



# DALKEY - Deilginis 'Thorn Island' COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Irish Heritage Town

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**NEWSLETTER No 386 (Volume 15)**

**Bealtine (May) 2009**

**MAY:** Probably named for Maja Majesta, the Roman Goddess of Spring.  
Also dedicated to Ceres, the Goddess of Grain.

Flower: Hawthorne & Lily of the Valley

**'Sweet April Showers Do Spring May flowers'**

Thomas Tusser: A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry, 1557



## ❖ MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING – APRIL 2009 ❖

The annual public meeting of the Community Council took place on Monday 6th April. The annual reports of all the sub-committees of the Council were presented following which members of the public and Council members discussed items of interest.

The Chairman explained that the newsletter was the most visible sign of our work for the community as we produced over 3000 newsletters each month. These were distributed by the road representatives but unfortunately several areas were without a representative.

He called on the public to contact us if they were available to join the Community Council or help with the monthly delivery of the newsletters.

The treasurer, Ed O'Neill said of the 3000 households who had the newsletter delivered to them, only 700 actually gave a donation to the Community Council towards its production and for the other community based activities in which it is involved.

The issue of parking charges in Dalkey and the long-term parking of a car on Castle Street outside the Tramyard for advertising purposes was raised. The continuing problem of the inaccessibility of the public car park at Coliemore harbour was discussed; Councillor Mary Mitchell O'Connor informed the meeting that she was raising the issue in the form of a motion to be presented at a forthcoming County Council meeting when the position would be clarified.

### **DALKEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL COLLECTION**

Dalkey Community Council Ltd. would like to thank all residents who have contributed to the Council's Annual Collection through the white envelopes recently. Your generosity is most appreciated, as without your help the Community Council could not bring you the Newsletter, Christmas Tree Lighting (& Santa) and many other activities to the community. To those who may still wish to contribute please leave your contribution in a sealed envelope in the Council postbox in Our Lady's Hall, Castle Street or contact your Road Representative. Once again, many thanks for contributing to the community spirit of Dalkey.

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

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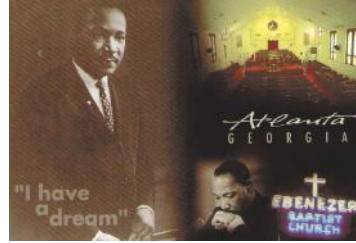
## I HAVE A DREAM

Little did I know when I booked my holiday “Music Capitals of the South USA”, to New Orleans that it would release such emotions. All these places were just names to me, Georgia, Savannah, Chattanooga. On my way to Nashville and to Memphis stopping en route at Casey Jones Village, continued to Graceland, stayed at Vicksburg and on to New Orleans. Georgia is the largest state east of the Mississippi, Atlanta is its capital. Today headquarters to the CoCo Cola and CNN. The 1996 summer Olympics were held in Atlanta and it is also the site of the Ebenezer Baptist Church where Martin Luther King Jnr. first preached. It is a memorial centre now. We had a film of his life story. I cried. The history of this amazing country is huge. Mississippi is the place to visit. You can see white fields of cotton. The smell of the magnolia blossom. Before the Europeans arrived in Mississippi, it was home to almost 30,000 people; the Natchez, Choctaws and Chickasaws. Mississippi was explored by the Spanish in the 1600s. In the 1690s it was the turn of the French. By 1763 the British had taken most of the state. It became their American Territory. In 1798 its people fought against the British in the war of 1812. The Choctaw fought with the Americans in the last battle of that war. In 1830 they and five ‘civilised’ tribes were forced out of their homelands and into Indian territory in Oklahoma & Arkansas. Thousands died. It was called the Trail of Tears. Mississippi depended on African-American slaves to work its huge cotton plantations.

Abraham Lincoln wanted to abolish slavery in Mississippi and its neighbours seceded from the Union. The result was the Civil War in which Mississippi lost 60,000 people. The Ku Klux Klan was formed to kill black African Americans. In February 1968 the Memphis garbage collectors had had enough but the Memphis Governor refused to budge. The strike had gone on for weeks when Martin Luther King Jnr was invited down to help. On April 3rd King marched with the strikers wearing a badge with the slogan of the strike “I am a man”. That night he spoke to cheering crowds. The next day he was assassinated while standing on the balcony of his motel. The motel was turned into a museum to honour Dr. King. This again was emotional and beautiful. Georgia is the largest state east with a variety of landscapes: to the North East, the Blue Ridge Mountains while to the North West, the Appalachians.

It was a great holiday. I didn’t meet my fellow travellers until we got to Atlanta. The concern of one flight attendant about me travelling alone. She couldn’t find anyone with me. There were twenty six of us in total. Her care of me was surprising. When I eventually got to my hotel room I noticed that one of my eyes was completely black. I had burst a blood vessel. I looked like I was in a circus. She must have thought I was going to have a stroke. We got to our hotel; lovely room of course with a single supplement of €459 extra! The hotel had a courtesy coach. So I headed for 6.00 p.m. Mass to the Cathedral of Christ the King with all worshippers there were very well dressed and with shoes and bags of a highly expensive value. All altar boys and girls wore white gloves to carry the candles and offerings. Mass was sung in Latin and, of course, there was a choir. The hotel coach called back for me after Mass. Our guide, Anita, was in the lobby. We had a sandwich and coffee and I had an early night. Sunday morning would be an early start, a good breakfast and a tour of Atlanta.

Such huge houses and properties, I noticed many oak trees, the flowering magnolias and azaleas, really rich country. We did a tour of Martin Luther King’s Baptist Church and heard all his speeches, including his ‘I had a Dream’. I noticed a box of knick knacks including his cufflinks and tiepins. There was a Miraculous Medal. I thought it was unusual but nobody could explain. We spent an hour there and we left with his words singing in my ears. We toured the



CNN Televisions News Station and then the Coke Cola factory. Did you know that there are 65 flavours? I tasted them all; one more ghastly than the other. It was like a wine tasting with lots of spitting out! We had a meal, got in a taxi and headed home. Anita was there to greet us with coffee and cookies and a chat.

**Monday** on our way to Nashville we passed the great Smokey Mountains and visited Chattanooga and Chickamauga. Central Tennessee is the land of the Cumberland Foothills. This is the Blue Grass Basin. In Central Tennessee is Nashville where the longest-running radio show in the country is still there. It is still broadcast live each week from the Grand Ole Opry. A really super show of country music and jazz in a super theatre. In the afternoon we visited the Hermitage. This is the home and plantation of the 7th President Jackson 1829. He served two terms. He married Rachel Donelson Robards after her divorce from her first husband. They were lovers to the end but had no children. She adopted two nephews and other children whose fathers had died in the war of 1812. Jackson was a lawyer and a commissioned Major General in the US Army. Rachel had their house full of children. Their devotion to each other lasted 34 years. He was a political and military champion of the common man and slaves. Owning a cotton plantation he was good and fair to his slaves but if they ran away they got 300 lashes when they were re-captured. They were his to sell on. I find this very difficult to accept.

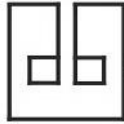
**Tuesday** we went to have lunch at the Casey Jones Train Museum. Casey Jones was the famous train driver who saved all his passengers when his train's brakes failed. He got all his passengers off and continued on until the train crashed killing Casey Jones.

Lunch started at 11.00 a.m. There was a huge queue, they rang a bell and we all ran to join it. I was first. I wasn't hungry but when I saw the food - wow! It was wonderful, spinach mashed potatoes, hare and beef stew, corned beef, fried chicken and crayfish and pasta. Bananas and custard. We felt at home.

