



March 2005

# Muckross Mail

Newsletter of the Muckross Past Pupils Union

## Inside this issue

From the President

School and Past Pupils Updates

Older Wiser and Home

The Big Easy - Life in New Orleans

The Compleat Immigrant

50 Years On - class of 1954

Budapest Report

10 Years already?

Obituaries



Muckross Golf Society 2004 winner Moya Williams (Forde) receiving the Perpetual Trophy from sisters Carmel Keogh (Campbell) and Phyl Kelleher (Campbell) with Valerie Clancy (Barry) 2004 Lady Captain.

## PPU Committee

**President:** Beatrice Doran  
**Vice President:** Valerie Clancy (Barry)  
**Hon. Secretary:** Norah Owens (O'Meara)  
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Felicity Coll (O'Brien)  
Valerie Cox (Fitzpatrick)  
Katherine Duffy (Fox)  
Claire Johns (Doyle)  
Evelyn Kelly  
Gay Rodgers

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Gay Rodgers

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Donnybrook, Dublin 4

Valerie Clancy, 17 Glaunsharoon,  
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Gay Rodgers, 33 Hazel Avenue  
Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

## Forthcoming Events

**Bridge Drive & Lunch:**  
Thursday 24th February 2005 at 9.45 am  
Donnybrook Lawn Tennis Club

**AGM & Annual Dinner:**  
Friday 15th April 2005.  
Elm Park Golf Club 7.15pm (AGM at 6.45pm)

**Combined Dominican Union Mass:**  
Sunday 8th May 2005 at 11.15am at Muckross Park

**Combined Dominican Golf Society:**  
Monday 18th July 2005 in Naas Golf Club  
Contact Mary Breen 087-619 2303 / 01-840 8602

**PPU City Break:**  
Copenhagen: 21st September 2005. See inside for details

**Muckross Golf Society:**  
Thursday 29th September 2005  
Edmondstown Golf Club, Rathfarnham.  
Contact Sheila Nally (Hughes) 01- 494 4886

**PPU Mass in Muckross:**  
1st Sunday of each month (except January, May, June, July & August)



# From the President

It was a great pleasure for me to take over from Valerie Clancy last April as President of the Muckross Past Pupils' Union. I began school at Muckross as a five year old, and remained there until I did my Leaving Certificate at seventeen. Our house on Belmont Avenue overlooked the back field, so Muckross has always been a part of my life.

Muckross has a long and distinguished history in the education of women. Many of us are proud of our Dominican education. We left school as well rounded young women, with a love of learning and of life and of the friends we made while in Muckross. Even today we often recall the great fun we had at school, and how we loved it there. There was always a strong sense of community in the school, and I understand that this continues in Muckross to this very day. This Muckross spirit, as it has been called, is particularly evident whenever past pupils meet. The importance therefore, of the Past Pupils' Union in fostering and continuing the spirit of Muckross and that sense of community cannot be over emphasised.

The Union is not just a vehicle for keeping in touch with other past pupils and in creating an environment for us to meet and network. It also provides a formal channel for past pupils to keep in touch with the school and its activities. Last year for example, we were in the happy position to make a donation of 5,000 for the new all weather hockey pitch.

One of the major events organized by the Past Pupils' Union is the Annual Dinner. Last year we moved back to Donnybrook (Elm Park Golf Club) with a great attendance of one hundred and thirty past pupils present. Over the years there has been a strong tradition of linking back to base with class re-unions at the annual dinner. Last April, we had one group celebrating fifty years since leaving Muckross, another celebrating forty years left, and yet another who were thirty years left. Representing the fifty year group Ann Maher (Smith) entertained us wonderfully with her recollections of Muckross in the 1950s. We have decided to return to Elm Park again this year - do make a note of the date of the Dinner : 15th April 2005. Early booking is advisable. So, get a group of your school friends together and book a table for the Dinner!

Another major event during the year is the annual Bridge Drive and raffle in aid of the Benevolent Fund which provides financial help to past pupils in need. Further details of the Benevolent Fund are given elsewhere in this Newsletter. Donnybrook Tennis Club

is the location for this annual Bridge Drive which is organized by Valerie Clancy (Barry) , Margot Doyle and the Committee of the Union.

A Muckross Golfing Society was set up two years ago with Valerie Clancy (Barry) as our first Captain. Last year, two past pupils, Phyl and Carmel Campbell (now Mrs. Kelleher and Mrs Keogh), very kindly presented a Perpetual Challenge Cup to the Golfing Society. A report on last year's outing to Elm Green Golf Club in Castleknock appears elsewhere in the Newsletter. Our new Captain is Sheila Hughes (Nally) a former Lady Captain of Edmonstown Golf Club where this year's outing will take place on Thursday 29th September 2005.



You will also enjoy reading in our Newsletter about the first weekend trip abroad organized by Valerie Clancy (Barry) to Budapest. Another trip is planned for this year to Copenhagen and details are available elsewhere in the Muckross Mail.

Many of our past pupils take a great interest in our Union, and keep in touch with us via e.mail and via our website ([www.muckrossparkppu.com](http://www.muckrossparkppu.com)). We have received letters and e-mails from past pupils who live abroad and indeed some of them have been very generous by giving major donations to the Benevolent Fund, for which we are most grateful.

We are always looking for interesting contributions to the Muckross Mail. So, if there any of you out there who have literary skills, or have had an interesting and varied life or career, we would love to hear from you. We thought it might be an idea to do a series of profiles on distinguished past pupils so do contact us if you would like to be included.

Muckross PPU hosts the Combined Dominican Union's Mass each year. We also have a monthly Mass on the first Sunday of the month in the school chapel. Members of your family and friends are also welcome to attend with you.

This is your Past Pupils' Union so we are always interested in hearing from you or if you have any suggestions for future events or activities, please contact us by telephone or by e-mail we would love to hear from you!

Beatrice M. Doran  
President  
E.mail [bmdoran@eircom.net](mailto:bmdoran@eircom.net)  
Tel. 087-2431946



# News of Past Pupils

## *We hear that*

Dr. Ruth Barrington is the Chief Executive of the Health Research Board.

Kathleen Brangan (Doyle) lives in Dublin. Her daughter Edel recently qualified as an engineer at UCD.

Phyl and Carmel Campbell presented an antique silver Rose Bowl as a perpetual challenge cup to the Muckross Golfing Society.

Enda Cogan (O'Leary) lives in Brussels and Dublin.

Mary Conway (Bonar) was secretary of Elm Park Ladies Golf section last year.

Eva Doherty teaches Psychology at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Peggy Finnegan (Barry) lives in Dundrum and plays golf at Elm Park Golf Club.

