

## *JCD During the 1990's - Paula Duffy*

Welcome to Junior Chamber Dublin in the Nineties. Having considered myself an 'oldie' for so long it is refreshing to be asked to write about the most recent years of our glorious Chapter.

I have to confess that I joined Junior Chamber Dublin way back in 1983. Those were heady days with lively nights in Leeson Street interspersed with 'hard work' for the Chapter. As a sombre Solicitor it was a revelation to be out cajoling money from the masses, running theatre festival clubs and coming up with imaginative ways to wrestle money from our sponsors.

After many years active service on Committee I semi-retired in 1989 and looked forward to many years of socialising. It was not to be and I was duly called backed into action in 1992 - as President. It was a brave step to follow in Mary Wrafter's illustrious footsteps.

But the nineties is a time of action in JCD with a marvellous group of enthusiastic hardworking members. We had gone 'European' and my year included memorable trips to Brussels, Glasgow and Lille - unheard of travel in the early 80's.

In between travelling we did some serious work. Tony McSweeney and his team produced an extremely professional report on traffic congestion in Dublin. It summarised much of the debate at the time and offered sensible well thought out solutions. It rightly received much media coverage and has become part of the ongoing controversy.

Our new project for 1992 was InterAct. This is a competition for student architects, engineers and surveyors to work in teams on a set project. The winners went forward to an international competition organised by our Glasgow Twin. As always, any project with a hint of a trip to Scotland is a major success! Lorcan Dowd and the InterAct Team did a marvellous job in setting up and running a project which is now a major event in the JCD Calendar.

And of course we continued with all the old faithfuls. Operation Shamrock is a nice start to the year and a great way for new members to become involved. We no longer grow our own Shamrock (yes, we did!) but rely on the good offices of our 1990 President, Stephen Walsh, to supply nice shiny green badges (much easier to keep alive).

The Enterprise Award has gone from strength to strength with a World Award in 1993. The Heritage Award introduced by Mary Wrafter in 1991 redresses the balance by recognising a long standing enterprise which has given much to the business life and culture of Dublin.

And so Junior Chamber Dublin lives on. Marvellous things continue to happen - not least the succession of Women Presidents! Dorothy Gray won outstanding World President for 1993 and has been so ably followed by Ross MacMahon, Helen Twomey and Yvonne Rohan. All have had superb years making it a very easy for us to be so proud of our Chapter, its members and achievements at this 40th celebration.

**Paula Duffy**  
**President - 1992**