

# Muckross Mail

Newsletter of the Muckross Past Pupils' Union

March 2014



## PPU Committee:

### President:

Niamh Gourlay (Halpenny)

### Vice-President:

Helena O'Dowd

### Vice-President:

Beatrice Doran

### Hon. Secretary:

Helena O'Dowd

### Hon. Treasurer:

Claire Johns (Doyle)

## Committee:

Sr. Barnabas

Mary Buckley (Deane)

Felicity Coll (O'Brien)

Valerie Cox (Fitzpatrick)

Katherine Duffy (Fox)

Ann Harper

Gay Rodgers

Elizabeth Smyth

## Muckross Mail Editor:

Gay Rodgers,  
33 Hazel Avenue,  
Kilmacud Road Upper, Co. Dublin  
Tel: 087 638 3683

## Contacts:

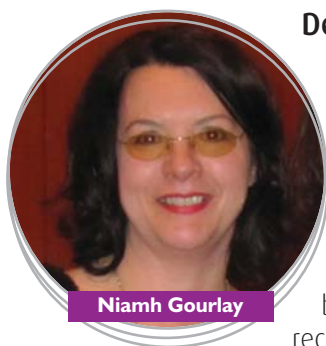
[www.muckrossparkppu.com](http://www.muckrossparkppu.com)

Email [muckrossppu@gmail.com](mailto:muckrossppu@gmail.com)

Find us on Facebook

## From the Union President

### Dear Muckross Past Pupils



Niamh Gourlay

Now over 100 years old the Muckross Past Pupils Union shows no signs of slowing down. We have had a great year building links with the school, getting together and looking to the future – hopefully you have been following all the posts and photographs on our Facebook page. Our most popular posting on Facebook was photos of Barney's recent birthday when she celebrated 97 years. The number of "likes" for the post

broke all records!

The events that we had during 2013 included the Annual Dinner – a smaller group than the previous (Centenary) year but it was a very enjoyable evening. We also had a visit from Santa in December but unfortunately we had to cancel the Easter Bunny due to the bad weather.

Sunday 6th October 2013 was a busy day with the Mass for the Combined Dominican Unions in the morning followed by the Annual Hockey Match for the PPU Centenary Cup in the afternoon. This was the second year that there has been a match between the School and a PPU team and unfortunately it was also the second year that the school carried off the trophy. The score this time was 4-1. Congratulations to the school team but I have to say I don't think that the score fairly reflects the match; the PPU had a great team and I am very confident that we will come back next time and win!

This year's Annual Dinner will be on **Saturday 5th April** and we are returning to an old venue, Elm Park Golf Club. I attended the Sion Hill



PPU President, Niamh Gourlay, presenting the Spirit of Muckross Award to Susan Gough.

Continued on page 2

**From the Union President – Continued on page 1**

dinner there recently and the food was delicious, so I am really looking forward to our own night.

The PPU and the school have continued to build and strengthen links over the last year. As part of the Centenary celebrations the Union wanted to sponsor a new award in Muckross, an award that would recognise the spirit of Muckross, rather than a specific academic or sporting achievement. With the support of the school, especially Caroline Lundy, *Principal* and Ann Marie Mee, *Deputy Principal*, it was decided that the criteria for selection would be a 6th year student who had demonstrated the following traits during her time in Muckross:

- Generosity of spirit
- Interest and involvement in fundraising
- Kindness
- Manners
- Thoughtfulness
- Acting beyond the call of duty
- Involvement in social work
- Involvement in sports

With the unanimous support of the teachers and her classmates the first recipient of the *Spirit of Muckross Award* was Susan Gough and I was delighted to present the award to Susan as part of the 6th Year Graduation Night in May 2013.

As we approach the AGM I would like to remind you that the PPU would not exist without the members and the committee. I thank the committee for all their hard work and commitment during the year – the Annual Dinner, the events at Easter and Christmas, the hockey match – all the events run smoothly because so much preparation has been done beforehand.

I hope you enjoy reading this year's Muckross Mail – thank you to all the contributors, and thank you to our editor Gay Rodgers for her time, patience and creativity in pulling together a very enjoyable read every year.

**Niamh Gourlay,  
President.**

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS****AGM on Union Day**

**Sunday 2nd March 2014** in Muckross Park  
11.15 am Mass followed by AGM & refreshments.

**Hockey Match – Past Pupils v School Team**

Date to be arranged in March/April.

**Annual Dinner**

**Friday 5th April 2014** at 8pm  
in Elm Park Golf Club, Donnybrook.  
Advance booking essential.

**Easter Egg Hunt (members only)**

**Sunday 6th April 2014** in Muckross Park  
at 12 noon. Advance booking essential.

**Combined Dominican Golf Society**

**Monday 7th July 2014** in Naas Golf Club.  
Book with Miriam Mc Guinness at 086-385 7715.

**Muckross Golf Society**

**Tuesday 2nd September 2014**  
Elm Park Golf Club, Donnybrook.  
Book with Susan Fitzgerald at 086-833 1208 or  
by email to [susanfitz1@gmail.com](mailto:susanfitz1@gmail.com) before 25th August.

**Combined Dominican Unions' Mass**

**Sunday 5th October 2014** in Muckross Park at 11.15am.

**Table Quiz**

Date and venue to be announced.

**Writers Workshop**

Date and venue to be announced.

**VIP Trip to Kildare Village**

Date to be announced.

**Santa Party (members only)**

**Sunday 7th December 2014** in Muckross Park  
At 12 noon-1pm. Advance booking essential.

**PPU Mass in Muckross**

1st Sunday of February, March, April, September, October,  
November and December at 11.15am in Muckross Park.

