

# SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

*A Selection of Rural and Urban Rambles  
in South Dublin County & Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown*

By Frank Tracy



# SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

A Selection of Rural and Urban Rambles  
in South Dublin County  
&  
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown

*By Frank Tracy*

SOUTH DUBLIN LIBRARIES  
2009

SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

COPYRIGHT 2009 LOCAL STUDIES SECTION

SOUTH DUBLIN LIBRARIES

ISBN 978-0-9553798-6-4

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without the prior permission of the copyright owner.

Published by  
SOUTH DUBLIN LIBRARIES

Design and layout by  
JOHN McALEER

Printed in Ireland by  
GRAPHPRINT LTD

Local Studies Section  
County Library  
Library Square  
Town Centre  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24  
Phone 353 (0)1 462 0073

South Dublin Libraries HQ  
Unit 1  
Square Industrial Complex  
Town Centre  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24  
Phone 353 (0)1 459 7834

e-mail [localstudies@sdblincoco.ie](mailto:localstudies@sdblincoco.ie)

**[www.southdublin.ie](http://www.southdublin.ie)**  
**[www.southdublinlibraries.ie](http://www.southdublinlibraries.ie)**

## CONTENTS

	Page
Contents .....	1
The Author .....	2
Acknowledgements .....	3
Bibliography .....	3
Introduction by Mayor Marie Corr .....	4
Author's Introduction .....	5
Public Transport .....	6
Safety .....	6
Countryside Code .....	7
Walk 1. Tallaght Village – Bancroft Park – Tymon Park .....	8
Walk 2. Tallaght Village – City Weir – Dodder Valley Park .....	14
Walk 3. Rockbrook – Massy's Wood – Hellfire Club .....	20
Walk 4. Rockbrook – Massy's Wood – Cruagh Wood .....	28
Walk 5. Kilgobbin – Barnacullia – Three Rock Mountain .....	34
Walk 6. Barnaslingan – Ballycorus – Carrickgollogan .....	38
Walk 7. Cabinteely Park – Kilbogget Park .....	42
Walk 8. Dun Laoghaire – Sandycove – Dalkey – The Metals .....	46
Walk 9. Dalkey – Killiney Hill – Roches Hill – Dalkey Quarries .....	52
Walk 10. Glencree – Oldboleys .....	58
Glencree .....	62
Walk 11. Kilgobbin - Rockbrook .....	66



## **THE AUTHOR**

Frank Tracy was born in the Liberties in Dublin in 1943. He was educated at St. James' Street CBS and University College Galway from which he graduated with a B.A. in Celtic Archaeology in 1967. He has spent most of his working life in the Public Service. A keen hillwalker and lifelong member of the scout movement, he is an active scout leader in the Merchants' Quay Scout Troop. He also has a keen interest in local history and archaeology which led, among other things, to this book on hillwalking in South Dublin County. A father of five adult children, he lives with his wife Bernie in Stillorgan, Co. Dublin.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the research, identification and trial walking of the routes contained in this guide I was greatly assisted by two walking companions, my wife Bernie and my good friend P. D. Lynch.

I am also very grateful to Kieran Swords and the staff of the South Dublin Libraries for their support in the preparation and publication of this walking guide.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Corlett, Christiaan. *Antiquities of old Rathdown, the archaeology of south County Dublin and north County Wicklow*. Bray: Wordwell Ltd, 1999

Fewer, Michael. *The Wicklow Military Road, history and topography*. Dublin: Ashfield Press, 2007.

*The Granite Hills, a guide to Killiney and Ballybrack*. 4th ed., Dublin: Local History Group Ballybrack I.C.A. Guild, 1982.

Healy, Patrick. *All roads lead to Tallaght*. Dublin: South Dublin Libraries, 2004.

Healy, Patrick. *Glenasmole roads*. Dublin: South Dublin Libraries, 2006.

Healy, Patrick. *Rathfarnham Roads*. Dublin: South Dublin Libraries, 2005.

Kennedy, Gerald Conan. *Guide to the Historic Town of Dalkey*. Killala: Morrigan Books, 2003.

Mac Aongusa, Brian. *Hidden Streams, a new history of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown*. Dublin: Currach Press, 2007.

Price, Liam. *The place-names of Co. Wicklow*. Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 2006.

South Dublin Libraries. *From Monastic Centre to Modern City, Tallaght Town Centre to Tallaght Village, a guided walk*. Dublin: South Dublin Libraries, 2007

Tracy, Frank. *If those trees could speak, the story of an ascendancy family in Ireland*. 2nd ed., Dublin: South Dublin Libraries, 2008.

## INTRODUCTION BY MAYOR MARIE CORR OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY



The publication of *South Dublin Rambles* by South Dublin Libraries is most timely. At last, Spring has arrived, the days are growing longer and the weather is improving. This delightful little book promotes health through a series of rambles and the lively text also informs us about the history, heritage, nature and landscapes of South Dublin County and of neighbouring Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County which can be enjoyed at little or no cost, an advantage in these economically tough times. The book describes a variety of walks including walks in areas provided by the Parks Departments of South Dublin County Council and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

A previous book written by Frank Tracy and published by South Dublin Libraries on the history of the Massy Family, *If those trees could speak, the story of an ascendancy family in Ireland* is now in its second edition. It has become a bestseller in Ireland and internationally. I am certain that this book will also prove invaluable to a wide readership of natives and tourists alike as they explore and enjoy our Counties.

Frank has recently retired and is obviously intent on keeping himself busy. I would like to take this opportunity to wish him and his wife, Bernie, a long and enjoyable active retirement.

Bígí ag súil!

*Marie Corr*  
April 2009

## AUTHOR'S INTRODUCTION

**M**ANY guidebooks have been published over the years on walks in the Dublin-Wicklow Mountains. For that reason, it is difficult to identify routes that have not already been covered in other publications. In this guidebook I have tried to configure a series of walks in South Dublin County and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County that have a new element to them. The guidebook contains a combination of five urban and six rural walks. While some sections of these walks may have featured in other publications, I have endeavoured to incorporate them into longer, more varied routes. In addition, I have included extensive references to historical and other features along the routes which I hope will give added interest to the walks.

All of the walks, with the exception of Walk No.10, are within South Dublin County or Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown. Walk No. 10 is a looped walk in the beautiful Glencree Valley in Co.Wicklow. Glencree is located just outside the South Dublin County border and I have included it because of its magnificent scenery and historical past. It is the only walk in this book that is not accessible by public transport.

All of the walks, with the exception of Walk No.11, are looped walks, in that they start and finish at the same place. Walk No.11 is a linear walk of some 13 km across the Dublin Mountains from Kilgobbin to Rockbrook. The route of this walk is almost totally off-road and includes mountain tracks, open moorland, forestry, broadleaf woodland, historic sites and spectacular scenery. Some walking experience and reasonable stamina should be attained before undertaking this walk and it should not be walked on one's own.

The estimated times for the walks take account of the nature of the terrain, including ascents, and are based on a rambling pace. I have also taken into account the urge to occasionally "stop and stare". The hand-drawn sketch maps are not strictly to scale and are intended to focus primarily on giving clear route directions.

**It is important to carefully read the route description and accompanying sketch-map before each walk and to regularly refer to them during the walk. It is also important to bring rainwear, some refreshments, and to wear footwear appropriate to the terrain as indicated in the guide.**

**Frank Tracy**

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

With the exception of Walk No. 10 (Glencree), all of the walks are accessible by bus. All of the bus routes listed in the guide also connect with the No. 75 bus which links Tallaght and Dun Laoghaire.

In addition to buses, Dun Laoghaire and Dalkey are also serviced by the Dart; Tallaght is also serviced by the Luas – Red Line.

