



DALKEY - Deilginis ‘Thorn Island’ COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Irish Heritage Town

First Published April 1974

NEWSLETTER No 416 (Volume 18)

Feabhra (February 2012)

February: *Latin for “Februa” a ceremonial feast of purification held by the Romans centuries ago every February 15th. The early Saxons renamed February “Sol-Monath” - sun month because of the returning sun after winter*

Flower: Primrose & Violet

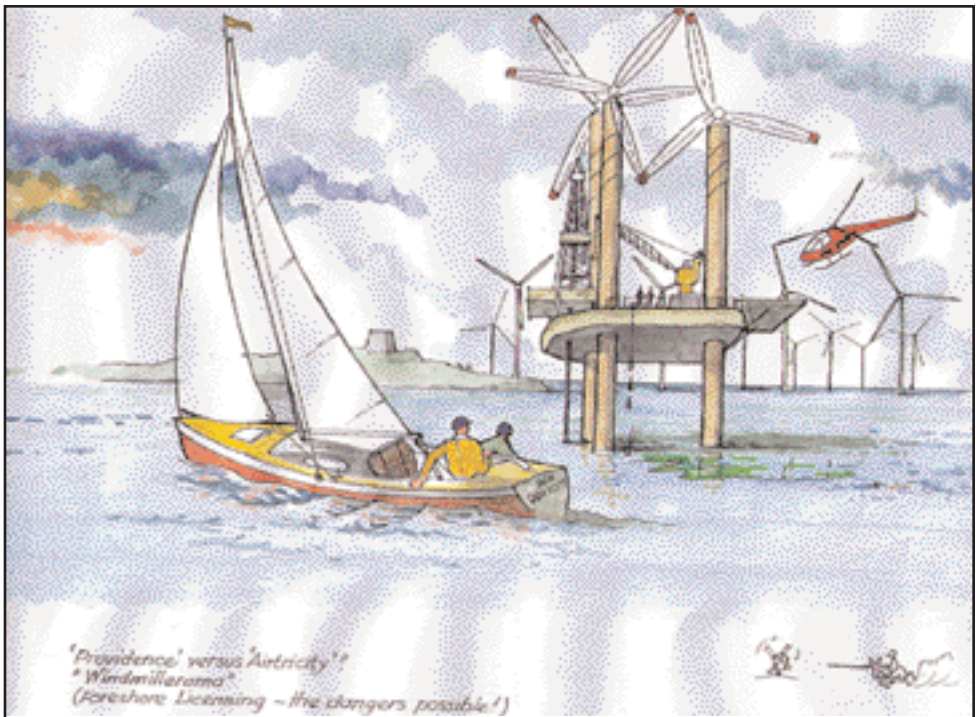


A WET FEBRUARY, A WET SPRING



St Valentine’s Day - Tuesday, 14th February

Our love is like the misty rain that falls softly - but floods the river. African Proverb



Further information at: www.providenceresources.com/dalkeyisland.aspx

Your Area Representative is.....

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

❖ SUMMARY OF DECEMBER 2011 & JANUARY 2012 MEETINGS ❖

The final DCC Monthly Meeting for 2011 was held on 5th December in OLH.

NW: The Community Gardai informed the meeting that due to the cut-backs Dalkey Garda station will be closed in 2012. Cabinteely and Kill o' the Grange stations will remain open during the day but will close at night. Members were not happy with this decision and a letter will be drawn up expressing our concerns to the Minister, local TD's and the Commissioner. A public meeting will be organised.

AOB: The goats in Dillon's Park have been removed by DLR for health and safety reasons. The coffee shop at Victoria Gate has been shut as major drainage work has to be carried out to update the existing system. Residents have expressed concern over weeds growing out of drains and this matter will be followed up with DLR.

The first DCC Meeting for 2012 was held on Monday 9th January in OLH.

AOB: The application and maps for the proposed oil exploration by Providence Resources can be viewed in the Garda Station or online at www.providenceresources.com/dalkeyisland.aspx The next Monthly meeting is Monday 6th February 2012.

❖ DALKEY CASTLE & HERITAGE CENTRE REPORT ❖

DALKEY CASTLE & 'DUBLINERS'

Community Event: Following on from, and encouraged by, the popularity of the 'Know your Flann from your Cruiskeen Lawn' series last year, we are planning some similar style

sessions on **James Joyce's** collection of

short stories **'Dubliners'** beginning on **Tuesday 21st February at 7.30pm.**

'Dubliners' is the 'One City One Book' for April 2012. This highly successful initiative is to encourage people in Dublin to read the same book during April. Dalkey Castle will continue with two sessions in March and at least one in April on Tuesdays. No previous knowledge of 'Dubliners' is required. All are welcome. Admission Free but advance booking is necessary.

Schools Programme The highly popular National Schools' Programme is almost fully booked out until Easter with Deilg Inis Living History Theatre Company in association with DLR Heritage Office. The actors portray characters from early Christian through Viking to Medieval, Tudor and Victorian times. This year the students will learn the history of Dalkey through the story of nine characters who lived here from the early Christian- St Begnet to the mock heroic King of Dalkey! The characters will give their own eye witness accounts of life at their time. The King of Dalkey will bestow a personalised parchment scroll on every student in a ceremony which dates back to the 1790s.

During April we have a number of French school students visiting us. We had piloted this last April with the actors mingling the French language into their scripts! We have two fluent French speaking actors. We are delighted that the 'mot' has spread and the numbers have increased this April. This is separate to our thriving Language School business in July and August.

Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre is open for visitors with Living History Guided Tours from 10.00am Mon-Fri and 11.00am Sat Sun until 5.00pm, (Closed on Tuesdays). Check in



Margaret Toomey & Eileen Fennell in a scene from 'Dubliners' in Dalkey Castle

advance to avoid tours being full due to group bookings.

Classes continue with:

Pilates: on Mondays in Heritage Centre: three classes at 6.15pm, 7.15pm and 8.15pm.

Contact Lizanne Barry 087 8572408

Zumba Fitness classes: continue in Dalkey Town Hall on Wednesdays: at 7pm & 8pm

Contact Lukasz: 085 216 33 04; Email: info@zumbagalaxy.com

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

Friday Market: Town Hall: Back in Feb, Dominican Farm brings organic fruit and vegetables from 10.00-2.00pm.

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

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

DALKEY BUSINESS UPDATE

The Dalkey Business Group would like to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. We would like to thank everyone involved in helping organise the Christmas events & atmosphere in Dalkey.

It made a difference, thank you! Dalkey Tramyard raised €6,500 for Laura Lynn and the remaining Children's Christmas Cards from last year were sold to raise a further €400 for Barnados in addition to the €1,300 last year.

We would like to congratulate Cleggs on their 40th Anniversary in business this year!

Finally, we would like to thank YOU for continuing to think local and think "Dalkey" first.

Jason McChesney – *Dalkey Business Group (Chairman)* www.ilovedalkey.com



DALKEY SCOUTS NEWS

Congratulations to our own 41st Dublin (St. Patrick's, Dalkey) Scouts, who participated in the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Community Awards, Young Citizens Category, earlier this month. Cub Scouts Amelia Johnson & Adam Kelly are photographed receiving the certificate from John Bailey, Cathaoirleach of DLR County Council. The troop has over a hundred members and is going strong thanks to the commitment of nearly thirty leaders and the support of parents.

Dalkey Scouts receiving the Community Award from John Bailey, Cathaoirleach, DLR



DALKEY GARDA STATION CLOSURE



We have been informed that, as a result of the serious budgetary cutbacks, Dalkey Garda Station will close in the coming months. No further information is available at this time. Representations may be made, in writing, to your local Councillor, T.D., or

**The Garda Commissioner,
Garda Headquarters,
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**Mr. Alan Shatter,
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As our winter starts to fade and our spring gets ever so much closer lets prepare for action. My goodness, since our 'Little Christmas' has passed and compared with our last year's 'avalanche' of snow - what signs of fresh growth and the promise of a new season, we are witnessing:

"Sunshine is delicious, Rain is refreshing, Wind braces us up, Snow is exhilarating, There is really no such thing as bad weather." – JOHN RUSKIN 1819 - 1900, ENGLAND

I love this month of February when there is simply, the time to saunter about on these sunny afternoons that are getting brighter, every single, solitary day. It's just "so something" to admire the flowers of the crocus family, snowdrops, scillas and then our daffodils, both standard and dwarf varieties and of course, not forgetting our very first sight of our beautiful primroses.

"We love February - having only 29 days this month, is like the darkest hour before dawn." – JAMES ALEXANDER SINCLAIR

Most of our gardens are now pretty much stripped down in this late winter so our trees and shrubs keep the show going, as our non-woody plants are reduced to mostly, a clump or layer of decayed leaves so our trees, even look more magnificent as they withstand the rigours of our winter weather. I suppose the key to a garden that shines all year is thoughtful planting and 'NOW' is the perfect time of year to reassess your special space.

"The garden is a ground plot for the mind." – THOMAS HILL, 16TH CENTURY ENGLAND

Lady's Mantle, *Alchemilla mollis*, what a superb plant. She makes the most marvellous ground cover, clumped plant. Bless her every time she self seeds, especially as she does, in dappled shade: she has soft downy, scalloped leaves which hold water droplets, then it's lime green frothing flowers are super for bulking out a flower arrangement. Once you invest in one - what a colonizer.

MAYBE - MIGHT DO JOBS FOR FEBRUARY

1. It's best to move snowdrops while they are in growth.
2. Deadhead plants in patio pots, such as pansies, violas, bachelor's buttons, etc. This will prolong flowering.
3. Maybe consider stacking some logs in an out-of-the-way corner in order to provide a sanctuary for wildlife, from spring onwards.
4. Have you twigged ??? Save some cash by collecting stems and twigs from around your garden to use as plant supports.



The strains of winter pansies (Universal Pansie ??) have been constantly improved to give more

flower and tougher flowers through our winter months.



Why not make your own Valentine card for the ones you love:

1. Draw the heart in pencil. Cover your outline with glue.
2. Sprinkle your glued outline with seed and shake off the excess – done in minutes

PLANTS FOR EVERY MONTH

7January – *Hamamelis Mollis* - witch hazels. Clusters of fragrant yellow flowers.

February – *Daphne Jacqueline Postille* - richly tinted rose coloured buds with an equally intoxicating fragrance.

March – *Rosemarinus* - (Rosemary) Mrs. McConnell, prostrate dark blue, advisable to put gravel under its 'belly'.

April – *Mahonia* - sweet charity, hardy evergreen shrub. Deep yellow flowers are born in ascending racemes.

May – *Astrantias*: They flower for such a long season - they almost look like pink delicate, fairylike pincushions. They are also an excellent cut flower. Keep an eye out for ruby wedding a dream of a plant, it has dark red 'wine-ish' flowers.

June – *Roses*:

1. *Rosa Dublin Bay*, a climber/rambler. It has brilliant deep red flowers. It is vigorous and not rampant.