Ruth Flanagan is Cork County Librarian.

Dr. Anne Gormley (O'Sullivan) has retired from teaching Chemistry and lives in Malahide.

Miriam Hardy (Hannon) lives in Brisbane in sunny Australia.

Maureen Hickey (Kenny) works on the administrative staff at UCD.

Sheila Lyons (Hickey) is Lady Captain of Donnybrook Tennis Club.

Brenda McCann (Moore) changed career from medicine and received her Ph.D from Trinity College in the History of Art. She now teaches in the National College of Art in Dublin.

Alison McKenna (Mother Hilary's niece) is an actress and is currently in Fair City.

Joan Murphy (Green) has retired from her administrative post at the Blackrock Clinic.

Lorna Murray (Madigan) is enjoying her retirement studying the History of Art, Italian, French and her garden in Wicklow.

Mary O'Brien (Buckley) and her husband have recently returned from a trip to South America.

Maire O'Carroll (O'Rourke) has been living in Cork for a number of years.

Joy Riordan retired a few years ago from Radiography and lives in Rathmines.

Paula Slattery has returned to Dublin from her posting as Irish Ambassador to Argentina.

Dr. Alice Staunton lectures and carries out research in Clinical Pharmacology at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Orla Whyte (Sr. Vincenzo's niece) lives in Rome and has recently retired from FAO (Food & Agricultural Organization of the United Nations).

# School News

## **School Development Plan**

The big news is that building work on the new school has commenced. The expected completion date is Jan/Feb 2006. Congratulations to all concerned.

## **Head Girl**

Congratulations to Lisa Walsh who was elected as head girl for the year 2004/05.

## **Scholarships 2004**

Caoimhe O'Connor was awarded an Entrance Scholarship to UCD. Caoimhe Daly, Niamh Farrell, Deirdre McElwee and Molly Sweeney-Magee all obtained Entrance Exhibition Awards to Trinity College.

## **Helping in Lourdes**

Eight Muckross girls travelled to Lourdes last September to assist the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage - Louise Hickey, Ciara Murphy, Claire Broe, Hilary Harvey, Sinead Spain, Rachel Murray, Claire Ryan and Caroline Mulligan.

## **Show Biz**

Muckross, Marion College, St Raphael's, Pembroke and Mary's combined to put on "Guys and Dolls" which was held in Marion College in December.

## **Gymnastics**

Congratulations to Sarah Hopkins who competed in the Glasgow Gymnastics Grand Prix taking 7th place on the vault. She also competed in the Northern European Championships recently in Denmark.

## **Horse Riding**

Muckross entered an equestrian team into an event in Ashbourne recently and the girls acquitted themselves very well. They hope to enter a second team next year.

## **Swimming**

Muckross has 2 teams entered this year in the 1st division of the Leinster Swimming Gala. Watch out for results!

## **Hockey**

Hockey appears as popular as ever with 75 students from 1st year playing this year.

*We welcome news of all past and present pupils of Muckross. Please contact us with news by e.mail at [muckrossppu@ireland.com](mailto:muckrossppu@ireland.com).*



# We always knew Muckross girls were forceful!

Orlaith Breathnach was educated in Muckross Park, from 1969 until 1982 after which she trained at Carysfort, Blackrock as a primary teacher. Having taught in Notre Dame School in Churchtown and St. Attracta's in Ballinteer, she emigrated to the Aran Islands and is teaching on Inis Meain, where she is married with a young family.

Inis Meain is a wonderful place to rear children but for Orlaith it had one major disadvantage. There was no secondary school on the island and her children would have to leave home at age twelve to go to boarding school on the mainland or commute by boat to either of the other islands each week.

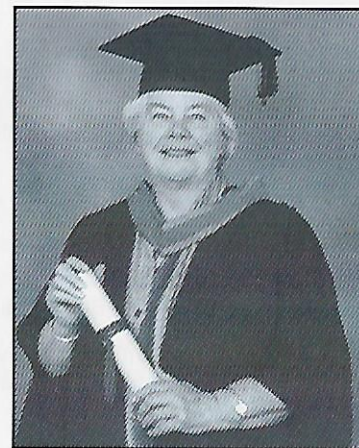
Orlaith put on her thinking-cap (she's a member of Mensa) and decided to do something about the school situation. She wrote a long letter, in Irish, detailing the emotional hardship endured by children and parents due to the lack of educational facilities on Inis Meain; the loss of the Irish language because of its abandonment by those who went to boarding school on the mainland; the danger and uncertainty involved in weekly winter commuting on the Atlantic and the damage being done to island social life because those who left at a young age were less likely to come back and settle on the island. Orlaith sent copies of her letter to all the Irish language supporting politicians, including Eamon O Cuiv who proved very helpful.

Now a lovely new building, Scoil Naomh Eoin, is three years established on Inis Meain!

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## Life begins at....

We are all delighted to hear from Barbara Goff - class of 1959, that Sheila Roe has been awarded a BA Degree, with honours, in Philosophy from Milltown Institute. Sheila took early retirement from her successful career in academic administration and embarked on her studies in Philosophy. She is now commencing a programme of study leading towards a Master's Degree in Philosophy. We offer Sheila our heartfelt congratulations on her great success and wish her every success in the future. Well done Sheila!



Sheila Roe after her conferring in October 2004

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### ANNUAL DINNER

Book a table for your classmates at the Muckross PPU Annual Dinner to be held on 15th April 2005 at Elm Park Golf Club Nutley Lane Donnybrook, Dublin 4.

Tickets €40 each. Bookings by 31st March

All tickets must be paid in advance. Payment is not possible on the night

Contact Margot Doyle 01-288 4590



# Older, Wiser and Home

A recent visit to Sr. Barnabas marked my first visit back to Muckcross in at least 8 years and a very prompt induction to the Muckcross PPU! Perhaps more disturbing than my prolonged absence from my friend Barney is that there is more than a decade between me and my school years in Muckcross. I missed my 10 year reunion in December of 2002 - I was a little distracted with the arrival of my daughter Genevieve (Eve). But by all accounts, the reunion was a well-attended event.

Like many of my peers in 1992, I headed out the doors of Muckcross to warmly embrace the uniform-less, co-ed world of college. While a sizable portion of my year headed off to the glory of Belfield, a handful of us decided to try out luck at Trinity College. There we gradually navigated the Pav, Buttery, Lecky and four life-changing years. Unlike many of my friends, I didn't opt for the Australia route after graduation and instead booked my one-way ticket to Chicago in the States. Yes, it is a Windy City and yes, most of the natives profess to be Irish. Haphazardly, I found my way to the Chicago Board of Trade for 2 \_ manic years working in the Agricultural and Financial Futures pits. The organized chaos that is typical of any Exchange was a superb introduction to the world of work and particularly to the field of finance. The 'toughen up' mentality has served me well over the years.

