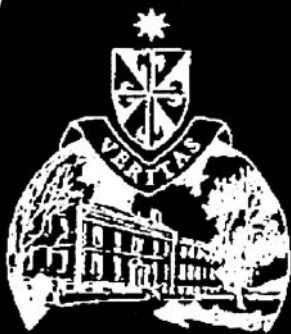


January  
2007



# Muckross Mail

Newsletter of the Muckross Past Pupils' Union



*The new look of Muckross. This photo shows part of the new school building where pupils and staff moved to at the end of February last year. The official opening will take place on 19th April next by the Minister for Education and Science.*

## Inside this issue:

- From the President
- The 69ers – another story!
- The PPU Africa Project
- Sr. Patrick Remembered
- Forty Years on Class of '65
- The Copenhagen Trip

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **Writers' Workshop**

Saturday 27th January 2007  
National Yacht Club Dun Laoghaire  
Contact Valerie Cox 087-685 8406

### **Union Day & AGM**

Sunday 4th March 2007  
11.15 Mass, AGM & refreshments

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

Sunday 1st April 2007 from 12-1pm approx  
(After 11.15 PPU Mass)

### **Annual Dinner**

Friday 20th April 2007.  
Elm Park Golf Club 7.15pm

### **Combined Dominican Union Mass**

Sunday 13th May 2007 at 11.15am  
at Muckross Park

### **Combined Dominican Golf Society**

Monday 16th July 2007  
in Roganstown Golf & Country Club  
Contact Mary Breen 087-619 2303

### **Muckross Golf Society**

Thursday 13th September 2007  
Edmondstown Golf Club, Rathfarnham.  
Contact Annette Quigley (Soraghan) by 14th August  
At [quigleyjas@eircom.net](mailto:quigleyjas@eircom.net) or 087-686 7376

### **Santa Party**

Sunday 2nd December 2007.  
At 12 noon (After 11.15am Mass)  
Booking essential.

### **PPU Mass in Muckross:**

1st Sunday of each month (except January, May, June, July & August)

**Muckross Mail Editor:**  
Gay Rodgers

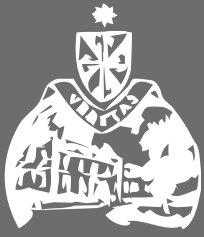
**Contacts:**  
[www.muckrossparkppu.com](http://www.muckrossparkppu.com)  
Email: [muckrossppu@ireland.com](mailto:muckrossppu@ireland.com)

Valerie Cox (FitzPatrick)  
087-6858406

Beatrice Doran, 12 Nutley Square,  
Donnybrook, Dublin 4  
Tel: 087-243 1946

Claire Johns, 4 Willowfield Avenue,  
Goatstown, Dublin 14  
Tel: 087-221 8602

Gay Rodgers, 33 Hazel Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.  
Tel: 087-6383683



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was such a privilege to be elected President of the Past Pupils' Union last year. My family's links with Muckcross go back a long way, my mother and my aunt are both past pupils. And in those early years it was a very different school. It was on a summer's day in 1962 that Mam brought me to Muckcross to meet the nuns and be considered for a place in 5th class in the Junior School. Girls in green were playing tennis on the lawn in front of the convent and suddenly a nun appeared in one of the windows to ask WHO was that girl on the courts without her proper uniform? That was a scary moment and was followed by many others through the years with indoor shoes, outdoor shoes, hockey uniforms and belted gabardines. But we all survived and I particularly enjoyed my schooldays and made many friends with whom I still keep in touch. Our little coterie has had reunions over the years and indeed met again last summer when Miriam Hardy (nee Hannon) was home from Australia – read the full report in this issue.

### PPU Committee

**President:**

Valerie Cox (Fitzpatrick)

**Vice President:**

Beatrice Doran

**Hon. Secretary:**

Claire Johns (Doyle)

**Hon. Treasurer:**

Margot Doyle

**Committee:**

Sr. Barnabas  
Therese Birthistle (Hackett)  
Felicity Coll (O'Brien)  
Katherine Duffy (Fox)  
Mary Higgins  
Alison Kennedy  
Norah Owens (O'Meara)  
Gay Rodgers  
Carla Sload (Mugan)

I often wonder why girls' Unions are not as active as the boys in terms of networking. There is an underlying business element to many of the major boys' colleges that I think we could emulate. We could offer support to other past pupils trying to break into various professions and we could offer support to present pupils on a career guidance basis. Much of this is probably being done already on an informal basis but it's worth thinking about for the future.

