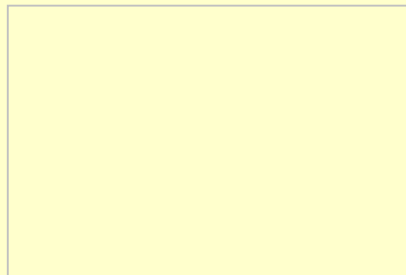




**Dalkey Community Council**  
wishes one and all

**A Happy Christmas & A Prosperous New Year.**

Children's faces beaming, it's that time of year,  
An occasion of great merriment, a Season of good cheer.  
A special day but once a year when we must not forget,  
Our family, friends and loved ones,  
Christmas is the best.



**Sunday 11th December**  
**Christmas Tree Lighting**  
**Crib with real animals - Carol Singing**  
**Children's Activities Town Hall 4pm**  
**Santa's Arrival - Church Car Park 5pm**

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**NEWSLETTER NO. 349**

**Volume 11**

**Mí na Nollaig agus Eanáir**  
**(Dec/Jan) 2005/2006**

**December:** 'decem' which meant ten – the tenth month of the old Roman year.

Flower: Holly & Narcissus

**January:** From the Roman god Janus who had two faces – to look both backwards into the old year and forwards into the new one at the same time.

Flower: Carnation & Snowdrop

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## Minutes

The monthly meeting was held on Monday 7th November in OLH. and Pat Egan chaired it. This was the first meeting of DCC as a Company Limited by Guarantee. Sympathy was expressed to Deirdre McDonagh and her family on the recent death of her father, Leo last month

**Tidy Towns:** TT: Tidy Towns has been successful in their application for a coastal grant from An Taisce. This will enable the picnic area to be restored, which is off the path from the Vico Road heading over the railway towards the rock pool. DLRCC will help to clean and maintain the area and the grant will provide new seats.

**DCC** has sourced a suitable seat for the town in memory of Harry Latham our well-known local historian. This is proposed for the paved area next to Archbold's Castle on Castle Street. The seat is to be cut and shaped from a piece of local granite by a local stonemason.

**Planning:** Ardrugh Road: the application for the apartments has been refused but it is likely the developer will lodge an appeal to ABP.

**Tramyard:** the decision from ABP is to refuse permission but a new application for 23 apartments has been lodged.

**AOB:** Any illicit dumping of black sacks should be reported to the Litter Warden. The rubbish problem at the entrance to Old Quarry from Barnhill Road along the DART line will be brought to the notice of Iarnrod Eireann. As there was no further business the meeting ended.

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## A Seasonal Lesson

It was a year in the late '70's and November had arrived. No mid-term break for Halloween at that time. It was customary then for the practice of the carol singing for the Carol Concert to start in November.

It was noticeable as the days went by that the boys in second class were not very happy as they came in the break times in the yard. The teachers thought it might be because they were not members of the choir or maybe missed the distraction from class-time which this practice gave each day to the others.

So, it was decided to investigate. It was discovered that sixth class were broadcasting to all and sundry that there was no such person as Santa Claus! Tears and sobbing were the result as they reported the horrible rumour.

Teachers decided, with the help of the parents of second class that sixth would be taught a lesson.

In the schoolyard there was a fire door from a building adjoining the school. This door was always locked and could only be opened by someone in the building next door. A very brave parent volunteered to get a Santa costume. Carol practice continued on a regular basis and second class were reassured of the existence of Santa Claus.

In mid November the first break time was going on. Suddenly the fire door opened and Santa Claus appeared for about ten seconds and then disappeared and the door re-locked. Everyone stood in amazement and then shouting started. Boys in second class looked from the door to the boys in sixth class and back to the door. Nothing more happened for a few days. Then about a week later Santa reappeared unexpectedly at the same door and disappeared just as suddenly.

Sixth class was noticed holding many quiet conversations in the yard! The small boys seemed much happier coming in from the yard.

Santa's final appearance that year was at the same door in early December. Again the fire door opened suddenly during break time but this time a large red bag was left to the right of the door as Santa again made a hasty departure.

A teacher took the bag to the middle of the yard and he revealed that the bag contained a present for each of the boys in second class! Each boy's name was called out and as each boy received his present he looked towards the boys of sixth class and waved it in their direction!