## **SAFETY**

- Before setting out, it is important to read the guide and map carefully and to note the route and the nature of the terrain.
- Where the route passes through urban areas, comfortable trainers or walking shoes are recommended.
- Where the route is off-road, hiking boots with good ankle support are recommended.
- In upland areas of the Dublin Mountains, the weather and visibility can deteriorate rapidly. On the route map of each walk, the location of the nearest road is shown.
- It is prudent, for many reasons, not to walk alone in mountain areas.
- Carry a light rucksack containing rain gear and some refreshments. A small personal first aid kit is also advisable.
- Before departing, make sure to leave information on your intended route and anticipated return time with a friend. Always notify the friend of your safe return.
- In case of emergency, dial 999 or 112, stating the nature of the emergency and your location. In an emergency a whistle, torch or camera flash can be used to attract attention.

## **COUNTRYSIDE CODE**

- Respect people who live and work in the countryside.
- Respect private property, farmland and all rural environments.
- Do not interfere with livestock, machinery or crops.
- Respect, and where possible, protect all wildlife, plants and trees.
- Use approved routes and keep as closely to them as possible.
- Take special care when walking on country roads without footpaths. Walk on the right side of the road, facing oncoming traffic.
- Leave all gates as you find them and do not cause damage to property.
- Avoid damaging wire fences.
- Do not bring a dog into areas where there are sheep.
- Guard against all risks of fire; do not light a fire within 1 km of a forest.
- Take all of your litter home; leaving only your footprints behind.
- In rural areas, keep the number of cars used to a minimum, park safely and do not restrict access.
- Minimise impact on fragile ground.
- Take heed of warning signs – they are there for your protection.
- Take care not to pollute water sources.
- Be aware of the weather forecast for each day.

## Walk 1. Tallaght Village – Bancroft Park – Tymon Park

**Distance:** 8 km **Estimated Time:** 2 hrs

**Terrain:** Footpaths and tarred pathways  
(trainers or walking shoes)

**Public Transport:** Luas & Bus 49, 50, 54A, 56A, 65, 75, 77A.

**Parking:** There are many car parking options in the Tallaght area.

### Tallaght

Tallaght (*Támh Leacht – Plague Burial Place*) is located at the foot of the Dublin Mountains on the Dublin-Blessington road. In pre-historic times, it is reputed to have been the burial place of over 9,000 people who died of a plague. These people were Parthalonians, followers of Parthalon.

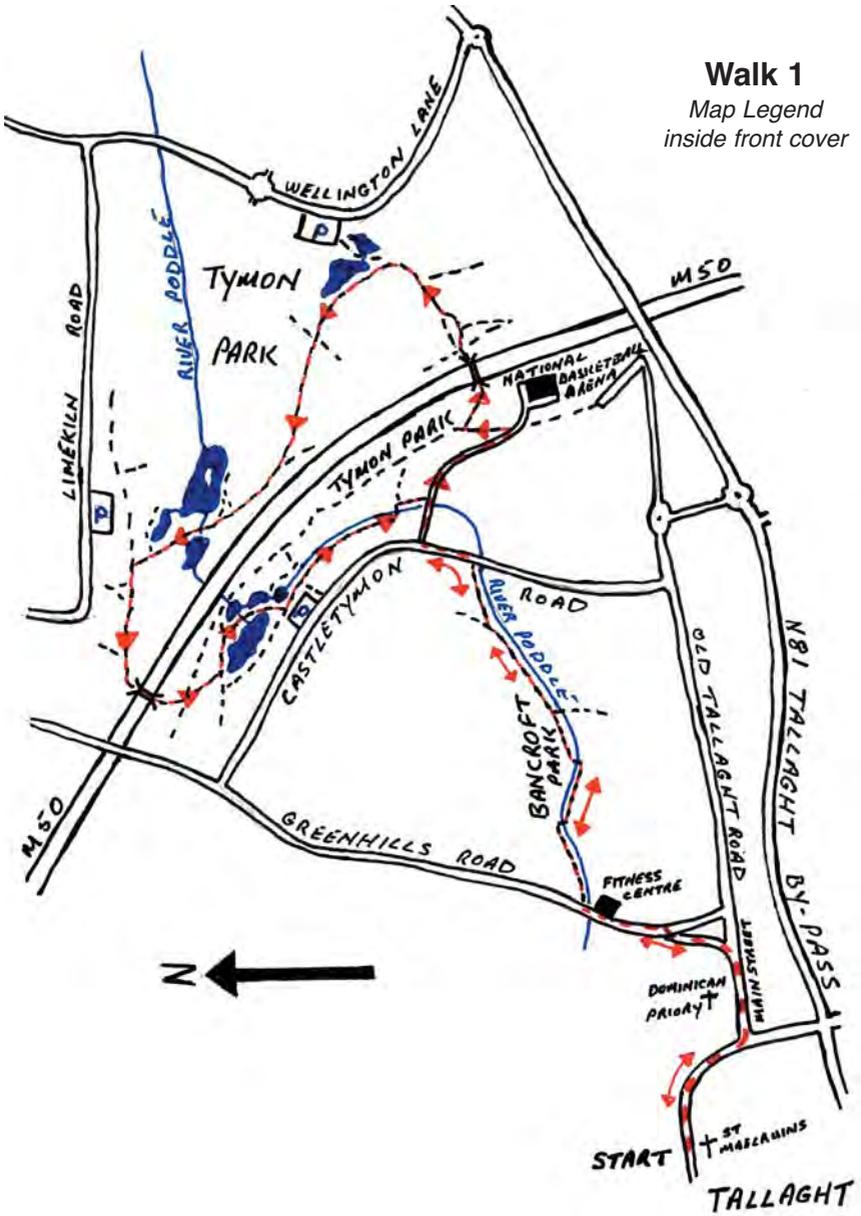
Tallaght is recorded in early Irish written history as the location of a monastery founded in 769 A.D. by St. Maelruain. Three celebrated manuscripts, the Martyrology of Óengus, the Martyrology of Tallaght and the Stowe Missal were written at the monastery of Tallaght. St. Maelruain's Church of Ireland Parish Church stands on the site of a medieval church which in turn occupied the site of the original monastery.

In 1324, the Archbishop of Dublin erected a manorial palace called Tallaght Castle as a summer residence on the site now occupied by the Dominican Priory. Only one tower of the Archbishop's Palace survives incorporated within the structure of the present Dominican Priory.

Tallaght had a number of other castles, including Kilnamanagh Castle, Tymon Castle and Bancroft Castle, all of which have completely disappeared.

The village of Tallaght grew up around the St. Maelruin's monastery and the Archbishop's Palace. Until the early 1960s, Tallaght was a quiet rural village approximately 12 km from Dublin City. From 1960 onwards, Tallaght experienced enormous growth and today it is a large urban town or city of about 100,000 people.

SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES



**The walk begins** at St. Maelruain's Church on the Old Blessington Road.

- *This is the site of the 8th century monastery founded by St. Maelruain around which the village of Tallaght developed. The monastery at Tallaght was a renowned centre of learning associated with the Celtic Church's spiritual reform movement, Céilí Dé. The present church was designed by the renowned architect, John Semple, in 1829. The tower predates the present church and is all that remains of an earlier medieval church that was demolished in 1820. Within the churchyard is St. Maelruain's Cross, an early cross set in a pedestal. Close to the churchyard gate is St. Maelruain's Losset a shallow granite trough or font. Beside the churchyard gate are two attractive 19th century cottages. The one nearest the gate is the sexton's house and the other was a girls' school.*

Walk forward towards the centre of the old village and turn left onto Main Street.

