the last time they won the Leinster Cup was in 1971. Congratulations to all concerned.



Clare Murphy (left) and Laura Crowley (centre) celebrate after Murphy had scored for Muckross in the Leinster Schoolgirls' Senior Cup final.

Photo: *The Irish Times*



## Memories of the Fifties

Does anyone out there remember a certain nun, who shall be nameless, standing at the bottom of the stairs when, following assembly, she would peer upwards and let out a cry:

'I see smiles, girls!'

This did not refer to our facial expressions, but rather to the visible signs of pink flesh revealed between our long-legged navy knickers and the top of our gartered or suspended lisle brown stockings. Immediate action to cover up the offending site was very necessary.

Then at times, standing at the first floor window, overlooking the hockey pitch, being reprimanded by another sister for some misdemeanour. This sister, to hide her dislike for the task, and to avoid eye contact with the culprit would fidget with the buttons on the shoulder straps of the gym slip. No words

penetrated our numb brains as we waited fearfully for the falling gym slip. We never heard if anyone's gym slip did in fact fall, revealing all.

Remember the Gas Company cookery competition and the "delicious" brown bread and the rock buns, advisedly so-called?

What about the present hype that 'Faith of our Fathers' is getting nowadays? Sure, we remember it well, as we lined the avenue, wishing farewell, singing 'Go Ye Afar', to Mother Benvenuta, et al., as they left for the mission in South Africa.

And, oh! The lovely operettas with Sister Cecilia and Ms Cranny. Everyone took part, even non-singers and hopeless actresses. In those days, we played both male and female roles.

Anon.

## SOMETIMES IT'S TRUE



Cynthia O'Halloran – you haven't changed at all!



*Lorna Madigan*

Lorna Madigan, presenter of the RTE Radio 1 Sunday evening music programme, Nocturne, (repeated on FM3 Classical radio, on Fridays, is one of our distinguished past pupils, having graduated from Muckross in 1959.

**Lorna, would you like to share some of your memories of those days, spent in Muckross Park?**

Yes, I'd be delighted to do so !

**(1) How did you get to school? Walk, bus or cycle?**

I walked, because we lived beside the school, in Mount Eden Road.

**(2) Did you have a favourite subject?**

I had two favourite subjects : English and French.

**(3) Can you remember the operetta?**

Yes !!! Awkward schoolgirls learning to tread lightly as fairies for 'Iolanthe', or how to march for the 'Pirates of Penzance' Lots of hard work and giggles!

**(4) Did you take part?**

Yes, but not as a soloist. I loved acting and dancing but my singing voice was a bit of a disaster !

**(5) Do you remember the Bishop's exam, and the awful choir practises of Gregorian Chant which we did not appreciate in those days?**

Oh, the Bishop's exam - an occasion for nervous anticipation!  
I very clearly remember the Gregorian Chant Choir practice; I used to move my lips soundlessly with the choir so that Mother Cecelia would never hear my 'out of tune' singing. Incidentally, this is still my technique when required to join group singing of any kind !

**(6) Do you remember the music rooms?**

Yes. I loved being released from class in Junior

School for half an hour's piano tuition from Miss Russell.

**(7) Can you name some of the sisters who were at Muckross Park in your day?**

Of course ! Sisters Bernadette, Bernardine, Stephanie, Vincenzo (Maeve), Innocentia (Marie), Mother Aimon, Mother Hilary, Sisters Bertranda, Frances, Barnabas, Patrick, John, Brendan, Louis Dominic, Mother Clara, Mother Augustine, Sisters Anna, Victorine and Cecelia.

**(8) Did any one teacher in Muckross Park have an abiding influence on you?**

First and foremost Sister Patrick, although many teachers and nuns influenced me positively.

**(9) What is your fondest memory from Muckross Park?**

A special memory for me is a class-room scene with Miss Ann O'Connell [later to become a Dominican nun], who introduced us, in a light-hearted but scholarly way, to the visual Arts. She brought reproductions of famous paintings to the classroom, and asked us to study these paintings and then to write essays of appreciation. This memorably combined the world of painting with the world of literature; she had an inimitable and highly individual style.

**(10) How best would you describe your days at Muckross Park?**

As a basically shy person, I found my days at Muckross Park happy and fulfilling, and to a large extent, this was thanks to the nuns. As well as demonstrating remarkable teaching skills [only now appreciated ! !], they also acted as friends and mentors. Personally, I have always found them supportive and interested at every stage of my life and career. I should add, that the friends I made at Muckross, some in Babies, are still my friends, and we are all in regular contact.

Lorna Madigan





## Have You Moved House Recently? Have you Married and Changed Your Name?

I know we put this in every year - last year we got no replies. It's amazing the number of past pupils who say "I don't get my Muckross Mail" or "Nobody tells me when there's something on"! When they are asked if they notified us of their change in name/address they usually say no. Now is your chance to get yours!

### DO YOU GET YOUR MUCKROSS MAIL?

To keep the PPU going we need you as members and also your subscriptions. The profit from the Fork Supper goes to the Benevolent Fund. Donations to this fund are also gratefully appreciated, especially these days as calls on this fund are increasing daily. This year we gave £750 to the Benevolent Fund. While we were delighted with this increase on previous years, we would love to be able to give more to the fund.

