

Muckross Mail

Newsletter of the Muckross Past Pupils' Union

March 2016



From the Union President

To all Muckross Park Past Pupils

It's been another busy and challenging year for us. I'd like to thank all our past pupils who continue to support us and without whom we would not continue to exist.

As a Union we need to continue to evolve and change to meet the needs of all our past pupils. We are keen to grow and develop and offer you new ways to engage as past pupils. Having received feedback from members we have decided to make a few changes for 2016:

- We have changed our Annual Union Gathering to be a lunch event instead of dinner. It will take place on **Saturday 23rd April at 12.30pm in Marco Pierre White Courtyard Restaurant** in Donnybrook. One of our past pupils, Senator Jillian van Turnhout (class of 1986), will join us, as Guest Speaker, to talk about her experiences since she left Muckross Park.
- We also plan to launch our networking programme of events later this year. We are very keen to develop a programme to help each other in our careers and also to support our future members. We need and ask your help to deliver this programme.

The AGM, this year will now take

place on **4th September**, when we will present the proposed updated Constitution and discuss plans for the future of the Union.



Helena O'Dowd

We are delighted to continue our connection with the school by sponsoring the Spirit of Muckross Award which will be

presented by the Union on Graduation Day to the pupil who has demonstrated the most social entrepreneurship during their time in Muckross.

The Union would not continue to run without your very committed

committee who deliver our events, emails, news, etc. These would not happen without their hard work. I would like to thank them for all their support.

Do you have spare time to support the Union, to help it to grow? If you'd like to organise a networking activity or past pupil gathering, we'd be delighted to talk to you. Your support is crucial.

Thank you to all the contributors, and our editor Gay Rodgers for her time and creativity in pulling together a very enjoyable read every year.

Enjoy reading your Muckross Mail.

Helena O'Dowd, PPU President



PPU Vice-President, Ann Harper, presenting the PPU sponsored Spirit of Muckross Award to Elma Seaver at the Sixth Year Graduation on 15th May 2015.



From the Editor

This is the 45th year of the Muckross Mail newsletter. Over the years it has been typed, run off on a very inky Gestetner machine, photocopied and eventually printed in colour for the last few years. This year sees a further change as we will be issuing it to most of our members by email.

The main contributors are you, the past pupils - the PPU committee really only provide dates for events! I would like to thank all those who have taken time to write for us this year and also my husband Tony who is always available when I get stuck on a question of grammar.

Over the 11 years I have been editor I never fail to be amazed at the variety of careers, hobbies and far flung locations of Muckross girls. As usual our past pupils have provided an eclectic mix of subjects which I hope will entertain you.



Gay Rodgers

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Annual Lunch

Saturday 23rd April 2016 at 12.30pm
Marco Pierre White Courtyard Restaurant,
Belmont Avenue, Donnybrook.
Advance booking essential.

Hockey Match - Past Pupils v School Team

Date to be finalised for Spring/Summer 2016.

Combined Dominican Golf Society

Monday 11th July 2016 in Naas Golf Club
Book with Miriam Mc Guinness at 086 385 7715.

AGM on Union Day

Sunday 4th September 2016 in Muckross Park
11.15 am Mass followed by AGM & refreshments.

Muckross Golf Society

Thursday 8th September 2016
in Edmonstown Golf Club, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14.
Book with Susan Fitzgerald at susanfitz1@gmail.com

Combined Dominican Unions' Mass

Sunday 2nd October 2016 in Muckross Park at
11.15am.

Santa Party

Date to be announced later in the year on our website.

PPU Mass in Muckross

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

800 Years of Dominican Tradition 1216- 2016



This year the Order of Preachers will celebrate 800 years since its foundation in 1216.



The Order, which was founded by St. Dominic, was officially confirmed by Pope Honorius III who approved the Order as a body of Canons Regular on the 22nd December 1216. A second papal bull, issued on 21st January 1217, recognised the newness of Dominic's ideas and approved the foundation as an Order of Preachers. The Jubilee Year will be celebrated worldwide by Dominican friars, sisters and lay people.