One thing we are doing in the coming weeks is to hold a Writers' Workshop on 27th January for our past pupils. This is open to everyone who would like to put pen to paper or tap a few lines on the laptop. No previous experience necessary but we will have the expertise of past pupils such as Patricia O'Reilly and Helen Litton who are already published authors. The places are very limited so do book as soon as possible.

We held a number of successful events during 2006 including a terrific Annual Dinner in Elm Park Golf Club, the always popular Bridge Morning and Lunch, a Table Quiz which was great fun, especially after we banned the mobile phone artists who had their 'phone a friend' all lined up to help out! The Golf Society ran a very successful outing and then there was Santa. This deserves a very special mention because it was the brainchild of some of our younger past pupils, a rare commodity on the committee! Not surprisingly, many of our most enthusiastic members fall off in the years when they rear their families so this event and the inaugural Easter Egg Hunt are very special indeed.



L-R Valerie Cox (FitzPatrick) President of the PPU who received her chain of office from Beatrice Doran at the Annual Dinner.

Do please keep in touch with us – we would love to have your news and titbits for the next newsletter. And don't forget to have a look at our website; we would appreciate your comments.

**Valerie Cox (nee FitzPatrick)**

President

## ACCOLADE FOR A MUCKROSS GIRL!

On completion of her successful career in UCD, Barbara Goff (Class of 1959) was honoured by the National University of Ireland with an Honorary M.Sc. (*jure officii*). Barbara is pictured here with Muckross PPU Treasurer Margot Doyle, a long time school friend.



# UNION NEWS

## UNION DAY

This year Union Day will take place on Sunday 4th March 2007. The format will be Mass at 11.15am followed by the AGM after which refreshments will be served. Last year this format proved more suitable rather than having the AGM on the night of the Annual Dinner. 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. Please support your PPU committee and we look forward to seeing lots of you at Union Day.

## STAY IN TOUCH BY EMAIL

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 to let us have their email address. So all of you out there please email us so we can add you to our address book. Remember to let us know if you have changed your email address or street address recently. That way if there is news about Union events 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 2007/08 COMMITTEE

The AGM will take place on Union Day on Sunday 4th March 2007. 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 few years and we would like to see them represented on the Committee to bring new ideas to the PPU.

The Committee only meet approx 5 times a year. So as you see it will not eat into much of your time! If you are interested please contact Claire Johns (Doyle), Hon Secretary at 087-221 8602 or Valerie Cox, President on 087-685 8406 prior to the AGM or email [muckrossppu@ireland.com](mailto:muckrossppu@ireland.com)

## 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 13th 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.

## 2006 RAFFLE RESULTS

The raffle took place at the Muckross Annual Dinner on 21st April 2006 in Elm Park Golf Club. Congratulations to the following winners:

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1st Prize | Two nights BB + 1 Dinner for two at Carrigart Hotel, Co. Donegal.<br>Winner: Gay Rodgers             |
| 2nd Prize | Voucher for 4 Green Fees at Elm Park Golf Club<br>Winner: Louise Cassidy (6th year Games Captain)    |
| 3rd Prize | 150 Voucher from Lace Lingerie, Merrion Centre & Bray<br>Winner: Derek Brangan                       |
| 4th Prize | One Adobe Photoshop Software package<br>Winner: Ann Simmington                                       |
| 5th Prize | Magnum of Champagne from Harvey Nichols<br>Winner: Conor Casey                                       |
| 6th Prize | One Year's Subscription to 'Image' and 'Image Interiors' magazines<br>Winner: Valerie Clancy (Barry) |

**Our thanks to the above sponsors for their generosity in supplying the above prizes.**



## ANNUAL DINNER

Book a table for your classmates at the **Muckross PPU Annual Dinner** to be held on Friday 20th April 2007 at 7.15 pm at Elm Park Golf Club Nutley Lane, Donnybrook, Dublin 4.