In 1999, I moved to Ohio with my husband of five years (yikes!) David and joined up with Merrill Lynch. When we were well and truly settled in Cleveland, Ohio, we decided to liven things up a little and embrace a new adventure - sell the house, the cars, put the furniture into storage and move back to Dublin. Such has been the growth and prosperity of Dublin over the last decade, that, in 2004 I was able to transfer home with Merrill Lynch. The country has changed tremendously in my absence of course, but you know it's time to come home when the thoughts of outrageous house prices and unending traffic jams actually make you homesick.

When last minute nerves hit, a good friend sagely advised: 'even if you regret the timing, you will never regret the time at home'. Well fortunately, the timing has worked well and 12 months on, I can't actually remember living anywhere else. I have been fortunate to have friends that have always generously kept in touch - Suzanne Walsh is now Dr. Suzanne; Anne-Marie Fagan is now a qualified accountant and the happy Mrs. Murray; Jane O'Doherty is monitoring our banking sector with IFSRA; Louise Kelly is a Director of Robert Walters, Martina Keane topped Masters in Accountancy with three years at Arthur Andersen for her qualification. My sister Aindri (1990 Muckcross) is mother of two; and her friend Susan Levins is mother of one while Alison Cosgrave has two boys. However, I am still waiting patiently for some of my girls to join me in motherhood!

Now that my daughter is safely signed up for Muckcross in 2015 (scary but true!), I look forward to a less hectic 2005 and hopefully meeting up with more of the class of 1992 through the PPU.

**Carla Sload (Mugan)**  
Leaving Cert 1992

// When last minute nerves hit, a good friend sagely advised: 'even if you regret the timing, you will never regret the time at home'. //

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## Rich Delights of Vienna for Three '69ers



L-r Mary Deane and Valerie Fitzpatrick

During the month of January last three old school friends meet up with a fourth in the magnificent city of Vienna, long-time home to Eudes Hand (Brophy) and her husband Sean. Classmates Valerie Cox (Fitzpatrick) and Mary Buckley (Deane) travelled from Dublin while Leesha Evans (Gaffney) flew in from the UK. All finally met on the right bank of the Blue Danube realizing the trip that was years in the planning. That day this city of music, home of Strauss and Mozart, was covered in a blanket of snow. One of the most vivid memories of the visit was being able to climb up into the uppermost dome of the magnificent Karlskirche, (rebuilt after the Turkish siege of 1683) on special scaffolding (only possible due to renovations) and enjoy a magnificent view of the baroque city. Memorable as much for the incredible panorama as for a treat not granted to every visitor to Vienna.

Further pleasure awaited on the Sunday morning in the form of a Joseph Haydn sung mass in the Jesuitenkirche. The exterior of this church is quite plain but inside is ornate and truly magnificent. This majesty added to the incredible music and melodious voices of the choir. By contrast the afternoon was spent doing the "Kaffee und Kuchen" treat in a typical Viennese coffee shop while watching the skaters in the square at the Rathaus.

Many other tastes and views of Vienna were much enjoyed by the classmates of 1969. They will long remember the kind generosity of their hosts who gave them a full appreciation of this cosmopolitan and vibrant city. Eudes and Sean, having recently moved to New York, are now preparing themselves for a future visit from the travelling trio. Thanks again Eudes and Sean. See you soon....

Mary Buckley (Deane)



# 50 Years On: The Class of '54

**B**efore the evening of our very special re-union is completely dimmed in our memory, we thought it incumbent on us to put a few words on paper about our celebration.

It is actually very difficult to think about being fifty years left school. What have we all done in those years- how they have flown by etc, but the really really (as the young people say!!) wonderful thing is that we were able to get ten of our class together for THE EVENT. In those distant years, the classes were very small. There were only about 16 of us in our Leaving Cert year, so I reckon getting ten together wasn't too bad at all. Actually there is a hard core of six of us who have kept in touch all through the years and that in itself has been a thoroughly great experience. We had hoped to have a larger number, but strange as it may seem several of our Dublin Jackeen classmates have abandoned the Big Smoke and gone to pastures green(er??) and are now living that bit too far away to come up for the evening (though it has to be said, one of our class - Lola Lambert - did travel from San Francisco!!). However, I think we would all agree that we had QUALITY, if not QUANTITY on the evening. We shared some great stories at our table of times gone by in Muckross and later on moving about amongst other tables hearing other chit-chat. There is no doubt about it but I still feel that Muckross was a very special school and somehow or other gave us all a great esprit-de-corps, and it is always a pleasure to bump into someone from Muckross - wherever it may be (if of course we are still recognizable!!).

The Committee did wonderful work for the evening - our table was splendid - with a big golden balloon floating overhead with a big 50 on it - all making us feel very special indeed - and a very big THANK-YOU to everyone concerned for the effort put in always.

Anne Maher (Smith)

It was a pleasure to attend the Annual Dinner 2004 to celebrate fifty years since leaving Muckross. As I looked around I saw many others also celebrating their own various milestones. We wonder where the years went but it's comforting to know that those present may one day take our place at the table.

Though I have spent more than 40 years in the U.S. I still have a deep attachment to Dublin and I value the strong friendships I made in Muckross. With frequent travel and e-mail I often feel I have a foot in both worlds.

Lola Bugatto (Lambert)

The Annual Dinner held on 30th April in Elm Park Golf Club was a great success, especially for the class of '54. Fifty years left school and most of us still living - if not hale, certainly hearty! It was an evening, as such evenings tend to be, of "Remember this?" or "Will you ever forget that?" and much girlish giggling.

For those of us who started as 'Low Babies' we remembered with particular affection Mother Benvenuta (Connolly) who went to Stellenbosch, never returned and died there at a great age. Mother Benvenuta had a very strict attitude to the telling of the truth and honesty in its many guises. Sister Anna taught us Art which I think she enjoyed as much as we did.

At Senior School level Sister Cecelia taught some of us to sing. In my case she failed miserably! How our voices must have grated on her sensitive ears. She also played the piano for our weekly dancing classes with Miss Kane.

We used to urge Miss Kane to teach us the rumba, samba and tango instead of the more staid waltz and two-step. Poor Sister Cecelia did not approve of these racier rhythms but she never-the-less played gamely on.

Sister Patrick took us on outings to the Museum and encouraged us to read the National Geographic. How enlightened was the education we received from the Dominicans in those long ago days.