The National Concert Hall will host a concert organised by the Dominican Fathers on 29th September 2016. The concert "The Children of Lir" (composed by Patrick Cassidy), as well as some other well-known pieces such as "Vide Cor Meum," will be performed. The music is chosen to reflect the themes of resurrection and renewal in the context of the contribution of The Dominican Order to Irish culture over the past 800 years. The concert will be preceded by a brief lecture given by Kevin O'Reilly O.P. The event will involve all branches of the Dominican Order (brothers, sisters, nuns, lay men and women) and will be open to the general public. For details see www.dominicans.ie





The Great Irish Bake Off

How do you end up as a contestant on The Great Irish Bake Off, I hear you ask? Take a pinch of redundancy, a soupçon of curiosity, a passion for cooking, and a notion of madness and one dark January night after a few glasses of very nice Rioja, you fill in an online application form, divulging more than you should, in the belief that you haven't a hope of success.

Two weeks later you get a call and two rounds later, with some 700 applicants having being whittled down to 12, you suddenly realise it's too late to call stop and you are a contestant on the 2014 Great Irish Bake Off.

A frenzy of revisiting baking techniques, took up most of the time in the weeks before filming. The remit was extensive and contestants had to prepare and submit their baking creations, as if one was going to last the whole eight programmes. The family were somewhat alarmed - notoriety was on the way in one form or another! A plethora of breads, cakes, tarts, edifices of choux pastry, meringue mountains, elaborate desserts were prepared and sampled and critiqued. Everyone had an opinion, usually contrary to mine, and the four weeks beforehand were somewhat stormy, alongside the preparations costing a fortune!

The programme is a masterpiece in project management. Strict contracts with long confidentiality clauses had to be signed. Social Media is verboten. No discussion with anyone about anything relating to the show, on pain of death by an early dawn firing squad!

Day was 1st April in Tinakilly House, Co.Wicklow, in a purpose built marquee. The 12 contestants (or lambs to slaughter) gathered the day before, ranging from a



Elaine in the Bake Off

seventeen year old still at school, to a sixty year old social worker. I was the second eldest - somewhat chastening! We were drilled on how to handle ourselves on the programme, to ignore the camera, to keep going when all is falling apart, to be jolly and happy, and not to curse.

Early morning sees us led out to the tent. I have elected to wear jeans and a royal blue top, casually indifferent to my appearance, trying not to look too fat. Lights, cameras, action - we lift the tea towels and suss out a very inadequate kitchen set up, with a hand held mixer. A death knell to efficient baking creations and a set up that is not quite like that of Mary Berry's and the Great British Bake Off.

All was going relatively well, until I discovered that the fridge, where my white chocolate truffles were supposed to be setting for my 'Nuts about Chocolate' gateau, had not been plugged in, so disaster number one. Then a fellow contestant beside me fainted, so I helped

her to a seat, got the St John's Ambulance people in to look after her, then did some work for her cake to help her out. This left me a tad short of time to work on mine - it looked delicious although slightly slanting and bare. The judges were only interested in my less than perfect gateau with slanting top and lack of truffles - a portent of doom!

Next day, (with not a wink of sleep) the blind test or unknown bake loomed - a Battenberg cake. Usually one buys this as life is too short to go to the trouble! The spec for the cake was absolute in its dimensions; so many centimetres high, so many wide and so many long, with a half of centimetre of marzipan icing surround. Four squares; two flavoured by rose water and coloured pink and two with lemon and naturally, homemade apricot jam in between. Scissors, baking paper, jam bubbling, not enough rose water, too much red colouring, cameras in your face, oven too cool, measurements going crazy, time running out, panic ensuing, judges judging mistakes. Two pink spots of high blood pressure on my cheeks - the battle of the Battenberg which I did not win.

When the director asked two fellow contestants to move slightly away from me on each side as the cameras started rolling to announce the first person to go - I wanted to leg it fast from the tent, but there was nowhere to hide. So I stuck the chin out, and calmly accepted the decision, said my few words and headed home.

Was I glad I filled out that form tipsily that January night? Sure even monkeys fall from trees, as the saying goes!

Elaine Hartigan (nee Kavanagh)
Class of 1975

WHY NOT JOIN US

Do you like the idea of a past pupils' union? Have you enjoyed attending PPU events? If the answer is Yes then perhaps you might consider joining the committee this year.

We are looking for nominations or for PPU members to volunteer to join the 2016/17 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 and develop the PPU for the future.

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 the committee at muckrossppu@gmail.com. This is your PPU and we need you to keep it going for another 100 years. Every committee needs a regular injection of new blood to keep it fresh, so come on, give it a go!



FLEEING FROM CONFLICTS TO KOS

In September last year, my husband Brian and I spent a few weeks on the Greek island of Kos as volunteers helping refugees fleeing from conflicts in Syria and elsewhere.

