



# DALKEY - Deilginis 'Thorn Island'

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Irish Heritage Town

First Published April 1974

#### NEWSLETTER No 413 (Volume 17) Deireadh Fómhair (October) 2011

**October:** Roman word 'Octo' which means eight, the eight month of the old Roman Calendar. The Anglo-Saxons called it 'Win monath' the month for making wine. They also called it 'Winter-fylleth' (winter falls) because it was thought winter began with the new moon in October.

**Flower: Calendula/Dahlia**

October gave a party;  
 The leaves by hundreds came-  
 The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples,  
 And leaves of every name.  
 The Sunshine spread a carpet,  
 And everything was grand,  
 Miss Weather led the dancing,  
 Professor Wind the band.

George Cooper, 'October's Party'



#### HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Guímid togha spoirt  
 d'ár bpáistí óga oíche  
 shamhna

We wish our  
 young children  
 lots of fun at Halloween



#### 'MOONLIT MUGLINS'

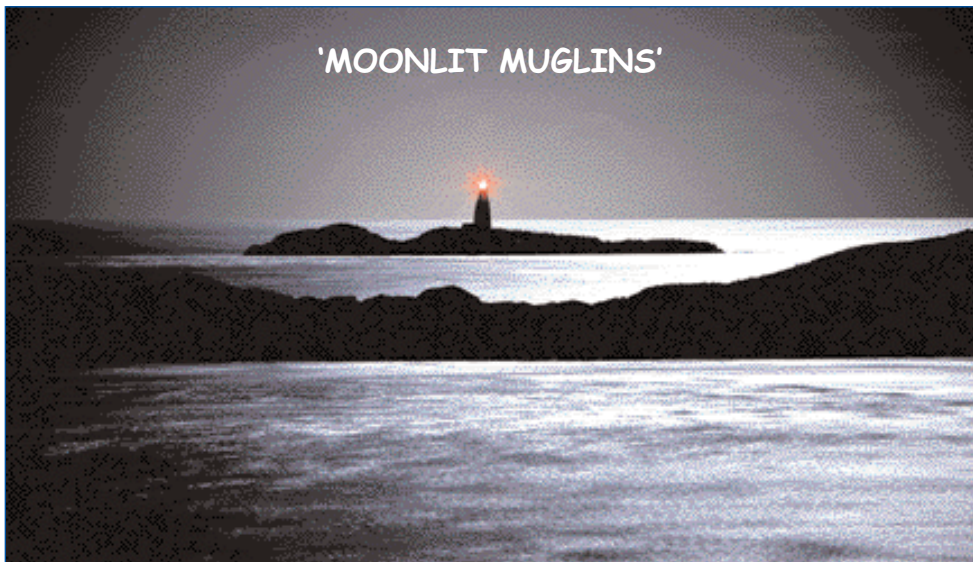


Photo by Terry McDonagh available from Mugs Gallery and Terry McDonagh.com.

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## SUMMARY OF DCC SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING



The DCC Monthly meeting was held on Monday 5th September in OLH.

**TT:** June reported that Dalkey had increased its marks in the TT competition.

(See report inside this issue)

**NW:** There were two burglaries since the 1st September and Gardai warn us to be vigilant and report anything suspicious or out of the ordinary.

As Dalkey suffered a power cut the meeting was curtailed and further business will be discussed at our next meeting.



## DALKEY CASTLE & HERITAGE CENTRE



**Meet the Writers ...All Aboard the Dalkey Tram** is the show that has been devised to showcase the talents of some of the many famous writers and music makers of this area. Staged in the magical setting of the Heritage Centre, it will be an entertaining evening that will make one wonder at the depth of literary and musical talent here on the east coast. We will have some tour groups attending who will have a pre-theatre dinner in some of the participating Dalkey restaurants. If you are interested in the show book early to avoid disappointment as numbers will be limited. This is an initiative of the Failte Ireland Heritage and Cultural programme 2011 referred to last month.

**Dates:** Sat 29th Sun 30th & Mon 31st October at 8.00pm. **Admission:** €15

**Meet the Tudors:** Numbers continue to grow attending the Heritage Centre to see the Living History Live Performance. Failte Ireland is promoting this model of visitor experience through the funding which it gave heritage sites to try out the system, just recently. Dalkey Castle & Deilig Inis Living History theatre Co supported by Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown CoCo and Pobal (Dept of SP) has been the market leader in promoting Living History as means of imparting historical information for seven years now.

**Shopping in Chains**, the new play by Shay Linehan, Director of Deilig Inis, which had been written for the Dalkey Book Festival got another outing for members of the Dalkey Business Group and invited guests in Dalkey Town Hall recently. This was followed by a presentation of a first edition of 'At Swim-Two-Birds' by Flann O'Brien with heartfelt thanks to David McWilliams and Sian Smyth for all their work on the highly successful second Dalkey Book Festival. David promised there would be a third Festival next year.



*Actor Brenda McSweeney, David McWilliams, playwright Shay Linehan, Margaret Dunne and Sian Smyth at presentation in Dalkey Castle.*

**Art Exhibitions:** Highly successful artist **Sergey Talichkin's** next exhibition runs at the Gallery from 20th -23rd October.

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

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

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

**Friday Market: Town Hall:** Dominican Farm brings organic fruit and vegetables from 10.00-2.00pm.

**Tel 01 2858366, Email [info@dalkeycastle.com](mailto:info@dalkeycastle.com) Website: [www.dalkeycastle.com](http://www.dalkeycastle.com)**

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



## NEWS FROM LORETO PRIMARY SCHOOL



**SUMMER HOLIDAYS** – We have just come back from our summer holidays and we're all really excited about the new school year, coming back to Loreto and getting back to work. All of us are in new classrooms with new teachers and some classes have new children. We all have new books, uniforms, and friends. We were all so happy to see our friends again. Some of us haven't seen each other all summer and missed each other a lot. The two Sixth Classes are applying to be prefects and wardens. We wrote a letter of application and will have an interview with Mrs. Shanahan to be able to get the job. We hope it's another great year!

**Ciara Walker and Jessie O'Regan**

**6th CLASS** – We all want to be better friends this year in Sixth Class because some of us are not going to Loreto Abbey Secondary. Sixth Class have to take on many responsibilities this year such as becoming prefects, doing compost and looking after Junior Infants. When the year is over we will all be sad to be leaving Loreto.

**Eimear O'Sullivan**

**FRIENDS** – This year we all hope to make lots of new friends. Lots of classes are welcoming new girls and boys and we hope they have a great year. Junior Infants are making new friends as well because this is their first year in school. We hope they have a great year and lots more great years to come.

**Holly O'Shea**



*Junior Infants*

**OUR LADY'S BIRTHDAY** – On the 8th of September the school celebrated Our Lady's birthday. The whole school assembled around the grotto. The Junior Infants and new children in the older classes had never been to the grotto before. We sang hymns and said prayers, such as Ave Maria and Hail Mary.

**Niamh Thornton**

**JUNIOR INFANTS** – This year we got two new Junior Infant classes. About a week ago they went out to play with the rest of the school for the first time. They looked like

they were having the time of their lives outside. As the Junior Infants ran, skipped and hopped, the first class moved into the big yard. Meanwhile, inside the classroom the Junior Infants were getting to know their new surroundings, classmates and teacher. They seem to love the school and are eager to learn new things. It's amazing how time will fly, and next year we will have a whole new class of Junior Infants!

**Loren Thomas**



*6th Class*

# DALKEY CASTLE & HERITAGE CENTRE

**MEET  
THE  
WRITERS**

PRESENTS

## Meet the Writers... all aboard the Dalkey Tram!

An entertainment with the work of the writers, poets, musicians  
and some dance of this area...

**Saturday 29th, Sunday 30th & Monday 31st October 2011 at 8.00pm**

**Admission:** €15 (limited numbers of tickets available per night)

**Bookings:** 01 285 8366, Dalkey Castle or [info@dalkeycastle.com](mailto:info@dalkeycastle.com)

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FÁILTE IRELAND HERITAGE AND  
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*October, 'Our month of seasons of mist and mellow fruitfulness' - Keats  
 'Earth is here so kind, that just tickle her with a hoe and she laughs with a harvest'.  
 Douglas Jerrold (1803 - 1877) England*

Perhaps, the only way to grow some truly special plant that you have been admiring and wish to acquire in your very own treasured space/garden is to get to know it or at least try to grow it. In my former enthusiastic years, I wanted to grow anything and everything that would simply cover our awful grey cement walls: In the odd case then, success was achieved through failure. Such unfailing reliables stand the question of time such as honeysuckles, (some are evergreen, too) Muelenbeckia (possibly my favourite climber), again evergreen, rampant in time. It has a miniscule circular leaf and no flower, I just love it and flower arrangers do too, ideal greenery to enhance a small bouquet of flowers or tiny vase of flowers.