**Thursday:** A tour in Memphis and then a visit to Sun Studios where Elvis did his recordings. Most evenings we went on a trolley car for our dinner. Only a dollar for us seniors. It was great fun. We went to Sullivan's and other Irish pubs and home again on the trolley car. The driver taking good care of us. He allowed us to pass in front of the trolley. He also knew exactly where our hotel was. Such huge attention we got. A salad was like a garden, covering a large dinner plate. We were often too full for dessert but we couldn't resist the Mississippi Mud Cake. Seven of us asked for a spoon each. We were all charged \$1.20 each. I had fried green tomatoes. I never knew that they were red tomatoes that didn't ripen. The green tomatoes were in a fine pastry and baked in the oven. They really were gorgeous. Crayfish and crabs were very popular. I was missing my spuds but unfortunately they had boiled the crabs first and boiled the potatoes in the crab water. I refused to have them. One night I did manage to have corned beef and cabbage and boiled spuds and carrots. Often it was fried chicken and french fries, Lots of beer and wine. Wine was \$5 for a tiny glass. A Hurricane Cocktail was \$8.50. All drinks were served in plastic glasses. It was very difficult to get a cup of coffee during the day. The breakfasts were good. Grits with your fried eggs, a corn mixture. I thought I saw oatmeal 'porridge' one morning and announced it to my fellow travellers. A big shock. It was lumps of sausages in a white gravy. This was served in a cereal bowl on a biscuit which was a scone; such a shock and yet some loved it! You could make you own waffles every morning but again everything was served on plastic plates. We had lots of fresh fruits, hard-boiled eggs. The orange juice was pretty gross. Some mornings I had French Toast which was very good.

**Friday:** We went to Graceland, Elvis's home. It was very elegant, not a bit tatty. A double-fronted house with pillars. White railings all round the property, just like a racehorse stud. The house was comfortably furnished, big couches, they even had carpet on the walls, probably for





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sound recordings. Some of the ceilings were lined with curtain material. His garage had two Rolls Royces, two Lincoln Continentals, a few MG sports cars, a pink Daimler, a Jaguar, three Harley Davisons, two aeroplanes, one a jet and the other a six seater. The gardens were beautiful. He had his mother and himself buried in a special grave. On his anniversary, birthday, etc., fans come in droves to pay their respects. There are shops and cafes there. A special peanut butter and banana toasted sandwiches. were very good. He earns more money dead than alive. His charities support children's homes and hospitals and seniors homes. Elvis died at 42. He was a very gentle and good-looking young man with a great talent. I was looking at a T.V. programme on Tony Gregory on RTÉ tonight, 23rd March 2009. He said that he cried when Elvis died. On our way to New Orleans we called into Peabody Hotel Memphis which was built in 1869. Back in 1933 the general manager and a friend returned from a hunting trip to Arkansas. They were a little drunk and thought it would be funny to place some of their live duck decoys in the Peabody fountain. Three small English call ducks were used as guinea pigs and this was a huge success. The original ducks have long since gone but after more than 75 years the marble fountain in the hotel lobby is still graced with ducks! The ducks march at 11.00 a.m. and go back to their penthouse on the roof at 5.00 p.m. We waited in the hall; the lift door opened and out came five ducks. Everybody was fascinated. It was a lovely innocent scene, the 'Ohs' and 'Ahs'. We arrived in New Orleans at lunch to a grand old-fashioned French hotel, Chateau le Moynes. New Orleans was packed with people waiting for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. It was like Henry Street on a Saturday afternoon. We pushed our way two blocks away from the hotel to sample beignets ben-yays, square fluffy doughnuts and coffee blended with chicory. It tasted like the Irel or Camp coffee we had in the



war years. They were smothered in icing sugar. We sat in a very old French café, very crowded and ordered our beignets. Jim, one of my friends, sneezed and blew all the icing sugar over his clothes and mine. We just roared laughing on and on. My clothes were ruined. The parade lasted the whole evening. People kept putting chains of beads around my neck. If you spoke to anyone they put another chain on your neck. The surround music was amazing, Louis Armstrong style of jazz. We had a meal in the evening in a French restaurant,

**Sunday:** We had an eye-witness account of the worst natural and man made disaster on American soil, Hurricane Katrina. Four years on and nothing only fallen trees and houses destroyed, some totally wiped out. They got no help, for three days they were left alone. Buses came in and took out all the people. Our bus driver was one of those drivers. He still can't believe what happened. The residents were taken to a centre and never returned home. Such a catastrophe. Such unfairness and sadness. They were asked to make up their minds immediately: did they want to go to Chicago or Memphis? Some were in such shock that they didn't know. They were lost and have lost their families. The papers of their homes were destroyed. Why these people, these people were poor. The rich didn't have to move out. My tears were of no help. In the afternoon we went on a two-hour Swamp Boat Cruise on Bayou Segnetle. This was a flat boat. There was a deluge of rain and suddenly a thunderstorm. The alligators glided through the water. They were all around our boat. We were told to keep our arms off the rails that the alligators could jump fairly high. They gave me the creeps. In the evening we had dinner: great food, on a steamboat.

We had a jazz band and it was a beautiful romantic ending to our tour.

**Blathnaid MacGinty**



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**Please note that there has been up to 20% reduction on a majority of whole foods since the New Year**



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❖ **DALKEY PLAYERS – ALL IRELAND WINNERS** ❖

**ALL IRELAND AMATEUR DRAMA FESTIVAL RESULTS 2009**



*Sharon Nealon as The Marquise do Merteuil with Alan Nuzum as Le Vicomte de Valmont*

- 1st Place overall winners
- 2nd Place twice
- 3rd Place Once
- Best Director, Emma Jane Nulty (awarded at 4 festivals)
- Best Presentation (for production values)
- Best Team Work (ensemble playing)
- Best Actress - Caroline Hickey for her 'genuine' portrayal of Tourvel
- Best Supporting Actor - Nick Harvey as a competent and convincing Azolan
- Best Costume and Set Design (Mary Rigney and Gerard Bourke)
- Adjudicator's special award for Best Costumes (Mary Rigney)



*Award winning Caroline Hickey as Madame do Tourvel with Alan Nuzum.*

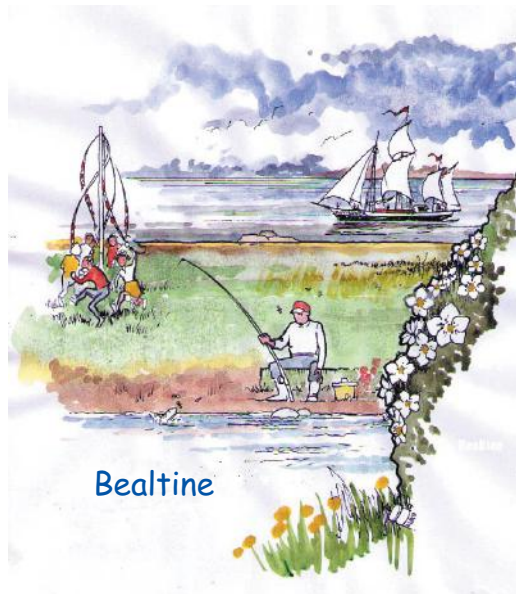
- The following were nominated for best actress/actor awards at a number of the festivals: Sharon Nealon, Allison Davis, Caroline Hickey, Emer Casey, Alan Nuzum, Nick Harvey

**BEALTINE**

This is the night when witches make new broomsticks, ash and birch, daub themselves with flying salve of henbane, maidenhair and spurge. Mothers, fearing elfin changelings, tie red coral around babies' wrists and pubescen girls receive ritual gifts, moonstones, sea-sponges, red berries.

Listen to the women chanting 'here we go gathering knots of May', as they gather white swathes of hawthorn, sweet cicely for Saint Cecily, sage, woman's healing herb, leaves of angelica against bad spells.

Hilltop bonfires blaze for Bridgit, Celtic moongod, and matrons celebrate their women-only festival, Bona Dea. Rich beestings, primrose and lemon balm make custard, syllabub and junket. Woodnymphs find buried spoonfuls



In this month of flowering womanhood  
**Bernie Kenny**

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## MY GARDEN – Philippa Thomas



We love May for giving us probably the most exciting days of the year. Even the laziest plants are in leaf and everything is new, fresh, young and green. Is there any single 'not so nice thing' about a garden in May? Even down to our weeds: - they usually feel like a celebration or a thanksgiving. It really is a time of great business in our gardens as the days lengthen and our soil warms up. Gardening to me in May is getting rid of those layers of clothes, getting into shorts or a sun dress and feeling the sun on my legs and warmth on my back. Surely, this style of living can be as good - if not better- than some medicines?