As the closest island to the Turkish port of Bodrum, just six kilometres away, Kos is seen as the gateway to Europe. Every night, refugees, mostly Syrians, set out for Kos in tiny rubber dinghies, often having to row themselves. Many of these trips are organized by traffickers charging around €1,000 for each person.

Between January and September 2015 almost 40,000 refugees had arrived in Kos; thousands more had drowned en route. In many cases, their life jackets have been filled with sponges rather than buoyancy aids.

When Brian and I set off for Kos we didn't know what to expect. Through appeals in Ireland we were able to bring clothes, money and essentials such as Sudocrem with us. As soon as we arrived, we set about meeting other volunteers. Most of them were like ourselves, coming in ones and twos to do whatever they could. We also linked up with two local charities, Kos Kindness and Kos Solidarity.

The first contact volunteers have with the refugees is when they land on the beaches of Kos. Watching for the dinghies was a surreal experience. We patrolled the beaches under the most glorious stars, listening for voices, as the dinghies don't use lights so as to avoid the Turkish coast guards. We would help drag the dinghies ashore as the refugees shout "Europe Europe", praise Allah or God, and kiss the sand. Many arrive with nothing; frequently the traffickers have thrown their luggage overboard in order to carry more passengers.

We would give them blankets and towels immediately and then get them to the harbour. There we provided dry clothes, water and biscuits and helped to set people up in tents. For the most vulnerable families, we joined forces with some of the other volunteers and paid upfront for a few rooms in a cheap hotel.

Thankfully, Kos is a cheap place to live so our money went a long distance! The main priority was food and water. We were able to feed so many people, either



Valerie with a young refugee

with takeaways from a friendly local restaurant or by bringing the people in for a meal. Providing decent shoes was also a priority. Most of the refugees are barefoot or wearing flip flops on arrival. But for the journey onwards to Athens and further into Europe, they desperately need shoes. Through negotiation and buying in bulk, we were able to buy good quality trainers for €18-€20.

There were many harrowing stories. A 23 year old cancer sufferer who hadn't eaten for two days; an amputee who arrived on homemade crutches and for whom we found a wheelchair; a father with his four year old son whose home in Aleppo was hit by a bomb, killing his wife and two year old child. And while we were there two young volunteers from Wales found the body of a boy about 8 months old who had been in the water for some time. Nobody knows who he is.

But for those who make it, getting to Kos can be joyous. I will always remember arranging a simple meal for twenty 20 Syrians, an extended family, who were very hungry and who were living in flimsy tents on the harbour. They were able to sit at a table for the first time in weeks or months, with cutlery and a menu. It totally restored their dignity as human beings. They quickly turned it into a celebration - the kids were laughing, the adults were smiling.

The people of Kos are divided in their support for the refugees, some couldn't do enough, others moan about the implications for tourism, their main source of income. That is a real worry, and I encourage everyone to continue to holiday on this beautiful island to support the efforts of the wonderful people we met there.

The saddest thing is that Europe hasn't the courage to eliminate these death-dinghies by getting these refugees onto a ferry in Bodrum and straight to Athens, bypassing the islands altogether. I know the political implications, but registration and decisions on their future are for another day - right now our humanity needs to scream out at the injustice of it all and to demand from our politicians that they take all lives seriously and realize that these men, women and children deserve a chance to live.

We went back to Kos in January this year along with our son, Eoin. This time we also visited the nearby island of Leros where there were more than 900 people between the refugee camp, a disused abattoir and the old psychiatric hospital. Food was still in such short supply and conditions had not improved.

Thank you so much for your help, particularly our friends, the Muckross PPU and the Dominican Order. We are glad that we were able to go, but we could not have achieved so much without your support.

Valerie Cox (nee Fitzpatrick)
Class of 1969

PPU Committee:

President: Helena O'Dowd
Vice-President: Ann Harper
Hon. Treasurer: Claire Johns (Doyle)

Committee:

Felicity Coll (O'Brien), Emma Long,
Gay Rodgers, Elizabeth Smyth

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Gay Rodgers

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Catherine, Barnie and Stephen Fry!