Others would have to be some of our more unusual, sometimes variegated Ivies, 'clotted cream' is a particularly interesting one, then some of the 'Alpina' Clematis's, they can dance and swirl their pretty little ways effortlessly, producing masses of tiny, generally pendulous flowers, over long periods. There are several magnificent Jasmines, too, that do similar.

Remember, if a plant will not grow by being fed for you, try starving it. Many choice rock plants, dwarf shrubs etc. of the Mediterranean, naturally live in poor soil, so this is exactly what they need.

Our greenhouses here, especially in mild Dalkey, have as much effect on improving growing conditions in early autumn as they do in early spring. Our extra warmth keeps green house flowering plants growing and allows grapes, tomatoes, etc. to ripen. Reduce watering from now on as over watering can result in overly humid conditions and result in grey mould. Sometimes, we lose some of our most tender plants here in Dalkey due to our winter damp than from any extreme of heat or cold. Our most important plants that need protection here are our plants with hair and woolly leaves.

Maybe - Might Do Jobs for October

**1.** We can still get absolutely fresh young leaves from our herb plants for use in autumn. Trim off as much as possible those older leaves and then cut back any flowering shoots. These very plants will grow new leaves and stems to replace those that you have removed.

**2.** Maybe, trim all types of evergreen hedges such as Cypresses, Holly, Griselinia and Pittosporum in order to leave them neat and tidy over our entire winter period. Lightly clip over soft shrubs such as Artemisia, Lavender, Santolina and Senecio. We have an

abundance of these plants here in Dalkey as they thrive in our coastal sheltered areas.

**3.** Copper keeps slugs and snails off garden plants by giving them a sensation similar to a mild electric shock. If using a copper ring, place it so it's slightly stuck into the ground but still, sits proud, creating a barrier. Another option for pots is to use sticky-backed copper tape.

**4.** This Glaucous blue-purple Cerinthe is a real must-have plant. Right now, look out for its large black seeds hidden among its drooping flower heads or on your soil beneath. Collect these seeds now, store and then sow, singly in pots, next February.



*Slugs and snails certainly do not like to cross any type of copper barrier*

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5. Maybe, lets not be too hasty in trimming hydrangea mop head flowers. Hydrangeas almost fossilise on their woody stems, giving us an attractive display right through our winter, catching our cobwebs and frost as they weather so very very beautifully.

6. Maybe, flank the entrance of your doorway with some nicely planted pots. Flowers are at a premium in winter, so plants that tolerate the cold and bloom reliably are such a welcome sight. Colours are more muted in our winter months and foliage colour can truly come into its own. Bachelors Buttons, Winter Cyclamen, Winter Pansies, small yellow and Silver Marked Ivies, Violas, Euonymus, Miniature Chrysanthemums, Small Phormiums, (Agaves are a great sculptural plant) and Heucheras in shades of toffee, yellow



*Violas with their cheery faces*

to purple can all work well in containers and later can be lifted and put in the garden when they have outgrown their space.

A beautiful plant for September-October is Inula. This hardy, old-fashioned perennial flowers right into our autumn. It's delicate stringy like, golden large daisy like flowers are happy growing in any garden soil.



*Inula, surely this hardy old-fashioned perennial has to be undeniably elegant and graceful in these oncoming autumnal months*

If a specific species won't grow with you, perhaps, have done with it. There are plenty of suitable plants that will grow. Glorious failure is better than mean success.

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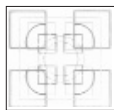
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If you have an interest in the natural world you're always advised to keep notes on your observations. It requires a bit of dedication and discipline but will prove very worthwhile after a few years when you look back over your notes. Like looking at old holiday snaps for a few moments you can recollect your feelings and excitement at witnessing for the first time some bird, animal or aspect of animal behaviour you'd never seen before. Looking back over your records it's fascinating to compare the first dates each year you might hear a particular bird species singing or when you see your first swallow or swift or the first leaves appearing on a tree.



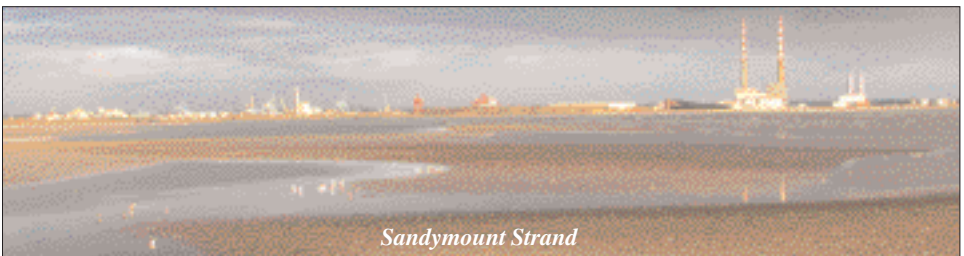
*Killiney Woods in Autumn*

In the first days of September I was surprised to see one of the cowslips that had self planted itself on the lawn was in flower since they are of course a wild flower whose blooms welcome in spring. Very unusual I thought but you do occasionally get these strange aberrations. Later I was looking back at my nature notes for last year and saw in late September 2010 I had noticed another cowslip in flower, accentuating my surprise at the time by putting a question mark after my notes. Not such a rare occurrence then although last years flowering cowslip wasn't the same plant as this years.

If you have a berberis bush in your garden, particularly the *Berberis darwinii*, you'll know it's one of the most popular bushes for birds visiting your garden. With small glossy green shiny leaves it produces very attractive orange flowers in spring, which by autumn will have produced dark purple berries, which are rapidly scooped off the bush by blackbirds, wood pigeons and many other birds. Well this September the bush in our garden evidently hadn't been reading its instruction manual since although it had a great display of ripening purple berries it has also begun producing flowers at the same time.

Apart from the robin, which sings through winter, most songbirds stopped singing in mid summer no longer trying to attract a mate or defend their territory. But every year in early autumn the double note call of the chiffchaff rings out from woodlands and gardens and nobody seems to quite know why. Although a few of these birds over-winter, most of them will soon be migrating south so why would it be sending out the same message it was delivering in spring. Some people speculate the singing birds might be this years juvenile males practicing next years song. Chiffchaffs singing on Dalkey Hill this autumn seem to be singing from the same patches of woodland even in one case from the same tree that chiffchaffs sang from early in the year so you'd be inclined to think its the same individual birds.

I used wonder was the singing triggered by the day length in autumn being the same as in spring when chiffchaffs arrive. Birds behaviour, whether nesting or migrating is governed by the days getting longer or shorter. Weather is an influence but there can be great variation in temperature from day to day at any time of the year while the changing day length is always constant.



*Sandymount Strand*

Anyhow for whatever reason they are singing it's good to hear them.

In September the sky over the eastern slopes of the hills was often busy with flocks of soon to be departed migrants scooping insects out of the air. When cool winds blow from the west and north the hillside around the sheltered Vico Road can have its own very mild even hot mini climate and the insects will be on the wing in the warmer thermals. Looking down from the top of Killiney Hill you can watch swallows streaming by but sometimes you can look down on big groups of house martins, distinguished from swallows by the white patch on their rump and lack of tail streamers, 'hawking' insects over the trees and on one morning we realised the birds sweeping above our heads were actually a large flock of sand martins.



*Wall Brown Butterfly*

I mentioned before that counts of wildfowl, waders and seabirds take place around Ireland's coast once a month from September to March every year. Counts are done on the east coast on an incoming tide and the following weekend on the west coast. Counts begin about four hours before the peak of the high tide so flocks of wading birds can be counted feeding on the edge of the tide or roosting together on the slowly disappearing shore. All the information is stored and analysed and will chart increases or, sadly more likely declines, of wintering birds and will also monitor and record the importance of certain areas of shoreline or other habitats which might earn these areas a designation of special importance and thus increase its safety from unsympathetic development.

The area we count begins at Booterstown Dart station and extends south to Blackrock and north to Merrion Gates. We begin by doing an initial count of birds in the marsh and in Williamstown Creek south of the station before going down on to the strand.

