



# **DALKEY - Deilginis 'Thorn Island'**

## **COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Irish Heritage Town**

*"Ireland's longest-running voluntary community newsletter"*  
*First Published April 1974*

**NEWSLETTER No 471 (Volume 23)**

**Feabhra (February) 2017**

**Bullock Harbour – Present**



**Proposed Development**



**See Tidy Towns Page 23 to 26**

**Photos: Bullock Harbour Preservation Association**

## ❖ SUMMARY OF DECEMBER & JANUARY MONTHLY MEETINGS ❖

### **December Monthly Meeting held on Monday 12th December 2016 in OLH**

**TT:** Dalkey Tidy Towns have had a very good 2016 and there are more projects for 2017. The Garden Centre Murphy & Wood and DLR have given DTT bulbs and these will be planted in Dillon's Park, The Flags and other spaces around the town.

**NW:** The Garda advice is to remain vigilant during this busy time and to report any suspicious activity. Never give any personal details to callers at the door or over the phone. Be extra careful when using ATM machines.

**Planning:** The application for the proposed development at the Western Marine site at Bullock Harbour has been lodged. Everyone is encouraged to review the plans and submit their comments on it. A public meeting to give more information on this application will take place in early January.

The meeting adjourned for Christmas refreshments.

### **January Monthly Meeting held on Monday 9th January 2017 in OLH**

**TT:** DTT has cleared the overgrowth and finished a tidy-up on The Cat's Ladder and work is still continuing in Dillon's Park. There will be a return to The Flags for a final clear-out. DLR has pruned all the trees on Hyde Road and DTT will clean up the low growth and brambles.

**HC:** There is an extensive program planned for the coming year and full details will be published in the coming newsletters.

**Planning:** The public meeting held in Fitzpatrick's Castle Hotel for the proposed development at Bullock Harbour was attended by over 450 concerned residents, harbour users, government and council officials. See page 25 for an update.

**AOB:** During the Christmas holidays it was noticeable that there was a higher than usual number of drunken teenagers in the town. It was also noted with much dismay and disappointment that the Christmas trees for recycling in Killiney Hill Car park were set on fire on two occasions.

*Next Meeting Monday 6th February 2017*

## ❖ DALKEY CASTLE AND HERITAGE CENTRE ❖

**National Heritage Award 2016** – The award was presented towards the end of 2016. We are delighted that the restoration works carried out at Dalkey Castle & Dalkey Town Hall won the prestigious National Heritage Award 2016. We have had a number of Heritage Centres from around the country contacting us looking for advice as to what work was carried out, how we are communicating that to the public and how to complete a 'winning' application to the Heritage Council!

**The schools programme for National Schools** in the county starts at the end of January and will run until Easter. Each year, over 1,000 young students attend this programme which covers all the following eras that are relevant to Dalkey: Early Christian, Viking, Medieval & Victorian. There will be additional emphasis on the building of Dún Laoghaire Harbour from Dalkey granite on all tours this year. 2017 is the bicentenary of the building of the harbour. A programme of events to commemorate this momentous achievement is being organised by Dún Laoghaire harbour. We are part of the steering committee to oversee the celebratory programme.





*Michael Ring TD, Minister Regional Economic Development presents Margaret Dunne, Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre with the Overall National Heritage Award 2016 with Fionnuala May from the Heritage Council (Sponsors of the award). Photo: courtesy of Fáilte Ireland.*

**The weekly tour series from CIE tours** into the castle and the town from April to the end of the October will continue. Visitors, mainly from the US comment on the ‘friendly village feel’ of the town. We are hoping to interest more tour series for 2017 & 2018.

**Maeve Binchy and Famous Irish Writers Walks** We will continue the highly popular walks during the summer months. Visitors and Maeve Binchy fans from all over the country and the world enjoyed these walks enormously last summer. While the participants come in the main for Maeve, they are delighted to learn about, and marvel at, our other internationally award-winning writers: Hugh Leonard, Flann O’Brien, Joyce, Shaw, Beckett and others. We are so fortunate in Dalkey to have so many creative artists and writers associated with our town, both past and present. We are even further grateful to have an internationally acclaimed writer such as Maeve Binchy to link them all together.

*Margaret Dunne, Manager*

Your Area Representative is.....

Telephone: ..... E-Mail:.....

## ❖ DALKEY NEWSLETTER ONLINE ❖

Please note that all copies of the Dalkey Newsletter from 2003 to date can be accessed on our website. Simply go to [www.dalkeycommunitycouncil.com](http://www.dalkeycommunitycouncil.com) and click on the link *Newsletter and Back Issues*.



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### WHERE HAS ALL THE INTEREST GONE?

When the Minister for Finance, Mr Michael Noonan, announced his budget for 2017 to the Dáil on Tuesday 11th October, he included provisions for Deposit Interest Retention Tax (DIRT) to be reduced by 8% over the next 4 years, yet it received very little attention in the media.

DIRT was introduced in the 1980s because many taxpayers were earning significant amounts of interest income from bank and building society deposit accounts and were simply not declaring it for tax purposes. Banks and building societies were compelled to deduct the new tax from any interest paid to depositors and remit it to the revenue. In the 1980s it was possible to earn 10% interest and more on deposit accounts so the tax yield was considerable.

The introduction of DIRT ensured that at least some income tax would be collected by revenue but more importantly revenue had gained visibility to those in receipt of interest income and could pursue them for any outstanding taxes.

If we fast forward to the 1990s, DIRT became the centre of an extensive investigation by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Oireachtas into the extent to which depositors with financial institutions were bogusly claiming to be non-residents. As non-residents DIRT would not have been applicable. The resultant settlements with the revenue by defaulting taxpayers and errant banks ran into hundreds of millions of euro and established the PAC as a body to be respected and indeed feared thereafter.

Given the colourful history of this tax why did the major changes to it contained in the budget speech receive so little comment?

To understand that we must compare the economic conditions today with those of the 1980s and understand the role that interest rates play in our economy.

Interest must be thought of as the cost to be paid for having the use of other people's money, just as rent is the cost to be paid for having the use of other people's property. Economic theory provides the Law of Supply and Demand. When a commodity is in over-supply its value falls and when there is over-demand its value will rise until equilibrium is established. As with any other commodity, the cost of money (interest rates) should fall and rise naturally to reflect supply and demand – or at least they would if others didn't step in and interfere!

In every developed economy there are long established independent monetary authorities charged with the responsibility of adjusting interest rates to suit economic conditions. In Europe we have the European Central Bank (ECB), in the United States the Federal Reserve and in the United Kingdom the Bank of England.

The core responsibility of these organisations is to monitor economic conditions and make changes to interest rates as necessary. Their primary concern is for the general rate of inflation in the economy. Inflation is an unwelcome guest, especially in an exporting economy like ours, as it means that the goods and services we produce next year will cost more than they did this year. If we are competing against other economies with lower rates of inflation in the same export markets (which we undoubtedly are) then ultimately our products will become uncompetitively priced, export customers will be lost and Irish factories will be forced to close causing unemployment and hardship.

Unfortunately it is when an economy is doing well, with lots of people in jobs earning salaries that they can use to purchase goods and services for their own enjoyment that this



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over-demand leads to higher prices fuelling higher inflation. In order to pay the higher cost of goods, workers demand higher salaries from their employers which in turn drives up costs further, creating a vicious inflationary spiral.

Central banks however have a very effective weapon at their disposal in the form of interest rates. By increasing interest rates, money is taken out of people's pockets as mortgage and other loan repayments increase. Spending power is reduced which curtails the demand for goods and inflation trends lower.

Once the economy slows down sufficiently and inflationary pressures ease, central banks can reduce interest rates again and so the cycle begins over.

Sometimes however, an unexpected shock threatens to grind the economy to a halt and central banks are forced to cut interest rates aggressively to provide stimulus and head off recession. This indeed is what happened after the collapse of Lehman Brothers, the Wall Street investment bank, in September 2008.

There have been other shocks in the past (9/11 for example) and the reduction in interest rates by central banks proved to be effective in preventing a prolonged recession. However the collapse of Lehman Brothers had such a profoundly negative effect on the global economy, that despite cutting interest rates to almost zero and keeping them there, the economy has not recovered fully as yet.

Indeed central banks have engaged in "Quantitative Easing" which is where interest rates are not only reduced to zero but below zero into negative territory. In a "Q/E" world large borrowers (such as banks and governments) are effectively paid to borrow money and large depositors (such as banks and corporations) are charged to save it. The logic is that if consumers can borrow cheaply then they will do just that and spend the money on goods and services, creating demand which will stimulate economic growth. Ultimately this drives up inflation leading eventually to higher, more normal interest rates.

So why has it not worked as well this time?

It hasn't worked as well because it became apparent all too late, following Lehman Brothers collapse, that the global economy was vastly overborrowed. Governments, public corporations and individuals had accumulated too much debt over the previous decade and despite low interest rates since 2008 their focus has been on paying off existing debts, not taking on new ones.

