

# The Knocklyon News



ST. COLMCILLE'S PARISH NEWSLETTER – MAY 1987

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT



## THE PRINCIPAL LADY



Ita Corduff has one of the happiest faces I have ever seen. She has a delightful smile and positively bubbles over with enthusiasm for her beloved school. St. Colmcille's Junior has never been without her since it opened its door to the children of Knocklyon and for the past two years she has been Acting Headmistress over a school which has grown in numbers from 57 pupils to 810.

I talked with her last week in the extremely businesslike office which is undoubtedly the centre of all comings and goings of school activities and I could not help but admire the calm yet interested way in which she handled all the interruptions to our conversation. "Good girl, Gillian", "Thank you Tom" – all the names known, always polite, always helpful to the endless stream of callers. Mothers popped in . . . there were numerous requests for chalk, books, tippex and the phone rang constantly. The happy face remained and the smile grew even broader. You see, Ita Corduff really loves her job. She always wanted to teach and wouldn't swop places with anyone – ever.

One of four children, she is a Dubliner and lived on the North side of the city. Educated at the Dominican College, Eccles Street, she has great praise and fond memories of that school that is no longer there. The building was taken over some time ago by the Mater Hospital for extension purposes. Ita is glad that the school has gone to such a worthwhile project. "I believe they are going to keep the garden", she says a little wistfully, "it will be enclosed – a sort of quadrangle. I'm pleased about that."

On finishing school she went straight to St. Patrick's Training College. "It was a bit different then", she laughs. "The men outnumbered the girls two to one!" Did she meet her husband there? "No", she confessed, "you see, I married the boy next door . . ." Brian and Ita are now the proud parents of two year old Manus.

We talked about the fact that Primary Teachers are predominantly women. Some years ago there were 3 scales of salary: married men – single men - and then – women. Since the introduction of equal opportunities and pay, Teaching as a career for men declined in popularity, although there is now a small swing towards it.

Ita is completely dedicated and is grateful that she is privileged to share in the education of the young children in her care. "It's a wonderful thing to watch them develop. Up to the age of 7 they are so totally innocent, so utterly honest", she says. At times teaching can be quite exhausting but the rewards are tremendous. Holidays are assential. She has travelled quite a lot in the United States, France and Portugal, but she also believes that mental work needs a physical relaxation to balance things up. For the past few years she has become interested in Furniture Restoration in which pursuit she can hammer away to her heart's content. She also likes cooking, gardening, entertaining and talking.

Her advice to parents is quite simple. "Give them your time . . . Take them for a walk. Let them stop and look and question. Let them learn by experience. It's no good reading about how to make a mud pie, if you've never known the sticky squelchy feeling of a real one. Mind you", she adds, "we are lucky in this area, parents are very co-operative – we have the most marvellous staff in St. Colmcille's – and the children are wonderful." It really is a happy place.

Looking at the smiling face of Ita Corduff – I'm not surprised.

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## A POCKET OF RESISTANCE

It was just a flashing interlude. There was not time to notice detail. Yet there was a definite impact which both intrigued and delighted me.

I wondered what was he doing in the big smoke. He was obviously a country man, and what was he doing in the corridors of a large city hospital? Here was a youngish man, dressed in his country Sunday best, complete with cap. He was like a man from another era. Did he look completely at sea? Not really. His style of dress may have been old-fashioned but it was utterly correct and respectable. Different certainly he was, but his strong old world dignity, seemed it could carry him, without embarrassment, in all seasons and places – even in our ultra casual age.

As we passed on the corridor, he removed his cap completely to salute me, no token gesture here. I knew he was paying homage to what the priest stands for. Probably unconsciously, he had refused to, what we are pleased to call, move with the times, and considering the times that are in it, who is to say, he was so wrong.