Some people are often incredulous when you tell them you are going counting birds. How can you count birds they say? I'd be inclined to reply 'with difficulty'.

We begin by counting the birds that are back on the strand towards Blackrock Dart station. Sometimes the sun would be rising behind them and you'd be looking at a shifting blur of silhouettes against a glistening sea, which can be a bit intimidating. We might walk out on the sand to try and get a better view but the tide will be moving them down anyway. You always have to be careful that the incoming sea doesn't cut you off. The very elegant Black tailed Godwits are often in the Marsh in good numbers but on the strand they're often mixed in with a closely related and very similar species, the Bar Tailed Godwit, making separating them quite difficult. If possible we'd count the birds individually using mechanical hand held counters, which you click as, you count. If you get flocks of over 1,000 bird you can sometimes end up with a very stiff thumb. We'd count Redshanks, Oystercatchers, Curlew, Greenshank and also the smaller waders like Knot, Ringed Plover, Dunlin and the lovely little pure white Sanderling which are nearly always running back and forth at the tides edge like little mechanical toys. Four or five different species of gulls get counted as well as Red Breasted Merganser, Scoter or often hundreds of Great Crested Grebes bobbing along on the sea. Hopefully the separate flocks

*Black Tailed Godwits*



would all be standing out clearly on the tides edge a slight distance apart and not moving much but that doesn't always happen. Sometimes the flocks of waders get restless and might start to move as you count them, other times they might all be packed together asleep in a big feathery mass, heads tucked under their wings. We've had some very wet and windy counts as well as some freezing cold ones when writing in your numbers into a notebook with shaky frozen fingers can often leave the resulting scrawl almost unreadable. Years ago we had to abandon a count when a thick fog made everything more than a few yards away totally invisible, only the piping calls of the birds letting us know they were still there.

What we dread the most though is seeing someone approaching along the tides edge with a dog that is charging ahead bounding toward groups of birds sending them all into the air. Frustrating for us but a terrible waste of energy for the birds and keeping them away from feeding. Generally if we ask people to keep their dogs away from the birds they willingly comply and put them on a lead but occasionally you'd get a hail of abuse.

Nearer to Merrion Gates there's an area of sand that has gradually reclaimed itself from the sea. Here you'd often get flocks of Linnets and Goldfinches feeding on the seeds of the wild flowers that have colonised the new land and on our September count we had a beautiful Wheatear perched on a swaying blade of grass.

The thought of getting up early on a Saturday morning and going down on to a cold seashore can be a bit daunting but when its over you'd be glad to have helped to hopefully gather important data. Seeing gold tinted Snipe sunbathing at the edge of the reeds in the marsh, a flash of brilliant blue as a Kingfisher flashes down the channel or walking across the sand pockmarked with the holes where the lugworms had submerged and seeing the footprints of the thousands of waders that were wandering around trying to eat them as the morning sun lights up the cranes in the docks, you'd be happy to have sacrificed a few hours in bed.

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## ❖ SINÉAD'S WINE CORNER – *The first in our new series on wine* ❖



*Pinot Grigio Grape*

I have been working in the wine industry for four years, over these years it has become a passion of mine. In my opinion wine just isn't talked about just as much as it should be!

The most popular wine of the summer months and Italy's most popular white wine is without a doubt pinot grigio. This grape comes from the regions Veneto and Friuli in Northeast Italy where conditions are perfect for growing this grape. The finest examples of this grape are found in the Collio area. Made to drink young.

Pinot grigio is a grape variety of the species *Vitis vinifera*. Researchers at the University of California have determined that pinot grigio has remarkably similar DNA profile to pinot noir (red grape) and the colour is derived from a genetic mutation that occurred centuries ago.

Most pinot grigio offers peach and pear fruit however some can deliver tropical and citrus fruits. It has smooth overtones leaving a short, clean finish on the palate making this a very popular easy drinking wine. Perfectly paired with seafood, light pastas and cheese.

In the next issue the pinot noir grape will be the topic. I hope you all look forward to reading about this light-bodied fruity red grape which is perfect for the autumn months.

*Photos: Sinéad Tyrrell*

**Sinéad Tyrrell**



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## TIDY TOWNS ADJUDICATION REPORT 2011 ON DALKEY

Mark Awarded	Max Mark	2010	2011
Overall Development Approach	50	44	44
The Built Environment	50	41	41
Landscaping	50	32	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	30	32
Litter Control	50	31	32
Waste Minimisation	20	11	13
Tidiness	30	20	20
Residential Areas	40	32	32
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32	32
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>288</b>

**Overall Development Approach:** Congratulations to Dalkey Tidy Towns on celebrating twenty five years of involvement with the Tidy Towns movement. Your Céad Míle Fáilte to this year's competition is a special one. Thank you for your comprehensive submission. Of greatest assistance in the submission is the series of photos showing how a little corner has been transformed over a number of years to the delight that exists to-day. One then argues from that particular instance to the general town and realises what an achievement of labour and of love the present appearance of Dalkey is. As regards your involvement with various agencies and schools over the years sufficient to say that your combined achievement is to the credit to all involved.

**The Built Environment:** The heart misses a beat when one comes on Castle Street. One could not have expected to experience such a rich built environment inheritance in one hundred yards of street. In a sense that reaction is unfair to the many residential areas of the town that contribute to that rich inheritance. The glorious thing is that these buildings on Castle Street not only still enliven the streetscape but they perform a worthwhile activity in the modern era as if to justify their existence. How many towns have destroyed such buildings in the name of modernisation. So someone deserves credit for their preservation.

The Queens has been established since 1745 and is still creating that relaxed atmosphere, oil table cloths an' all. The adjudicator first tasted the possibilities of Dalkey when coming on the entrance to Castle Park School. The junction around the post office does not have the same atmosphere as that up the street. The clutter on the post office window did not help. One wondered what the name stone Termon was referring to but being stationed near the Church one wondered was this area once known as 'Tearmann', how appropriate that would be. The street lanterns are delightful. The street signs on the buildings further reinforced the sense of the past in the style of lettering. St Patrick's Road is announced on a plate at the gable end, Sráid Naomh Phádraig. One has to look up to see and admire. This plate is a gem and deserves to have a cherry picker visit it for an hour. Names of the streets reflect the priorities of times past as in those referring to the convent and the railway. Mention of the railway sparks a memory of the traditional design of the railway station, a quaint sight as one drives along the road.

The modern should not be brushed aside. The Corner Note café may not be as ancient as the Queens but the façade and colouring deserve a laudatory mention and this building is not out of place at its junction. This town centre seems to bear no relationship to its sister centre of activity down at the marina. The fuss here is of the seaside variety. It seems so strange that two places so close to one another could be so different in appearance and in priorities. The built environment has strayed from the heritage richness of Castle Street.



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But if this road had been overlooked then the treat that is the Church of Ireland complex would have been missed and thereby slighted. The favourite street of the adjudicator was that on which the Garda Station resides.

**LANDSCAPING:** There is evidence of recent tree planting. There are many landscaping plans and all are laudable. But in Dalkey the tree is as natural and native to the landscape as the hill and the sea. One loved the planters outside the Heritage Centre but one could also argue that this building does not need embellishment. Or that embellishment distracts from the appearance of the buildings. One could make a similar argument regarding the hanging baskets on the attractive street lanterns. Is there sufficient colour anyway in this area? The grounds of the Church, dedicated in 1841, certainly add to the religious ambience of the area. The sign, telling the times of Masses, adds further to the sacredness of this site. The grounds surrounding the castle are tastefully landscaped.

**WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES:** You must have tired over the years of reading adjudicators' reports ranting on about the rich biodiversity of Dalkey. Appendix Heritage is your well researched, considered response and is also colourful. One compliments you in your engagement with the Boys Primary School in the planting of hedging to promote wildlife. The rock, the trees, the open spaces, the picnic area, the information board, the parking, the man playing with his dog. What an amenity! This is Dalkey Hill.

**LITTER CONTROL:** In the longer term column of your 3 year Plan for litter the adjudicator smiled at you highlighted bold ambition: No longer needed! You are referring to litter picks. Well done on your present patrols, on your anti-litter awareness strategies and your engagement with schools. There is some litter but the adjudicator had to make a point of looking in its direction.

**WASTE MINIMISATION:** Dalkey Tidy Towns Committee has really got stuck into this section especially at the domestic end of waste minimisation. Those twelve apostles of tips on reduction should be part of the school curriculum. One hopes that your residents visit your website. The Bring Centre at the hill car park is as neat and tidy as can be.