- *Across the road, on the opposite corner, is a limestone sculpture carved by Dick Joynt called "The Victors". The Old Cross of Tallaght, which disappeared in the 18th century, stood near where this sculpture now stands.*
- *A plaque mounted high on a wall on the left, just after the corner, commemorates an armed encounter which took place on 5th March 1867 that has become known as the Battle of Tallaght. On that day, a group of armed Fenians from the surrounding locality mounted an attack on the RIC barracks at Tallaght. In the ensuing battle three of the attackers were killed before the attack was repulsed.*

Continue along Main Street passing the Dominican Priory on the left.

- *On the opposite side of the road from the Dominican Priory is a row of attractive two-storey 19th century cottages.*

Take the first turn left after the Priory onto the Old Greenhills Road.

- *At the corner of this junction is a very nice memorial garden dedicated to the novelist and poet Katharine Tynan who lived at Whitehall near Tallaght. The centrepiece of the memorial garden is a delightful sculpture by Antoinette Fleming entitled 'The Dancers'.*

SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES



St. Maelruain's Church and Tower, Tallaght *P. D. Lynch*



Katharine Tynan Memorial Garden, Tallaght *P. D. Lynch*

### Sheep and Lambs

*All in the April evening,  
April airs were abroad;  
The sheep with their little lambs  
Passed me by on the road.*

*Up in the blue, blue mountains  
Dewy pastures are sweet;  
Rest for the little bodies,  
Rest for the little feet.*

*All in the April evening,  
April airs were abroad;  
I saw the sheep with their lambs,  
And thought of the Lamb of God.*

*Katharine Tynan (1861-1931)*

Continue along the Old Greenhills Road which is now a cul-de-sac and cross the new Greenhills Road extension at the pedestrian lights just after St. Basil's School. Turn left and continue forward, turning right, immediately after the Westpark Fitness Centre, onto a path into Bancroft Park. Follow the pathway as it alternates along both sides of the Poddle River until it emerges onto Castletymon Road.

- *For many centuries the Poddle River was a primary source of freshwater to Dublin City. The volume of water in the Poddle was boosted by way of an additional water supply, via a watercourse, from the City Weir on the River Dodder.*

On emerging from Bancroft Park, turn left onto Castletymon Road and, at the next pedestrian lights, cross to the other side of the road. Continue onwards to an entrance into Tymon Park and the National Basketball Arena opposite the Penny Black Tavern. Turn right into the avenue of the National Basketball Arena. Follow the avenue until it cuts across a laneway just before the Arena car park.

Turn left, onto a well established laneway. This is Tymon Lane, an old lane connecting Balrothery and Greenhills that has now been absorbed into the modern park and which retains much of its original character.

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

Continue for a short distance along Tymon Lane and take the next turn on the right.

- *It is possible to cut the length of the walk in half by continuing straight forward along Tymon Lane to rejoin the walk at the upper end of Tymon Lane.*

Having turned right, continue forward to reach a footbridge over the M50. Walk over the footbridge into the eastern side of the park (Tymon Park straddles both sides of the M50). Walk forward up a path over a large mound from which there is a fine view of the surrounding area. Descend from the mound to rejoin the pathway on the left. Walk forward and take the next turn left, just before a large artificial pond.

Continue forward on a long path, passing straight through all junctions until a T-junction is reached just before a car park at the northern end of the park near Limekiln Road. Turn left to re-cross the M50 again via a footbridge and re-enter the western side the park. Follow the pathway leading downwards towards a number of artificial ponds. After approximately 50 metres the path cuts across another path.

- *This other path is Tymon Lane where the shorter route rejoins the main route.*

Continue forward to reach the artificial ponds which were created by damming the Poddle River. Turn left to walk along the top edge of the first large pond and then take the pathway to the right between the large and small ponds. Having passed through the ponds, turn left and continue forward along a long pathway through the park until it bears left across a small stone bridge over the Poddle River. Immediately after crossing the small bridge, turn right to emerge shortly onto the avenue of the National Basketball Arena. Turn right and exit through the main entrance back again onto Castletymon Road.

From here, retrace the route taken at the start of the walk i.e. via Castletymon Road, Bancroft Park, Greenhills Road and Tallaght Main Street back to St. Maelruain's Church.

## Walk 2. Tallaght Village – City Weir – Dodder Valley Park

**Distance:** 8 km                      **Estimated Time:** 2 hrs

**Terrain:** Roadway, tarred pathways and a small section of unsurfaced track (trainers or walking shoes).

**Public Transport:** Luas & Bus 49, 50, 54A, 56A, 65, 75, 77A.

**Parking:** There are many car parking options in the Tallaght area.

**The first 400 metres of this walk i.e. from St. Maelruain’s Church to the Katharine Tynan Memorial, is the same as Walk No. 1.**

**For information on features of interest on this section of the walk please refer to script of Walk No. 1 (page 8).**

**The walk begins** at St. Maelruain’s Church on the Old Blessington Road.

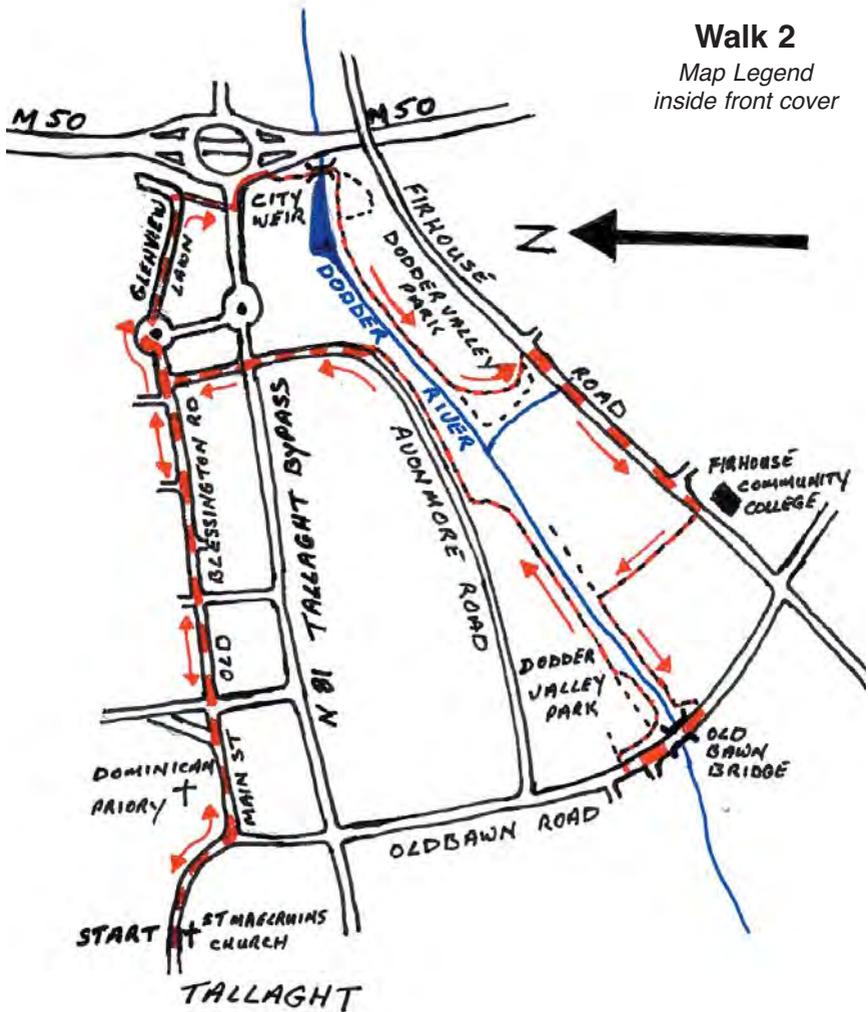
Walk forward towards the centre of the old village and turn left onto Main Street.

Continue along Main Street passing the Dominican Priory on the left to arrive at the Katharine Tynan memorial garden at the next junction.

Continue straight forward onto the old Blessington Road.