My friend, whose mother, we were visiting in the hospital remarked: "After that salute, you must feel like the Pope." Not quite, but it was a beautiful experience, it was good, it was uplifting, it was a touch of God. Inevitably, it evoked for me St. Paul and his "pep" talk: 'My brothers, your thoughts should be wholly directed, to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, admirable, decent, virtuous or worthy of praise . . . Then will the God of peace be with you'.

In spite of the massive tide of evil in our world – not only out there but right within our own circle of life – which almost makes a mockery of goodness, such experiences say to me: don't lose heart, be not afraid, God lives and all is well.

And it could be a good Summer, if the crows know their business! – this year they are nesting high.

*Pat Fitz.*

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## DON'T GIVE UP

Would the aroma of rashers lure you downstairs?  
Would the sizzle of sausages tempt you to rise?  
What can I do to make you feel better?  
Wake up Sleepy Head open your eyes.

The washing's completed, and the cleaning's been done,  
The postman has been, and the children are gone.  
The Gay Byrne Show's half over – they've just  
discussed Pay.

They say if you haven't a job, don't stay in bed for the  
day.

Your soul's being destroyed, your body is rusting,  
Open up your mind, you know I am trusting.  
I know you're depressed, but I'll help all I can,  
Don't feel you can't do it, you're still my 'best man'.

Your "boss" from the Office has been on the 'phone,  
There's been mass redundancy, so don't feel alone.  
We've discussed emigration, but think of the boys,  
Foreign countries and people would bring them no  
joys.

I have hopes for a Future, and I'll help you along,  
Put the house up for sale, let it go for a song.  
We'll move to the country, buy a small farm,  
We'll grow our own Produce, bit of dirt won't do us  
harm.

We'll plough and we'll drill, forget about dole,  
We'll breed chickens and turkeys, let's aim for a goal.  
The rashers are burning, please come and eat,  
Let's talk it all over, and don't feel defeat.

We'll make it, I know, it's sure worth a try,  
Come on, eat your breakfast, and again – please  
don't cry.

## JUNE/JULY

No, this isn't a holiday feature. However, it is something that you might check out at your leisure. If you're interested in hearing the latest in current home-produced music you might take an opportunity to see this young Knocklyon band in action.

June/July comprises of Sean O'Hara (18) Vocals, Mark Walsh (17) Lead Guitar, Richard Tobin (17) Bass Guitar and Carl Allen (18) Drums. The band has been together now for 6 weeks and their latest gig was played in Knocklyon Youth Club on Saturday 23rd. The show of support that night is indicative of the popularity of this kind of live entertainment.

For those of you unfortunate to have missed their concert on Saturday, rumour has it that they might be around during Parish Week – we'll keep you posted!!

*Fiona Lynch*

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## EDITORIAL

How can you settle down in Knocklyon after what you have seen on the Missions? We are so well-off. You must find it difficult walking on carpets and living in luxurious conditions. My first reaction is that I don't find that difficult at all. Problems and difficult situations are all very relative. People who haven't experienced certain things don't really miss them. On the Missions there were no E.S.B. strikes, or traffic jams on Sunday mornings. Easter dues didn't come in envelopes but in the form of a couple of eggs, or a fish or piece of smelly meat in a dirty rag. If I was lucky there would be a guinea-pig.

I blessed a little girl in a remote part of the Mountains one day. It was near a place called Apachaco, about three hours journey in my jeep. With some difficulty I climbed through the hole in the side of the mud hut not knowing whether to put my head or feet in first. She was the most beautiful little child you ever saw sitting on the floor with her mother. Her long black hair was matted together for want of combing. She was chewing on a potato. Her beautiful dark eyes lit up when she saw me and a little smile came over her face. Then she began to cough, a terrible cough, and she coughed and coughed and couldn't stop. All she needed was a little medicine, but I knew that in a few days she would be dead like so many others. Fifty per cent of the children die before they reach two years of age. The graveyards are full of little white crosses. The smile on that

little girl's face still haunts me, because I was there and I could do nothing.