New borrowers (such as first time homebuyers in Ireland), could stimulate the economy by borrowing and spending but they are experiencing well documented difficulties in obtaining finance because of new rules introduced to prevent the build-up of excessive debt re-occurring.

This lack of demand for credit/debt is curtailing growth and holding inflation down making higher interest rates unnecessary. The ECB announced in December that it is continuing with its policy of quantitative easing until the end of 2017 and possibly beyond.

The result is that interest rates in the euro zone are not likely to be going up any time soon from their near zero levels and reducing the rate of DIRT in the budget by 8% will have much less of an effect today than it would have had in the 1980s, hence the lack of media attention.

*John Neary is a Chartered Accountant, Chartered Tax Adviser and lecturer in taxation and economics at the Whitaker School of Government and Management at UCD / Institute of Public Administration. He can be contacted by email at [john@nearytaxation.com](mailto:john@nearytaxation.com) or at the website at [www.nearytaxation.com](http://www.nearytaxation.com).*



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Spring is our time for fresh beginnings and for trying something new. Yes, it is tempting to stay with the same old reliables – the same tested seed/varieties but then, isn't it exhilarating and so exciting to dare something new, weird or unique. All that bare space we see now will not be there in a few months time. Having a tiny garden, obviously, everything has to earn the space it occupies over and over again. Evergreens give brilliant structure but some of us, dare to want flower, berry, scent/perfume, sparkle, movement, etc.

Meanwhile, those north-easterly winds can charge through our gardens, especially at night and with most leaves and foliage gone and our soil bare, it can be sobering to see the state of our garden – to see again, the bare bones of our gardens. Then, aren't we truly

compensated with the wonderful winter green foliage around our unique Dalkey.

On the other hand, the occasional burst of sunshine may put the gardening bug in you, 'put pep in your gardening step'. However, do remember, winter is far from over, nevertheless, your garden starts in earnest at the very beginning of March when high levels, temperature increases and wildlife wakes up. Honestly, anyone can be a gardener and create a super looking garden. You do not need to be an expert or be able to pronounce big Latin names. I have picked up most of what I know, from experimenting, going to garden club meetings, garden books, magazines, TV programmes, radio and charity plant tables.

So, just around now, some of us are already itching to choose the right seeds and get stuck into the greenhouse as well as our garden. At this moment, preparation is the key. Maybe, Carmen, Nabucco, Heavy Metal 'whatever', can lend more heat to your February and help refresh your sense of wonder, appreciation, scope and opportunity.

Our house plants may be noticing our longer days now and begin growing, we can start feeding them again but only using half a strength solution until the growth is robust. Then, isn't it so thrilling, when we see white roots pushing through the drainage holes of the pot into which we put our cuttings, just weeks before. Later, if you nip out the growing tip of the shoot, you should end up with a bushier plant – this could be your Eureka Moment! If, too we continue feeding our feathered friends, we'll have them stick around to help us in the insect control when our weather warms up again.

Did you know that Spring Flowering Bulbs can slow down their growth in colder weather?

### **MIGHT DO, MAYBE FEBRUARY JOBS FOR 2017**

Tease soil, fork over, weed and mulch, if it means crawling on clay to save and rescue a plant, then obviously it's well worth it!

Maybe, if your beds are overshadowed by small trees, remove the lower branches, (limb



*If you nip outside shoots etc. you should end up with a bushier plant*



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up!) in order to let as much rain and light as possible.

Some shrubs in containers can suffer from root death and dehydration in freezing weather. Better to move them into an unheated greenhouse.

Deciduous shrubs and trees are still dormant enough to transplant this month. Once their buds have begun to swell, it is too late.

Spike lawns to aid drainage.

Cut away offending Hellebore leaves, doing this will not only help you enjoy the emerging flowers but those that have Hellebore leaf spot, (rounded brown spot in the leaves). Alpines will die if left in icy cold, soggy conditions. Better to cover their bare patches around clumps with gritty compost in order to encourage new growth and retain dryness.

If, exceptionally cold weather is forecast, provide protection for tender plants by covering them with some type of cloth material.

Did you know that adding sweet Cicely when cooking rhubarb, gooseberries or currants means that you need to use far less sugar?



*These Hellebores are amongst some of our February highlights Photo: P. Thomas*



*These musty Jewel Block currants are extraordinary high in vitamin C Photo: P. Thomas*

If you feel like being adventurous, maybe consider planting a blackcurrant bush. I had a big chat with a specialist about such, yesterday. He advised, Ben Hope, Ben Tirran and Big Ben as the best buys. Their amazingly productive soft fruit can be cut back regularly, keeping them small. Remember, shrubs have their own uses, such as hiding next door fences, etc.

### **Roses**

Try and prune roses to do what you want them to do, don't let them bully you, too much! A lot of roses can be trained by cutting back side spurs as you would a climber and tying it in. So, best to prune before they come into growth which

seems to be earlier each year. Remove any cross, especially spindly or dead branches. I planted a few new David Austin roses early last summer, scattering some Mycorrhizal Fungi at the base/roots of each plant. These granules contain fungi that coat the roots, helping them absorb minerals and water.

To extend the vase life of cut flowers, re-cut the stems under water and remove any stem foliage that is under water. Flowers like a cool spot away from direct sunlight.

Bunches of Pussy Willow, Quince, Crab-Apple, Forsythia, Pear and flowering Cherry may be forced indoors. Place cut stems in a vase of water and change water every four days.

*Carpe diem - Carpe vitam!*



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## LORETO PRIMARY SCHOOL – Trip to Dublinia

Early one Wednesday morning, Fourth Class travelled from Dalkey to the city centre by DART on a trip to learn about the Vikings. We had our lunch outside Dublin City Council offices on a Viking ship. When we arrived at Dublinia our guide, who was dressed in Viking clothes, greeted us and brought us into the museum.

First we learned about Viking gods and when they died how they were buried only about two feet down with their shields. Then we learned about the Viking ships. The Vikings built their houses with mud, blood, etc.

and they used only four poles to hold up the whole house. They did not have any windows but they had small holes that they looked through to see if anyone was coming to attack.

The guide also told us that in the Middle Ages, 12-year-old girls had to marry a well off man and sometimes the men were in their 40's! Often there were markets on the streets. There was one stall to cure pains and if you had an ear ache you would put garlic in your ear. If you had a tooth ache they would simply pull the tooth out!

We learned that there was a disease called leprosy which we have a cure for today but during the Middle Ages there was no cure. Leprosy is a disease where people lose their limbs. If you had leprosy you would carry a bell around so whenever someone came near you, you would ring it to warn people to stay away. There was another disease called the Black Death which came from rats and it could kill you really quickly. After that we looked at punishments - there were three different types depending on what you had done. There was a lot of slavery too.

Later on we looked at medieval streets. We saw children playing games and you can get the game on the app store now. The streets were very dirty because when the people had finished going to the toilet they would empty the bucket on the street. Yuck! They had to wear clogs to protect their shoes from all the waste on the streets. If people had enough money they would sell beer in lead jugs which were poisonous (they didn't know that). Finally, we saw skeletons and the guide was able to tell us what age they were when they died. We saw a skeleton of a woman called Maggie who had eight teeth taken out.

We loved Dublinia because it was so much fun and really interesting. We really liked seeing what it was like inside a poor man's house and a well off man's house. But the most disgusting part was when the guide told us that the streets were covered in waste. We will definitely go back to Dublinia again.



*Photo: Loreto Primary School*

*India Carr Healy & Lauren McAlarey 4th Class*

## CASTLE PARK SCHOOL UPDATE

### **The Hot Topic of Insulation – Can We Demonstrate Where the Heat Goes?**

A report on their research project, entered into the Primary Science Fair at the RDS January 2017, from the pupils in Sixth Class at Castle Park School.

Having examined the thermal properties of many different materials, we set out to design





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and construct our own model houses incorporating the most efficient materials and building processes which we then assessed using a thermal imaging App on the iPad.

Aaron tells us – “my favourite part was when we began building the houses (even though it didn't really work well!) and testing the heat of the houses when they were finished, measuring it with thermal imaging and digital thermometers.”

The judge who assessed the project at the Primary Science Fair summed up his findings: “This was a superb project. The question was a good one to ask especially in this “green” focused era. Well done on predicting what you thought would happen and for fully reporting the different findings. It was great you put this

question to the test with an array of interesting experiments. Your use of digital technology, art & craft, observation, testing and recording was fantastic. Your project was so hands on. I found your presentation so clear and easy to understand. Your verbal presentation was excellent. I found your results so relevant even to my own school. All I can suggest is that you keep coming back every year, as the talent, skill and enthusiasm of your school needs to be seen by others to inspire them. Thanks to your teacher, parents and yourselves as pupils for taking part and representing your school so well. Well done!”

Many thanks to all the pupils from Sixth Class and to Ms. Prendergast, Head of Science, and also to Ms. Ledermann for their hard work and enthusiasm yet again this year.



Studying the Project Results  
Photo: Castle Park School

## HAROLD BOYS' UPDATE



Harold Boy's  
Mural

for such a good job.

