



DALKEY - Deilginis 'Thorn Island'

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Irish Heritage Town

First Published April 1974



NEWSLETTER No 415 (Volume 17)

**Mí na Nollaig agus Eanáir
(Dec/Jan) 2011/2012**

December: *From '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*



SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER

Dalkey's Free Christmas Event

Don't Forget!

3.45pm Children's Christmas Show in Town Hall

4.00pm Schools' Christmas Carol Concert in Church

5.00pm Santa's Arrival and Lighting of Christmas Tree in Dalkey Church Car Park



DALKEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL & DALKEY TIDY TOWNS IN ASSOC. WITH DLR

Your Area Representative is.....

Telephone: E-Mail:.....

❖ SUMMARY OF DCC MONTHLY MEETING 1ST NOVEMBER 2011 ❖

Harold Boys' School

Functions: The Annual Art Exhibition will be held on the weekend of November 11/12/13th. See inside for more.

Neighbourhood Watch: Both Community Gardaí, Cathy and Marie, as well as the Sergeant, were present at the meeting. They informed the meeting of the number of crimes committed in the area between the 1st and 31st October.

In response to a query regarding one of our members, Garda Marie explained to the meeting the sequence of events and procedure involved when a call of this nature comes to the attention of the Gardaí. She also informed us that a lot of people with alarms don't put them on at night. For peace of mind we should definitely switch them on as if it goes off at least we know the intruder is outside.

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded.

❖ DALKEY CASTLE & HERITAGE CENTRE REPORT ❖

Have a Merry Medieval Christmas at Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre

Meet the Writers ... All Aboard the Dalkey Tram the Fáilte Ireland funded project was very well received and we couldn't accommodate all who wished to attend. It will have a further life promoting the literary heritage of the area which will bring more visitors to Dalkey.

From end of November until Dec 23rd we will have our **Medieval Christmas Show** as part of guided tour at Dalkey Castle. The live performance will include many of the medieval Christmas traditions.

You will hear the origins of 'the Christmas Box', 'the Piggy Bank', 'Carol Singing', the wearing of 'Christmas Holly'. Preparations are underway for the Christmas Feast prepared by our own resident Medieval Cook: Mince Pies, butter and saffron basted Goose, traditional Humble Pies (from the umbles of deer), Boar's Head, Hedgehog Pie, and delicious Fruminty Pudding. You can hang a stone on the Christmas tree for good luck in the year ahead.

If you overdo it at the feast, our resident Barber-Surgeon will service all your needs in this world or the next! Specialising in medicinal beverages, he is also an expert in predicting the future. Step into Christmases past every day except Tuesday from 10am until last tour at 4.15pm.

Christmas Shopping: Remember to try Dalkey Castle's gift shop when buying your presents. In addition to the knitwear and jewellery, the 14 min DVD **Discover Dalkey... a Stroll through the Centuries** is an ideal gift. It can be played on computers all over the world. The shop stocks the Irish made 'Bábóg Baby' teddy bear speaking some words of Irish. Come in and browse.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL ON SUNDAY DEC. 4TH

Santa's Magical Christmas is the free Christmas Show for children in Dalkey Town Hall at 3.45pm. Admission is free and young children get first preference.

Live Crib at Archbold's Castle on Dec 4th : Deilg Inis Living History Theatre Company will provide actors for the Nativity Scene in Archbold's Castle again this year from 5.00pm. It has been reported that **Santa** will arrive in Dalkey around 5.00pm

Dates for your diary: the **DLR Health Fair** will be held on Jan 14th & 15th 2012. Contact Aoife Kelly at 086 2257531.

Zumba Fitness classes: continue from Jan 11th in Dalkey Town Hall on Wednesdays 7pm - 8pm or 8pm - 9pm. 5 classes only €30 or 10 classes only €60 or pay as you go €10 per class. Contact Lukasz: 085 216 33 04 or Colette: 087 247 66 73. E-Mail: info@zumbagalaxy.com

Pilates: Mondays in Heritage Centre: three classes at 6.15pm, 7.15pm and 8.15pm. Contact Lizanne Barry 087 8572408

Yoga Classes Thursdays 6.15-7.45 & 8.00- 9.30pm Contact: Sorcha 087 9475220 or Beverley 086 8581299

Friday Market: Town Hall: Dominican Farm brings organic fruit and vegetables from 10-2pm.

Tel 01 2858366, Email info@dalkeycastle.com Website: www.dalkeycastle.com

Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre is part funded by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Co Co, Dept SP (Pobal) & FÁS



CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF DRAMA



ST PATRICK'S DRAMATIC SOCIETY, DALKEY

St Patrick's Dramatic Society Dalkey wrapped up its Golden Anniversary celebrations when it staged Geraldine Aron's very funny *SAME OLD MOON* at the Pavilion Theatre, Dun Laoghaire very successfully last month.

'*Tempus fugit*', says Deirdre Burke, current chairperson of St Patrick's Dramatic Society. 'It's hard to believe that fifty years have elapsed since the founder members started the Society in 1961 with the stated intention of presenting productions of a high standard which members and audiences would enjoy.'

It's a maxim that has certainly been followed as it is now one of the oldest dramatic societies in Ireland and some of the most active members joined within a year or two of its inception. *The Importance of Being Earnest*, staged earlier this year in Dalkey Town Hall, was directed by Joan E. Gregg, who made her debut with the group in 1962.

But perhaps the highlight of its fifty years in the dramatic world was being was one of just four amateur groups chosen from around the country to appear on the stage of Ireland's national theatre, when it performed *Spreading the News* by Lady Gregory at the Abbey Theatre on 27 December 2004 as part of the Abbey 100 celebrations.

St Patrick's Dramatic Society has staged much-loved plays from the pens of Irish and international playwrights, both classic and contemporary. Previous productions include the world amateur premier of *DA* by Hugh Leonard; Brian Friel's *Aristocrats*, *Dancing at Lughnasa* and *The Loves of Cass Maguire*; Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* and *All My Sons*; and plays by young Irish writers Marina Carr (*The Mai*) and Yvonne Quinn and Bairbre Ní Chaoimh (*Stolen Child*). Among the other playwrights favoured by the group (and its audiences) have been John B. Keane, Sean O'Casey, Alan Ayckbourn, Alan Bennett and Noel Coward.

Some seventy past and present members of St Patrick's Dramatic Society attended the society's Golden Jubilee Dinner in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire to celebrate its fifty years in style.

During the evening, the activities of the five different decades were outlined in very entertaining speeches by Joan E. Gregg (the 60s), Suzanne Hayes (the 70s), William Mansfield (the 80s), Carmel McCrea (the 90s) and Wendy Grace (the 00s). And then everyone (or nearly everyone!) took to the dance floor to the wonderful sound of Gráinne Brookfield and her band. What a great night!