My days in Muckross Park College began at the age of nine and only recently I discovered that Sister Barnabas (affectionately known as Barnie) was around that age when she started there too. I was continuing the family tradition with the Dominicans, my grand aunt Bride went to Taylor's Hill and my mother Kathleen to Sion Hill. I had no idea when I met Barnie some years later in senior school what a major influence she would have on my life and future career. It was friendship at first sight with the two of us. From an early age I would put on little plays at home with the dog and doll getting walk on parts! I always loved the world of entertainment and Barnie helped drive this passion. Barnie persuaded me to join the debating team and I treasured the look of pride on her face when I was awarded best speaker or when my team won a big award even though one of my team mates in error had argued against our motion!

Then came the school musicals. During my time at school we put on two epic performances - 'Calamity Jane' and 'The King and I' with Gonzaga College directed by the late great Treasa Davison. I think the experience I got from this drove my ambition to work in film. However in my Leaving Cert year my sights were set on medicine but it wasn't to be and instead I went to Trinity College Dublin to study BESS.

The day after my graduation I started working on a short film called 'Public Toilet', a production by Ed Guiney who has now got a Best Producer Oscar nomination for 'Room' alongside my classmate Emma Donoghue for Best Screenplay. That was the start of something great for me. For over 20 years I have been at the heart of film activities in Ireland as a production operative and producer working on a variety of productions from short films and commercials to co-ordinating TV Drama and feature films.

I've been involved with such films as 'In The Name of the Father' and 'Loving Miss Hatto' and TV productions such as 'Charlie' and recently 'Rebellion'. I have being very fortunate to have worked with many of the most successful filmmakers in Ireland. These have included Seamus Byrne, Neil Jordan, Alan Moloney, Catherine Magee, Damien O'Donnell, John Moore and Aisling



Catherine and Stephen Fry

Walsh. I've worked with actors from Daniel Day Lewis, Emma Thompson, Brendan and Brian Gleeson, Vanessa Redgrave, Albert Finney, Stephen Fry to Michael Gambon, Barry Keoghan, Charlie Murphy, Ruth Bradley, Sarah Greene and Rachel Griffiths. I feel privileged to be part of creating the vision for the future.

Last year I was working on 'Love and Friendship', a film based on a Jane Austen novella and starring Kate Beckinsale, Chloë

Sevingy and Stephen Fry. The day of the funeral of Sister Barnabas we had the script read through, when all the cast and the director go through the script together. I was so sad to be missing my hero's funeral but I had to work. I was asked to read a few small parts of cast members who weren't there. Sitting between the two stars, Kate and Chloë, I was very nervous that I would make a mistake. Then I thought of what Barnie would have said with determination in her voice... 'you are well able to do this' - and I did. Thankfully, the reading ended early and I was able to get to her burial at Dominic Convent Cabra and say a fond farewell.

I loved my time at Muckross and I even though I've worked with so many different people in the film industry the Muckross girls will always be the ones closest to my heart. Recently I was working on a production and at the very last minute I called one of them, Orlaith Deasy, to see if she could give me a dig out. She was at her desk within the hour. Barnie would have been proud!

Catherine O'Flaherty
Class of 1987

2015 RAFFLE RESULTS

The Annual Raffle for the Benevolent Fund took place at the Annual Dinner on Saturday 25th April 2015 in Elm Park Golf Club.

Congratulations to the following winners:

1st Prize:

One week's Holiday from Trident Holiday Homes in Ireland.

Winner: Maureen O'Toole

2nd Prize:

One Night mid-week B&B+1D for Two & two treatments in Monart Spa.

Winner: June Croker

3rd Prize:

Two green fees for Seapoint Golf Club, Termonfeckin, Co. Louth.

Winner: Cathy O'Connor

4th Prize:

One year's rental of a safe deposit box from Merrion Vaults in Dublin.

Winner: Kay O'Donnell

5th Prize:

Lunch for Two at Jamie's Italian, Dundrum Town Centre.

Winner: June Croker

6th Prize:

Family Ticket to Wicklow's Historic Gaol.

Winner: Sr Caitriona

7th Prize:

Handmade Brooch designed by Celtic Roots Studio, Athlone.

Winner: Sr Mary Daly

8th Prize:

Art Stone Candle Set by Rachel McCann

Winner: Mary Mallon.

A big thank you one again to our sponsors for the above prizes



At Home in Rural Ireland

When I say I live in rural Ireland, imagine a quiet stroll down a long, winding lane with ferns, foxgloves and blackberry bushes filling the ditches on either side. There is grass growing down the middle and in the distance you can see the whole stretch of County Waterford out towards the Comeragh Mountains in the west. In the south there is a forest and after a couple of miles the Copper Coast, a hidden gem and a Unesco World Heritage site.