Tickets €40 each

Bookings by 13th April

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

Contact Margot Doyle  
01-288 4590

## Thank You to our Sponsors for 2006

Carrigart Hotel, Co. Donegal

Elm Park Golf Club

'Irish Garden' Magazine

Lace Lingerie, Merrion Centre & Bray

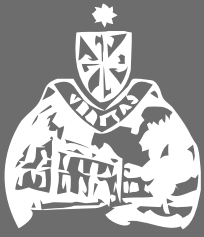
'Image' Magazine & 'Image Interiors'

Harvey Nichols, Dundrum Town Centre

Edward Dillon Co. Ltd., Ireland's Leading Wine & Spirit Importers

Little Flowers, Kilmacud, Co. Dublin.

**Muckross Mail**



## THE TRAVELLING 69ers MEET IN DUBLIN

It was too good an opportunity to miss. Miriam Hannon was coming home from Australia and Eudes Brophy would be back from New York. Leesha Gaffney was coming over from Manchester so really there was no good reason why I could not make the trip from Brussels to see them all.

Mary Deane was going to have a party and Kathleen Doyle was going to make the cakes, the whole supervised from deepest Wicklow by Valerie Fitzpatrick. Holidays beckoned for Zena Baker, Chris McAree and Vivienne Ball on that date; good for them unfortunate for us. Rosin Drury was due to come but her mother was critically ill.

I had never made any previous reunion and pondered, as I wielded the plastic for the electronic best buy, whether we would recognise each other after all these years. I still feel young and giddy and starting out in life. Why I am not sure that I have become a real adult yet, I certainly haven't yet achieved all the things I planned to do after school. However truth be told it is more than 30 years since we left and that makes for a fair amount of history. This would be a great opportunity to share what we have done, how life has treated us. There would be lots to talk about on the night.

As the date got nearer my feelings became more ambiguous. Perhaps we wouldn't recognise each other, perhaps we wouldn't like each other and perhaps we would have NOTHING IN COMMON. The evening was going to be a total social disaster.

I had hired a car (the thrill of driving on the other side of the road, so exciting for the passenger!) and collected Miriam. Rudi and she had left home in Brisbane and spent the previous six weeks taking a journey of a lifetime on the Trans Siberian railway before visiting the families in both Ireland and Switzerland. Their adventures were hair-raising and merit a book at the least, although one learning point was to bring your own food and drink the beer rather than the water or the vodka.

By the time we arrived at Mary's house the continents had shrunk and the camaraderie grown. Meeting the others was terrific – everyone was changed, all were still themselves. We had had births, deaths, marriages and separations. Serious illness had cast its shadow. Life had been as it always is - good and bad and mixed. The delicious food was eaten and the wine drunk and the decibel level grew and grew. We were living in different parts of the world doing different things and with different perspectives on life. Why Fizzy was famous! It was exhilarating.

Who would have thought those dozy girls in the green gymslips (with the pleats that stuck out in all the wrong places) would have done so much. Perhaps the school we attended and the broad education we received had something to do with it. It gave us a sense of our own worth, a social awareness and started us on the rollercoaster learning for life.

Above all Muckross, you gave us a spirit of adventure and for that we remain truly grateful.

**Emer Daly**  
(class of 1969)

---

## WONDERFUL WONDERFUL COPENHAGEN

Five intrepid travellers set off on the "Muckross Trip" on Wednesday the 23rd September 2005 full of happy anticipation. We met up at Dublin Airport and duly arrived in Copenhagen early in the afternoon. Felicity Coll (O'Brien) then came into her own and proved right from the start, to be a superb leader of our little expedition. She led us (without a hitch) straight to our hotel within walking distance of the station. Having settled in we then got quickly off the mark, us being Felicity Coll, Catherine Walsh (Smyth), Annette Richardson, Ann Shaw and myself to the National Art Gallery, a train ride away, where we saw beautiful pictures and sculptures in a fine building. That night we ate in a lovely Italian Restaurant where we were treated royally by the Italian waiters and had great fun. The next day Thursday we went on the tourist trail and got a birds-eye view of the city including The Little Mermaid and the changing of the guard at the Royal Palace. With weary legs we repaired to Nyhaven (a fantastic part of the city and relaxed over lunch where only myself tried the delicious herrings. That evening Felicity and Catherine went to hear the Symphony Orchestra and the rest of us returned to our Italian friends! Not the same without the other two. On Friday morning the shops beckoned and we all spent time getting rid our cash. Some lovely things were bought. We met up for lunch at a very historic old Danish Restaurant called Husmanns, which was very enjoyable. Later on that day we visited the famous Tivoli Gardens and looked with horror at some of the rides – a bit terrifying! We then had an enjoyable meal in a Chinese restaurant and afterwards strolled through the magnificently illuminated Indian Palaces and fountains. On the last morning everybody did their own thing, some shopping, some sight seeing and some cruising. Later we headed back to the Airport and our flight home. What we lacked in quantity we made up for in quality – a great trip with lovely people.