**STAY IN TOUCH BY FACEBOOK AND EMAIL**

Check out our Facebook page, Muckross Park College Past Pupils' Union; we have nearly 1,000 friends at the moment so why not join us there.

Send your Email address to us at [muckrossppu@gmail.com](mailto:muckrossppu@gmail.com) so we can add you to our contacts. If you are in touch with other Muckross girls perhaps you would ask them to let us have their Email address also. Remember to let us know if you have changed your postal address or Email address recently. *If your Email address was with ireland.com (now closed) please send your new Email to us.* That way you won't miss out on Union News or the *Muckross Mail*. Likewise if you have news for us that we can put in the next issue of *Muckross Mail* we will be delighted to hear from you.





## From Muckross to Melbourne

Muckross Park was the only school I ever attended. I started in what was then called 'Reception' in 1967 when I was 4 years old and my first teacher was my beloved late 'adoptive auntie' Sister Alexis. My best friends in the junior school, with whom I made my first communion were Helen Martin and Avril Kearns who had the most glamorous older sisters Muriel, Sonia and Joyce, whom we desperately tried to emulate! I remember wonderful teachers like Mrs Trimble, Miss McCarthy and Miss McAllister. I continued on to the secondary school where my favourite teachers were Sister Barnabas, Miss O'Donoghue and Miss O'Sullivan who introduced me to my lifelong love of the German language.

After my Leaving Certificate in 1981 I went to UCD where I did a B.A. (Hons) in German and French and I was lucky enough to win a full scholarship in 1983 to spend a year at the University of Bonn, the then capital of Germany. After graduating in 1985 I worked for a brief period at Bórd Fáilte as a Tourist Advisor and then as a graduate trainee at TCD's Dental Faculty Library. While I was doing my postgraduate Diploma in Information Studies at UCD I was recruited on the old university 'milk round' by Bain & Co. and moved to London to take up a position with them. I had a wonderful time at Bain. The 1980s in London really were years of 'wine and roses'; I remember the Bain Christmas Ball at the Dorchester Hotel in Park Lane and Summer Ball at Foxhills Country Club in Surrey. I met my husband Damian, an Australian architect, at my first Bain Christmas Ball in December 1988. We married and had our first son, Claude, in London and moved to Australia in late 1991. Our second son, Kim, was born here in Melbourne in 1994. My husband has had his own architectural practice for over 10 years and I am currently a Recruitment Director at the Australian Taxation Office. Claude is studying for his Masters in Logistics and working full-time as a Logistics Analyst and Kim is in his second year of university studying journalism.



Sinead with her family.

I love living in Australia, the sunny weather, the wide open spaces and the beautiful landscapes, and Melbourne is a very culturally vibrant city with a lively theatre and arts scene. Damian and I enjoy entertaining, hosting dinner parties, and travelling. We have been to Japan, China, New Zealand and the US, most recently to Los Angeles for our nephew's wedding where we tagged on a road trip up the Pacific coast to San Francisco.

I mentioned above that I was a Tourist Advisor with Bórd Fáilte briefly, in the O'Connell Street Tourist Office and in those days (1986) we had a beautiful navy lambswool uniform suit designed by Paul Costelloe, who also designed many of Princess Diana's clothes. This suit was worn with a crisp white linen blouse and a scarf with shamrocks and 'Discover Ireland' on it. I was at a vintage fashion show in Melbourne

earlier this year and the compère, a textiles professor from RMIT University, announced that there would be outfits by Vivienne Westwood, Louis Féraud...and Paul Costelloe! At which point I just had to put my hand up and ask if I could please see the Paul Costelloe as I had once worn a uniform suit by him... and would you believe the very uniform suit was immediately trotted out! I was speechless. Everyone asked me to try it on but sadly only the jacket fitted me! It has been a year of 'full circle' experiences, with 'my old Bórd Fáilte uniform' following me Down Under and Damian and myself being invited this month to the Global Bain Alumni 40th Anniversary cocktail party, to which we will be bringing our old Bain picture book from 1988!

**Sinead Williams,  
Class of 1981.**



## AGM on Union Day

Union Day will take place on **Sunday 2nd March 2014** in Muckross Park. The format will be Mass at 11.15am followed by the AGM after which refreshments will be served. It is only by attending the AGM that we can hear your views on how you feel the PPU is performing and hear any new ideas for events and objectives for the coming year. We look forward to seeing lots of you on Union Day.

## PPU ANNUAL DINNER Saturday 5th April 2014

The committee have worked hard this year to try to keep costs down in relation to the dinner and have succeeded in reducing the ticket price from the last couple of years. So we are delighted to announce that we are returning to Elm Park Golf Club, Donnybrook on Saturday 5th April 2014 at 8pm sharp

Tickets: PPU members €35 & non-members €40.

If you left Muckross 10, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50 or 60+ years ago organise a group of your classmates to celebrate your anniversary at the dinner – that includes Muckross 'old boys' too!

To book for the Dinner please send a cheque (*payable to Muckross PPU*) to the address on the Booking Form in this issue and you will be sent a Ticket to be brought along on the night. If you are planning a class reunion at the dinner we request that ONE person of that class be responsible to collect ALL names and cheques and forward them in bulk. Please contact us if you require a Group Booking Form. This will help greatly with bookings and avoid confusion. Large groups will be accommodated at adjoining tables.

**Please Note:** Telephone bookings will **not** be accepted and all tickets **must** be paid for in advance, **no later than 29th March.**

## Membership Subscriptions

For those of you who pay your annual subscription by cheque/cash please remember to renew your 2014 subscription now. We would greatly appreciate it if those who pay by cheque each year could switch to a Standing Order. This would remove the necessity of sending out reminders. Please complete the Membership Form at the back of this issue.