Photo: Harold Boys' School

Our new mural brightens up everyone's day and the yard itself. The boys from 4th Class had a lovely time while painting this amazing mural. This painting is on the outside of our bin shed and reminds us all to recycle and love the earth. It was a great chance for the boys to get creative and a reminder of the great work of our Green Schools Committee!

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*Photo: Dalkey School Project N.S.*

### **Singing for Syria**

Our school focus for December is Peace. We know that in DSP we have a lot for which to be thankful. So, we decided to take the opportunity at our end of term school concert and coffee morning to raise funds for those impacted by war. Each

class performed at the Singalong for Syria. The parents/guardians were treated to Christmas carols, popular festive songs and even a sign language version of 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town'. Copious cups of coffee and tea were consumed, and many mince pies devoured, with all funds raised going to aid the Syrian refugees.

### **The Winter Market**

One of the key events in our PTA calendar is the Winter Market held annually at the start of December. As well as being a fundraiser, it is a key social occasion. Adults and children alike congregated in the Food Hall at the centre of the market to chat with friends and enjoy some yummy treats. All the stalls were buzzing - toys, books, crafts, clothes, jewellery, produce, mulled wine, wreaths and trees. We all tried our luck at the tombola and the raffle. Of course, the highlight of the day was the arrival of Santa & Mrs Claus to their magical grotto. The children really look forward to this event every year, so who better to describe it than one of the pupils.

*In the winter market my favourite stall was Alice's stall because it had teddys, hot chocolate and decorations. I really liked the toy stall and I also liked the books. Santa's grotto was fantastic. I loved the decorations and the elves in it. I went with all my friends. I loved the band. I also bought a school calendar. It was brilliant!!!*

**J J by Sara, 3rd Class**



## DALKEY ISLAND PROBUS – JOIN THE CLUB



Dalkey Island Probus Club, a group of retired and semi-retired businessmen, is recruiting new members.

PROBUS is an Association for men and women who have retired from their profession or business, in autonomous localized clubs throughout Ireland and the rest of the world.

There are over 100 PROBUS groups in Ireland. Dun Laoghaire Ladies Probus Club meets at the National Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire, on Thursdays at 10.00 am.

Our members, drawn from the South County area, meet every Monday (except Bank Holidays) from 10 am to 12 noon in Killiney Golf Club to hear guest speakers, share views informally on the topics of the day, plan outings, or listen to live music. It's all about friendship and fun.

If you would like to know more about Dalkey Island Probus Club, please contact us on the details below without commitment.

[www.probus.district1160.org](http://www.probus.district1160.org) or phone: Paddy at 2850466



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"I want to go to Oman for this year's holiday" says my wife. "Why would you want to go there?" I cried. "It's all desert and no history." "Yes" she said, but it begins with an 'O'. Of course, I'd forgotten she has an obsession with the alphabet. That's how we first met, when I happened to be in 'L' for Lebanon. Anyway, despite deep reservations on my part, the holiday was booked, my anxieties growing deeper as departure came closer. What would we do there for two weeks? Well, we could, at least, go for long walks. If nothing else, the exercise would do me good, I reasoned.

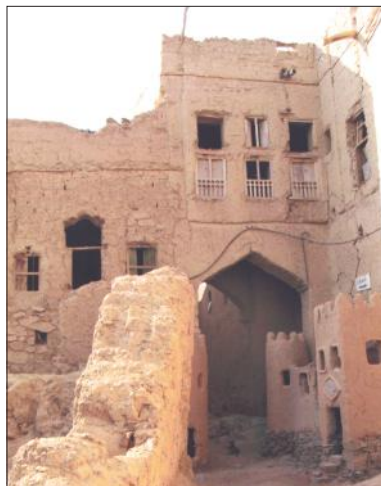
Let's see now, where is it? I knew it was somewhere in the Middle East, but is it wise to go there in the present state of affairs? Oh! It's at the bottom end of the Persian Gulf, below Saudi Arabia, bordering Yemen. Hardly conducive to one's peace of mind! But now that it's booked I must get on with it. Some further research:

*"Climate: Blistering heat, summer temperatures often reach 50°C (122°F.). Mostly gravelly desert with mountains, and some narrow fertile coastal strips."* Total area similar to U.K. Population density: 30 per sq. mile, as opposed to U.K. at 650 per sq. mile. So, not overly crowded.

Anyway, here we go. Heathrow not as bad as expected, despite current security concerns. Oman Airlines plane relatively luxurious compared to some. An eight hour flight, tiring, but not unbearable, over Europe, Turkey, Iran and Abu Dhabi, finally reaching Muscat, the capital of Oman. A pleasant hotel, good food and facilities and a fifth-floor room. We decided to use the stairs, 96 steps, regularly, for necessary exercise. It worked with both of us losing eight pounds in two weeks, possibly also helped by the temperatures. November it is, so winter season, and, on stepping out we are taken aback by an all-enveloping blast of



*At Gebel Akhdar (Green Mountain)  
Photo: Michael Salter*



*Al Hambra - abandoned village  
Photos: Michael Salter*

heat. Maybe not too many long walks after all, in fact, near impossible between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.. No place for Mad Dogs and Englishmen. However, being a dry heat with little humidity, a measure of acclimatisation was attained eventually.

So what of Muscat? A large, sprawling, spotlessly clean and very modern city, mainly of low rise, rectangular flat roof buildings with motorways between and a lot of fast moving traffic, but little congestion, so not overpowering to the senses. The city lies between the sea and a backdrop of mountains, ranging from grey to orange in colour, and one gains the impression of it being a very relaxed and happy place.

Was I correct in my assertion that "Oman is all desert and no history!"? To a certain degree, but excursions do include some spectacular mountain scenery, including



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# Personal or Business Tax Query?

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the ‘Grand Canyon’, and awe-inspiring, vertigo-inducing, chasm in the earth’s crust; visits to lush, oasis-like Wadis., i.e. mountain waterways among terrifying overhanging cliffs, and huge sinkhole with emerald green water at the bottom. Home to small fish that nibble at one’s bare feet. Ancient rock-cut dwellings are to be seen elsewhere, and old abandoned mud built villages, the narrow alleys of which are haunted by wild goats and have an intensely evocative atmosphere. A trip to Nizwa, the second city, shows a sixteenth fortress built by Portuguese colonists, the inevitable Souk, and a vibrant, colourful animal market. A very long drive to the far south takes the traveller to the Wahiba Sands, where dunes can rise to a height of 200 metres and passengers in 4WD vehicles can choose to be terrified by wild drives up and down impossible inclines.

Returning from Wahiba, I photographed two white flamingos in a pool, but wildlife in Oman seems to be fairly sparse, with even camels not commonly seen. Leopards are said to inhabit the mountains, but naturally are not in evidence. A few donkeys were about, as were cattle at Nizwa market. Crows were visible aplenty, as were cats, but very few dogs. The predominant animal, above all though, is the goat, both domestic and wild, some of them very pretty in their multi-coloured coats.

Back in Muscat, it’s worth taking the ‘Hop-On, Hop-Off’ bus to familiarise oneself with the city. In this way, many attractions are easily reached: the Opera House, the Royal Palace, the Grand Mosque, another Colonial Fort, the National Park, or the suburb of Al Qurum with its elegant houses and a delightful palm-fringed beach. However, the main tourist honeypot is to be found in nearby Al Matrah. Here is a wide bay faced by restaurants, shops, cafés, galleries and, naturally, the Souq, in whose labyrinth of passageways are a vast array of oriental temptations from Frankincense to fabrics, and where ever-ready vendors cajole the currency from wide-eyed visitors. Here too, is a port for cruise ships, dhows, and a fishing fleet, whose nearby market is a treat for anyone seeking further down-to-earth local colour.

Now, in summary, after being reluctantly railroaded into this little adventure, I have to say that it was a most memorable interlude in a friendly, surprising country, and would recommend it to anyone seeking a change from the more usual holiday options.

**Michael Salter**, Market Harborough, Leicester, U.K. (*Formerly of Dalkey*)



*Descent from Gebel Photo: Michael Salter*



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### Projects galore underway plus shocks to contend with

This past month has been busier than ever for our small Tidy Towns Team here in Dalkey. Our annual Christmas Lunch gave us a chance to thank all our volunteers for their long hours of dedication and also to plan ahead. Since then, a list of great projects has already been completed. There were also some surprises!

Thanks to a kind donation of hundreds of Spring bulbs from Brian Wood of Murphy and Wood Garden Centre at Hills Centre on the Johnstown Road, we have been able to clear and plant the entrance area to The Flags on Ardburgh Road. We also weeded and planted a wide area bordering the trees in Dillon's Park and continued its upgrade. Watch out for colour as soon as the weather warms up.



*The Cat's Ladder*

*Photo: D.T.T.*

We also "attacked" the Cat's Ladder steps which were badly overgrown. Used by walkers every day, they connect Torca Road down to Vico Road. Following over 40 hours of hard labour and clearing all 237 steps, the area looks great once again.