**Joan Priestman**

*Ed: The above article arrived too late for inclusion in the 2006 Muckross Mail*

Don't forget  
the AGM  
on

UNION DAY

Sunday 4th  
March 2007

After  
11.15am  
Mass

# EDUCATOR AND NUN: NO NUN LIKE SISTER PATRICK



Sister Patrick was, and still is, my teacher: An inspirational educator, funny, earthy lady, friend and mentor to countless students; and the most "un-nun" like nun imaginable. Ahead of her time, she was never limited by the conventions and rules of a semi-cloistered religious order where being lady-like were a priority. No, Sr. Mary Patrick, O.P. did her own thing long before it was trendy or permitted. She was a free spirit whose love of life, learning and "Muckross girls" inspired us to become all that we could be.

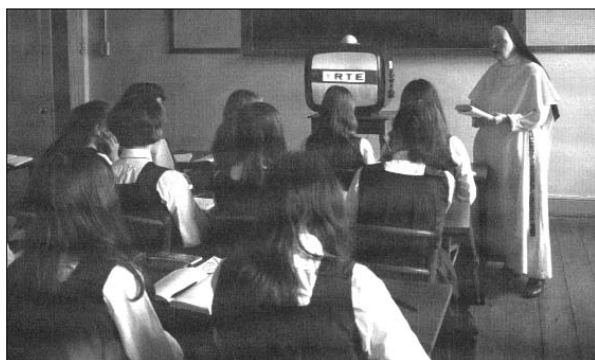
Etched in my mind is that first encounter with Sr. Patrick. Second year students with mischief on our minds, we awaited the arrival of this new teacher with our troubleseeking antennas fully extended and our teacher-testing skills finely tuned. Who was going to be in charge here, her or us? A small, rotund figure of indeterminate age bustled through the door, laid an armful of books on the desk, looked each of us in the eye, and grinned. A nun who grinned! We were stunned. Then while we strove to regain our balance, she smoothly took over and within seconds the ground rules were established. She conveyed to us that what we all had in common was a syllabus to cover; her job being to help us do that; ours, to fully co-operate and, thus, earn time for other "productive" activities. And that was that – provided we did not disturb adjoining classes!

In just minutes, this small lady had shattered our negative expectations regarding teachers and control, and made it clear that she was not about to waste valuable time or energy engaging in power struggles. And in four years of classes with her never once did I see any such incidents.

Class time was divided into two parts: formal learning from the prescribed curriculum and, that accomplished, we could read, do homework, review for other classes, or knit. But mostly we discussed newspaper articles, music, boys, movies, world affairs, social and family issues, even death. Sr. Patrick, unlike most nuns the, was not hesitant to talk about her family and confided that she would like to be buried with her parents, rather than in the community graveyard. Frequently she shared letters from her brothers – one a Dominican administrator in the far-east – and past students who led interesting lives. The focus was always educational. And we did well on this diet. Many of us went from passing grades to honours in every subject that she taught. Irish became fun as she taught us our poems in song! This made memorizing easy even if it did cause a peculiar "hum" during Irish exams.

She seemed to have read everything, classical, current and popular. Questioned about this, she told us that she had received a "special dispensation" from the Bishop to read after lights-out, because she needed very little sleep.

It was in chapel that I first marvelled at this lady's uninhibited style. While the other nuns warbled in restrained girl-like tones, soaring out on top could be heard the unselfconscious voice of our teacher who loved to really sing. Neither were nuns' knees something schoolgirls saw much of in those days; but as assistant director of the annual Gilbert & Sullivan operetta, Sr. Patrick would hitch up her skirts to show us our dance moves and – incidentally – her knees encased in sensible white stockings. Visiting "old boy friends" necessitated occasional brief absences from class, but we all knew that these were really ex-kindergartners (back then Muckross allowed boys in kindergarten) coming to show off new brides or say goodbye before leaving for overseas. Geography, just one of the many subjects she taught, came alive through her collection of current letters and pictures from past students. For someone living a cloistered life physically, Sr. Patrick's horizons were limitless.



