



# The Forum

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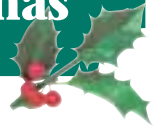
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## The Working Group wishes you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas



The Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Community and Voluntary Forum was set up to ensure the voice of the Community and Voluntary sector is heard and taken into account in the ongoing development of the County. To ensure that representation, the Working Group of the Community and Voluntary Forum has two seats on the County Development Board and various statutory and non-statutory bodies.

2005'. The Community and Voluntary Forum reviewed its contribution at a workshop held in September last. We are pleased to report that of the four lead actions for which the Forum was responsible, three have been completed, as have some of the support actions. Also at the workshop the methodology that would be used to ensure that the views of the Forum were included in the new Implementation Plan 2006-2008 was agreed. Following the workshop, the

The Working Group has also been developing a new work plan for 2006. Actions agreed include the following:

- 1 Increase the capacity of the Working Group to proof Local Development Plans
- 2 Support and strengthen Volunteering and Good Citizenship in the County
- 3 Develop area networking between member groups, to improve the communication with the Working Group
- 4 Expand the Community Forums Grant scheme
- 5 Increase the link with the National Community and Voluntary Forum
- 6 Support the new actions in the County Development Board Implementation Plan
- 7 Publish four newsletters.



Working Group in Session

The Working Group will continue to work on behalf of the membership, to ensure that issues of mutual concern are voiced in the development of our County. Your active involvement in our work plan, and continued support for the Community and Voluntary Forum will ensure that your voice is heard.

Throughout the past year, all the agencies involved have reviewed the actions contained in the County Development Boards 'Strategic Action Implementation Plan 2003-

Working Group came together in late September, to review, change and propose new actions in which the Forum will be involved.



## Tom Richmond

It is with a real sense of loss that I tell you of the death of our colleague, Tom Richmond. Tom served on the Community Forum, representing Marley Grange Residents' Association, since 2003. In that time, he showed himself to be capable, concerned, and convinced that each of us can make a difference in our communities.

He was able to take a problem, consider its constituent parts and come up with a thorough and do-able solution. Then Tom would sell the plan to the rest of us. We are still working to some of his ideas.

Tom's concern for both his own neighbourhood and the larger community showed itself in the service of his local residents' association, his parish and the Community Forum.

Tom will be missed of course by his family, but also by his friends and neighbours, those with whom he worshipped, and by those of us with whom he served on the Community Forum.

May he be organising and problem solving in the afterlife.

# DEILG INIS THEATRE C

**D**eilg Inis Theatre Company is seen as a real success story in the Social Economy Enterprise programme funded by FÁS. While there seems to have been doubt at various stages whether the national scheme had real political support, Deilg Inis has proved it is a worth-while initiative. The company began in 2003, dreamt up by Dalkey Castle and Heritage Centre Director, Margaret Dunne and since then has been making a major impression on Dublin's heritage and theatre scene in its own right. Artistic Director Caimin Collins, along with Administrator Sharon Burrell, Production Manager Tony Losty and a team of professional actors, (Brenda McSweeney, Robbie Mc Dowell, Paul Travers and Mary Higgins) has been forging new ground in making Dalkey's historical and literary heritage relevant and entertaining.

In September, the team of Deilg Inis participated in a festival celebrating the three year Inter-Regional project between Dalkey and Anglesea, Wales. During this time artists, historians and writers were involved in the cultural exchange instigated by Margaret Dunne of Dalkey Castle and Heritage Centre. Deilg Inis performed Dalkey through the Ages (living history at Dalkey Castle) and The Music of Words (a showcase of Irish dramatic literature and music) for visitors from Wales over these three years. This culminated in the festival which took place in Dalkey from 23 to 25 September and featured seven Deilg Inis performances of three different productions.



Caimin Collins

Caimin, along with the actors of Deilg Inis and two percussionists held workshops in local schools and with local youth groups to prepare for Goats and Dragons; the first Dalkey Pageant held on a glorious Sunday afternoon. Over one hundred local young people from seven local schools and community groups performed in the pageant. Collins, as Performance Director, collaborated with Valerie Coombes, John Higgins and members of Black Sheep Arts along with Welsh artists Toby Dowling and Emrys Williams on the spectacle which drew a huge crowd of over 3,000 to the streets of Dalkey.

The artists, assisted by local young people created a giant goat, representing Dalkey and a dragon representing Wales for a performance which featured internationally renowned percussionist Robbie Harris leading a band of enthusiastic young musicians. Other performances also enjoyed impressive attendance figures, with the Deilg Inis production of Cuan selling out completely.