The Annual Subscription is only €15 with a reduced rate of €10 for over 60s. We have not increased the Subs for over 10 years which I'm sure you will agree are very reasonable.

If you already pay by Standing Order please check that the amount of your Standing Order is in line with the current amounts and if not, complete a new Standing Order and send it to us to process. A number of old Standing Orders set up pre Euro are not for the correct amount so the Treasurer will be writing to the relevant members in due course to arrange amendments.

Your subscriptions help towards the Benevolent Fund for our various charitable projects including past pupils in need, the Playgroup Projects in Cape Town and the costs involved in the production of the Muckross Mail. Your support is greatly appreciated.

# EASTER EGG HUNT



Past Pupils – Bring Your Children or Grandchildren to our Easter Egg Hunt

**Sunday 6th April 2014  
12 Noon in Muckross Park.**

For Bookings contact:  
Grainne Cryan at 087 926 4003 or  
Email: [grainne@springael.info](mailto:grainne@springael.info)

## WIN A Great Escape to Monart in our Annual Draw



Escape to the award winning 5-star Monart destination spa in County Wexford. You and your guest can escape for a mid-week retreat; enjoy 2 nights deluxe accommodation, with breakfast each morning and a magical dining experience on one evening in Monart's renowned restaurant. Relax at the Thermal Spa facilities and be pampered with a spa treatment each. Simply relax and de-stress.



Take a peek at what you can look forward to on [www.monart.ie](http://www.monart.ie)





# The PPU Surprise Barney!



Sunday 12th January was not just any old winter Sunday – we found out it was the 97th birthday of Sr Barnabas! So the PPU committee, in cahoots with prioress Sr Caitriona and Sr Rose Elizabeth arrived at Muckross with flowers, a large birthday cake and 97 in candles. We waited quietly in the front parlour and when Barney opened the door we burst into song with ‘Happy Birthday to You’. She was surprised and delighted and she entertained us with some stories and memories of her 97 years while we shared her cake. We are looking forward to your 100th birthday Barney when you will get the big cheque from the President - of Ireland that is not the PPU president!

# Happy Birthday







## CAPE TOWN UPDATE

In early March last year we heard the sad news that Sr Áine Hardiman had died. Sr Áine along with Sr Caitriona have been running the various Dominican Early Learning Playschool Projects in Cape Town and the PPU, through its Benevolent Fund, have been delighted to support their endeavours for the past few years.

Sr Áine, a young nun in her mid-20s, arrived in Cape Town we believe in the early 1950s. She eventually became principal of a highly regarded Dominican school for white children but in time she became more involved with the children of the African townships. She was active against the injustices of apartheid during the 1980s. Sr Áine, along with other Dominican sisters, was arrested when they walked in the 'Free Mandela' march in Cape Town and spent a week in prison before being released.

She was instrumental in the development of Early Learning Centres, the first being in Nyanga Township. Since then many more of these Playschool centres have been established under her guidance and are now being run independently by the local women.



Áine with one of the youngest children in the Playgroup

*The following is an excerpt from an email from Sr Caitriona we received on 8th May 2013.*

I really did not have the heart to write and thank you for the 2013 Muckross Mail newsletter until now. Our dear Sr Áine died after a very short illness. We were still mourning her sudden passing as well as thanking God for her wonderful gifts, when your newsletter arrived in March. May she rest in peace.

Áine has left behind a wonderful legacy of lives touched by her care and compassion.

Among other things, she has been fully involved in community development especially in encouraging young mothers to take an active part in setting up little Early Childhood Education playgroups in their backyards or on any little piece of land that they could 'grab'! The story is well told in your publication *A Century of Memories*. And the marvellous thing is that the Muckross Past Pupils have been so active over the years in supporting this project.

In December 2012 we acknowledged the very generous donation of €500 received from the Muckross Past Pupils' Union. I would like you to know that this money helped to sustain the Masizame Playgroup in the township of Nyanga for the year 2013.

Please convey my sincere thanks, on behalf of Áine and myself, to the Muckross Past Pupils' Union for their support over the years in helping to supply the Project at various times with food for the children, support for the women running the Playgroups, educational equipment and structures (converted shipping containers) to use as classrooms.



## Nominations for the 2014 Committee

We are looking for nominations or for PPU members to volunteer to join the 2014 Committee. We have had quite a few of the more recent past pupils join the Union in the last few years and we would like to see them represented on the Committee to bring new ideas to the PPU.

The Committee only meet about 6/7 times a year so it will not eat into much of your time. If you are interested please contact PPU secretary Helena O'Dowd at 086-829 0909 or email us at [muckrossppu@gmail.com](mailto:muckrossppu@gmail.com) prior to the AGM.

This is your PPU and we need you to keep it going for another 100 years. If you have attended and enjoyed an event in the past please consider joining the committee for a year and maybe get a friend to join with you. Every committee needs a regular injection of new blood to keep it fresh, so come on, give it a go - we don't bite!





# PPU v School Hockey Match

The second annual hockey match for the PPU Centenary Cup took place on Sunday 6th October 2013.

The PPU team, under captain Niamh Murray of Muckross Hockey Club (MHC) set out to avenge last year's defeat. It was a fast and furious match played with great spirit. Victory in the end went to the School who won 4-1.



**PPU President, Niamh Gourlay, presenting the Centenary Cup to Laura Hanlon, School Team Captain.**



**School Team  
(Laura Hanlon, Captain, 2nd from right, back row).**

March or April. We will announce details on our Facebook page, website and by email. We would like to see more supporters to cheer on the PPU team as we want to get our name on the Cup in 2014.

PPU president Niamh Gourlay presented school captain Laura Hanlon with the Centenary Cup. Congratulations to Laura and the senior team.