Sister Vincenzo - had a great love of Italy and the Italian painters. I think the Fra Angelico corridor between the junior and senior schools was her particular fancy. Sister Vincenzo taught some of us Irish and History. I had Miss Hanly for Irish. Her gown went on fire one day when, during break between one class and the next, she had not sufficiently stubbed out her cigarette!! We enjoyed that little diversion immensely!

Who remembers Sister Brendan from Luxemburg? She taught a few of us French. None of us could figure out how we were chosen from the rest of the class. We were no better or no worse than the others. Both Miss Hanly and Sister Brendan suited my particular approach to school. I needed a beady-eye kept on me to ensure that I did some work.

How could I finish without mentioning dear Mother Hilary. She was Mistress of Studies and Prioress while we were in fifth and sixth year. Such a gentle, broadminded soul to whom so many girls owe a deep debt of gratitude for her kindness and counselling. May the Lord have mercy on the souls of these great ladies.

We thankfully still have Sister Barnabas among us.



'Barney' turns up to the monthly Past Pupils' Mass with old photos of long forgotten faces to be identified. I think the Past Pupils' Union would have faded years ago were it not for the sisters of Muckross, but most particularly Sister Barnabas.

Muireann Hourihane (Ni Dhunlaing)

Editor:

Anne Maher celebrated a fifty year reunion at the Annual Dinner with Muireann Hourihane (Ni Dhulaing), Anne Maher (Smith), Marie Weavers (Adair), Nora Leahy, Marjorie Parker (MacAuley), Joy Campbell (Murphy), Peggy Curran (Hickey), Claire McGlynn (Ringrose) and Lola Bugatto (Lambert) who came all the way from San Francisco.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

In an effort to cut down on administration we would greatly appreciate if those who pay by cheque each year could switch to a standing order. This would remove the necessity of sending out reminders. A Standing Order Form is enclosed with the magazine.

Your subscriptions help with all the costs involved in the production of the Muckross Mail and towards the Benevolent Fund and your support is greatly appreciated.


The Annual Subscription is €15 with a reduced rate of €10 for over 60s. Please amend your existing standing order in line with the current amounts if necessary.

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## Stay in touch by e-mail!

The PPU has an email address, [muckrossppu@ireland.com](mailto:muckrossppu@ireland.com) and we would love to hear from you. If you are in touch with other Muckross girls perhaps you would be good enough let us have their email address. So all of you out there please email us so we can add you to our address book. Also let us know if you have changed your address recently. That way if there is news about the Union or the school we can update you quickly. Likewise if you have news for us that we can put in the Muckross Mail we will be delighted to hear from you.



# AGM and Nominations for the 2005/06 Committee

The AGM takes place prior to the Annual Dinner in Elm Park Golf Club, Donnybrook. As a number of the present Committee will be stepping down at the AGM we are looking for nominations or PPU members to volunteer to join the new Committee. We have had quite a few of the more recent past pupils join the Union in the last couple of years and we would like to see them represented on the Committee to bring new ideas to the PPU.

The Committee only meet a few times a year and the main functions are to organise the Muckross Mail, the Annual Dinner and AGM, Bridge morning and usually one other event. So as you see it will not eat into much of your time! If you are interested please contact Beatrice Doran on 087-243 1946 or Gay Rodgers on 087-638 3683 prior to the AGM or email [muckrossppu@ireland.com](mailto:muckrossppu@ireland.com)

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## PPU Monthly Mass

The monthly PPU Mass (see Forthcoming Events for times and dates) is not restricted to Past Pupils as some of you think. Bring along your husbands, children, boyfriends, anyone! Mass in the chapel is followed by tea/coffee and biscuits and hopefully some news and gossip!

On the second Sunday in May each year, which falls on the 8th May this year, the Combined Dominican Union Mass takes place in Muckross at 11.15am. If you have friends who went to Cabra, Dun Laoghaire, Eccles Street, Sion Hill, Sutton or Wicklow or any other Dominican school tell them about it and bring them along too.

The Mass on the 1st Sunday on November is dedicated to all deceased past pupils. If there is anyone whose names you would like to be read out do let us know. Please do not blame the committee if a name is omitted - we don't know unless we are advised.



L-r Attending the 2004 Annual Dinner were Sheila Cosgrove (Forde), Phyl Kelleher (Campbell), Joan Murphy (Greene) and Patricia O'Reilly (Dane).



## 2004 RAFFLE RESULTS

The raffle took place at the Muckross Annual Dinner on 30th April 2004 in Elm Park Golf Club. Congratulations to the following winners:

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1st Prize | Mid-week break for 2 at Knockranny House Hotel, Westport<br>Winner: Mary Murphy (Murray) |
| 2nd Prize | Dinner for 6 from Conaty's Catering<br>Winner: Cynthia O'Dunlaing (Gaffney)              |
| 3rd Prize | 1 year Subscription to "Irish Garden" Magazine<br>Winner: Maeve Kenny ( Brennan)         |
| 4th Prize | 1 year Subscription to "History Ireland" Magazine<br>Winner: Oonagh Hayes (O'Donnell)    |
| 5th Prize | Lunch for 2 in Rolys Bistro, Ballsbridge<br>Winner: Rachel Mulvaney, Head Girl 6th Year  |

Sponsors: Conaty's Catering, Irish Garden & History Ireland Publishers.

# Muckross Golf Society

The second outing of the Muckross Golf Society took place at Elm Green Golf Club, Castleknock on 30th September 2004. Obviously word had spread from last year and we were delighted that we had thirty-one competitors, including three visitors, a big increase on 2003. Many clubs were represented including one in Canada! Oonagh Whelan, who was here on holidays from Canada, heard about the event and was warmly welcomed by all the local past pupils. We gather Oonagh is arranging her next holidays to coincide with the 2005 outing!

We would like to thank Phyl and Carmel Campbell who presented the Golf Society with a lovely antique silver rose bowl as our Perpetual Trophy. It was a most thoughtful and generous gift and we are most appreciative of it. We would also like to thank Eadaoin Maher and Beatrice Doran who sponsored the prizes for 2nd and 3rd place and Mary O'Brien who sponsored the prizes for the 1st Nine and 2nd Nine.