**TIDINESS:** Certainly one is not distracted by the ugliness of weeds or dirty signs or cables. Mind you, one wonders how planning was granted for one or two of the name signs at shop fronts and one is inclined to ask: 'What was your committee doing when that sign went up'. There is a responsibility on every retailer to conform to the image of the Heritage Town. Throughout Dalkey there are no kerbside weeds, few cables, some graffiti but not a contagion of the stuff. Advertising is attractive and, with one exception, there are no big bill boards promoting products. There are a couple of signs that need a washing.

**RESIDENTIAL AREAS:** In one estate visited, South Winds, the houses were completely shielded from view by strong, healthy hedging. The residential areas of Dalkey not only plant trees but colourful shrubs and summer bedding also. The roads through these residential areas have tree planting where it is possible, have weed free kerbs and one notices very little litter. Boundary walls and gates create an aura of recent antiquity. All adding to the image Dalkey wishes for itself as an Heritage Town. Then as one arrives at the hill one delights to find terraces of cottages and they do appear proud of their standing. One can guess how these cottages came to be and how one hopes they are part of any heritage trail. Small clusters of houses form charming estates as at Castle Park Close. One loved the Gaeilge which was 'foirleathan' and had an authentic air as in Bailtíní an Chaisleáin.

**ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS:**

In some cases your approach roads are a seamless extension of your neighbours except on one glorious route. How the adjudicator wished to have arrived from the southern approach. What beauty. One of the features of the road network in Dalkey is the number of lanes that

exist. These lanes make access by foot or bicycle to the town centre so easy but also so enjoyable as at Ormeau Drive or the lane from the railway bridge. There is an aesthetic experience in travelling that path that arrives in the Church car park from The Metals, most likely. The town centre is so busy and full of life that there is created a serenity. The traffic seems tolerant and unrushed as if enjoying the surrounding activity. The paths are well maintained for the most part.

**GENERAL IMPRESSION:** One would wish to be on a Tidy Towns Committee in Dalkey for you have an exciting town with which to work. A hill is a wonderful start from which to set out. But a hill overlooking the sea instead of a hill overlooking another hill is a wonder that adds to the excitement. The hill overlooking the sea is what attracted all that attention from your forebears for decades, leaving you with your heritage town as a canvas to work on. The folk back then appreciated what they had too. Ard Aoibhinn is no 'makey uppy' name but an expression of appreciation. Then the 'coup de grace'. The houses that people made their homes in this exotic location, amidst all that history, keeping look-out over Dublin Bay. No wonder preservation is such a priority. Beautification has already been completed. One senses your pride in your lovely town in all of the categories of this competition. One also senses the steel in your attitude. You are determined to pass on an even more enriched Dalkey to the next generation.

**SECOND ROUND ADJUDICATION:** This adjudicator would like to echo the congratulations above and welcome you to this very important year of the competition for your group. Further congratulations are due for the submission of an excellent entry. For a voluntary group this was a very professional submission which was focused as well as comprehensive. This Heritage Town was busy on day of visit. The castles were being admired by many. The quiet landscaping with bench beside Archbold's Castle was a favourite. The staff of the Heritage Centre were informative and helpful and tours were underway. Castle Street looked fantastic in the sunshine. A couple of TV aerials protrude into the skyline and spoil the effect a little. Numerous shop fronts were admired. Use of Irish in signage is scarce but the adjudicator would baulk at the thought of altering some of these great pieces of work. Traffic, though ever-present was calm. This adjudicator would think that there is room for improvement at the front of the car-park opposite the Heritage Centre. Cables snake unnecessarily across the front of a camera shop and there was graffiti beside the library. The frontage of the Spar was very poor by comparison with many of the smaller businesses and should be addressed. The approach road and side streets were explored. It should be stated that road-works were underway on Dalkey Avenue on day of visit. The Cuala Centre is in a prominent position and could be much better. St. Patrick's Square is indeed a gem. The Metals provided a challenging bicycle ride but it was worth it to once again visit the quarry. This was full of training climbers and other visitors but amazingly- no litter or campfire remains! The adjudicator was surprised, though, that the interpretation board had no wildlife information. The adjudicator saw at least two species of dragonfly at a pond which would also be excellent new habitat. The Dart station is possibly the best presented of any the adjudicator has seen. New pavement was noted here. New surfacing on Ardbrugh Road was appreciated. There were numerous other cyclists on day of visit - are there enough bike-parking spaces? Those at the crossroads, with its lovely planting and outdoor seating were noted. Be careful that you are using the information boards to best effect- remove old notices and make sure that the heritage panels fit properly. Coliemore Harbour looked really well on day of visit with landscaping that is new to the adjudicator. This approach road has to be one of the finest imaginable for any town, given the twin backdrops. Does the name stone do it justice or adequately prepare the visitor for what lies ahead?



This year's Tidy Towns National Competition results were announced at the Helix Theatre on 6 September. Dalkey Tidy Towns (one of 820 communities entered nationwide) won the County Award for DLR and a Bronze Medal in the Dublin Region. Points awarded for this year were 288, an increase of 7 from last year. Congratulations to the overall winner: Killarney. See the interesting adjudication report on the DTT on Notice Board in the Dalkey Library.

## HERITAGE WEEK IN DALKEY

1. Archbold's Castle the iconic late medieval tower house on Castle Street is normally closed to the public, however, guided tours took place during one afternoon. The history and views were fascinating, especially of the Graveyard. Photos taken from the castle would be appreciated.
2. St. Patrick's Church was open to the public for 3 half days. As well an opportunity to view this beautiful building a magnificent display of memorabilia relating to the church, school, sexton's lodge and rectory was put together by Brian Meyer.

## We are not just Litter Pickers

It should be noted that the DTT committee and volunteers are not just concerned with trying to control litter! Projects and maintenance activities abound. Graffiti removal; tending the flower beds at the Railway Station, Archbold's Castle, Kilbegnet Close, beside the Masonic Hall and the poster site on Castle Street; painting in several locations; group projects and informing DLRCC of problems, etc. etc. The result is an impressive and colourful autumn for Dalkey. Thank you to all concerned. One down side: on 6th September 16 instances of Dog Poo were observed and removed, mainly on Coliemore Road. Have our dog owners no conscience? Prams are inadvertently pushed through this substance and into Dalkey homes! Some good news - the wall at Coliemore Harbour has been repaired.



*Happy Volunteers*

The company offering to supply Green Cones to Dalkey residents is giving an even better price than first quoted, now €68.95. Delivery charge is €7.50 to Dalkey.

(<http://www.dyg.ie/accessories/green-cone>)

Litter patrols are changed to 3 times each month until next Spring. Mark your calendars for the first Tuesday, second Thursday and third Saturday of each month until next May. No excuses - We need you!!

**Green Home Tip** - Keep a jug / bottle of water in the fridge to keep it cool instead of running the tap every time.



*Bí Brodúil as Bhúir Comhsheilbh \* Be Proud of Your Community!*

**Thank you, June Barnett, DTT.**



*Left:  
Damaged  
wall at  
Coliemore*



*Right:  
Restored  
wall at  
Coliemore*



**head** HAP

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## NEWS FROM CASTLE PARK SCHOOL



*Landscaped Gardens*

The new academic year began on 1st September when we were delighted to welcome back our pupils and their families.

A special welcome was extended to those who were experiencing their very first day at the School, including many 3 to 4 year olds who are now happily settled in our Montessori Department. New Beginnings was the theme for our first week, and we look forward to a busy few months ahead including Hallowe'en and Harvest festivities in October, Science Week in November

and Advent and Christmas preparations at the end of term.

Our summer programme of school development and improvement has been completed. We now enjoy newly landscaped grounds and gardens which provide extensive outdoor space for the children to explore, play in and practise their various sporting activities. Indeed, there will be a busy programme of sporting fixtures rolling out over the coming weeks. The swimming pool closed for two months to permit the construction of a magnificent viewing gallery. This work was completed on time and the pool re-opened for the beginning of term, much to the delight of the pupils here at the School. The new viewing gallery will be of great benefit to the many members of the local community and local schools who swim here on a regular basis, or avail of our Swim Academy's lessons and courses.

## NEWS FROM HAROLD BOYS' SCHOOL

We've had a great jump start to 5th and 6th class this year with our teacher Ms. Mossop!