- *This road was on the route of the Blessington Steam Tram which ran between Terenure and Blessington, via Tallaght, from 1888 until 1932. The total journey was 16 miles. Each tram could carry 68 passengers, 38 of whom sat on an open upper deck. Over the years, many fatal accidents occurred either through people falling off the tram, being run over by a tram or being thrown from horses frightened by the noise of the tram. Because of the number of small memorial crosses erected along the route of the tram, it became known locally as "the longest graveyard in the world". Occasionally sparks from the engine of the tram set fire to the thatched roofs of houses along the route.*

SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES



**Walk 2**

Map Legend  
inside front cover

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

Walk forward along the old Blessington Road, passing all junctions, until a roundabout is reached.

Continue straight forward through the roundabout into Glenview Lawn.

- *The terrace of four granite single-storey County Council cottages on the right hand side of the road are typical of the hundreds of such cottages that were built in County Dublin in the late 19th and early 20th century.*

Walk to the end of this road.

Normally the route is straight ahead, down a wide ramp leading to an underpass. At the bottom of the ramp take the first turn right, walk a short distance and turn right again up a ramp to the other side of the N81 and a pathway leading straight ahead to a pedestrian bridge at the City Weir.

**However, for much of 2009 this underpass will be closed for major road works at the N81/M50 junction. Pending reopening of the underpass, the following alternative route should be taken.**

Turn right and walk the short distance to a lights-controlled pedestrian crossing at the N81. Cross the pedestrian crossing and turn left along a pathway that runs alongside the roundabout over the M50. Soon the pathway turns right and descends to a lower pathway. Turn left along the pathway to a pedestrian bridge at the City Weir.

**(This alternative route will be removed when the underpass is reopened)**

- *The most striking feature to be seen from the pedestrian bridge is the City Weir which was originally built on the River Dodder by the monks of St. Thomas's Abbey in the early 13th century. A watercourse was constructed for approximately 3 km from the weir as far as Kimmage to link up with, and supplement the Poddle River which at that time, and for many more centuries, was the main source of domestic water supply to the city. Because most of the water in the Dodder River was diverted at the weir into the City Watercourse, the level of the river at the foot of the weir was very low. Up to the mid-*

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

*nineteenth century, a ford crossed the river at this point. In 1846, the river channel was straightened and deepened to alleviate the effects of floods for which the river was, and still is, notorious. This work had the side effect of eliminating the ford. A plank bridge was erected across the river to replace the ford but this was repeatedly washed away. In 1860 an iron lattice bridge was built across the river. This was replaced in 1995 by the present bridge.*

- *Retrace your steps to examine a number of interesting features at a small humpbacked bridge just before the pedestrian bridge. Firstly, the remains of the old watercourse can be seen. In the watercourse are the remains of two sluice gates which controlled and directed the flow of water from the weir. Alongside the watercourse, a narrow track leads off through some bushes to the top of the weir. Beside the pathway from the humpbacked bridge to the pedestrian bridge, a small unsurfaced laneway leads down, on the right, to the river. This is the remains of a laneway to the ford that crossed the river at this point.*

\*A more detailed account of the City Weir and watercourse is contained in *All Roads Lead to Tallaght* by Patrick Healy published by South Dublin Libraries.



City Weir, Firhouse

*P. D. Lynch*

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

Having crossed the pedestrian bridge, turn right and follow the tarred pathway beside the river, through a gateway into Dodder Valley Park.

- *This section of the Dodder Valley Park is currently (2009) in the process of development from open fields to landscaped park.*

Continue along the pathway until a high mound appears ahead. Follow the pathway up the mound and straight down the other side. On descending from the mound, turn left onto a pathway that leads to the nearby exit from the park onto Firhouse Road. Turn right onto Firhouse Road and walk along the footpath for approximately 500 metres to re-enter the park at a gateway opposite Firhouse Community College. This section of the park is at a very early stage of development. Follow the unsurfaced pathway just inside the gateway and proceed onwards towards the river. Just before the river, a T-junction is reached. Turn left.

- *The unsurfaced pathway to the right is currently a dead-end but, hopefully, will in time connect with the City Weir pathway, thus obviating the need to divert onto Firhouse Road.*

Having turned left, continue along the unsurfaced pathway with the river on your right. The pathway soon reaches Old Bawn Bridge.

- *Take time to look at the multi-level structure in the river under the bridge. A number of earlier bridges at Old Bawn were undermined by the ferocious power of the river in flood and collapsed. The multi-level structure under the bridge was constructed in an effort, so far successful, to reduce the impact of the river on the foundations of the bridge. A side effect of these works is the creation of a series of water cascades which are very dramatic when the river is in flood.*

The path rises steeply up to an exit gate onto Old Bawn Road. Turn right across the bridge over the river and continue along Old Bawn Road to turn right at a gateway into the other side of Dodder Valley Park.

On entering the park, turn right and continue along the path until it turns left just before the river. Follow the path which soon rises up from the riverbank and joins an upper path. Turn right and continue forward along this path until it reaches Avonmore Road.

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES



Old Bawn Bridge, Tallaght

*K. Swords*

At Avonmore Road the path turns right, beside and inside an exit gate, and continues parallel to the roadway to emerge at the junction of Avonmore Road with the Tallaght By-pass (N81).

Cross the N81 via the pedestrian crossing and continue straight forward along a short road leading to a T-junction with the old Blessington Road. Turn left and continue along this road. After approximately 15 minutes you arrive back at St. Maelruain's Church via Tallaght Village.

### Walk 3. Rockbrook - Massy's Wood - Hellfire Club

**Distance:** 7 km      **Estimated Time:** 2 hrs 30 mins  
The walking distance for those using the bus is about 800 metres longer — 400 metres extra at the start and at the finish.

**Terrain:** Roadway, forest roads and tracks (walking boots)  
The walk includes an ascent of 383 metres (1,256 feet) to the summit of Mount Pelier. A small section of the track along the Owendoher River can be a bit muddy after wet weather.

**Public Transport:** Bus 161 (Nutgrove Shopping Centre to Rockbrook)

**Parking:** Cruagh Cemetery.

**Those travelling by bus** should alight at Rockbrook village and walk forward past Tibbradden Road on the left and Mount Venus Road on the right to the next turn to the right at Cruagh Cemetery where those travelling by car can park.

This walk is a figure of 8 comprising a circuit of Massy's Wood linked to a circuit of Mount Pelier.