When I say I am a Dub, picture that classic cafe loving kid who liked nothing better than swanking into Bewleys for coffee on a Saturday morning. In spite of a love of the Grafton Street of the 1970s, I always had romantic notions about living closer to nature and getting away from it all. I have now lived in the middle of nowhere longer than I ever lived anywhere else. In truth the land and sea have seeped into me more than I can say.

There are challenges for sure; it is five miles to the nearest shop, there are no services out here, no bin collection or street lights, no water supply or public transport. The winters are dark and "you have to make your own fun."

But for a peace loving creative, there are also many benefits. Our couple of acres are full of wildlife and I have encountered the most beautiful animals and birds sitting a few feet from me while I work away in my studio. Through daily photography and a nice long lens, I have seen the droplets of dew on their feathers and their sensitive whiskers twitching in the light. Sunsets are important here too; you get to see the whole sky and can join in with the local conversations on the impending weather like an old pro.



I travel a fair bit and there comes a point in every journey when I turn for home, the last twisty turn onto our meandering lane. This first bend of the lane is also the top of a hill and just before I set off on the last mile, I can take in the sweep of the lake, the valley and the Comeragh Mountains. The view from here depends a lot on weather, light and time of day. It changes by the hour. Sometimes I snap this scene through the windscreen, breathe in that short mile towards home and relax a little.

Catherine Drea
Class of 1972



Editor: Check out Catherine's blog and photos at www.foxglovelane.com



Having Fun at the Easter Egg Hunt 2015





The Law is for the Protection of People

Until recently I thought my decision to become a Garda happened in 1st Year English class when I turned a page in our English book and saw a picture of an English Woman Police Constable (WPC). They removed the “W” in the early 90s, shortly before we got rid of the “Ban” and discovered trousers. But it seems I had been talking about policing since Primary School, probably something to do with hearing Kris Kristofferson’s “The Law is for the Protection of the People” before I had developed a sense of irony.

So in 1st year I thought being a Garda was just the latest phase – nurse the previous week, train driver the week before. But it was a phase I didn’t seem to grow out of and I’m still waiting. I researched my chosen career and happily as part of my Transition Year project on “What I want to do when I leave school” I met with two student Gardaí, one of whom told me “whatever you do when you leave school do something else before you join An Garda Síochána, go to University, travel the world, get a job, just do something!” So, after four years study and a year working in the security sector, at the age of 23 I achieved my life’s ambition and entered the Garda College Templemore. I know two other Muckross Past pupils, now Sergeants in An Garda Síochána and I am sure there are a number of others.

The friendships I made in Templemore are similar to those from Muckross; I know they’re for life, no matter the distance between us and the time between meetings. It’s possibly something to do with shared adversity in an unattractive uniform!

I spent six months as a student Garda in Dublin’s north inner city in Store Street Garda Station and then went to Malahide as my first station. Just under two years later I moved to Coolock which was where I first became aware of child protection work in An Garda Síochána. I also carried out a number of investigations into sexual crimes, as these were often assigned to female members. I really enjoyed my time in Coolock in uniform or plain clothes, as we were

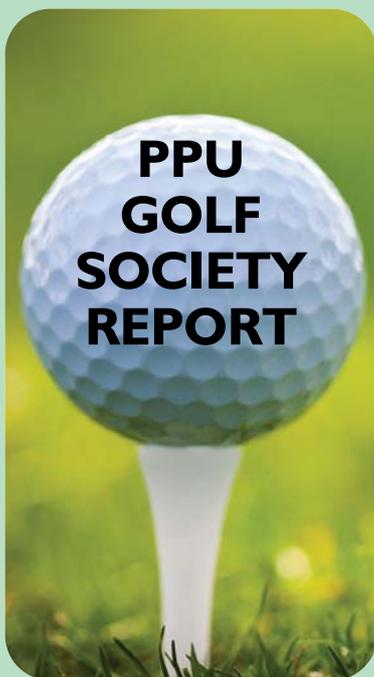
always busy and no shift was the same as the last.

I was appointed Detective in 2005 and moved to the National Bureau of Criminal Investigation, specifically the Organised Crime Unit. This may have been when my Mum (also a Muckross past pupil) mentioned to one of the nuns that I carried a gun and they started praying for me! After two years I moved to the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Investigation Unit, where I worked in the investigation of online child abuse. This can be very difficult work but is very rewarding, particularly when we can save a child from being abused. I was promoted to Sergeant in 2009 and was stationed in Dun Laoghaire for a short while.