2. *Zéphirine Drouhin*, a climber/rambler. This



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climbing rose is thornless, has carmine-pink semi double flowers and is richly scented. Its autumn display can even be more superior than that of summer.

3. Iceberg/Floribunda. A most outstanding white rose which is vigorous and fragrant. The flowers are small, however, it is a little prone to black spot and mildew.

July – Camellias, they have rich glossy green foliage and the most classy and blousy of incredibly beautiful flowers.

August – Rudbeckias and Abutilons.

September – Cercidiphyllum - a deciduous tree grown for its elegance, 15-20", - smells like toffee in September, heart shaped leaves.

October – Myrtus Ugni (Myrtle), aromatic foliage, can prune to one metre - strawberry smell to berries.

November – Euonymus Fortunei, silver queen, it has evergreen leaves in green and white, it is well behaved, it always looks neat and tidy.

December – Iris Unguicularis Stylosa. This has blue pencil like flowers - bring indoors and they open.

❖ FEBRUARY 2012 GARDEN EVENTS ❖

ALPINE GARDEN SOCIETY

Saturday, 11th 12.30 p.m. – Annual Lunch followed by Mary Waldron's talk 'Gardens in Other Lands', Royal St. George Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire.

Thursday, 16th 8.p.m. Deborah Begley's talk 'Terra Nova - Full of Surprises and Debradations', St. Brigid's Parish Centre, Stillorgan.

IRISH ORCHID SOCIETY

Monday 6th February 7 p.m. – Brendan Sayers' talk '*Musings from the Orchid World*'.

SOUTH CO. DUBLIN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Wednesday, February 8th – Fionnuala Fallon - "*The Urban Farmer*" of the Irish Times.

FOXROCK & DISTRICT GARDEN CLUB

Tues. 28th February – "Vegetable Gardening at Glebe Gardens, Baltimore", Jean Perry.

❖ DALKEY SCHOOLS' CHESS COMPETITION 2011 ❖

This inaugural chess competition was held on Sunday December 4th in the Harold Boys' School on Patrick's Street. The event was run in conjunction with the Dalkey Business Group and our local schools. This was a non-profit making event with the aim of promoting chess, to enable children to represent their school and keep it all local.

Thank you to Harold Boys' NS for hosting the event. Their hall was a perfect venue and very convenient. Thank you to Eurospar for sponsoring runner-up prizes. Thank you to all the parents who were involved, chess teachers and Ivan Baburin our adjudicator.

Thanks to all the supporters who gathered in the hall, dodging the showers and waiting to enjoy the rest of the activities in Dalkey on the day. We were also visited by Megan Hound, the Dalkey Dog about town.

Congratulations to Castlepark school who won triumphantly on the day. Harold Boys' NS came in second place and runners up St. Patrick's NS and Dalkey School Project put up a good show against these experienced teams. Concentration was intense and energy was high in the room and it is certain that all the players enjoyed the afternoon.

There was talk of the possibility of a new chess club in Dalkey....so here's hoping this is a start with lots more to come!





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Traditionally the New Year is the time when people focus on the new opportunities and the sense of renewal that comes with the beginning of the next year. It is often a time when efforts are made to improve health and fitness and many resolutions are made in this respect. Here at Castle Park School we are very proud to have been the first school in Dublin to be awarded the prestigious Active School Flag in early 2010 in recognition of the steps the School had taken to promote physical activity and sports. The Active School Flag aims to promote the importance of enjoyment and play, a balance between competitive and non-competitive activities and the development of skills and understanding.



The Active School Flag

Now two years later we still continue, year round, to foster a healthy and active lifestyle within our whole school community and are seeking to retain our Award when next evaluated by the judges. Over the intervening period we have taken steps to involve parents and families of the School to Walk Once a Week. Our WOW campaign has been actively promoted by our parents association, the Friends of Castle Park, and has involved competitions and incentives for the children to walk, scoot or cycle to school at least once a week. Our current goal is to achieve enough WOW journeys to School to plant a new tree in the School grounds. Even our youngest pupils are enthusiastically participating in the scheme and they paid close attention to the RSA Road Safety campaign during the Autumn Term.

Our parents association, the Friends of Castle Park (FCP), also kindly contributed funding towards enhancing the children's playgrounds to create environments which encourage activity and play. We have had some wonderful games painted onto the play surfaces. Also at break times the Astroturf pitch is available for the children to play ball games and carry out extra sports practice, along with extra team practices in rugby, hockey and basketball being arranged during lunch breaks. Last year the children in the School participated in the School Mile Challenge and we will be organising this event again after the Easter holidays. The children are challenged to complete a mile run in their best possible time and all children completing the challenge are awarded wristbands. Sponsored walks and sponsored swims in aid of Unicef's East African appeal before Christmas shifted our focus onto to children suffering incredible hardship caused by famine conditions in the Horn of Africa.

The Castle Park Swim Academy and Sports Centre is now firmly established within the local community and complements the sporting facilities in the locality. We are delighted that seven local schools now organise their swimming programmes at our Academy. This means that over 600 local school children each year avail of lessons close to their own school. In addition our Swim Academy, now in its third year, which operates during afternoons, evenings and weekends, is providing a structured lesson programme offering over 2800 children's sessions each year. Complementing this are special classes for parents & toddlers, aqua aerobics and lessons and training programmes for adults.

Our newest venture, launched in January 2012 is a Fitness Academy. We are offering classes to suit all fitness levels and abilities, including kettlebells, circuit training, fitball and bums & tums. A weight loss and fitness challenge encourages participants to make lifestyle changes and sessions include nutrition advice and body analysis, ensuring a holistic approach to improving health and fitness.

