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**Iiúl**  
**(July) 2006**

**July:** July: Named for Julius Caesar born 12 July 100BC by Mark Anthony.

Flower: Rose

**PLEASE CHECK THIS DATE AUGUST NEWSLETTER**  
**LAST DAY FOR ARTICLES: Monday 3th July, 2006**

#### **USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

With this issue you are receiving a laminated card containing all the useful telephone numbers normally printed on the back cover. It was felt best to publish these as a separate item, which could be placed on a notice board, fridge, etc. for easy access. Dalkey Community Council Limited is pleased to offer this service to the people of Dalkey.

#### **The DCC monthly meeting for June was held on Tuesday 6th June.**

The Chairperson opened the meeting and proceeded with the reports from the different sub committees.

**Tidy Towns:** The summer clean-ups are underway. Please note Tuesdays at 10.30am from Select Stores and Thursdays, Dillon's Park at 11am is clean-up days. Volunteers are welcome. The worst mess on the first day of the clean up was around the recycling bins at Dalkey DART station. Boxes, bags and other rubbish must not be left there. The TT Treasurer Blaithin O'Brien gave a talk to Dalkey Leo Club (Junior Lions), about the history and aims of Dalkey Tidy Towns. This group of young people are enthusiastic and their members have offered to help whenever possible. Dalkey is entered once more in the National Competition and TT ask residents for support and diligence in keeping Dalkey tidy. Try to keep down the weeds on property boundaries, as they can be particularly unsightly. An Taisce has presented DTT with a 'Coast Care Award' for the Picnic Area Project undertaken over the last six months on the Vico Road.

**Functions:** The Garden Outing is Wednesday 26th July and details will be on the notice board in OLH

and in the July issue of the newsletter.

**Neighbourhood Watch:** There is a sharp increase in burglaries in the area. Garda Arthur gave a specific warning about renovations and site work that provides an open invitation to the would-be thief. Also check out IDs for callers to the door looking for sponsorship or selling items.

**Planning:** Castle Park School: An Bord Pleanála has rejected comprehensively the application for the 81 apartments.

**AOB:** The Meals on Wheels's rep requested the support of DCC re the problem of parking in Kilbegnet Close. DLRCC will be contacted. The parking of cars, particularly SUVs is a cause of great concern to the residents of Kilbegnet as they obstruct the entry of emergency vehicles and the utility trucks. Dr. Rose Shields brought up the speeding cars on Dalkey Avenue. The County Council has agreed to put double yellow lines on the lower half of Dalkey Avenue. Virginia Butler asked DCC to help get a nameplate erected for St. Begnet's Villas at the Hyde Road entrance/exit to the estate. As there was no further business the meeting ended.

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## JOHN DE COURCY IRELAND R.I.P.

### CHILDHOOD REMINISCENCES

John, with my brother Brian and me, were an adventurous trio during our school holidays. Being first cousins - our fathers were brothers - we spent our holidays together with a kindly old Irish Grandmother and/or an Aunt and Uncle. John, in those days, was always EVAN, his second Christian name. Our remaining parents were all working in Europe or

India - Evan's father had died in China during World War I. Granny, Mary K. Ireland lived in Buckfastleigh, South Devon in a house surrounded by trees and a most inviting sloping lawn which we quickly put to our use, sliding down it on trays borrowed from the kitchen. During the hot parched summer of 1921, the grass provided a lot of racy hilarity and lots of fun. An old Pine tree provided accessible branches where we made an eyrie, pretending to be pirates and smuggling food and fruit from the garden earned as ransom from any unfortunate grown-up passing within sight. From Devon the family migrated to a lovely big house near Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire where the vast garden revealed a long-deserted solid pigsty which we immediately appropriated as our HQ for our usual piratical purposes of demanding ransom from the gardener and any other meandering grown-up. Any unwanted bits of carpet and furniture from the house were quickly put to use to create a comfy hideout where we even did some basic cooking and Evan found time to play his everlasting pastime of Paper Cricket.