*Sr. Patrick in October 1968 waiting on "Telefís Scoile" to begin class.  
If anyone can identify this class please let the editor know.*

When it was clear my Father was failing and would not live more than days, it was to Sr. Patrick that I went for help to cope. Also when I was faced with having to repeat two years in college due to changing my major – and was considering dropping out, she found me a teaching-assistant job to help me continue my studies. And it was she who supported me through one of my first big feminist struggles. At issue was my parents' refusal to let me go hitchhiking and youth hostelling with friends (trips my brothers had already taken) on the grounds that it was "too risky" for a girl. My outrage knew no bounds. It was decided that Sr. Patrick be consulted. Her recommendation: "By all

means go, but you must take a weapon." Her choice; "a hat-pin, easy to conceal, legal and strikingly effective", I went.

Times, habits and rules change, but not Sr. Patrick. Once when I visited my old school she was in Hong Kong with her brother. Another time she was just back from a conference in London. And the lady was in her eighties! However, if one of the purposes of our journey in this world is to be remembered through those we have touched, then Sr. Patrick will forever be here. Professionally and personally, hardly a day passes but I find myself remembering and trying to put into practice some of what she taught: "See learning as fun; broaden your horizons; avoid power struggles; pray; cherish family and friends; read, read, then read some more; sing as loudly as you like; and trust yourself and others. But remember, just in case, to always carry a long sharp hat pin!"

## **Hilary Hanumara (Clancy) 1952-1958**

*(Now a psychotherapist living in Kingston, Rhode Island, USA who visits Muckross on her annual trips home).*

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

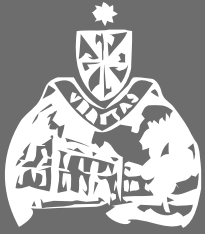
**Have you renewed  
your subscription  
for 2007?**

**Only €15**

**(or over 60's €10)**

**See Membership  
Form in this issue**

**Muckross Mail**



## SCHOOL NEWS

### OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW SCHOOL

On 19th April, 2007, the Minister for Education and Science will officially open the new school building. Dr. Diarmuid Martin, Archbishop of Dublin, will bless the school building. This is yet another important milestone in the development of the Dominican College Muckross Park and no doubt this momentous occasion will be duly celebrated.

### NEW ASTROTURF HOCKEY PITCH

You will remember we reported in the last issue on the fundraising project to provide a new all weather hockey pitch. All the hard work paid off and on 23rd November last RTE sports commentator Jimmy Magee officially opened the new Astroturf pitch.

School Principal Patricia Fitzsimons praised the Sports Development Committee which worked tirelessly for years to bring this magnificent facility to Muckross. Sr. Carmel then blessed the pitch, sprinkling it and everyone present with holy water. She was followed by music teacher Lisa O'Sullivan who led the singing of the Dominican *Magnificat*. This was followed by a match between the school's senior hockey team and the past pupils resulting in a 1-0 victory for the younger Muckross team. Congratulations to all concerned.

In more hockey news, three of Muckross Senior players were selected to play in the recent interprovincial series for the Leinster under 18's namely, Liane Costello, Kate McKenna and Anna O'Flanagan. Liane was named as Captain.

### DEBATING

There are several debating teams in 5th year; Irish; French and German. Muckross have won the first rounds of each of the two Irish debating competitions, namely, Gael Linn and Feachtas. We also had first round successes in the German and French debating competitions, beating St Louis and St Michaels respectively. Representing the school on the debating teams were:

*Irish* – Lucy Geraghty, Maeve Ni Choilean, Lyndsay Duffy, Aoife O'Reilly, Brid Doherty agus Aoife Sheridan.  
*German* – Dearbhla Doherty, Cliona Walsh und Anna Hatfield  
*French* – Grainne Pollach, Lucy Geraghty et Sabine O'Dwyer.

---

## THE ETAFENI PLAYGROUP PROJECT

You may remember reading about the PPU involvement with this project in last year's Muckross Mail. We gave them a donation of 1,000 which went towards repairing and improving the shacks and shipping containers, training the women who help run the project and for educational equipment. In June last year Sr. Caitriona was in Ireland and attended our committee meeting. She gave us an update and brought along photographs which showed how our donation had helped the project (see photos on our website). Following a discussion it was agreed that Sr. Caitriona would talk to the women running the project to ascertain their needs and how we could help.