We would like to thank the organisers, Leanne Gourlay and Niamh Murray (MHC), umpires Moya Ryan (MHC and past pupil) and John McCarthy school coach.

After match refreshments were served to the hungry teams and supporters. Thanks to Fiona Walsh (class of 1981) for lending us her gazebo in case of rain.

The date for this year's match has not been set yet but it is likely to be in



**Past Pupils' Union Team  
(Niamh Murray, Captain, 3rd from left, front row).**





# MUCKROSS C



**M**any of you may have seen the report and photo in the Irish Times in December about the demolition of our concert hall. We reported in our 2011 issue that there had been plans to convert the old senior school and concert hall wing into a multicultural centre in co-operation with Dublin City Council but this fell through due to the recession. We gather the space will be developed as a garden beside the chapel. It is sad to see it go but we hear that it was not viable to renovate to modern health and safety standards. However we are delighted to report that the lovely parquet floor was salvaged first.

The part of the building that contained the former senior school has been converted into 12 apartments for nuns of the Dominican Order.

*The following are some of the comments from the PPU Facebook page about the concert hall.*

**A** place of many memories ...sad it's gone. An assembly hall, a place for Saturday gymnastics, the choir, and the blind kid's party, a talent quest. Oh the embarrassment, sitting our Inter & Leaving cert in silence there, a beginning place in first year going up the steel staircase looking up at the bell on the next floor and an ending place saying goodbye with our families in sixth year. Muckross Park and your grand structure will always be in our memories.

**Marie-Therese Power**

**W**ell that stopped me in my tracks! The hall, the floor, the balcony, the music equipment, under the stage rolling out the steps, the back of the stage and the door that had little steps that brought you to the other side, (junior school)! Will never forget it, and all the craic and good times along the way!

**Katherine Gogarty Hannigan**

**H**iding behind the velvet curtains, sitting on top of the rads because it was freezing, the excitement of waiting to go on stage, that awful vaulting horse, Miss Cranny's elocution classes, miming in choir, sales of work, the thrill of being allowed on the balcony, going blank during the Inter Cert exams!

**Helyn Gilna**

**S**ad to see it go some great memories... Doing Wham with Mr Maloney as George Michael...! Calamity Jane... Trampolining in P.E. Class

**Gwen McDonnell**

*Editor's note: If anyone has a photo of Mr Maloney we want to see it!*

**F**eel very sad looking at the photo, a lot of Gilbert & Sullivan memories within those walls.

**Marie Foley**

**I**remember the King & I... was in the choir - Treasa Davidson directing and Ann Maguire. Great memories

**Helena O'Dowd**

**S**o many memories.....assembly...trying to slip in late, PE, choir practice, The Playboy of the Western World.....and on...and on ....and on!

**Audrey Arthure**

I'd forgotten the balcony ghost!

**Louise Purcell**

**S**ad... What a lovely building. Loved it even when I was pretending I hated it...!

**Emer Halpenny**

**I** have some great memories of there. I was one of the Princes in the King and I. Myself and 3 of my sisters went to Muckross. When the youngest started in First Year, Mr Maloney was doing the roll call and when he came to my sister he said, "Not another Groves, are there many more of you to come"?

**Gwendoline Groves**

*The following piece first appeared in the 2008 issue of Muckross Mail and we thought it was appropriate to reprint it this year. Ed.*







# CONCERT HALL



## GOING



## GONE

### THE CONCERT HALL REMEMBERED

"The roar of the greasepaint, the smell of the crowd"; "Break a leg"; "The show must go on"; "It'll be alright on the night". All these crazy clichés went through my head as I sat in the concert hall in Muckross Park College for the last time. I was attending the Carol Concert of the Muckross girls just before Christmas in 2005 as the school prepared to move into a new building in February '06.

I may have been listening to the sopranos and altos singing their hearts out but my mind was hurtling back to my own days in Muckross and in particular to times spent in this very hall. Backstage throbbed with excitement as we took our places behind heavy curtains which would shudder open and we would be emblazoned in light and would squint to see familiar faces in the crowd. This was the hall where Miss Cranny strutted, roaring or whispering the lines we were to repeat. My earliest memories, in Muckross junior school, are of pieces from Edward Lear and Lewis Carroll those great professors of Nonsense:

"You are old Father William" the young man said  
"And your hair has become very white.  
And yet you incessantly stand on your head -  
Do you think at your age it is right?"

As we pranced around in Alice-in-Wonderland costumes we were told to 'use the whole stage' and 'don't mumble into your costume'. But there were other performances too, with tea-towel clad shepherds and tin-foil dressed kings. Nativity plays and Santa's arrival at the Christmas sale-of-work meld together as one, big pantomime.

The senior school brought several opening nights. The major one for us was "Murder in the Cathedral" by T.S. Eliot under the direction of Sr. Patrick, in 1970. This took weeks of practice so that the choral lines are embedded in my memory:

"Seven years and the summer is over;  
Seven years since the Archbishop left us.  
He who was always kind to his people.  
But it would not be good should he return."

Not only was the stage used but all the steps in front of it too, for the members of the chorus.

Probably most fun was had when we were left to our own devices (without teachers) to script, act, produce and direct a short piece in Irish for the recently-launched "Slogadh" competition. We entered a comedy piece (known to us as a 'skit'), borrowed nuns' habits, fathers' suits and mothers' evening dresses and lo and behold, won the Section!

The Aer Lingus debating competition in English and the Gaelinn competition in Irish also used the hall. Miss Kinsella would reign supreme as we opened our debates by addressing her as "Madam Chairman". It was nerve-wrecking to stand on that stage and argue for or against the motion, but it certainly prepared you for any future public speaking occasions.

