


# MUCKROSS MAIL



APRIL 2000

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

On behalf of myself and the Committee I would like to welcome you to the first Muckross Mail of the Millennium. This year saw not just the turn of the century for all of us, but for Muckross 'girls' past and present it is also the start of a new century for the school. Yes, Muckross is celebrating its 100th birthday this year.

During the year we held our two annual fundraising events in aid of our Benevolent Fund. For those of you who are not aware, the main aim of the PPU functions is to raise funds in order to provide some help to past pupils who are experiencing financial difficulties. Even in this time of the Celtic Tiger not all are benefiting.

On the 25th April 1999 we held our AGM and Candlelight Supper which was a very successful night. There was a great turnout with 108 past pupils attending the supper. I wonder how many of you noticed that the Fork Supper had undergone a name change? The Committee decided a couple of years ago that maybe we needed a little updating and thought a Candlelight Supper would be 'keeping up appearances' for a change!

This year we are again making a change. To celebrate the school's 100 years we are holding a Centenary Reception in the Concert Hall after the AGM in May.

The annual Bridge Drive took place on Sunday 9th May 1999. Though there was not as big an attendance as the previous year, it was enjoyed by all, especially those who won prizes! I would like to thank Margo Doyle, Mary Keating and their team of helpers for organising the event. I hope to see many of you again at this year's event in September.

Obviously none of these could take place without the dedicated help of the Committee. I would like to thank all of them for the hard work and commitment needed to run our functions. I would also like to thank Katherine Duffy from whom I took over as President at the last AGM. Katherine was a most organised and efficient President and I must say a hard act to follow.

During the year Noreen Quinn stepped down as Editor of Muckross Mail after many years doing a fine job getting together all the news items for us. We appreciate very much all the time and effort she has put in over the years.

I would like to welcome our new Editor, Valerie Cox (nee Fitzpatrick) who has recently taken over. Valerie was the first editor of the Muckross Mail when it started up in the early seventies. Many thanks go again to Billy Bolger for

publishing and Sheila Hughes (nee Nally) of Lantz Ltd for printing the MM without charge to the PPU. Without their generous help we would not be in a position to issue a newsletter. Finally I would like to thank all who contributed to this year's edition especially our mystery cartoonist.

We were lucky enough again this year to be in a position to donate books to the school Library. In September 1999 I presented Patricia Fitzsimons, principal of Muckross, with 20 books on behalf of the Past Pupils Union.

Many of you, especially the hockey players, will remember Eileen White. During the year we presented Eileen with a bouquet of flowers as she is our oldest past pupil having left Muckross in 1929. We hope to see Eileen at our AGM and Reception in May.

On a more serious note, the Past Pupils Union can only exist if it has members. It is increasingly difficult to get younger past pupils interested in joining. Our PPU was founded in 1912 – 88 years ago! Considering the vast number of past pupils who have passed through the school we have only just under 370 paid up members! We need new people to come on to the committee with new ideas for fundraising and social events. The majority of the present Committee members have been on the committee for many years and some feel they would like a break. Unfortunately, with no new volunteers this is not possible. We have already discussed disbanding and will keep this option under review. It would be a shame to dissolve the oldest girl's school union in the country don't you think? So, come on all you twentysomethings and thirtysomethings out there, it only involves 4 meetings a year!

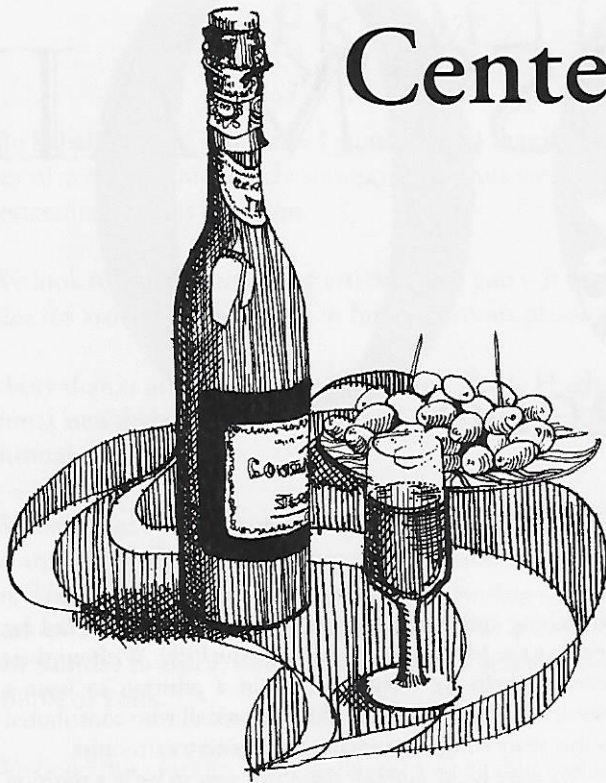
Now on a personal note, the last time my class got together was 9 years ago. I would be delighted to see some of the class of Leaving Cert. 1966 at our Centenary Reception in May. Why not give me a call on 087-638 3683 to arrange.