Once again the weather was excellent and all enjoyed the course. Only 1 point separated the top 3 places and the results are as follows:

1st Moya Williams (Forde), 2nd Darina Marshall (O'Dwyer), 3rd Helen Shortall (Browne)

1st Nine: Beatrice Doran ; 2nd Nine: Evelyn O'Rourke (Foran)

Visitors Prize went to Rita Garvey (Dun Laoghaire)

Nearest the hole on the 5th went to Phyl Kelleher (Campbell)

Longest Drive on the 18th went to Maeve King (Browne)

Well done to the class of 1963 who had five members playing. Can you beat that this year? We hope to see many more of you at the next outing on 29th September 2005 - bring a friend if you wish. This year the venue will be Edmondstown Golf Club, thanks to Sheila Hughes (Nally) a former Lady Captain of Edmondstown and this years Captain of the Muckross Golf Society.

If you have any queries about the golf contact Sheila Hughes on 01-494 4886 or any member of the PPU committee.





# From Dublin Ireland, to Dublin Street in the Big Easy.

**T**hey call it the big Easy for a good reason. Nobody here lives by the clock - life passes at a slow pace. Indeed, life here in New Orleans reminds me in many ways of my childhood days growing up in Dublin, although the long hot humid summers and the Mardi Gras celebrations bring me back to reality.

I moved to New Orleans five years ago with my husband after many years in New York. At first, it seemed like I had immigrated all over again as there were very few Irish people and the New Orleans culture was unlike anything we had experienced before. But then we were introduced to the "southern hospitality" I had so often heard about. As a young Irish couple, miles from home, many people opened their homes to us and went out of their way to extend a warm welcome to us.

Over time we settled in to the New Orleans culture and began to appreciate the uniqueness of its traditions and cultures. During the long summer months, it seems the city hibernates. People vacation in masses to the nearby Florida panhandle with miles and miles of beautiful white sandy beaches. All outdoor activities are severely limited to evening hours and the only relief can be found while sipping a cool mint julep in one of the many hidden courtyards in the French Quarter.

It is often said that New Orleans has only two seasons, winter and summer and as the cooler weather approaches, the city bounces back to life with outdoor festivals and parties for any occasion. Halloween is a big holiday with adults and children alike appearing in costume in parades throughout the French Quarter. Crawfish is the seasonal food of choice along with stuffed Okra and Creole tomatoes in abundance.

After Thanksgiving, the city prepares for Christmas. City Park is transformed into a holiday wonderland, its ancient oak trees aglow with massive ornaments and sparkling lights. Children's Santa tea parties are held daily in the Fairmont and Ritz Carlton hotels. There are nightly concerts held in the St. Louis Cathedral in the French Quarter and many restaurants serve the traditional Reveillon menu - a Creole tradition dating back almost 200 years. Bonfires are lit along the levy to celebrate the Creoles' and Cajuns' tradition to light the way for Papa Noel.

After a brief respite, Mardi Gras rolls along. Aptly named the largest party in the world, it is a two-week celebration with parades every night. Actually, the carnival season begins January 6 (Twelfth Night), with local carnival organizations holding balls almost every night until Mardi Gras. Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday," and was started by the French. "Fat Tuesday" received its name by the custom of parading a fat ox through the streets of Paris on Shrove Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday and Mardi Gras day fall on the same day. Wednesday and Good Fridays are kept as Lenten fast in the west. The two weeks before Mardi Gras Day are filled with parades both day and night, climaxing on Mardi Gras Day with the Rex parade. Carnival organizations in New Orleans are called Krewes. The First Krewe was called the "Mystick Krewe of Comus", which began in 1857. There are many traditions and customs accompanying Mardi

Gras and carnival season. One of these is the custom of throws. Collecting these throws has become a major hobby. Another tradition is the wearing of masks. This tradition was started back in the ninth and tenth century when peasants would travel from farm to farm to beg for food. The mask protected their identity and dignity. Street masking became common in 1835 as an excuse to participate in the merry making of the day. New Orleans Mardi Gras celebrants take great pleasure in hiding their identity!

Every year a king and queen are chosen for the festivities. "The Twelfth Night Revellers", a New Orleans Krewe, uses the king cake tradition to choose their queen and her court. The artificial king cake holds twelve drawers. Eleven drawers have silver beans in them and the twelfth holds a gold one. The lucky girl choosing the drawer with the gold bean is crowned queen, while the girls choosing the drawers with the silver beans serve as her court. The Cajun king cake contains a red bean, symbolizing planting and harvesting. The man getting the slice of cake containing the bean is king for the day (or week). The final tradition is the balls. Only members of the Krewes can attend these lavish balls. The participants of Mardi Gras who are not invited to the balls have a celebration of their own on the streets of New Orleans. The street parties are what we most often read or see pictures of in relation to Mardi Gras. It is indeed one of the most unique celebrations in the world. It is certainly worth visiting New Orleans to experience the Mardi Gras festivities.

In true New Orleans style, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated by a large parade of men dressed in tuxedos marching along St. Charles Avenue. They offer green flowers in exchange for a kiss on the cheek, often claiming more than one kiss! This is followed by a large parade of Irish floats - however the throws of choice are cabbages, yes green cabbages.

Jazz Festival falls in late April and for music lovers it is perhaps one of the best festivals in the world. The festival is held in the local Fair Grounds and comprises of multiple stages featuring a wide variety of indigenous music styles, food booths of Louisiana cuisine, and arts and crafts booths, along with an evening concert series. Bob Dylan, Ella Fitzgerald, Santana, Sarah Vaughan, Paul Simon, Jimmy Buffett, B.B. King, Dave Matthews Band, Patti LaBelle, Tito Puente, the Allman Brothers Band, Joni Mitchell, Al Green, Ray Vaughan, Willie Nelson, The Temptations, Morrison, Erykah Badu, Dave Brubeck, Gladys Knight, Youssou N'Dour and many, many others have played there. For all you music lovers it is a great festival although bring your sun hat, umbrella, chair and sunscreen.

Again, summertime rolls around and all is quiet as once again we recharge our batteries for another year.

Karen McGauran D'Arcy  
New Orleans



# The Compleat Immigrant: O Canada, eh?

Dear Muckross Luminaries,

Soon after I arrived in Canada, I visited my relatives in Boston. I asked my Uncle Thomas how long he had lived in the U.S.A. His reply of thirty years left me regarding him as a very old person and so far removed from hearth, home and native land. It has been thirty-two years since I arrived in Toronto, Canada and it feels like only yesterday that my journey began and I don't really feel old!