The lesson was learned – Santa had been seen and remained the mysterious deliverer of gifts.

Sean O'Gorman

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## Dalkey Special Olympics Athletes in Belfast!

Most of you would be aware of the existence of "Tivoli Tigers Gym Club", previously using the premises of St. Josephs School, Tivoli Road now the club practices at Holy Child School in Sallynoggin.

This club has 27 participants all with special needs and a great range of abilities. In the 2003 World Games 2 athletes represented Ireland from this club and managed to bring back five medals between them.

A couple of months ago the Leinster Games were held at UCD and athletes were selected to participate in the National Games that will be held in Belfast in June 2006.

I am delighted to be able to tell you that 4 athletes representing Ireland at this international event come from

Dalkey and surrounding areas. They are Cilian Boushell, Charlie O'Reilly, Ben O'Callaghan and Chrissie Maccelari.

Congratulations and good luck to all of you!  
S. Maccelari

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## Dalkey United

On Friday 6th November Mr. Barry Mullen of Dalkey Football Club was presented with the gift of a Defibrillator for the Club. This machine was given in memory of Mr Paul Stewart of Convent Road, Dalkey by his many friends. Paul died while playing football of Sudden Adult Death Syndrome on 16th September 2004. He was 30 years of age. His family and friends hope that by placing Defibrillators in Sports Clubs and community areas, they can be used for on-site help until the emergency services arrive.

Margaret Colvin

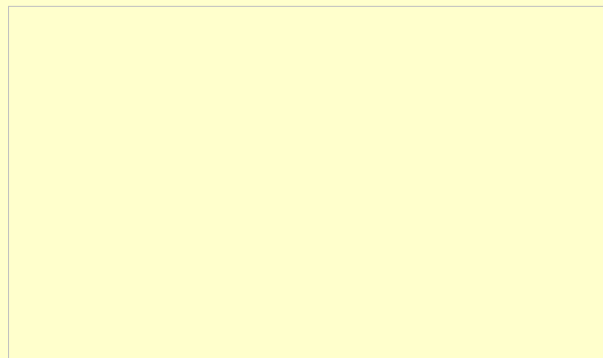
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## Cuala GAA - Sale of Non-shed Christmas Trees

CUALA GAA Club: Coillte non-shed Christmas trees will be on sale in the club hall Hyde Park on Sat.10th Dec. from 9.30am to 6pm and on Sun.11th Dec. from 12.00pm to 6pm. All proceeds will go towards the funding of the juvenile section of the club.

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## The Dublin Tidy Towns Award Presentations for 2005



Paddy Rigney and myself drove through monsoon weather to proudly attend the Dublin area Tidy Towns presentations at Skerries Mills on 7th November.

Dalkey Tidy Towns received the Winners Prize of the County Award for the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Area. Freda

and John McDonagh attended to receive the Best Shop Front Award for McDonaghs pub this is the longest established family pub in Dalkey as Michael McDonagh purchased the premises in 1938. Other local winners present were from DunLaoghaire, Ballybrack and Sandycove.

Dublin Tourism hosted an excellent wine reception. Dignitaries wearing chains of office Politicians and competition sponsors for the past twelve years, Supervalu, made speeches, presentations and posed with the winners for photographs. These are displayed on our notice board in the Credit Union window.

I take this opportunity to thank the people of Dalkey for supporting the Tidy Towns efforts to endeavour to make our town a better place to live in. Anyone who has helped with our litter picking sessions or tidied litter from outside their homes or businesses is very much appreciated.

Keep up the good work during the winter by reporting dumping or fly tipping to the litter warden. Please do not drop litter and encourage your families to likewise. Cigarette ends are a major problem and picking them up is a most unpleasant task so please dispose of them safely and hygienically.

June Barnett

Well done and thanks to Brian Meyer who took the trouble to purchase graffiti remover and did a great job removing the unsightly graffiti from the wall at Sue Ryder and St. Patrick's School

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## Lost Friend

I am writing from Canada and seeking help.

I am trying to locate a lady, Denise Charlton (early 40's) who used to live in Bullock Harbour, Dalkey. I met her some years ago in California, USA, and have lost touch with her.

Perhaps you could suggest how to go about searching for her.

