



Mary Collins

Mary left us on 16th March 2020 after a very short illness which left her family, and her many friends, devastated, having only shown symptoms after Christmas. On Christmas Day she was her usual warm, charming self and hosted a large family gathering.

Mary was born in Cork City in 1942 and attended University College, Cork. After graduating, she migrated to Dublin and taught German and French in St Mary's Secondary School in Baldoyle for many years. She never left Cork in spirit however, and regularly visited family and school and college friends there. She had a wonderful capacity for friendship and had friends in many circles. A group of fellow Corkonians who called themselves 'the exiles', met for lunch once a month. Her teacher colleagues also had their monthly gatherings.

After coming to Dublin, she joined Donabate Golf Club, which was called, in family circles, her second home. She played frequently and participated in all club activities and became Lady Captain in 1992. There she met the love of her life, having played with him in a mixed competition. What started on the golf course ended in marriage. She made a lovely, welcoming home for Peadar, his three children, their spouses and later their children, and also for the extended Collins family.

When she retired from teaching, she took up Bridge and gave it her usual energy and enjoyed her visits to the club immensely. For many years we played together on Monday mornings, and watched that competition grow from six tables to the size it is today.

I will miss her so much as a bridge partner and sister-in-law, but above all as a friend. The oft quoted phrase 'When God made Mary, he broke the mould,' springs to mind. May she rest in peace.

Sinead Collins

Mary was my Bridge partner, neighbour, fellow Donabate Golf Club member and friend. We were neighbours for over 20 years, but it was only when we started to play Bridge together some six years ago, that we got to know each other well. I was in need of a Bridge partner, and my wife Eileen suggested that I ask Mary to play with me. Thus, started a Bridge partnership, occasional golf partnership and a very good friendship. Golf was her real passion, but Bridge came a close second. In 2019 she was playing three times a week.

Mary had great energy and enthusiasm for life and believed in keeping in touch. She was very active in supporting events in the Golf club, and was always keen to attend the social nights at the Bridge club. All of us who knew Mary will miss her greatly. She made a tremendous impression on us. She was a lovely lady.

Jim Gillespie