



# DALKEY - Deilginis 'Thorn Island' COMMUNITY COUNCIL

(Irish Heritage Town)

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**Aibrean (April) 2009**

**APRIL:** Possibly named for Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love or from the Latin verb meaning 'to open' or the Greek word meaning 'the opening'. Greeks called the season of Spring 'the opening'.  
Flower: Sweetpea & Daisy



**Happy Easter**

Winter's done, and April's in the skies,  
Earth, look up with laughter  
in your eyes!

Charles G.D. Roberts  
- 'An April Adoration' 1896

## ❖ SUMMARIES OF D.C.C. MONTHLY MEETING MARCH 2009 ❖

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting at OLH on 2nd March which also included the Annual General Meeting at which two new Directors were elected, viz. Dr. Susan McDonnell as Secretary and Ms. Ann Perry as Assistant Secretary.

The Secretary read the **minutes** of the previous meeting and they were signed by Chairman.

**Correspondence** was then dealt with.

**Reports** from sub-committees followed, which included Heritage, Newsletter, Tidy Towns, Sports, Planning.

Under **A.O.B.** it was mentioned that the County Council was cutting back on overgrown growth. The meeting then concluded.

R.Mooney, *Hon. Secretary*



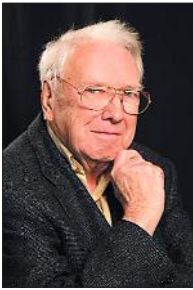
**DALKEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING – 6th April 2009**  
**OUR LADY'S HALL, Castle Street, Dalkey**  
**Residents are reminded that the above meeting will take place at 8 p.m**  
**in Our Lady's hall. All residents of Dalkey are welcome to attend.**

**EDITORIAL POLICY** — The Editorial Staff reserve the right to edit and/or emend articles submitted to the Newsletter. The views and comments published within the Newsletter are not necessarily the views shared or condoned by Dalkey Community Council Limited.

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## HUGH LEONARD 1926 - 2009



Jack Keyes Byrne RIP (Hugh Leonard to the outside world) passed away peacefully in the Blackrock Clinic in the early hours of the morning of Thursday 12th February 2009. He was the loving husband of the late Paule and more recently Kathy Hayes and very proud father of Danielle, to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

Hugh Leonard made writing his life's work. Dalkey was the canvas he used to draw on when he wrote the first part of his autobiography, **Home Before Night**. It is among the best social histories to be found on growing up in Ireland in the forties and fifties. Dalkey and Dún Laoghaire became the microcosm for the world. It was a time, before

television, when the picture houses were the main entertainment for everyone and the dream was for your ticket to come out of the big Sweepstake drum. Lesser treats involved red lemonade, Scots Clan and caramel sweets, and tram rides.

Jack's mother took him to the Picture House and to the Pavilion Cinema in Dún Laoghaire from where his love of old movies came. His Da took him for walks along the **Vico Road**, 'there's them that say that view is better nor the Bay of Naples', past '**oul Higgins' Hill**' and **Coliemore Harbour**, where they failed to drown the dog! Along the way 'Enderley' (Sancta Maria) was the Big House where the Da worked as a gardener for fifty four years and got a gratuity of twenty-five pounds at the end of it 'nine shillings and three pence for every year of service'.

Music from live brass bands on the Victorian bandstands in **Sorrento Park, Dalkey**, and on the sea front in **Dún Laoghaire** wafted through the air. Families listened to the likes of 'The Missouri Waltz' and the songs of John Mc Cormack on the old horn gramophone. Hops were held in the **White House on Killiney Strand** and the best missions were on Thursdays when the sermon was about sex and impure thoughts.

**Dalkey** had shops like **Mammy Reilly's**, from where the old newspapers were never sent back and 'everyone knew she kept the money in her wig in sovereigns'. **Cussens** had the bacon slicer where you could watch the ham go round and **Thomas's Dairy** was only one of a number that supplied the town with milk. The height of grandeur was having port wine in the **Royal Marine Hotel** or tea at the **Pavilion** 'a dazzling white pleasure house ringed by balconies and spouting with turrets more like a ship than a building'

This was the world that **Hugh Leonard** put on an international stage when plays like 'Da' consolidated his overseas reputation and took the theatre world by storm in 1978, winning four Tony Awards, the highest accolade to be won in the business. The place he inhabited has always been recognisable in his plays. 'The town is fashionable now. There are boutiques and smart pubs' and time moves on.

Jack was generous to a fault in giving something back to the community he lived in. If an emerging writer was in need of encouragement, he had to look no further than **Pilot View**. Jack was always supportive of the two community drama groups, both at home and further afield in competition. When a script writer was needed to put an accessible style on historical research at the time of the building of the **Heritage Centre** in Dalkey, he undertook the task with great skill and dedication.

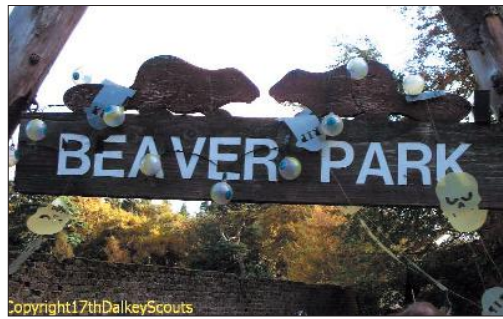
The occasion of his 80th birthday, November 12th 2006, was used to stage a celebratory **Thank You** in the Pavilion Theatre in Dún Laoghaire. Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre, Dún Laoghaire -Rathdown Co Co and playwright -Bernard Farrell organised the tribute entitled **Hugh Leonard - A Life**. This featured the crème de la crème of Irish theatre showcasing a selection of his award-winning work, directed by Patrick Mason, former

Artistic Director of the Abbey Theatre. The unsuspecting playwright entered the theatre to a sustained, warm and prolonged standing ovation. He wrote recently that forever in his memory, being recognised by his peers on that night surpassed the joy all his previous awards, including the Tony. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Co Co set up a Writers' Bursary in his honour in 2006.

During April and May of 2008 Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre was involved in the making of a documentary on his life **Hugh Leonard – Odd Man In** which was shown on RTE One on Tuesday 3rd March. Dalkey featured prominently in the hour long documentary which acknowledged the great contribution his work had made to the cannon of Irish literature.

Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre closed as a mark of respect and grateful appreciation at the time of Jack's removal and funeral. We will miss him greatly both on a personal and professional level. His memory will live for very long time in Dalkey because of the wonderful legacy he left us in his phenomenal body of work. Ar dheis lamh Dé go raibh a anam dflis.

Margaret Dunne



## 17th Dalkey Scouts / Beavers



	<p><b>REMINDER!</b>  <b>DALKEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL</b>  <b>ANNUAL MEMBERS' DINNER</b></p>	
<p><i>to be held in</i>  Our Lady's Hall, Castle Street, Dalkey, on May 9th at 8.p.m. €20 per person</p>		



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## NATURE CORNER – Michael Ryan



It probably wasn't a surprise to hear that last winter was the coldest in 18 years but what was maybe more surprising was that it was also a very dry winter with rainfall levels way below average. In February a gorse fire was started beside the 'Green Road' on Dalkey Hill but thankfully didn't spread too far. Last year the biggest gorse fire was in late spring when birds would be nesting. One of the ways in which the recent cycle of dry springs and wet summers has very damaging effects on our wildlife.

Further down the hill wheeling out from the wall and cliffs at White Rock beach on stiff pale gray wings, those seabirds might look like gulls but in fact they're **Fulmars** and belong to the group of seabirds known as Petrels. Petrels, the family of birds that includes Albatrosses, are named after St. Peter because their habit of flying low over the sea makes them look like they're walking on water. Like the albatrosses, Fulmars travel great distances over the sea and their stiff winged glide is designed to cover very long distances using the minimum energy possible. If you're on the beach you can see them launch from small alcoves in the wall and glide out over the sea with barely a stiff flap of their wings.

Before the last century they were strictly birds of the far north and the Arctic, breeding in Greenland, Iceland and far northern islands like St. Kildas but they gradually started to move south and were first recorded breeding in Ireland when they nested in Co. Mayo in 1911. There is a theory that they expanded their range by following whaling ships, feeding on any discarded flesh thrown overboard. They've done very well since and during the 'Seabird 2000' survey, nearly 40,000 nesting sites were counted around the Irish coastline. They can live very long lives, some birds that were ringed when young are known to have survived into their late 40s and 50s. It's only in their 7th or 8th year that they begin to mate and breed themselves. Like other long lived birds they only have one chick a year. Sadly our Dalkey birds sometimes nest where they are vulnerable to human disturbance and I've mentioned before that on a number of occasions I've seen people throwing rocks at them from the railway line and the cliff tops, a senseless act of vandalism trying to injure these lovely creatures. The birds will sit on the nest when humans approach and this habit of being very approachable gained this and many other species of Albatross related species the old name Malle-muck meaning 'foolish gull'. But they do have a unique defence method



*Fulmar*



*Fulmar*

which is to projectile vomit the contents of their stomachs, a fishy mess, at approaching predators. That accounts for the origin of their current name, Fulmar, an Old Norse word for 'foul gull'. Although this defensive reaction would have a nuisance value for a human, for a bird to be covered with this oily substance can be fatal since it ruins the waterproofing properties of the bird's plumage and they can drown if they subsequently land on water. It has been reported that a sea eagle was witnessed drowning after a fulmar disgorged on it.



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*Marie Therese Campbell. Events & Media Manager, The Marketing Institute Of Ireland.*

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*David Douglas. Director. Gallery Number One & ebow*

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*Stonechat*

Most of the Fulmar's food is taken from the surface of the sea. Fulmars have very dark plumage around their eyes and this acts like sunglasses cutting down the glare from the water when they're looking for food. Another very distinctive aspect of their appearance is a short tubelike appendage on their bill. It's believed this acts to filter out the salt they ingest when feeding on water.

On the way down to the beach you might see a small bird perched on a gorse bush making occasional flying forays for insects in flight then returning to the same perch. This is a **Stonechat**, a little like a robin in size but with a dark head which turns black on the male in breeding plumage. A pair of stonechats can be seen around here throughout the year. Their name derives from a sharp

clicking call they make which is compared to the sound of two stones being hit together.

Other regular birds to be seen from here are ravens, jackdaws, sparrowhawks and other raptors and it was when coming up from the beach last year I saw a Red Kite drifting over the hill. Later in the summer a Whitethroat sometimes sings from between the Vico Road and the railway line and greenfinch and wrens are to be seen there all year round. .

**Dunnocks** might be one of the most commonly overlooked bird to be found in gardens.

They used to be known as 'Hedge sparrows' although they're no relation to the sparrow. They belong to a different family of birds, the Accentors, the only other species in Europe being the Alpine Accentor found at very high altitudes as its name implies. Our Dunnock is very low key, very unobtrusive and is often unflatteringly described as having skulking behaviour. As if that wasn't insulting enough, its song, a short fast burst of repeated notes, is sometimes described as sounding 'squeaky', like a supermarket trolley that needs oiling.

The Dunnocks in my garden regularly cause me concern when I don't see them for weeks at a time and I begin to worry have they fallen victim of a predator. Often feeding on the ground, picking up fallen seed under the feeders, makes them very vulnerable to cats. Happily though they always reappear after a while, bathing in the bird bath or singing from a fuchsia bush.

Recently I witnessed a little innovation in our Dunnock's behaviour when I saw one fly from a perch on to a sunflower seed feeder. grasping awkwardly but long enough to get some seed. Hopefully it will get a bit more adept at doing this and join the rest of the 'guys' on the feeder. Saying that, maybe it is safer skulking on the ground. This morning, as I topped up the feeders, a female Sparrowhawk flashed around the hedge and sped past me about four feet away, a brief flash of feathers and talons hoping to catch some feeding birds unawares but finding me instead. So maybe the Dunnock is better off on the ground, skulking but safe.

Some birds will still be nesting or maybe trying again after a failed first brood. If you don't have a nest box up you can try providing a home for robins and wrens by putting a old boot or a tea pot into a dense hedge or climbing shrub. Make sure that the tea pot spout or the top of the boot isn't facing up where rain water can pour in. Feathers or dog hairs can be left out to be taken as nest lining by many different types of birds.