All will have seen our team of Hi-Viz jacket Litter Pickers around the area – even on the cold, wet and windy days. In Winter, our team meets every Thursday at 10.30am at Writers Corner – just opposite AIB. Four or five sacks of litter are collected on each outing! Worst of all are the plastic bags of dog poo carelessly thrown into the roadside bushes when Big Belly Bins are close by! Please feel free to join our team at any time to help keep Dalkey looking so well.

Apart from these regular beautifying efforts, our Dalkey Tidy Towns group has

become deeply immersed in several Bullock Harbour initiatives. The focus began on repairing flower beds, strimming curbs and painting roadside chains. Working with all interests in the Harbour, Quayside ladders were also replaced and mooring rings added. Then, out of the blue, a Planning Application was made by Developers to construct three large detached three-story houses, fronted by a block of three-storey town houses and some retail units on the old Western Marine site. Residents were shocked by the bulk, scale, height and inappropriate design proposed for this heritage area with roots to Pre-Christian times and overlooked by Bullock Castle which dates from c.1180. Working with the newly formed Bullock Harbour Preservation Association, DTT members Dr. Susan



*The Flags Upgrade*

*Photo: D.T.T.*



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McDonnell, Des Burke-Kennedy and Flor O'Mahony, made a detailed information presentation for neighbours at the Fitzpatrick's Castle Hotel. To the surprise of all, showing the high level of concern, over 470 residents attended. This was



*Meeting at Fitzpatrick's Castle Hotel*

followed by a second presentation at the Royal Marine Hotel in Dun Laoghaire at the invitation of the voluntary group "Save our Seafront". Approximately 75 residents attended this meeting. Observations were lodged with DLRCC and a Petition has been organized. Further details are covered elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Was this a typical month for our Dalkey Tidy Towns group? To FIND OUT, please see our Facebook Page "DALKEY TIDY TOWNS" for regular updates.

*Des Burke-Kennedy*



## AIRCOACH SCHEDULE CHANGES



### **SERVICE CHANGE: 702 GREYSTONES AND 703 KILLINEY: EFFECTIVE SUNDAY 1st JANUARY 2017**

We would like to advise customers that we will be making a number of changes to our Greystones and Killiney to Dublin Airport services with effect from Sunday 1st January 2017 in order to further improve the attractiveness and reliability of the service.

Key changes will see a change in routing of the Killiney service to operate via Ballsbridge, resulting in a 30 mins frequency 24 hrs a day on the section between Blackrock, St. Vincent's Hospital, Ballsbridge and Dublin Airport.

The departure times from Dublin Airport on both routes have also been amended to improve service reliability, with the Greystones service departing Dublin Airport at 5 mins past every hour and the Killiney service departing Dublin Airport at 35mins past every hour.

Departure times to Dublin Airport from both Greystones and Killiney will remain the same, with some changes to intermediate times.

As a result of this change Aircoach stops at Seán Moore Rd, and the two stops on Strand Road, Sandymount, will no longer be served with effect from 1st January 2017. Nearest Aircoach stops will be Sherriff St. Upper (3 Arena/Gibson Hotel); Grand Canal Dock (Clayton Hotel); Opposite School House Hotel, Ballsbridge; Opposite Ballsbridge Hotel, Pembroke Road; Ballsbridge (RDS); Ballsbridge, (Clayton Hotel); St Vincent's Hospital.

*Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact us on 01 8447118 or by email on [info@aircoach.ie](mailto:info@aircoach.ie).*

***The Aircoach Team***

*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.*

*Due to variation in the publication dates by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, please note that the deadline for planning observations/objections may have lapsed when it is read in the Dalkey Newsletter.*

**Reg. Ref.:** D16A/0890

**Application Rec'd Date:** 1-Dec-2016

**Applicant Name & Location:** John O'Keeffe & Yvonne Pettitt, 10, Ulverton Rd., Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Planning permission is sought for the demolition of an existing part single- part two storey house in poor condition while retaining the original boundary walls to rear and sides, and the construction of a new replacement, part single, part two storey house, on a new footprint partly within the old and retained original boundary walls, and construction of a new front garden wall and erection of a new sliding gate in the widened existing entrance location within the limits of the existing opening of the front boundary to the street together with all associated ancillary site works, services and landscaping.

**Reg. Ref.:** D16A/0903

**Application Rec'd Date:** 7-Dec-2016

**Applicant Name & Location:** Jim & Ann Murphy, 10 Barnhill Road, Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Permission for the construction of a single-storey extension to the rear, partial covering of side passageway, new porch, new window at first floor level and widening of existing entrance.

**Reg. Ref.:** D16A/0906

**Application Rec'd Date:** 7-Dec-2016

**Applicant Name & Location:** Bartra Property Ltd. Former Western Marine Building, Bulloch Harbour, Dalkey. A96 X6W2

**Proposal:** Permission for the demolition and site clearance of the existing industrial single storey warehouses and sheds (1210 sqm) and the development of a mixed-use marine commercial, leisure/community and residential based development. The proposal is for the construction of: 1. A new mixed use block of two and three stories high containing 7 number marine based units at ground floor level along the quayside and six residential units at ground floor to the rear and first and second floor overhead. Unit 1 - Relocated commercial and marine leisure based unit (26 sqm), Unit 2 - Harbour Café (69 sqm), Unit 3 - Marine/Harbour based retail unit (35 sqm), Unit 4 - Marine/Harbour based retail unit (30 sqm), Unit 5 - Community water sports facility (30 sqm), Unit 6 - Relocated clubhouse (12 sqm), Unit 7 - Relocated harbour activity (15 sqm); Six number residential units above, comprising 5nr three storey 154 sqm three bedroom harbour residences / 1nr two storey 89 sqm one bedroom harbour residence with associated balconies/roof terraces along the quayside and off street parking for 11 cars to the rear. 2. Construction of 3nr three storey detached five bedroomed dwellings (House 1 - 400 sqm / House 2 - 448 sqm / House 3 - 400 sqm) with roof terraces; each with off street parking for 2nr cars and 1nr visitor space set within private landscaped gardens and boat storage. 3. The existing south-western vehicular access and gates from Bullock Harbour will be maintained and upgraded, creating a two-way roadway and shared footpath affording access to the proposed dwellings from the rear of the development. The existing boundary wall will be maintained and repaired with natural coursed granite stone. The development will also include piped infrastructure and ducting; changes in level; provision for outdoor seating and tables along the site frontage; separate communal bin storage to serve the marine units and the residential units; cycle parking; site landscaping and all associated site development and excavation works above and below ground.

**Reg. Ref.: D16A/0916**

**Application Rec'd Date: 9-Dec-2016**

**Applicant Name & Location:** Bartra Property Ltd. Former Western Marine Buildings, Bullock Harbour, Dalkey A96 X6W2.

**Proposal:** Permission for the demolition of the former warehouse buildings to facilitate future development, subject to planning. 1. The demolition and removal of the existing portal frame warehouse, rubble wall/brickwork workshop (excluding the boundary wall to the harbour-side) and 2-storey stone wall office (excluding the gable wall to the harbour-side) down to excavation level, to include the breaking up and removal of the concrete slab across the external area of the site. 2. The erection of temporary support works to adjoining walls.

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**Reg. Ref.: D16A/0921**

**Application Rec'd Date: 12-Dec-2016**

**Applicant Name & Location:** Dalkey Lodge Nursing Home Ltd. Dalkey Lodge Nursing Home, Ardburgh Road, Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Permission for modifications to the development permitted under Reg. Ref. D14A/0547 for refurbishment works and a new 3-storey extension at the southeast elevation resulting in a reduction in total bedrooms from 59 no. as previously permitted to 58 no. overall. The revised development will now consist of: 1. Two storey pitched roof extension with part flat roof (c.1,627 sqm) to side and rear of existing building (southeast) with roof level accommodation and associated dormers and velux to provide 31 new bedrooms and associated ancillary rooms. 2. Internal refurbishment works to existing building to replace 2 no. bedrooms at first floor level with a treatment room. 3. New emergency access to/from Ardburgh Road. 4. 17 no. surface parking spaces, site landscaping and all associated drainage and site works.

---

**Reg. Ref.: D16A/0923**

**Application Rec'd Date: 12-Dec-2016**

**Applicant Name & Location:** Jim & Ann Murphy, 10 Barnhill Road, Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Permission for the construction of a single-storey extension to the rear, partial covering of side passeway, new porch, new window at first floor level and widening of existing entrance.

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**Reg. Ref.: D16A/0939**

**Application Rec'd Date: 15-Dec-2016**

**Applicant Name & Location:** Bernadette & John Gallagher, 7 The Rise, Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Permission for: 1. Demolition of the existing single storey side garage, demolition of existing roof structure, removal of internal walls. 2. Construction of a new roof at a higher level to provide accommodation at roof level. 3. New dormers and roof lights on both sides of new roof. 4. Extend existing house to the side, rear and front. 5. Single storey pitched roof extension to the rear. 6. Elevational alterations to all side of the property. 7. The works will also consist of widening of existing vehicular side entrance, new entrance pillars, drainage works, landscaping and ancillary and associated works.