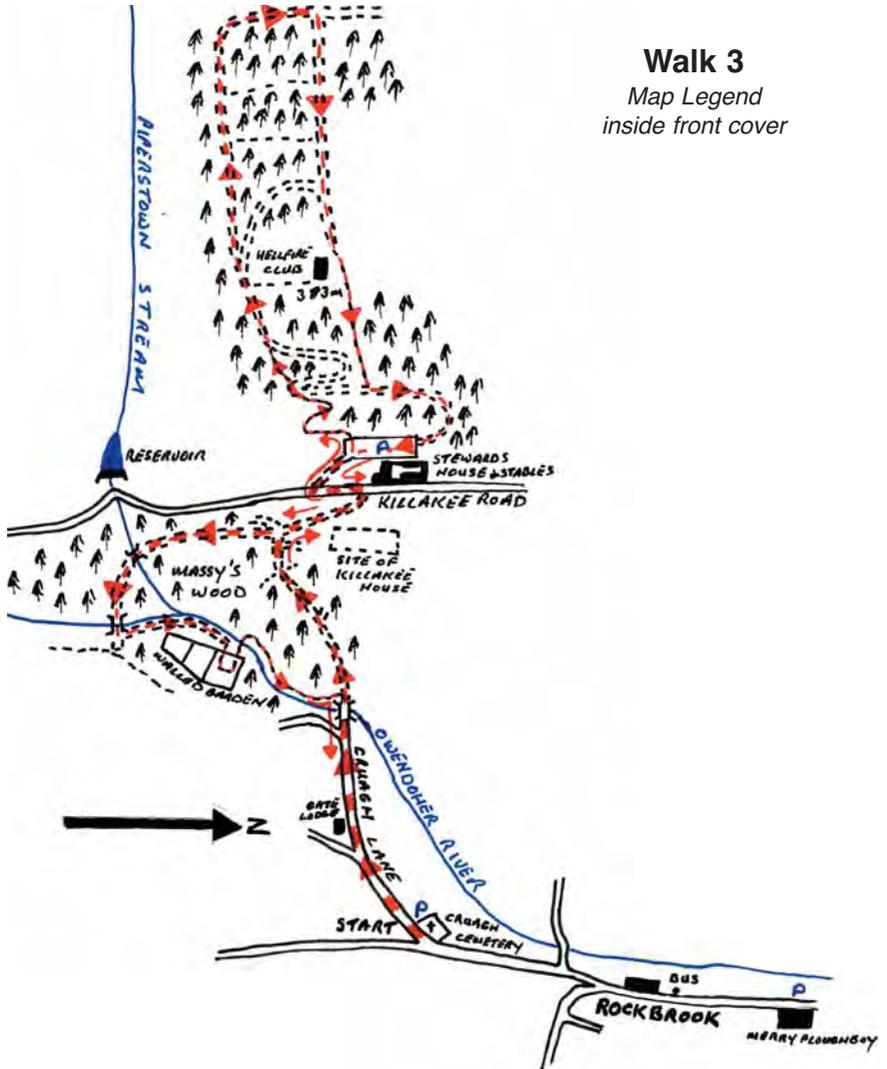
**The walk begins** at Cruagh Cemetery and proceeds along Cruagh Lane. After approximately 250 metres the entrance into the old Killakee Estate is reached. Walk through the gateway, past the gate lodge, and continue forward. Soon the entrance into Massy's Wood is reached. Walk through the gap beside the gateway into Massy's Wood and continue straight ahead along the unsurfaced road.

- *This road was the main avenue to Killakee House, the residence of Lord Massy of Duntrileague\*. The Killakee Estate was owned successively by the Conolly, White and Massy families. The 6th Baron Massy inherited the estate from his uncle, Col. Luke White, who died without issue and whose sister, Matilda, was the 6th Baron's mother. In 1924, the Massy family trust was declared bankrupt. The house was taken over by the Munster and Leinster Bank. In 1941, having failed to find a buyer, the house was sold for salvage and demolished. The woods passed to the Forestry Commission which we know today as Coillte.*

\*A full history of the Massy family is recounted in a book *If Those Trees Could Speak* by Frank Tracy, published by South Dublin Libraries.

SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

**Walk 3**  
Map Legend  
inside front cover



## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

- *This stretch of unsurfaced road through Massy's Wood is also the only remaining section of the Military Road\*\* in its original state.*

\*\*The Military Road runs from near Rathfarnham, Co Dublin for over 60 kilometres across the mountains to Aghavannagh, Co Wicklow. It was built by the British Army between 1801 and 1809 to facilitate the movement of troops into the mountains to counteract the activities of rebels in the Wicklow Mountains following the 1798 rebellion. A full account of the building of the Military Road and the history of areas through which the road passes can be found in a book *The Wicklow Military Road* by Michael Fewer published by Ashfield Press in 2007.

Continue forward along the main avenue.

- *After approximately 300 metres, just before a barrier pole across the road, at a junction into a field, a large oak tree can be seen on the right. This is one of the finest Irish oak trees in the country.*

Continue forward along the main avenue alongside a fenced plantation of young oak trees on the right.

- *At the end of this fenced area, a number of old decaying Monkey Puzzle Trees (Chilean Pines) can be seen on the right. These trees flanked the final stretch of the main avenue into Killakee House.*

Continue forward along the forest road until a crossroads is reached. Turn right and walk forward along the forest road to the exit from Massy's Wood onto Killakee Road.

- *A short distance below the forest road, a modern house can be seen. This house is built on the site of the original Killakee House which was the seat of Lord Massy and which was demolished in 1941.*

Directly opposite the exit from Massy's Wood on the Killakee Road is an old two storey house and stable yards.

- *This house was built in 1765 by the Conolly family as a shooting lodge. The stable yards were constructed by the Conollys and later extended by Luke White and Lord Massy. During the time of the Whites and Lord Massy, it was the Steward's house. Following the collapse of the Massy family trust, the house passed to the Steward, Maurice Fox, and has since changed ownership a number of times. In recent times it was a restaurant until its closure around 2004.*

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

Turn left onto Killakee Road and, after approximately 100 metres, turn right into Hellfire Wood car park. On entering the car park, turn left onto a track that zig-zags up through an area of harvested forest. Follow this track upwards until it emerges at a bend on a wide unsurfaced forest road.

Turn left onto the bend on the forest road and after a few metres, just before the end of the bend, turn left off the forest road onto a narrow track that runs upwards through the trees near to the edge of the forest. The Piperstown Glen is clearly visible below on the left. This track emerges onto the forest road again at a higher level. On reaching the forest road, turn left and proceed forward. Take the next forest road on the left. This forest road runs parallel to Piperstown Glen before turning right to overlook Piperstown. From here there is a fine view of Piperstown, Ballinascorney and the mountains beyond. Continue onwards taking the next turn to the right which leads to the Hellfire Club on the summit of Mount Pelier.

- *In the mid-eighteenth century a fashion developed among the landed classes, of building gentlemen's sporting lodges. Some of these lodges became drinking and gambling dens and, because of their notoriety, became known as Hellfire Clubs. The building on the summit of Mount Pelier was a sporting lodge built by William Conolly, Speaker of the old Irish House of Commons. It was built using stones from a nearby megalithic burial cairn, which was considered locally to bode ill for the building and for those who frequented it. By the end of the 18th century Hellfire Clubs were out of fashion and the building on Mount Pelier fell into a ruinous state. Today it is a popular location for walkers because of the spectacular views of Dublin City and Bay.*

From the Hellfire Club, continue in an easterly direction towards a wide track that runs steeply downwards through the forest. About halfway down the hill the path emerges onto a forest road. Turn left onto this forest road and follow it downwards to the car park and Killakee Road.

Turn left onto Killakee Road and after about 100 metres, turn right into Massy's Wood again. Continue forward until a forest crossroads is reached. Walk straight ahead, absorbing the wonderful woodland on either side of the forest road. The road soon turns left across a bridge over the Piperstown stream.

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

- *This stream flows down from Piperstown Glen, where there is a reservoir which was built in Victorian times to supply the Killakee Estate with water.*

Continue forward to soon reach another bridge, this time over the Owendoher River (*Abhainn Dothair – Dark River*).

- *On the right, beside the river, are the ruined remains of the estate wood mills.*

Turn left down a path that runs alongside the river. Soon the gateway into the old estate gardens appears.

- *The walled gardens at Killakee were designed by the renowned 19th century landscape designer, Ninian Niven. The gardens were divided into three walled sections. The largest section was a formal garden, the centrepiece of which was a magnificent complex of curvilinear conservatories designed by Richard Turner. This garden also contained a number of ornamental fountains, lily ponds and statues arrayed on a series of tiered embankments. The second and third sections consisted of orchards and vegetable gardens.*

Bear left down a path that runs between the river and the garden wall.

- *Two interesting features can be seen along the riverside of this pathway. The first is the remains of a water filtering system through which water from the river was diverted and conveyed via a 3 inch metal pipe, which is still visible, to the fountains and conservatories in the garden. A short distance beyond this feature is a small icehouse. Before the invention of refrigerators, food was kept fresh by storing it in icehouses. Ice was collected in cold weather from still ponds created on the river and placed in the icehouse.*

Continue down along the pathway beside the river until it passes through an archway into the derelict site of the formal garden. Walk straight through the archway to the centre of the garden, turn left and walk forward down the centre of the garden to where the cut stone foundation of a circular conservatory can still be seen in the ground. Behind this feature, the foundations of two long rectangular conservatories can still be discerned in the undergrowth.