Those were happy carefree days for all three of us which were never again repeated as Granny's disagreement with her daughter demanded yet another move, this time to a smaller suburban house in Southsea. Other grandparents then claimed Evan for holidays while Brian and I became absorbed in Lepidoptera scouring every tree, bush and flower for

caterpillars, butterfly and moths. Subsequently, university claimed the boys and we never enjoyed the same adventures together again. Evan visited me and my family of three, all born in India and being educated in Dollar, Scotland many moons later and the last time I saw him was in his cosy little house in Dalkey when I was in Ireland

with friends on holiday a few years ago. By then we were almost ancient history!

**Aline Ford-Robinson – May 2006**

**Dear Resident/Business,**

**It has come to the attention of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council that an excessive amount of illegal dumping has been taking place at Dalkey Community Playgroup. The Litter Wardens are currently monitoring the situation and have had some success in gathering information relating to the guilty party. However, we are currently looking for your assistance in investigating this matter and request that should you have any information in relation to this that**

**you please contact the  
Environmental Services Department with any information you may have at the address below or  
at the number listed:  
Environmental Services Department,  
Level 3, County Hall, Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire, Telephone: 01-2054817  
Your help in this matter would be greatly appreciated.  
Yours sincerely,  
David Moran – Litter Warden  
The penalty for illegal dumping is a fine of €125 or up to €3000 in Court**

### **EYE OPENER — SUMMER WALKING TOURS**

Dún Laoghaire Coast and Dalkey

Following the popularity of the Eyeopener Walking Tours series on Sundays during February and April, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Co Co, in association with Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre, has decided to extend the Walks to weekdays throughout the summer months. Expert professional guides will lead walkers on a guided coastal walking tour which will illuminate the history of Dún Laoghaire and surrounding areas. The walk is not too physical and covers an area of half a mile on pleasant flat terrain. Walks last 70-75 minutes. Topics to be covered will include:

- Early origins of Dún Laoghaire and how it got its name
  - Early Christian, Viking and Medieval eras
  - The building of the harbour and the coming of the railways
  - The Victorian era, which contributed the many fine buildings to the streetscape
  - The major literary connections with Dún Laoghaire and the surrounding areas (Joyce, Beckett, Synge, Shaw, Flann O'Brien, Hugh Leonard and Maeve Binchy)
- Tours will leave from the Pavilion Theatre every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Commencing 30th May until 9th September at: 11.00am, 12.30pm & 14.30pm. Admission is free  
Guided historical walks will also take place in Dalkey from May 31st  
On Mondays at 11.00am, Wednesdays at 14.00pm and Fridays at 11.00am..  
Walks begin at Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre and lead down to Coliemore Harbour and Sorrento Park. Cost €4.  
There is special half price admission to the Heritage Centre with walks ticket The Dalkey walks cover the history and literature of Dalkey and Killiney

#### **Details contact**

Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre at 01 285 8366 Email [diht@indigo.ie](mailto:diht@indigo.ie)  
and [www.dlrevents.ie](http://www.dlrevents.ie)

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## **The Owner/Occupier**

The Owner/Occupier is responsible for the footpath/grass verge (if any) in front of and to the side of his/her property. He/she is obliged to keep private property that is visible from a public area (e.g. front garden) clean and litter free.

All grass cuttings can be and should be composted. Compost bins can be purchased from the Dundrum Office for £35. For more details contact 198 6918.

Dog fouling is a litter offence under the Litter pollution Act, 1997 and is also a health hazard. All dog owners are obliged to clean up after their dog. Please help us stamp out littering by reporting any litter offences on the freephone hot line 1800 403 503.

If you have an old car you would like removed from your property the Council has a removal service which costs £50. For details or to report an abandoned car in your area please call 205 4817.

The Council assists communities in local clean ups by providing bags, gloves and litter pickers. To avail of this contact the litter hotline on 1800 403 503 with details of your clean up.

A full list of recycling facilities is available on [www.dublinwaste.ie](http://www.dublinwaste.ie).