Of course, new members are always welcome ... check out the website

www.stpatsdramsoc.com.





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Enjoying the Art Exhibition



*Left:
Stylish Ladies
Colette Doody
and friend*



Tim Carey – Guest of Honour



Decisions, Decisions ...



Rosemary Pearson and friends



The Community Council's A Team



*Left:
The O'Neills
enjoying
the Art*



*DCC Treasurer, Ed. O'Neill, Guest -of-Honour, Tim Carey,
DLR Heritage Officer, Rosaleen Callaghan,
DCC Head of Functions*



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10th & 11th December

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MY GARDEN by PHILIPPA THOMAS



Seasons Greetings to every single resident here in Dalkey. How are you and how is your special space in your December garden?

..... Don't we love December for being Christmassy? Everybody seems to be wrapped up in some sort of celebration. We see here, there and everywhere, holly smiling at us from tinselled cards, wreaths, mantle pieces, hall pictures and plum puddings.

.... Some people hold that a garden shows its true colours



Prunus Serrata a tree that keeps on 'giving' (The Cherry tree family):

in winter. Don't you think our Dalkey gardens take

advantage of a rich palette of colour and texture often found in plants overlooked at other times? A sparkle of frost or sifting of snow can make a withered flower stem and foliage, magical. Look hard enough and you will find some little treasure each day of this festive season. At this time of the year, when almost all our deciduous leaves are well gone, we seek comfort and satisfaction in other places and 'tree bark', is one of the subtle comforts of winter. Maybe take time to enjoy the dappled light flickering on birch trunks or the sensation of feeling the Rhino-Hide bark of a Scot's Pine in your cold hand. Our Ashes, Oaks, Sycamores, Chestnuts etc., all combine together to give us the most wonderful tapestry of life. Maybe, take time out to enjoy our rural roadsides, country estates and our city parks.



Acer Griseum – The paper bark Maple. The peeling bark is intentional and not a skin disease

There is nothing like walking to get the feel of a country. ***"A fine landscape is like a piece of music, it must be taken at the right tempo. Even a bicycle goes too fast".*** PAUL SCOTT MOWRER 1887 - 1917

MIGHT DO/SEASONAL JOBS

1. Maybe, grab a few warm layers of clothes and woolly socks, simply get out there into your garden in this crisp lovely air and add your own very personal twist to your Christmas, festive decorations. ... Make the most of what your garden has to offer, i.e. fallen pine cones, bark, seed heads, dried fruits, variegated ivy strands, small sprigs from conifer trees, crab apples, sloes and haws, tangerines decked in cloves, moss and lichen covered twigs too, can also look so festive.
2. Tidy away any remaining summer bedding plants. Leave attractive seed heads in place to provide winter decoration and seeds for the birds.
3. Maybe as you tuck into your Christmas dinner, spare a thought for the birds struggling in your garden, especially if our weather plummets. Have they got what they need to survive tonight?
4. Perhaps grow your own mistletoe. Try your hand at growing mistletoe on an old apple tree. Squash ripe berries into cracks in the barks on the underside of a young healthy branch close to the trunk. Use fresh picked berries for best results. Those seeds should germinate in spring. Mistletoe can grow on apple, poplar, lime, hawthorn and some other trees.



DECEMBER 2011 GARDEN EVENTS



Alpine Garden Soc.: Thurs.8th Dec. 8pm Christmas Miscellany St. Brigid's Parish Centre, Stillorgan.

National Botanical Gardens: 3rd December 2p.m. 'Eco-Christmas Crafts.'

7th December 7.30pm 'A Sense of Christmas' Flower Arranging €25.

8th December 8pm 'Making a Garden - Southern Hemisphere Plants'

10th December 2-4pm Childrens' Art €10.

11th Dec. 12pm Seasonal Christmas Market and **2 p.m.** Santa Claus at the Botanic Gardens



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Hockey Blitz – On the 21st of October the sixth class A and B teams participated in a hockey blitz in Bray. It was great fun. The A team won three matches and drew one. The B team did very well too, they played three matches, and they won one, drew one and lost one. We all hope that we will be put into a good league!

By Inés Kennedy

Prayer Day – A few weeks ago 4th class organised a prayer service in honour of World Prayer Day. It was very beautiful ceremony.

By Inés Kennedy

Halloween Costumes! – Last Friday on the 28th of October, three days before Hallowe'en night, everyone dressed up in SPOOKY costumes! Witches, devils, ghosts, celebrities and



Halloween Masks



A coven meeting in LPS

cowboys all came to life in Loreto P.S. Dalkey. It was a great laugh for all the pupils to see the teachers and principal dressed in their Hallowe'en costumes. One of our favourite parts in the day is playing

games with our teachers. Every year we put on a fashion show on the ledge so everyone can have a good look at our costumes.

By Dara Donnelly

Danceathon – One of the things that excites all the Loreto students is the Friday night Danceathon. We all enjoy this night because of the music and dance. This year was especially good because we got to wear our Halloween outfits. This Danceathon is always held in the secondary school hall. It was a great night, one not to be forgotten!

By Dara Donnelly

Green School Water Flag – This year and next year the school will be working towards our third Green Schools' Flag. Last year we were awarded our second Green Flag for saving energy. This year we are hoping to receive our flag for saving water. In order to receive this flag we need to use the least amount of water possible. This should be a good start for our school on saving water, since the prices for water will be increasing in a few years.

By Alison Maguire

Active School Flag – Last April we had our first Active Schools Week. We played loads of different sports all that week. We started Active Week with our Sports Day. We did our races with our own classes and then team races with children from different classes. All during the rest of the week we did different sports with Craig Aston and his team. We watched demonstrations of different sports and people came in to talk to us about their jobs. The week ended with a Danceathon. It was great fun! After all this hard work in Active Schools Week we are hoping to get our Active Schools Flag soon.

By Sara Lyons

Social Inclusion Week – Social inclusion week was the 8th - 14th of October. In our school, each class researched one or two countries and presented their projects to the other classes. We saw dances, tasted food and looked at the beautiful art work everyone created. Everyone had a brilliant time presenting their projects and watching people present theirs. Everyone also learnt so much including the teachers. It was a great success and we hope it will continue each year because everyone enjoyed it so much.

By Lizzie Montgomery

Enrolment Ceremony (2nd class) – Second class had their enrolment ceremony for their First Communion recently on the 10th of October. They are also preparing for their First

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Penance. Then, towards the end of the year they will make their First Communion.

By Lizzie Montgomery

Cake Sale – Last week the cake sale was on in Our Lady's Hall. We raised €1,861. On Thursday we got a night off homework to bake. Lots of people went to the cake sale. There was a raffle, and the prize was a huge chocolate cake which was won by the Herbert family. Some of the things we sold at the cake sale were chocolate brownies, buns, cookies, rice krispie squares, cakes and lots more. Sixth class and the parents helped out by selling cakes and face painting at the cake sale. It was a great day and everyone enjoyed themselves. It was a real success!