*Guinness Collection*

*Kilakee Walled Gardens circa 1900 (now derelict)*

SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES



Hellfire Club

*P. D. Lynch*



Former Kilakee Estate Steward's House

*K. Swords*

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES



Massy's Wood

P. D. Lynch

Turn left and exit the garden through an archway in the garden wall. Follow the path across a small bridge over the Owendoher River.

- *At this point, the path passes a fine Sequoia (California Redwood) tree. This is the largest Sequoia tree in Massy's Wood. In California, Sequoia trees grow which are over 3,000 years old. This makes them one of the longest living species on earth today.*

The path crosses another small bridge over a gully, turns right and continues downward along a delightful riverside walk. Some parts of the pathway along this section of the walk can be muddy after wet weather, but can be easily circumvented. Continue onwards until the path bends steeply up to the left to join the main avenue.

- *Pause at this bend to note a huge Monterey Pine tree which is native to California. This is the highest tree in Massy's Wood. Between this tree and the river is another Sequoia tree.*

On reaching the main avenue, turn right and return via the main estate gateway and Cruagh Lane to Cruagh Cemetery and the end of the walk for motorists.

Those travelling by bus should turn left and walk approximately 400 metres to arrive at Rockbrook and the 161 bus stop. A further 250 metres brings you to the Merry Ploughboy Inn and refreshments.

## Walk 4. Rockbrook - Massy's Wood – Cruagh Wood

**Distance:** 8 km                      **Estimated Time:** 2 hrs 30 mins  
The walking distance for those using the bus is about 800 metres longer — 400 metres extra at the start and at the finish.

**Terrain:** Roadway, forest roads and tracks (walking boots)  
The walk includes an ascent of 450 metres (1,476 feet) on Cruagh Mountain. A small section of the track along the Owendoher River can be a bit muddy in wet weather.

**Public Transport:** Bus 161 (Nutmog Shopping Centre to Rockbrook)

**Parking:** Cruagh Cemetery.

Those travelling by bus should alight at Rockbrook village and walk forward past Tibbradden Road on the left and Mount Venus Road on the right to the next turn on the right at Cruagh Cemetery where those travelling by car should park.

This walk is a figure of 8 comprising a circuit of Massy's Wood linked to a circuit of Cruagh Wood.

**The walk begins** at Cruagh Cemetery and proceeds along Cruagh Lane. Soon the entrance gateway into the old Killakee Estate is reached. Walk through the gateway, past the gate lodge, and continue forward. Soon the entrance into Massy's Wood is reached. Walk through the gap beside the gateway into Massy's Wood and continue straight ahead along the unsurfaced road. **Take the first turn to the left** onto a track that leads steeply down to the Owendoher River (*Abhainn Dothair – Dark River*).

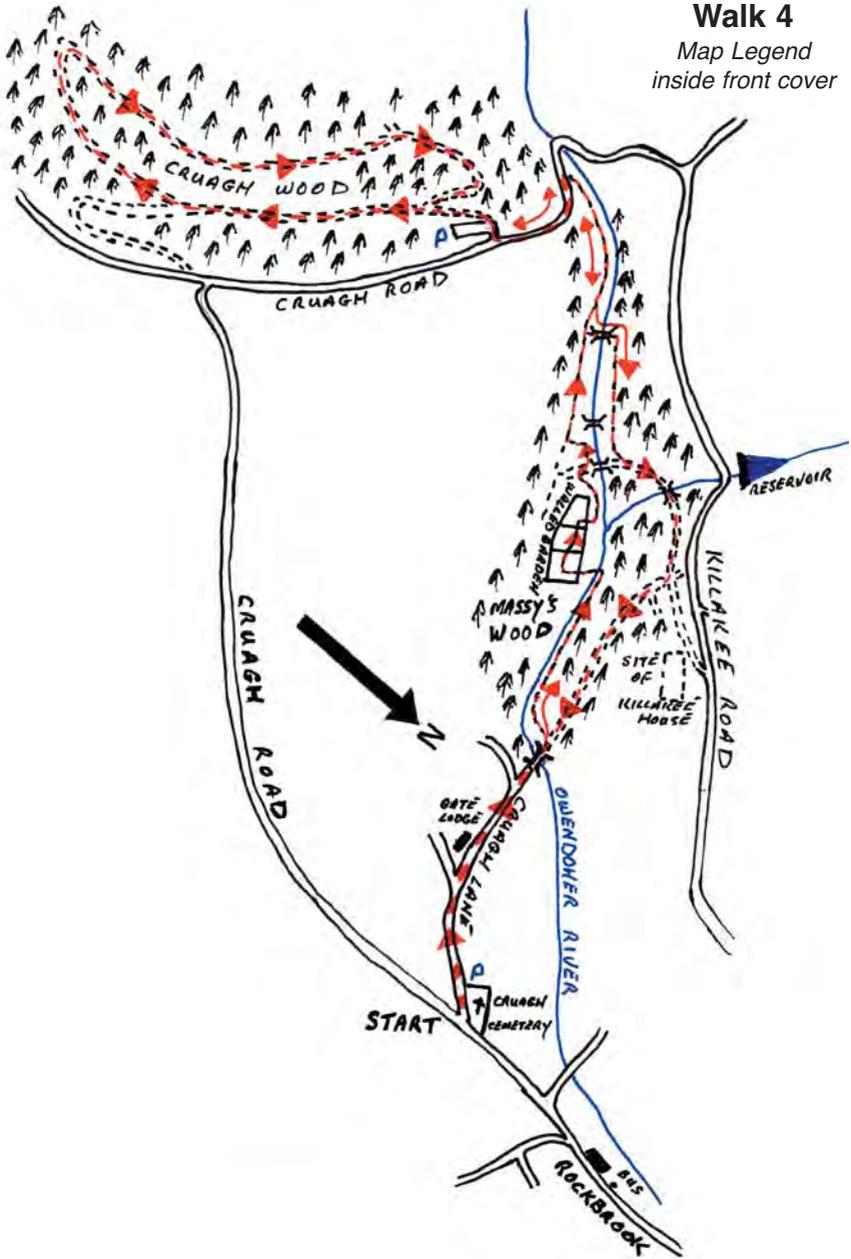
- *Take note of the gigantic tree straight ahead. This is a Monterey Pine tree, native to California. This is the highest tree in Massy's Wood. Immediately behind this tree is a Sequoia tree (California Redwood). In California, Sequoia trees grow which are over 3000 years old. This makes them one of the longest living species on earth today.*

The track turns right at the Monterey Pine and runs alongside the river. Some parts of the pathway along this section of the walk can be muddy after wet weather but can be easily circumvented. After about 500 metres, the wall of the now derelict walled garden appears ahead on the other side of the river.

SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

**Walk 4**

Map Legend  
inside front cover



## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

- *Along this section of the path there are a number of large Lime trees, the remnants of a Lime Tree Walk.*
- *Looking across the river, the ruins of a stone building can be seen attached to the outer wall of the garden. This was a fern house in which many exotic types of fern were propagated.*

The track winds alongside the river until it turns left and crosses a small bridge over a gully.

- *Immediately after crossing the gully is a large Sequoia tree. This is the largest Sequoia tree in Massy's Wood.*

Follow the track across a second small bridge over the Owendoher River and through an archway into the Walled Gardens.