So, Recession, Recession, Recession! Do I need to say any more? Doubt it. Lately, I find myself literally sometimes turning one of my best pals off: yes, that chrome box in our kitchen, our radio. Simply too much for me, all the time. Obviously, I feel so sorry and sad at the same time, especially when I think of so many of us who are deeply affected and distressed by this ongoing situation. Having written this, I try to balance it out in my mind. Having lived in the United States where I saw some exceptionally poor parts, followed by a stint of voluntary work in Madras, India, and later, living in East and West Africa. Crikey, I will never ever forget the poverty that we witnessed in Malawi. So, let's try and cheer ourselves up and that we can do and certainly by all means it's becoming the In Thing again. Big Time, back in Vogue; namely, allotments and seed sowing. I always love to see especially while travelling on trains in the U.K. and Wales all those neatly manicured and freshly-dug rows of fruits, vegetables and flowers. Literally, bits of everything, growing here and there. One gets the impression that allotment people are always happy; planning, sowing and planting out, for all they are worth, and then simultaneously, sipping their cups of tea - while gathering up their freshly-cut bundles of scrunchy greens, etc.



*Pull up Carrots when they're finger sized*

I heard, yes, on our little radio, last week that there is an upsurge in seed packet purchases and planting is rocketing big time. How fantastic and long term we will all be so much healthier as a result.

So why not get out there and consider sowing spring onions, carrots, sweetcorn, radishes (*Pink Slipper is a favourite being deep pink on the outside with crisp white flesh on the inside*). Look at the vast range of salad leaves. Then, we have mustard seeds, watercress, scallions, beans, runner beans (*Scarlet Emporer is an improved form of the old favourite Scarlet Emporer and produces fine slim beans with no stringy bits. Give it a sunny spot and you won't be disappointed*). Pak Choi, peppers (*new pepper 'hamik' is an almost seedless orange variety while aubergine 'Turkish Red' bears small fruits with a good flavour. Both grow well indoors in a sunny sheltered spot*). Then, what about raspberries, strawberries, gooseberries, an apple, pear or plum tree? There are simply endless varieties of seeds such as parsnips, courgettes, those first early potatoes, fresh garlic, cucumber, beetroot, shallots, sprouting broccoli, pumpkins, squashes, not to mention our vast range of tomato seeds which, of course, are such an important part of a Mediterranean diet. There are different types for different uses. Look out for the outdoor varieties and train them on individual stakes or spiral supports. Choose between beefsteak types for eating raw, plum types such as 'Roma' for cooking, types such as 'Principe Borghesse' for sun-dried tomatoes (*you can dry them in the oven at the lowest setting for 12 hours*). Other seed packets that might entice you could be sugar snaps, chard, leeks, herbs such as parsley, chives, thyme, rosemary, rocket,



*Spring Onion "Pal"*



*Radishes 'Pink Slipper'*

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sorrel, basil, chillis, etc. Then, we have swede, spinach, butternut squash, marrow, cos lettuce, lambs lettuce (*Little Gem*), rhubarb and so on.

Obviously, most of our daffodils have given us their very best at this stage especially our later flowering varieties. On reflection, and I have felt this for many years, their miniature relatives in my opinion, are far more versatile: flowering a bit earlier generally than the traditional taller types, dwarf daffodils have short stems, making them perfect for containers, rock gardens, raised beds or for tucking between small perennials. They are ideal for exposed gardens such as some of ours here in Dalkey. Last year I bought several packets of 'Rip Van Winkle' at €1.50 per bag in a clearance sale in one of our D.I.Y. outlets. Rip Van Winkle performed remarkably and beautifully last year and again this late spring. I too love those little miniature 'Irises Reticulatas'.



*'Irises Reticulatas'*

These are particularly dwarf varieties and often have a heavenly scent. They thrive exceptionally well in gritty soil. This strain, illustrated here, is 'Iris Stenophylla' gave an incredible performance in a small old broken terracotta pot in our glass room.

### GARDEN HINTS

1. Soft new shoots on roses and many other shrubs and flowers are a magnet for greenfly and blackfly. Aphid eaters like ladybirds and their larvae can control them. If the mood takes you, you can blast them off with a jet of water from the hose, rubbing stems gently between your fingers or spray with a solution of soapy washing-up liquid.
2. Remember the saying: "*One year's seeds, seven year's weeds*". Allow weed seedlings to develop and set seed and you're storing up problems for the future, so be on the look out. Pull up weeds as soon as you find them. Most annual ones will come up, root and all, but perennial weeds may need digging out.
3. Check over all greenhouse plants for the presence of pests, including greenfly, red spider mites and scale insects which build up rapidly in spring.
4. Sometimes it may be necessary to remove some plants in your garden in order to let in more light. As a result, your other plants will thrive better, receive more of their necessary nutrients and thus give a better performance.
5. Remember, whether flowers, fruit or vegetables, they are only good as the ground they are grown in; so try not to scrimp on soil.
6. It's a very good idea to keep a bag of very well rotted 'horse manure' (5 years old preferably) tucked away somewhere out of sight. It's fantastic to have it to hand for that sudden 'urge' when you just might feel like buying a plant;- digging it in and obviously giving it a good start at its base. (Not all plants, of course, thrive on horse manure, e.g. Alpines).
7. Why not try and make a secluded spot where you can hide away for a few minutes to daydream or catch up on your unfinished novel or whatever? Climbers and tall plants are marvellous in nearby borders or containers for blocking out the world!
8. If you're going on holidays sink your pot grown tomato plants into the ground and give them a good soak before leaving to keep them going.



## MAY GARDENING TALKS



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

**The Alpine Garden Society** - Dublin Group – 7th May, 2009 8.00. p.m. "*On top but never in control - tales from a small garden*" Timothy Walker. *Venue:* National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin.

**Foxrock & District Garden Club** – 26th May, 2009 8.00. p.m. "**Summer Baskets & Containers**" - Noreen Curran. *Venue:* Tara Towers Hotel, Booterstown.

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## A NEW MARITIME FEATURE ENHANCES DALKEY TOWN



It was delightful to see that a new granite feature was added to Castle Street recently. Under the experienced guidance of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown's Parks Department, Tom Byrne, the project involved the replacement of an old block wall which was 50/60 years old and dangerous, heavy as well as being visually obscene. The replacement feature is made of granite bollards with granite setts as well as a chain linking the bollards.

All materials were salvaged from works on the Dun Laoghaire Piers over twenty years ago. It really is an aesthetic and beautifully-positioned addition to the town with the Silver Birch standing proudly behind it.

The workers involved were outstanding: Roger Keogh, Stonemason, Parks Department Tommy Kelly, who travelled up from Gorey every day for the duration of the work. The main person in the Parks Department who supervised the overall project was Tom Byrne.



## LOCAL HISTORY EVENTS – MAY 2009



- **On Tuesday May 5th** the Kilmacanogue History Society will hold an 'Antiques Roomshow' with Patrick O'Rourke and John at 8.30 p.m. in The Glencormac Inn, Kilmacanogue Village, Co. Wicklow - all welcome, admission €3.
- **On Thursday May 7th** Dr. John Feehan will present his illustrated lecture 'The Curragh of Kildare - A Brief History of Ireland's Oldest Grassland' The Archeology of South County Dublin to the Mount Merrion Historical Society at 8.15 p.m. in the Mount Merrion Community Centre, North Avenue. Mount Merrion. All welcome - admission €4.
- **On Monday May 11th** Seamus O'Connor will present his illustrated presentation 'The Story of Dun Laoghaire from Slides' at 8 p.m. to the Foxrock Local History Club in the Kill o the Grange Church of Ireland Hall, Kill Lane (behind Supervalu), Deansgrange. Pdraig Laffan will present a short talk 'Edward Chambers Hardman of Foxrock; early photographer'. All welcome - admission €3.
- **On Wednesday May 13th** Ms. Alice Cullen will present her lecture 'Aspects of Dublin and Killiney' to the Ballybrack-Killiney History Society at 8 p.m. in the Parochial Hall of SS Alphonsus and Columba Church, Main Street, Ballybrack - cars enter from Killiney Hill Road. All welcome - admission of €3 includes refreshments.
- **On Wednesday May 20th** Ms. Linzi Simpson will present her lecture 'The Viking Warriors of Dublin - 9th Century evidence from Dublin' at 8 p.m. to the Dun Laoghaire Borough Historical Society in the Kingston Hotel, Adelaide Street, Dun Laoghaire. All welcome.