By Emer Reilly



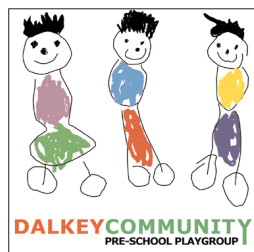
❖ DALKEY COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP ❖

The playgroup is continuing to enjoy a wonderful 2nd term. The children are now all settled and enjoying their new routine. The children are just starting to get stuck into their Christmas projects and enjoying making Christmas decorations, singing Christmas songs and reading Christmas stories. Because of their age, for many, this is the first year that they're really started to understand Christmas and enjoy all the joys of it. For the staff it's the most magical time of year and one that they never tire of being a part of. It's a privilege to have a ring side seat to their excitement.

Christmas Fair – On Saturday 10th December, from 10 until 12, the playgroup is holding their annual Christmas Fair at Our Ladies Hall. It's always a great event with activities for the children including art and craft, games and face painting as well as lots of top prizes to be won on the ever popular Wheel of Fortune. Everyone is welcome so please come along, have a bit of fun and support this local Community facility.

Volunteers – Dalkey Community Playgroup is looking for Fetac Level 5 (or higher) qualified candidates with Garda clearance for voluntary work experience. If you think you might be interested then please contact Rachael on 0863845730 for more details. The playgroup has a lovely working atmosphere.

Finally, the Playgroup would like to wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a Wonderful New Year.



❖ NEWS FROM HAROLD BOYS' NATIONAL SCHOOL ❖

We've been really busy getting ready for Christmas in Harold Boys' Dalkey. All of the pupils wrote a collection of stories and poems. The book is called '**We are Writers**'. This has been published by Scholastic. It will be for sale in the book fair from the 21st - 25th November in the school hall from 2pm to 3pm.

On the 4th of December at 4pm in Dalkey Church, 20 boys from our school will join Loreto, St. Patrick's and Castlepark to sing carols.

Then on the 14th of December, Harold Boys' National School Choir will sing Christmas Carols in Bloomfields Shopping Centre in Dún Laoghaire.

Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir!

By Lorcan Tighe, Rang a 6

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❖ REPORT OF DALKEY TIDY TOWNS DECEMBER 2011 ❖

November is a busy month for the Tidy Towns, a time to review the past years work and plan for our projects in 2012.

It is time to say goodbye to June Barnett who is leaving the Committee and welcome Sharon Goff as our new secretary.

June has performed a mammoth task over the last few years and deserves a rest from the keyboard. Hopefully she will still be a very visible face on the litter patrols and will keep her camera handy to catch any spectacular samples of errant dog poo and other eyesores and keep us on our toes.

The committee would like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her well .

This month the Tidy Towns group, along with the Dalkey Business Group, have commissioned a new tourist map of the town , with the aim of making it easier for tourists arriving in the town to access our many beauty spots and places of interest. Hopefully it will be ready for next spring.

After a lot of negotiations with Irish Rail, they have commenced refurbishment with resurfacing of the Car Park.

Discussions have also started with Dublin Port and Docks Board who have responsibility for Bulloch Harbour....again working with the residents in Bulloch, we would hope to see improvements there next summer.

Members of the group are also working with DLRCC staff on a project to improve the

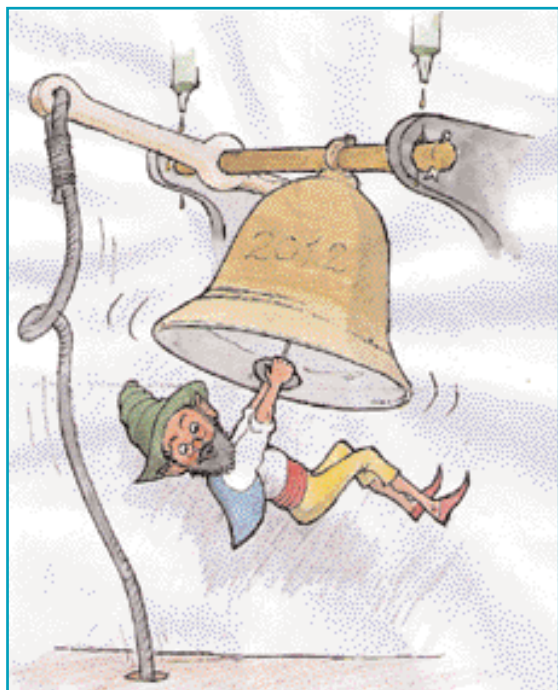
signposting in the area. We have done an audit of what signs need to be replaced, what needs to be signposted and what types of signs we would like.

Blaithín O'Brien attended the Tidy Towns Awards Prizegiving Ceremony in St Andrews Tourist Office in Suffolk St and accepted Dalkey's two awards and a cheque for €1400 from Minister Leo Vradaker. The prize money will be used to fund Tidy Towns projects over the next year.

Everything is in place for the Annual Christmas Community Event on Dec 4th . The only thing we can't organise is the weather!

We would welcome any suggestions from residents and would love to see volunteers on the litter and weeding patrols which as usual for the winter take place on the 1st Tuesday, the 2nd Thursday and the 3rd Saturday of the month. Meet outside Select Stores at 10.30.

Blaithín O'Brien



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Hunchback of Notre Dame rang-in
the New Year - I think!**

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As winter sets in, the red grape varieties become the most popular. The 'King' of the red grape variety is widely known as cabernet sauvignon.

There is no mistaking the blackcurrant aroma of cabernet sauvignon. The young wines can taste of blackberry and plum while the more mature wines add a classic nose of cedar. This grape makes wines that can shine after a century but it can also make a tasty wine at a mere six months after vintage. It is grown world wide from Tuscany to Bulgaria, from

Chile to Spain but the best Cabernet in my opinion hails from Bordeaux. Here Cabernet Sauvignon is most often blended with Merlot, Cabernet Franc or Petit Verdot, it is blended with these grapes because cabernet by itself can sometimes be too dry so adding that little bit of merlot gives the wine a fruity lift. The acids and tannins in these grapes provide good structure and long life to the wine. This coupled with the fact that the grape skins are tough results in less disease affecting the grape which makes it very popular among wine growers. Cabernet sauvignon is grown on the 'left bank' along the River Gironde.

Cabernet is a perfect Christmas dinner wine. If you want that extra special wine for your turkey and ham this Christmas day I would recommend a 2005 Bordeaux cabernet/merlot. Anything from regions Medoc, Haut- Medoc and Graves promises to be Something special! Next issue we will be bringing in the new year and delving into the world of French wine tasting. Have a happy Christmas!