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**41st DUBLIN (St. Patrick's, Dalkey) GROUP**  
**3rd. Port of Dublin ~ Beavers, Cubs, Sea Scouts and Ventures**  
**DALKEYSEASCOUTS 50thANNIVERSARY**

Celebrations of our 50th Year are in full swing. We had our first re-union event at IN, Castle Street on Friday 5th May and were delighted to meet many faces from the past. We welcomed Kit Conalty and David Dowdall who had been members of the previous 3rd Port Sea Scouts at Bulloch in the 1940's. A number of other members from that era have also contacted us since the previous article in this newsletter, and we have some early photos too.

Our Clambake on Saturday 6th May was our largest ever, and also the most successful. We thank all those who supported the event, and especially Mervyn Stewart of the Guinea Pig Restaurant who as usual supplied us with wonderful Seafood Chowder. The whole Group attended a special camp at Lough Dan Scout Centre on 26/28 May, where we also welcomed their parents for a Barbecue, 50th Birthday Cake and Camp Fire.

The Sea Scouts will parade for the Blessing of the Boats at Bulloch Harbour at 3 pm on Sunday 2nd July. The Dun Laoghaire RNLI Lifeboat will visit the harbour, and there will be a helicopter air-sea rescue display. All funds raised will be in aid of the RNLI.

## **NATURE CORNER JULY DATE**

NATURE CORNER JULY DATE — Saturday 8th July 2006-Trip to Ireland's Eye: Numbers limited to 30 so early booking essential. Details & bookings from Aileen Prole 288-9565 (7pm-9pm only). Meet at the base of the East Pier in Howth at 10.30am. Bring boat fare (Adults €10, children €5), suitable clothing and a pack lunch. Duration 4-5 hours. See East Coast Sites Ireland's Eye

This trip is NOT suitable for very young children NOR anyone with mobility problems as the terrain is demanding and in parts potentially dangerous.

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## **GARDEN OUTING -**

The Annual Dalkey Community Garden Outing is taking place on Wednesday, 26th July. The outing is going to Blessington, Co. Wicklow to visit June Blake's Garden & Nursery and Jim Blake's Hunting Brook Gardens. Entrance fee to gardens, coach and morning coffee included in price (lunch not included). Price€25.00 (payable in advance). This day outing is open to all residents of Dalkey. The meeting point for the coach is Cuala car park, Hyde Road at 09.45 sharp. Returning to Dalkey at approximately 6pm-6.30pm. Those interested please contact 285 0280

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## **NATURE'S CURES FROM THE GARDEN! - Jennifer Derham**

The common marigold is familiar to most with its golden orange flowers and pale green leaves. Known as 'Herbal Sunshine' the flowers look like a piece of the sun fallen to earth. By a happy plan of Mother Nature marigolds remain in flower for most of the summer. Indeed this is the origin of the Latin name Calendula. Calendae means the first day of the month, the day on which accounts were paid up in medieval times, whence this medicine dates. The suffix -ula is diminutive and implies affection. This cheerful flower is a member of the Asteraceae family. Its origin is uncertain however marigold has been used in the Mediterranean and Western Asia since early times being first cultivated in North Western Europe during the 12th century. Much of the medicinal properties are resident in the resin. concentrated

on the underside of

the flower heads. Some is found on the petals, leaves and stems giving the plant a slight stickiness. The petals and whole flower head may be used. Marigold is a general immune tonic and an excellent remedy for the lymphatic system. It is useful where lymph glands are swollen, where immunity is compromised and where there are lingering remnants of infection. Taken internally it has an anti-inflammatory action on the digestive system and is used to treat gastric and duodenal ulcers. It has marked antifungal activity and may be used internally and externally to treat fungal infections such as Candida and ringworm. It is even used to deal with a wide range of female complaints. In recent years it has been found to be an effective adjunct in the treatment of cancer, particularly breast cancer.

As an external remedy it makes an excellent dressing for wounds which are tender, swollen and infected. It is also excellent for inflamed conditions of the skin including sunburn (handy at this time of the year!), irritations, burns, eczema, acne and cradle cap.