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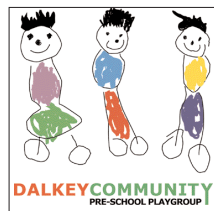


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❖ DALKEY COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP ❖

Happy New Year from Dalkey Community Playgroup!

Just before Christmas the playgroup held their Annual Christmas fair and was enormous fun as usual. They were delighted with how successful it was and want to extend an enormous thank you to everyone who attended and all the local businesses who very generously donated gifts and prizes. The playgroup would therefore like to thank the following for their generous contributions:



Cora Cummins	Céleste	Unique Flowers	Tierneys
Hicks	Jacq L	Finnegans	Gamestop
Photogenic	The Exchange	Thai House	Dubray Books
Ian Mitton	Bookshop	Eurospar	Mikes Bikes
Photographer	Mugs	Maxwells Pharmacy	Viking Marine
Dalkey Pharmacy	The Guinea Pig	Natural Medical Health	Burnetts Pharmacy
Molls	Thyme Out	Dresses.ie	The Art & Hobby Shop
Paperbird	Doyles	Shades	Michael Kearney
Select Stores	The Corner Note Café	Brian S Nolan	Butcher
Senso Studios	O'Briens	Dandelion Hair Design	Images Photo Studio
Paul Gill	Head Hair Therapy	For Floors	Home Focus
The Golden Apple	On the Grapevine	Boots the Chemist	Totterdells
Dalkey Flowers	Dalkey Castle	Tescos	Grandstand Sports
The Tramyard	The Queens	Marks and Spencers	IKEA
Ouzos	Rhona's Hair Salon	Book Value	Jamie's Kitchen
Nosh	Wrights Dispensary	Weirs	Frewen and Aylward
Ragazzi	Borza's	Pavilion Theatre	Colette McDonald
The Club	The Pet Shop	IMC	Dunnes Stores
Idlewilde	Peter Roberts	Shaws	Fitzpatrick's Hotel
The Club			

Loads of fun was had on the day. The children enjoyed winning 'a prize every time' on the ducks as well as riffling through the toys and making fairies to take home and keep. Meanwhile the adults enjoyed the ever successful wheel of fortune where people were walking away with amazing prizes.

So a big thank you to everyone and we wish you all a happy new year!

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At the shoreline where Sorrento meets Vico Rock (with its popular bathing-place) CIE/ Irish Rail undertook radical coastal protection work in 2002, to prevent serious coastal erosion close to the railway cliff embankment at this stretch along Killiney Bay.

It used to be possible for locals and tourists alike to take this scenic coastal path that started above the Vico railway tunnel that led to the bathing spot, which can still be accessed via the pedestrian bridge.

The old path firstly ran between the railway line with the sea cliff

below, followed by cliffs above that faced on the opposite side. Due to subsidence particularly along this stretch, it posed a danger to passers-by and the railway embankment, resulting in the path's closure many years ago.

Work on the project took place in that autumn, which involved Irish Rail's engineers, civil engineers Ascon Ltd, Danish consultants Cowi and Finnish shipping company Sillanpaa Oy. In order to shore-up coastal defences, large boulders or in engineering parlance 'rock armour' were shipped by sea using a pair of self-discharging rock carriers, the Jopi and Ville. On each delivery they were laden with up to 500 tonnes of rock from the jetty at Arklow Rock quarry, south of Arklow Port.

The shallow drafted vessels would discharge the rock armour from tipping buckets and then a JCB digger skilfully formed the new coastal defence embankment at the foot of the railway cliff.

At 495 gross tonnes the vessels were the largest for quite some time to work in Killiney Bay, where they also worked off Bray Beach. The last large-scale project was the outfall pipe (see related topic, in last issue) for the Shanganagh Wastewater Treatment Plant completed in the 1980's. Currently the plant is undergoing an upgrade which will improve water quality of the bay, benefitting bathers and the marine environment.

Around the same time of Sillanpaa Oy's contract at The Vico, they worked at neighbouring White Rock Beach where further rock armour was installed at the embankment close to the small railway tunnel above the rocky headland.

Close to this location is where in recent years three yellow buoys (indicated at night with flashing lights) were positioned. They mark a bathing safety zone, where all boating craft particularly jet-ski's, must not be operate within 300 metres of the foreshore under beach-byelaws introduced in 2009.

Sightings of bottlenose dolphins at White Rock and close to the buoys have again been reported in the media recently. It would appear that a pod has taken up residence in the waters of Dalkey and Killiney.

We can continue to appreciate these coastal improvements not just for our benefit but also for the habitat of cetaceans alike. For the latest sightings reported locally and nationwide visit the Irish Whale & Dolphins Group website at www.iwdg.ie



M B Jopi at work on coastal defences off Sorrento and The Vico, Dalkey Photo © Jehan Ashmore

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EAMON WALSHÉ – 45 YEARS IN THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

December was a fairly quiet month for the Tidy Towns once Dec 3rd came and went.

The committee were very involved in organising the Santa and Tree Lighting event along with the Community Council and the Dalkey Business Group without whose support nothing would happen. Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Council and Tom Byrne were also very supportive.

Luckily this year the weather was kind and the whole event went off very successfully thanks to everyone who gave their time and talent, from David McWilliams and HRH Finbarr, Deiliginis, The Heritage Centre, Church of the Assumption, the Gardai, the School Choirs, Dave Coulson who lent Santa his tram and of course Santa himself who managed to fit Dalkey into his very busy schedule.