Every Friday we have computers for 45 minutes. For 40 minutes we will do work and for 5 we can play on the computers. Our computer teacher is Gerry. We have lots of fun. On Wednesdays we have GAA. Our coach is Willie Braine. He is a good coach. We play against other schools. We have a good team. I think we will do well. On the 15th September swimming starts. 5th and 6th are swimming in Castle Park school. The swimming will go on for 7 weeks. We swim for an hour and then go home. Last week a woman called Barbara came into the classroom to tell us about cycle safety. She'll be with us for the next 6 weeks and we'll be working in and outside of the classroom.

In the classroom 5th and 6th are making papier mâché hot air balloons. They'll probably be finished in a month's time and they'll be spectacular! There is a new boy in 6th class. He's called Damian and he's from Poland. His English is getting really good. He's teaching us all about Poland.

We look forward to the rest of year and hope we do some more fun stuff!

**Lorcan Tighe and Danny McAlinden, 6th Class**



*Gearing up for a New Term*

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

**Reg. Ref.:** D10A/0703

**Application Rec'd Date:** 17-Dec-2010

**Applicant Name & Location:** Mr & Mrs Js. Lenehan, Altamont, Knocknacree Rd, Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Permission for retention of extension to existing house on two storeys, provision of car parking spaces and conversion of car port to garden room. **Applic. Type:** Permission for Retention. **Further Info. Add. Information:** 11-Aug-2011.

**Reg. Ref.:** D11A/0389

**Application Rec'd Date:** 12-Aug-2011

**Applicant Name & Location:** Mrs Iris O'Malley, 21, Dalkey Avenue, Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Permission is sought for modifications to approved plans, Reg. Ref. D11A/0193 to increase the width of approved house C by 900mm thus increasing its approved floor area by 16 sq. m to 224 sq. m.

**Reg. Ref.:** D11B/0286

**Application Rec'd Date:** 24-Aug-2011

**Applicant Name & Location:** Richard Hooper, Lynton, Dalkey Avenue, Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Permission is sought for demolition of existing outhouse & construction of single storey extension to side & rear.

**Reg. Ref.:** D11A/0420

**Application Rec'd Date:** 02-Sep-2011

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

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

**Reg. Ref.:** D11A/0398

**Application Rec'd Date:** 18-Aug-2011

**Applic. Name & Location:** Fiona Kelly & Philip Mangan, Fairlawn, Saval Pk. Rd, Dalkey.

**Proposal:** Planning permission is sought for a 4-bedroom plus box-room detached house (circa 300m<sup>2</sup>) on three levels, including demolition of semi-basement laundry, single storey flat-roof balustrade and chimney extension consisting of bedroom, living room, corridor and steps plus greenhouse all to the east plus at ground-floor coal-store, external toilet, kitchen, scullery, flat and pitched roofs over plus at first-floor: balustrade plus hot-press, bathroom, box-room plus roofs over all to the north, and temporary removal of roof tiles throughout plus adjustments to roof timbers, removal of fireplaces, selected windows and glazing plus construction of two-storey extension and single-storey lantern-roofed conservatory to the east and extensions to the north and general improvements including at ground floor: extended hall, internal reconfigurations to toilet and floor-level, new external windows and door internal wall openings, plus new kitchen, dining, boiler and utility rooms plus at first floor: extended landing and bathroom, staircase to attic, new bedroom, chimney plus balcony and balustrade (to south), plus en-suite shower rooms, plus at roof level: attic bedroom, en-suite shower room, roof-lights and dormer window (to north), and roof tiles matching existing, plus throughout: general conversion, maintenance, repair and replacement works including to pitched and flat roofs, balustrades, joists, brickwork, sills, chimneys, flues copings and rendered areas, walls and ceilings, cornices, joinery, glazing, doors, rainwater goods, and metalwork etc. Plus new insulations, double-glazing, re-wiring, re-plumbing, painting and decorating, and the provision of new foul and surface water drainage lines, plus adjustments to landscaping plus all associated works to provide a two-storey plus attic 4-bedroom house (circa 418m<sup>2</sup>). (A protected structure).

**Reg. Ref.:** D11A/0429

**Application Rec'd Date:** 8-Sep-2011

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

**Proposal:** Retention permission is sought for (a) change of use from wash house to bedroom and (b) new single storey bathroom extension to side, all to side of existing Terrace, and associated site works (A protected structure). **Application Type:** Permission.

**Reg. Ref.** D11B/0291

**Application Rec'd Date:** 5-Sep-2011

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

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

## PLANNING DECISIONS Wk. 32 8/8/2011 to 12/08/2011

**Reg. Ref.:** D11A/0291      **Decision:** Grant Permission      **Date:** 17-Aug-'11  
**Applicant Name & Location:** Leo & Denise Blennerhassett, 8, Leslie Avenue, Dalkey.  
**Proposal:** Planning permission is sought for: 1. Removal of existing porch to front of house and formation of canopy over entrance door. 2. Formation of bedroom and bedroom accommodation within roof space including increase in height of existing roof by 400mm and formation of dormer windows to front and rear of main roof. 3. Internal alterations. 4. Formation of off-street car parking to front garden including new vehicular access gates & piers to front boundary wall, pavement crossing and associated site works.

**Reg. Ref.:** D11A/0299      **Decision:** Refuse Permission      **Date:** 15-Aug-2011  
**Applicant Name & Location:** D & E Coulson, Shamrock Lodge, Barnhill Ave., Dalkey.  
**Proposal:** Permission is sought for (a) removal of 50 sq. m section of existing dwelling, to facilitate construction, (b) construction of 2 no. new 175.50 sq. m two storey semi-detached dwellings, with single storey returns to rear, (c) alterations to existing vehicular entrance and creation of 2 no. new vehicular entrances to Barnhill Avenue and (d) all other associated site works, on site on side.

**Reg. Ref.:** D11B/0215      **Decision:** Grant Permission      **Date:** 17-Aug-2011  
**Applicant Name & Location:** Mrs Mary Roche, 7, The Paddocks, Ulverton Road, Dalkey.  
**Proposal:** Permission is sought for demolition of existing 6 sq. m utility room and 14 sq. m garage and construction of a 175 sq. m two storey pitched roof extension to side (south east) of existing 166 sq. m two storey pitched roof dwelling to include changes to the existing elevations including roof light to front together with all ancillary site works all on site of approx 752 sq. m.

**Reg. Ref.:** D11A/0198      **Decision:** Grant Permission      **Date:** 23-Aug-2011  
**Applicant Name & Location:** Marie Conlon, Ardrubh Road, Dalkey.  
**Proposal:** Planning permission for a development on a 0.21655 hectare site at Ardrubh Road. The development will comprise of the construction of 2 No. semi-detached dwelling houses. House No. 1 is a 5 bedroom house over three levels with a gross floor area of 345.6 sq. m. House No. 2 is a 5 bedroom house over three levels with a gross floor area of 327.7 sq. m. A new access to the site is proposed from Ardrubh Road and a total of 6 No. car parking spaces are provided. The proposed development includes all site development works, services, landscaping and boundary treatments.

**Reg. Ref.:** D10A/0703      **Decision:** Clarification of Add. Info.      **Date:** 31-Aug-2011  
**Applicant Name & Location:** Mr & Mrs Js. Lenehan, Altamont, Knocknacree Rd, Dalkey.  
**Proposal:** Permission for retention of extension to existing house on two storeys, provision of car parking spaces and conversion of car-port to garden room.

**Reg. Ref.:** D11A/0341      **Decision:** Grant Permission for Retention      **Date:** 9-Sep-2011  
**Applicant Name & Location:** Laura Murphy, 16, Whites Villas, Dalkey.  
**Proposal:** Retention permission is sought for the demolition of an existing 9.5 sq.m single storey rear extension; the retention of the construction of a 26.8 sq.m two storey extension to the rear, consisting of 13.4 sq.m at ground floor level and 13.4 sq.m at first floor level; associated elevational changes to the north and east elevations; and the retention of a vehicular access off White's Villa's, all on a site of 165 sq.m. Application Type: Permission for Retention.