Knocklyon has other problems, not less real because they are different. Marriages on the rocks or families breaking up. Separation, with the trauma and suffering it brings, especially for the children, the innocent sufferers. The rows and wife-beating, that goes on behind sophisticated doors in well-to-do neighbourhoods. The husbands who live in fear of redundancy and not being able to meet the mortgage. The children of good parents who bring sorrow and disgrace on the family. The problem of keeping up with the Joneses, living beyond our means.

The poor are always with us, but not always easily recognised. The ones really in need are often too proud to ask. They have to be sought out gently and dealt with diplomatically. The Vincent de Paul is far too obvious.

Thank God we are blessed with many wonderful people who are only too anxious to help. Christian Community means SHARING, GIVING, RECEIVING. Our greatest gift is not what we put on the collection plate but the giving of ourselves. In an affluent society we can become very selfish and independent. We reach a state of Apathy. We need others and others need us. We must reach out and touch those who need us with a helping hand. Far better to light a candle than curse the dark.

Chris Conroy

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# A SPECIAL DAY



# Children's corner

## JOKES

Knock, knock, who's there? Carrot. Carrot who?  
Knock, knock, who's there? Carrot. Carrot who?  
Knock, knock, who's there? Carrot. Carrot who?  
Knock, knock, who's there. Orange. Orange who?  
Orange you glad that carrot is gone.

What do you get if you cross a teacher with a crab?  
Snappy answers!

What do you call a religious ape? a MONKey.

What did the Eskimo wife say to her husband when he  
finished building the igloo? What an ice little house!

Why did Mickey Mouse take a trip to outer space? He  
wanted to find Pluto.

Why did the fish cross the road? To get to the other  
tide.

*Stephen & Peter*

How do you get freckles? Sunbathe under a net!

What do you call a German barber? Herr Dresser!

Knock, knock, who's there. Lettuce! Lettuce who?  
Let us in please!

*Eadaoin Kiely*

Thanks for your jokes Eadaoin, Stephen & Peter. If  
you have any jokes please send them to Fr. Joe, The  
Presbytery.

## THREE LITTLE MAIDS



*Deirdre, Ailish & baby Siobhan McCabe at the  
Community Games*

## GRACE DARLING

One stormy night  
One fearful night,  
Grace Darling was at bay  
And guess what she saw from afar, afar,  
A ship wrecked up on the bay.

The wind was tough,  
The sea was rough,  
But still she battled through;  
She saved those men, those half dead men  
And brought them back to the new.

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## OUR READERS WRITE . . .

Dear Editor,

I wonder how many Daddies and Mammies realise  
they are stealing when, on their trip through the  
supermarket, they feed their own and/or their little  
darlings' faces with fruit and other goodies, then  
conveniently forget to pay for these items.

The same, of course, applies to people taking home  
shopping trolleys and baskets without returning them.

We pay for these "thefts" each time we go shop-  
ping.

Yours etc.,  
Helga Cahill,  
27, Knocklyon Close, D. 16.

Dear Editor,

Certain E.S.B. workers were granted, as a means of  
conciliation in their recent differences with the  
Management of the E.S.B., the "right" to cheaper  
rates in their domestic electricity consumption, so it  
would seem logical that other categories of workers in,  
say, Telecom Eireann, Dublin Gas, the butcher, the  
baker, the candlestick maker, Uncle Tom Cobby and  
all should be granted similar "rights" by their em-  
ployers.

Would, then, our priests be entitled to expect  
similar perks, 'though of a more spiritual nature, from  
the Great Arbitrator?

Yours etc.,  
Name & Address with Editor.

## . . . WE WELCOME YOUR VIEWS

## SUMMER PROJECT

This year's Summer Project will run from 6th July to  
17th. The times are as follows:

10 until 12 for all concerned  
and

2.30-4 pm and 7pm-9pm for 7-15 yrs. each weekday  
Enrolment 7.30 - 9 p.m. on Thursday 18th June in  
the Junior School. The fee will be: £10 - 7-15 yrs.  
£6 - 4-6 yrs. Further enrolment forms can be obtain-  
ed from the Presbytery.