HEART TO HAND



Heart to Hand is a voluntary organisation set up by Irish truck drivers that learnt about the awful poverty that still exists in some parts of Eastern Europe. The charity collects truck loads of food and baby care products and it is distributed in the countries by Mother Teresa's order.

In November, the Parish Youth Group took on our annual challenge of collecting one of these truck loads of food from the parishioners of Dalkey. Once again, we were amazed at the contribution made by the people of Dalkey, the generosity was incredible. I would like, on behalf of the Parish Youth Group to thank everyone who contributed to this collection. The charity would not still be here if it wasn't for the continuing support of the community.



Anna Brady – The Parish Youth Group



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what we are
reduced to
this year!

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Dublin was one of Europe's last capitals that depended on disposing raw sewage through dumping of its cargo otherwise known as 'sludge' at sea. The unenviable task was last conducted over a decade ago by the sludge-carrier, Sir Joseph Bazalgette, which sailed three-times per week from the Ringsend Waste-Water Treatment Plant to spoiling grounds east of the Kish Lighthouse. She would dispose of the 'primary' treated sludge off the Kish Bank, where the exposed offshore seas assisted in dispersing the waste.



Sir Joseph Bazalgette in Dalkey Sound

After this process, she quite frequently set on a course firstly for Killiney Bay and then altering course again heading for Dalkey Sound. Sir Joseph Bazalgette is one of the largest vessels of any type in modern times to transit Dalkey Sound. At 293-ft, she is over 50ft longer than P.S. Waverley (see last issue) and at 2,187 deadweight tonnes (dwt) is larger of the 1,910 dwt Naval Service offshore helicopter patrol 'flagship' L.E. Eithne.

The 'Sir Joseph Bazalgette' was built by James Lamont & Co Ltd, Port Glasgow in 1963 for London County Council, where she disposed sludge away from the Thames. She was named after the renowned engineer who planned the capital's sewerage system in the 1800's, and rid the city of the scourge of cholera.

In 1983 the 'Sir Joseph Bazalgette' (SJB) was sold to Dublin Corporation, where she operated from the old Ringsend sewage treatment works in Dublin Port. Two-thirds of the greater Dublin area was treated but only at this primary level where 60% of waste-water went straight through the facility into the bay, the balance of 40% had pollutants removed forming sludge for the 'SJB' to dispose.

Due to environmental pressure and EU legislation, the banning of dumping of sewage/sludge at sea was introduced, which eventually led the 'SJB' to cease dumping by 1999. It is with complete irony, that when the 'Sir Joseph Bazalgette' was sold in 2000, she departed Dublin as the Marham and under the flag of the Central American state of Honduras, and believed to be converted into a water-carrier!

In 2003 a superior waste-water treatment plant at Ringsend was built by Dublin City Council (DCC) under the Dublin Bay Project. Up until then, 40m gallons of raw sewage ended up in Dublin Bay or beyond in the Irish Sea. The plant processes for an equivalent population of 1.9m and in which has greatly improved Dublin Bay water quality.

During the first quarter of this year, you may recall several rig platforms springing up in the bay, not surprisingly leading some to conclude that oil had been struck! (that's a topic for another issue). The rigs were conducting boreholes to analyse the most suitable location for a proposed new wastewater outfall pipe to go under the seabed as part of phase two of the Dublin Bay Project.

As the demand for the plant increases (DCC) has a €220m project to expand capacity to a 2.1m population equivalent and build a 9km pipe outfall (longer than Dublin Port Tunnel) from Ringsend.



Rig-platform 'Pauline' at work in Dublin Bay

Currently treated effluent is discharged from the Ringsend outfall. Of the four outfall options explored outfall 'B3' was chosen because it was the least expensive and the most



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'green' friendly. B3's outfall's point would end west of Burford Bank, approximately in line between Howth's Baily Lighthouse and Dalkey / Killiney. After extensive modelling analysis, DCC claim the impact of the outfall is 'localised'. The project is to make the bay even cleaner through the new offshore outfall, thus avoiding polluting particularly sensitive protected areas such as Dalkey Island.

A public consultation process by DCC started in October, which included an evening event held in the Heritage Centre. According to the terms of the waste-water discharge licence issued by the EPA, the pipeline must be completed by 2015. In 2008 the outfall at Coliemore was closed in 2008 when a pump-station connecting to Ringsend, was built under the refurbished viewing area overlooking the harbour and is where a binocular-scope, donated by Dalkey Tidy Towns, is dedicated to the memory of local maritime historian, the late Dr. John de Courcey Ireland.

Words and Photos: Jehan Ashmore

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The material in the Planning Section of the Newsletter is based entirely on data taken from Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council's website. If you are concerned about a particular item it is strongly recommended that you examine the relevant file in the Council's offices.

Reg. Ref. D11A/0490

Application Rec'd Date: 28-Oct-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Martin Doran, Firmbank, Dalkey Avenue, Dalkey.

Proposal: Permission is sought for the erection of a 4 bed 2 storey dwelling, and the provision of a new vehicular entrance off Dalkey Park, including all service connections and associated site works.

Reg. Ref. : D11A/0492

Application Rec'd Date: 01-Nov-2011

Applicant Name & Location: D & E Coulson, Shamrock Lodge, Barnhill Avenue, Dalkey.

Proposal: Permission is sought for a new 191.25 sq.m two storey detached dwelling, with single storey return to rear, new 2.1 metre high boundary wall between proposed new and existing dwellings, retaining existing vehicular entrance to serve proposed new dwelling and creation of new vehicular entrance to serve existing dwelling, and all other associated site works, on site to side.

Reg. Ref. D11A/0496

Application Rec'd Date: 03-Nov-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Peter & Deirdre Davitt, Rock Lodge: 91, Coliemore Road, Dalkey.

Proposal: Permission is sought for alterations to shared vehicular entrance to Rock Lodge and No. 91, Coliemore Road to comprise widening entrance on south-east side, relocation of existing vehicular gate to No. 91 and creation of additional vehicular and pedestrian gates to Rock Lodge with associated site works including enlarged parking area and new stone walls.

Reg. Ref. D11B/0353

Application Rec'd Date: 04-Nov-2011

Applicant Name & Location: David & Maria Bourke, 1, Ardburgh Close, Ardburgh Road, Dalkey.

Proposal: Permission is sought for development which shall consist of the alteration and enlargement of bay on front (south) elevation on ground and first floor levels, associated modifications to roof, minor changes to position of windows on north and west elevations and one new window on east elevation at ground floor level.

Reg. Ref. D11A/0398

Application Rec'd Date: 18-Aug-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Fiona Kelly & Philip Mangan, Fairlawn, Saval Park Road, Dalkey.