Finally, can I ask all of you to pass this copy of the MM on to another past pupil who may not have received one. That way you will help us reach more people and prospective new members.

I look forward to seeing you all at our various activities during the year.

Gay Rodgers *President*

# Centenary Reception



## Centenary Reception

NAME.....

.....  
ADDRESS.....

.....  
.....

I will be at the Centenary Reception Yes/No

(£6.00 Centenary Reception)

£5.00 Annual Membership Yes/No

£30.00 Life Membership Yes/No

I enclose cheque for £.....

Please detach and post to:  
Deirdre Redmond,  
36 Laurleen, Stillorgan, Co Dublin  
Telephone 2834378

The Centenary Reception in aid of the Benevolent Fund takes place on Sunday 7th May, 2000 in the Concert 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, and the supper.

We will be serving finger food and the cost of £6 will include a glass of wine. Wine and minerals will also be on sale. We will also have our famous bumper raffle.

Telephone bookings will be taken, but payment must be received by Tuesday, 2nd May, 2000.

Come on and join us at this special night to celebrate the Muckross centenary. What about that re-union that you have been meaning to organise? Let us know if you are 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 years etc left school and we will organise a table for you.

Early booking is advisable, as the number of places is limited.

# Muckross Park

## 1900 – 2000

The Jubilee year of 2000 will see our convent celebrating its first centenary. An insignificant event by comparison with the Millennium in honour of the birth of Christ, one might say. Nevertheless, we take pride, as people do, in looking at their roots. Before we come to the Dominican foundation therefore, let us take a glance at the development of the area in which it lies.

In the 19th century Donnybrook, Rathmines, and surrounding lands were open country, a large part of which was covered by the Pembroke estate. In 1864, cousins and building partners, Pat Cranny from Carlow and Pat Plunkett from Kileen in Co Meath, came to the city and were given permission to build on these lands on condition that they named the roads after English gentry. Hence we find ourselves surrounded by Palmerston, Wellington, Cowper, Raglan, Elgan, Belgrave, Eglington, Clyde, Windsor, Ormond and Marlborough Roads. On the latter Pat Cranny built a large Victorian house which he named Muckross Park in honour of his Kerry connections.

Here in 1865 he and his family took up residence. One daughter, Josephine, married her cousin George Noble Count Plunkett. He adopted his mother's maiden name, Noble, and the Papal title he received on the recommendation of the Little Company of Mary, the Blue Sisters, a nursing Order which he helped to found in Rome and encouraged to come to Ireland. The wedding ceremony took place in the newly built Church of the Sacred Heart, Donnybrook, and the reception was held in the bride's home, Muckross Park. Joseph Mary Plunkett, poet, mystic and organiser of the 1916 Rising was the eldest of their seven children. As well as the other signatories of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic he was executed in Kilmainham and buried in Arbour Hill. Joseph Mary is best remembered for his well-known poem, *I see His Blood upon the Rose*.

Shortly before her death in 1900 Mrs Pat Cranny sold her house and grounds to the Dominican Sisters of Sion Hill. And so begins our Dominican story.

Since 1879 the Royal University of Ireland, while permitting women to

sit for examinations, refused them admission for tuition. The Dominican Sisters in Eccles Street opened St Mary's University College in 1886, transferred it to 28 Merrion Square in 1893 and when the latter proved too restricted for the growing number of students, finally, in 1900 moved to Muckross Park. That was the state of affairs when the Sisters purchased the spacious house and surrounding grounds.

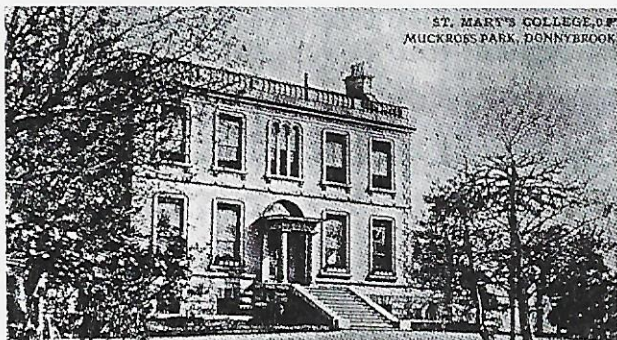
On July 11th the Community moved to this new convent of the Immaculate Conception, Donnybrook. Shortly after this the following notice appeared in a daily paper of that year :

**St Mary's University College and High School**  
**Marlborough Road, Dublin**  
**Conducted by the Dominican Nuns**  
**Under the patronage of His grace the Archbishop of Dublin**  
**Classes will be resumed on Monday, September 9th.**  
**In addition to University Courses pupils are prepared for**  
**examinations in the Intermediate Board.**  
**Elementary classes are provided in the school**  
**For younger children, girls and boys.**  
**The College is surrounded by spacious grounds.**  
**As only a limited number of boarders can be accommodated**  
**Early application is requested.**



*A family group taken on the steps of Muckross Park at the marriage of Count Plunkett to Josephine Cranny.*