I am now back working in the investigation of Sexual Crime, Sex Offender Management, Domestic Abuse Intervention and Child Protection as a Detective Sergeant attached to the Garda National Protective Services Bureau. So now I am working with the law for the protection of the people, still without Kris Kristofferson’s irony. I am now mainly office based and more likely to get paper cuts than any other injury, but I believe the nuns still pray for me. Maybe given the area I work in I still need the prayers.



Jennifer Molony
Class of 1992



The Muckross Park Past Pupils’ Golf Society’s 13th outing took place in Edmondstown Golf Club on Thursday 3rd September 2015 with 41 golfers, and the forecasted rain holding off. As always the course was in great condition with the greens like lightning, and a most enjoyable day was had by all. We had two very welcome guests play this year, Mrs O’Connor and Mrs McDermott and we hope to see them out again next year.

Elaine Hartigan was the worthy winner on the day with 35 points. **Moya Williams** was 2nd, **Darina Marshall** third and in 4th place was **Marie O’Carroll**. The front nine was won by **Mary Whooley** and the back nine was won by **Marguerite Barry**. The visitor’s prize was won by **Jane Calanan**. Three prizes were scooped up by **Jackie Horan**, winning nearest the pin, the longest drive and the gross prize, so well done to Jackie!



Phyl Kelleher (Campbell)
right
presenting the
Campbell Golf Trophy
to
Elaine Hartigan

The next golf outing is the Combined Dominican Society which will be held in Naas Golf Club on the 11th July 2016.

Please contact me at for information about the 2016 outings or to be added to our contact list. If you don’t play golf you are welcome to join us for the dinner. Well done to all who played and hope to see some new faces in 2016.

Susan Fitzgerald (nee Levins)
Golf Society Captain
Class of 1990

CAPE TOWN PLAYSCHOOLS UPDATE



Children of the Sophumelela Playgroup

As you know from previous issues of the *Muckross Mail* the PPU have been giving support, through the Benevolent Fund, to the Dominican Early Learning Playgroup Projects in Cape Town. Our involvement began under the guidance of Sr. Barnabas some years ago and we are delighted to be able to continue the support.

The following is from a recent email we received from Sr Caitriona in Cape Town...

'Muckross Past Pupils' Union have once again been so generous in donating €500 towards the development of the Sophumelela Playgroup in the township of Philippi in December 2015. This has helped in much needed repairs to the structure which is comprised of transformed shipping containers placed directly on the rough ground. Because of your generosity now and previously, the Playgroup has become a place in the local community where parents know that their children are well cared for, safe and benefiting from early childhood education. The new school year opened in South Africa in January 2016 and the Sophumelela Playgroup welcomed about eighty very happy children from the ages of two to five, to enjoy all the activities now possible from your part in providing educational equipment over the years. Ntombizonke, who runs the Playgroup wishes you to know how grateful she and the parents are for the wonderful support they have received from Muckross PPU.

We are very proud of how our Muckross Past Pupils have reached across the world to help directly this small local community, meeting their need to supply basic education to their own children.

With greetings, love and thanks from Sr Caitriona OP.'



Happy smiles at Graduation Day at the Playgroup



Ntombizonke right, who runs the Playgroup with proud parents and children at Sophumelela Graduation Day



Dominican Associates

Now in its second year, the monthly meeting of the Dominican Associates is held on the 4th Wednesday of each month in Muckross Park. The evening is hosted by Sr Carmel and each month a different topic is discussed. This is a friendly gathering of men and women who support Dominican ideals. Anyone interested in coming along should contact Sr Carmel in Muckross Park convent.

2016 Annual Raffle in aid of our Benevolent Fund

This year's raffle has an eclectic collection of fantastic prizes. We hope it will generate a bumper fundraising for the **Benevolent Fund** which supports our various charitable projects.

- 1st Prize:** Voucher for Dinner for 2 (including wine) at Hampton Hotel, Donnybrook
- 2nd Prize:** €100 Voucher for Marco Pierre White Restaurant, Donnybrook
- 3rd Prize:** €100 Voucher for justeat.ie food online
- 4th Prize:** Residential Property Valuation from Knight Frank Estate Agents, value €200
- 5th Prize:** Family Ticket to Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens
- 6th Prize:** Voucher for a Cut & Blow Dry from Zeba Hair Salon

and lots more prizes to win at the lunch!