## APPEALS NOTIFIED by An Bord Pleanala Wks 32-36 8/8/'11 - 9/9/'11

**Reg Ref:** D10A/0614      **Date:** 8-Nov-'10      **Location:** Glencairn Apt, Harbour Rd, Dalkey.  
**Development:** Permission is sought for development for the following; a) relocation of existing vehicular entrance on Harbour Road, b) general refurbishment and upgrade of hard and soft landscaping including provision of 7 no. additional car parking spaces, c) upgrading works to elevations including a rendered plaster finish (also some window replacement), d) provision of 3 no. new apartments in a new third floor level (with roof top plant room over) at existing apartment building. **Council Decision:** Grant Permission.  
**Appeal Lodged:** 26-Aug-'11. **Nature of Appeal:** Appeal against Grant of Permission. **Type of Appeal:** 3rd Party Appeal.

## APPEAL DECISIONS of An Bord Pleanála Wks 31-35 2/8/11 to 2/9/11

**Reg. Ref.** D11A/0012 **Appeal Decision:** Refuse Permission **Ap. Decided:** 3-Aug'11  
**Council's Decision:** Refuse Permission. **Location:** Site Rear 3 & 4 Bloyke, Off Harbour Rd, Bullock Harbour, Dalkey.

**Proposed Development:** Permission for a new two storey three bedroom dwelling, new pedestrian entrance off Harbour Road, relocated vehicular entrance and associated site works at the rear.  
**Applicant:** D & P Charlton.

**Reg. Ref.:** D11B/0005 **Appeal Decision:** Grant Permission **Ap. Decided:** 2-Aug-2011  
**Council's Decision:** Grant Permission. **Location:** Kwetu, Sorrento Road, Dalkey.

**Proposed Development:** Permission is sought for the following works: 1) Demolition of single storey garage, single storey shed and entrance porch attached to existing house and partial demolition of walls to rear. 2) Construction of new 2 storey pitched roof extension and new single storey flat roof entrance porch to front. 3) Construction of new 2 storey pitched roof extension to side. 4) Existing 2 No. chimneys to be rebuilt. 5) New solar panels to front roof. 6) New roof-light to existing roof. 7) Alterations to floor layouts of existing dwelling. 8) All associated landscaping works. **Applicant:** John Rogers.

**Reg. Ref.:** D11A/0085 **Appeal Decision:** Grant Permission **Ap. Decided:** 30-Aug-'11  
**Council's Decision:** Grant Permission. **Location:** 27, Castle Street, Dalkey.

**Proposed Development:** Permission is sought for the mounting of 3 No. panel antennas & 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. The development will form part of Vodafone Ireland Ltd's existing GSM and 3G Broadband telecommunications network. **Applicant:** Vodafone Ireland Ltd.

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## HEALTH IS YOUR TRUE WEALTH

### COLDS and REMEDIES

*by local nutritionist Oliver McCabe*

Colds are caused by any of more than two hundred viruses that infect the upper respiratory tract. Colds are spread through the air, such as by sneezing or coughing, or by contact with a contaminated object.

The result are symptoms such as mucus, congestion, runny nose, sneezing, coughing, sore throat, fatigue, loss of appetite and a general feeling of nausea, all of which are your body's way of expelling the virus and getting you to slow down and rest. These cold symptoms are your immune system's attempts to flush out the virus. You may experience high fevers as a normal part of a cold. Most colds last for three to ten days. If cold symptoms persist over ten days or they are accompanied by yellow or green mucus, call your doctor as there may be a more serious infection. The best treatment for a cold is to stimulate your natural defences as soon as the familiar symptoms first appear.

**RECOMMENDED FOOD** – Eat Lightly. Steamed Mashed vegetables (carrots, sweet potato, in season potato, celery, turnip, cauliflower, cabbage, kale, broccoli), soups and broths only. This lets the body focus on healing, instead of on digestion.

Keep hydrated. Drink plenty of bottled water at room temperature to cleanse away toxins and to keep the respiratory tract from drying out.

Increase consumption of ginger, onions and garlic to soups and broths. Homemade Chicken Soup or Miso Soup always good, as has the protein for energy and strength.

Hot water with lemon, Manuka honey and cinnamon is a traditional cold remedy. Drink a cup 3 times a day to soothe the throat and chest, preventing mucus build-up, and to encourage a cleansing sweat.

**FOOD TO AVOID DURING A COLD** – Sugar decreases the number of white blood cells that your body produces and depresses your immune system, so eliminate refined sugars from your diet for the duration of your illness.

Avoid milk and any other dairy. They encourage the production of mucus and will only make you feel worse.

**COMMON COLD SUPPLEMENTATION** – If you have been taking an antibiotic, the gut flora may be disturbed where up to 70% of the immune system lies, so it would be wise to take a probiotic supplement for at least a month to replenish the levels of good friendly bacteria to boost immune system. Keep the probiotics in the fridge.

Supplement vitamin C for an increase in white blood cell activity to combat the cold virus. Take up to 3000mg with Zinc for absorption throughout the day.

**OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS** – Keep warm at all times.

Let your body have plenty of rest. Lack of sleep depletes your energy reserves. Unless you have a fever, go outside for short walk, to keep mucus from settling into your body and to chase away the blues.

Keep a humidifier in the bedroom or burn Eucalyptus and Lavender oil in an essential oil burner and this will help with keeping the airways clear and promote sleep too.

Keep your hands clean. Make sure you have adequate tissues for sneezing and to bin or flush them once used. Investing in a all natural anti- bacterial hand spray may be handy. Buy one with no chemicals which can burn sensitive hands.

Don't panic with your cold as stress also depletes the immune system.

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## A TALE OF TWO TREES

I read Michael Viney's column 'Another Life' at the beginning of August. The title of his article was "Will the pests and pathogens conquer the conker?". It was probably the phrase "conquer the conker" that made me read it. The whole article could be described as a timely warning. Our beautiful chestnut trees which adorn town and countryside are prone to several pest and pathogen problems. It seems a bacterium, identified only last year, has caused the loss of horse chestnuts in Phoenix Park, and it's contagious! So great care has to be taken in removing the infected trees. Added to that is another danger to one of our favourite trees which is the leaf-mining little caterpillars of a micro-moth, who tunnel through the leaves and turn them brown by mid-August. This pest has been reported in the Dublin area. I'm not trying to spread alarm but I did think of the healthy-looking horse chestnut at the gate of Harold Boys!

I wouldn't imagine Mr. James Waldron (Principal of Harold) was concerned about the above pests and pathogens when he took his 6th class out in 1912 to plant a horse chestnut sapling that we can enjoy now in all its glory. As his pupils carried the sapling and a couple of spades with a bucket of water to the planting spot, it was Joey Ryan with his classmates John Furlong, Charles Mooney, Joseph Reid, Patrick Greaves, Michael Bryan, Martin Hughes, Christy Threadgold and Leo Cunningham, chatting to each other about the depth and width of the hole and whose turn it would be to do the digging that concerned them one hundred years ago. Did they wonder where the horse chestnut came from originally? Did Mr. Waldron tell them of the Travellers taking the conkers with them from Constantinople and a tree was growing in Vienna by 1576 as a result? Did Joey Ryan or Michael Bryan know that a few decades later conkers arrived in Britain and from there to Ireland? And finally did anyone know that a beautiful chestnut tree was growing in Abbeylaxey in 1791 planted by Lord de Vesci? Even if they couldn't answer any of the above questions we can look at the result of their work and effort that day in 1912 and thank them and their teacher. Just one hundred years after the above event brings us to 2011. Mrs. Ciara Costello had organised a history week in Harold during the month of May. While the original school building was now 110 years standing and all the staff and pupils wished it a very happy anniversary, it was decided that planting a tree one hundred years after the horse chestnut was a timeline of importance and significance for the school community during history week. To emphasise this timeline and sense of continuity of the school, descendants of Mr. James Waldron would be special guests at the planting ceremony.

Before the planting day which was Wednesday, 25th May, a suitable sapling for the space available had to be purchased. Frank Fitzgerald, a friend of Harold, who loves all things arboreal set out for the garden centre of Murphy & Woods in Johnstown. After a lot of thinking and musing he chose a hornbeam sapling. Frank told me he chose it because "it's as hard as nails and is known as the iron tree". In Irish it's known as an crann sleamhain, which is probably a description of its bark, being smooth and sleek. It's not a native to Ireland but there are 30 to 40 species in the north temperate zone. "Beam" was the old English for tree and horn of course, a very hard substance. The wood was used to make carving boards, coach wheels and gear pegs in traditional windmills. Frank added that it's not a bulky tree and so won't cast a large shadow and has beautiful almond-shaped leaves. Wednesday, the 25th of May arrived and we were blessed with a fine, sunny day. Our guests arrived for the 1pm. planting ceremony. They were welcomed by Teresa Buckley and Ciara Costello in the Assembly Room. It was a pleasure to see the grandchildren of James Waldron, who planted the horse chestnut, in the school to plant a tree 100 years later. We met Elizabeth Waldron and her husband Bernard and Mary Waldron with her husband Peter and their two brothers, Kevin and Eamonn Waldron.