Dalkey became a medieval village for one day when the Deilg Inis actors joined with the historical re-enactment company Irish Arms to display medieval crafts and skills such as archery, falconry and coin-making while the actors interacted with the public as characters from medieval Dalkey.

An on-going story-gathering project in the Dalkey area has been undertaken by the company and is creating a real sense of excitement among local people. In association with Dalkey Castle and Heritage Centre, Deilg Inis is compiling an extensive archive of stories of local people for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations. The stories are recorded by members of the company interviewing mainly elderly people before their memories of Dalkey are lost forever. Their recent site-specific production Cuan was set in the Dalkey of the 1920s. The fascinating stories of local people gave the writer, Caimin Collins, a feel for Dalkey at that time and enabled him to create a script which has a real sense of place.



Mary Higgins and Brenda in a scene from Cuan

The show was performed at outdoor locations (where the play itself is set) provided by the stunning backdrop of the Dalkey coastal parks and Coliemore Harbour which looks out to Dalkey Island. In a way, this wasn't a totally new experience for Deilg Inis as site-specific performances drawing on local history began back in 2003 when they produced Deilg Inis - The Story of Thorn Island, again written by Collins. This piece drew on the vast history of Dalkey Island with its links to ancient Gaelic Ireland through the arrival of Christianity, (there are still the ruins of a 10th century church) the invasion of the Vikings, the Normans and finally the English who built a Martello Tower on the island which still stands today. Both of these shows are now part of the Deilg Inis repertoire and make a welcome return at certain dates during the summer or for specific groups on special request.

# COMPANY



Paul Travers (left) Robbie McDowell (right) in a scene from Cuan

*Dalkey through the Ages* soon becomes available to schools throughout February and March. The show is performed on-site at Dalkey Castle and Heritage Centre and is continually evolving with the addition of new characters from Dalkey's rich heritage. There are of course major links with the whole Dun Laoghaire area (granite from Dalkey quarry built the pier at Dun Laoghaire in the 1800's) and schools from all over Dublin come to experience this totally unique blend of history and theatre. The actors even use medieval English in the performances and are costumed with incredible attention to historic detail.

The merchant greets the visitors telling the stories of Dalkey as the first major out port for all Dublin and how the goods are kept in his storehouse before being transported to Dublin. The Archer explains the complex and sometimes gruesome world of defending the storehouses from the marauding Gaelic clans in the Wicklow Mountains. The housekeeper explains their way of life in colourful detail and the Healer Woman takes us back to a time when a headache was thought to be the result of a worm eating out the brainpan!



Paul Travers (left) Robbie McDowell (right) in a scene from Living History



Dragon and Goat on the streets of Dalkey during the Dalkey Pageant

An extensive outreach programme is also underway and takes the company to schools all over south Dublin until the end of December. This educational theatre programme provides workshops in Deilig Inis' style of physical storytelling with a seasonal twist and involves young people in the creative process of theatre-making.

While the main focus of all Deilig Inis' work is in Dalkey and the surrounding area, the company is beginning to expand. Being the only heritage theatre company of its kind in the country, this was always inevitable. This involves taking the living history model to other heritage sites and locations as well as providing historical characters for corporate events all over Dublin. The strong community based ethos of Deilig Inis, combined with their innovative, theatrical take on Irish history suggests that you will be hearing a lot more of this dynamic company in the future.

Further information on Deilig Inis and details on all performances can be obtained from:

**Deilig Inis Theatre Company**  
17a, Castle Street, Dalkey, Co. Dublin  
Tel 01 285 7802 Email [deiliginis@msn.com](mailto:deiliginis@msn.com)



## COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's Community Awards Scheme recognises the variety and the wealth of projects being undertaken by community groups and supports the organisers in their endeavours. The Awards are open to groups involved with projects within the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County.

Entries to the Community Awards Scheme will form part of an overall Community Projects Exhibition, which will be held in the County Hall on the 6 to 8 February 2006

### HOW ARE PROJECTS ASSESSED?

Projects will be assessed under the following headings:

- 1 Originality of project and overall presentation
- 2 The level of local participation and the effort involved in putting the project together
- 3 The contribution to the development of the community
- 4 The structure of the group and its aims
- 5 Whether the group is voluntary or non voluntary

### PROJECT CATEGORIES

- 1 Environmental
- 2 Sport & Recreational
- 3 Arts & Culture
- 4 Community Services
- 5 Youth
- 6 Older Person in the Community

### AWARDS

- €500 Award for the winning project in each category
- €250 Award for second place in each category
- Certificate of achievement for 3rd place in each category
- €1,500 Award and Trophy for overall best entry.