In November last we held a Table Quiz in Madigan's in Donnybrook and the proceeds from this very enjoyable night will be used for the project.

The following is an email which was sent to our Secretary Claire Johns from Sr. Caitriona in Capetown following our donation of €1,000 to the project.

"Dear Claire

This is to inform you that according to the bank statement of the Etafeni Playgroup Project, the 1,000 donated by the Muckross Past Pupils' Union arrived safely in our account on Monday 20th February 2006. It has been received with great joy and thanksgiving by all in Etafeni. The well-known Muckross spirit of generosity has crossed the world to the people Nyanga and our hearts go out to all in the PPU in return.

We received with thanks the Muckross Mail for 2005 and 2006, with the article and pictures of Etafeni in this year's edition. Congratulations on producing a fine magazine with news of the many events that keep the past pupils united in their love for their old school.

Here in South Africa, the whole country came to a standstill on 1st March, proclaimed a public holiday to enable everyone to vote in the local municipal elections. The election promises were good: to fight poverty and improve social service deliveries. After ten years of free and fair elections, the people are beginning to realise that promises do not always mean delivery.

Someone dropped an eight inch spanner in one of the generators at Koeberg Nuclear Power Station recently. The other generator was shut down for servicing. With only some of our electricity coming from upcountry, we have been experiencing long power cuts over the last few weeks. We all have gas and candles at the ready, but the business world has experienced huge losses.

However, there is great rejoicing countrywide because South Africa is beating Australia in cricket, and the man of the match is the bowler, Ntini Makhatini!

Please convey the good wishes and thanks from Etafeni to all in Muckross. We will keep in touch with you during the year.

Yours sincerely  
Sr. Caitriona"

# MUCKROSS GOLF SOCIETY

The annual Muckross Golfing Society had its outing to Edmondstown Golf Club (thanks to Sheila Hughes (Nally) a former Lady Captain of Edmondstown) on 14th September last. The Captain of the Golfing Society this year was Beatrice Doran with Phil Kelleher as Vice Captain. Once again we had a most enjoyable and successful day. Forty-six golfers took part in the competition for the beautiful Rose Bowl presented by sisters Phil Kelleher (Campbell) and Carmel Keogh (Campbell). It was won by Marguerite Barry with Terry Richardson (O'Connor) in second place. Third place went to Tanya Abrahamson. The prize for the Front nine holes went to Eadaon Maher, the Second nine was won by Mary Hoare. Annette Curry Burke had the Longest drive, and Marguerite Barry was nearest the pin. The visitor's prize was won by Colette McCrann.

Forty-three golfers stayed for a lovely Dinner after the Golf at Edmondstown, and the guest of Honour was the President of the Muckross Past Pupils' Union, Valerie Cox, who also presented the prizes. Valerie's husband Brian has recently published a book on the Ryder Cup called 'Ryder Cup Ireland' and she presented a copy to the Captain of the Muckross Golfing Society, Beatrice Doran.

The Annual General Meeting of the Muckross Golfing Society was held later in the evening and we welcome the 2007 Captain Phil Kelleher (Campbell) to the office. Mary O'Brien (Whooley) is the new Vice-Captain, Bernie Feeney (Lacy) agreed to take on the Secretary's post. Annette Quigley (Soraghan) very kindly said she would look after the timesheet for us again for the 2007 outing, and new members to the Committee are Eadaon Maher and Darina O'Halloran (Boden). Sheila Hughes (Nally), Valerie Clancy (Barry) and Beatrice Doran make up the rest of the Committee.

Edmondstown has proved such a lovely and successful venue for the Muckross Golfing Society that we have decided to return there again on Thursday 13th September 2007. We would love to see some more Muckross Past Pupils taking part in this enjoyable day. Please contact Bernie Feeney for further information Tel.086-8201811 or feeneybernadette@yahoo.com

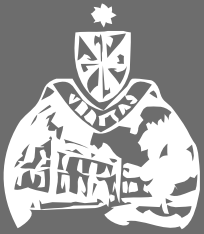
**Beatrice M. Doran**  
*Captain 2006*



**The  
Combined  
Dominican  
Union Mass  
takes place  
on Sunday  
13th May  
in Muckross  
at  
11.15am.**

## THE EASTER EGG HUNT 2006





If you would like a back issue of a Muckross Mail please contact the editor

## FORTY YEARS ON

They came from near and far, almost forty of them – from Blackrock, Castleknock and Stillorgan; from Walla Walla in Washington, Vancouver in British Columbia and from New York; from Clonskeagh and Templeogue, Italy, Scotland, England, and Kerry.