Tickets €5 each or a book of 5 tickets for €20. If you did **not** receive your raffle tickets with the Muckross Mail or you would like extra tickets please
Email: muckrossppu@gmail.com



Commemoration of 1916 in Muckross Park College

Muckross Park has many historic connections with the people and events of 1916. The school was the home of Count Plunkett, father of Joseph Mary Plunkett who was based in the GPO in Easter week 1916 and was a signatory of the Proclamation. The founder of Cumann na mBan, Agnes O'Farrelly was a student of Muckross when it was St Mary's College which provided lectures for women in order to get their university degree. Eamon de Valera's grand-daughter was a pupil and later was a member of the teaching staff until she retired in 2008.

The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Criona Ni Dhalaigh, will attend the official proceedings in Muckross Park on the 14th March. The ceremony will begin with the raising of the Flag involving the entire community of pupils, staff, the Dominican sisters and special guests.

Among the events taking place are:

- A reading of the Proclamation by Niamh Plunkett who is a past pupil and direct descendant of Joseph Mary Plunkett
- An exhibition of the history of the school
- A performance of music and reflections of the time
- A presentation by Transition Year students of a study of 'Women and the Rising – the Muckross Connection'
- A display of a mural by the Art Department representing the city of Dublin in 1916



Please join us for
Muckross Park Past Pupils' Union Luncheon



Saturday 23rd April 2016 at 12.30pm
 Marco Pierre White Courtyard, Donnybrook, Dublin 4

With Guest Speaker Jillian van Turnhout

Raffle on the day with all monies raised going to the Muckross Park Past Pupils' Union Benevolent Fund.

€35
 per ticket



For further information contact email: muckrossppu@gmail.com

Changed Address?



Remember to let us know if you have changed your postal address or email address recently. 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.



PAST PUPILS' UNION MONTHLY MASS

The monthly PPU Mass (see Forthcoming Events for times and dates) is not restricted to past pupils so 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 for deceased past pupils** is on Sunday 6th November. If there is anyone whose name you would like included 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 2nd October 2016 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 2015 Mass and look forward to welcoming you all again in 2016 – Dominican 'old boys' are welcome too.

Annual General Meeting – 4th September 2016

Union Day will take place on Sunday 4th September 2016 in Muckross Park. The format will be Mass at 11.15am followed by the AGM after which refreshments will be served

We have updated the PPU Constitution which will be circulated to members for discussion and approval at the AGM on 4th September. This was necessary as it was over 50 years since it was updated.

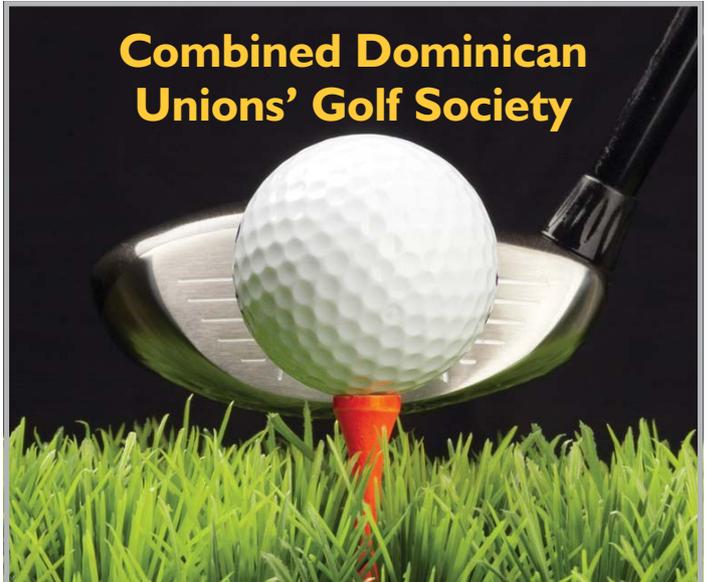
By attending the AGM we can hear your views on how you feel the PPU is performing and hear any new ideas for events and objectives for the coming year. We look forward to seeing lots of you on Union Day.

HOCKEY NEWS

The annual hockey match between the PPU and the School took place on 16th April 2015 – the school team were victorious for the third time winning by 3-2. Maybe we'll get our name on the Centenary Cup in 2016. If you'd like to play for the PPU team this year please email: muckrossppu@gmail.com

Congratulations to the Muckross Park school team who won the Claudia Tierney Cup in January, they beat Rathdown School 2-0 in a great final at Three Rock Rovers. Well done to the team, coaches and all the supporters.