The petals give colour and flavour to salads and soups, particularly fish soup and have been referred to as 'poor mans saffron'. Apparently it goes particularly well with eel! In fact you may have noticed its new found popularity as an edible flower in many of the local farmers markets. Traditionally dried marigold leaves were thrown in soups to help fight off colds and fevers during winter time.

A conserve made of the flowers and sugar taken in the morning is recommended for strengthening and comforting the heart! Has there ever been a more useful flower! A delightful and easily drunk tea may be made by adding a heaped teaspoon of the dried or fresh flowers to boiling water and allowed to stand for a few minutes. This tea when cooled may be used topically.

If a serious condition is suspected consult your doctor or a qualified medical herbalist.

Jennifer Derham Medical Herbalist BSc MNIMH MIMHO

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## BBC WORLD CUP GUIDELINES FOR COMMENTARY TEAM

- 1 Within 1 minute of kick off in the opening match (Germany v Costa Rica), the commentator must mention England.
- 2 Regardless of what two teams are contesting the final, England have to be mentioned within the first minute.
- 3 The commentator shall refer to the Falkland Isles in passing at some point in the match if England play Argentina.
- 4 Whenever a hat trick is scored, comparisons with Geoff Hurst will be made within seconds of the third goal hitting the net.
- 5 Should England wear their red jerseys, then '1966' should be mentioned approximately 20 times.
- 6 1966 will be mentioned approximately 10 times a match, or only on 4 or 5 occasions for matches not involving England.
- 7 Prior to the captain of the winning team lifting the trophy, the commentator will mention Bobby Moore. And 1966.
- 8 When Germany are playing, they must be referred to as being arrogant by the commentator on at least 14 occasions. This must refer to their style, their passing, their haircuts and their general footballing ability.
- 9 Should England play Germany, mentions of Winston Churchill, Dambusters, The Luftwaffe and Adolf Hitler will be compulsory. And 1966.
- 10 All Scottish members of our commentary team must continue to refer to England as "we" and "us".
- 11 We must ensure that nationalistic stereotypes are adhered to. Of course, the Germans are arrogant. The Spanish are bottlers, The Ivory Coast are fast but bad at defending, The Angolans are disorganised, The Argentinians are cheats and the French are only good because their best players play in England.
- 12 For matches not involving England, we must only discuss the players that are playing in England. (eg - Holland v Argentina should be referred to as Van Nistelroy v Crespo).
- 13 The mythical "bulldog spirit" phrase should be used as often as possible.
- 14 Each match involving England should begin with the phrase "England Expects."
- 15 Should any player be involved in an injury that involves the loss of teeth, then references to Nobby Stiles and 1966 are compulsory.
- 16 If in doubt, mention 1966.

17 Praise all of the stunning new stadiums in Germany but emphasise that they lack the presence of Wembley, the spiritual home of football since 1966.

18 Commentators should feel free to imitate the style of Kenneth Wolstenholme, the hero of 1966.

19 Should any team feature brothers playing together, then Jackie and Bobby Charlton should be mentioned.

20 When England bow out after the first stage, we must emphasise that it is a massive blow to football and a serious loss to the World Cup.

## MY GARDEN GARDEN - Philippa Thomas

I have just done a major sweep-up this evening in the misty rain in our little garden. Nature really never takes a holiday and, sometimes, left to itself, it can strangle, starve and take the light from all but the fittest plants. So, at present, we have a jungle of a backdrop!

Therefore, some teasing out, cutting back and pruning are absolutely necessary. This will, - in return, give the garden, its shape, again and 'I', will be, so delighted, obviously, at the precious 'space', that I will, re-claim.

It's now time to boost up watering your containers and hanging baskets. Plants, really love, being fed and respond without prejudice. Deadhead and feed with some "believed in," food. If there's some plant, that didn't take or looks dead, remove and perhaps replace with a totally different, more robust annual. If the mood, hits you: treat yourself, to a new, different type of textured, form, shape of plant and remember, plants, generally, respond to their specific soil, location and general T.L.C.