As we gathered in Elm Park for the reunion that marked forty years since we left school, the April air was filled with cries of delight as old friends greeted one another, with just occasionally a muttered groping for a name and a regretful admission of forgetfulness. Our biggest surprise appearance was that of Eleanor Cooke, whom we hadn't seen since we were all about 14. We were also happy to see some of the nuns and teachers at the dinner including Sisters Barnabas and Louis Dominic, as well as Celia Dowling.

No ice needed breaking on that Friday evening. Indeed, the noise level of eager chatter grew quickly, scarcely dimming for speeches, and drawing the sort of frowns and hushing that seemed to accompany us through our school days. It was déjà vu, and we were back in the classroom – even more so when Catherine Daly donned a gymslip. No hushing was necessary, though, when Philo Fisher Butler rose to speak. Once a captain, always a captain; and Philo hasn't lost her position.

I dare say I wasn't the only one with a tear in her eye and a lump in her throat when Philo spoke so movingly of our good fortune in being educated at Muckross, and of our gratitude to our parents for sending us there.

Sadly, some could not be with us. We were particularly disappointed that Elaine Bastable, our vice-captain for so many years, was abroad at the time; that Mary Clarke couldn't make it home from Ontario; that some just couldn't be found, and others were not available.

For those of us lucky enough to be there, it was an evening filled with warmth and pleasure. It was a celebration of friendships and togetherness. It was being part of a family — one without sibling rivalries and tension. It was all over too soon. It was fortunate that Maeve Brennan was hosting part two on the following Sunday, when we were able to continue our celebration. (Photographs are available on the Internet, and if you want to see them, just send me an e-mail and I'll send you the link — [mary\\_monks@ireland.com](mailto:mary_monks@ireland.com))

I should mention that, aside from many groups of lifelong friends among our class of '65, we have a hard core – or is that a heart corps? – that keeps track of us all, rounding us up for special occasions: Philo Fisher, Maeve Brennan (always a generous hostess), Emer Sheehy, Elaine Bastable, Deirdre Ross, Eleanor O'Keeffe, Patricia Stephenson, Drusilla Wynne, Catherine Daly. And they did a magnificent job of contacting so many of us for our 40th anniversary reunion. It was a weekend that will linger in the memory for a long time.

### **Mary Hatch (Monks)**

*Leaving Cert 1965*

*Ed: The above article arrived too late for inclusion in the 2006 Muckross Mail*



*L-R Imelda French (Reilly), Frances McCourt, Ann Whelans (Finlay), Anne Roche-Kelly (Keogh) & Muireann Morris (Wilson).*





*L-R Adrienne O'Sullivan (Gannon) and Claire Baxter*



*L-R Pauline Stephens (Smith), Terry Richardson (O'Connor) & Mary Irwin (Fallon)*



*L-R Sheila Hickey (Ross), Clodagh O'Leary (Brady) & Frances Morrison (Keane) who all now live in Cork.*



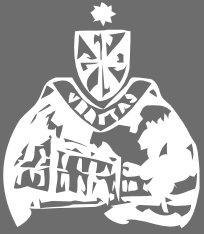
*Muireann Morris (Wilson) left, who was 1966 class captain with Gay Rodgers*

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Have you renewed your subscription for 2007?

Only €15  
or  
£10 stg.  
(or over 60's €10)

See Membership Form in this issue



## THE SANTA PARTY

On Sunday 3rd December we held our first Santa Party. This event together with the Easter Egg Hunt earlier in the year was designed to attract our younger past pupils and their families.

We had 23 children who arrived in various stages of excitement; some clutching their letters to Santa to deliver in person. After the usual slow start while they all eyed each other up, the noise level took off to party level! Some watched the cartoons, others did the colouring competition while they waited for Santa to arrive. Four of Santa's helpers from Transition Year were on hand to help too, for which we were very grateful. When word went round that Santa had arrived in his grotto and it was amazing how excitement turned to shyness as all were reluctant to be the first to go in to see him. Santa talked to everyone, gave out gifts and had lots of photos taken with the children (see our website). While all the above was going on the parents had tea and mince pies in the parlour.