So in these early days of the new institute there were three levels of education. From notes of Miss Eleanor Butler, one of the first of the University Students, we learn something about the way of life and the Professorial staff of the University. Due to lack of space, even at this large residence, it was necessary to rent a house for the University students. This was on the then new Mount Eden Road and was named Ard Eoin. All lectures and academic functions were of course held in the main building. The staff included well-known persons such as Professor Mary Hayden, Professor Agnes O'Farrelly, Professor Patrick Semple, Professor Arthur Clery, Professor P J Merriman and Professor Mary Ryan, later to become President of University College, Cork. Among the religious on the staff were Mother Gonzales Stone, Mother Patrick



Muckross Park 1900

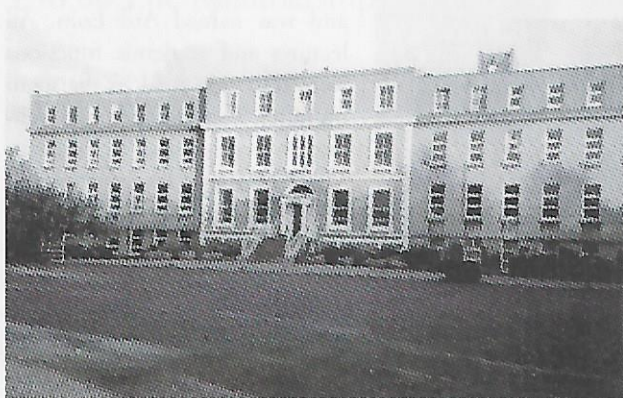
Sheil, Mother Albertus Hoch-burger and Mother Joseph Kreighton.

According to the newspaper reports of the time the standard was extremely high, 'an enterprise brimful of promise' wrote the editor of The Freeman's Journal on August 4th 1900.

The lively Literary Academy of the University Students organised debates on some of the burning topics of the day. Professor Agnes O'Farrelly's paper entitled *The Reign of Humbug* was later published by Conradh na Gaeilge. A paper entitled *An Craobh Rua* was read by Miss O'Kennedy. Dubhglas de H-Ide, later to become President of Ireland, chaired the meeting, while one of the speakers was Pdraig Mac Piarais. These were days when a small number of Irish women and men were determined not to let their own language and culture die.

It was at that time difficult to travel from the north side of the city to Dunnybrook, therefore enrolment for University studies diminished. Because of this, in 1903 the Sion Hill Council decided that some of the classes as well as three of the Staff Sisters, be transferred back to Eccles Street, to No. 23 and also No. 24, recently purchased by the community.

St. Mary's university came to an end in 1909 when the newly established National University permitted women to attend lectures, and consequently the students of St. Mary's entered U.C.D. Nevertheless in Muckross Park links with the University were re-forged when in 1929 Dr. Byrne, Archbishop of Dublin, requested the Sisters to close their small boarding school and to open a house of Residence for University Student Sisters from other parts of the country.



Muckross Park 1999

This was the beginning of Dominican Hall, which flourishes to this day.

After the University Students had left in 1909 the secondary and junior schools continued to grow – slowly at first. Both were small and homely. Since 1903 the boarders had been residing in Glenwood, the house rented alongside the Mount Eden Road entrance, but in 1907 a new dormitory was built at the back of the main building so all pupils were from then on under one roof.

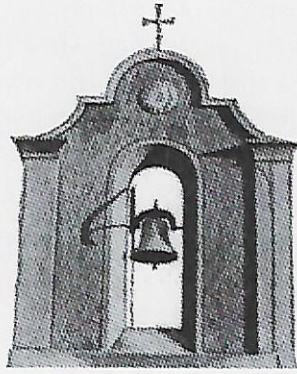
However, with increasing numbers, the need for expansion of the main building was recognised. The school wing was finished in time for the Silver Jubilee of the convent. This was celebrated with the production of Lawrence Houseman's *Bethlehem*, beautifully performed, despite the lack of modern staging and lighting.

The 1920's saw in the community some sterling and colourful characters, among whom are remembered: Mother Gonzales Stone, expert in Old English; Mother Albertus Hochburger, a Bavarian who delighted in reminding us of her Celtic origins; Sister Brendan Luja, a Luxembourger who perfected the French of her chosen pupils; Mother Osanna Curtin, terrifying Maths teacher but out-of-class angel; Mother Martina Cuffe, a beloved Mistress of the Junior Boarders, Sister Alphonsus Kettle, daughter of Parnell's right hand man, Andrew; Sister John Moloney brilliant philosopher, graduate from Hull University, and Mother Benevenuta Connolly, former member of Cumann na nBan, and brimming with love for Ireland, albeit in mid-life leaving here homeland for the far off missions in South Africa. Another great Gaelic enthusiast of the 20's, 30's and 40's was Maire Ni Ainle, who, during all the days of her teaching life, never flagged in her efforts to keep our native language alive.