Proposal: Planning permission is sought for works to a 4-bedroom plus boxroom detached house (circa 300m²) on three levels, etc plus all associated works to provide a two-storey plus attic 4-bedroom house (circa 418m²). (A protected structure). Additional Information: 11th November 2011.

Reg. Ref. D11A/0513

Application Rec'd Date: 09-Nov-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Niamh Caffrey, Saint Marys, Ardeevin Road, Dalkey.

Proposal: Permission is sought for demolition of an existing side garage and store; part reduction in rear garden levels; relocation and alterations to existing vehicular entrance, the construction of a new two storey extension to side elevation; construction of a single storey rear extension and extension of the existing rear return at ground and first floor levels and general alterations /additions.

Reg. Ref.: D06A/1179/E

Application Rec'd Date: 07-Nov-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Mr. P. Donnelly, Rockview, 21, Coliemore Road, Dalkey.

Proposal: Restoration and extension (148 sq.m in total) to the front, rear and side of the existing detached house involving the demolition and rebuilding of the existing stair return, conservatory at the front of the house to incorporate a new main entrance and stair hall; the first floor annex to the side incorporating additional accommodation; the extension to the existing basement, ground and first floor accommodation at the rear of the house; the reslating / repair to existing roofs; the construction of a new detached 48.80 sq.m garage adjacent to the boundary wall on the Coliemore Road and all associated site and ancillary works including reduction in the gradient fall of the front forecourt. **Application Type:** Extension of Duration of Permission.

Reg. Ref. D11B/0357

Application Rec'd Date: 08-Nov-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Julie Ann McEvoy, 53, Eden Villas, Glashule.

Proposal: Permission is sought for erection of new single storey extension to side & rear of house & porch extension to front with internal alterations to house & for all ancillary site and drainage works.

PLANNING DECISIONS Wks. 41-45 10/10/2011 to 11/11/2011

Reg. Ref.: D11A/0398

Decision: Request Add. Info.

Date: 11-Oct-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Fiona Kelly & Philip Mangan, Fairlawn, Saval Park Road, Dalkey.

Proposal: Planning permission is sought for works to a 4-bedroom plus box-room detached house (circa 300m²) on 3 levels, including demolition etc.,— plus adjustments to landscaping plus all associated works to provide a 2-storey plus attic 4-bedroom house (circa 418m²). (A protected structure).

Reg. Ref.: D11B/0291

Decision: Grant Permission for Retention

Date: 14-Oct-2011

Applicant Name & Location: The Estate of M. Moloney, 17, The Village Gate, Dalkey.

Proposal: Retention permission is sought for a 6 sq.m single storey conservatory extension to the front. **Application Type:** Permission for Retention

Reg. Ref. D11A/0420

Decision: Grant Permission

Date: 20-Oct-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Oliver McCabe, Select Stores, 36, Tubbermore Road, Dalkey.

Proposal: Permission is sought for the change of use of 20 sq.m of existing ground floor storage yard to commercial use. **Application Type:** Permission

Reg. Ref. D10A/0608

Decision: Grant Permission

Date: 27-Oct-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Padraig Fitzpatrick, Southwinds, Ulverton Road, Dalkey, Glenageary.

Proposal: Permission is sought for demolition of existing 'Southwinds' bungalow and for the construction of replacement bungalow with garden walls, landscaping, drainage, driveways, footpaths and ancillary works.

Reg. Ref. D10A/0703

Decision: Grant Permission for Retention

Date: 26-Oct-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Mr & Mrs James Lenehan, Altamont, Knocknacree Road, Dalkey.

Proposal: Permission for retention of extension to existing house on two storeys, provision of car parking spaces and conversion of car-port to garden room. **Applic. Type:** Permission for Retention

Reg. Ref. D11A/0438

Decision: Grant Permission

Date: 09-Nov-2011

Applicant Name & Location: R. & E. Saunders, 4, Beacon Hill, Nerano Road, Dalkey.

Proposal: Planning permission is sought for (a) Change of use from wash house to bedroom and (b) new single storey bathroom extension to side, all to the side of existing terrace, and all associated site works. (A protected structure).

APPEALS notified by An Bord Pleanala Wks 41-45 10/10/11 to 11/11/11

No new appeals in Dalkey area

APPEAL DECISIONS of An Bord Pleanala Wks. 40-44 3/10/2011 to 4/11/2011

Reg. Ref. D11A/0169

Appeal Decision: Split Decision

Appeal Decided: 17-Oct-2011

Council's Decision: Grant Permission & Refuse Permission.

Applicant & Location: Derek Richardson, Wavecrest, Vico Road, Dalkey.

Proposed Development: Planning permission is sought for the construction of new retaining wall from entrance pier to adjoining boundary wall south of Wavecrest and a single storey first floor extension over existing kitchen comprising of 32m² with 3 rooflights.

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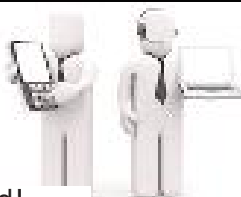
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THE GARDENERS FRIEND – Some years ago our local Birdwatch Branch Secretary voiced to a small assembly a quick test of observation skills. Asking the group not to consult field guides he asked did a Robin's orange breast plumage extend to above or below its eye? The answers from the people he addressed were equally divided between the correct and wrong answer but it aptly demonstrated how much we take for granted this very familiar little bird. In mid winter when the blackbird and other resident songbirds will have fallen silent and our melodious summer migrant songsters will be wintering in Africa the robin will still be singing in our gardens on the coldest, darkest days. It's winter song is different from its exuberant song in springtime, more restrained, quieter and almost plaintive but it doesn't need to sing loud since it usually has the garden stage to itself.

Of course the robin isn't singing for our benefit either, its song is only meant for other robins and since robins are one of the few birds that defend a territory in winter it's sending out a message to any interloping robins that if they invade this territory they're in for trouble. Robins are notoriously aggressive and it's estimated that 10% of robin mortality is caused by attacks from other robins. That's hard to imagine since robins always come across as very amiable and approachable whether singing from branches a few feet away or perched on the handle of a gardeners fork waiting for a few worms to get dislodged.

They seem very trusting of us and seem to know we won't do them any harm. You wouldn't get a magpie perched a few inches away from you on a garden fork and if you did you'd probably think it quite sinister and be very suspicious of its motives.

I used to wonder was it a recent development that robins became so trusting but apparently their approachability and song was written about by Chaucer in the Middle Ages. They're still much shyer in other parts of Europe maybe due to the fact they used be caught and eaten there.

They were called robin redbreasts before the colour orange came into common usage since orange is a more accurate description of their 'waistcoat' colour.

As for the question does a Robin's orange breast plumage extend to above or below its eye? Have a look at the next one you see or if your Christmas cards have started to arrive there's every chance you'll have one with a robin on it.