## A BOOK TO READ

**"A Restless Life" by Leland Bardwell, published by the Liberties Press.**

This is the fascinating and engrossing biography of one of the Ireland's poets and writers who was born in India, grew up in Leixlip, Co. Kildare, and was educated in Dublin and London, and tells her life story, warts and all, and her extremely turbulent childhood given that she was odds at her distant father and temperamental mother and the period when she first realized that she wanted to be a writer. It's a poignant and beautifully-written memoir illustrated with several rare photographs in which the author recalls her life, loves and struggles, with tenderness and humour.

**James Scannell**



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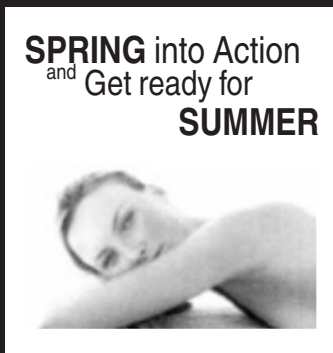
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## TABLE TENNIS NEWS

### THE WILMOT MEMORIAL COMPETITION

The competition took place on the 19th March last in the Cuala Hall as a fitting tribute to the late Betty Wilmot. This competition is held annually in March on the Wednesday nearest to her death. Her husband, Larry, was delighted to be invited to present the cup. He seemed to be in great form and, before the presentation, gave a short talk saying how happy Betty would be at the large numbers of enthusiastic players in the club today.

He presented the cup to the winners:

**1st Prize:** Mary Boushell      **2nd Prize:** Eithne Brown

**3rd Prize:** Patricia O'Donohue

Congratulations to them.

In conclusion, Table Tennis is thriving with more to follow at a later date.

Marie Byrne



## BARBECUE TIME – TASTE



Summer Time is the perfect time to get into dinning al fresco. The kids will love to get involved and Barbecue food always has that happy - freedom feel

**Did you know?** – The Barbecue originated from the Caribbean where Indians from great big pirate ships gathered wood and made small fires to cook strips of meat

In Australia they call it the Barbie and they can use one on Christmas day to cook their dinner. The worlds greatest ever Barbecue was made in 1975. There was a big feast in Kansas City, USA and the people cooked five huge bulls on it.

**Barbecue safety first** – Wash hands and preparation surfaces before touching foods and after handling raw meat and poultry. Defrost all meat and poultry. Keep all raw and cook meats separately. Cook all meat and poultry well or until the juices run clear. Keep all salads in the fridge until use. Discard of all perishables open for more than an hour or two.

**Getting the atmosphere set** – Light the barbecue in advance so that the coals are good and warm. Light some candles to keep insects away. Decorate the table with some grasses from the garden and brightly coloured napkins. – *Get cooking.*

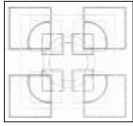
### Taste – BBQ VEGETABLE KEBABS – Serves 4

8 Mushrooms	1/2 Green Pepper	1 tbsp. Olive oil	4 kebab skewers
1 onion	1/2 Yellow Pepper	Salt and pepper	soaked in cold water over night
1/2 Red Pepper	1 Courgette		

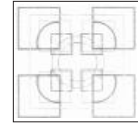
Wash all the vegetables. Slice the mushrooms in half. Peel and chop the onion into mouth size pieces. Chop the peppers and courgettes into mouth size pieces. Place all the ingredients into a bowl. Drizzle the olive oil over the vegetables, season and mix well. String the vegetables along the skewers, making a colourful arrangement. Place on the BBQ and cook on all sides until the vegetables have softened.

Tina's tip-If you are a garlic lover you can add some crushed garlic to the vegetables in the bowl before stringing on the kebab skewers.





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**Taste FRUIT KEBABS – Serves 4**


3 bananas                    1/2 Fresh pineapple,                    1 tbsp. apricot jam or honey  
 12 Strawberries        sliced, peeled and cubed        4 Kebab skewers soaked in water over night

Wash strawberries and cut each one in half. Peel and chop the banana into mouth size pieces. Cut the pineapple into mouth size pieces. String the fruit along the skewers. Place on a piece of tin foil. Spoon over the apricot jam or honey . Place on the BBQ and cook until the banana has softened. Serve with fresh cream or a dollop of ice cream.

Tina’s tip-Drizzle a little lemon juice over the banana to prevent browning.

**Taste- Lifestyle and Cookery Academy**

Learn to Cook and improve your life skills this summer. The Spectacular programme of fun food and adventure. Designed for girls and boys aged 8-14years. Taste foods and flavours from around the world. Make your own lunch, party foods, breads, salads and foods to boost your health performance. Week long courses run this summer. Book now!

Week 1 29th June-3rd July	Week 2 6th-10th July
Week 3 13th-17th July	Week 4 20th- 24th July

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## PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED Wks 11-14 9/3/09 - 10/4/09

- Reg. Ref.:** D09A/0188      **Application Rec'd Date:** 18-Mar-2009  
**Applicant Name & Location:** R. & G. Barnes, Moreana, Ardeevin Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin.  
**Proposal:** (a) Demolition of existing house (b) construction of 2 no. new two storey over part basement dwellings, with terraces to front at first floor level (c) recessing and widening of existing vehicular entrance at south-east corner of site and (d) all associated works.
- Reg. Ref.:** D09B/0107      **Application Rec'd Date:** 18-Mar-2009  
**Applicant Name & Location:** J. Walker, Ard Na Greine, Ardeevin Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin.  
**Proposal:** Development of the attic floor of house for non-habitable accommodation incorporating 3 no. roof lights to the front, 3 no. roof lights to the rear and 1 no. circular window in the east gable wall.
- Reg. Ref.:** D09B/0111      **Application Rec'd Date:** 20-Mar-2009  
**Applicant Name & Location:** Siobhan Noonan, 3, Wolverton Glen, Castlepark Road, Dalkey.  
**Proposal:** Permission is sought for a single storey side & rear extension, associated alterations & site works.
- Reg. Ref.:** D09A/0204      **Application Rec'd Date:** 24-Mar-2009  
**Applicant Name & Location:** Mr. Sean McConnon, 2, Carysfort Drive, Dalkey, Co. Dublin.  
**Proposal:** Permission sought for switching of pedestrian and vehicular entrances to front boundary, internal modifications, construction of new single storey extension to side with side gate, modifications to existing roof including part removal, demolition of chimney stack and provision of roof lights to East, South and West elevations and extension to rear with modifications to return roof
- Reg. Ref.:** D09B/0114      **Application Rec'd Date:** 24-Mar-2009  
**Applicant Name & Location:** Garrett Hughes & Christine Cullen, Raglan, 13a, Hyde Park, Dalkey.  
**Proposal:** Permission is sought for a first floor extension to side over existing single storey utility room, porch and bay window extension with alteration to existing windows at first floor level to front and ancillary works.
- Reg. Ref.:** D09B/0119      **Application Rec'd Date:** 26-Mar-2009  
**Applicant Name & Location:** Mr. Andrew Fitzpatrick, 13, Mapas Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin.  
**Proposal:** Permission is sought for the conversion of existing attic space to a habitable room, with a dormer window to the rear, two velux type windows to the front elevation, along with internal amendments.
- Reg. Ref.:** D09A/0051      **Application Rec'd Date:** 28-Jan-2009  
**Applicant Name & Location:** Obelisk Communications Ltd. , 27, Castle Street, Dalkey, Co. Dublin.  
**Proposal:** Mounting of 2 no. panel antennas and 1 no. Link dish to be placed behind existing front facade of the building at roof level, for the purpose of mobile telecommunications with associated telecommunications equipment located in the rear yard. Clarification of A.I. Recd. Add. Info.: 31-Mar '09.
- Reg. Ref.:** D09A/0228      **Application Rec'd Date:** 02-Apr-2009  
**Applicant Name & Location:** Dermot Duffy, The Coach House, Dalkey Avenue, Dalkey.  
**Proposal:** Retention permission sought for random rubble wall 2000mm high including Pedestrian gate 900mm wide on the front site boundary to Dalkey Avenue with 1200mm wide footpath outside boundary wall to Dalkey Avenue. **Applic. Type:** Permission for Retention.
- Reg. Ref.:** D09B/0133      **Application Rec'd Date:** 03-Apr-2009  
**Applicant Name & Location:** Derek Spiller, 44, Hillside, Dalkey, Co. Dublin  
**Proposal:** Planning permission is being sought to install a velux roof window to the front roof slope.
- Reg. Ref.:** D09A/0237      **Application Rec'd Date:** 07-Apr-2009  
**Applicant Name & Location:** Marie Conlon, Ardbrugh Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin.  
**Proposal:** Permission is sought for development on a 2.16 hectare site at Ardbrugh Road, Dalkey. The development will consist of the construction of 12 no. two bedroom apartments contained within a single four storey building which also includes a private gym, communal storage areas, plant room, circulation areas including a lift, and balconies and terraces associated with each apartment. The apartment building will follow the contour of the hill will all 4 storeys below street level (being four storeys along its northern elevation). The building ranges in height from 3.6 m to the street (including roof garden fencing) to 13.4 m along its northern elevation. The development also includes a separate cycle and bin storage building with lift access. The gross floor area of the proposed development is 1,291 sq.m. The development will be served by 18 no. car parking spaces located at street level with a



shared vehicular and pedestrian entrance to be created from Ardburgh Road. The proposed development includes all site development works, landscaping (including the provision of a roof garden and private open space), and boundary treatments.