In the 25th anniversary of our collective 1972 arrival, a group of Celtic and Anglo-Saxon expatriates attempted to capture the significant events and ruminations of our time well spent together in Canada. Another past pupil, Paul Doyle, (brother of Margot, Gay and Kathleen) coordinated the technical compilation of the written contributions. Based loosely on the first novel, *The Compleat Angler*, we wrote 'The Compleat Immigrant: Or the Collected Recollections Being a Discourse of Parties, Weddings, Food, Calamities, Joy, Births and Debauchery Not Unworthy the Perusal'. The prevailing theme of this opus was that Canada offered us an abundance of opportunity to do, develop and think anything we wanted! This included the formation of the Canadian Chapter of the Royal Order of the Never Marrieds. Remember that expression by our parents and ancestors when sharing gossip of family and friends, 'She was a lovely girl ... (lowering of voice) ... but she never married'? Our group started out on our adventure using this N.M. connection to consolidate the enjoyment of birthdays, marriages, baby arrivals and anything else worthy of the celebration.

This illustrious group has been nothing less than dramatic. With the assistance of two other N.M. thespians, I helped found a community theatre called Theatre Arc. The yearly Gilbert and Sullivan operettas at Muckross were great foundations and training for this new venture. For ten years our multi-national thespians drew on their raw talent and a heritage rooted in the myths of Cuchulain, the tales of Chaucer and the glory that was Robert the Bruce. Our brush with community fame never went to our heads! We all remained 'normal' and grounded in a reality borne out of our mostly Celtic heritage. None sought the glow of centre-stage to excess or developed altitude problems! We looked for fun in all the right places, had a finely honed sense of the ridiculous and welcomed the camaraderie of the Canadian experience. As we proceeded on the road of life and pursued the extended roles of the N.M.s (New Mortgages, New Marriages, New Mothers.....), demands on our time made it impossible to commit to our continued dramatic involvement. The curtains closed on Theatre Arc as we drowned the profits of the group with quantum magna of Dom Perignon!

The education system allowed me to continue my career as a teacher and end it as a school principal in a variety of elementary schools in and around Toronto. Retirement became effective in June 2002 and life has never been

better. After publicly declaring my retirement plans to become involved in political activism, my opportunities in this area have been confined to sorting out the many issues of my condominium apartment home as President of the Board of Directors!

Retirement times are outstanding, allowing me all the time to enjoy the activities I had squeezed into my working days. Thanks to Mother Cecilia and those Gregorian Chant lessons, singing the Messiah with the Toronto Choral Society is a piece of cake! Fearing atrophy of a maturing brain and never having played card games, I launched myself into a career of Bridge that is proving to be both fascinating and challenging. Round this all out with art classes, digital photography and a smattering of golf and you have a pretty power-packed retirement life.

I didn't think that travel would feature largely on my horizon but this year I had the opportunity to visit the destination of my dreams. Sparked by the history curriculum for the Leaving Certificate of 1966, my interest in visiting Russia was huge. The days in Moscow, the cruise up the Volga and a stay in St. Petersburg surpassed expectations. What sent it over the top was the get-together with Mary Long (Kennedy), class of '66, with whom I shared a desk beginning with Sister Una's second form class. (I read about Mary living in Moscow in last year's Muckross Mail!). As we chatted over morning coffee in the Moscow Aerostar, we caught up on the news of the past 38 years since we last met. Those names came flashing back: Barney, Paddy, Inno, Vin, Louis D, Franny.....! My next big trip will take place in 2006 when I take a group tour to Singapore, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand. I wonder if I will meet up with some more Muckross alumnae!

Slan libh agus go 'Louis D' aguibh,

Veronica Wynne  
Leaving Cert 1966



L-r Mary Long and Veronica Wynne having breakfast in Moscow after 38 years.

VISIT US AT [www.muckrossparkppu.com](http://www.muckrossparkppu.com)



# THE PPU BENEVOLENT FUND

A number of past pupils recently told us that they didn't know we had a Benevolent Fund. So here is a brief history. The Benevolent Fund came into being at the end of the 1970's. The 1977-79 PPU President Deirdre McCann and her committee at that time felt that the Past Pupils' Union should "look after its own" at a time when there were a lot of job losses and the economic outlook was poor.

The aim of the Fund is to provide help to past pupils in need. This has always been done on a strictly confidential basis. At the start Sister Louis Dominic administered the Fund and for the last number of years Sister Barnabas together with the President and Hon. Treasurer has done this job. At no time is the PPU committee aware of to whom financial help is given. This is done completely at

the discretion the Fund administrators.

Fund raising events for the Benevolent Fund include the Bridge Drive and the Annual Raffle. So please give generously to the Benevolent Fund by sending your donation to Sister Barnabas O.P. One past pupil made a very generous donation to the Benevolent Fund last year and for that we are most appreciative.

We would like to thank Sisters Louis D and Barney (to use their more familiar names!) and the members of the Union for their support over the years.

## PPU City Break To Copenhagen

The Muckross Past Pupils' Union trip to Copenhagen will depart on Wednesday 21st September and return on Saturday 24th September. The cost, including flights, 3 nights bed and breakfast in a three star centre city hotel and a city tour will be €430 + €68.81 taxes (based on 20 people travelling).

Bookings must be made **before the 1st June** directly with Toolin Travel, Rathfarnham.

Contact Sarah Hughes Tel. No. 01- 492 0800 and quote Muckross PPU trip ref. 901 3898

## Muckross Past Pupils' Tour to Budapest



The Muckross girls and boys on tour in Budapest

Muckross Participants: Deirdre McCann (Sherry) Ciara McCann, Brigid Bruce (Sherry) Coreen Dennis, Ann Simmington, Ita Lawlor, (Ganly) Felicity Coll (O'Brien) Catherine Walsh (Smyth).

Our friends: Fintan Clancy, Sheila and David Horkan, Simone Dallaghan, Betty de Mangeat and Mary Kelly.

When I was President of the Past Pupils' Union last year, I thought it was time for us to take a trip abroad. We talked about it at the PPU Committee and agreed that we would honour Budapest with our presence, so we arrived there at the end of September 2004.

Muckross "gals" and some friends, met at Dublin Airport at 6.00 a.m. It was a great relief to find that all had the necessary documentation with them - they say a good start is half the battle! All went well until Ita Lawlor's (Ganly) bag failed to show on the luggage carousel, however, after

some time it came through to the cheers of us all!

We arrived at the Hotel and settled down to get to know each other and chat about our plans and share information about our four-day break in Budapest. The planned half-day tour of Budapest was enthralling, as our guide Sophie was superb. Felicity Coll's (O'Brien) account of the trip will give you a real taste of our experiences, so I will not go into any great detail.

The highlight of the trip was our night at the opera. Not alone is La Boheme one of my favourite operas, but to experience it in the most magnificent surrounding was quite wonderful. Thanks to Felicity for booking the tickets online at the great cost of 3.75 each!