Closing date for receipt of application forms:

Friday 16 December 2005

Please send to:

Community Section, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council  
County Hall, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.

# Insurance

David Ryder of Abingdon Insurances tells us of some of the requirements and issues surrounding insurance cover for Associations and Clubs.

This article will attempt to explain what liability cover is, how to go about getting the cover and what your obligations are once you have the cover. There are some basic rules to follow and it is important that these rules are not breached or you risk having your cover cancelled in the event of a claim.

## What is Public Liability Cover?

In law every Individual/Company/Association/Club has a duty of care to others not to cause injury/death or damage to property. A public liability policy covers any breach of that duty of care. It should also be noted that members of a club cannot sue each other for injury/death/damage, because in law you would be seen to be suing yourself, which obviously you cannot do. It is very important therefore that any cover arranged for a club must include the clause "member to member" cover. This means that one member can sue another member if injury is caused. We are asked a lot of times if certain events are covered (in the office we call them the what if questions) Some of the tests for a claim to be payable are:

- That there was a breach of duty of care owed toward the injured party
- That the nature of the activity causing the harm is declared to insurers at the time of taking the cover. This means that a claim may still be payable but your insurers may escape paying the claim and leave you holding the bill.
- That there has been no breach of any policy condition

A possible example of breach of the duty of care would be, say a member spilled water on the floor and did nothing about it and another club member or member of the public slipped and injured themselves. This could leave the club open for a law suit.

If water is spilt and say that member takes the proper precautions to clean the floor, that in my view is not negligence. Accidents do and will occur.

## What is Employers Liability Cover?

A lot of associations would hire in, what is called casual staff. It might only be for an hour or two and the payments are usually small. The employees would be for example, lecturers, demonstrators, and say someone might be hired to set up the hall for a meeting. Because in law these individuals would not be members of the public, therefore associations would not be able to rely on public liability in the event of a claim. The fact that a payment may be very small is not relevant. The indemnity limit of €13 million seems very high but this is actually an industry standard.

## What is Product Liability Cover?

This covers anything the club might produce. In this particular case it relates to food served at meetings or functions.

## Why Have The Cover?

We live in a litigious era, there are many lawsuits and unfortunately they are growing. Hopefully with the recent advent of the Personal Injuries Assessment Board and other Government initiatives, these claims will be stemmed and the claims costs controlled. The early signs are encouraging. It is true that the likelihood of a claim for the club is small, but the consequences are enormous. A club could be sued and actually win their case, but defending a court case can cost many thousands of euros. Your public liability policy will also cover these defence costs.

## Common Misconceptions

I can never understand why some associations don't have this insurance as it is relatively cheap and the consequences of not having it in my view are enormous. One argument we seem to get a lot is that the associations think that as the hall/hotel they are using has insurance, this will cover them, well it doesn't. Hotels are hard enough pushed paying their own premiums without paying for your cover, it simply doesn't happen. If someone is hurt in a hotel, potentially everyone gets sued, i.e. the Hotel owner, the club, and the individual who caused the injury. It is the duty of the solicitor acting on behalf of the injured party to "throw out summons" to all concerned and the judge will sort out who is actually responsible and what are the damages and costs to be paid.

## NEVER EVER RELY ON SOMEONE ELSE'S COVER.

### The Costs

Premiums are calculated using the following main factors:

- Number of members
- Limit of indemnity
- Type of activities

### As an example:

Take a residence committee with 500 odd houses who have public liability at €6.4 million (sounds a lot, but is becoming the standard limit), and you have the following activities:

- Meetings
- AGM
- 2 Estate clean ups
- 1 x Family Fun Day. The family fun day would include activities of Bouncy Castles, Face Painting and Kids Games.

The annual premium (which can be paid by instalments) would be €1,963. Again sounds a lot but this is only €4 per house per annum.

### Getting Covered

The details needed to arrange a quotation / cover are:

- Name and Contact details
- Number of individuals involved
- Exact nature of activities involved.  
This is critical as premium and cover is quoted using this information. Further activities can be added during the year if required.
- Limit of indemnity required. i.e. under public liability €1.3 million, €2.6 million or €6.4 million.

### Client Duties

As mentioned you need to disclose all activities to be carried out during the year, such as meetings, estate clean ups, Bar-B-Q's etc. If you don't, your insurer will be entitled to cancel your cover in the event of a claim. This is called duty of disclosure.

We recommend that one person from the committee should have the responsibility of being in charge of the insurance, and that all communications with the broker / insurer should be through this designated contact.