**Reg. Ref.:** D09B/0146 **Application Rec'd Date:** 09-Apr-2009

**Applicant Name & Location:** Mr Declan Doyle, 34, Sorrento Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin.

**Proposal:** Permission is being sought for a single storey kitchen extension and patio to rear. Improvements to recreational facilities at Hyde Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin. In accordance with Part 8, Article 81 of the above Regulations, Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown County Council hereby gives notice of proposals pertaining to Development as follows: The proposal involves:- Improvements to recreational facilities at Hyde Road, Dalkey to include: Installation of sports floodlighting to existing Gaelic pitch; Installation of ball-stop netting; The construction of underground flood attenuation chambers at the northern and eastern edge of the open space; Multi Use Games Area to the front of the open space; New pedestrian entrances and realignment of the existing vehicular entrance at Hyde Road; Installation of children's play units to the front of the open space; Installation of seating and cycle parking within the open space.

Plans and particulars of the proposals are available for inspection from Monday 9th March 2009 up to and including Monday 27th April 2009, at the Planning Department, County Hall, Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire between the hours of 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and at the Council offices, Dundrum Office Park, Dundrum between the hours 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding Bank Holidays. Submissions or observations with respect to the proposals, and dealing with the proper planning and development of the area, may be made in writing on or before Monday 11th May 2009, to: Declan McCulloch, Senior Executive Officer, Planning Department, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, County Hall, Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire Co Dublin.

### PLANNING DECISIONS Wks 11-15 9/3/2009 - 10/4/2009

**Reg. Ref.:** D09A/0034

**Decision:** Request Add. Info

**Date:** 16-Mar-2009

**Applicant Name & Location:** D O'Reagan, R Cahill O'Brien, K Tarbett, White Cottage, Strand, Killiney. **Proposal:** 1. To partially demolish the walls, steps, toilets, septic tank, retaining walls to dwellings and pillars at beach level which survived the fire in 2004. 2. To reinstate the previously established uses (i.e. as two dwelling houses, cafe, kitchens, toilets, boat hire, 13 No. chalets for rental use and parking for 5 cars). Scope of proposed development: to extend and renovate the two dwellings. To build a new cafe and toilets on the site of the existing cafe/toilets. To construct 5 No. artists chalets/studios. To provide 5 No. parking spaces. To provide a shop/office, at beach level for deck-chair hire, lockers, boat hire, showers and hard standing area for use by the public. To upgrade the existing access road giving it a hard surface (hoggin type), providing an extended boardwalk for pedestrians, and providing a retaining edge to retain and further support the existing railway embankment located in Architectural Conservation Area. **Application Type:** Permission.

**Reg. Ref.:** D09A/0042

**Decision:** Request Add. Info

**Date:** 18-Mar-2009.

**Applicant Name:** Enda Kearns

**Location:** 9, Mapas Avenue, Dalkey, Co. Dublin

**Proposal:** Permission is sought for a 1) construct a single storey extension (approx. 16.5 m2) with pitched roof and 2 no. velux rooflights to rear of dwelling 2) single storey extension with pitched roof to front of dwelling; 3) conversion of existing garage to habitable accommodation with 1<sup>st</sup> floor extension above, 4) attic conversion with 1 no. dormer & 1 no. velux to rear, 2 no. velux to front and 1 no. velux to side of dwelling & 5) widening of front entrance from approx. 2.5m to 3m in width The development will also include alterations to the internal layout & associated site development works.

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

**Decision:** Clarification of Add. Info.

**Date:** 24-Mar-2009

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

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

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

**Decision:** Grant Permission

**Date:** 24-Mar-2009

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

**Proposal:** Part single storey, part one and a half storey extension (namely ground floor with limited accommodation on the upper level within the roof profile) of 152 sq. m to the rear of the existing

dwelling. The works consist of (i) new extension to the rear of the existing house (ii) the modification of the existing roof and its partial reconstruction, (iii) all necessary resultant elevation changes to the existing house, (iv) demolition of existing garage, (v) the various minor miscellaneous landscaping and services required to facilitate the development, and all necessary ancillary works.

**Reg. Ref.:** D09B/0119 **Decision:** Declare Applic. Invalid **Date:** 3-Apr-2009

**Applicant Name:** Mr. Andrew Fitzpatrick, 13, Mapas Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin.

**Proposal:** Permission is sought for the conversion of existing attic space to a habitable room, with a dormer window to the rear, two velux type windows to the front elevation, along with internal amendments.

**Reg. Ref.:** D09A/0124 **Decision:** Refuse Permission **Date:** 7-Apr-2009

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

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

### APPEAL DECISIONS OF An Bord Pleanala Wks. 11-15 2/3/'09 - 10/4/'09

**Reg. Ref.:** D08A/0663. **Appeal Decision:** Refuse Permission. **Appeal Decided:** 6-Mar-2009

**Council's Decision:** Refuse Permission. **Location:** Johnville, Ardeevin Road, Dalkey.

**Proposed Development:** The construction of a 2 storey, 3 bedroom house with a two storey external gallery for the access to the roof garden and the garden at ground level. **Applic.** Ruth Lambkin.

**Reg. Ref.:** D08A/0376. **Appeal Decision:** Refuse Permission. **Appeal Decided:** 20-Mar-'09.

**Council's Decision:** Grant Permission. 3, Saval Park, Saval Park Road, Dalkey.

**Proposed Development:** Construction of a two storey dwelling house on a fully serviced site including ancillary works. **Applicant:** Siobhan Smith.

**Reg. Ref.:** D08A/0387. **Appeal Decision:** Grant Permission. **Appeal Decided:** 27-Mar-2009

**Council's Decision:** Grant Permission. **Location:** 1, Seafield Terrace, Coliemore Road, Dalkey.

**Proposed Development:** Extend and restore existing semi-detached dwelling (a protected structure), extending at 2 storeys with split level to the rear providing a total of 3 bedrooms and north-facing terrace together with internal reconfiguration to existing structure including new walls, stairs, blocking up a western gable window and associated site works. **Applicant:** Prof. & Mrs. M. Gilchrist.

**Reg. Ref.:** D08A/0480. **Appeal Decision:** Grant Permission. **Appeal Decided:** 31-Mar-'09.

**Council's Decision:** Grant Permission. **Location:** 1, Castle Close, Sandycove, Co. Dublin

**Proposed Development:** Demolition of a two storey dwelling (258 sq. m) and the construction of 8 No. Senior Citizen residential apartments (total gross floor area 631sqm) in a two and three storey building comprising 8 no. one beds (58sqm to 67sqm), 4 no. surface level car parking spaces with access from Castle Close via remodelled entrance gates, minor amendments to the site boundary with the adjoining approved development Reg. Ref.: D06A/1808, landscaping and ancillary site development works, on a 0.0918 hectares site, all relating to requirements under Section 96 Part V of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2002. **Applicant:** Otranto Properties Limited.