"When, at last, I took time to look into the heart of a flower; it opened up a whole new world as if, a window had been opened to let in, the Sun."

Princess Grace of Monaco, (1929-1982).

"It is good to be alone in a garden at dawn or dark so that, all its shy presences may haunt

you and passes you in a reverie of suspended thought."

James Douglas, from Down Shoe Lane.

While away on holidays recently, in the very tip of South Western France, I bought a 'Morning Glory' climber. Every single Autumn, for approximately the past 5 years, I have regretted that I didn't have one to look after during those, warm hazy, summer months. So, I spotted an intriguing little flower shop, close to the market, where there was only the one, - 'my one', - for sale. It looked sad and rather neglected. Rather than making a fuss or bartering for a more appropriate price, I just paid the €16.50 asking price and brought it back to my hotel room and watched it droop, and lag somewhat, over the next couple of days and then in desperation, I fed it with a green tea bag, which I found on the guest room tray that is generally left in your hotel room. Subsequently, I wondered if I hadn't detoxed the life out of my precious little plant. To date, it has utterly and truly, transformed itself. I got up and was dressed this morning, before my morning glory (itomoea) whose neatly, pleated trumpets, were only just beginning to unfurl as the bright rays of our very early morning sun fell upon them; its flowers are to die for, about the size of your hand. They appear early in the morning in the most unbelievable powder blue, fading then, to a deeper, azure blue, to violet and then, a reddish purple.

A must for anyone, who has a bright sunny window space.

## TIDIER TOWN

Don't forget that during the summer months we are being judged for the Tidy Towns Competition. So, please make that little extra effort to keep Dalkey clean.

For example, you could ensure that the area in front of your home is kept weed free and that any overhanging branches of trees, shrubs, etc. are cut back to avoid danger to pedestrians.

If you would like to help at the regular clean-up days please see the Notice Board in Our Lady's Hall for details.

## SMALLPEOPLE'S WORLD - Seán Ó Gormáin

I spent just 38 years teaching and those years were spent in two schools. Five years in Arklow and thirty-three years in Dalkey and the schools just happened to be boys' schools. In my experience, boys between six and thirteen years old can be very creative, witty and spontaneous in verbal, written and dramatic presentations. I'm sure girls are equally so!

In the following few paragraphs I hope you will read evidence of the dexterity of young people with words and that it will remind all adults of what we lose sometimes when we grow up! Fr. Tim was a chaplain in the school some years ago. One Easter he came into the class and announced he was going to dramatize the death and resurrection of Jesus. Boys got different parts in this portrayal. Good Friday came and Jesus was put into the tomb on a table in a corner of the room. The story moved on to Easter Sunday morning. Another boy was now the risen Jesus. With that Fr. Tim spotted Jesus lying in the tomb since Good Friday. "What are you doing there?" he enquired. "I'm Jesus in the tomb", said the boy actor. "No you're not", said Fr. Tim, "You've risen from the dead over here". "No one told me!" said the disappointed actor.

Yet a child can write this:

The page is blank  
The words won't come  
Can't think of anything  
Trying to write a poem.

Rain is falling outside  
I can hear the television  
The page is still blank.  
No words are there  
It's really very hard  
Trying to write a poem.

We can all say "yes" to that.

On another occasion I had given a written geography test and I had asked for the names of two waterfalls in Ireland. On one paper I got Powerscourt and Superquinn in Blackrock Shopping centre. Of course the boy was right!

Even history can be recorded:

In the north there are many fights  
Between the Civil Rights and the Paisleyites.  
They fight with sticks and stones  
And break each others bones!

Luckily the poems etc. were kept as I produced school magazines during my time and the boys themselves decided what was printed.

Sometimes a teacher goes down a road in a classroom into an unexpected cul-de-sac! On one occasion we were discussing the arrival of the DART system in Dublin. It was agreed by all that such a transport system should be countrywide. "What would these systems be called in Cork, in Galway?", said I. With that a boy put up his hand and said "Sir, what about Fermanagh?". To save myself from crashing I said "Fermanagh is not a town!" But the witty individual had earned his laugh.