Material expansion continued. 1928 saw the convent wing added. So we had a three-fold building, three storeys high. (The fourth storey appeared during the 1950's and 60's). The great lack in the school was an adequate Concert Hall. That was supplied in 1935 when the present Hall, Science rooms and student's rooms were built. But can you imagine a convent without a chapel? All these years a parlour was used for that purpose until 1944 when the present chapel was completed by a past pupil, another Eleanor Butler, Architect. Many agree that its loveliest feature is the stained glass window by Hubert McGoldrick depicting the Resurrection and Crucifixion.

Next came the sports fields. These ten acres were acquired from an old lady resident nearby who spent her last days gazing with love on her green fields. And now part of these same fields, complete with tennis courts and all-weather pitch await the construction of an entirely new building, as the walls of the present school bulge with the larger numbers of students on the rolls.

Ties with the original builders, the two Pats, Cranny and Plunkett, still intertwine with Muckross Park. The descendants of three of that couple's family of seven, Geraldine,



**Souvenir**  
of  
the Erection of the Church Bell  
the Gift of our Past Pupils  
7th September, 1944

Seoirse and Mimi buttressed the first links forged by the marriage of cousins, George Noble Count Plunkett and Josephine Cranny. We remember Geraldine's granddaughters Bairbre, Esther and Honor O'Brolchain, moulded and welded to our own times by their first cousins-once-removed, Roisin and Doirean, (still in the fray).

Seoirse's line has survived through his granddaughters Maire and Nora Hearty, and also Mark and Niamh Plunkett, the latter preparing for her Leaving Certificate examination in this final year of the century.

From Mimi the school has had her son Colm O'Laoghaire, his step-sisters Méabh and Enda, his children, Emer, Deirdre, Niamh and Donal, followed by Emer's daughters Lea and Ellen O'Laoghaire-Brennan – a five-generation remove from the architects of the Donnybrook area.

With a giant at their shoulders, a giant of the stature of our Founder, St. Dominic, it should be possible, even in these materialistic times, for those actively involved in developing the present and future hopes of Muckross Park, to preserve, promote and pass on the inseparable elements of prayer and the apostolate, which, alongside the academic and the cultural, have flourished in it for a century.

Méabh Ní Chléirigh. O.P.

# COMBINED DOMINICAN UNION GOLF OUTING



Monday 24th July 2000

Naas Golf Club

Tees reserved 1.00 – 3.30 pm

For further information contact  
Breda McCormick – Telephone 2803710

We would like some support for this event, it is a good day's Golf, with all the Dominican Schools taking part. They play for a Challenge Cup – a beautiful piece of Waterford Crystal. Muckross have won it before – and would like it again – but need MORE HELP in the way of supporters. If you are a Golfer (with a LGUI Handicap) please do come along and join the Winning Team. The best 3 scores from each school make up the winning team. There are lots more prizes as well.

**Golf + Meal + Chat also**

# Forty Years Out

Last May forty years after leaving Muckcross Park; the Class of '59 meet for a reunion dinner in Mercer's Hotel. We wondered would we know those we haven't seen since the Leaving Cert; would conversation be strained; how has the passage of time treated us?

We needn't have worried. We did remember each other as screeches of recognition proved. The spontaneous chat owed nothing to the sherry reception and everything to being among friends. And the years have been kind. Oh, the once slender waistlines have thickened and hair can be attributed more to the hairdressers' artistry than to nature. But, otherwise, despite the joys and sorrows of living, births and deaths, successes and failures, there's little change. We're still a bunch of 'Veritas girls'.

The nuns and teachers haven't changed either. Don't seem to have aged a year since we left. How do they do it? Mother Aimon and Sr Francis stick to their habit; Sr Vincenzo is dashing in a floral skirt and frilled blouse; Sr Barnabas is fashionably grey-suited and Sr Louis Dominic is smart in white. Patsy Kinsella's dry wit is firmly in place and Celia (Dowling) is the same tiny tornado who always seemed too small for her imposing black academic gown.

We remember, amid gales of laughter, interspersed by flashing cameras as the evening is recorded for posterity. Antoinette Madden's incarceration in the shutter in St. Joseph's while Anne O'Connell (fair dues to her) determinedly continuing her analysis of French verbs. Mary McDonald (Cahill) still hasn't got over the indignity of being ejected from Patsy Kinsella's maths class. Hazel Clarke (Bergin) remembers Sr Francis's horror stricken face when she pretended to have taken the Leaving Honours paper in Physiology.

The turnout has surpassed even the organisers' – Margot Doyle, Madeleine Gaughan (O'Sullivan), Lorna Murray (Madigan) and Beatrice Doran –

greatest dream. Past pupils have congregated from all over. They've come from Clare and Kildare, the UK, from Wales and from the States. Regrets from Mend (Mexico), Sheila Forster (O'Toole) (London) - we hip, hip hurray her hip replacement and wish her a speedy recovery, Lorraine, Margaret Lunn (Demery), Margaret Bradley etc.