Membership fee is only £5.00 per annum. If you have not already paid your subscription, please do so *today* as it is due on 1st April each year.

You can also pay by banker's order, forms available from the Treasurer.

### UPDATING OF PRESENT RECORDS

We are currently updating our records and are missing a lot of information. We would ask everyone to complete and return the form below. This will help us to ensure that you receive all PPU communications. Please complete and send to:

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

Name -----

Address -----  
-----  
-----

Telephone -----

Maiden Name -----

Date of leaving school -----

## THE FIRST COMMUNION

Don't let anyone tell you that its only the girls that get carried away with their 'style' for First Communion.

Well, the time finally arrived, and our eldest grandson Evan was given the date for his big day. We were invited to his first Confession, which I must say, was a very lovely ceremony, with both parents being very involved.

After the excitement of that was over, the next major talking point was what he would wear. When asked what he would like to wear, his eyes lit up and he replied - A Manchester United track suit. Needless to say that went down like a lead balloon, and sighs of relief all around when he settled for grey flannels, blue shirt and navy blazer.

I was so pleased to see that he wore his Daddy's medal - our present Mother Prioress, Sister Brenda Mary prepared Brian (the Daddy) for his big day and on meeting her recently I couldn't believe it when she asked, how is Brian? How on earth do nuns have this wonderful gift of remembering pupils names?

And, of course, down memory lane to my own First Communion day and how very fortunate we were have had dear Sister Stephanie to prepare us. Sadly, she is no longer with us, but do you know to this very day I still say the thanksgiving prayer she composed and taught us so well - may I share it with you?

*Oh Jesus dear, Oh Jesus dear  
I am so glad to hold you here,  
Although thou art so weak and small  
Thou art my Lord and God of All*

*Oh Babe Divine, Oh Babe Divine  
Just for a moment, thou art mine  
And I can hold thee to my heart,  
All great and Holy as thou art.*

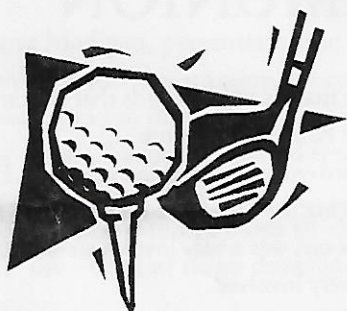
*Dear Jesus, never let me do a big sin  
Dear Jesus, take me to heaven when I die.  
Sweet Jesus, bless our holy Church  
And all who dwell therein,  
Bring back poor sinners to thy grace,  
Which they have lost through sin*

*Bless our dear Country Ireland  
May her faith forever shine,  
And may she keep it burning bright  
Until the end of time.  
Amen*

*Eddie Goff*



## COMBINED DOMINICAN UNION GOLF OUTING



Monday 21st July 1997  
Rathfarnham Golf Club

Tees reserved 12.15 to 4.15

For further information contact  
Marie Boyle 4933754

Non-golfers welcome at Dinner

A number of our past pupils  
played in this competition last  
year including Patricia McKeown,  
Brigid Anderson, Evelyn  
O'Rourke, Eve Murray,  
Laura Haugh and Phil Kelliher.

As Phil Kelliher is Lady Captain  
this year it would be nice if more  
Muckross players came along and  
played.

Last year 48 played altogether  
including 3 MEN from  
Newbridge. So come on girls, get  
those clubs out and join in the  
fun

## CATHOLIC WOMENS FEDERATION

We wish to congratulate  
Therese Birthisle (our Secretary)  
on becoming the President of the  
CWF this year. Congratulations  
Therese!

## EDITORIAL

I would like to thank all the contributors to the current edition of the Muckross Mail, yet I think it would be a great achievement if we could broaden the horizon a little, which really means that you the reader need to give the whole matter some thought and begin to put pen to paper. Perhaps at the Fork Supper, some of you will commit yourselves to an article for next year.

It is with regret that I noted the death of Dr. Mary Belton, she has contributed to the Muckross Mail in recent years, although in her eighties. She also had the distinction of being one of Muckross's very first pupils. She came back from England especially to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Past Pupils Union Garden Party.

To her family and relations, on behalf of the PPU I extend our deepest sympathy.

Lastly I would like to second the thanks and appreciation as mentioned by Edie at the start of the newsletter to Katherine and to welcome Katherine to her new office as President, Katherine is also an old classmate, friend and childhood neighbour of mine.

Yours sincerely,

*The Editor*

## BRIDGE NIGHT



We had a very successful Bridge Night last May. Our sincere thanks to Margot Doyle, Beatrice Doran and Mary Keating who organised and ran this night for us. Without them we would not have had as successful an event. Thank you Margot, Beatrice and Mary.



We were, however, disappointed at the few past pupils who supported this venture – it was nearly all outsiders who supported us so we would appeal to all you Bridge Players to PLEASE come this year and really make it a Past Pupils Bridge Night to remember.

We do not have a date for this yet this year but hope it will be on a Sunday in late September/early October.