We are watching with interest the painting of the Dart station and repair of its roof. Take note of the new Bicycle Storage racks in the Dart Station.

We have made contact with someone from Dublin Port and Docks who hopefully will have the authority to instigate some of the major repairs required.

We are in talks with DLRCC about a new Street Signage system in Dalkey to remove a lot of the old signs and replace them with stylish new integrated signs, we have been promised some funding for this.

We are identifying areas in Dalkey which need major work: the Barnhill Rd/Ave junction for example, has been dug up and hopefully now can be planted.

Graffiti seems to have reared its head up again, plans are afoot to tackle this problem. Phone DLRCC at 01 2054817 if you notice any new examples appearing. The Tidy Towns can supply Anti Graffiti kits if anyone wants to volunteer to clear up their area.

We would welcome any suggestions from Dalkey Residents about other problem spots in the town.

We can be contacted at tidy@dalkeytidytowns.com

Litter Patrols are continuing during the winter as follows:

- 1st Tuesday outside Select Stores
- 2nd Thursday at Sorrento Park on Coliemore Road
- 3rd Saturday outside Select Stores
- All start at 10.30 for about 90minutes.

Everyone is welcome and we are very grateful to the Volunteers who turn up every week.



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PLANNING APPLICATIONS - Weeks 46-51 14/11/2011 to 23/12/2011

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. D07A/0479/E

Application Rec'd Date: 23-Nov-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Brian McManus, Lands adjoining Shelmalier, Sorrento Road, Victoria Road, Glenageary, Co. Dublin.

Proposal: Permission sought for development consisting of a two storey house over basement level garage at main location. **Application Type:** Extension of Duration of Permission.

Reg. Ref. D11A/0529

Application Rec'd Date: 23-Nov-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Guy & Louise McDonnell, 8, Barnhill Avenue, Dalkey.

Proposal: Permission sought to widen existing entrance and for a single storey kitchen and living room extension to rear.

Reg. Ref. D11A/0539

Application Rec'd Date: 29-Nov-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Castlepark Residence Management Ltd, Castlepark Gardens Residence, Castlepark Road, Dalkey.

Proposal: Retention permission is sought for development which consists of the retention of an automated vehicular entrance gate (6.150mwide x 1.9m high) positioned between 2 No. pedestrian access gates and piers at the development access at Castlepark Road and relief from planning conditioning No. 4 of An Bord Pleanála planning permission PL06D.224130 (Reg. Ref.:D06A/1808).

Application Type: Permission for Retention

Reg. Ref. D11A/0549

Application Rec'd Date: 1-Dec-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Richard & Corinna Moore, Prince Patrick House, Knocknacree Road, Dalkey.

Proposal: Planning permission is sought for the partial demolition of the ground and first floor of the south rear extension of the house (total floor area - 31.5 sq.m) and the renovation / refurbishment of the remaining portion of the return at Prince Patrick House. It is also proposed that the roof of the building proposed for demolition is removed prior to submission of the application to facilitate ongoing remedial works as part of the overall refurbishment.

Reg. Ref. D11A/0551

Application Rec'd Date: 2-Dec-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Aidan O'Meara, Atlanta, 37, Coliemore Road, Dalkey.

Proposal: Permission is sought for (a) 2-storey extension of area 48 sq.mt the rear of the house with 32 sq.m roof deck and 8 sq.m top floor balcony; (b) shed of area 8 sq.m on part of the site of the existing garage (area 18 sq.m) which is to be demolished; (c) ancillary works including reconstruction of existing external steps to rear of house.

Reg. Ref. D11A/0553

Application Rec'd Date: 5-Dec-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Kevin Nowlan & Kirsty Foynes, 26, Castlepark Road, Sandycove.

Proposal: Permission is sought for alterations and extensions to existing house comprising internal modifications, relocation of front door, new bay window to the front of house, part demolition of existing single storey extension and garage to the rear and side of house. The erection of a two storey extension to the side of the house and a single storey extension to the rear together with widening of existing vehicular entrance and all associated site works.

Reg. Ref. D11A/0568

Application Rec'd Date: 14-Dec-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Castlepark School Ltd., Castlepark School, Castlepark Rd., Dalkey. (A Protected structure) **Proposal:** Permission is sought for the change of use as an existing caretaker's apartment on the first floor of the new Castle Park School building to an educational use (a music room). The application site is within the curtilage of a protected structure.

Reg. Ref. D11A/0570

Application Rec'd Date: 14-Dec-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Castlepark School Ltd., Castlepark School, Castlepark Road, Dalkey.

Proposal: Permission is sought for the installation of new entrance gates and signage to the vehicular and pedestrian entrance to Castle Park School. Permission is also sought for the refurbishment of the adjacent gate lodge including internal modifications, the installation of new windows, the enlargement of the bathroom and the demolition of a shed and associated works. The application relates to a protected structure.

Reg. Ref. D11A/0578

Application Rec'd Date: 20-Dec-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Board of Management, Loreto Abbey Secondary School, Loreto Ave. Dalkey.
Proposal: Permission is sought for development consisting of the construction of a new stand alone, detached PE Sports Hall building with rooflight windows, part 1 and part 2 storey, total area 1760m2 approx, with external viewing terrace of sports pitch, existing boundary wall screening to prevent over-looking of adjacent properties, 12 new car-parking spaces, bicycle parking area and associated landscaping works all on the land on the West side of Loreto Avenue. The sports hall will be accessed from existing access road, Loreto Avenue. The site is adjacent to but outside the curtilage of Loreto Abbey which is a protected structure, RPS 1445. A Natura Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been carried out and is attached to the application.