**Application Type:** Permission. **Declare Application Invalid 25-Nov-2016**

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**Reg. Ref.: D17A/0012**

**Application Rec'd Date: 6-Jan-2017**

**Applicant Name & Location:** Dalkey United AFC, Dalkey United Football Club, Hyde Road, Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Permission for: Construction of a new entrance porch and canopy. Internal alterations to the existing building. Alterations to the existing coffee shop facility. Alterations to the existing elevations including new window and door openings and provision for new signage to the external elevations. New external ramps for access. signage structure, steps to the front and side elevations. All associated site works.

---

**Reg. Ref.: D17A/0013**

**Application Rec'd Date: 6-Jan-2017**

**Applicant Name & Location:** David & Carol Lowe, The Kerries, Dalkey Avenue, Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Permission for the demolition of the existing detached dwelling (189m2), the construction of a new detached dwelling (252m2) and alterations to the vehicular entrance.



**Reg. Ref.:** D17B/0005

**Application Rec'd Date:** 5-Jan-2017

**Applicant Name & Location:** Emmet Chambers, 38 The Village Gate, Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Permission for alterations to previously approved application D13B/0317 & D15B/0260, comprising internal alterations to the previously approved ground floor, changes to the previously approved first floor extension to include a third bedroom with associated elevation alterations and associated site works.

## PLANNING DECISIONS Wks 47-01 21/11/2016 to 7/01/2017

**Reg. Ref.:** D16A/0718      **Decision:** Grant Permission for Retention      **Date:** 24-Nov-'16

**Applicant Name & Location:** J & A McGouran, 12 Ulverton Road, Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Permission for Retention of modifications to previously approved permission reference number D15A/0008, as follows: 1. Completed ground floor footprint increased by 3 sqm (to 229 sqm). 2. Revised layout to house and gateposts. 3. Revised elevations, including 2 new windows on south elevation (at ground floor level).

**Application Type:** Permission for Retention

**Reg. Ref.:** D16B/0411      **Decision:** Grant Permission      **Date:** 24-Nov-2016

**Applicant Name & Location:** David & Karen Whelan, Kilfenora, 3 Killiney Rd., Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Permission for: 1. The replacement of the dormer type roof to the south (adjacent No. 2) and west (garden) elevations, with new first floor accommodation below a flat roof to match that existing to the north and east elevations. 2. The extension of the living/dining room as a single storey, into the back garden. 3. Alterations to the street elevation to include a timber clad bay window at first floor and copper clad canopy at the entrance door. 4. All associated site works.

**Reg. Ref.:** D16B/0424      **Decision:** Grant Permission      **Date:** 2-Dec-2016

**Applicant Name & Location:** Mary Donohoe, 29, Corrig Road, Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Permission is sought. The development will consist of a new first floor extension to the side of the existing dwelling, new window to the front elevation, replacement flat roof on existing front porch and all associated site works.

**Reg. Ref.:** D16A/0748      **Decision:** Refuse Permission      **Date:** 7-Dec-2016

**Applicant Name & Location:** Hannah Harris, Hillside Cottage, Ardbrough Road, Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Permission is sought to make design alterations to existing approved planning for the construction of a first floor extension over a single storey cottage. The development will provide 4 bedrooms, a kitchen, two bathrooms, a dining space and a lounge area. The design alterations include locating a bathroom on both the ground and first floors.

**Reg. Ref.:** D16A/0753      **Decision:** Request Additional Info      **Date:** 6-Dec-2016

**Applicant Name & Location:** James Dinniss, 22, Springhill Park, Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Permission for a domestic extension and alterations to existing two-storey semi-detached dwelling. The extension and alterations are comprised of: single storey extension to rear; conversion of existing single storey garage to side to habitable use; two-storey extension to side; elevational changes; modifications to existing house; narrowing of existing entrance gateway; & all ancillary works. **Additional Info. supplied:** 14-Dec-'16.

**Reg. Ref.:** D16A/0758      **Decision:** Refuse Permission      **Date:** 8-Dec-2016

**Applicant Name & Location:** Lorraine & Gerry Park, Bella Vista, Coliemore Rd., Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Permission for the demolition of the existing single storey pitched roof property and construction of new detached flat roof three storey to the front and two storey to the rear house. The works will also consist of lift access to a recessed roof terrace, front balconies, gangway access to rear garden, roof lights, new driveway entrance with landscaping and ancillary and associated works.

**Reg. Ref.:** D16A/0767 **Decision:** Grant Permission

**Date:** 8-Dec-2016

**Applicant Name & Location:** Pamela Rafferty, 48, Carysfort Road, Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Permission is sought for the following development: a) Proposed vehicular entrance and associated 2 number off street parking spaces, b) Partial removal of existing boundary wall, c) Dishing of pavement in line with the proposed access/egress, d) All associated site work.

**Reg. Ref.:** D16A/0903 **Decision:** Declare Application Invalid

**Date:** 8-Dec-2016

**Applicant Name & Location:** Jim & Ann Murphy, 10 Barnhill Road, Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Permission for the construction of a single-storey extension to the rear, partial covering of side passeway, new porch, new window at first floor level and widening of existing entrance.

**Reg. Ref.:** D16A/0802 **Decision:** Grant Permission

**Date:** 14-Dec-2016

**Applicant Name & Location:** Marie Ryan, 46 Castlepark Road, Sandycove.

**Proposal:** Permission for demolition of the garage & chimney to the side of the existing 2 storey semi-detached dwelling. The construction of a new 2 storey extension to the side, new part single storey-part two storey extension to the rear, including roof lights to the front, side & rear, with new two storey bay window to the front. Replacement of the entrance canopy to the front, alterations to the main entrance door with new side windows. Alterations to the existing 1st floor rear window, new entrance door to the side passage. Enlargement of the existing vehicular entrance gate off Castlepark Road. Associated site works.

### Appeals Notified by An Bord Pleanála Wks 47-1 '16/'17 21/11/'16 to 7/1/'17

**Reg Ref:** D16A/0645 **Date:** 1-Sep-2016 **Location:** 7, Knock-na-cree Park, Dalkey.

**Development:** Permission for the demolition of single storey extensions to the rear and side, including flat roof side entrance structure to existing property and construction of 1. Two storey flat roof extensions to the rear and sides 2. Roof alterations for first floor dormer style extensions 3. Elevation alterations to the front and side 4. New side passage after demolitions 5. Associated landscaping, drainage and widening of existing vehicular entrance. **Council Decision:** Grant Permission. **Appeal Lodged:** 21-Nov-2016.

**Nature of Appeal:** Appeal against Grant of Permission. **Type of Appeal:** 3rd Party Appeal.

### Appeal Decisions of An Bord Pleanála Weeks 46-52 2016 14/11/'16 to 30/12/'16

NONE FOR DALKEY



## ASK THE PHARMACIST



**Q: I am a 55 year old woman and have noticed that my hair has thinned over the last few years – is there anything you can recommend to help with this?**



**A.** Hair loss normally occurs at a rate of 50-100 hairs a day but this would not be noticeable as new hair grows at the same time as old hair is shed. Any hair loss or thinning beyond this can be due to a number of factors. These include hereditary hair loss, hormonal changes, medical conditions and medications.

Hereditary hair loss is normally called male or female pattern baldness and occurs gradually and in a predictable pattern with a receding hairline and bald spots in men and hair thinning in women. Hereditary hair loss can occur earlier in life and your genetics dictate the age this happens, the rate and extent of hair loss. Hormonal changes due to

pregnancy, childbirth, the beginning of menopause or thyroid function can also be a cause of hair loss. Skin conditions, such as a scalp infection like ringworm or scarring alopecia can lead to patches of hair loss. Medications used to treat a variety of conditions including cancer treatment, arthritis and heart medication can also cause hair loss. Temporary hair loss can also occur from a trigger event such as sudden weight loss, surgery or bereavement.

Depending on the extent of hair loss a visit to a dermatologist may be recommended but discussing it first with your GP or Pharmacist would be a good starting point. It may be decided that blood tests should be done to determine if there is an underlying health issue or deficiency causing it.

There are a range of products, both over the counter and on prescription, which are designed to prevent further hair loss and encourage new hair growth. Scalp applications are the most effective over-the-counter product and have been clinically shown to work however once started they must be used on a continuous basis or hair loss/thinning will begin again. Shampoos containing caffeine can also be used to stimulate the hair follicles.

Preventing further hair loss can be aided by eating a well balanced diet that should include Vitamin C, Biotin, Niacin, Iron and Zinc. If you cannot get these nutrients in your diet then you could consider a vitamin supplement. Avoiding tight hair styles and excessive hair pulling and styling also helps reduce hair loss.

**If you have any questions you would like answered please email us on [maxwellpharmacydalkey@eircom.net](mailto:maxwellpharmacydalkey@eircom.net) and put Dalkey Newsletter in the message subject line.**



## CHRISTMAS TREE VANDALISM AT KILLINEY HILL



### Christmas Tree Recycling Vandalism at Killiney Hill Car Park

The Christmas Tree Recycling facility provided by Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council at the Car Park on Killiney Hill was the scene of serious vandalism shortly after Christmas when the Christmas trees were set alight by vandals. Great praise must go to the County Council staff who had the whole area cleared up at the end of the day the damage was first reported. Well done Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Council!!