*Dunnock*

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## MY GARDEN – Philippa Thomas

I am just wondering what is it that we as Dalkey residents want from your darling little gardens this coming spring and summer? Is it just a weed-free, beautifully cut, fresh green velvety lawn to admire? Or is it to munch a fresh juicy broad bean, pea or cherry tomato, chilli or soft downy pale green, sun-kissed delicious gooseberry or perhaps to pick a crispy lettuce and some irresistible herbs and proudly manicure them into our various summer salad bowls with sumptuous vinaigrette salad dressing. Or, is it, yet again, to sit down in some quiet corner and read a favourite book while listening to some birdsong or nearby



*Eucomis*



*Eucomis  
Rebens*

humming bees hovering about in their favourite blooms and 'nectar-releasing' shrubs. Or, do we just want to get out there and feel and touch and smell and admire a blazing bed of dazzling richly coloured flowers or sweetly-scented, pale night- stock.

At present, I find weeds seem to establish themselves in our little garden overnight. So, as always, I try to gently trowel them out trying to remove every single root and shoot in order that in a few days time they will not re-appear again. Truthfully, do we not have enormous possibilities and endless treasures that want so badly to 'un-earth' themselves? That is, our vast diversity of summer flowering bulbs and herbaceous clumps, etc.

Our artichokes are already approximately 3 feet high. I break off their old lower, tattered and sometimes snail-eaten leaves and put them on our compost heap. They decompose rapidly and are known for making superb manure which can, in turn, top-dress any soil. Yesterday, I really felt so happy to witness two young men in our DART station here in Dalkey enthusiastically using their special tools to remove all that mossy growth and various weed seedlings from the cobblelock there. I am a firm believer in doing likewise as I am of the opinion that some of our chemical sprays can, over the years, erupt and disturb the necessary inter-locking sediment that is so vital in order to maintain and sustain the even structure/levelling of general cobblelock. I actually use a tool rather like a knife with a slight hooked nose head on it, which incidentally I obtained free with the publication 'Gardeners' World' magazine many years ago. It is one of my prime possessions and as you can probably gather, I would find it hard to live without it and, yes, it is still holding its own.

I seem to be the sort of person who generally is on the look out for something unusual to grow in our little garden. So that very special bulb 'Eucomis' has to be among one of my absolute favourites. Eucomis, commonly known as the 'Pineapple Lily' has undergone a surge in popularity. For the past twelve years of so I have absolutely adored them. These bulbs are usually sold in packs of three bulbs at approximately €4.50 or so per pack. 'Eucomis Bicolor' seems to be the most common species and is generally stocked in most garden centres. Their tab, showing its most attractive tempting close-up, irresistible green and purple flowers. Their leaves are equally attractive, often mottled strap-like and quite wide in diameter. They are so easy to grow and, in fact, rarely fail. As far as I know, there are about ten varieties. I leave all our pots out in winter (do nothing with them even in frosty conditions!). They generally begin to come into flower in mid May and continue to flower until the end of



*Eucomis  
bi-colour*

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October. Obviously, you can sense, I adore them and yes I do! Their flowers have a wonderful sculptured waxy quality. Every individual flower is like a tiny enamel jewel and with each stem producing hundreds. The overall effect is dazzling and long lasting. Eucomis grow extremely well in terracotta pots provided they are kept well watered and fed occasionally for more dramatic results. Their roots love to be kept cool so I usually leave each pot sitting in a saucer/base, topped up with water. Actually, I keep all our pots in the shade throughout the summer months so as not to scorch their most gorgeous strap-shaped, shiny and colourful leaves.

Have you noticed like me that some of our perennials seem to lose their vigour after a few years, spreading out to leave bare, poor flowering areas at their centre. Lift and divide these by discarding the unproductive central parts and replant the younger outer pieces in freshly prepared soil. Right now is also a very good time to remove daffodil heads as soon as they have faded.



*Make way for new growth.  
Cut back old growth on ferns carefully  
to free fresh young fronds.*

This encourages them to send food produced in the leaves down into their bulbs. New fronds will be unfurling on most ferns now surging up from the centre of the crowns. These new fronds may be hidden and can get tangled up in old growth so snip these old fronds cleanly away.

**We love April for:**

*“April showers, which I have on good authority, bring on May flowers. The idea of gentle rain pitter-pattering onto the earth, nurturing our seedlings and washing away the trials of winter is a lovely one. Try to remember this when sheltering from torrential floods or baking in unseasonable drought.”*

WORDS BY JAMES ALEXANDER-SINCLAIR

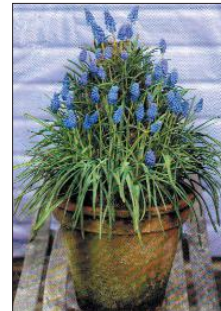
**GARDEN HINTS**



*Left:  
Deadhead  
daffodils -  
Remove  
flower  
heads as  
soon as  
they have  
faded*



*Beans*



*Right:  
Give  
humble  
grape  
hyacinths  
a new  
twist with  
this tower  
of colour*

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## ❖ LOCAL HISTORY EVENTS – APRIL 2009 ❖

- **On Wednesday April 1st** Ms. Erica Devine will present her lecture ‘The Care and Conservation of Antiques’ to the Rathmichael Historical Society at 8 p.m. in Rathmichael School, Stonebridge Road, (Dublin Road end), Shankill, Co. Dublin - all welcome.
- **On Thursday April 2nd** Ms. Geraldine Stout will present her illustrated lecture ‘The Archaeology of South County Dublin’ to the Mount Merrion Historical Society at 8.15 p.m. in the Mount Merrion Community Centre, North Avenue, Mount Merrion. All welcome - admission €4.
- **On Wednesday April 8th** James Scannell will present his lecture ‘The RMS Leinster Tragedy’ to the Ballybrack-Killiney History Society at 8 p.m. in the Parochial Hall of SS Alphonsus and Columba Church, Main Street, Ballybrack - cars enter from Killiney Hill Road. All welcome - admission of €3 includes refreshments.
- **On Thursday April 9th** Tom Moran will present his lecture on ‘The Irish Navy’ to the Enniskerry History Society at 8.30 p.m. in the A.O.H. Hall, Church Hill, Enniskerry Village, Co. Wicklow - all welcome, admission €3.
- **On Thursday April 9th** James Scannell will present his lecture ‘Some Stillorgan Stories’ to the Kilmacud Stillorgan Local History Society at 8 p.m. in the Function Room, Glenalbyn, Lower Kilmacud Road, Stillorgan. All welcome – admission €3.
- **On Wednesday April 15th** the AGM of the Dun Laoghaire Borough Historical Society takes place at 8 p.m. in the Kingston Hotel, Adelaide Street, Dun Laoghaire, and will close with a talk on ‘Welsh Slate Quarries’ by Michael O’Flaherty.