The last information that I had on her was

Denise Charlton  
Mapletree House  
Bullock Harbour, Dalkey  
County Dublin, Ireland

I appreciate any assistance that you can give me.

Thank you.  
Myrtle Myers

Any information can be left in the DCC post box in OLH or email: [info@dalkeyhomepage.ie](mailto:info@dalkeyhomepage.ie)

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## LIBRARY NEWS

BOOK LAUNCH in DALKEY LIBRARY of  
'ECHOES FROM THE DEEP'

This book comes with a beautiful foreword by Maeve Binchy. She wrote "Life is full of stories, hopes and dreams. It's lonely and sad to keep them to ourselves. I think we have a sort of duty, really, to write them down and share them around. So I salute the Dalkey Writers' Workshop and wish their anthology great success."

The Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County librarian, Muirís Ó Ragháil, in launching the book in the Dalkey Library on 17th November, spoke of how writers and poets were traditionally thought of as 'lifting up' and ennobling their area and community. Dalkey was honoured and privileged to have a book with such an excellent standard of fascinating writing. Criona Garvey, of the Workshop, expressed particular appreciation to the library staff for their support.

The book costs €10; for each one sold €3 will be donated to Blackrock Hospice. It can be bought in such shops as Dalkey Book Exchange, Eamonn's Bookshop, Easons, Dubrays, and Books Upstairs. It's an ideal present for someone you know. The Writers' Workshop is a library initiative and began in Dalkey in 2003. The writers meet in the library every second Thursday.

Andrew Furlong

### **Coming soon: The 24-hour online reference library**

Look out for links on [www.dlrcoco.ie/library](http://www.dlrcoco.ie/library) to two excellent online databases, Britannica Online and Xreferplus. Whether at home, school, work or in your local library, members will be able soon, to access these reference books online by using their Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown library ticket number.

Britannica Online offers access to over 72,000 articles, 10,000 illustrations and related links to thousands of websites selected by the editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Xreferplus offers access to 100 reference books covering 20 subject areas from Art through to Technology. These include dictionaries, encyclopedias, quotations, atlases and guides.

### **Borrowbooks Project**

Borrowbooks.ie is a new website which provides access to all the online public library catalogues in Ireland. For the first time, library users can search across all the online catalogues simultaneously to locate and request an item that is not held in their own library service. The website was launched in November.

For further information log onto [www.borrowbook.ie](http://www.borrowbook.ie)

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## **The Old Man's Hat, an annual celebration of Christmas.**

**Date: Wednesday December 14, 8pm**

**Venue: Dalkey Heritage Centre**

The event will feature a series of readings from Christmas stories, with musical interludes. Tickets are €15, with all proceeds going to Dalkey School Project National School. Refreshments will be served, and the raffle features some wonderful prizes donated by local businesses

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## **DALKEY PLAYERS**

Dalkey Players will present their production of Arthur Miller's powerful play, 'THE CRUCIBLE' at the Town Hall, Dalkey, for four nights from Wednesday, 7 December. 'The Crucible', which had its first production in the mid-fifties, is one of Miller's most important plays. It compares the hunt for communists—mostly in the entertainment industry—by Senator Joe Mc Carthy and the HUAC (House of un-American Activities), with the terrifying witch-hunts in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1692. People's lives were destroyed, if not by fire and the rope, then by not being allowed to work. The truths of the play still resonate today.

The cast is large with many of Dalkey Players most stalwart performers taking part. The director is Ena May

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## **Annual Art Exhibition held by Dalkey Community Council 19th & 20th Nov. 2005**

The exhibition was attended by artists and invited guests at the opening on 18th November opened by John Keating a resident of Dalkey an artist who has exhibited in Ireland and Europe at present giving art classes in the National Gallery.

Chairman Susan McDonnell introduced the evening and presented a gift to Colleen Hogan from the Council in appreciation for her enormous contribution, her dedication and innovative work when she was Chairman and representative on the Community Games and her years as Editor of the Newsletter. Colleen has recently resigned

from the Council and will be missed both for her work, as an advisor and friend. She was given a great ovation from those present.

Susan then introduced John Keating who opened the exhibition speaking from an artist's point of view. He was pleased to see so many different medias and styles in the works. The value of exhibitions not only giving the opportunity for works to be viewed and sold but also the meeting of fellow artists to view each other's works and exchange ideas. I am sure fellow artists could empathise when he told us that he will do anything rather than start a painting but once started can not leave until finished.