David is contactable at: **Abingdon Insurances**  
28 Patrick Street, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin  
Tel 01 280 5155 Fax 01 280 7787 email: info@abingdon.ie

# Vulnerable Groups in the Community

The Community & Enterprise Department of DLRC is in the process of preparing a "Profile of Vulnerable Groups in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown", and we would like to hear from you. If your organisation has conducted any research over the past year which addresses the needs and issues facing potentially 'vulnerable groups' (for example, persons with a disability, older persons living alone, persons on a low income, the unemployed, persons with substance abuse problems, early school leavers, persons experiencing domestic violence, etc.),

Please contact Torry Schellhorn in the Social Inclusion Unit of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council  
Tel: 204 7924 Email: tschellhorn@dlrcoco.ie .

The key findings of this report will be presented in various fora in the new year, including this newsletter.



# Volunteering

The Council of Europe has designated 2005 as the European Year of Citizenship through Education. Through this Year, greater awareness of democratic citizenship through the living and learning of democracy is being promoted. While the Year itself is aimed primarily at policy-makers and practitioners to strengthen citizenship education within the formal and non-formal education sectors, many public events and activities have been organised to celebrate the year.

The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese is delighted to mark this important Year by endorsing and presenting the Young Citizen Award. Through [Citizenship2005.ie](http://Citizenship2005.ie), the Award is organised in conjunction with key drivers of the 2005 European Year of Citizenship through Education: the Department of Education & Science and Development Cooperation Ireland (a directorate of the Department of Foreign Affairs). The initiative is being supported by County and City Development Boards (CDBs), who are overseeing the local co-ordination and assessment of applications.

All of the parties involved consider this to be a very important initiative, as through the Young Citizen Award, active citizenship amongst the young people of Ireland is being recognised. The award is open to all young people between the ages of 12 and 25 years who are participating in formal (school) or non-formal (youth organisations and clubs) education. To qualify, young people should be involved in voluntary active citizenship initiatives. A person or group can nominate themselves, or be nominated by someone else.

All nominations that meet the criteria set by the National Steering Committee of the Young Citizen Award will receive a certificate signed by President Mary McAleese. Everyone who receives a certificate will be entered into a lottery for a chance to attend a special event in Aras an Uachtaráin, where they will meet the President and be presented with a specially designed pin to mark the 2005 European Year of Citizenship through Education.

## So, what makes an active citizen?

Active citizenship is about people acting or participating in a socially responsible way in the different communities that they belong to. It is about people learning more about the world and their community by 'doing'. 'Doing' helps people to learn more about how they can make things happen in public life, through the knowledge, skills and values that are nurtured and developed through their involvement.

Here are some examples of initiatives that are considered 'active citizenship'

- Environmental work (for example, litter prevention or recycling)
- Caring for older people, or people with disabilities or special needs; working with Special Olympics
- Cross-Border or Community Peace Work
- Global Development / Support for Developing Countries
- Celebrating Diversity in your community
- Improving Your Environment (school or community)
- Living and Embracing Citizenship (participating in democratic structures, for example Student Councils, Youth Councils or Comhairle na nOg.)

The deadline for receipt of applications **by post only** is Monday 19 December 2005. Further information including an official application form can be downloaded from the website <http://www.citizenship2005.ie>.

*"But there is a more serious issue. If the level of voluntary contribution to our society goes down, what will replace it and what will be the cost? We estimate from these findings that just over half a million people are involved in voluntary activity on a weekly basis. Using our 4 hour average involvement means that there are about 2,400,000 voluntary hours of activity each week. Using any measure, the replacement cost of this activity would be huge (and this makes the big assumption that the commitment involved could be replaced). If one takes a mean replacement cost of the average industrial wage of €15 per hour, (which could be low, relative to the nature of some of the activities), the "cost" of replacing voluntary activity on a weekly basis would be close to €36m, or €1.9bn per annum. To put it in context, it is not that much different from the collective amount that we are contributing to SSIA's every year."*

*This quotation is from research carried out by Amarach Consulting who also published the tables on page 6. Amarach is an independent market research company and the full research report is available on its web site [www.amarach.com](http://www.amarach.com)*

Here are two examples of an approach at corporate level to the general question of volunteering.

## David Collins tells us about Barclays volunteer involvement in the community:

Throughout the world Barclays Bank Plc is involved in community work and in 2004 some 25,000 of its staff were involved in local community projects. Its Barclaycard division, operating out of the European Services Centre in Sandyford, is no different and during 2004 the staff there have been working with local charities and community groups, as well as offering Aid to School projects in Africa. Barclaycard operates a policy whereby staff members are allocated two days per year to work on community projects. This has meant that they can go out into the community and offer help to local groups. In effect this enables Barclaycard staff to offer real help to the local community and give back something positive and tangible to those who need support.