Reg. Ref. D11A/0579

Application Rec'd Date: 20-Dec-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, D11A/0389 & D11A/0454 to convert the attic space of house C to provide an additional bedroom (16 sq.m) with a raising of the lower roof ridge and new dormer window to the front elevation.

Reg. Ref. D11A/0585

Application Rec'd Date: 21-Dec-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Enda and Paula Roche, 29, Hyde Park, Dalkey.

Proposal: Retention permission is sought for modifications to previously granted planning permission ref: D11A/0027 to include: 1. Construction of new first floor clear-glass corner window to side/east elevation and rear/north elevation. 2. The non-demolition of existing single storey semi-detached garage building to side/east of site and non-removal and replacement of pitched roof to garage of adjoining property No. 30 Hyde Park. 3. Variations to overall size of extension, reduction in size from 42m2 granted ground floor extension to 21.5m2 constructed. Etc — Application Type Permission for Retention.

Reg. Ref. D11A/0590

Application Rec'd Date: 22-Dec-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Tom and Helen Dunphy, 5, Barnhill Avenue, Dalkey.

Proposal: Permission is sought for demolition of side garage and shed and construction of two storey extension to side with rooflight including two-storey extension to rear (with single storey element with rooflight) and single storey extension to front including front porch, side windows to side extension, widen vehicular access, solar panels to rear and associated internal alterations.

Reg. Ref. D11B/0416

Application Rec'd Date: 23-Dec-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Justina Proctor, 16, Corrig Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin

Proposal: Permission is sought for development which will consist of a single storey extension of 4 sq.m to the front of her two storey house and the addition of a rooflight to front of main existing roof.

PLANNING DECISIONS Wks. 46-51 14/11/2011 TO 23/11/2011

Reg. Ref. D11A/0454

Decision: Grant Permission

Date: 18-Nov-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Iris O'Malley, 21, Dalkey Avenue, Dalkey (The White House)

Proposal: Permission is sought for modifications to approved D11A/0193 & D11A/0389 to convert the attic space of house C to provide an add, en-suite bedroom (24sq.m) with a dormer window to the front elevation.

Reg. Ref. D11B/0318

Decision: Grant Permission

Date: 17-Nov-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Ciarán Ramsay & Gillian Reid, Bellecote, Sorrento Road, Dalkey.

Proposal: Permission is sought for first floor projecting Velux rooflight to the side.

Reg. Ref. D05A/1607/E

Decision: Refuse Ext. of Duration of Permission

Date: 23-Nov-2011

Applicant Name: Michael McAteer, Grant Thornton (Receiver)

Location: Santa Maria, 13, Cunningham Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin

Proposal: For the construction of 24 no. dwelling units comprising 15 no. dwellings 5 no. two storey plus basement terraced two bedroom mews dwellings (113sq.m. each) 6 no. two-storey plus basement three bedroom detached dwellings (190 sq.m.) 1 no. two storey plus basement three bedroom detached dwelling (155 sq.m.) 2 no. single storey two bedroom detached dwellings (113 sq.m.) 1 no. single storey plus basement three bedroom detached dwelling (149 sq.m.) and 9 No. etc — all on a 0.59 hectares site at lands to the rear of 'Santa Maria' (A Protected Structure), Cunningham Road, and part of the rear garden of No. 13 Cunningham Road..

Application Type: Extension of Duration of Permission

Reg. Ref. D06A/0910/E

Decision: Refuse Ext. of Duration of Permission

Date 21-Nov-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Peter Monaghan, Old Tramyard, 15, Castle Street, Dalkey.

Proposal: For demolition of existing warehouses (former tram sheds) and associated buildings and site works, and the construction of a development of total area 2,525 sq.m. consisting of 23 apartments and a commercial /

retail space in three 3-storey blocks arranged around an open courtyard, all over basement carpark on a site of 0.23 HA (0.57 acres).etc— Existing tramlines with the yard are Protected Structure, and it is proposed to temporarily lift and reinstate the tramlines. (g) existing gate piers, iron gates and cobble stones in the yard (which are deemed to be proposed structures) will be retained and reinstated. (h) Existing boundary walls will be retained on all sides, and strengthened where required. **Applic. Type:** Extension of Duration of Permission

Reg. Ref. D11A/0492 **Decision:** Declare Invalid (Site Notice) **Date:** 25-Nov-2011

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

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

Reg. Ref. D11B/0326 **Decision:** Grant Permission **Date:** 24-Nov-2011

Applicant Name & Location: Penny & Paul Lannin, 49, Castle Street, Dalkey.

Proposal: Permission is sought for a single storey extension to front and for two roof windows to the front slope of the existing roof and alterations to the existing translucent roof to the side passage.