*Photo: Alex Perry*



Many people will be familiar with Blackcaps, handsome, robin sized birds from the warbler family, the male light grey with neat black cap on his crown while the female's cap is light brown. Lovely singers when they arrive as migrants in the spring but also regular winter visitors to gardens where they feed on berries and bird food with apples being a particular favourite of theirs.

Thankfully they are a species of birds that have been doing very well with Birdwatch recording an 18% rise in population of breeding birds between 1998 and 2013 and blackcaps being



*Male Blackcap – was he born in Germany? Photo: M. Ryan*

noted 43% of gardens in winter. It has been known for a number of decades that the blackcaps found in winter are a different population from the ones that arrive in spring. These winter birds visiting our feeders at the moment will return to Eastern Europe to breed in the spring while at the same time the blackcaps that will be singing in Killiney wood in the summer will be returning to us from southern Europe and North Africa.

Moving office recently I came upon a few sheets of paper I'd saved which a friend had sent in 2003. This friend was actively involved in trapping blackcaps to gather information about them for Professor Stuart Bearhop whose letter supplied the following information.

In December 1961 a cat in Dublin caught an unlucky blackcap that had been ringed on its breeding ground in Austria the previous summer. More conclusive proof was found about blackcaps wintering in the UK and Ireland in the early 90s when German scientist, Professor Peter Berthold and his colleagues went to England during the winters from 1988 - 1990 and caught 40 wintering blackcaps. They brought them back to Germany where they held them till the following autumn and when the time came for them to migrate they studied what direction they were orientating themselves towards, which meant basically, what direction the birds were hopping in. All the British birds orientated themselves in a north westerly direction towards the UK while blackcaps that had bred in southern Germany would orientate themselves in a south westerly direction facing towards Iberia and North Africa. Professor Stuart Bearhop concentrated his research on studying stable carbon isotopes in the birds. This is where my friend Tom came in as, being a licensed bird ringer, he was qualified to trap blackcaps from which he would then take toenail and feather samples as well as very carefully extract a tiny drop of blood from the top of their leg before releasing them unharmed.

When examined in a laboratory the stable carbon isotopes in the samples will reveal where the birds were born as isotopes change geographically as a result of biological and environmental processes. The isotopes were revealing the geographical origin of the food the birds had eaten as well as measuring the element of hydrogen in the isotopes which varies at different latitudes. The research proved conclusively that blackcaps wintering in



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Ireland were birds that had been born in Eastern Europe.

But why did these birds start coming here in the first place? Milder winters, gardens with lots of natural food such as berries and also the increasing popularity of food being left out for birds has made it much easier for them to survive our winters. But probably the main reason is that they don't have to migrate as far back to their breeding ground decreasing all the risks and energy involved in a long journey. The birds urge to



*The bird in the picture has pollen from a plant on its face giving it the yellowy look Photo: Michael Ryan*

migrate is triggered by day length and, because of our higher longitude, days will be getting longer here two weeks earlier than they would if the birds were wintering in southern Europe so the birds wintering here will get to the best territories earlier, using less energy on the way which can be dedicated to raising more young who themselves will subsequently spend winter here.

A few years ago BirdWatch Ireland HQ began receiving lots of phone calls and emails about strange birds with bright orange heads that had been visiting gardens around Ireland. These colourful individuals were usually seen among flocks of sparrows and starlings and in fact that's what they were and their dramatic plumage was a result of them visiting an exotic garden plant. We are used to plants being pollinated by insects and even by the wind, but New Zealand Flax uses another method: it is pollinated by birds. The tubular flowers produce a rich, sweet nectar that many birds find irresistible. As they stick their beaks down into the flowers to feed, a small brush-like appendage dusts the tops of the birds' heads with brightly coloured pollen, staining it a vivid orange or red colour. When they move on to feed from another flax flower, these birds bring the pollen with them, helping the plant to reproduce. Evidently this female blackcap photographed in our garden had also acquired a taste for flax nectar and the brown cap on her crown was enhanced by some bright pollen face powdering.



*The main people involved in the U3A in the Dun Laoghaire/ Dalkey/Killiney area.*



Any lovers of Amarone present? It is considered one of Italy's greatest red wines and it is made in Veneto, a region not far from Verona...think Romeo and Juliet! The main grapes that combine to make this special red are Corvina, Rondinella and Molinara, the winemakers pick them at their ripest and specially select only the best grapes. The grapes are then dried on straw mats in a warm room or attic although in some of the more high tech wineries they have temperature controlled storage rooms with pallets stacked high. The grapes dry out over several months and shrivel, losing their water content and retaining sweetness and flavour. After drying, the grapes have a high sugar content which means a higher potential alcohol through the fermentation process. The resulting wine will have a 15-16% abv. The wine is then aged for a minimum of two years before release on the open market however some can age for 20+ years. You can expect bold aromas of cherry liqueur, blackfig and plum along with green peppercorn and chocolate in the best examples. Amarone is seen as a high-end product and can fetch extreme prices, it can be difficult to find them below €50 however there are some bargains out there.



*Italian wine terraces*

**Tommasi Amarone-** A lush wine with plum, raisin and cherry fruit combined with a hint of chocolate on the finish. This wine is particularly good with red meats, game and ripe cheeses. (€42.45 from O'Briens Wines)

**Palazzo Maffei Amarone-** Dark ruby red, typical berry aromas of stewed cherries and blackberries on the nose in addition to spicy peppery notes, a fresh, full-bodied Amarone with a fleshy fruitiness, well-rounded and smooth with soft tannins. Strong structure and impressive balance. (€38.00 Mitchell & Son Wine Merchants)

Be sure to decant these wines, the younger Amarones (2011, 2012) are best served just below room temperature and for the older vintages serve slightly cooler.

*Sinéad Tyrrell*

## THE DARA CHOIR'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT





### ICE FLOWERS

By Fergus O'Gorman

Winter was fast approaching. Temperatures were staying below zero for much of the day. Outside the door the sea, in Borge Bay on Signy Island on the South Orkneys, was starting to film over into a thin layer of sea-ice.

My first ice flowers weren't daisies or chrysanthemums or buttercups. They were living

in the sea-ice cracks. These were a mosaic of interesting ridges where the translucent film of liquid ice had started to break up into separate circular pans of ice.

At the edge of the beach there was an accumulation of ice flowers. Every little wave thrown up on the beach instantly froze solid, providing the raw material for the developing crystal forest.

This ever changing pattern of cracks, of pans, tiny at first, growing by the day, with edges upturned whose patterns were wiped out by the first zephyr of wind sweeping in from North Point, touching one's cheeks with frost nip, forcing movement or at least a harder tug on the anorak hood's drawstring. If the wind gathered steam the Bay would quickly be a jumble of heaving plates of glistening ice sparkling in the low-lying sun whose shadows grew longer by the day.

It seemed a crime to walk through this field of flowers leaving foot prints crushed into the ice record to be instantly immortalised, consolidated into hard-packed foot prints, and blended into a raised beach-line of prehistoric proportions. One felt like early man in , leaving behind him at first a straight line, then a wandering of footsteps as hesitation set in as the distance from the temporarily sound ice formation close to shore increased, and the resonance of one's weight rippled outwards across the still flexible sheet covering the fragile calm of the Bay.

If the wind rose into anything above a ripple, the fragile collection of sea-ice plates carefully, touchingly put together, would disintegrate in an instant to be flushed out into the Bay leaving the increasing sea- ice scattered, and the beachline piled with wafer-thin ice piled inches high at the edge, out of the seas' reach. Soon these piles would grow to a height which required stepping over, and later into layers of frozen slabs of sea now piled knee high requiring careful navigation.

When I saw them first, I dropped to my knees on the ice-covered beach. Their first blooming was where the calm sea ripples had come ashore and solidified. Sprouting in the frigid minus 10 degrees water-laden air from every crack were these delicate, fragile, transparent, hexagonal crystals of ice, growing upwards and branching sideways in front of my eyes as if by magic. Evolving and dissolving with every pulse of the tide. At first half-an-inch, then one, then two, and even three inches high or long, standing rigid until some unseen force caused them to fade away, and an instant later surge up alongside where the conditions were right.

As the onset of winter deepened, and when the weather allowed, I would, in the early morning, descend to the beach to see this festival of flowers, coming and going.

Later in the winter, when I first went camping, I woke up surrounded by ice crystals, which was puzzling until I realised my breath was providing the necessary moisture. Of course when I turned the Primus on to turn a cup of iced water into a cup of tea, I was





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showered with a layer of crystals which had built up on the inside of the roof of the tent. These promptly melted wetting the sleeping bags, turned back to ice once the Primus was switched off. The following night the sleeping bags had to be hung in the apex of the tent to dry out until we wanted to sleep and turned off the Primus heater, at which point the cycle began again.