WELCOME AND UNWELCOME COLONISTS – I often think it's unfortunate that the beech isn't a native Irish tree. Although considered native in the south of Britain (although a non native introduced species in the north), there is no record of beech being inhabitants of Ireland before the Ice Age. If anyone is applying for a grant to grow native woodlands it's now a pre condition that any existing beech trees on the land be removed since their dense canopy prevents other trees getting a foothold underneath them. Its Latin name is *Fagus Sylvatica* but the common name of the Beech tree, found in varying forms throughout old Teutonic dialects, apparently means either 'a book' or 'a beech,' the early books having been made of this wood. *Fagus* is from a Greek word meaning 'to eat,' referring to the edible character of the Beechmast. Although non native trees are much more valuable to wildlife, having had hundreds of thousands of years to form interdependent relationships with insects and birds which pollinate them and spread their seeds, many of the introduced trees have made their own niche on the landscape and can provide a limited but valuable source of food or shelter.

With their large majestic smooth grey trunks and interlacing branches spreading out to form a rounded crown it's easy to believe that beech trees were the inspiration for the architects of medieval cathedrals whose rounded columns and flying buttresses draw the eye upwards towards the heavens. The density of foliage and the bitter tannin of the leaves of the beech prevents most plants and other trees from growing underneath them, leaving them standing in solitary splendour, their roots mirroring their branches above, spreading across the ground like great gnarled limbs. These roots don't go very deep though and beeches are prone to blow over in very strong winds. In the infamous hurricane in 1987 thousands of beech were devastated but many of the oldest survived because their central core had rotted away leaving them hollow and much more flexible against the wind. One of the few plants associated with beech are bluebells which will have grown and flowered before the dense leaf cover blocks out the sunlight and this scene is reproduced in many spectacular photographs, a sea of blue against the smooth grey trunks.

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An advertisement for Moll's Paraphernalia. On the left is a detailed illustration of a three-story building with a dark roof, white walls, and several windows. The building has a small arched entrance on the ground floor. To the right of the illustration, the text reads: "Moll's Paraphernalia" in a large, serif font. Below this, in a smaller, all-caps serif font, is "THIS YEAR...". This is followed by three lines of text in an all-caps serif font: "...FOR THE BEST VALUE...", "...FOR THE BEST SELECTION...", and "...WHY NOT SHOP LOCAL?". Below these lines is the phrase "Wishing all our Customers a very" in a small, italicized serif font, followed by "Merry Christmas" in a large, elegant cursive script. At the bottom right, in a small, all-caps serif font, is the address "6A RAILWAY ROAD, DALKEY. TEL: 285 3293" and the opening hours "OPENING HOURS: TUE-SUN 10:30AM-6PM".

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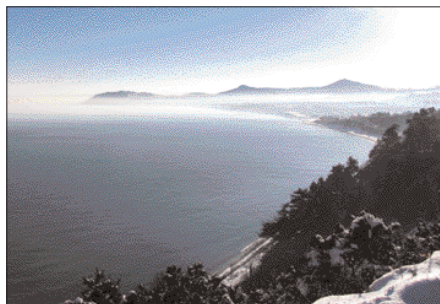
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The beech's seeds, known as beechmast, appear in cycles, some years having a very poor harvest, but this year seeming to have had a very good crop. At the time of writing we hadn't seen any red squirrels in the woods on Killiney hill for over six weeks and have been getting very worried about their survival. The last reds we did see were feeding on beech trees and for a while I was wondering why one of the red squirrels we'd disturbed was low down the trunk, near the fork of the beech. The beech seeds grow inside a husk and this squirrel was carrying one in its mouth. I realised later it was of course 'squirreling' it away, storing it for later in the winter in a crevice in the trunk. Another day we saw a red eating away at the top of a beech then suddenly bounding across the treetops before arriving at a oak tree. The seed of the oak, the acorn, is toxic to red squirrels until it's fully ripe although grey squirrels can eat them at any stage, possibly because they evolved in the US where there are many more species of oaks. Anyhow as we watched the red it turned around and dived into a crevice in the oak, possibly storing more beech husks which it might have carried over within its mouth. Later when I looked at a photo I'd taken of it I saw that it was one of the reds that had been trapped earlier this year and still had a metal clip fitted on its ear, clearly visible in the photograph. Unfortunately since then we've seen lots of greys, feeding on the beech as well but not a sign of a red. Every time I've seen a red recently I'm conscious it might be the last time ever I'd see one in our woods. It's not that many years ago, before the greys arrived, we'd see a red nearly every morning gathering beechmast on the ground but I fear those sightings may be gone for ever.

Incidentally this year is the centenary of the introduction of the grey squirrel to Ireland. It's taken them over 90 years to reach Dalkey and Killiney woods but they're here now, probably forever like an unstoppable tide, washing away the native reds ahead of them.



*Killiney Bay Christmas Day '10 Photo:
Michael Ryan*



NEW MUSICAL TALENT FROM DALKEY

The Kingston Academy of Music, Dalkey is very proud to announce the recent success of one our students, Cathal Taylor, who will perform as a soloist on this years Late Late Toy Show on 2nd December.

Cathal is a local teen who has been studying voice and musicianship at the Academy for the past three years. He is no stranger to the stage or studio, and has recorded various tracks including Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody, Coldplay's Viva La Vida, Christmas single Don Oiche úd i mBeithfíl, but to name a few.

Cathal is a very focused, hard-working, talented student with an enormous talent. He will be a wonderful ambassador of the Academy when he sings on the much coveted Toy Show this winter. We wish him the very best for what will be a fantastic opportunity and experience.



Cathal Taylor

Audrey McKenna – Director www.kingstonacademyofmusic.com

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING will take place from Tuesday 3rd - Sunday 15th January 2012

inclusive between 9.30am and 3.30pm at the following locations: • Blackrock Park Main Entrance

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NEWS FROM CASTLE PARK SCHOOL



REMEMBRANCE DAY – On Friday 11th November our School Assembly focussed on the theme of remembrance and, as in previous years, we honoured the memory of past pupils of



Memorial garden with wreaths

the School who are commemorated in our Memorial Garden. The names of the 25 men who lost their lives during the Great War and the 24 men who died during the Second World War are displayed on the “rock of remembrance” which was commissioned in 1947 by the Old Boys’ Society of the School. At that time the considerable sum of over £330 was raised towards the cost of erecting the Memorial which was dedicated on 11th July 1948.

It was ironic that the very first pupil who arrived at the School in September 1904, Harold Boyd from Hertfordshire, was also the first Old Boy to be killed during the First World War. Another early pupil of the School was Aubrey Cecil White from Kilkenny who came to Castle Park in 1905 and was killed on Saturday 1st July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. His life story, and the history of his family, was researched by Ms Alyson Gavin, Blackrock, several years ago and recounted on RTE’s *Sunday Miscellany* and then published in an article entitled “*The Whites of Gowran House*” in The Old Kilkenny Review 2007.