In true Muckross fashion, everybody mixed and got on well together during our trip even if some of them almost got lost - they knew the chain name of the Hotel but did not know its exact name so they were glad to meet up with the rest of us in our taxi!

A reunion was held in November of all those who were in Budapest, and we enjoyed seeing all the photos and reliving the memories, not the least the Hungarian night when one mother and daughter were serenaded by a charming violinist!

A big thanks you to all who participated in the trip to Budapest and in particular for all the togetherness and happy atmosphere you all created.

Valerie Clancy (Barry)



## ***And another account of the trip from Felicity Coll (O'Brien)***

Our trip to Budapest was like a late school trip. Not for us ski trips and cultural trips to Paris or family holidays to far-flung places. The price of air travel when we were young was prohibitive for most of us. The furthest I got was by boat to London and Stratford in 5th Year in 1965 where we saw the Merchant of Venice. So this trip was us making up for the lost travel years!

Budapest is made up of two towns, Buda and Pest. We began our sight seeing with a tour of the city, which was a great success. Heroes Square is most impressive. It is surrounded by the Museum of Fine Arts and by the Palace of Art. Our superb guide took us to the Buda side of the river as well, where we visited the palace and also had a welcome cup of tea. One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to the Matyas church. Another day we had a delightful boat trip to Elizabeth Island where we had time for a glass of wine and the opportunity to recover from a two hour walk. We saw many of the beautiful sights on the Pest side of the river as well. The next day some of us went to the Museum of Applied Arts which is an amazing building with a wonderful oriental green and gold dome, which we had spotted on our way from the airport.

Eating out in Budapest was really wonderful and we dined in a number of the local restaurants including one with wonderful Hungarian music where we were serenaded by a solo violinist! Our visit to the Opera was another

highlight. La Boheme lived up to everyone's expectations with a marvellous performance in a superb setting.

On our last day we attended a sung mass in St. Isteven's Cathedral and some of us went for a walk and had a last visit to the Museum of Fine Arts. Lunch in an outdoor restaurant overlooking the lake in the park was our last meal in Budapest, after which, we headed for the hotel and then to the airport for our homeward journey.

Many many thanks to Valerie Clancy (Barry) for organizing our trip to Budapest. We look forward to seeing more of you with us when we go to Copenhagen in September 2005.



L-r Ciara McCann and Brighid Bruce hitting the right note in Budapest

# **The Class of 1974 Celebrated at the Annual Dinner**

The 30 year reunion came about after Ann McKeever contacted the Muckross PPU Website. As a result a very memorable evening was enjoyed by Teresa Walsh, Helen McCloskey, Mary Fitzpatrick, Patricia Delaney, Suzanne Dempsey, Claire Butler, Clare Breslin, Claire Forkin, Marie Therese Joy, Mairead O'Keeffe, Olivia Browne, Noelle O'Donovan, Eithne Roycroft, Georgina Parkinson, Aoife Curran, Ann McKeever and Claire Doyle.



L-r Among the class of 1974 celebrating 30 years left at the Annual Dinner were Claire Doyle and Georgina Parkinson.



L-r Celebrating 30 years left at the Annual Dinner were Claire Butler, Suzanne Dempsey, Claire Breslin, Eleanor Dempsey and Aoife Curran.



# It Can't Be Ten Years Already!

"So, are you looking forward to the reunion?"

"Eh... reunion?"

"Yeah, it's going to be great. All of us back together, ten years later."

"Yeah, yeah, it will be. I suppose I am."

This conversation took place mid flight from Rome to Dublin, Christmas 2002. I was flying home from Italy on an Aer Lingus flight and bumped into Lisa O'Malley who was working with the airline. The reunion of the Muckross class of 1994 wouldn't be for another eighteen months, but already, it was being hotly anticipated. We had a great chat and discovered that after all these years, we had very similar interests. In addition to working for Aer Lingus, Lisa was presenting a radio programme on a local station and I was studying film.

Two years later the time had finally come. Emails were circulated looking for contact details of the girls the organisers, Nicola McGlade, Denise Lynch and Shelly McClafferty had lost touch with. Responses were great. People were looking forward to it and keen to help out.

I'd stayed in touch with about five of the girls from the year and had lost touch with some of those I'd spent most of my time hanging out with while in school, the ones I'd swapped notes, gossip and Mrs Lynch's maths class with (Gosh, those days seem so long ago now). I was looking forward to catching up with them and seeing what people were up to.

November 6th finally arrived. Nicola had been in touch to see who wanted to start the evening with a visit to the Muckross grounds and chapel. Some of us passed, not quite ready to revisit so many memories at once and opted to meet later at the Burlington Hotel.

Claire McVeigh had a few of us around at her place first and after a few glasses of vino, we made our way to the hotel. Outside, we braced ourselves, but when we entered the hotel, there was a palpable excitement in the air. Warm

greetings, hugs and kisses from organisers, Nicola, Denise and Shelly and a few moments of "ohmigod" embarrassment as people recognised each other but couldn't for that split second recall the other's name. If anyone was annoyed by this they didn't show it. There was too much goodwill towards all who'd braved the cold November air and made it along. Everyone looked great. It was nice to see how we'd changed, some of us shy, unwitting seventeen and eighteen year olds when we'd left Muckross and now, self assured, well groomed young women who'd learnt that more make up doesn't always mean better makeup!

Halfway through the evening, the champagne flutes were whipped out and it was the most cynical of our pals who raised her glass the highest to the toast which was made to the class of 1994. (She'll remain nameless as, interestingly (!), she was also the most reluctant of us to attend the reunion!!)

It wasn't long before the bubbles kicked in, the earlier awkwardness replaced by free flowing banter and the chief organiser, Nicola was emboldened enough to don the green skirt and geansaí for a quick dance and photo!

When the bar closed, the hardcore hit Club Annabelle's while the rest of us tried to slink out into the night gracefully but not before catching the cuter-than-you'd-expect-in-the-flesh, Brian McFadden, give a solo performance on the lobby's grand piano. Emma couldn't help noticing that he was accompanied by a young blonde who bore a striking resemblance to his soon to be ex-wife, Kerry. He was also flanked by that other former boy band star, Ronan Keating, among others. And they say Renards is where you go to catch the celebs! Those of us with cameras clamoured to get a good shot... and finally slunk out, happy with how the evening had gone.

Doireann Gillan  
Leaving Cert 1994

## Calling the Classes of 1960, 1965, 1985 and 1995

Class reunions are being organised to take place at the Annual Dinner on 15th April.