While this was annoying, what happened on the walls of the tent was more intriguing and much more fun. As soon as we occupied the inner pyramid of the seven-foot- high tent and the moisture level built up, layer upon layer of crystals grew out from the walls, starting at the floor and climbing up. But the advent of the Primus heat changed the dynamics of ice crystal build up. By turning the knob and increasing the heat output, the layer of crystals would retreat down the walls, but as soon as the heat was turned down they reappeared, growing exponentially up the walls. As soon as I discovered how to do this, at the turn of my thumb, I got endless fun seeing the crystals continuing up or down the walls: there was little else to amuse one in a tent in the Antarctic, in the middle of winter!

This soon got on the wick of my companion, and I was told I could only do it when he was outside taking care of the dogs, or for other purposes!

But even now, many Antarctic winters later, I can still vividly see those hexagonal crystals growing in front of my eyes, like magic!

### **NATURE NOTES FEBRUARY 2017**

***Tuesday 7 February:  
Branch Birding  
in Bavaria:***

**A report on the 2016  
trip by Niall Hatch.**

Venue:

Fitzpatrick's Castle  
Hotel at 8pm.

***Sunday 12 February:***

Visit to Bull Island:  
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in large numbers.

Meet on North Bull  
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**St Valentine’s Day – Tuesday, 14th February**

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*African Proverb*



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*Hon. Secretary of the Select Vestry:* Clive Christie, Tel: 2823356

*'Review Distributor':* Marianne Irvine, Tel: 2858136

### SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2017

**Sundays:** 8.30am Holy Communion, 10.45 am Morning Service

**Midweek Services:** Thursdays at 10.30 am.

**Rector's Surgery:** Holy Trinity Rectory every Tuesday from 7-8 pm.

**Clergy Conference** – The Annual Clergy Conference will be held in Galway from 6th – 8th February. The Rector will be in attendance.

**Lent** – The solemn season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 1st March. A service of Preparation will be held in Holy Trinity at 8pm. All welcome.

**Ladies Guild** – The Guild will meet next on Tuesday 14th February in the Carry Centre at 2.30pm. Speaker: Joan Millar. All Welcome.

### SILK - Socials Involving Ladies of Killiney

On Wednesday February 15th at 8pm the Ladies will meet in the Carry Centre. Speaker: the Rev'd Asa Bjork Olafsdottir-O'Hanlon. For more information please contact Judy Jones - 2855159

**Sunday Club** – Will next meet on February 19th in the Carry Centre



*Holy Trinity Christmas Sale Photo: Holy Trinity*

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**The Y Club (Killiney Men's Society)** – Thursday February 23rd ~ Trains talk by Billy Garrioch. Meeting begins at 8pm. All Gentlemen are very welcome to attend. More information from Paul O'Brien, Nigel Teggin or the Rector.

**Select Vestry** – The Vestry will meet at 8.00pm in the Carry Centre on Monday 27th February.

### **Bible Study and Prayer Group**

The next gathering will be on Tuesday February 28th at 10.30am in the Carry Centre.

### **Sheep Thrills**

Made in Ireland – Every Thursday at 11am in the Carry Centre.

Our community based textile group continues with great enthusiasm and with lots of new ideas already put into operation. Sheep Thrills products will be sold locally and given to selected charities for the homeless both at home and abroad. So anyone interested please contact Joan @ 0872460078. Admission €3-€5.

**Diners Club – The KWDs** – Next gathering – time and venue to be confirmed. Further expressions of interest or queries may be addressed to Zandra Laing or the Rector.

### **Table Tennis**

The table tennis meets every Monday at 8pm in the Carry Centre. If you are interested in trying out table tennis, you would be very welcome (and we will even lend you a bat!). For more information contact Linda Franck (086 8296029).

### **Hospital Visiting**

The Rector would appreciate being told if parishioners are in hospital, going into hospital, are being transferred or if they have been discharged, and will be pleased to offer pastoral support. A selection of prayers is available from him or in the Church porches.

### **The Carry Centre**

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## FEBRUARY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY TALKS



**Wednesday 1st at 8pm:** Nicola Gordon Bowe will present her lecture '*Harry Clarke*' to the Rathmichael Historical Society in Rathmichael National School, Stonebridge Road, Shankill. All welcome – admission €4.

**Thurs. 2nd at 7pm:** Michael Kennedy will present his lecture '*Ireland and the War at Sea*' in the Glasnevin Milestone Museum, Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin 11. Admission €10.

**At 8pm** Dr. Angus Mitchell will present his lecture '*Casement /Alice Stopford Green*' to the Mount Merrion Historical Society in the Community Centre, North Avenue, Mount Merrion. All welcome – admission €4 / Students €2.

**Monday 6th 7.30pm:** Ms. Katherine McSharry will present her talk '*Picturing Ireland: a View of the Nation from the National Library's Collections*' to the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland in the Helen Roe Theatre, Society House, 63 Merrion Square South, Dublin 2. All welcome.

**Wednesday 8th at 6pm:** Ms. Ellen Murphy will present her lecture '*Dublin's Sporting Heritage and the Development of Dublin City Sport Archive*' to The Old Dublin Society in the Conference Room of Dublin City Library & Archive, 138 – 144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. All welcome – admission free.

**Thursday 9th at 8pm:** John Fitzgerald will present his lecture '*The Kearney Hangings at Bohernabreena*' to the Kilmacud Stillorgan Local History Society in the Glenalbyn Sports Club, Stillorgan. All welcome – Contribution €3.

**At 8.30pm** Brian White will present his lecture '*Wicklow Stories*' to the Enniskerry History Society in the Powerscourt Arms and Country House Hotel, Enniskerry. All welcome – admission €4.

**Friday 10th at 8pm:** Dr. Declan Downey will present his lecture '*A Transnational Service Nobility: Irish Officers in the Austrian and Spanish Establishments c.1600-1800*' to the Military History Society of Ireland in Griffith College, South Circular Road, Dublin 8. All welcome – wheelchair access available.

**Tuesday February 14th at 7 p.m.:** David Griffith will present his lecture '*A History of the GAA*' to the Tallaght Historical Society in the County Library, The Square, Tallaght, Dublin 24. All welcome – admission free.

**Wednesday February 15th at 8 p.m.:** Andy Mooney will present his lecture '*The Man Monkstown Forgot - the story of a man who left to work with some of the world's greatest railway engineers, and became a great sportsman, soldier, and politician*' to the Dun Laoghaire Borough Historical Society in The Royal Marine Hotel, Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. All welcome – entrance €3.

**Thursday 16th at 7pm:** Conor Kostick will present his lecture '*Ireland and the Russian Revolution, 1917 – 1923*' in the Glasnevin Milestone Museum, Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin 11. Admission €10.

**At 8pm** James Scannell will present his lecture '*Captain Hermann Görtz: The German WW2 Intelligence Gatherer who Landed in Uniform*' to the Bray Cualann Historical Society in The Royal Hotel, Main Street, Bray. Members free – visitors €5.

**Saturday 18th at 2.30pm:** Ms. Rachel Abraham will present her lecture '*A World Without Men: Women of the Home Front*' to the Western Front Association (Dublin Branch) in the The Museum of Decorative Arts & History Lecture Theatre, Collins Barracks, Benburb Street, Dublin 7. All welcome – €3 donation appreciated.

**Tuesday 21st at 8 p.m.** Michael Cregan will present his lecture '*Manning Robertson and the 1936 Dun Laoghaire Survey and Plan*' to the Foxrock Local History Club in the



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Foxrock Parish Pastoral Centre, rere Foxrock R.C. Church, Foxrock. Michael Richardson will give a short talk on '*Nelson Family*.' All welcome – admission €5.

**Wednesday 22nd at 6pm:** Gregory Young will present his lecture '*Francis Smyth and Sons, umbrella manufacturers in Dublin, 1836 – 1967*' to The Old Dublin Society in the Conference Room of Dublin City Library & Archive, 138 – 144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. All welcome – admission free.

**Thursday 23rd at 7pm:** Ms. Liz Gillis will present her lecture '*The Hales' Brothers and the Irish Revolution*' in the Glasnevin Milestone Museum, Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin 11. Admission €10.

**Tuesday February 28th at 6.30 p.m.:** Dalkey Library Local History Group meets in Dalkey Library, Castle Street, Dalkey. New members welcome.