After leaving Castle Park, Aubrey went to Trent College in Nottingham in 1911 and subsequently joined the 8th Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment on its formation in October 1914. Shortly afterwards he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and in October 1915 the Battalion embarked for Boulogne. In May 1916 the Battalion was positioned in the trenches in front of Authuille Wood with an objective to take Ovillers-La Boisselle.

The Battalion Diary for Saturday 1st July 1916 records: “*The attack was timed for 7.30am. The first wave left our trenches in perfect order and to time, and was at once met by exceptionally heavy fire from front and both flanks. Most of the men were killed or wounded. The Battalion as it went over numbered 680 non-commissioned officers and men and 23 officers; of the former only 68 returned. All the officers were casualties, eighteen being killed and five wounded.*” (Battalion Diary WO 95/2188NA)

Aubrey Cecil White was buried in Lonsdale Cemetery, Authuille, France and is commemorated in perpetuity by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

REMEMBERING OTHERS - Fundraising for Children’s Causes

We collected over 200 shoeboxes for Team Hope’s Shoebox Appeal and hope that these will bring some joy and happiness to needy children overseas during the festive season.



The famine that is causing so much suffering in East Africa has prompted the pupils to initiate a range of fundraising activities in order to support the Unicef East African Appeal. Our non-uniform day before the mid-term break raised over €700 and during November we held a sponsored swim for the pupils over 6 years of age, our youngsters participated in a sponsored walk.

In addition we launched our annual hamper appeal in order to provide festive hampers and supplies of non-perishable goods for families facing a difficult Christmas time. We are also delighted to provide party goods for an inner city school’s annual Christmas celebration.

CONFIRMATION ENROLMENT CEREMONY – Pupils from sixth class joined with pupils from Loreto Dalkey, Harold’s School and St Patrick’s to participate in the enrolment ceremony for their Confirmation held in the Church of the Assumption in November. Our choir attended the ceremony also and provided a fitting musical accompaniment to the service. It was a wonderful evening for all who attended and the sixth class pupils look forward to continuing their spiritual journey during the final preparations for their Confirmation.

LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS

The Friends of Castle Park, our parents association, have organised a continental-style Christmas Fayre on Friday 2nd December with many festive stalls offering arts & crafts and seasonal goodies. The children joined in with the many games on offer and were able to take part in crafting projects.

The CORNER NOTE



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Our Junior Choir (first to third class) are looking forward to their annual carolling visit to Our Lady's Manor and anticipate a happy afternoon performing many Christmas favourites for the residents. The Montessori pupils will entertain their parents and friends with their wonderful Nativity Plays telling the magical Christmas story in poem and song. We know there will be lots of hard work learning lines and practising songs over the next few weeks. Term will end with our Annual Carol Service at Monkstown Parish Church when the whole School will join together on the evening of **19th Dec.** to relive the Christmas story through carols, lessons and prayers.



DALKEY BUSINESS UPDATE



On Friday 2nd December, the Christmas Wonderland at the Tramyard will start at 5.30pm when the tram arrives at the Tramyard with Santa on the roof and escorted by 3 Harley Davidson's and a Hummer. The Hummer will then collect some of the children from the Laura Lynn Foundation Hospice and bring them to the Tramyard where they will receive presents from Santa Claus. There will be music on with proceeds going to the hospice. Full details at www.ilovedalkey.com



Dalkey Business Group would like to thank all the Newsletter readers for all their custom this year; it means a lot to all the various businesses in our wonderful town and we appreciate it when you think Dalkey & keep it local!

We hope you enjoy the Christmas Lights which we have organised again this year.

Wishing you & yours a Happy Christmas!

Jason McChesney, Chairman - Dalkey Business Group

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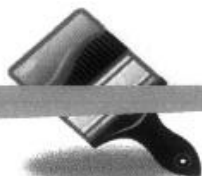
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Most of us probably forget that less than twenty years ago Hallowe'en was an ordinary school day if the 31st of October fell between Monday and Friday. A mid-term break was unknown at this time. Mind you, the 1st of November saw schools closing if they were of the catholic ethos. A Hallowe'en in school gave all the opportunity to play the old traditional games in the afternoon. Children loved the excitement of playing snap-apple, the three saucers game, putting the tail on the donkey and of course 'diving' in the basin. I hope these games are alive and well in children's homes nowadays.

With the arrival of November, thoughts and efforts turned to learning and singing the Christmas carols. Even more to the point, back then in the 1970's and 80's, the churches of Dalkey had a Carol Concert where local groups and schools enjoyed singing all the well known carols. One year it was in St. Patrick's Church followed by the Church of the Assumption the next year. It was never officially stated but among the schools taking part there was an element of competition as to which school choir sang sweetest or maybe which school came up with the most unusual, exotic or "never heard before" carol! As a school is a very seasonal place, the imminent arrival of Christmas gave teachers opportunities for language development, especially Gaeilge and in an historical context to explain the many Christmas customs that are associated with this time of the year. Children, whether old or young, loved hearing of the story of the Crib and St. Francis, the famous poem of Clement Clarke "A visit from St. Nicholas" and of course the centuries old story of St. Nicholas which eventually gave us Santa Claus.

I deliberately left mentioning the Christmas tree 'til last. We never had a tree in Harold until parents became very involved in school activities in the late 1970's. Previous to that I suppose putting up a Christmas tree was seen as using money we didn't have to purchase one and then the tree would sit there during the Christmas holidays and was then removed when the school re-opened in January. The parents, for their part, thought it was an essential part of the Christmas celebrations in the school and of course looking back it was. The first tree arrived with a set of small white lights and the children were very enthusiastic decorating and admiring it inside the front door of the school. The lights were plugged in each morning and unplugged again at the end of the school day. A tree, on the premises as it were, gave many opportunities to talk and discuss the Christmas tree story. We could go back to its forerunner which seemed to have come from the Germanic peoples of central Europe who worshipped the Yule trees in the mid-Winter season and the idea of the "Tree of Life" was common to many civilisations. We can thank Martin Luther in the 16th century for spreading its popularity when he compared the candles on a decorated Christmas tree to the "starry heavens from which Christ descended at the Nativity". German migrants of the 18th and 19th centuries spread the Christmas tree tradition far and wide.

A knock came to my door in "*Tigh Mhichil*", Carysfort Rd on a school night in December back then at about 7pm. A neighbour told me that there was a group of children at the front door of the school and she was concerned that everything was alright. I told her I would go over to see the cause of the gathering! As I reached the school wall on St. Patrick's Rd I could see a group of three boys standing at the front door of the school staring through the glass panel to the left of the door. I walked in the gate and over to them. I could now see what was attracting their attention. The little white lights on the Christmas tree inside the door were glowing gently in the dark hallway. They had not been unplugged that day! "Why are you here, boys?" I said. Colin, one of the young boys, said "we were passing by and we saw the light and we came over to see".