### A BOOK TO READ

*“Haunted Dublin” by Dave Walsh, published by Nonsuch Publishing.*

This book is a collection of some of Dublin’s most infamous hauntings stories, some of which have never been seen in print before including the paranormal experiences of the author. Through the pages of this book, the reader will encounter phantom dogs in Dublin’s suburbs, black cats and Satanists in the Wicklow Mountains and the headless ghost of Buck Jones which frequents the area around Croke Park. Everything is here ranging from the murderous black pig that tormented 18th century city dwellers to modern days poltergeists in Tallaght, body snatchers and banshees, all of which help to make Dublin the perfect haunted city.

## DALKEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### ANNUAL COLLECTION



*Dear Resident,*

With this issue of the Council’s Newsletter you will receive an envelope for our Annual Collection. We would appreciate if you could put your contribution in it and return it to your Road Representative or simply pop it in the post box in Our Lady’s Hall.

We rely on your contributions to carry out the many activities we engage in such as making Representations to the County Council on all matters involving Dalkey, the Lighting of the Christmas Tree, Planning matters, sponsorship of local causes e.g. sports, athletes, etc., Garden Competition, Art Exhibition, etc.

**MANY THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION**

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❖ **DALKEY TIDY TOWNS REPORT TO D.C.C. – MARCH 2009** ❖

The most exciting news from DTT is that a new group has been established to encourage greater appreciation of one of our greatest assets - Dalkey/Killiney Hill. DLRCC's Dept of the Environment and Education, the Irish Wildlife Trust, Friends of Killiney Hill and Dalkey Tidy Towns are planning Activity Days in the Park aimed showing our young people and their families the value of nature and protecting our environment. Schools and the community will be informed of the programme as it unfolds.

DTT committee members had a constructive walkabout through Dalkey with personnel from DLRCC Parks Dept. The summer planting scheme, weed spraying and tree planting was discussed, including 2 new trees for National Tree Planting Week at Dalkey/Killiney Hill.

The unsightly concrete block wall beside the Masonic Hall has finally been replaced with attractive chain linked bollards and cobbles. This project has been on the agenda of Dalkey businesses and DTT for many years. Thank you to DLRCC.

A community-planting project is imminent at Dalkey Station, involving Irish Rail, Dalkey Island Probus Group and DTT. The aim is to enhance two shrub beds on the southbound platform.

**PLEASE JOIN US IN HELPING  
TO KEEP DALKEY TIDY**

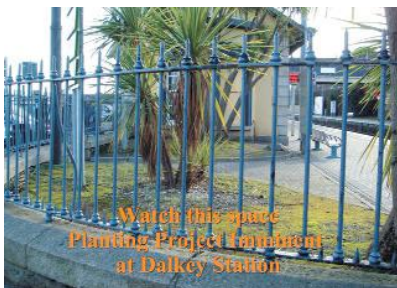
First Tuesday each month - meeting  
10.30a.m. at Select Stores.

Third Saturday each month - meeting  
10.30a.m. at the Church Car Park.

Third Thursday each month- meeting  
11.00a.m. at Dillon's Park, Coliemore Rd.

*Bí Bródúil as bhúr Comhphobal  
Take Pride in your Community*

Thank you, June Barnett, Secretary, DTT.



Activity  
Days on  
Killiney  
Hill



**TIDY DISTRICTS COMPETITION 2009**

**APPLICATION FORMS AVAILABLE FROM OUR LADY'S HALL IN MAY**

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or you can call the litter-free phone number 1800 403503.**

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED Wks 7-10 8/2/'09 - 6/3/'09

**Reg. Ref.:** D08B/0627

**Application Rec'd Date:** 21-Aug-2008

**Applicant Name & Location:** Chris Shakespeare, 17, Corrig Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin

**Proposal:** New two-storey extension to rear of existing two-storey dwelling house and new porch extension to front along with associated siteworks. **Applic. Type:** Permission. **Add. Info.:** 9-Feb-'09.

**Reg. Ref.:** D09A/0124

**Application Rec'd Date:** 19-Feb-2009

**Applicant Name & Location:** Robert, Michael & David Doyle, San Antonio, 73, Dalkey Avenue, Dalkey.

**Proposal:** A two and a half storey split level house to the rear of 'San Antonio' together with alterations to the front and side of the existing house and modifications to site services, landscaping and boundary walls to facilitate the development. The site is to be subdivided to create two independent houses with a shared access.

**Reg. Ref.:** D08A/1146

**Application Rec'd Date:** 10-Oct-2008

**Applicant Name & Location:** Hilarie Geary, 11, Castlepark Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin.

**Proposal:** 1) The demolition of the single storey extension to the rear of the existing 3 storey terraced house. 2) The construction of a new single storey flat roof extension with roof lights to the rear. 3) Ancillary site works. **Application Type:** Permission. **Add. Info.:** 26-Feb-2009.

**Reg. Ref.:** D08A/1260

**Application Rec'd Date:** 18-Nov-2008

**Applicant Name & Location:** Philip Bayfield & Liz White, 70, Castlepark Road, Sandycove.

**Proposal:** Part single storey, part one and a half storey extension (namely ground floor with limited accommodation on the upper level within the roof profile) of 152 sq.m to the rear of the existing dwelling. The works consist of (i) new extension to the rear of the existing house (ii) the modification of the existing roof and its partial reconstruction, (iii) all necessary resultant elevational changes to the existing house, (iv) demolition of existing garage, (v) the various minor miscellaneous landscaping and services required to facilitate the development, and all necessary ancillary works.