Reg. Ref. D06A/1179/E **Decision:** Grant Ext. of Duration of Perm. **Date:** 9-Dec-2011

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

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

Reg. Ref. D11A/0398 **Decision:** Grant Permission **Date:** 07-Dec-2011

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

Proposal Planning permission is sought for works to a 4-bedroom plus box-room detached house (circa 300m²) on three levels etc— and adjustments to landscaping plus all associated works to provide a two-storey plus attic 4-bedroom house (circa 418m²). (A protected structure). **Decision:** Request Add. Info. **Date:** 14-Dec-2011

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

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

Decision: Grant Permission. **Date:** 15-Dec-2011

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

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

Reg. Ref. D11B/0353 **Decision:** Grant Permission **Date:** 19-Dec-2011

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

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

APPEALS NOTIFIED BY An Bord Pleanala Wks 46-51 14/11/11 to 23/12/11

None for Dalkey

APPEAL DECISIONS OF An Bord Pleanala Wks 46-51 7/11/11 to 23/12/2011

Reg. Ref. D10A/0644 **Decision:** Refuse Permission **Appeal Decided:** 7-Nov-2011

Council's Decision: Grant Permission. **Location:** Ard Na Carraige, The Green Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin

Proposed Development: Permission is sought for the demolition of existing terraced 2-storey over basement 4 bedroom house (280m²), and the construction of two No. terraced two-storey over basement houses, consisting of a four bedroom house of 252m² with garage (house 2), and a 2 bedroom house of 202m² with car port (house 1), both with roof mounted solar collectors and rainwater harvesting, with pedestrian and vehicular access from the Green Road, and associated landscaping and site works. **Applic.:** Tony & Linda Corcoran

THE GARDENERS FRIEND

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

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

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

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

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

As for the question does a Robin's orange breast plumage extend to above or below its eye? Have a look at the next one you see or if your Christmas cards have not been discarded yet, there's every chance you'll have one with a robin on it.

WELCOME AND UNWELCOME COLONISTS

I often think it's unfortunate that the beech isn't a native Irish tree. Although considered native in the south of Britain (although a non native introduced species in the north), there is no record of beech being inhabitants of Ireland before the Ice age. If anyone is applying for a grant to grow native woodlands it's now a pre condition that any existing beech trees on the land be removed since their dense canopy prevents other trees getting a foothold underneath them. Its Latin name is *Fagus Sylvatica* but the common name of the Beech tree, found in varying forms throughout old Teutonic dialects, apparently means either 'a book' or 'a beech,' the early books having been made of this wood. *Fagus* is from a Greek word meaning 'to eat,' referring to the edible character of the Beechmast.

Although non native trees are much more valuable to wildlife, having had hundreds of thousands of years to form interdependent relationships with insects and birds which pollinate them and spread their seeds, many of the introduced trees have made their own niche on the landscape and can provide a limited but valuable source of food or shelter.

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



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will have grown and flowered before the dense leaf cover blocks out the sunlight and this scene is reproduced in many spectacular photographs, a sea of blue against the smooth grey trunks.

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

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



Red Squirrel



Snow Bunting

SNOW BIRD – Many years ago when I was young I persuaded my parents to buy a case of stuffed birds which has pride of place in the hall ever since. The birds were probably trapped in nets or by the horrible practice of putting lime on a branch or the ground to which the birds would get stuck. They might have been shot (although some are so small you'd imagine a bullet would blow them apart) which was a fairly dismal fate for them. The little creatures are posed around the central figure of a Barn Owl, a species which has declined drastically in Ireland though more from ingesting rodents and being hit by traffic than from losses from hunting. A Song Thrush is the next largest bird in the case which also contains a Coal Tit, a pair of Bullfinches, and a Willow Warbler. Pied and Gray Wagtails are

posed on moss covered twigs although most wagtails feed on the ground or in the grey wagtails case from rocks in streams or rivers. Pied wagtails are not too likely to be seen on a branch unless they're huddling together in a tree or hedge in a winter roost.

But there's another bird in the case, also placed on a twig but tilted downwards as if it's about to swoop although it's possible it slipped off its perch over the years. In reality it almost certainly would never be seen in that position since it's a bird nearly always seen on the ground, a Snow Bunting, a sparrow sized bird that doesn't breed in Ireland but occasionally comes here in the winter time. They nest in the Arctic circle the nearest breeders to us being in Scotland. The male has a snow white head and underparts in the breeding season which will have become streakier by the time they head south in the winter.

They winter by the coast and where they have been frequently seen locally over the years on the end of the West - and sometimes - East Piers in Dun Laoghaire. I'd seen some on the East Pier once totally indifferent to walkers to the extent that you nearly had to step over them and following reported sightings some years ago I went down and eventually found a few at the back of the west pier. I found out later they'd been eating seed which a local 'birder' had kindly provided for them. They'd usually be eating insects in the seaweed and among the rocks and a couple have been seen this winter along the top of the West Pier wall, well worth looking out for when out on a brisk winter's stroll.



STYLISTS:
 Sondra, Orla,
 Michelle, Melissa
 and Rhona

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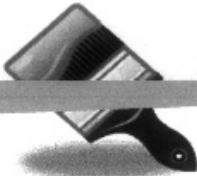
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OFFICIAL OPENING OF ADDITIONAL FACILITIES AT HYDE PARK

Following seven years of efforts by Dalkey United F.C. to erect a new floodlit All Weather Training Pitch on waste ground inside the railings of Hyde Park, the project was opened by Mr. Michael Ring, Minister of State with special responsibility for Tourism and Sport, on 24th November last. A new children's playground has been added to the complex and if one is to judge by the numbers enjoying the facility during the Christmas holidays, it will certainly be a great attraction for the children and young people of Dalkey in the summer time.



Opening Dalkey United new extra Facilities at Hyde Park

I wish to thank all who helped, Mr. Des Moore, Ex Superintendent, Parks Department, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and his staff, Mr. Rory O'Sullivan, Mr. Joe Whittle, Mr. Peadar McAdam and Mr. Seán Tracy of Cuala GAA Club and all who helped in any way from Dalkey United - too many to name here - all through the years to bring this dream to a reality.

I hope that the Dalkey community will continue to support the various sports and cultural clubs in Dalkey.