I know every inch of this concert hall (which existed long before The National Concert Hall); the squared pattern in the ceiling, the crest on the balcony, the parquet wooden floor, the black-out velvet curtains. Since my time in Muckross, the paintwork has been renewed, the colour of the curtains changed, the floor re-sanded and polished, but it remains essentially the same to me, a treasure chest of challenges and accomplishments, a buzz of audience applause, a resonance of warm voices and music where a young girl could *pretend* to be a star, even if only for one night.

As rumours bubble under the surface that Muckross students may stage a play or musical in this academic year of '07 / '08 I hope that the new school hall will have the power of the old concert hall to infuse schoolgirls' performances with the magic of stardom.

**Nollaig Rowan-Downey,  
Class of '71.**



# Memories of Muckross

Fodhla, Eriu, Banba and Hibernia were the four class names of my year in Muckross Park. Hibernia is the only Latin name in that group and is apparently a long-standing table quiz question, 'what is the Latin name for Ireland'? So if I learned nothing else during my time in Muckross at least I learned that! Oh and that the Dominican motto 'Veritas' means truth.

Sr. Norah was our formidable Principal during my time, a lady who was 'firm, but fair' and had a heart of gold. I have bumped into her many times since I left school, and we have had wonderful chats. Sr. Norah, a great Feminist was ahead of her time with her 'girl power' encouragement of her students.

My personal memories of my time in the school are the long bus journeys for me each day from Monkstown to Donnybrook and it was something I dreaded; but my association with the 46a bus route has stood me in good stead from travelling to Muckross, later to UCD and next stop... RTÉ, via a stint with AA Roadwatch.

It is to Transition Year that I owe a lot of my later confidence and success. It was a time that allowed me to blossom and pursue my love of acting and performance in 'Philadelphia Here I Come', and later in 'The Shaughraun' with the boys from Gonzaga. Believe me presenting on live TV isn't as nerve wrecking as taking to the stage in front of your peers. Credit must be given to the late Ms Geraldine Brennan and Ms Deirdre MacMathuna for encouraging me in my pursuit of drama.

No mention of my school days can be complete without reference to the friends I made, and I had a close-knit group of four pals. As

is so natural, the ones I thought might last fizzled, but new ones have surfaced. Back in 2007 when I took part in RTÉ's 'Charity You're a Star', (which will have amazed many I'd imagine, as I failed my school audition for the special choir!) I was delighted that so many of my former classmates came out to support me. Shelly McClafferty was brilliant for rounding up the troops to help me with my efforts to raise funds and awareness for 'The Alzheimer's Association'.



After that shocking photograph in the 'Irish Times' just before Christmas of a digger breaking apart the old school, I walked nervously into the grounds recently. I was worried I might be upset at the sight of the school, but actually to my surprise the whole place looked better than ever. The new school is neatly tucked in a corner, the old house/convent takes pride of place in the centre of the complex, and the Chapel stands out in all its glory with its beautiful stained glass windows.

I saw on Facebook recently that Sr. Barnabas celebrated her 97th birthday.

I'm delighted to hear that she is in such good health and spirits, and I guess it just goes to prove the point that Muckross must be doing something right, and to that I will raise a glass at our forthcoming milestone reunion in the Spring - see you there ladies!

**Nuala Carey,  
RTÉ Weather & Lotto Presenter,  
Class of 1994.**

## VIP Trip to Kildare Village

Last year the PPU were offered a VIP day out by Kildare Village Outlet. So on the morning of 21st May a large group set off in a bus provided by Kildare Village. On arrival we were brought to the VIP Lounge where we were all given a glass of bubbly and discount vouchers to use in the shops. After much shopping and lunch, we were dropped back to Dublin well laden with shopping bags as can be seen in the photo. We would like to thank all at Kildare Village for arranging the trip.

We are planning another trip to Kildare Village this year so if you are interested in going please email us at [muckrossppu@gmail.com](mailto:muckrossppu@gmail.com) or phone 087-638 3683.



The Muckross PPU Group in Kildare Village.





The ever popular Muckross Golf Outing took place on 12th September in Edmonstown Golf Club with 31 golfers enjoying a good day's play and 7 other past pupils who came along later for the dinner.

**Congratulations to the following winners:**

1st Place: **Mary Whooley**

2nd Place: **Eadaoin Maher**

3rd Place: **Joan Daly**

Front Nine: **Gemma Coughlan**

Back Nine: **Annette Burke**

Longest Drive: **Maeve Cantwell**

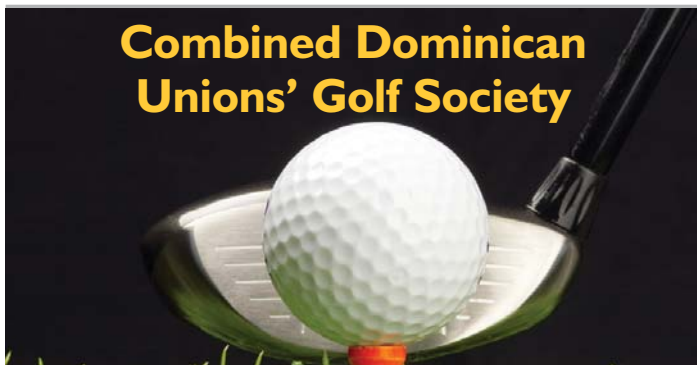
Nearest the pin: **Grace Redmond**

The AGM was held after the dinner and Bernie Feeney (nee Lacy) introduced Annette Burke as the incoming Captain. It was proposed and agreed that the 2014 outing will be held on **Tuesday**

**2nd September in Elm Park Golf Club.** Contact [susanfitz1@gmail.com](mailto:susanfitz1@gmail.com) for any further information.