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*L-R: Ciara Costello, Bernard Sawler, Seán Ó Gormáin, Eamonn Waldron, Peter Turner, Mary Waldron, Elizabeth Waldron and Kevin Waldron*

At 1pm. we all gathered at the front of the school, pupils, staff and guests. The sapling, spade and bucket of water were in place beside the already opened hole for the planting. Firstly, all of us looked to the horse chestnut in its full May splendour and then the Waldron

family completed the planting of the hornbeam sapling, and watered it in to help it start its long life in Harold. I thought it very significant where the hornbeam was planted. The horse chestnut was opposite the old school building and the hornbeam was opposite the new building added in the 1960's. A sense of continuance and progress struck me.

Many photos were taken of the occasion and I'm sure for all the pupils it was something they will remember. They listened attentively when they were asked to take the newly planted tree under their protection and to treasure it as the pupils of yesteryear treasured the horse chestnut. Sixth class pupils like Roy Comerford, Eoghan Hogarty, Thomas Finlay, Denis McKeown, Brian Barry, Eamonn Moroney and of course Matthew Bardon (3rd class) who had written an invitation to me to be present, realised that day that two trees in the school grounds link the past and present of Harold Boys. Eamonn Waldron's final words on behalf of his family, past and present, reminded us of our precious heritage contained within the walls of the school.

**Seán Ó Gormáin**





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## OCTOBER 2011 LOCAL HISTORY TALKS



**Sat. Oct. 1st** Dublin City Library and Archive will hold a Local History Day from 10am until 4pm featuring the following presentations: Dr. Barbara Walsh - "*When the shopping was good - Woolworths*"; Ronan Fitzpatrick - "*The Parnell Monument and Augustus Saint Gaudens*"; Eoin Bairéad - "*1941 - The Other Bombings*". Máirín Ní Cheallaigh - "*Urban gardens in 17th century Dublin*"; Tara Doyle - "*Tell her gently*" - how Irish families coped with loss during the First World War - an illustrated talk. Admission free. Booking essential Call 01-6744873 or Email: dublinpubliclibraries@dublincity.ie.

**Tues. Oct. 11th at 1.05 pm** Michael O'Neill will present a 40-minute lunchtime lecture "*The Mason's Tale*" as part of the Tales of Medieval Dublin month lectures in the Wood Quay Venue, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8. Admission free.

**At 8 pm** - Brian Donovan will speak to the Genealogical Society of Ireland on "Court and Prison Records" in Dun Laoghaire College of Further Education, Cumberland Street, Dun Laoghaire - all welcome, contribution €3.

**Wed. October 12th at 6.30 p.m.** Dr. Barbara Walsh will present her lecture "*Dublin's Woolworth Stores 1914 - 1984*" to The Old Dublin Society in the Conference Room of Dublin City Library and Archive, 138 - 144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. All welcome - admission free.

**Thurs. Oct. 13th at 8 p.m.** Tadhg O'Keeffe will present his lecture "*Castles of South Dublin*" to the Kilmacud-Stillorgan Local History Society in the Function Room, Glentalbyn, Stillorgan. Contribution €3.

**Tues. Oct. 18th at 8 p.m.** John O'Loughlin Kennedy will present his lecture "*Colm O'Lochlainn*" to the Foxrock Local History Club in the Foxrock Parish Centre, rere Foxrock R.C. Church, Foxrock. Ms. Dorothy Donnelly will give a short talk on '*Census of 1911 in the Foxrock Area*'. All welcome.

**Wed. Oct. 19th at 6.30 p.m.** Ms. Gillian Finnan will present her lecture "*The Centenary of the Foundation of the Irish Girl Guides*" to The Old Dublin Society in the Conference Room of Dublin City Library and Archive, 138 - 144 Pearse St., Dublin 2. All welcome - admission free.

**at 8 p.m.** James Scannell will present his lecture "*Dublin in 1934*" to the Dun Laoghaire Borough Historical Soc. in the Kingston Hotel, Adelaide St., Dun Laoghaire. All welcome.

**Thurs. Oct. 20th at 8 p.m.** Ms Gillian Finnan will present her lecture "*The Centenary of the Irish Girl Guides*" to Bray Cualann Historical Soc. in the Bray Chamber of Commerce House, 10 Prince of Wales Tce., Quinsboro Road, Bray. All welcome - admission €4.

**Wed. Oct. 26th at 6.30 pm** - Dr. F. O'Dwyer will present his lecture "*C.H. 'Transatlantic' Clendinning - Dublin's Forgotten Aviation Pioneer*" to The Old Dublin Society in the Conference Room of Dublin City Library and Archive, 138 - 144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. All welcome - admission free.

**Wed. Oct. 26th between 10.30am & 12.30pm** the Morning Open Meeting of the Genealogical Society of Ireland takes place in Weirs of Dun Laoghaire, 87 Lower George's Street, Dun Laoghaire. Contribution of €3 includes Coffee / Tea.

### A BOOK TO READ

**" Brian Boru - King of Ireland " by Roger Chatterton Newman, published by Mercier Press, ISBN 978 1 85635 9197, pb, 288 pp, ills.**

Brian Boru was a remarkable man - as the youngest son of an obscure king from the kingdom of Thomond, he came closer than other Irishman to uniting Ireland, taming the Danes in Limerick, overthrowing the dominance of the O'Neills on the throne of Ireland which they had enjoyed / held for over 6 centuries and became one of the few high kings of Ireland to provide this office with real authority. Away from warfare and politics Brian Boru was an able administrator, a patron of the church and learning and therefore is fully entitled to the title of 'Emperor of the Irish' given to him by some his admirers.

Essential reading for those interested in Irish history.

**James Scannell**



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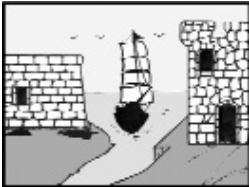
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❖ **DALKEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL'S ART EXHIBITION 2011** ❖



Dalkey Community Council's Annual Art Exhibition will take place in Our Lady's Hall, Castle Street, Dalkey on **Saturday and Sunday, November 12th and 13th 2011.**

Entry Forms, together with full payment, must be submitted by post (no entries will be taken at the door) to: Dalkey Community Council Art Exhibition, DCC Postbox, Our Lady's Hall, Castle Street, Dalkey, Co. Dublin. There will be a charge of **€4.00** per picture and a commission of 10% will apply to all sales.

Paintings, framed and ready for hanging, must be brought to Our Lady's Hall on **Friday, 11th November at 12.30 p.m.** Paintings must be accompanied by a signed Disclaimer and Exhibition Number(s) for the painting(s).

Only two paintings per artist are allowed. "Not for Sale" exhibits will *not* be accepted.

All paintings must be collected from the Hall between **4 and 5pm on Sunday, 13th November, 2011.**



**ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION ENTRY FORM**

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.....Tel. No. ....

Entry 1. ....Price: .....

Entry 2: ....Price: .....

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

*Please return completed form to:* Ms. Rosaleen Callaghan (Tel.: 087-2109847) to arrive no later than **November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011** or to the DCC Postbox in Our Lady's Hall, Dalkey.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The Dalkey Clock

The Dalkey Clock is located in a prominent position above the Dalkey Castle Heritage Centre. This modern public clock is well designed, blending in well with other buildings in the main street in Dalkey. It is a pity that the clock fails to fulfil its primary function - it doesn't show the correct time!