John was presented with a small gift having proved very popular speaking to artists during the evening.

The exhibition was open for the two days competing with the Embroidery exhibition in the Heritage Centre and the John Short exhibition in Dalkey Arts. We had a good attendance but unfortunately sales were not good, selling eleven paintings and fourteen woodturnings sold.

The artists found the new method of postal entries better as we did not have the huge queues of previous years; though a lot more work for the organisers. We were shocked to receive a number of oil paintings that were still wet and this caused a lot of problems in hanging.

My thanks to all who helped us over the weekend, the Functions Committee and Council members and loyal friends, Padraig Thornton, John Holland and Padraig, Our Lady's Hall, Parish Council, Noel McDonnell and Terry Wheatley for transporting frames.

Colette

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## Dalkey-Anglesey Link and the Festival Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre

The staff at the Heritage Centre and the selected artists for the Interreg supported Art Residencies attended the final Art Exhibition on the Welsh side in Llangefni, Anglesey on November 18th. The standard of the work from artists John Adams, Simon Dalton and photographer Edel Byrne was very high and a large number of sales took place. There will be an opportunity for Dalkey residents to view the work around Easter 2006 in the Gallery at the Heritage Centre.

Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre continues its own busy season of Art Exhibitions with ART 10 an ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION from Thurs Dec 1st – Sun 4th Dec. and ART CIRCLE An exhibition of paintings, textile, photography, ceramics & mixed media from Wed 7th–Sun 11th Dec.

ART CIRCLE is a group of Hungarian, Irish and English artists that have come together to exhibit their varied work. They are offering the public a unique and diverse collection of one off art pieces.

The exhibition takes place in the beautiful setting of Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre from the 7th until the 11th of December and will be opened By Dr. János Balassa, Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary/ Gyula Sümeghy, First Secretary Deputy Head of Mission. The Artists: Alan Boyle and Thomas Wollen, Ceramics; Dóri O Connell, Textile; Brian O'Loughlin, Bog Oak; Tünde Tóth, Mixed media & hand made paper; and Aine Tehan & Mark Byrne [ Purple Productions ], Photography The Gallery is open from 11.00-5.00 daily. Admission free. A reminder that there is large selection of items in our shop suitable to give as Christmas presents. Do drop in and browse!

Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre  
Tel 285 8366

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## Loreto Reunion

As I walked through the gates I turned for one last look at Loreto Abbey Dalkey. As the song goes "that was the summer of '69 and those were the best days of our lives".

Actually that was June 1985 and now I'm nervously turning up the drive into Killiney Golf Club for our school reunion 20 years on. Do I look all right? Who'll be there? Will I recognise them (after resurrecting the end of year photo where I wrote the names on the back for good measure) I hope so.

A warm welcome and a complimentary drink awaited everyone. The Maitre D announced dinner was served. After a lovely meal and a few pleasantries, there was a surprise in the way of an audiovisual presentation accompanied by a re-run of our play "Fiddler on the Roof". We actually remembered the words and actions. How frightening

by a re-run of our play – Fiddler on the Roof. We actually remembered the words and actions. How frightening. After drinks, photo sessions and reminiscence about the past, I finally left at 2.30am. The next day I heard various reports that some people managed to stay up till the early hours of the morning. To Sr. Camilla and colleagues who joined us to celebrate – it was lovely to have you there. Thank you to the staff of Killiney Golf Club for their service and hospitality. And a special Big Thank you to all who organised the event. You did a fabulous job. It was a memorable occasion and I'm glad I went. Looking forward to the next one.  
C. Feely

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## Notices for the Christmas New Year period

**REFUSE COLLECTIONS:** These dates not confirmed at time of going to print but information can be checked from the DLRCoCo website at [www.dlrcoco.ie/env](http://www.dlrcoco.ie/env)

**RECYCLING:** Christmas Trees recycling by the Parks Department of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council will take place from 3rd to 16th January 2006. The designated areas are The West Pier Car Park, Cabinteely Park Car Park, Mount Anville Parks Depot, Marlay Park Grange Road Car Park, Blackrock Park – adjacent to Phoenix Terrace and Killiney Hill Car Park. Please do not deposit trees before or after the above dates or outside the designated areas as the provisions of the Litter Act will apply.