The Golf Society was founded by Muckross past pupils Valerie Clancy (Barry) Sheila Hughes (Nally) and Beatrice Doran all of whom are enthusiastic golfers. Since its inception in 2003 the Muckross Golf Society has built up the numbers playing and welcome new members. If you and your friends are keen golfers we would be delighted to welcome you to this year's Outing. Be sure to book early as the number of lines on the Time Sheet is limited!

We are also looking for golfers to play for Muckross in the Combined Dominican Unions' Outing on **7th July in Naas Golf Club**. In recent years this event has been very poorly represented by Muckross so let's get some players out there and win the trophy!



This year's outing is on **Monday 7th July in Naas Golf Club**. Time Sheet 12-2.30pm. **Book with Miriam McGuinness at 086 385 7715.**

Past pupils from all the Dominican schools take part each year and the school with the best three scores wins the trophy for their school. The trophy, which was presented by Waterford Glass, stands on a mahogany plinth with silver plates on all sides on which is engraved the names of the winning schools and the years.

It was Joan Priestman (nee Horne) a past pupil of Muckross and Wicklow, who had the idea of forming a golf society for Dominican girls in 1963. However the last time Muckross won this competition was 1993 so let's get a good Muckross team out there for 2014.

**PAST PUPILS' UNION MONTHLY MASS**

The monthly PPU Mass (see Forthcoming Events for times and dates) is not restricted to past pupils as some of you may think; bring along your husband, children, boyfriend, anyone! Mass in the chapel is followed by tea/coffee and biscuits in the convent and hopefully some news and gossip.

The Mass on the 1st Sunday in November is dedicated to all deceased past pupils. If there is anyone whose name 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.

The **Combined Dominican Schools Unions' Mass** will take place in Muckross Park on **Sunday 5th October 2014 at 11.15am**. If you have friends who went to Ballyfermot, Cabra, Dun Laoghaire, Eccles Street & Griffith Ave, Falls Road, Fortwilliam, Portstewart, Santa Sabina, Sion Hill, Taylor's Hill or Wicklow or any other Dominican school tell them about it and bring them along too. We were delighted to see so many Dominican past pupils at the 2013 Mass and look forward to welcoming you all again in 2014 – Dominican 'old boys' are welcome too.



# Going for Gold



**Ailbhe gets gold.**

**M**y name is Ailbhe King and I am currently a sixth year student in Muckross Park College. I have a rare form of dwarfism called Pseudoachondroplasia which makes it difficult for me to participate in many sports. However, I did find that swimming was a suitable sport for me and have been swimming since a very young age.

During last summer I participated in the World Dwarf Games of 2013 which occur every four years in various countries. Last year it took place in Michigan in the USA. It was a terrific experience for both me and my family, yet none of that would have been possible without the support from my classmates, teachers, Muckross Past Pupils' Union and many many more.

As the costs involved with the trip were very high, I had to do something to raise money for my team from the Dwarf Sports Association of Ireland and myself to travel. In order to do this I trained very hard so I could swim a sponsored 1km non-stop in my local swimming pool at Enable Ireland, Sandymount. They were very supportive of me and allowed me the whole pool to myself one Friday afternoon so I could do my 1km swim. Many of my classmates and teachers came to watch me and sponsored me with generous amounts to aid my funds to travel to Michigan. Two members of the PPU committee were also there and I would like to thank them for their support and generosity.

So finally, the day arrived in July for me to travel to Michigan, along with my team and family, to participate in the World Dwarf Games. Words cannot describe how much fun I had meeting new friends, taking part in many events such as swimming, table tennis and boccia and of course winning my medals in swimming. Not only did I win three golds and a silver medal in swimming but I also beat my personal record for the 100m backstroke from the previous Games in 2009.

It was such a wonderful experience. Overall I think I enjoyed the socialising aspect of the Games the most. Every night there was something happening, whether it be a disco or a small meet and greet or just hanging-out. I was introduced to so many amazing individuals from different countries such as Sri-Lanka, India, France and many more.

Even though the sports were the main element of the Games, I was primarily concerned with what attire to wear for the ball on the final evening. My team members and I had so much fun before leaving for the Games deciding on what we were going to wear so as not to clash or wear the same outfits!

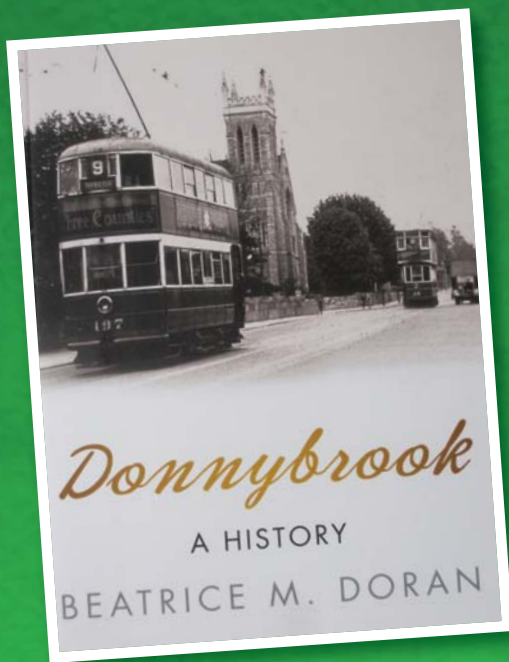
After such an interesting and amazing week of camaraderie and sports, tears were shed on the last night after the ball and banquet. I made new friends with whom I will keep in contact and will probably see again at other sporting events. None of this would have been possible however without the support of everyone I know. I would like to thank you all. Without you I would not have the wonderful memories of the Games as I do now.