The fee is as above regardless if children stay for  
one week or two. The 4-6 yrs. will have one outing.  
The 7-14 yrs. are entitled to two outings. There may  
be a small sur-charge on some outings.

The Summer Project is open to all children from  
the Parish. Due to restricted space and personnel,  
numbers are limited to 200 - 4-6 yrs. and 400 7-15  
yrs. This will be done on a first come first served basis.

Could we please point out to parents that children  
who leave the project before a session is over will not  
be covered under the insurance?

This is a list of just some of the fun and games  
children can look forward to and that we hope to have  
for them:

Basketball, Soccer, Table Tennis, Snooker, Draughts,  
Rounders, Badminton, Orienteering, Swimming,  
Chess, Swingball, Athletics  
Arts & Crafts, Music & Dance, Drama, Video,  
Aerobics, Bingo, Flower Arranging, Table Quiz,  
Outings: Clara Lara, Army Barracks, Roller Disco  
Bowling.

**GALA STAR**

Congratulations to Paul Donnelly from Delaford Drive who recently came first in the Schools' Swimming Gala, at Tallaght Sports Complex. Paul swam in the breast stroke 25 metres race, and is the Leinster champion Under 10.

**NEW GIRL**

We would like to welcome Sharon Flynn who has joined the teaching staff of St. Colmcille's Senior School, and hope she will enjoy working in Knocklyon.

**ANTI-LITTER BUGS**

Well done to all the 6th class children who helped with the Big Clean Up during School Tidy week. It is encouraging to see them taking pride in their school which looks really well now since the new fence was erected.

**BANK INTEREST IN MUSIC**

We hear that the AIB Musical Society is travelling to London with its production of 'Irene' over the Whit weekend. Philip Murphy from Knocklyon Green plays a prominent part in the show, and we wish them all success in this venture.

**HALL OF FAME**

Congratulations to the Junior choir from the Senior School on winning a silver medal for second place at Whitefriar St. Feis on Saturday 16th May. They were conducted by Miss Creamer and accompanied on piano by Mr. Gearty, both teachers in the Senior School. A number of children from this choir have been chosen to join the National Children's Choir, and will sing at the National Concert Hall on Sunday 21st June. Thanks must go to Miss Creamer for her consistent interest and time given to the children.

**MORE TALENT!**

Corfheile na Scoileanna is a non competitive festival of music held annually in the Mansion House. This year three choirs and a band formed from the pupils of 2nd and 3rd classes participated and the adjudicator commented very favourably on their performance. Well done to all the boys and girls involved.

**MINI STARS**

Well done to the children from the Junior School who reached the final of Cumann na mBunscoil sports.

**GOOD SPORT**

Junior School parents and children will be delighted at the new sports facilities to be offered. Goal posts have been acquired for the top hall so that indoor football can be played, while nets for mini-ball will be provided in the lower hall. An early introduction to team games will encourage confidence in the children when they come to play more seriously later on.

**BRIDGE**

The Knocklyon Bridge Team has reached the final of the I.C.S. Building Society Bridge Competition to be held in Cork in September. Team members and reserves were M. Ansell, K. Buckley, M. Buckley, P. Malone, F. Malone and C. Mahon. We wish you the best of luck.

**KNOCKLYON/BALLYBODEN  
POST PRIMARY COMMITTEE**

The Knocklyon/Ballyboden Post Primary Committee are very concerned that recent cutbacks in education will affect the proposed building of our school, scheduled to open in September 1988. All stages of planning are completed and all promises have been made — all that remains is for building to begin.

We will meet the Minister for Education very shortly and we will then hold a public meeting. In the meantime, we urge the people of this community to lobby their local T.D.'s, and also the Dept. of Education. The children of this community will experience real difficulties in the coming years in securing school placements in nearby schools. St. Colmcille's School alone will have 150 pupils seeking post primary places in 1988. We believe that this is our last chance to secure our promised school.