**Reg. Ref.:** D08A/0664. **Appeal Decision:** Refuse Permission. **Appeal Decided:** 31-Mar-2009.

**Council's Decision:** Refuse Permission. **Location:** Mackeys Garden Centre, Castlepark Road, Sandycove. **Proposed Development:** Planning permission is sought for modifications to Apartment Block B (Planning Permission Reg. Ref: D06A/1808 and PL06D.224130) to include an additional 4

no. apartments consisting of 3 no. 1 no. bed apartments (53.8 sq. m) 1 each at ground, first and second floor levels and a 2 bed apartment (93.5 sq. m) at third floor level. A reduction in size of 2 no. approved 2 bed apartments to 2 no. 1 bedroom apartments. (from 95 sq. m to 71.8 sq. m) and 1 no. approved 3 bed apartment to 1 no. 2 bed apartment ( 110 sq. m to 85.4 sq. m) and ancillary site development works is also proposed. These works will increase the overall floor area of approved apartment Block B from 27 to 31 at this site Mackey's Garden Centre, Castlepark Road, Sandycove, Co. Dublin and part of 1 no. Castle Close, Sandycove. **Applicant:** Otranto Properties Ltd.

**Reg. Ref.:** D08A/0673 **Appeal Decision:** Refuse Permission **Appeal Decided:** 31-Mar-2009.

**Council's Decision:** Refuse Permission. **Location:** Mackeys Garden Centre, Castlepark Road, Sandycove, Byrnes Garden Centre, Castlepark Road, Sandycove and Part of No. 1 Castle Close, Sandycove. **Proposed Development:** The construction of 3 no. two storey over basement level townhouses (106.4sq.m each) with sunken gardens and terraces in place of a single storey health facilities building (402 sq. m) including a gym, wc's and a janitor's office, at basement level 16 metres long swimming pool with changing areas, shower and a wc, that were approved by Planning Permission reg. ref. D06A/1808 and PL06D.224130. Also proposed are modifications to approved Apartment Block B to include an additional 4 no. apartments consisting of 3 no. 1 bed apartments (53.8sq.m) 1 each at ground, first and second floor levels and a 2 bed apartment (93.5sq.m) at third floor level. Also proposed is the reduction in size of 2 no. approved 2 bed apartments to 2 no.1 bed apartments (from 95sq.m to 71.8sq.m) and 1 no. approved 3 bed apartment to 1 no. 2 bed apartment (from 110sq.m to 85.4 sq. m) and ancillary site development works. These works will increase the overall floor area of approved Apartment Block B by 4,260 sq. m to 4,381.6 sq. m and increase the apartment numbers in Block B from 27 to 31. **Applicant:** Otranto Properties Limited.

**Reg. Ref.:** D08A/0773 **Appeal Decision:** Refuse Permission. **Appeal Decided:** 30-Mar-'09.

**Council's Decision:** Grant Permission. **Location:** 9, Saval Park Crescent, Dalkey, Glengageary.

**Proposed Development:** (1) The re-integration of the existing, single storey, one bedroom granny flat (51 sq. m) into the main, single, storey four bedroom dwelling (110 sq. m). (2) The extension of the existing pitched roof over the existing flat roofs, at both gables. (3) The retention of the existing garden room and living room (36 sq. m total) extensions to the side. (4) The provision of two bay windows (4 sq.m total) to the front. (5) Alteration to the fenestration on the front elevation. (6) The provision of roof lights to the roof on the front elevation. **Applicant:** Simona Doyle.



## DALKEY LIBRARY NEWS FOR MAY



Library will re-open on Tues 5th May at 1.15pm after May Bank holiday.

**Irish Bookclub:** (1st Tues of Month) 5th May at 6.30pm

**Monthly bookclub** is on Sat 9th May at 10am. Discuss: *Revolutionary Road* by Richard Yates All welcome.

**Exhibition:** Dalkey Crochet Circle display their work in the Library during Bealtaine

**BEALTAINE EVENTS:** All events are free but numbers limited - booking essential. Each Wednesday during May at 11am-1pm

**Wednesdays 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th – Drawing Workshops** with artist Brigid O'Brien. Max 14 (participants should be available for all 4 Wednesdays).

**Thurs. May 19th at 6.30pm: – Beaded Japanese Braiding** with Mary Coleman. Max 12.

**Thursday May 26th at 6.30pm: – Card Making** with Mary Coleman. Max 12.

**Sat 23rd May at 11am – Digital Photography workshop** with Ken Finlay. Max 20

**Thursday 21st May at 6.30pm** – Introduction to Homeopathy, uses for common illnesses and first aid, with Judith O'Leary

Look out for **'Writers @ the library'** – a brand new writing group starting at Dalkey Library during Bealtaine. Paul Perry, DLR Libraries' Writer in Residence, will be forming a new writers' group in Dalkey Library. The group is open to writers who are not currently a member of another writers' group. Writers of all abilities and experience are welcome to join. The group will meet each Thursday evening during June at 6pm for two hours, and every two weeks thereafter.

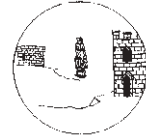
**Contact any member of staff at Dalkey Library to book: Tel: (01) 2855277**

There are a limited amount of places available - Booking Essential



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## ❖ NO ORDINARY PLACE ❖

Turkey: 700 miles east of Istanbul: at a road's end lies a small town of about 2,000 souls. Quiet enough today, but once known all over the ancient world as a great religious and trading centre, it has a colourful and turbulent history stretching back 6,000 years, and is now one of the oldest continually inhabited places on earth. Unless you are familiar with the Book of Genesis, its name may mean nothing to you. However, Harran, (for that is its name) was already ancient when Genesis was written. Roughly translated, it means Caravan Crossroads, and that was its function, serving trade routes from Assyria and the East to the Mediterranean, and from the North to Babylon and Egypt.



A brief summary of the town's vast history may help convey its place in the world. Archaeology has only scratched the surface, so little is known of events before 2000 BC.

Suffice to say, tides of invasion and settlement by early tribes with unfamiliar names ranged back and forth over the area. The most significant spheres of influence, however, were Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Rome and later, Arabs and Ottomans, all of whom brought remarkable personalities and events to the place.

This is also Abraham's country, prior to his leaving for Canaan (Genesis 12 v 1). Isaac's wife, Rebekah lived nearby, and the well where Jacob met Rachel is shown to this day, a little beyond the town. Jacob lived here for twenty years. Here, too, were born all but one of his thirteen children, including Joseph, of the "amazing technicolour dreamcoat".

Despite this family's worthy presence, Harran and district were steeped in pagan cults from time immemorial. The Great Temple of the Moon God, Sin, mentioned in a document of 2000 BC survived until destroyed by Emperor Trajan in 115 AD. Nonetheless, it must have risen swiftly from the dust as moon worship continued here until the 6th century AD., indeed an Arab writer records pagan practices as late as the medieval era. Now the Temple is no more, but its remains lie undisturbed beneath the Arab castle.

Exotic names, echoing down the centuries, came here do their worst, and occasionally, their best. Hurrians and Hittites, Assyrian King Shalmaneser and Ashurbanipal, Babylonian Nabopolassar to devastate. Nabonidus, (father of Belshazzar) to restore. Roman Septimus Severus added Harran to the Empire in 195 BC, but in 53 AD, in one of the major turning points in military history, Marcus Crassus saw his army suffer a humiliating defeat by the Parthians, ten legions slaughtered, and the eagle standards taken as booty. Subsequently meeting Surena, the Parthian leader, Crassus was murdered, at some point molten gold poured down his throat, and his head later used as a prop in a play.

In the spring of 217, whilst attending a call of nature after visiting the Temple of the Moon, Emperor Caracalla met an untimely death by an assassin's sword. Eighty years later, another Roman, Galerius, stared disaster in the face here, his army being crushed by the Persians. The year 639 saw the town captured by the Moslems, bringing a period of peace during which, in the ninth century, the world's first university was founded. Nonetheless, three centuries later., Crusaders seized Harran only for it to be taken back after 23 years. The 13th century brought terror from the East, in the form of Genghis Khan, who destroyed the university, and pretty well everything else in his path. Yet, once more, the town rose from the ashes and in 1516 yielded to the Ottoman Empire.

Today, Harran is quiet, a section of modern low concrete houses set among small trees, partly adjoining the old town, which is what the occasional visitor comes to see. This is an



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intriguing maze of baked earth streets between mud walls and houses of a beehive shape, placed at random in the townscape. Let your mind cancel out telegraph poles and T.V. aerials, and you are transported into deep antiquity. Hens cluck and scratch in the dust, a goat or donkey nibbles at weeds, and a few souls sit in the shade of a wall, seeking respite from the merciless heat for which this area is notorious. Apparently, it is not uncommon for temperatures to reach 135° F (57°C).