Patricia O'Reilly (Dain). Sharavogue. 32 Goatstown Road. Dublin 14. Tel/fax: 296 2285. e-mail: media@indigo.ie

## UPDATE – THE DOOLAN GIRLS

Jacinta married Ciaran 21 years ago (!) has 2 children, Jennie 19 and James 16. Jennie is in 2nd Arts in UCD and James is in 5th year in Sandford Park. Ciaran has his own advertising agency and Jacinta owns Trident Holiday Homes. We are all living in Rathfarnham in brilliant health, Thank God.

Paula married and separated and has a beautiful 13 year old daughter, Karen. She is living in Brentwood in Essex with a German/Englishman and runs an insurance business.

Vianne married Mark Shannon, and had to finish her career in nursing when they opened their own restaurant. They own Bistro One in Foxrock. They have two children, Kate 9 and Rory 13, and live in Stillorgan.

Orna married Ray and has moved from Clonmel to Galway to Ayr in Scotland as Rory was an engineer with Digital. They are now moving to Limerick where Rory starts with Dell Computers. Orna got her Social Science Degree and has worked extensively in various areas including setting up the Rape Crisis Centre in Clonmel. She is currently running assertiveness courses for women and is involved as a healing therapist, having completed a 2 year course in Galway and works with patients in a private capacity. Orna and Rory have 3 children, Medhbh 11, Conor 9 and Eibhlin 2.



### Bridge Drive

Our sincere thanks to Margot Doyle Beatrice Doran and Mary Keating for again organising and running this most successful night. Without them we would not be able to have this event.

Thanks Margot, Beatrice and Mary.

Don't forget the Bridge Night 23 September  
2000 at 3<sup>00</sup>pm in St Catherine's Hall



## UPDATE – HELEN O’SULLIVAN LITTON

I attended Muckross from the age of five and did my Leaving Certificate in 1965. I had always been interested in Archaeology, and Sister Barnabas kindly put me in touch with Professor Ruaidhri de Valera, living in Mount Eden Road, who interviewed me about my interest, and encouraged me to study archaeology in UCD.

I graduated with a BA in Early Irish history and Archaeology in 1968, and an MA in Early Irish History in 1970. I married in late 1972, and stayed at home with my son and daughter until 1979, when Eleanor started at playschool. I was offered the opportunity to proof-read for a publishing company, and have since built up a wide clientele as a self-employed proof-reader and editor. I trained as an indexer, through a correspondence course, and still specialise in this little-known branch of book production.. I am a founder member of the Irish Association of Freelance Editors, Proofreaders and Indexers (AFEPI), and of the Irish branch of the Society of Indexers.

In 1990, I edited for publication the memoirs of my great-aunt, Kathleen Daly Clarke, widow of the 1916 leader, Tom Clarke (published by O’Brien Press). In 1994 Wolfhound

Press asked me to attempt a popular history for the tourist market, on the subject of the Great Famine, because commemorations were about to begin. This was published as *An Illustrated History of the Great Famine*, and the format proved to be very popular; it was a small heavily-illustrated paperback, priced at £5.99, and sold widely both in Ireland and in the USA. It has been reprinted many times since.

Wolfhound then commissioned me to continue the series, and to date we have published illustrated histories of the Irish Civil War, the Celts, and Rebellions (1798-1916). The next volume in the series, on Oliver Cromwell in Ireland, will be published in April 2000.

Above

*Helen Litton addressing an audience in the Dublin Civic Museum on 26 June 1999 on ‘Revolutionary Woman – Kathleen Clarke, Lord Mayor of Dublin 1939-1941’*



## The last Debs of the Century of the Century

The last Debs of the Century took place in the Shelbourne Hotel on Tuesday 19 October 1999. A number of us called in to Muckross to carry on the tradition of signing the Visitors Book before going on to the Debs. It was exciting meeting up again and catching up on what everybody is doing, having gone our separate ways in June. We danced and talked our way through the night, moving on to Sach's Hotel for a disco and breakfast afterwards.

It was a night to remember and we will always look back on it as a special night and one of the best times of our lives.



*Presentation of books to the school library by the Union President, Gay Rodgers.*



# FROM MUCKROSS TO MOGA

Coming to India was quite an experience for us having spent most of the last twenty five years in Africa. As my husband works for a multinational company we are moved about on a regular basis so being posted to Moga at a time when both our children have finished their education has worked out very well.

Moga is a town in the Punjab with a population of 150,000. This is the main wheat and rice growing area of India. If you arrive in New Delhi the easiest way to reach here is by train. The Shetabdi express takes about 4 hours to reach Ludhiana and from there it's another hour by car to Moga. The Pakistani border is only 45 minutes drive away.

Moga town itself has to be seen to be believed. The main bazaar is full of cars, scooters, bicycles, rickshaws, tractors as well as people, cows and the odd pig snuffling through the rubbish. The result is total chaos and you feel you are entering an assault course instead of a main thoroughfare. There are no supermarkets here, just small provision shops that sell everything. Whatever you want may take a minute to find in the back of the shop or even from the attic. Rice, flour, sugar, lentils etc. are purchased from sacks lined up along the wall. Fabric shops are everywhere and ladies will sit for hours choosing the latest fashions which they will then have made up by their local tailor in a matter of hours.