- *The walled gardens at Killakee were designed by the renowned 19th century landscape designer, Ninian Niven. The gardens consisted of three walled sections. The first section was a formal garden the centrepiece of which was a magnificent complex of curvilinear conservatories designed by Richard Turner. This garden also contained a number of ornamental fountains, lily ponds and ornamental statues arrayed on a series of tiered embankments.*

Walk straight through the archway to the centre of the garden where the stone foundation of a circular conservatory can still be seen in the ground on the left. Behind this feature, the foundations of two long rectangular conservatories can still be discerned in the undergrowth.

Turn right and walk up through the centre of the garden and out through an archway in the centre of the back wall. This leads into another walled section which contained orchards. Follow the path through this section and through a gap in another dividing wall which leads into what was the vegetable garden. Shortly after entering this section of the gardens, the remains of a narrow gateway can be seen in the outer garden wall on the right. Go through this gap in the wall onto a pathway that runs alongside the river. Turn left and walk up this pathway.

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

- *Two interesting features can be seen along the riverside on this pathway. The first is a small icehouse. Before the invention of refrigerators, food was kept fresh by storing it in icehouses. Ice was collected in cold weather from still ponds created on the river and placed in the icehouse. On the side of the river, shortly after the icehouse, are the remains of a water filter system through which water from the river was diverted and conveyed via a 3 inch cast iron pipe, which is still visible, to the fountains and conservatories in the garden.*

The pathway soon passes the top end of the walled gardens and shortly thereafter reaches a T-junction with a forest road. Turn right and within a few metres turn left onto a path alongside the Owendoher River.

- *This was the location of the estate sawmills. The derelict remains of a building together with minimal remains of a dam and watermill can be seen.*

Continue forward through the sawmill area. The track bears left through some shrubbery and emerges onto a larger track. Turn right and continue upwards along this track, passing a small bridge on the right.

- *There are many attractive cascades along this stretch of the river which unfortunately are obscured because of the rampant growth of laurel bushes along the banks.*

Continue upwards along this track passing a second small bridge. The track continues upwards, with a number of stiles to be crossed, before it emerges onto Cruagh Road.

Turn left onto Cruagh Road and walk for about 300 metres to the entrance into Cruagh Wood.

- *One of the finest views of the city from the Dublin Mountains can be seen from this short stretch of road.*

On entering Cruagh Wood take the forest road to the right of the car park and continue straight forward. Walk past a turn to the right and continue forward. Walk past the next turn to the left after which the road rises sharply before turning a full 180° to return at a higher level. Continue forward until the road descends to rejoin the lower forest road. Turn left at this junction and return to the car park.

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

Exit Cruagh Wood car park, turn left and walk approximately 300 metres back to the track into Massy's Wood. Descend down this track beside the river, crossing a number of stiles, to arrive at the first small bridge across the Owendoher River. **Cross over this bridge** and proceed down the track along the other side of the river. This track emerges onto a wide forest road. Turn left onto this forest road which soon passes across a bridge over the Piperstown Stream.

Continue along the forest road until a crossroads is reached.

- *This section of the walk passes through delightful woodland. Take time to absorb it's beauty.*

Turn right at the cross roads and walk down the forest road.

- *This road was the main avenue to Killakee House, the residence of Lord Massy of Duntrileague\*, which stood on open land overlooking the city about 300 metres to the left of this road. The Killakee Estate was owned successively by the Conolly, White and Massy families. The 6th Baron Massy inherited the estate from his uncle, Col. Luke White, who died without issue and whose sister, Matilda, was the 6th Baron's mother. In 1924, the Massy family trust was declared bankrupt. The house was taken over by the Munster and Leinster Bank. In 1941, having failed to find a buyer, the house was sold for salvage and demolished. The woods passed to the Forestry Commission which we know today as Coillte.*

\*A full history of the Massy family is recounted in a book *If Those Trees Could Speak* by Frank Tracy, published by South Dublin Libraries.

- *This stretch of unsurfaced road through Massy's Wood is also the last remnant of the Military Road\*\* in its original state.*

\*\*The Military Road runs from near Rathfarnham, Co Dublin for over 60 kilometres across the mountains to Aghavannagh, Co Wicklow. It was built by the British Army between 1801 and 1809 to facilitate the movement of troops into the mountains to counteract the activities of rebels in the Wicklow Mountains following the 1798 rebellion. A full account of the building of the Military Road and the history of areas through which the road passes can be found in a book *The Wicklow Military Road* by Michael Fewer published by Ashfield Press in 2007.

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

Continue down along this forest road until a barrier pole across the roadway is reached.

- *Pause at this barrier pole to observe the huge tree, on the left hand side of the road, just beyond the pole. This tree is one of the finest Irish Oak trees in the country.*

Continue forward along the road.

- *Remnants of a pebble stone drainage channel that ran alongside the avenue to Killakee House can be seen on the left hand side of the road.*

Continue forward along the forest road, across a bridge over the Owendoher River, to emerge from Massy's Wood onto a tarred roadway. Continue forward along this roadway, which passes through the old main gateway into the estate, and walk onwards to arrive at Cruagh Cemetery and the end of the walk for those travelling by car.

Those travelling by bus should turn left and walk approximately 400 metres to arrive at Rockbrook and the 161 bus stop. A further 250 metres brings you to the Merry Ploughboy Inn and refreshments.



Killakee House circa 1900 (*demolished 1941*) Guinness Collection

## Walk 5. Kilgobbin - Barnacullia - Three Rock Mountain

- Distance:** 6.5 km                      **Estimated Time:** 2 hrs
- Terrain:** Roads, forest roads and tracks (Walking boots).
- Public Transport:** Bus:- 44 to Kilgobbin  
The walk includes an ascent of 450 metres (1,476 feet) to the summit of Three Rock Mountain.
- Parking:** Park in Kilgobbin Lane. Take R117 Dundrum to Enniskerry road to Stepside Village, turn left onto Kilgobbin Road and left again into Kilgobbin Lane.

**The walk begins** at Kilgobbin Church

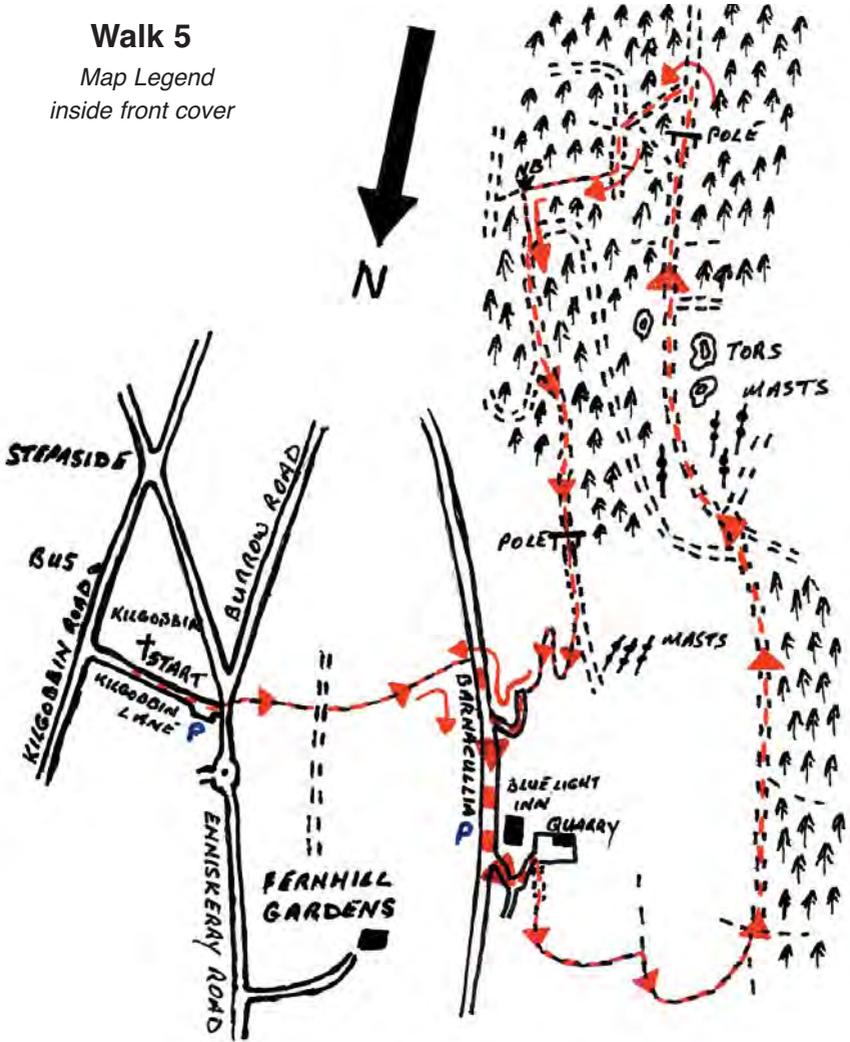
- *Kilgobbin, (Cill Gobáin — the Church of Gobán) stands atop a small rounded hill giving it a striking location. While the site is clearly ancient, the present church was built in the eighteenth century on the site of a much earlier church. The church is unusual in that there are no windows or doorways in the gable walls. Close by is a large granite high cross, 2.45 metres high, bearing carved, low relief figures of Christ on both sides and rounded moulding on the edges. This cross was unearthed many years ago in the nearby graveyard and possibly dates from the 12th century.*
- *A full Rathdown slab and other fragments have also been unearthed in the graveyard, giving clear testimony to the antiquity of the site. Rathdown slabs are early Christian grave slabs, so called because of their predominance in ancient burial sites in Rathdown and also in South Dublin County. The slabs are rectangular in shape and are decorated with herringbone patterns, concentric circles and cup marks. The decorative motifs of Rathdown slabs are possibly a fusion of Viking and early Christian symbols.*