But, beware the children! Any strangers spotted are immediately harangued by a small horde of little demons demanding “bon bons” or “stilos”(pens). Any you have will be seized and fought over, younger children being punched or robbed by their elders. Some picture cards I gave were torn to shreds in fights, and sweets had to be thrown into the air in desperation, as it was impossible to hand them over individually.

If able to escape, you can retire to seek refuge in the castle, a fortification against Crusaders, or wander the Mosque’s extensive ruins with its lofty square minaret, which doubled as an observatory for the university. The crumbling city walls add a pictureque element, encircling the old town.

And then there is Ancient Harran, a huge, bare mound, or “Tell”, of bleached compacted earth some 70 ft high and a mile in diameter. This dusty expanse, hiding the secrets of millennia, is scattered with pottery shards and remains of low walls, protruding like stumps of broken teeth. One can only wonder at what treasures of ancient knowledge lie beneath.

My visit was far too short, an afternoon, but many days could be spent exploring this extraordinary place, enjoying the peace that now permeates its once bloody ground.

**Michael Salter**

**❖ Dalkey Community Council Ltd. 30th Annual Garden Competition ❖**

This competition is open to everyone in the Community Council area. There are several prizes including four Perpetual Cups. In addition to nomination for the “Surprise” Garden section there are the following categories:

- > **Best Overall Garden**
- > **Best Front Garden** - visible from the road
- > **Best Display** – window boxes, hanging baskets, flower troughs and pots
- > **Best Communal** - Garden/Open Space
- > **Environmental Award** (Presented by Dalkey Tidy Towns)

**Entries to be submitted not later than Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2009. Judging will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> June. Presentation of the prizes will take place on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2009.**

**GARDEN COMPETITION ENTRY FORM**

I / we wish to enter for (please tick ✓)

<input type="checkbox"/> Overall Garden	<input type="checkbox"/> Display - window boxes, hanging baskets etc.
<input type="checkbox"/> Front Garden	<input type="checkbox"/> Communal Garden / Open Space

Name(s): .....

Address: .....

Tel: .....

Signature: ..... Date: .....

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## CAN DALKEY CHANGE THE WORLD

### YES WE CAN!

More than nine years ago - yes - you do remember those good feelings that somehow, beginning a new millennium, we could start again to make everything new; that we could eliminate poverty; that the debt owed by the poorest nations to the wealthy nations could be wiped out; that we could eliminate illiteracy and do something about the appalling inequality regarding women especially in the Third World.

If you had asked any Dalkey person in 2000, where on the globe either Kitui, Kenya or Teresina, Brazil was situated, you almost certainly would have been met with a questioning look. Not so today. A huge number of Dalkey people would respond without hesitation.

A group of Dalkey people, inspired by founder member, John O'Donnell R.I.P. of Hillside, knowing of fellow Dalkeyites Fathers Alan and Paul working in Teresina and Kitui respectively, decided to hold a 'coffee morning' monthly in our community hall and to use the total proceeds to support projects being run by these frontier men.

A number of years later, Bray, Cabinteely and Rathgar teamed up with Dalkey under the title, 'Friends of Kitui'.

What we in Dalkey have been able to achieve, thanks in no small way to our sponsors such as our local Credit Union which has sponsored us for each of the last nine years and Dalkey Ladies' Club which has sponsored us for many years and especially to the huge generosity of the local community, can only be hinted at here.

A glance at some statistics can tell us something. Kitui, like so many other regions trapped in poverty, is an arid area dependent on subsistence farming which of course is totally reliant on rain which has become very uncertain thanks to our climate changing situation: what could Dalkey do, if anything?

Surely, for the long term the answer must be to help to get as many local young people as possible through school so that they will themselves be in a position to solve their own problems. Wasn't education the key to the Celtic Tiger in our own country? Well, Dalkey is financing 12 such students at second level and 3 at third level. If one adds to this what the combined efforts of 'Friends of Kitui' are doing in the same area, the result is hugely impressive.

However, in the short term, the single most challenging issue, on a day to day basis, is the simple issue of water.

With an adequate supply of water, the daily life of the people in this land, sunbaked for 8 months yearly, is transformed because, firstly, women do not have to walk 10 or 15 kilometres to carry home water which is often unclean; kids are not kept home from school to fetch water; farmers have access to water for irrigation and so families can eat better on local produce. Our Dalkey water engineer has visited Kitui 6 times and overseen, with the help of Mr Emmanuel Kisangau, Co-Ordinator of such projects in Kitui, the installation of many water projects.

With regard to water projects, we are nearing completion of our third round of projects now numbering 37 in total which have helped bring safer, cleaner water to over 13,000 people in 33 villages and 4 schools. Four of the latest batch of projects faced delay because the local communities, facing starvation due to the rains failure, crops failure and current famine were forced to travel far and wide to seek casual work to feed their families. Our latest round commenced in March 2009. By March 2010 we will have served a further 8 - 9000 people.

The third plank of our efforts in Kitui has been in helping women, the most vulnerable and first victims with their babies, in the fight against poverty. Dalkey has provided seed capital for projects organised and run by women, especially in Zombe and Endau, two villages supported by us. So in Dalkey, at our coffee mornings of last October and November, the soap and baskets from these women were a sell-out. Soap will be available again for our



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future coffee morning. What more practical way forward for these women than to give them a little income from their own projects. Always we plan that this local industry will become independent and self sustaining. Thanks to Sponsorship from Dalkey Credit Union, money is in situ for a chicken project, again aimed at allowing women to learn the skills and to better feed themselves and generate income. So folks, if as they say, you are affected by any issue raised here, or the fact that only 58% of Africa's population have access to clean water, that 1.9 billion people, one in every 4 people on our planet, live on less than \$1.60 a day, that is, in misery, one could go on and on - and want to change things a little bit, know that you can help by simply joining us for a cuppa in Our Lady's Hall, on the last Sunday of each month except July and August, enjoy a scone and a chat with your fellow Dalkeyites knowing that every cent of any donation you may decide to give will go to one of these projects, helping the poorest people in our world, of all faiths and none, to live with a little more dignity and hope. Volunteers meet all their own expenses from their own resources. All of these projects are carefully evaluated at each stage of their development by Mr Emmanuel Kisangau in Kitui and from here by Mr. Pat Torpey. This has been only a brief attempt to update us all.



*Woman gets water from well in Kitui, Kenya*

**Please have a look at [www.friendsofkitui.com](http://www.friendsofkitui.com)**

If you care to make a donation for which we would be most grateful, please visit the above site or call in for a tea or a coffee. Any donation, no matter how small, is most welcome.

**YES, WE CAN**



## THANK YOU DALKEY!



The wonderful people of Dalkey donated €3650 at the combined Churches Ash Wednesday soup lunch in Our Lady's Hall. The monies raised were donated to **BREADLINE AFRICA**.

On the 12 March Noo and Peter Wallis together with Bev Gillespy and Edna Titus from the Breadline Africa office travelled 20 km North East of Cape Town to Kraaisfontein to the Christian Assemblies Community Centre to meet the Revd Atti. Some years ago the Revd Atti initiated a soup kitchen for the poorest and destitute people of the area. Each day a nutritious vegetable soup and bread cooked by local volunteers is provided for 250 men, women and children.

The soup kitchen relies on local contributions, support from local farmers and retailers. The €3650 translates into R43800 which will certainly help this project for many months.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR



I would like to comment on two matters:

1. Around Easter Convent Road was swept very well and waste left in small piles every 50 yards or so. I do not know if residents or the Corporation did it, but one day at lunchtime I saw a spade and a brush near a wall. I am sure some arrangement was made for the Corporation to collect this. Alas, this was not done so what was swept up has since washed into drains and scattered around, to make Convent Road the dirtiest road in Dalkey again.
2. I have to use Convent Road four to six times a day and the dog fouling on the narrow footpath is as bad as ever and since there is only one path on one side it is dangerous when one has to step off the path to avoid the dirt. I see that the Council have put up one or two signs on lamp poles at the town end. I wonder if it would help if they put one on every pole on this road, perhaps the mindless owners might take notice.