**Glass recycling:** Remember when recycling your empty bottles to place the bottles in the bins provided and if they are full to take away your bags and bring them back when the bins have been emptied. Do not leave bags of empties around the bins! Also be mindful of residents in the area and refrain from making too much noise!

**Ballyogan Recycling Park:** Opening times of the CRF over the Christmas period,  
Saturday 24th December: 8.30 to 13.00

Sunday 25th December: Closed

Monday 26th December: Closed

Tuesday 27th December to Friday 30th December inclusive: 8.30 to 17.30

Saturday 31st December: 8.30 to 13.00

Sunday 1st January 2006: Closed

Monday 2nd January 2006 onwards: normal opening hours.

Stamps to Our Lady's Hall, Castle Street, Dalkey.

**NEWSLETTER:** The next issue of the Dalkey Community Council Newsletter will be the February issue, published on Friday, 3rd February 2006.

**LIBRARY CLOSED:** From Saturday 24th December to Tuesday 2nd January inclusive

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## There is always something to smile about in December

This is the season to smile and be silly. If this is your special and favourite time of year you will have no trouble running around and being sociable. Action orientated, energetic, generous, fun loving, and Santa Claus friendly.

If you are not so inclined this season may bring many challenges Surrender to surprise!

Why not take on a new and refreshing outlook this season to help boost your festive celebrations. Give your heart a little exercise and allow it to open up to the brilliant treasures that await the December adventure.

Post a card or send an e-mail to a friend/family member you have lost contact with in recent times. December is the month to feel connected again with those we have cared for, not meaning that we have to become best friends but healthy to send good wishes!

Send someone you love or fancy a great big bunch of fresh flowers along with a sincere message- December can be a flirty time for singles, a loving time for those in love.

Do not allow your-self to panic and refuse to get caught up in other people's hype.

Book your-self a special treat, a hair appointment - a day at a rejuvenating spa, a good lunch with a group of close friends/ loved ones where laughter is essential.

Drink sensibly, as an over indulgence can be a major contributing factor to squabbles and testy arguments.

Indulge in decadence, this is the time to really enjoy pleasure and plenty, sharing it with everyone you meet

Indulge in decadence, this is the time to really enjoy pleasure and plenty, sharing it with everyone you meet.

Exercise a little, it will help your body cope with the change in lifestyle over the holidays.

Decorate your home with some fantastic colours. Red is one festive hue that never goes out of style. This year mix it up with others colours apart from green, red and purple, red and black will look great. Black is back not only on the catwalks but mixed with gold and white will create a zippy contemporary look.

Use fresh berries and ivy to embellish table settings and fill your haven with natural aromas and scents. Stud fresh oranges with cloves and add additional powdered spices like cinnamon.

Get out the party games and a deck of cards, and allow the child in you to have fun.

Relax and make some quality time to chill quietly so that you can enjoy this time to smile and just let the world roll on.

Until next time

Live a lot and have a laugh!

© Tina Dunne 2005

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## Feeding Birds

Birds have such a delicate balance between being able to fly and keeping their body weight constant that their bodies can only store small quantities of fat in the winter time otherwise they could be reducing their ability to fly and escape predators. That is why birds must feed constantly especially in the winter where they have to be able to put on enough fat in the day to keep them warm at night without hindering their flight the next day. It is why very small birds such as Goldcrests and Long tailed Tits are often one of the last birds moving around in the dusk catching insects before settling down for the night. Feeding birds in the garden is one of the ways we can help birds and is also a good way to get to see them up close. Make sure feeders or bird table are positioned near to cover such as bushes or trees so the birds won't be too exposed when feeding but not near somewhere a cat could hide. You can buy proprietary bird food in quantities from 1kilo to 25kilos. Suitable and readily available foodstuffs for birds include nuts, seeds, fats, food scraps, grain-based foods, garden fruits and live foods such as mealworms. (see Wings Shop @ [www.birdwatchireland.ie](http://www.birdwatchireland.ie))

**Nuts:** Peanuts are the most popular nuts, make sure they're bought from a reputable dealer or pet shop.

**Seeds:** Almost any dry seeds from the pet shop will be eaten. Sunflower seeds are particularly popular with tits and Greenfinches. Mixed wildbird seed is by far the cheapest proprietary bird food. These include canary, rape and hemp seed. Sunflower heads, honesty, cabbage and thistle seeds can be kept back from the garden, dried and given to the birds when conditions become hard.