**Ailbhe King,  
6th Year.**



**Left to right: Ailbhe with her mum Yvette, Ann Harper Muckross PPU, her sister Heather, Gay Rodgers Muckross PPU, Louise Galloway PE teacher & Una Mangan.**





Congratulations to Beatrice Doran on her recently published book 'Donnybrook: A History'. The book was launched last November by Fergus D'Arcy, Professor Emeritus in modern history of UCD. Nearly 200 people attended the book launch in Elm Park Golf Club. Beatrice dedicated the book to Sr Vincenzo O.P. (Sr Meabh Ni Cleirigh) and Claire Baylis (nee Dowling). The book is available in all good book shops and has sold nearly 1,000 copies so far.



Beatrice speaking at her book launch

**WIN** a fabulous handmade Brooch of 5000 year old bogwood designed by Celtic Roots Studio, Athlone in the Muckross PPU Raffle.

## A big Thank You to all the Sponsors of our 2014 Annual Raffle

This year's raffle has really fantastic prizes. We hope it will generate a bumper fundraising for the Benevolent Fund which supports our various charitable projects including past pupils in need and the Playgroup Projects in Cape Town.

- 1st Prize:** Mid-week break for 2 in Monart Destination Spa, Co Wexford with 2nights B/B+1D & 1 treatment.
- 2nd Prize:** Hamper from The Elms, Lifestyle Store, Punchestown, worth €150.
- 3rd Prize:** Income Tax Consultation from Anne Brady McQuillans DFK.
- 4th Prize:** Hamper of Brooke & Shoals Fragrances & candles worth €100.
- 5th Prize:** €100 voucher for Kildare Village Outlet.
- 6th Prize:** Ceramic figurine from Rachel Quinn Ceramics.ie.
- 7th Prize:** Handmade Brooch of 5,000 year old bogwood, designed by Celtic Roots Studio, Athlone.
- 8th Prize:** iPad /tablet bag handmade from 100% wool felt by Core Crafted Design, Athlone.
- 9th Prize:** Hamper of Books.
- 10th Prize:** Hamper of soap & moisturisers from Supernatural Seaweed Soaps.

Tickets are €5 each or a book of 5 for €20. If you did not receive you tickets with the Muckross Mail or you would like extra tickets please **Email: [muckrossppu@gmail.com](mailto:muckrossppu@gmail.com)** or **Tel: 087 638 3683.**

### Check out the websites of our Raffle Sponsors

- [www.monart.ie](http://www.monart.ie)
- [www.theelms.ie](http://www.theelms.ie)
- [www.annebrady.ie](http://www.annebrady.ie)
- [www.celticroots.ie](http://www.celticroots.ie)
- [www.kildarevillage.com](http://www.kildarevillage.com)
- [www.brookeandshoals.ie](http://www.brookeandshoals.ie)
- [www.rachelquinn ceramics.ie](http://www.rachelquinn ceramics.ie)
- [www.corecrafteddesign.com](http://www.corecrafteddesign.com)
- [www.ballinahowncraftvillage.com](http://www.ballinahowncraftvillage.com)
- [www.supernaturalseaweedsoap.weebly.com](http://www.supernaturalseaweedsoap.weebly.com)

# My Wimbledon Debut!



Anne Marie Mee (right) on court in Wimbledon.

As a keen tennis player and fan of the game I am no stranger to Wimbledon. For many years I have travelled there for The Championships at the end of June. I have rarely managed to win a ticket in the allocation lottery but have enjoyed experiencing 'The Queue' at 8 a.m., sometimes for 3 or 4 days in a row. Imagine my excitement when I was asked early last June if I would like to play in Wimbledon!

My Club, Glasnevin LTC, was invited to send a team of 4 players – 2 ladies and 2 men – to play in Wimbledon's Centenary Clubs Tournament on Thursday 8th August 2013. The day, sunny and hot, started at 11 a.m. with meet and greet and morning coffee in the Rolex Suite. There were 5 teams from other clubs in England and Wales as well as a team from Wimbledon. We were then taken on a tour of the grounds and player areas. The ladies were assigned to the changing rooms reserved for the top 16 seeds during the Championships, complete with wicker chairs, louvered doors, sun creams, baths and showers and two attendants who later ran a bath for those requesting it!

After lunch, decked out in the essential all-whites we made our way to the Clubhouse in which the trophies are on display. One side leads out to the courts on which we were playing and on the other side to Centre Court through the door which has the famous Rudyard Kipling quote 'if you can meet with triumph

and disaster and treat those two imposters just the same'. We had a warm-up session with the Wimbledon Head Coach, Dan Bloxham, who put us through our paces with great fun. The format for the tennis was mixed doubles. My partner and I were scheduled for Courts 5 and 6 just behind Centre Court. We played for about 3 hours. It was the most fantastic feeling to be actually playing on the hallowed grass!

A pre-dinner reception for all was held in the Royal Box. Dinner in the Members' Dining Room in the Clubhouse was followed by after dinner speeches and presentations. At my table we were entertained by Wimbledon members and committee who told stories and anecdotes about the famous players, like Djokovic, Federer, Nadal, Bartoli, Roddick, Navratilova, who have played in Wimbledon over the years.

Reluctantly we left the Wimbledon at about 11 p.m. after an amazing day. I found myself almost having to pinch myself to see was it really happening. It was a great honour and privilege to have been selected to play and the memories of 'when I played in Wimbledon' will always be special.