A custom that was kept but has now disappeared was this:

Maybush fires, burning tyres  
Leaving nothing but rim wires  
Maybush scorching  
Making torturing fire  
Maybush fires burning bright

Maybush fires burning bright  
Firemen fight with all their might  
Quenching fires, drenching tyres  
That ends the Maybush fire.

Children also notice the world of adults!

When you're a child  
You've got to do  
The things that grown-ups  
Say to you.  
They might be right  
I'm sure they're wrong!

But you are too young  
And they are too strong.  
You love them and  
You hate them too  
For all the things  
They do to you.

All the above is just a glimpse into children's minds and the enjoyable moments they provide to brighten up the school world.

## **NATURE CORNER - Michael Ryan**

### **COAST DWELLERS**

In the last few days of May, after the torrential rain had been replaced by bitter northerly winds it was nice to have some benefit from the unseasonable weather and be able to see Gannets circling and diving into the sea a few hundred yards out from White Rock beach. I mentioned before this side of the hill is often sheltered from the cold winds and the much calmer waters in Killiney Bay probably made it a lot easier to see the fish under the surface. The Gannet's large size and brilliant white plumage with distinctive black wing tips makes them easily identifiable from a distance. Gannets only began to breed on Ireland's Eye in 1989 and have built up a very successful colony of over 250 pairs there and this is probably where these birds were from. More commonly seen from the beach or Vico Road is another seabird which glides out from the cliffs on stiff wings. This is the Fulmar, not a seagull but a member, like the Albatross (Fulmars are sometimes called the 'Northern Albatrosses'), of the Petrel family. The name Petrel derives from St. Peter and refers to the birds of this family which skim low over the water giving the effect they are walking on the water's surface. In recent years a number of bird species have moved their breeding range north in response to milder winters and warmer summers (don't know what they'd make of the 'springs' though). Fulmars expanded their breeding range too but in the opposite direction, moving down from the north. Before the early twentieth century Fulmars bred in the far north specifically Greenland and Iceland. In the early years of the last century they began to be seen breeding in the northern islands of Scotland and gradually began to appear on cliffs all around the British Isles and the first breeding birds in Ireland were recorded in Mayo in 1911. One theory for their expansion is that they followed whaling ships south feeding on the discarded offal. They also feed on plankton, fish and squid. When seen flying they are usually seen gliding on stiff wings barely flapping them at all a manoeuvre that enables them to travel vast distances using minimal energy. A closer look at these birds reveals a very unusual, but very handsome, head. Black eyes surrounded by what looks like mascara but is in fact dark plumage designed to cut down on glare when the bird is searching on glistening sea surfaces for food. The bird has a very unusual bill as well, with what looks like a small tube on top of it. This is used to expel salt that the bird ingests through seawater when it feeds off the water's surface. Fulmars often don't begin to breed until they are eight to ten years old and they only have a single chick every year. Small birds like Blue Tits rarely live more than a few years and have up to twelve chicks every year whereas long lived birds can concentrate on bringing up a single chick every year over a long period. And Fulmars can certainly be long lived with birds that have been ringed in the 1950's, when they were breeding adults at least six years old, still alive now and still nesting and raising chicks well into their 50's. Sadly our Dalkey birds sometimes nest where they are vulnerable to human disturbance and on a number of occasions I've seen people throwing rocks at them from the

railway line and the cliff tops, an act of gross mindlessness trying to injure these lovely creatures. Fulmars do have a unique way of defending themselves when they are sitting on their nest which is to expel the contents of their stomach, a foul smelling oil on to the approaching predator, basically projectile vomiting on whatever approaches. When done to other birds it can actually destroy the oils on their plumage that keeps them waterproof. This habit explains the origin of their name Fulmar an Icelandic word meaning 'foul gull'.

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LINK TO : [July Diary Events](#)



[Return to top](#)