**Application Type:** Permission. **Add. Info.:** 26-Feb-2009.

**Reg. Ref.:** D09A/0160

**Application Rec'd Date:** 4-Mar-2009

**Applicant Name & Location:** Clarity Developments. Ltd., Site at, 9, Mapas Road, Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Part demolition of the western side of the existing house (comprising garage, Wc and staircase) and refurbishment and extension at first floor level of said house (including internal revisions and construction of new external wall); and construction of one new 4-bedroom detached house of approx. 163sqm with individual new vehicular access onto Mapas road and off-street parking; all landscaping and ancillary site development works. All on a site of approx 0.06 ha.

**Reg. Ref.:** D09B/0090

**Application Rec'd Date:** 02-Mar-2009

**Applicant Name & Location:** S. & B. Gordon, 33, Mapas Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin

**Proposal:** Permission is sought for roof gable extension, attic conversion with dormer windows to rear, a roof-light to front and internal alterations and ancillary works.

## PLANNING DECISIONS – WEEKS 7-10 8/2/'09 to 6/3/'09

**Reg. Ref.:** D08A/1392

**Decision:** Request Add. Info.

**Date:** 18-2-'09

**Applicant Name & Location:** Dominic Galvin, 66, Ulverton Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin.

**Proposal:** Demolition of existing garage to side gable of 66 Ulverton Road, construction of new five bedroom, three storey split level detached dwelling with balcony to rear; existing vehicle entrance extended to accommodate 2 no. car parking spaces. To include all hard and soft landscaping and associated site works. **Application Type:** Permission.

**Reg. Ref.:** D08B/0835

**Decision:** Grant Permission & Refuse Permission

**Date:** 18-2-'09

**Applicant Name & Location:** Pdraig Hanley, 22, Castle Street, Dalkey, Co. Dublin.

**Proposal:** 2 No. retractable canvas canopies and outdoor seating area with canvas windbreakers to front of existing restaurant. **Application Type:** Permission.

**Reg. Ref.:** D08A/1414

**Decision:** Request Add. Info.

**Date:** 23-2-'09

**Applicant Name & Location:** Don & Julie Godson, Island View, Nerano Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin.

**Proposal:** Demolition of existing two storey side extension to south-west of existing dwelling and construction of new two storey side extension to south-west and first floor side extension to north-east



of existing dwelling. The proposed two storey side extension to south-west will incorporate a balcony at first floor level. The development will include alterations to interior of existing dwelling, alterations to existing front and side elevations, widening of existing vehicular entrance gates, all to existing two storey detached dwelling.

**Reg. Ref.:** D08B/0627 **Decision:** Grant Permission

**Date:** 4-Mar-'09

**Applicant Name & Location:** Chris Shakespeare, 17, Corrig Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin

**Proposal:** New two-storey extension to rear of existing two-storey dwelling house and new porch extension to front along with associated site-works.

### APPEALS Notified by An Bord Pleanala - Weeks 7- 10 - 9/2/'09 to 6/3/09

**Reg Ref:** D08B/0635 **Reg. Date:** 25-Aug-2008 **Location:** Villa Maria, Sorrento Heights, Dalkey.

**Development:** Amendments to the currently permitted dwelling (Ref. D05B/0379 and D07B/0552) comprising the incorporation of an external store at ground floor level into the main dwelling as a utility room; the addition of a high level window in the dining room at the south elevation; the alteration of the second floor study rear window and the addition of an external escape stairs from the second floor study to the rear garden level. **Council Decision:** Grant Permission & Refuse Permission. **Appeal Lodged:** 17-Feb-'09. **Nature of Appeal:** Appeal against Refusal of Permission. **Type of Appeal:** 1st Party Appeal.

## ❖ EASTER CUPCAKES ❖

### Ingredients

2 large eggs, cracked open  
1 tsp vanilla essence  
125g/4oz caster sugar  
125g/4oz soft margarine  
125g/4oz self-raising flour

### To decorate (optional)

tubes of writing icing  
marshmallows, white and  
coloured  
food colouring, for icing  
coloured sweets and sprinkles



### Method

1. Heat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Put all the ingredients in a bowl and beat them together until the mixture is smooth and slightly lighter in colour.
2. Line a cupcake tin with paper cake cases and half-fill each case with the cake mixture.
3. Cook the cakes for 18-20 minutes. You can tell they are done when they have risen up, are golden in colour, and spring back into shape when lightly pressed.
4. The cupcakes can be decorated using a basic icing, plus marshmallows, writing icing, food colouring and coloured sweets. Spoon 1 heaping teaspoonful white frosting on centre of each cupcake. To make ears, cut

each large marshmallow crosswise into 5 pieces with kitchen scissors. Using scissors, cut through centre of each marshmallow piece to within 1/4 inch of edge. Separate to look like bunny ears; press 1 side of cut edges into pink sugar, flattening slightly. Arrange on each of the white frosting mounds as shown. Use candy decorations and sprinkles to make eyes, nose and whiskers as shown. Store loosely covered. All the kids in your house will love these.

Taste - Learn to cook will run this summer from June 29th - August.

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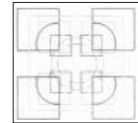
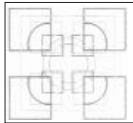
- Pruning and cutting back
- Planting of bare root stock, bulbs, shrubs
- Leaf litter clearance
- Repairs to sheds, paths, greenhouses
- Tidying for winter
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## TRAVELS IN CENTRAL AMERICA - Part II

### January/February 2006

**January 28.** Flight from Dublin at 6.40 a.m. to Paris to Miami to Costa Rica. Delay in Paris of 31/2 hours. Flight steward (gay) presented me with a bottle of wine. I think this was because whilst talking to him about his language fluency and mixed French/Spanish parentage I said that his mother must have been a beautiful senorita! Baggage scan in Miami saw my electric toothbrush as a 'dangerous weapon' causing another delay. Eventually arrived Hotel Grano de Oro in San Jose, Costa Rica after 24 hours of travelling and fell into bed exhausted.