Away from the chaos of the town is the compound where we live. It is a well laid out area with twelve bungalows, gardens and lots of trees. There is a swimming pool, tennis and badminton courts and our own electricity and water supply. There are three European couples and the other families on the compound are from different parts of India. Its strange being the only Europeans within a fifty mile radius. People outside do tend to stare

at you and of course very few speak English. There are no restaurants or cinemas in the vicinity unless you are into Hindi films. We try to go to Delhi once a month to splash out and meet people and buy books. In between we also have some international visitors who stay with us as there is no hotel. I have started yoga classes and a reading group which has taken off very well and am learning Hindi though my vocabulary mainly consists of garden and household words.

We have become very self sufficient after a year and a half. We grow most of our own vegetables or at least the ones we cannot find in the market such as broccoli, lettuce, sprouts, fennel and herbs. We also make our own bread and soft cheeses. Experimenting is great fun when you have the time and someone to help you in the kitchen. We love Indian food and have become almost vegetarian as you cannot find much meat here apart from chicken. There is such a variety of beans and pulses each cooked in a different way.

The weather here can be very extreme. In May the temperature goes up to almost fifty centigrade and is very dry. Then there is the monsoon from June to September where its less hot but very humid. October and November are pleasant but in December the fog arrives and temperatures can drop to five centigrade. The best time is from February to April when Spring arrives and everywhere is a mass of colour.

Of course you miss your own way of life but it's difficult to say you are isolated when you are in the midst of a thriving community. Indians are very sociable and I am learning so much about the local customs, food, religions etc. This is the real India. The part most tourists never see.

Mary Long (nee Kennedy) Leaving Cert. 1966

# High Honour for Past Pupil of Muckross Park

Our past pupil, Paula Ni Shlatarra / Paula Slattery, has been appointed Ireland's Ambassador to the Argentine.

Born in Dublin in 1943, Paula received her elementary and secondary education in Dominican Convent, Muckross Park. After graduation with honours in Irish and History in University College, Dublin, she taught for five years in Ireland and in West Africa.

From then on her star was in the ascendant: 1969, Administrative Officer in the Department of Finance; 1972, department of Foreign Affairs; 1974, First secretary at the Irish Permanent Representation to the European Communities; 1977, First Secretary at the Embassy of Ireland, Paris; 1981, First Secretary in the Political Division of the Department (relations with the Eastern European countries; delegation to the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe); 1986, Head of Personnel (Counsellor); 1991, Counsellor at the Irish Embassy, London; 1995, Head of Bilateral Relations in the Economic Division of the Department.

And now, with the Millennium, from 10 January 2000, Paula represents our country in the vast region of the Argentine. One of her first actions after the news of appointment was released, was to pay a visit to her Alma Mater, not only to tell us the good news, but also to request the addresses, telephone numbers and names of the Irish Dominican Sisters in the Argentine and Bolivia. She has them all with her – revised numbers and all – not that she will get round to them immediately as none of our convents are in Buenos Aires city. She already knows some of our sisters, and, no doubt, will know them all in time. But it is summer and holiday time over there as she begins her ambassadorial career.

We are indeed proud of Paula. She was a loveable child, a friendly teenager, a serious student and a loyal past pupil.

Go gcuire Dia gach beannacht uirthi féin agus ar an obair nua atá roimpi.

Méabh Ni Chléirigh. O.P.

## Forthcoming Events

### Centenary Reception &

# AGM

Date: 7th May 2000

Venue: Muckross Park

Time: 6.15 pm

### Bridge Drive

Date: 23 September 2000

Venue: St Catherine's Hall

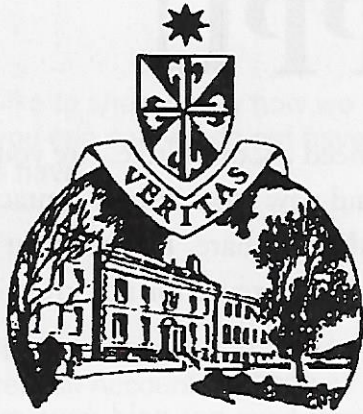
Time: 3.00 pm



### Monthly Mass

There is a Past Pupils Mass in Muckross at 11.15 am on the **first Sunday** of each 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. If you know anyone from another Dominican school why not invite them to come along to this Mass with you!*



## MUCKROSS PARK IN THE LATE 30s AND EARLY 40s.

It was 1936 and there were seventeen of us in the class - Marie Curran, Maureen O'Dockery, Pearl Dunne, Mona McGregor, Alice Chatain, Peggy Dee, Maureen Lemass, Una Walsh, Clare Morrissey, Joan Tallon, Frances Coyne, Carmel McGrath, Mona Bellamy, Nuala Meagher, Nancy Healy and Pat Maume.