Frank Mullen – Hon Life President, Dalkey United F.C.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I wonder are the public aware of the application by an Oil and Exploration company for a Foreshore Licence in order to permit seismic and site studies and the drilling of an exploration well 6kms off the Dalkey Coast for 2012.

They could be forgiven for being in the dark about the proposal because in my opinion the public's involvement in the statutory licencing process is hampered from the start. Unlike the planning process, whereby proposals, maps and documents are made available to the public in Local Authority Offices and libraries, licencing proposal documents need only be made available to the public in local Garda Stations, and there is a time limit of 21 days for the public to inform themselves on any proposal and make a submission. In addition, the documents made available to the public are those prepared by the Exploration Company with no balancing view or independent assessment of the proposed project. It is up to the public to inform themselves in relation to complex environmental and technical issues often with limited resources and expertise.

It is for this reason that I have written to Minister for the Environment, Communities and Local Government, Phil Hogan requesting that he extend the statutory period for a further 21 days in order to allow members of the public to inform themselves of the potential impact this proposal may have on the local environment. This will allow time for public meetings and research to answer some of the following questions.

The Exploration Company's brochure, states, inter alia, that:

1. They will put in place mitigation measures to minimize the impact on the surrounding environment - (Are they acknowledging that there WILL be an impact on the Environment. What impact? What is Minimum?)
2. They will control emissions (Are they acknowledging that there WILL be emissions? - what is the nature of these emissions?)
3. They will treat discharges in accordance with International Convention for prevention of pollution (Is this an acknowledgement that there WILL be discharges? What is the nature of these discharges and what is their potential impact on the local communities, environment and wider area?)
4. They will ensure that wastes generated are segregated for appropriate treatment, disposal. (Are they thereby acknowledging that there WILL be waste byproducts from the process? What are these wastes and will they impact on the local community, environment and wider area. What does 'treatment' entail?)
5. There will be limited interference with fishing (They acknowledge that there WILL be interference to the local fishing industry)
6. There will be localized restrictions around the drilling rig. (They acknowledge that there WILL be restrictions. How will that affect local fishermen, sailing, scuba diving, etc.)
7. There will be a spill contingency plan (Are they acknowledging the potential risk of an oil spill - how would such an oil spill affect our area?)
8. There will be no disruption to anyone 'onshore'. (Are they thereby acknowledging that there WILL be disruption to marine and offshore activities?)
9. There is an accepted visual impact from the rig. (Are the public satisfied that this visual impact is acceptable and does not interfere with the visual amenity of the area?)
10. The noise will be localized (Are they acknowledging that there WILL be an element of noise)
11. Onshore disruption WILL include helicopter and boat transfers of operatives.
12. There have been NO MAJOR OIL spills (Are they acknowledging that perhaps there have been spills other than Major spills. What do they consider to be major and what is minor? What is the potential impact of a major/minor spill on the local community, environment and wider area?)

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These and other questions need objective and independent answers so that the public can engage fully in the statutory licencing process.

In addition, they must satisfy themselves that the proximity of such a project to a Special Area of Conservation at 7kms and a Special Protection Area for birds at 8kms is in line with guidelines and restrictions.

Are the public paying the price for exposure to potential risk with none of the benefit?

What is the risk to the marine, coastal and local environment?

The last thing that should happen is that the public wake up to find that the opportunity to have their voices heard has passed and I commend all the individual members of the public who have involved themselves in raising awareness of this project in the public consciousness.

Regards,

GENE FEIGHERY – *Former Green Party Councillor for Dun Laoghaire*

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❖ FORTHCOMING EVENTS ❖

DCC February Monthly Meeting	Mon. 06 Feb
St. Valentines Day	Tues. 14 Feb
Sorting of March Newsletter in OLH from 1-2pm	Thurs. 23 Feb
Cuppa for Kitui - Our Ladies Hall 10am to 1pm	Sun. 26 Feb
DCC March Monthly Meeting	Mon. 05 Mar

EVENTS THROUGH THE MONTH

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

Dalkey Players The Carry Hall Killiney from 7.30-10.30pm Tuesdays & Thursdays
Contact Caroline Hickey 086-8092850 or check www.dalkeyplayers.ie for details.

St. Patrick's Dramatic Society Dalkey Northover Hall at 8pm Mondays & Thursdays
Contact Deirdre 087-9566460 or check www.stpatsdramsoc.com for further information.

The Irish Vintage Radio and Sound Society meets monthly in Dalkey.

If interested please call 086-8391839

NATURE NOTES FOR FEBRUARY 2012

Tuesday 7 February: Swift Conservation - an illustrated talk by Brian Cahalane. Kingston Hotel, Dún Laoghaire, 8:00pm.

Sunday 12 February: Outing to Booterstown Marsh & Sandymount Strand. Meet in Booterstown DART station car park (pay & display parking) at 10:30am.

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LAST DAY for Articles for next 2 issues: MARCH. 2012: 6th February 2012; APRIL 2012: 12th March 2012.

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

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

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Web: www.dalkeycommunitycouncil.com **Email:** coakley@ireland.com

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

2012 is finally here, and with it sees the switch off of all analogue television services in Ireland. As the analogue system is phased out the power will be increased on the new (Digital) Saorview system, which will benefit those in fringe areas where the new signals are not strong enough. Late last year six new "test cards" also appeared on the Saorview system, which suggests that more channels are going to be launched later this year, whether these channels will be offered by RTE or a Commercial party is still unclear. (It was proposed a couple of years ago that the BBC channels would be available on Saorview, but this is looking very unlikely at the moment)

*Ian Macdonald,
Maxtec Systems*



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