### **A DECEMBER 1916 DALKEY FIRE**

During that afternoon of Thursday 28 December 1916, a fire broke out on the roof of 'Victoria House', residence of Mr. Richard W. Booth, J.P., President of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, caused it was believed by sparks from the blowlamp of a man repairing cracks in the leads of the roof. Around 3.45 p.m., a gardener who had been assisting him noticed that some of the roof timbers were on fire and raised the alarm. At first it was believed that the fire was only a minor one but an attempt to get at it by removing slates only caused the flames to spread faster and very quickly the fire took hold. Mrs. Edwin Booth and her three children, one of whom was named Lionel and ill, were quickly evacuated from the house and very quickly the work of removing furniture and other valuables was undertaken by local people and police working under the direction of Sergeant Flynn. In the meantime Mr. Booth contacted Mr. W. F. Gahan, Dalkey Town Clerk, who called out the township fire brigade under Mr. George Bryan. Working in her greenhouse nearby was Mrs. Purcell, wife of Captain Purcell, Dublin Fire Brigade Fire Chief, and seeing the size of the fire, contacted her husband who turned out a unit from the Dublin Central Fire Station, Tara Street, under Mr. Jennings, which arrived at the fire ground in twenty minutes. By this time the Dalkey fire fighters had two lines of hose from the public supply deployed augmented by a manual engine [pump] for which there was no shortage of volunteers to operate. Seeing that he would not be able to draw water from the mains supply without affecting the on-going fire fighting operation, Captain Purcell authorized his men to use sea water. The Dublin Fire Brigade appliance was lowered with ropes down the steep gradient to Coliemore Harbour and once in position provided a very concentrated supply of water for the next fifteen minutes until the tide receded. This action meant that the fire was under control by 6 pm. In addition to the fire damage, the building also sustained severe water damage and it was estimated that the total cost of the damage amounted to £10,000 but was covered by insurance.

*James Scannell*



## **HOMELESSNESS**



Peter is not the ordinary run-of-the homeless person in that he does not drink nor does he take drugs, but finds himself in this position due to force of circumstances. He keeps himself tidy and clean.

Peter was a successful landscape gardener and had a nice home and four children. But one day he and his daughter returned home to discover his wife in bed with a friend. They left the house, both their lives shattered, both now homeless, though the daughter has accommodation in a hotel. Peter gives his disability pension to her and she keeps it safely in a bank account!! Though only in his fifties, Peter gets this pension because he is blind in



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**Kathy Kenny, Dalkey**

*'Prishela has remarkable gifts of intuition and empathy.'*

**Vincent Browne - Journalist**

*'One feels totally relaxed in Prishela's presence. After a long flight, once you have a session with Prishela, you feel real again and at one with the world.'*

**Film Director- Jim Sheridan, Dalkey**

*'The touch of tranquillity; the touch of healing. Prishela has a gift of helping you relax in ways you never imagined.'*

**Brenda Rawn, Dalkey**

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one eye and has a cataract developing in the other - that frightens him. But yesterday afternoon he was a picture of joy, for he has been offered accommodation in Apollo House where he hopes to remain until the 11th of January.

Peter is a lovely, lovely man, so much so that I was close to tears while we chatted on the DART. He wasn't looking for sympathy, just chatting. He has gone through so much especially since his mother died last September. Personally I feel it is his deep spirituality that has got him through.

He told an acquaintance of mine that he wants to get his life together again.

## LATER

I am just back from Apollo House. The work of the volunteers there is truly impressive, handing out food and coffee donated by passers-by and, perhaps more importantly, listening compassionately to those homeless. I had gone to see the homeless man I met on the DART last Saturday and whose story I posted on facebook last weekend. He hadn't heard of the Peter McVerry Trust when I mentioned it to him, so imagine my delight when I was told that the Trust has given him permanent accommodation. It's a great relief to know he will no longer be sleeping rough on Killiney Beach

*William Blackhall*



## NEWS FROM ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH



**Rector:** Rev. Bruce Hayes

**Email:** [brucejohnhayes@gmail.com](mailto:brucejohnhayes@gmail.com)

**Curate:** Rev. Kevin Conroy

**Email:** [revkvn@gmail.com](mailto:revkvn@gmail.com)

**Twitter:** @DalkeyParish

**Website:** [www.stpatricksdalkey.com](http://www.stpatricksdalkey.com)

**Parish Office Email:** [dalkeyparish@gmail.com](mailto:dalkeyparish@gmail.com)

**Phone:** (01) 284 5941

### Sunday Services for February

5th February	9am Eucharist	10.15am Eucharist
12th February	9am Eucharist	10.15am All Age
19th February	9am Eucharist	10.15am Eucharist
26th February	9am Eucharist	10.15am Morning Prayer
<b>Midweek</b>	Every Thursday	10.30am Eucharist

**Our Lady's Manor** – The Eucharist will be celebrated in Our Lady's Manor on the 14th and the 28th of the month.

**Craft Group** – If you would like to drop in for a chat, or if you would like to try your hand at a craft, then you will find us in the gallery room of the Northover Hall any Tuesday afternoon from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. The chat and the cup of tea is always good.

**Flower Guild** – As a thank you to the Flower Guild for all their hard work throughout the year, members are invited to an afternoon tea which will be held in the Rectory on 5th February. Anyone interested in joining the Flower Guild may contact the parish office, new helpers are always welcome.

**Film Social** – You are warmly invited to come along for some entertainment, a cup of tea and the opportunity for a chat, in the gallery room (upstairs in the Hall) at 2.30pm on 13th February.

**Table Quiz** – The 9th annual table quiz (S.P.D.A.T.Q) will be held on 24th February at 8pm in the Northover Hall. The entry fee is €40 per table with a maximum of four entrants per table.



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Gents from €85 - €140  
(1 Hour 15 minutes - 2 Hours)





## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



DCC Feb Monthly Meeting	Mon. 6 Feb
Dalkey Players present “Dead Man’s Cell Phone” at 8pm in Dalkey Town Hall	Tues. - Fri. 21 - 24 Feb
Sorting of March Newsletter in OLH (1pm-2pm)	Thurs. 23 Feb
Ash Weds. – Soup lunch in OLH (12-2pm) in aid of combined charities	Weds. 1 Mar

### EVENTS THROUGH THE MONTH

**Karate Sessions for all age groups** in Town Hall from 5-9 pm Mondays & Wednesdays

**Boxing/Conditioning Classes** - Also available. Contact: Zach Deegan at 085 147 2334

**Dalkey Players:** Rehearsals every Tuesday in **Harold Boys School** from 7.30-10.30pm Tues. & Thurs. Contact Aileen Byrne 087-9842337 or [www.dalkeyplayers.ie](http://www.dalkeyplayers.ie) check for details. New members welcome.

**St. Patrick’s Dramatic Society:** Rehearsals in Northover Hall, Harbour Road from 8pm-10.30pm Mondays & Thursdays or check [www.stpatsdramsoc.com](http://www.stpatsdramsoc.com) for further info. New members welcome.

**The Irish Vintage Radio & Sound Society** meets monthly in Dalkey. Call 086-8391839

**Cuala Set Dancing Classes:** Every Sunday from 8-10pm. €6 per night. All welcome.

**Scrabble & Afternoon Tea** in aid of Barnardos every Wednesday at 3pm in Derrymore, 35, Coliemore Road, Dalkey. Call Di Fitzpatrick at 285 0593 for more information.

**Baby & Toddler Group.** All pre-schoolers with parents/minders welcome on Tuesdays from 3-4.30pm in the Methodist Church, Northumberland Ave., Dun Laoghaire. €2 includes light refreshments & story time. Contact Diane 087 778 7608

**Parkrun** - Every Saturday at 9.30am in Cabinteely, Shanganagh and Marlay Parks

**Dalkey Library Local History Group** meets on the last Tuesday of every month in Dalkey Library starting at 6-6:30pm. All welcome.

**U3A (University of the Third Age)** Dun Laoghaire Dalkey Killiney. U3A meets every second Tues. at 10:30am in The Pastoral Centre, St. Joseph’s Church, Glasthule. Email: [dldk.u3a@gmail.com](mailto:dldk.u3a@gmail.com)

**Community First Responders** – Volunteers needed for Dalkey First Responders (CFR). Training given, Please contact: [info@dalkeycfr.ie](mailto:info@dalkeycfr.ie)

### DALKEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

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**Copy and Advertising Deadlines for next two issues:**

**MARCH 2017: Friday 3rd February 2017; APRIL 2017: Friday 10th March 2017.**

**ALL ARTICLES STRICTLY TO:** The Editor, c/o Post Box, Our Lady’s Hall, Castle Street, Dalkey preferably by e-mail to [gerard.coakley56@gmail.com](mailto:gerard.coakley56@gmail.com). Images should be in JPEG or TIFF format.

**NOTE: All Advertising Enquiries by phone to: Ms. Helena Feely, Advertising Manager, 47, Dalkey Park, Dalkey. Phone: 01-2858025. (Office hours Mon- Fri.).**

**EDITORIAL POLICY** — The Editorial Staff reserve the right to edit and/or amend 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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## *Oh! How Television (and Radio) has changed over the years . . . .*

UTV Ireland (not to be confused with UTV) has been rebranded and is now called BE3, the female-oriented channel is now part of the Virgin Media group.

Late last year the BBC started test broadcasts in UHD (ultra high definition), the tests were available to anybody with access to the BBC iPlayer and a compatible Panasonic UHD screen. Although the tests (which are repeated) only lasted a few minutes the BBC claimed the picture quality and colour is improved by 600% to 800%. According to Dan Taylor-Watt (head of BBC iPlayer) *"the picture quality needs to be seen to be believed."*

*Ian Macdonald*  
*Maxtec Systems*



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