There was always a lovely atmosphere in Muckross but it was also a very strict one. The uniform had to be perfect. We wore detachable white collars and when one of us wasn't wearing one we could expect 'The horizon is a bit dull today girls!' We wore a navy gym tunic and jumper in winter and our summer uniform was green.

My memories are still vivid – the welsh rarebit we made in domestic economy class, the gardener handing out handfuls of russet apples from the nuns' orchard and I thought they were the loveliest apples I had ever tasted.

Then there were the evening dances in the school – girl only affairs! But we were so excited about them. We had our hair curled and were all dressed up in our best to dance with one another for the evening with the nuns watching us. There was even an admission charge.

We had both camogie and hockey in those years and there was great rivalry between the two. I was secretary of the first Irish Debating Society set up in 1937 and to this day I have the first Minutes book.

The nuns of my school days were memorable women who, even then, encouraged an interactive exchange of ideas and an independent streak in their pupils.

There was Sr. John, Sr. Cecelia, Mother Benvenuta, Sr. Patrick, Sr. Anna and Sr. Anselm. Mother Ozanna was the Prioress and Sr. Brendan (who was French) and Mother Albertus (who was German) conducted their own cold war between 1939 and 1944 while guns battled it out over Europe in what we called 'the emergency'.

In time I married and had my own three daughters, all of whom went to Muckross. They are Valerie (Cox), Iris (Condrón) and Gabrielle (Parkinson).

Imelda FitzPatrick (Tucker).



**I'm in great shape since I started HRT -  
Husband Replacement Therapy**

# It's your PPU

To keep the PPU going we need you as members. We also need a Committee. Are you willing to join the PPU Committee? We always need new members and new ideas. Please contact one of us if you would like to join us, or have a brainwave you would like to share. There is a list of the present Committee in this edition of Muckross Mail so there is no excuse for not knowing who to contact!!!

Annual membership is due on the 1st April each year. If you have not paid your membership please do so today. To make it easy for you can complete the banker's order forms is printed below. Please complete and return to the Treasurer.



First Name..... Last Name.....

Maiden Name.....Year Left.....Phone No.....

## Banker's Order

To.....(Bank).....(Branch)

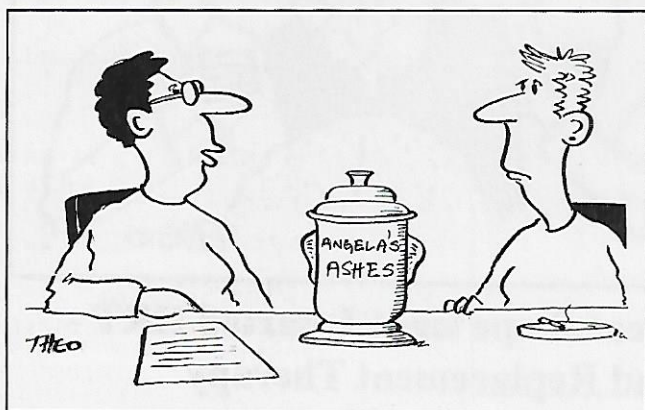
Pay now and on the .....day of .....(month) of each year until further notice the sum of .....pounds £..... To the credit of the Muckross Past Pupils Union Account, Account No 17107621 at the Bank of Ireland, 34 College Green, Dublin 2, and charge the same to my account

NAME..... ACCOUNT NO.....

ADDRESS.....

Signature.....Date.....

To facilitate acknowledgement this Banker's Order should be sent to the Treasurer



*I know she should be off the committee - but we need all the bodies we can get!*

# Accounts

We would like to show below how we have been raising and spending money over the past two years. As you can see we do not have a lot of money and try to do the best we can with the small amount we have.

## Year ended 31st March 1999

<b>RECEIPTS</b>		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Opening Current Account	£106.21	C.W.F.	£7.50
Opening Deposit Account	£283.47	Stamps	£5.00
	£390.28	Miscellaneous	£87.93
<b>FORK SUPPER</b>		Books to Library	£46.39
Receipts	£1,215.44	Muckross Mail	£132.04
Less Payments	£876.80	Bank Charges	£15.41
	£338.64	Mass Offerings	£15.00
<b>SUBSCRIPTIONS</b>		Prize Bonds	£500.00
Life	£270.00		
Annual	£244.61		
	£514.61		
	£1,359.27		
<b>DONATIONS</b>	£85.00	<b>CASH ON HANDS</b>	
		Current Account	£338.70
<b>BRIDGE NIGHT</b>		Deposit Account	£285.14
Receipts	£836.04		
Less Payments	£181.46		
	£654.58		
	£1,983.11		£1,983.11
<b>PRIZE BONDS HELD - £700</b>			



**Year ended 31st March 2000 (Provisional)**

**RECEIPTS**

Opening Current Account	£254.31
Opening Deposit Account	£286.39
	<u>£540.70</u>

**CANDLELIT SUPPER**

Receipts	£1,090.96
Miscellaneous	£86
Donations	£20.00
Raffle	£248.62
Profit on wine	£93.36
	<u>£1,452.94</u>