Early start the next day to drive to Pachira Lodge, Tortuguero on the shores of the Caribbean. We passed through very productive agricultural land en route with evidence of the famous fruit exporters Delmonte and Chiquita everywhere. Other English people at the Lodge joined us for the evening and we shared our wine and their rum! There were tropical jungle and river excursions that were wet, muddy and interesting. Heard our first Howler monkeys who really live up to their name, at 4a.m.! Visited a turtle beach, which was not too well protected. Stray dogs and human interested in the eggs!

Tuesday, return flight to San Jose, and onto Sapo Dorado Lodge in Monteverde for two nights. Cloud forest excursion. The best for bird and animal species of the trip.

Thursday back to Grano de Oro in San Jose for 1 night with time to enjoy this classy hotel. Dressed up for dinner. Enjoyed the town on Friday morning before flying to Granada in Nicaragua.

The road from Granada to Managua and Morgan's Rock Lodge was a long bone shaking test of endurance. Nicaragua is a poor country with the worst roads in the region. We staggered from the four-wheel drive to welcoming drinks and were shown to the most outstandingly designed jungle/coastal lodge imaginable. Spacious luxury! The walls were mainly of mosquito netting, open air to the jungle and within earshot of the Pacific waves crashing onto the shore below. The tasteful natural furnishings included an enormous bed and twin sinks in the open plan bathroom. A double bed lounge swung from ropes in the secluded yard beside an outside shower to rinse away the sand on entry to this exquisite sanctuary. Coffee arrived in a thermos, through an ingenious opening in the yard door at 7am. Insects including enormous fragile grasshoppers visited us, Howler monkeys were our morning call and the bird-life was abundant.

Next morning we discovered the beach. Wow. A beautiful secluded bay. Shady thatched huts dotted the shoreline. Whilst lounging in a hammock identifying birds through binoculars a Pelican came arrived. The incoming tide was bringing a shoal of small fish. Soon there were hundreds of Pelicans diving and feeding. Spectacular! We noticed signs along the beach showing the dates when turtles had come ashore at night to lay their eggs. Gestation is 45 days. On our last night after dinner we went to the beach with torches for one final visit, ever hopeful, and there they were. Unbelievable and unplanned we were there at the right time. Baby turtles, racing for the sea by the light of a full moon. It was unforgettable.

**February 06.** Flight to Guatemala City then a drive to the quaint colonial town of Antigua, which had been destroyed by an earthquake in 1975. Our guide and driver Pablo had been nine at the time and had vivid memories of the carnage. The town has since been reinstated to more or less its original state. The stately old houses have been rebuilt using many original scarred or repaired relics from the earthquake. One of these, the



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Posada del Angels was our quaint Guest House. And I thought things couldn't get any better! Our room was exquisite.

Welcoming drinks were served at sunset on a romantic roof top patio with views over the town and angelus church bells ringing. There were antiques and a library where we discovered a beautiful book, which we now have, called 'The Maya of Guatemala', with paintings by the author of the life and dress of these original native people. The porter lit candles and a fire in the room for our return from dinner. Breakfast was served at a large circular table where we met other guests as enchanted as we were. There was even an old fashioned swimming pool beside the dining room, surrounded by white lilies. We realised there had been lilies (like our Arum lilies) in every place we had visited since arriving in Central America. Guatemala's national flower is Monja Blanca (White Nunn Orchid). Another treasure is Jade, providing an excellent excuse to acquire a souvenir!

**February 08.** Pablo drove us to the Mayan highlands. En route we stopped at a roadside eatery and met nine fine young American men from Virginia. They looked and were dressed like the cast from the film 'Oklahoma'. In conversation we discovered that their church back home was sponsoring an orphanage, which they had brought and were currently building. We were impressed.

We arrived at Santo Tomas Hotel in Chichicastanango for one night. This was a 'not to be missed' visit, but one night was enough. The weather was very cool. The spartan rooms surrounded a large courtyard, filled with exotic plants and noisy parrots, so very much in the open air. The owner was an elderly matriarch who sat in reception missing nothing but also nothing was too much trouble for her guests. Once you were settled in your room for the night a fire was lit. Till then you froze. (Fire hazard). The slight of build staff, in Mayan Indian national dress, was quite unique.

Dinner was an experience. In the large dining room two separate groups were holding meetings amongst the dining tourists. One was a Human Rights group possibly Amnesty International, French speaking. The other was a group from the US meeting local people who were complaining about non-receipt of donated hurricane compensation, missing or murdered relatives and violence. We were only eavesdropping so it was rather confusing but some of stories were heart rending, if true. The next morning we toured this fascinating town where pagan and Christian images shared the same temples and colourful crowded markets filled the streets. The impression was of much illness, superstition, rituals and dumping. However, one man was weaving through the crowd following a trail of diarrhoea from a dog and covering it with sand, so there were some that cared.

On our journey next day there were many signs of mudslides caused by unusually heavy rainfall two months earlier. Houses had collapsed into rivers and many roads had been impassable. However, we reached Casa Palopo on the shore of Lake Atitlan formed by the craters of several volcanoes, and back into luxury by sunset. The panorama of dormant volcanoes from the patio off our room was changing colour by the minute and was so spectacular that it was impossible to look away. Eventually we changed for dinner and explored this fabulous hotel that hung from the hillside. The manager and guests were part or wholly English. Cocktails and after dinner drinks were taken together as we exchanged stories and experiences like long lost friends. The downside was that some of us were only there for one night. However the next morning was a boat trip across the lake to another colourful community bustling with people, markets of abundant local produce and even more bizarre religious rituals. The priests appeared intoxicated as they poured liquor into the mouth of an effigy of a god followed by a lighted cigarette! A crucifix was in an alcove of the same room. We made a hasty retreat and continued on our journey to Guatemala City, arriving again at sunset, where soldiers, in the main square, were ceremoniously lowering the national flag. The Westin Camino Real Hotel was an oasis in what seemed to



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be a poor, overcrowded city where many of the people lived in sprawling slums.

**February 11.** Flight to Flores and drive to Tikal Jungle Lodge. The setting was an historic Mayan settlement, which had been excavated by archaeologists and partly restored over the last eighty years or so.