The staff at Barclaycard's Dublin offices have been involved in a number of local community initiatives, including:

- the annual Dundrum Festival, where 26 members of Staff acted as stewards and helpers for this popular community event
- 70 staff helped the Ballyogan Project acting as team leaders in numerous events planned for the children enrolled in this community centre during the summer months
- another team was sent to the Hillview Resource Centre in Ballinteer, where they were able to offer technical services in building and fitting out a computer centre as well as putting in some hard labour building a children's play area and deck in the garden of the centre
- other staff are currently visiting the Children's Cottage Home in Dun Laoghaire where their first project here was to decorate the children's play area.



As well as benefiting the local community groups, the staff have really enjoyed themselves as they build relationships with the community.

If you have any projects that require some assistance then contact David Collins  
Barclaycard International, Ballymoss House  
Carmanhall Road, Sandyford Industrial Estate, Dublin 18.  
Tel 01 294 5372

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**Bank of Ireland is also involved in corporate volunteer work as Nell Kavanagh explains:**

In 2000, Bank of Ireland Cabinteely consolidated its various Community Involvement activities into one program to better facilitate our staff in making a positive impact on our communities. Over the years, we had received and responded to requests from local groups for support either financially or by providing expertise and equipment, but we felt we could leverage and strengthen our contribution to the local communities through supporting our staff in their volunteer activities and harnessing our resources to support local groups and initiatives. And so our *Business in the Community Programme* was established.

**The main strands of our program are:**

**Employee Supported Volunteering**

Large numbers of our staff are involved on an ongoing basis in volunteer work in the community, with areas of commitment ranging from local sports clubs to school projects and a number of charities. In order to recognise this commitment, staff register their volunteer activities and record personal hours devoted on a quarterly basis. They also have the option to apply for financial support for one project each year for their nominated organisation. The Bank hosts an Annual ESV Awards Reception for volunteers and representatives from their volunteer organisations, at which cheques are presented to the groups to acknowledge the personal time given over by the various staff members.

**Junior Schools Programme**

We are partnered with a number of primary schools in the greater Cabinteely area - covering over 2,000 students. Since 2001 we have run a combination of road shows and competitions for the children. A highlight of each of the competitions has been the Awards Ceremony held in Cabinteely for the students, teachers, and parents. As is evidenced by some of the letters received from the pupils, this is one of the high points of the Programme in their eyes.

**Schools Business Partnership**

Many second level students drop out of the education system prior to completing the Leaving Certificate Programme; this problem is particularly acute in disadvantaged areas. Run under the auspices of the Business in the Community Foundation and the Department of Education & Science, the Schools Business Partnership is a scheme, whereby an organisation is partnered with a designated school. We became involved in this activity in January 2004 and we are partnered with two senior schools with staff volunteers acting as mentors to 5th & 6th year students in an effort to encourage them to remain in school to complete the senior cycle programme.



**Challenge Days**

This is a bit like Ground Force meets Changing Rooms, but with a very serious intent. Since our programme started we have completed ten separate Challenges and they are hugely popular with our staff as we are always over subscribed for volunteers. Our challenges to date have taken place as follows:

- September 2001
- July 2002
- November 2002
- May 2003
- November 2003
- May 2004
- November 2004
- May 2005
- October 2005

- Cabinteely Community School
- St Theresa's Centre for Ladies with Intellectual & Physical Disabilities
- Loughinstown Leisure Centre
- National Rehabilitation Hospital, Rochestown Avenue, Dun Laoghaire
- Carriglea Football and Youth Club
- Ballyogan Resource Centre
- Bray Cancer Support Centre
- Beaufort Day Care Centre
- St Joseph's Shankill

In May 2005 we were delighted to complete our challenge in Beaufort Day Care Centre in Glasthule. Responding to a request from the Management Team there on 19 May our volunteers were able to provide the residents and clients of the centre with a lovely Japanese Garden. (illustrated above)



Inside the centre our volunteers gave a fresh coat of paint to the dining room and the reception rooms. However our *"Piece De Resistance"* has to be the revamped Hair Salon which the people of the centre really love.

*We have lots more to do - but we like to think we are helping to make a difference.*



**We would like to hear from your organisation with a view to carrying details in forthcoming editions.**

**The Forum can be contacted at**

**DUN LAOGHAIRE – RATHDOWN COMMUNITY FORUM**

**C/o Community and Enterprise Department  
County Hall, Marine Road  
Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin**

**Email: [ccf@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:ccf@dlrcoco.ie)**