**Anne Marie Mee,**  
Deputy Principal, Muckross Park College.





## 2013 RAFFLE RESULTS

The Raffle took place at the Annual Dinner on 19th April 2013 in the Stillorgan Park Hotel. Congratulations to the following winners:

- 1st Prize: Mid-Week Break for 2 with 2B/B & 1D in Monart Destination Spa, Co Wexford plus 2 Spa Treatments.  
**Winner: Mary Daly**
- 2nd Prize: 2 nights B/B & 1D for 2 in Mulranny Park Hotel, Wexford, Co Mayo.  
**Winner: Carmel Walsh**
- 3rd Prize: 1 Night B/B & 1D for 2 in Renvyle House Hotel, Connemara, Co Galway.  
**Winner: Elizabeth Walsh**
- 4th Prize: Dinner for 2 with wine at Jamie's Italian Restaurant in Dundrum Town Centre.  
**Winner: Sr Mairead**
- 5th Prize: Dinner for 2 at Purple Sage Restaurant in Stillorgan Park Hotel.  
**Winner: Una Clarke**
- 6th Prize: A Selection of Danish design 'Lene Bjerre' Kitchen Ware from The Elms in Punchestown.  
**Winner: Sorcha McNally**
- 7th Prize: Family ticket for Wicklow's Historic Gaol.  
**Winner: Clodagh Jenkins**
- 8th Prize: Family ticket for the Shackleton Experience in Dun Laoghaire.  
**Winner: Caroline Lundy**
- 9th Prize: Cookery Book by Catherine Fulvio, signed by the author.  
**Winner: Felicity Coll**
- 10th Prize: Hamper of Books.  
**Winner: Emer Halpenny**

Sincere thanks to our sponsors for their generosity in supplying the above prizes.



Niamh Gourlay, President (left), presenting Caroline Lundy, School Principal with her raffle prize at the 2013 Annual Dinner.

Claire Butler (right), Class of 1974, with her sister Ruth (Butler) McSwiney, (Class of 1971) in Lourdes last year where they worked as helpers with the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage. It was Ruth's fourth year and Claire's first year to volunteer.



## On The Santa Party

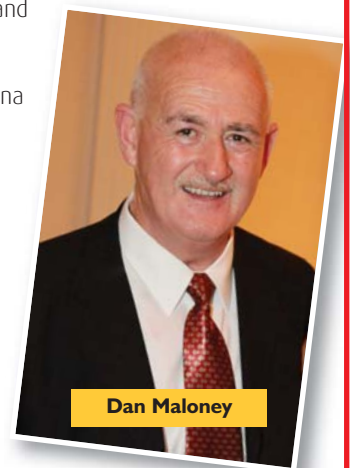


At the Muckross Santa Party were Nina Braswell and Rachel Smyth with Santa's helper Claire Gately.

As usual we had a waiting list for the popular PPU Santa Party last December. Sometimes we wonder who is more excited to visit Santa, the children or their mothers! Santa has a wonderful memory and remembers everyone from year to year.

While waiting for their turn to visit Santa's Grotto, the children play and colour pictures for the Colouring Competition. Congratulations to Nina Braswell (daughter of Susanna Moran class of 1985) and Rachel Smyth (granddaughter of Emer Sheehy class of 1965) who were the winners of the Over 5 and Under 5 categories respectively.

With 40 children and their parents in the Muckross parlours there is always a great festive buzz. We would like to thank the nuns for letting us take over their home each year and Dan Maloney for his wonderful participation.



Dan Maloney



# ANNUAL DINNER – BOOKING FORM

Saturday 5th April 2014 in Elm Park Golf Club, Donnybrook • Tickets: PPU Members €35 & Non Members €40  
**EARLY BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL - TELEPHONE BOOKINGS WILL NOT BE TAKEN**

I wish to book \_\_\_\_\_ places, and enclose cheque for €\_\_\_\_\_ (payable to Muckross PPU).  
Please supply names of all those attending on a separate page indicating anniversary year if applicable. Large groups will be accommodated at adjoining tables. • Please indicate any special dietary requirements

First Name:  Surname:

Year Left:  Maiden Name:

Address:

Tel No.:  Email:

please print clearly

Bookings must be received **not later than Saturday 29th March** and should be sent to:  
**Muckross Park PPU, c/o Claire Gately, 119 Strand Road, Sandymount, Dublin 4.**

# MUCKROSS PARK PAST PUPILS UNION – MEMBERSHIP FORM

I wish to join the PPU / renew my membership (*delete as appropriate*). Please complete the Standing Order below  
*If renewing, please amend your existing standing order in line with the current amounts if necessary.*

*(Block Letters)*

First Name:  Last Name:  Maiden Name:

Address:

Year Left:  Tel. No.:  Mobile:

Email:

please print clearly

Occupation:  Have you any professional or other skills to offer to the PPU?

**Annual Membership Fee: €15 or Seniors (over 60s) €10 • From non euro zone area please send equivalent amount in your currency.  
If you prefer not to pay by Standing Order please send a cheque (payable to Muckross PPU) to the address shown below.**

**OFFICE USE ONLY:** Cash/Chq lodged or Standing Order sent to Bank - Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Database noted: Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount €: \_\_\_\_\_

Subscriptions Received:  2014  2015  2016  2017  2018  2019  2020

## STANDING ORDER

Name of Bank: \_\_\_\_\_ Sort Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Account Holder: \_\_\_\_\_ Account No: \_\_\_\_\_

IBAN No: \_\_\_\_\_

BIC No: \_\_\_\_\_

Pay now and/or on the 1st day of JULY of each year until further notice the sum of € ..... to the credit of:

**Muckross Past Pupils' Union Account** Account No: 17107621 IBAN No: IE42 BOFI 9000 1717 1076 21  
**Bank of Ireland, 2 College Green, Dublin 2** Sort Code: 90-00-17 BIC No: BOFIE2D

and charge the same to my account. *Please cancel all previous standing instructions in favour of Muckross Past Pupils' Union.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return completed form to: Muckross Park PPU, c/o Claire Gately, 119 Strand Road, Sandymount, Dublin 4.**