Class of 1960 (45th Anniversary) - contact Derval Reynolds (Demery) on 01-287 4071

Class of 1965 (40th Anniversary) - contact Maeve Kenny (Brennan) 01-288 6195,  
Philo Butler (Fisher) 01-450 9132  
or Pat Williams (Smyth) on 01- 456 2413

Class of 1985 (20th Anniversary) - contact Aisling Clarke on 01-278 0062

Class of 1995 (10th Anniversary) - contact Louisa Coffey on 087-299 5530

Please note that places at the dinner are limited and **early booking and advance payment** are advised.  
We will do our best to accommodate group bookings.



# From The Editor

We have broken a record and this year have produced the biggest edition of Muckross Mail yet! On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank all those who contributed this year. Without articles and updates from our past pupils we would have no Muckross Mail. YOU produce the Muckross Mail so keep writing!

Our thanks to Slevin Group for arranging design, layout and printing.

As you see from this edition Muckross girls have travelled far and wide. In previous issues we heard about life in the Punjab and Moscow, now we will all want a PPU trip to New Orleans for Mardi Gras!


We are ready to receive material for the 2006 edition. If you live somewhere interesting, live locally, want to advertise, tell us about your fabulous career, share some news, arrange a reunion, contact us now.

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# Obituary

## Sister Hilary O'Neill O.P.

Last year 2004 was a sad time for Muckross, for we lost two very special people: Sr. Meabh and Sr. Hilary. Sad for Muckross, and indeed for most of us, a time for loving nostalgic recollection of happy, happy years. Alas "from love's shining circle the gems drop away".

Sr. M. Hilary, nee Elizabeth O'Neill and (subsequently a beloved Auntie Betty) was born in Banteer, Co. Cork in 1908. Daughter of a farmer, she never lost her common-sense view of the world in general, and mankind in particular, and could temper this common sense with kindly humour. Elizabeth went to school in Eccles Street, and then graduated with a BA (Hons.) in English and History. She made her profession in the Dominican Novitiate, Cabra, in 1932, and spent some time teaching in Dun Laoghaire (where her sister Margaret, was at school) before coming to Muckross in the early nineteen-forties. She was Prioress from 1960-66 and subsequently became Principal of St. Mary's Teacher Training College, Belfast. On her return to Dublin, she became a General Counsellor of the Dominican order, and resided again in Dun Laoghaire. From 1974-78 Sr. Hilary was Prioress of the newly amalgamated Dominican Sisters in Taylor's Hill, Galway (hitherto enclosed contemplatives). In 1982 she returned to Muckross as a Regional Counsellor of the Dominicans, and here was "home" until 2004.

Each of us who had the distinct privilege and pleasure of being taught by Sr. Hilary will have a special, delightful memory of her. All of us can well vouch for being shown the stars from our gutter of childhood's un-knowing. As a

teacher, and educator she was superb, and any necessary chiding was borne in the knowledge that she cared for us as persons. In the Dominican tradition, with the other good teachers with which Muckross was blessed, we came to look for and revere Truth as the basis of our lives. Trust was the very benchmark of our dealings with others, our relationships. She lifted the eyes of our minds to see beyond the word, to the meaning. And, thro' all the book-learning shone her deep spirituality, which, no doubt, sustained her through testing times, such as the repercussions of Vatican II.

In her (active!) retirement, she loved to travel, and visited South Africa, Argentina, the Middle East, and indeed spent some time in Lisbon as a Dominican Counsellor, getting to know and love Portugal and the Portuguese.

Of latter years, in her eighties and nineties, she still showed unflagging interest in all around her, and though getting tired at last, our beloved guide, philosopher and friend, remained in full command of all faculties. Her dear good soul returned peacefully to Paradise to walk among the Blest, on September 13 2004.

*"Ni crioch ach ath-phas".*

Celia Bruen (Dowling)



**Editor:** The following is the oration given by Beatrice Doran at the recent funeral Mass of Sister

**Sister Vincenzo (Sr. Meabh Ni Cleirigh)**

With the death of Sr. Meabh I have lost a very dear friend. Like hundreds of other Muckcross girls, Sr. Meabh or Vin, as she was affectionately known to us all had a big influence on my life. Her devotion to Muckcross, its pupils, its history and traditions are well known to you all. Sr. Meabh is one of our most distinguished past pupils. She was always proud of being a Dominican and was an enthusiastic follower of St. Dominic, St Catherine of Siena and St. Vincent Ferrar. But she never forgot that she was a Muckcross girl, and as a fellow past pupil, I was proud to have her sitting next to me at the Past Pupils' annual dinner in Elm Park Golf Club, earlier this year.

The one word I would always associate with Sr. Meabh is enthusiasm. I have never met anyone with such enthusiasm and joie de vivre for life, for the Irish language, for history, for art, for Muckcross and of course for Italy. Her love of her native language was legendary. Her way of teaching history was quite unique. She was a storyteller, and to this day I can clearly hear her waxing eloquently about Michael Angelo and the Sistine Chapel. Padraig Pearse was her hero, and only a few years ago I spent an afternoon with her at St. Enda's in Rathfarnham, where I had a quick revision course in 1916 and all that! But above all, Meabh was great fun!

As Mistress of Schools, Sr. Meabh commanded respect and awe from us all. As our Irish teacher she encouraged us to spend a month in the Gaeltacht every year. I went to Donegal, and Sr. Barnabas tells a story of Meabh taking me around the school to show off my Donegal blas to anyone who would talk Irish to us.

Both Sr. Meabh and I love Italy. She spent some years in Rome, mastered the Italian language and from what I can gather travelled the length and breadth of Italy. No matter where I would say I was going to visit in Italy, Sr. Meabh would have been there before me!

In recent years, one of Meabh's delights was the Internet and communicating with her family and friends by email. Determined to manage the new technology she would call on me from time to time to help her out with technical difficulties. Her email address Meabh55@hotmail.com has been silent for the last few months, as her health deteriorated. I saw her for the last time two weeks ago at a Mass for deceased Past Pupils of Muckcross and as ever, she welcomed me warmly and was delighted to see me, frail though she was.

Ni Bheidh a leitheid aris ann. Ar Dheis De go raibh a hainm dilis. Arrivederci Meabh - ti vediamo piu tardi! Slan tamall.

Beatrice M. Doran  
President,  
Muckcross Past Pupils Union

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## Other Dominican Unions

The annual dinners of other Dominican Unions took place during the year. It is traditional that each union president or representative attends these events. This year Beatrice Doran attended the Dun Laoghaire PPU dinner, Valerie Clancy (Barry) attended the Sion Hill PPU dinner and Gay Rodgers attended Eccles Street PPU dinner. We look forward to seeing the presidents of these unions at our dinner in April.

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