The winners of the Colouring Competition are as follows:

Under 6 Winner: Isabelle Rigney, daughter of Linda Taylor class of 1990

Over 6 Winner: Peter Provenzani, grandson of Annette Quigley (Soraghan) class of 1964

We would like to hear from any parents who attended the party who would volunteer to help us with the preparations for the 2007 party on Sunday 2nd December 2007.

Visit

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

for all information and photos of previous events



Over 6 Winner: Peter Provenzani, grandson of Annette Quigley (Soraghan) class of 1964

Under 6 Winner: Isabelle Rigney, daughter of Linda Taylor class of 1990

# **BOOKING FORMS**

(Complete and return forms as necessary)

## **ANNUAL DINNER**

**The Annual Dinner takes place on  
Friday 20th April 2007  
in Elm Park Golf Club, Nutley Lane, Donnybrook  
Tickets €40 • Dinner 7.15pm**

**EARLY BOOKING IS ADVISABLE - TELEPHONE BOOKINGS WILL NOT BE TAKEN**

I wish to book \_\_\_\_\_ places @ €40 each, and enclose cheque for € \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to Muckross Park PPU).  
Please supply names of all those attending on a separate page.

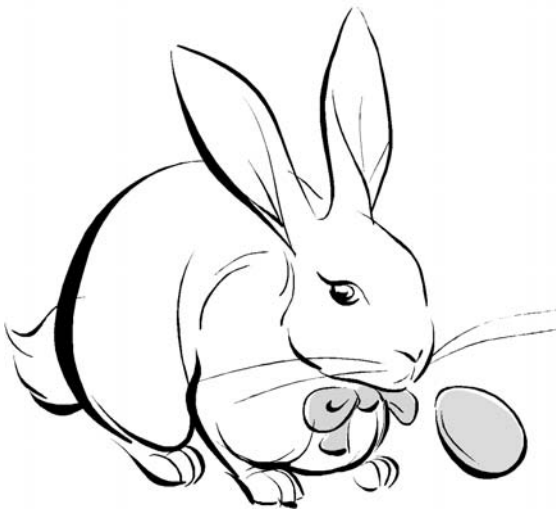
- Please indicate any special dietary requirements

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Left \_\_\_\_\_

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

Tel No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Bookings must be received not later than 13th April and should be sent to:  
**Margot Doyle, Muckross Park PPU, 132 Roebuck Road, Dublin 14**



## **EASTER EGG HUNT**

PAST PUPILS BRING YOUR CHILDREN  
OR GRANDCHILDREN  
TO OUR EASTER EGG HUNT  
ON SUNDAY 1st APRIL 2007  
AFTER THE 11.15am MASS  
IN MUCKROSS PARK



*Joy Riordan at the Annual Dinner 2006 entertaining us with her Muckross version of 'Climb Every Mountain'! Joy was there with her other classmates celebrating 50 years since leaving Muckross.*

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

(Complete and return this form if applicable)



## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Your 2007 subscription is now due. 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.

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.*

## **MUCKROSS PARK PAST PUPILS UNION – RENEWAL / MEMBERSHIP FORM**

I wish to join the PPU / renew my membership (*delete as appropriate*) and enclose cheque for €.....

**OR** complete the Banker's Order Below

(Block Letters)

First Name: ..... Last Name: ..... Maiden Name: .....

Address: .....

Year Left: ..... Tel. No: ..... E-mail Address:.....

Occupation: .....

**Have you any professional or other skills to offer to the PPU?.....**

**Annual Membership Fee: €15 or Seniors (over 60s) €10 Payable by cheque/draft or Banker's Order  
From non euro zone area send £10 Sterling**

### **BANKER'S ORDER**

**Name of Bank**

**Address of Bank**

**Sort Code (6 digits)**

**Account Number (8 digits)**

**Account Holder Name**

Pay now and 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
  - Bank of Ireland, 34 College Green, Dublin 2 Sort Code: 90-07-89
- and charge the same to my account.

**Please cancel all previous standing instructions in favour of Muckross Park Past Pupils' Union.**

**Signature:**..... **Date:** .....