Please support your Committee.

Chairman, Post Primary Committee

One of the culinary delicacies talked about in the Scandinavian countries at this time of the year is their Spring Nettle broth. I have no doubt it will be eaten with extra relish this year, because last year's crop was contaminated by the Chernobyl accident.

Nettles have not been popular in Ireland for a long, long time. As a matter of fact, I think the last great advocate of stewed nettles was St. Colmcille, our parish Patron. Of course, he lived in the days when monks were monks with their solitary lives in the wilderness, with their cold stone cells, hard wooden beds, damp misty churches and frugal vegetarian diets.

I don't think any of us today would be able for the strong, earthy taste of a dish of plain stewed nettles, but, as a flavouring in a Spring broth, they make an interesting change. Just a few top tender leaves, well washed, chopped and added to your soup during cooking will give their distinctive flavour.

However, great care must be taken when picking the nettles, apart from the obvious problem of getting stung. Never use nettles from the side of the road or anywhere there has been a lot of car exhaust fumes or large amounts of dust. Never pick nettles where animals may have soiled or where insecticides or any garden sprays have been used on them. A tall order perhaps, but the taste is part of our culinary heritage.

Paddy the Chef

**SCOUT DRAW WINNERS****March**

£100 — Farrelly, 21 Knocklyon Court  
£ 50 — Doyle, 15 Delaford Park  
£ 25 — Covery, 15 Ashton Close.

**APRIL**

£100 — O'Shea, 2, Delaford Park.  
£ 50 — O'Brien, 71, Glenvara Park.  
£ 25 — McLaughlin, 91 Idrone Park.

**NEW PARISHIONERS**

Paul Francis McGillion	108 Glenvara Pk.
Andrew Gerard Lui	26 Beverly Lawns
Josephine Anne Clarke	122 Dargle Wood
Sinead Kathleen Whelan	32 Beverly Ave
Kevin Aiden Gerard McGovern	55 Dargle Wood
Shane Thomas Kelly	4 Greenacre Court
Sarah Jane Hughes	33 Beverly Drive
Amy Caroline Chambers	10 Delaford Ave.
Luke George Proctor	175 Glenvara Pk.
Karen Jane Power	69 Idrone Dr.
Caroline Jane Lehane,	15 Knockaire
Michael Joseph McGarry	16 Beverly Court
Simon Vincent Fusco, 37 The Heights,	Beverly Court
Sean Vincent Lynch	10 Ashton Close
Dave Bernard O'Reilly	22 Delaford Gr.
Cian Thomas Buckley	3 Idrone Close
Sarah Christine Walsh	7 Beverly Court
Lauren Catherine McKeown	60 Beverly Ave.
Karen Mary Myles	23 Coolamber Pk.
Vincent Patrick Keating	16 Idrone Dr.

**KNOCKLYON BADMINTON CLUB**

New Members welcome in the A-F Sections. Summer Club at Old Bawn Community School, Tallaght, each Wednesday at 8 pm until end of July.

Cost: £1.50 per night per person.

For further information contact: Maurice O'Boyle-941430; Phyllis Russell-941166; Peter Jordan-941829.

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Then call to our Church Shop and see the wide variety of gifts on sale. The prices are right too. Look in our display cabinet and see what good value we offer. The shop is open after all Masses on Sundays and weekdays.

**NEWSLETTER INFORMATION**

Items and advertisements for inclusion in the June issue — the last before the Summer holiday break — should be handed into the Presbytery by Monday June 8th. The Newsletter will be in circulation from June 18th. Enquiries re advertising space, cost etc., to Pat at 947493 or phone the Presbytery at 941204. We would welcome news items for the Hotlyon. Just drop a note into the Presbytery marked 'Newsletter Hotlyon'.

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