**Disgusted Resident** (*Full Details with Editor*)



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## NATURE CORNER – Michael Ryan



### ALARMING BLACKBIRDS

Whenever the BirdWatch Ireland South Dublin branch have a talk about birdsong or a guide outing to listen to birdsong we tell people that two birds that can sound similar are the Blackbird and the Song Thrush. We tell them that the Song Thrush often ends a snatch of song by repeating single notes, usually four times but the Blackbird never repeats single notes having a flowing mellower song which might repeat a complete song cycle but not single notes. Well, as often happens there's always a bird out there waiting to disprove your confident declaration. A Blackbird singing from a neighbour's garden not only incorporates four repeated notes, which it probably copied from a Song Thrush, but it also mimics another, less melodic sound. When I heard it singing first in February I realized parts of its song sounded very like a neighbour's very distinctive house alarm, one which goes off frequently. The Blackbird was doing a very good imitation of the oscillating sound of the alarm. Starlings are known as great mimics of other birds but Blackbirds aren't so I thought I'd check the internet.

First story the search engine came up with concerned a Blackbird in England which became notorious last year for imitating, not only alarms, but it also did a very convincing and loud imitation of a ambulance siren as well as incorporating the ring tone of the mobile phone of the chap whose garden he was singing in. The family lived near a hospital with ambulances passing regularly but they weren't that thrilled to hear the call of one at 5.00am every morning. This particular bird can be seen and heard on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=KifpQe02HEE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KifpQe02HEE)

Another search result was a bird forum where someone described a Blackbird who had incorporated the sound of a horse whinnying. She said it usually sang this particular phrase while in flight, giving the impression of a flying horse passing overhead. Our Blackbirds will usually have stopped singing by early June but if you want to hear bird songs and how to identify individual species you can come along to our Dawn Chorus meeting at the car park at Cabinteely House at 4.00am on Sunday 17th May. For those who don't fancy a early start we also have a evening chorus outing at BirdWatch's new reserve at Blackditch in Co. Wicklow at 7.30pm on Saturday 9th May meeting at the Newcastle Inn in Newcastle. Everybody welcome, you don't have to be a BirdWatch member.

*A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song.* – Maya Angelou  
The Dalkey Starlings in winter often recreate the high pitched call of Swifts, while the Swifts themselves would be flying around in the hot air of Africa. They spend a very short time here since they depend solely on air borne insects which are only flying when the air is at its warmest. The first individual Swifts are usually seen in early May and they only stay till early August so they are real birds of high summer. They are one of the last migrants to arrive almost two months after our earliest migrants. Wheatears and Sandwich Terns were seen in early March. Five Sand Martins were flying in over Dalkey Quarry on St. Patrick's Day and a Swallow was seen flying in off the sea under Killiney Hill on 20th March. Chiffchaffs, small yellowish green warblers were seen and heard the same weekend and there's quite a few singing on Dalkey and Killiney hills at the moment.

We hadn't seen Jays for a few months, either in the garden where they had become regular, very welcome visitors, or around the two hills where their presence was often made known by their shrieking call, or a brief flash of white or blue as they moved secretly through the trees. I'd given up on them attempting to nest in the woods around Killiney Hill this year. They had attempted to nest last year and were witnessed carrying nest building material,

but I don't think they succeeded. Anyhow early April found us walking through Dalkey quarry when that distinctive white rump patch flashed up across the cliffs above us. A most unlikely place to find a bird usually associated with oak woods but this bird evidently hadn't read the reference book as it flitted around the rock face, its pinkish brown plumage blending in against the golden brown of the rockface. Saw it later when it had moved up to the woods and since they don't build nests too early who knows, there might be some young ones around yet.

I mentioned before someone who had done a thesis on Jays during which he would bait traps with acorns then catch weigh and ring the captured Jay before releasing it again. He kept getting the same Jay in the trap and since they're very intelligent birds it evidently knew it would be released and it was worth the inconvenience for the sake of an easy meal.

If the weather is like previous summers it'll seem like grim advice but if there is a dry warm spell birdbaths are very valuable to birds both for drinking but also for washing to keep their flight feathers clean and in good working condition. If you don't have a birdbath an upturned dustbin lid or plate will do, just make sure they're not somewhere where cats can sneak up on the bathing birds and make sure they're slightly tilted so the birds can wade in from the shallow end. Blackbirds can often be seen taking dustbaths on warm sunny days, snuggling down into the soil and basking with their heads raised. Some birds do this to aggravate ants which then spray them with formic acid which doesn't harm the birds but does kill any mites they might have in their feathers.

If you've been feeding birds during the summer don't stop now. Although you won't be getting as many birds you can still be helping the ones you do get since when you provide a ready source of food for them it gives them more time to hunt for the insects they need to feed their young.

### TIPS TO RECOGNISING SOME COMMON BIRD SONGS

**Song Thrush:** Very strident, intense but melodic. Repeats phrases a number of times in each song bout. Some phrases said to sound like 'Cherry Dew' and 'Knee Deep'. Ends song by repeating single note usually four times. Often begins singing in November. Often last bird singing on warm summer nights.

**Blackbird:** Very mellow, melodic rounded notes with fewer intervals between phrases than Song Thrush. Rarely repeats song or notes. Starts singing February/March ends late May or early June.

**Mistle Thrush:** Wild, haunting, distant quality. Succession of similar short phrases which are richer and longer than those of Song Thrush with no repetition of single notes. Always sings from very high perch. Often singing on windy days which give it its alternative name of Storm Cock.

**Robin:** Clear, shrill, whistly phrases delivered in very relaxed fashion. Each phrase different with long gaps in between. Slow notes tumble into rapid ones. Sings all year though song changes slightly in breeding season.



**Wren:** Very loud, considering his size. A sudden explosion of 'alarmed' song which ends abruptly with trilling phrase as opposed to Robins single notes. Sings from cover or low in bush, brambles.

**Great Tit:** Loud metallic double note, sounds like 'Tee-Cher' though many variations on song from individual birds.

**Blackcap:** Loud explosive jumble of flutelike and scratchy notes with phrases getting louder before ending abruptly. Very melodic, often described as Ireland's nearest equivalent to a Nightingale. Phrases in song similar to Blackbird and Robin's. Usually sings

from dense cover of brambles bushes, holly, etc.

**DUNNOCK:** Brief, fast high-pitched and quite sweet. Said to sound like unoiled wheels of a trolley. Often confused with Wren but quieter and lacks trills.

**Greenfinch:** Chirpy chattering song often described as like a machine gun delivered from high branch or tree top. Ends with a rasping 'Raspberry' note.

**Chaffinch:** Bubbly, loud gradually descending song ending with a note that can sound like a wolf-whistle. Lots of different call notes which can sound like 'Ping' or 'Pink'. Very incessant in oak woods.

**Willow Warbler:** Similarly descending song as Chaffinch but much wispier. Almost identical to Chiffchaff in appearance the easiest way to differentiate them is by their song.

**Chiffchaff:** Named after his song, a repetitive wispy 'Chiff-Chaff' 'Often heard in woodland.

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DCC May Monthly Meeting .....Tues 5 May	National Dawn Chorus Day ..... Sun 17 May
Alzheimer Society of Irl. - Tea Day .....Thurs 7 May	Sorting of June Newsletter .....Fri 29 May
St. Patrick's Garden Fete (10am -3pm)...Sat 9 May	DCC June Monthly Meeting .....Tues 2 Jun
Home Composting Day in HC .....Mon 11 May	

**EVENTS THROUGH THE MONTH**

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

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**NOTE:** All Advertising Strictly to: The Advertising Manager, Mrs. Helena Feely, 47 Dalkey Park, Ph: 2858025  
**All other queries etc. should be addressed to:** The Secretary, c/o Our Lady's Hall, Castle St. Dalkey

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

Sky is changing the look of the EPG (electronic programme guide). In a radical overhaul the EPG now looks totally different, there is a mini screen on the top right of the picture, so you can still watch your programme while scrolling through the TV guide. There is also a search facility, so for example you can type in "Goldfinger" and you will then get a list of when the movie is due to be aired. Unfortunately this new guide is restricted (for the moment) to HD receivers only, and Sky has not announced any plans to upgrade the EPG on standard and Sky plus receivers. Customers who have Sky HD receivers can expect the new EPG to be downloaded to their receivers over the next 2 months (usually this is done in the middle of the night in batches of 25000 to 30000 at a time).

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