**LESS PAYMENTS**

Catering	£756.00
General expenses	£71.55
	<u>£827.55</u>

**BRIDGE EVENING**

Receipts	£439.00
Raffle	£140.10
Donations	£38.00
	<u>£617.10</u>
Expenses	£42.73
Prizes	£150.02
	<u>£192.75</u>
	<u>£424.35</u>

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Life	£ 425.00
Annual	£191.00
	<u>£616.00</u>

**DONATIONS**

£65.00

**BANK INTEREST RECEIVED**

£0.00  
Totals £2,271.44

**PRIZE BONDS HELD**

	£700
Income for year	£1,730.74
Expenses for year	£835.35
Net Income	£895.39

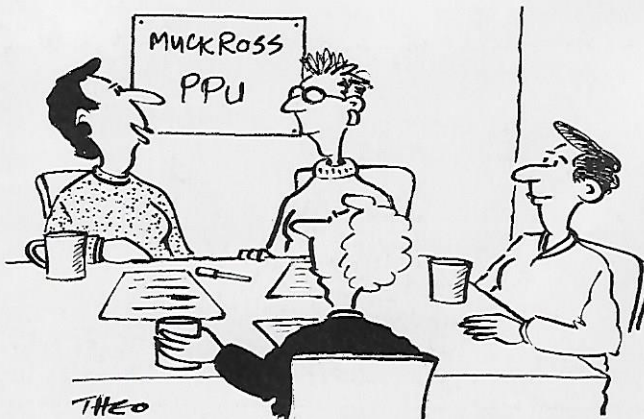
**EXPENDITURE**

Bursary Fund	£300
Altar Cloth	£180
Mass Offerings	£20
Bank Charge	£19.35

Cash on hand	
Current account	£1,149.70
Deposits account	£286.39
Debts outstanding	£0.00

£2,271.44

As at: 16 February 2000



That's decided then - we serve finger food at the re-union this year

## Committee 1999/2000

	Name	Nee	Year Left	Telephone
<b>President</b>	Gay Rodgers		1966	2886079
<b>Treasurer</b>	Deirdre Redmond	Anderson	1979	2834378
<b>Secretary</b>	Therese Birthistle	Hackett	1949	2694167
	Sr. Barnabas			2693018
	Sr. Brenda Mary			2693707
	Katherine Duffy	Fox	1971	0044 1624 612080
	Edie Goff	Ronaldson	1953	2695530
	Claire Johns	Doyle	1974	2981119
	Anne Keane	McIntyre	1955	2887632
	Deirdre McCann	Sherry	1953	2889514
	Fiona Murphy	Walsh	1981	2987986
	Norah Owens	O'Meara	1958	2303063
	Alma Prodahl	McIntyre	1953	2882797



Finger Food Ladies ?

# FROM THE EDITOR

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank all those who contributed to Muckross Mail over the past number of years. Unfortunately some contributors were not acknowledged in some editions and we apologise to those concerned for this omission.

We look forward to receiving articles from you – if we have no articles we'll have no Muckross Mail. If you have an idea for articles for inclusion in future editions please contact a member of the Committee as soon as possible.

Many thanks are due to Billy Bolger and Sheila Hughes, without whose help we could not produce such a professional newsletter. Thanks are also due to Noreen Quinn, who has retired as Editor, for her trojan work down through the years.

We have had a few requests to post overseas Muckross Mails earlier in the year so that arrangements can be made to attend the Candlelight Supper. The Committee has discussed this at length and decided it is not feasible to do so. The Muckross Mail is not ready for printing until Spring each year and as postage has become so expensive we cannot afford to do a separate mailshot for events. However, the Candlelight Supper is ALWAYS held on the last Sunday in April, unless it is a Bank Holiday weekend, as is the case this year. This will not happen again for a couple of years.

We hope this clarifies the matter and will enable you to plan for your special reunion, be it 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, etc years

The Editor



Dun Laoghaire Past Pupils Union has great pleasure in offering hearty congratulations to Muckross P.P.U. celebrating centenary this year. We wish the Union continued success for the future and a wonderful year of celebration.

With every good wish

Yours sincerely

Aine Caffrey

President PPU Dun Laoghaire.

Dear Gay,

On behalf of the Executive of Dominican College Eccles Street Past Pupils' Union I would like to congratulate Dominican Convent, Muckross Park on their centenary.

Over the years many of our Presidents and Past Pupils have attended functions in Muckross Park and thoroughly enjoyed them.

Sincerest good wishes for the next hundred years.

Ba mhaith liom comgáradchas a gabháil libh ó lar Scoláirí Scoil Chaitríona freisin. Bhain muid an taithneamh as gach ócáid a bhí agaibh agus tá súil againn go mbeidh a thuilleadh.

Go néirigh an t-áth libh leis na ceilliúra sa bhlian seo na mílaoise agus guidímíd ráth Dé oraibh.

Le gach deagh ghuidhe,

Ó

Collette Mhic Giolla Eóin,

Uachtarán Iarscoláirí Coláiste San Dominic.