Combined Dominican Unions' Golf Society



This year's outing is on **Monday 11th July** in **Naas Golf Club**. Please contact **Miriam McGuinness** at **086 385 7715** to book for this event.

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 last time Muckross won this trophy was 1993 so let's get a good Muckross team out there for 2016.

Membership Subscriptions

As cheque books are in the process of being phased out by the banks we would greatly appreciate it if those who pay their annual subscription by cheque each year could switch to a **Standing Order** or visit our website to pay by **PayPal**. 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. We have not increased the subscription for over 10 years which I'm sure you will agree is very reasonable.

If you already pay by Standing Order please check that the amount of your Standing Order is in line with the current amount 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.





Santa at Muckross



Santa's helpers from the TY Class:
 Johanna McCambridge,
 Caoilfhinn Hegarty, Aisling Heaslip,
 Rebecca Hedermann,
 Vita Byrne Carty &
 Anna Moran Watson

Once again Santa visited Muckross in December. There is always a festive buzz with everyone there. While waiting for their turn to talk to Santa the children play and colour pictures for the Colouring Competition. Congratulations to our two winners Anna Morgan and Emma Griffin.

A big thank you to our special Santa and the sisters for allowing us to take over their home for the party and all concerned in making this a lovely occasion.



PPU President Helena O'Dowd with Anna Morgan and Emma Griffin winners the Colouring Competition at the Santa Party



Colouring pictures at the Santa party



Santa with Catherine Coyle, Alice Kate & Abigail

PAST PUPILS IN THE NEWS

Emma Donoghue (Class of 1987) received an Oscar nomination for her screenplay for the film 'Room'

Siofra O'Leary (Class of 1986) was appointed a judge at the European Court of Human Rights in April 2015.

Catriona Barry CEO of Trakax, rang the Nasdaq Bell on 24th March 2015 in New York Stock Exchange.

Beatrice Doran was nominated by the Minister of Education and Skills to the Governing Body of UCC in August 2015.

Valerie Cox (Class of 1969) – published a new book last September entitled 'The Family Court'. Valerie reports from the courts regularly for RTÉ One's *Today with Sean O'Rourke*.

Tessa Finn (Class of 1977) published a book 'Letters – May & James'. These are letters her grandparents wrote to each other during 1916, the year they became engaged. They will feature on a programme on RTÉ One television on Easter Sunday at 6.30pm called '16 Letters'.



Valerie speaking at the launch of her new book last September

The Class of 2002 Turn Out in Style at Cara Scannell's Wedding last November



Front Row (left to right):
 Melanie Whelan, Laura Williams, Cara Scannell,
 Lisa Shine, Sarah Whelan.

Back Row (left to right):
 Aoife Ryan, Aoife McCarthy, Leona Quann, Jane Tevlin, Julie Motherway.



ANNUAL LUNCHEON - BOOKING FORM

Saturday 23rd April 2016 in Marco Pierre White's Courtyard Restaurant,
Belmont Avenue, Donnybrook - Tickets: €35

Bookings can be made online at www.eventbrite.com/e/muckross-park-ppu-luncheon-tickets-21236565138

For cheque payment bookings please complete the following

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 you left Muckross: Maiden Name:
 Address:
 Tel No.: Email:
please print clearly

Bookings must be received **not later than Friday 15th April 2016** and should be sent to:
Muckross Park PPU, c/o 18 Boden Wood, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14.



MUCKROSS PARK PAST PUPILS' UNION - MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Visit www.muckrossparkppu.com
to pay by PayPal.

Payment sent by or please complete the Standing Order form below.

(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?

OFFICE USE ONLY: Standing Order sent to Bank - Date: _____ PayPal Payment Received Date: _____
 Database noted: Date: _____ Amount €: _____
 Subscriptions Received: 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

STANDING ORDER

Name of Bank: _____ Sort Code: _____
 Branch Address: _____
 Name of Account Holder: _____ Account No.: _____
 IBAN No: _____
 BIC No: _____

I/we hereby authorise you to pay now and subsequently on the 1st day of JULY of each year until further notice the sum of €15 to the credit of:

Muckross Past Pupils' Union Account IBAN No: IE42 BOFI 9000 1717 1076 21
Bank of Ireland, 2 College Green, Dublin 2. BIC No: BOFIE2D
 and charge the same to my account.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return completed form to: Muckross Park PPU, c/o 18 Boden Wood, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14.