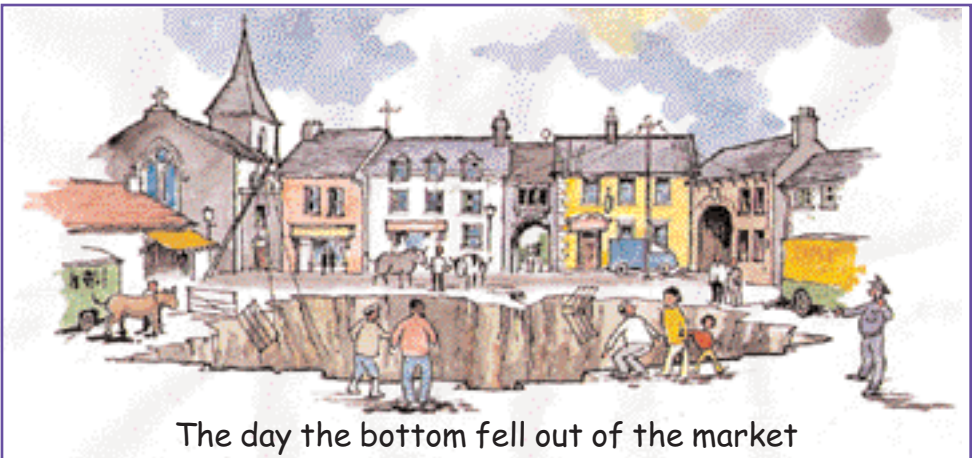
Over the past few years, the clock has generally been about five minutes fast. As a result, some local shopkeepers tend to close their premises five minutes early in order to be consistent with the Dalkey Clock. The pub owners don't have the same problem when their closing time approaches. However, on Sunday mornings, it is no unusual to see visitors to Dalkey rushing into the nearby church at the last minute for the start of 11.15 a.m. Mass while the clock shows 11.20 a.m. Even the Traffic Warden is confused when he looks at the clock.

Being punctual is important for some notable Dalkey residents. John Waters must make sure that he sends his articles to 'The Irish Times' on time. Similarly, RTÉ Radio 1 listeners would be very disappointed if Mary Wilson were to start her popular afternoon 'Drivetime' programme five minutes late. There would also be consternation in RTÉ One if Ryan Tubridy started the 'Late Late Show' five minutes later than scheduled.

It is time that somebody did something about this. It is unlikely that Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre would take responsibility for this, since the Centre wallows in the distant past and would scarcely be tempted to take a five-minute leap into the future. Perhaps Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council would change the timing of the clock to the correct time since the Council has a future, unlike some other local authorities. If this is done, there could very well be a public demand for the return of the Findlater's Clock to its rightful place in the heart of Dalkey.

Is this apparent obsession with the timing of the Dalkey Clock a case of 'much ado about nothing' or a momentary diversion in these recessionary times?

**Paddy O'Duffy –Dalkey**



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With the recent closure in mid-September of the Dun Laoghaire-Holyhead route (not due to reopen next Spring) this simply cannot be ignored especially if another Icelandic volcanic ash-cloud disrupts flights!

The routes convenience and proximity provided us with HSS (High Speed Sea Service) sailings since 1996 by the fast-ferry HSS Stena Explorer. In addition the historical significance of Dalkey Quarry in building the harbour has brought benefits to generations with visiting family, friends and tourists.



*HSS Stena Explorer and Hobblers Memorial*

The revolutionary gas-turbine-powered fast-craft was the first of a trio of HSS 1500 series to enter service when she replaced the last conventional car-ferry St. Columba which entered service in 1977. She is believed to be still operating as Masarrah on the Red Sea pilgrimage trade. As for the Irish Sea the smaller fast-craft Stena Lynx III has served recent winters but Stena Line will not resume service until next year's season, in which Stena Line in the long term intend to run on a seasonal -only basis!

Besides the HSS operations, Dalkey's passenger ferry-boat service to Dalkey Island remains unresolved in terms of licencing. There also remains the issue of upgrading facilities particularly on the islands harbour. Hopefully by next season the ferry can resume and any proposals to manage the small islands 22-acres designated as a 'park' is respectful of local sensitivities and the environment.

On that related note the island's goats, wildlife and particularly seals are an attraction for tourists taking the 'South' Dublin Bay tours using those yellow rigid-inflatable boats (RIB) run by Sea Safari from Dublin. Other excursion operators to Dalkey Sound and Killiney Bay include private motorboat charterers and Go Sailing's 54ft yacht Explorer, also based in Dun Laoghaire. This season the yacht ran thrice-daily trips where guests could learn to steer, sail and have super on the evening trip.

During the mid-late 1990's the 150-passenger Sligo Bay, formerly from Russia, also ran from Dun Laoghaire to include night-time cruises with her disco lights flashing in Dalkey Sound. During the visit of aircraft-carrier, USS John F. Kennedy in 1996, Sligo Bay was chartered to tender thousands between Dun Laoghaire and the giant 82,000-tonne vessel which anchored offshore. Sligo Bay now renamed Toucan One operates London/Derry to Culmore Bay tours on Lough Foyle.

In the late 1980's the Ingot, a passenger tender also ran for several seasons from Dun Laoghaire's East Pier. This year she inaugurated Cork-Cobh (Queenstown)-Cork seasonal cruises.

Notably the most impressive and largest excursion vessel to visit Dalkey Sound in modern times was the 925-passenger / 623-tonnes P.S. Waverley, the world's last seagoing paddle-steamer and the last built for Clyde service in 1946. She operated special 'Irish' cruises firstly in 1984 from Dublin to Dun Laoghaire and ports southbound. On her second spell in 2001 she did not call to Dun Laoghaire and passed The Muglins instead of the sound, in the era of steam-power such vessels would of done so.

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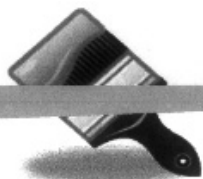


*Paddle-Steamer Waverley*

Returning to Anglesey, it was not until August 1848 that a subsidiary of the Chester & Holyhead Railway Company brought direct railway services to London with the opening of the 56 nautical-mile route to (Kingstown) Dun Laoghaire.

Prior to the Holyhead route the alternative 'steam-packets' services included Dublin-Liverpool, Bristol and indeed all the way to London! ...So let's keep an eager eye for the return of the fast-ferry, who knows what will be operating on, over or even under the horizon in another 150 years!

**Words and Photos: Jehan Ashmore**



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## ❖ FORTHCOMING EVENTS ❖

Oct. DCC Meeting in OLH @ 8pm	Mon 3 Oct.
Summer time ends - hour goes back	Sun 30 Oct.
Sorting November Newsletter	Fri 28 Oct.
Cuppa for Kitui, OLH (10am to 1pm)	Sun 30 Oct.
Bank Holiday	Mon 31 Oct.
November DCC Meeting in Harold	
Boys School @ 8pm	Tues 1 Nov

Closing date for receipt of entry forms for the DCC	
Art Exhibition	Mon 7 Nov
St. Patrick's Dramatic Society "Same Old Moon" in Pavilion Theatre at 8pm	
	Wed 16- Sat 19 Nov

### EVENTS THROUGH THE MONTH

**Karate** sessions - all age groups @ 6-9pm Tues. & Thurs. Wayne Deegan: 086 857 2546.

**Dalkey Players** The Carry Hall Killiney 7.30-10.30pm Tues. & Thurs. Contact Caroline Hickey 086-8092850 or check [www.dalkeyplayers.ie](http://www.dalkeyplayers.ie) for details.

**St. Patrick's Dramatic Society** Dalkey Northover Hall at 8pm Mon. & Thurs. Contact Deirdre 087-9566460 or check [www.stpatsdramsoc.com](http://www.stpatsdramsoc.com) for further information.

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

**Nature Notes:** Sun. 16th Oct. Winter Bird Walk at Booterstown. Meet at the DART car park 11am. DLRCoCo, South Dublin Branch of BWI and the Friends of Booterstown.

**Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Social Inclusion Week 2011 – 8th - 15th October 2011**  
 8th October 2011 - dlr Community 5k, Kilbogget Park  
 13th October 2011 - Inclusion Fusion, Pavilion Theatre  
 15th October 2011- Gaelic Activities for All (G.A.A.) Day  
 Check out [www.dlrcoco.ie/socialinclusion](http://www.dlrcoco.ie/socialinclusion) for further information

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LAST DAY for Articles for next 2 issues: **NOVEMBER: 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011, DEC./JAN. : 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011.**

ALL ARTICLES STRICTLY TO: The Editor, c/o Post Box, Our Lady's Hall, Castle Street, Dalkey

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

*Most people are now aware that the analogue television service is to be discontinued some time next year. The same can be said for FM radio, it is also due to be discontinued and is to be replaced by DAB radio sets. Alternatively RTE and all the BBC radio stations are available on satellite in CD quality, not to mention the scores of UK commercial stations also available. The new combination satellite receivers I mentioned in last month's edition now include all these radio stations (as well as Irish and UK television channels). Full details are available by calling the numbers below.*

*Ian Macdonald,  
Maxtec Systems*



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