Three young people, a light, coming to see at Christmas time. I thought of a Christmas story.



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❖ DECEMBER 2011 / JANUARY 2012 LOCAL HISTORY TALKS ❖

Thurs. Dec. 1st at 8.15 p.m. Anne O'Connor will present her lecture '*Beaufield and its people*' to the Mount Merrion Historical Soc. in the Mount Merrion Community Centre, North Ave. Mount Merrion. All welcome - admission €4.

At 8.30 p.m. John Donnelly & Brian Maguire will present their lecture '*Memories of Ireland's Lighthouses*' to the Kilmacanogue History Soc. in the Glenview Hotel, Glen of the Downs, Delgany, Co. Wicklow - admission €3.

Wed. Dec. 7th at 8 p.m. Theresa Buckley will present her lecture '*Kilmainham Jail*' to the Rathmichael Historical Soc. in the Burton Hall, Rathmichael National School, Stonebridge Road, (Dublin Rd. end), Shankill, Co. Dublin - all welcome.

At 8 p.m. the Dun Laoghaire Borough Historical Society will hold its annual 'Treasure / Collectors Night' in the Kingston Hotel, Adelaide Street, Dun Laoghaire. All welcome.

Thursday December 8th at 8.30 p.m. Brian White will present his lecture '*Maps of North Wicklow and Some Stories of Enniskerry*' to the Enniskerry History Society in the Powerscourt Arms Hotel, Enniskerry Village, Co. Wicklow - admission €3.

Tues. Dec. 13th at 8 p.m. Katherine McSharry will speak to the Genealogical Society of Ireland on '*The National Library of Ireland - Recent Developments and Future Plans*' in Dun Laoghaire College of Further Education, Cumberland Street, Dun Laoghaire - all welcome, contribution €3.

Wed. Dec. 14th at 8 p.m. David Snook will present his lecture '*Faces from the Past - Kingstown Seamen 1914 to 1921*' to the Killiney-Ballybrack Historical Society in The Graduate Lounge (Upstairs), Rochestown Avenue, Killiney, Co. Dublin. Admission €3 - Students / Unwaged €2.

Wed. Jan. 4th at 8 p.m. The AGM of the Rathmichael Historical Soc. takes place in the Burton Hall, Rathmichael National School, Stonebridge Rd., (Dublin Rd. end), Shankill, Co. Dublin, and will be followed by a lecture from Dr. Elizabeth O'Brien on 'The Mapping Death database.' - all welcome.

Thursday January 5th at 8.15 p.m. Catherine de Courcey will present her lecture 'History of Dublin Zoo' to the Mount Merrion Historical Society in the Mount Merrion Community Centre, North Ave., Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin. All welcome - admission €4.

Wednesday January 11th at 8 p.m. Brian White will present his lecture '*Maps before SatNav - History of Land Survey*' to the Killiney-Ballybrack Historical Soc. in The Graduate Lounge (Upstairs), Rochestown Ave., Killiney. Adm. €3 Students/ Unwaged €2.

Tuesday January 17th at 8 p.m. Brian MacAongusa will present his lecture '*The Coming of the Railways*' to the Foxrock Local History Club in the Foxrock Parish Centre, rere Foxrock R.C. Church, Foxrock, Co. Dublin, Gregg Peppard will give a short talk on '*Donnybrook Voting Irregularities.*' All welcome - admission €4.

A BOOK TO READ

'Wicklow Villages - A Historic Guide' by Pat Dargan, Published by Wicklow Co. Co.Heritage Office. Each village in County Wicklow has its own distinct identity and uniqueness. The architecture, layout, building materials used, open spaces created or provided, trees and the natural landscape all combine to the visual appearance and attractiveness that defines the character of each of them, and it is this unique character that provides the individual County Wicklow villages with their strong sense of identity and place that appeals to both the local residents and visitors alike.

This excellent Guide to the villages of County Wicklow, which has over 125 superb colour illustrations and maps, charts the historic developments of County Wicklow's villages down through the centuries, highlighting the various special aspects of both the natural and built environment that contribute very positively to their character.

This A4 sized Guide to Wicklow Villages is available at the extremely modest post paid price of €5.50 from Ms. Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer Wicklow County Council, Heritage Office, Wicklow County Council Buildings, Wicklow Town.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The two communities of Dalkey and Killiney are mourning the passing of the lovely Victoria Gates cafe, opened almost 4 years ago by a young entrepreneur Tom Doyle. It transformed the old grey gatehouse into a buzzing place-to-be, and became a regular and beloved haunt of many walkers and families, not to mention delighted dogs who happily entangled themselves around tables and chairs while waiting for their owners to drink up and continue their walks.

Tom's trademark was delicious homemade baking, good coffee, special hot chocolate for the kids and dishes of water for thirsty dogs. Most memorable of all was the friendliness of the young staff, all smiles and chat as they tried to keep up with the orders, especially on busy weekends.

I don't know Tom personally, but as with many of the locals, I know him to see now and often complimented him on this great local endeavour and thanked him for the pleasure of coffee in the open air, through all the seasons and the lovely touch of fresh flowers on the tables when he could get them.

I'd like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all of us who loved this lovely little cafe, to thank Tom for all of his hard work in setting it up and running it to such high standards. Sadly it is closed for a few months as the council develop and enhance the area around the tower. I join with many others in wishing Tom well and in hoping that, once complete, the council offers this little gem back to Tom so that he can run it again and offer local employment to local kids who really do know the meaning of service with a smile.

Sincerely,

Catherine Tierney



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Sat & Sun 10-11 Dec	
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January '12 DCC Monthly Meeting	Tues 3 Jan
Sorting February Newsletter	Fri. 27 Jan
DLRCoCo Christmas tree Recycling will take place (See page 25) from 3rd - 15th January incl.	

The Irish Vintage Radio and Sound Society meets monthly in Dalkey. If interested please call 086-8391839

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

Early last November I met with a few of the techie people from Triax, the same people who designed and built the combination receiver I have mentioned in previous issues. Now they are going a step further and re-designing the combination receiver especially for the Irish market. As before the receiver will pickup the SAORVIEW Irish digital channels (via an aerial), the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and more from the UK (via a satellite dish), however the new receiver will also pickup the new SAORSAT channels via satellite (for the people who cannot receive RTE with an aerial, which is estimated at between 2% and 4%), more on this receiver in the New Year . . .

Finally, as always this time of year, I would like to wish everybody a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

*Ian Macdonald,
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