Next day we were transported across the border to Belize and Chaa Creek. This was an up market, orderly and manicured Lodge. There was a Spa, nature trips along the river, horse riding, a museum and butterfly farm; activities to fill every moment by day and night. The Activity Manager's mode of transport was a James Bond type motorised hand glider. Escorted birds spotting walks were excellent and we saw pygmy Kingfishers from a Kayak on the river at dusk.

**February 14.** Transport to Belize City and flight to Placencia's Turtle Inn. This whole area of coastal plain had been flattened in a hurricane only four years earlier. The recovery was amazing. Still something of a shantytown the businesses, mainly wooden buildings, were operational. There were even anti litter posters, in pigeon English but you got the meaning, asking residents and visitors to be responsible.

**February 16.** Flight to San Salvador in El Salvador and the Real Intercontinental Hotel. Our guide Caroline Baíza from Eco Mayan Tours spoke fluent English and had spent time, through a scholarship, in Germany. Her family were country people and followed the traditional customs of siesta and eating the main meal at 5.00pm whilst still daylight. She took us first to the Pompeii of Mesoamerica, Joyal de Ceren that had been buried by volcanic ash in 600AD. The next day was a visit to the colonial town of Suchitoto, high above the valley commanding wonderful views. El Salvador had the best roads in Central America and people appeared to be industrious and well organised.

**February 19.** Flight to San Pedro Sula in Honduras and a trip to Copan, another ancient Mayan site. This one specialised in science, astronomy and mathematics.

Next day our guide was keenly tuned in to the radio. Apparently there had been an earth tremor registering 5.7 on the Richter scale about 50 miles away causing a little nervousness. Today's visit was to Cusuco National Park, a secondary cloud forest. This whole area had been felled by an American timber company and designated for recovery only fifteen years ago. Due to lack of interest or funds, Canadian conservationists took over its reclamation for some years until the government stepped in. The forest was dense but wildlife had not yet returned. Soldiers whose prime duty was to carry out patrols in an attempt to prevent tree felling and poaching accompanied us. A family living deep in the forest were resisting attempts to re-locate them. They were self-contained having chickens and garden produce including bananas and pineapples. The father walked several miles to work at a coffee plantation. The children and their mother had not left the forest in four years. They had spring water running from a pipe (no tap) into the garden and that was the only plumbing. No electricity or telephone. School was too far so the children aged 11 and 14 were uneducated except for what their father taught them. Their only contacts were guides occasionally bringing people like ourselves and visits from the soldiers who were entertaining them on the day we went, by shooting unsuccessfully, at a wasp's nest in a distant tree.

Our last day was at leisure in San Pedro. A relaxing stroll from the hotel to a very enlightened museum, with reduced fee for senior citizens! The signage was bilingual! Wonderful life-size paintings of the Spanish Conquistadors. Francis Drake portrayed as the most daring and successful pirate of them all. A 1940's framed page from a newspaper with an article showing photographs of European royalty including Princess Elizabeth aged



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about eight and captioned 'King George's heir'. A peaceful tree shaded courtyard, housed the museum café, where homemade food looked delicious. A charming conclusion to an extraordinary trip.

The people in this whole region have so many natural disasters with volcanoes, earthquakes, floods, mudslides, hurricanes, oppression, etc. etc. that possessions, relationships, and even life are transient. They live day-by-day and hand to mouth. But they seem resilient, friendly, honest and resigned to fate. When we asked what the main source of income was we were told it was illegal immigrants in the United States sending money home!

**February 23.** An uneventful, extremely comfortable journey home. After a month of very acceptable temperatures of 20 to 35degrees we arrived to a gasping 4 degrees but with happy memories of an unforgettable trip.

(c) June Barnett

❖ **APRIL GARDENING TALKS** ❖

**April 3, 2009 – Orchid Society** Dublin Orchid Fair Preview Evening 7.30.p.m. *Venue:* National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin.

Italian Dolomites” Dr. John Richards. *Venue:* National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin.

**April 4 & 5, 2009 – Dublin Orchid Fair**

**26th April, 2009 – Foxrock & District Garden Club.** “Avoca & Gardening” - Donald Pratt. *Venue:* Tara Towers Hotel, Booterstown.

**18th April, 2009 – The Alpine Garden Society - Dublin Group.** “Flowers of the



Above: Charity Lunch for Africa

**A DALKEY OLYMPIAN!**



Ben Purcell from Dalkey was among the medal winners who recently returned from the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho. Well done Ben!!

(Source: Sportsfile/Irish Independent)

ST. PATRICK'S

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## ST. PATRICK'S DRAMATIC SOCIETY

St. Patrick's Dramatic Society Dalkey will present its production of Yvonne Quinn and Bairbre Ní Chaoimh's drama **STOLEN CHILD** in Dalkey Town Hall in April.

Set in the early 1990s, the play tells the story of Angela Tiernan's journey to locate her natural mother and confront her true identity. Just before her 40th birthday, mourning the death of her adoptive mother, Angela sets out to discover her roots. She enlists the help of a shambolic detective, Mick Tracey, whose irreverent humour and hard drinking lifestyle mask a deep understanding of human frailty. Together they unravel the harrowing story of her mother's upbringing in a religious orphanage during the 1940s, leading to the enforced adoption of her newborn child. Parallel to Angela's quest is the story of Peggy, her mother, who lives alone in a Manchester bedsit and who must now come face to face with the daughter who was taken from her decades earlier.

St Patrick's Dramatic Society, which has received much acclaim and many awards for previous performances, will be sure to captivate and entertain audiences once more with this contemporary drama. The talented cast includes Claire Cresswell, Anne Döring, Seymour Cresswell and Jim Feehily, and is directed by Judith Elmes.

The production will take place at 8pm nightly in Dalkey Town Hall from Wednesday 22 April to Saturday 25 April inclusive. Tickets (€12/€10 concessions) are available at the Dalkey Heritage Centre, Exchange Bookshop, at the door on the night, or from 01-2807185.



### LEVI OUR DOG MAKES HER GOODBYE

Ah! The happy days when you ran before me  
Down the grassy buttercup hill in Dalkey  
Your white tail up, among plantain and  
daisies.