**Fats:** Don't waste any fat! It's a nutritious food for garden birds. Lumps of suet may be hung out. Meat trimmings, bacon rinds and table scraps will also be gratefully eaten.

**What food should be given?**

Melted fat can be poured over bread or cake scraps to make 'bird cake'. This is more nutritious if some seeds, nuts, oatmeal, grated cheese or dried fruits are added. Use half a pound of fat to a pound of mixture. Coconut shells and yogurt cartons make suitable moulds. Cheese scattered on the ground beneath bushes in very cold weather should attract wrens and help them through difficult conditions.

**Fruit:** This is usually put out after the turn of the year when wild fruit has become exhausted. Suitable fruits are apples, pears, figs, grapes, currants and raisins, dried apricots and prunes. (Dried fruit should be soaked first). A coconut sawn in half and hung upside down from the branch of a tree is welcomed and much enjoyed by the tits. Apples cut in half and speared on branches may attract wintering blackcaps.

**Grain-based foods:** These are always available in the kitchen and include bread, biscuits and stale cake. Bread should be moistened slightly as this makes it easier for the birds to swallow. Moist bread is also less likely to blow away or be taken off in pieces by the larger, more aggressive birds. Try putting some bread at a distance from your bird table to keep the hungry Starlings, crows and gulls away from the delicacies intended for the smaller garden birds. Maize flakes, oat flakes and even puppy meal are other valuable food sources.

**Live foods:** Mealworms can be bought at pet shops or bred at home. Robins find live food more attractive. Ant eggs (which are in fact pupae) can sometimes be found beneath logs and stones. These too are appealing to some birds.

MR

Birdwatch dates for the diary:

December 6th Eric Dempsey: Travels in Namibia, Kingston Hotel @8pm.

December 11th Outing to Blackditch Reserve – meet @10.30am at Birdwatch Ireland Office in Newcastle Village.

January Sat 7th 2006 Great Dublin Bird Race – meet at Booterstown DART car park @8am

finish at the Yacht Bar, Clontarf, c 6pm.



January Tues 10th 2006: "The Secret Life of Bats" talk by Faith Wilson, Kingston Hotel @ 8pm.  
January Sun 15th 2006 :Outing to North Bull Island/St. Ann's Park to see a variety of wintering waders and wild fowl; meet at the base of the Causeway @10.30am.  
For further details on the above check out [www.birdweb.net](http://www.birdweb.net)

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### On Going Home for Christmas Edgar A. Guest

He little knew the sorrow that was in his vacant chair;  
He never guessed they'd miss him, or he'd surely have been there;  
He couldn't see his mother or the lump that filled her throat,  
Or the tears that started falling as she read his hasty note;  
And he never would have written that he thought he couldn't come.

He little knew the gladness that his presence would have made,  
And the joy it would have given, or he never would have stayed.  
He didn't know how hungry had the little mother grown  
Once again to see her baby and to claim him for her own.  
He didn't guess the meaning of his visit Christmas Day  
Or he never would have written that he couldn't get away.

He couldn't see the fading of the cheeks that once were pink,  
And the silver in the tresses; and he didn't stop to think  
How the years are passing swiftly, and next Christmas it might be  
There would be no home to visit and no mother dear to see.  
He didn't think about it - I'll not say he didn't care.  
He was heedless and forgetful or he'd surely have been there.

Are you going home for Christmas? Have you written you'll be there?  
Going home to kiss the mother and to show her that you care?  
Going home to greet the father in a way to make him glad?  
If you're not I hope there'll never come a time you'll wish you had.  
Just sit down and write a letter - it will make their heart strings hum  
With a tune of perfect gladness - if you'll tell them that you'll come

From Party Pieces by Nuala Hartnett

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### Advertisers please note

Advertisers please note the charges for advertising in the Newsletter are increasing from February 2006. The new charges will be as follows:

Half Page - €50, Quarter Page - €30 and small ads (14 words max) - 50c per word.

LINK TO : [December Diary Events](#)



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