Your running days are gone now Levi  
Even your poor stiff legs can hardly walk.  
Yet with your old spirit you are still  
hanging in there.

In spite of the Vet's bleak prognostications.

On your rugs you lie warm where I can love  
you.

You turn those old blind eyes at me trustingly  
As if to say I am still here, I am going  
nowhere.

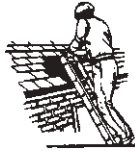
Though you managed to wag your tail at  
Mrs. Hutton

Your old friend, nothing could stop you  
leaving us.

**Frances Moran**

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## ❖ DALKEY LIBRARY NEWS FOR APRIL ❖

*Library will close for Easter from Fri 10th -Tues 14th Inclusive*

**Crochet Classes** - every Thursday at 3.30pm for beginners and those with some experience of crochet. If interested please call the library on 01-2855277

Our **Monthly Bookclub** meets Saturday 4th April at 10am to discuss: 'The Reader' by Bernhard Schlink. All welcome (1st Sat of every month)

**Irish Bookclub** meet 7th April at 6.30pm All Welcome (1st Tues of every month)

**Parent and Toddler Group** meets every Friday 10am-12pm. Tea and coffee and toys provided- All welcome

**Storytime** – Every Thursday at 3.30pm. Suitable for ages 3-6yrs -All welcome. Volunteers needed to read simple stories to under 6's – if you have a half hour to spare on Thursdays at 3.30pm please contact the library on 285 5277

New Self booking software for **Internet Access**. Bring your library card and pin number and simply book yourself onto any one of our four PCS. Internet access is free!

CONTACT DETAILS

**Tel: (01) 2855317 / 2855277 Fax: (01) 2855789 Email: dalkeylib@dlrcoco.ie**

## ❖ NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN ❖

National Spring Clean is an annual event that traditionally runs through the month of April. It is Ireland's most popular, well recognised and successful anti-litter initiative. Now in its 11th year, the campaign encourages every sector of society to actively participate and take responsibility for litter, by actually conducting clean-ups in their own local environment. Last year an estimated 1596 tonnes of litter was collected of which 35% was recycled. Further benefits to our environment from reduced waste and litter include a reduction of pollutants in our natural ecosystems, and improved visual amenity in our landscapes. In the current era of climate change the more we recycle, the more we reduce our carbon emissions, so by taking part in National Spring Clean we are making a difference! The effort and enthusiasm of the National Spring Clean volunteers has ensured the campaign's real triumph and success. Taking part in the National Spring Clean is very straight forward. Organise for a clean up of your local area, to take place any time during April, and register your event online, by phone, fax or post. To register online click on the 'Sign Up' icon to the right. Once you have registered you will receive a FREE clean-up kit from An Taisce. Once you have a firm date for your event you should contact your Local Authority's Environmental Officer. They will provide you with details for rubbish disposal after your clean-up.

*To register or for more information check [www.nationalspringclean.org](http://www.nationalspringclean.org)*

### IT'S A DIRTY BUSINESS

Last year, Dun Laoghaire  
Rathdown County Council issued  
**1,485 fines for litter pollution in the county.**  
*LET'S HOPE IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE AT LAST*

**PLEASE**

**DO NOT  
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**❖ FORTHCOMING EVENTS ❖**

Dalkey Dashers - commencement of training for DCG	Wed. 01 Apr
DARA Art & Floral Exhibition in OLH from 10am-6.00pm	Sat.- Sun. 4&5 Apr
DCC Public Meeting @ 8pm All residents of Dalkey welcome	Mon. 6 Apr
Annual Booterstown Nature Reserve Clean up meet DART car park @ 2pm (tea afterwards)	Sun. 19 Apr
Sorting May Newsletter	Friday 1st May

**EVENTS THROUGH THE MONTH**

**Karate** sessions for all age groups @ 6.00-9.00pm Tuesdays & Thursdays  
 Contact Wayne Deegan at 086 857 2546

**Dalkey Players Theatre Group** 7.30-10.30pm Tuesdays & Thursdays  
 Contact Eimear Casey 285 8639 or check www.dalkeyplayers for details.

**NEW Library Times: Mon & Sat.** 10a.m. - 1p.m., 2p.m. - 5p.m. **Tuesday. & Thurs.** 1.15p.m. - 8p.m.  
**Wed. & Friday.** 10am - 5pm. Telephone 285 5277

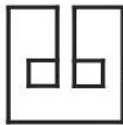
**LAST DAY for advertisements & Articles for next 2 issues: MAY.: 10th April '09; JUNE: 9th May '09.**

**ADVERTISING RATES • No Full Page Ads • Quarter Page: €45; • Half Page: €65;**  
**• Outside Back Cover: €90 (1/2 page only); • Linage: 60c per word (14 Words MAX)..**

**ALL ARTICLES STRICTLY TO:** The Editor, c/o Post Box, Our Lady's Hall, Castle Street, Dalkey

**NOTE: All Advertising Strictly to:** The Advertising Manager, Mrs. Helena Feely, 47 Dalkey Park, Ph: 2858025

**All other queries etc. should be addressed to:** The Secretary, c/o Our Lady's Hall, Castle St. Dalkey



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# O UZOS

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Two Course €17.95 Three Course €21.95

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Monday to Friday 4pm to 7pm

Two Course €21.95

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### *Oh! How Television (and Radio) has changed over the years.....*

*Internet via satellite has been around for years, but still relies on a traditional landline as a means of sending data, usually via a dialup modem, which is very slow. Astra2Connect is a new venture offering broadband speeds via satellite. A specialised dish is fitted with a 2 way LNB (to transmit and receive data), and this in turn is connected to a special modem, which is wired directly to your PC via a Ethernet connection. There are several different tariffs to choose from starting at app. €30 to €100 per month, full details are available from [www.beyondsl.net](http://www.beyondsl.net). I was hoping to try out one of these systems, but was unable to source one before going to press.*

*Ian Macdonald,  
Maxtec Systems*

# MAXTEC

Phone: 2850848 / Fax: 2851111 / Mobile: 087 2579222 / email [sat@maxtec.ie](mailto:sat@maxtec.ie)

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