Walk onwards along Kilgobbin Lane which emerges onto the main Dundrum to Enniskerry road at a junction where a secondary road, Burrow Road, branches off to Glencullen. At the start of this branch road, directly opposite Kilgobbin Lane, and almost hidden in bushes, is a gateway in a rusted iron railing. This is the start of an old mass path leading to Barnacullia. (*Barr na Coille – Top of the Woods*).

SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

Walk 5

Map Legend  
inside front cover



## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

- *500 metres to the right of the start of this path, on the main road to Dundrum, is Fernhill. In 1815, Alderman Frederick Darley built a house on land at Newtown Little which he called Fernhill. In 1936 it was sold to a Joseph Walker. Successive generations of the Walker family have created magnificent gardens at Fernhill, which are open to the public.*

Proceed up the pathway which passes, via an underpass, under the Broad Walk on the Fernhill estate. A very short section of this pathway at the underpass can be muddy but passable with care. The path continues upwards to emerge onto the road at Barnacullia. On emerging onto the road at Barnacullia, turn right and walk along the roadway for approximately 300 metres to arrive at the Blue Light Inn.

Walk past the Blue Light Inn and take the narrow, steeply rising tarred road on the left immediately after the car park. This road bends sharply to the left after 50 metres and leads to a granite quarry and stone works. At the entrance to the quarry, turn right off the tarred road and up a steeply rising and heavily eroded dirt road. At the top of this short dirt road proceed straight ahead onto a narrow track. Walk upwards on this track until it reaches a T-junction with another track and turn right. Proceed forward until the track reaches the edge of a forestry plantation.

- *A particular feature of this track is the magnificent views of Dublin City and Bay. These views extend from Dalkey to Howth. The entire city and outer suburbs are also clearly visible. It is an ideal location to pause, with binoculars, and absorb the fine panoramic view.*

On arrival at the forestry plantation, bear left and continue upwards on the track alongside the plantation, towards a cluster of large communication masts clearly visible further up on the summit of Three Rock Mountain.

A number of forest roads converge near the cluster of masts on Three Rock Mountain. Walk past the first turn on the left and walk a few metres forward to a crossroads. Turn left at the crossroads and continue along this wide dirt road which leads shortly to three large tors i.e. large rocky outcrops, from which Three Rock Mountain derives its name.

- *Take time to explore these tors from which there are fine views of the city and surrounding countryside.*

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES



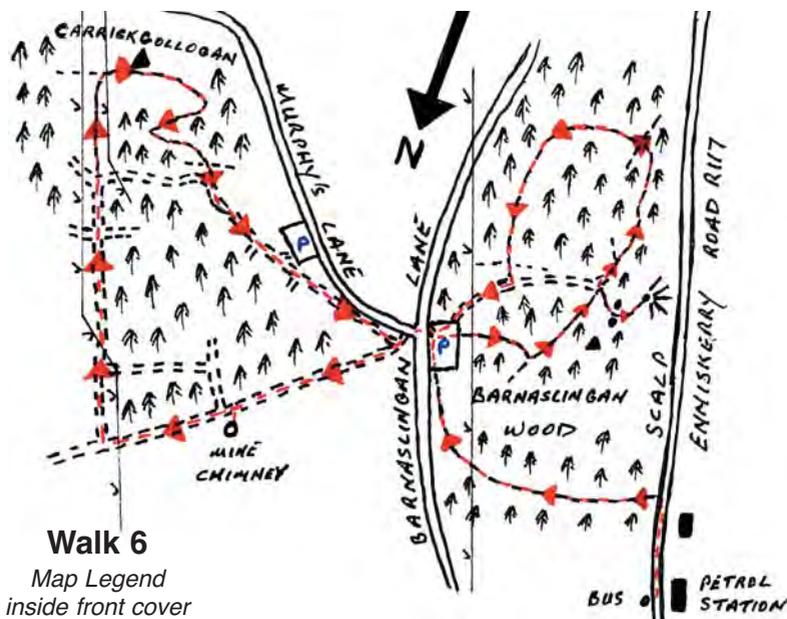
Kilgobbin Church and graveyard

*P. D. Lynch*

Continue onwards along the forest road past the tors until a barrier pole is reached. Take the first turn to the left **after the barrier pole**. Walk downwards along this road through the forest until a crossroads of tracks is reached. Turn left. Within a short distance another crossroads of tracks is reached. Turn right down a steeply descending narrow track along a fire break between two sections of forest. **After about 300 metres there is a narrow but clear track into the forest on the left which, after 60 metres or so, leads onto a wide forest road that is clearly visible through the trees. Turn left onto this track** and walk the short distance through the forest to the nearby forest road. On reaching the forest road, walk forward and downward along this road. Follow the forest road and do not leave it. After around 10 minutes a barrier pole across the road is reached. Walk past this pole to the end of the forest and onto open hillside. Immediately ahead is a cluster of small communication masts. Walk forward, and shortly **before the masts** are reached, a narrow, but well used, track forks off, down to the right. Take this track which runs steeply downwards until it emerges onto a narrow tarred road. Follow this tarred road downwards until it emerges onto Barnacullia. Turn right, and after a short distance, turn left onto a pathway between two cottages one of which has the name "Riverside Cottage" on its gable. This is the mass track that runs down the hillside to Kilgobbin. Continue down this track to emerge onto the Dundrum-Enniskerry road. Cross the road into Kilgobbin Lane and the end of the walk.



## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES



### Walk 6

Map Legend  
inside front cover

**Those arriving by car** should enter the car park from Barnaslingan Lane, turn left, and walk to the narrow dirt track directly opposite on the other side of the car park. Ignore the path beside a black and yellow barrier pole, 10 metres to the left.

**The walk begins** at the narrow track from Barnaslingan car park **not** at the path at the black and yellow barrier pole and proceeds into the wood under some major overhead power lines. Watch out for **red** marks painted on trees beside the track. These red markers indicate the route through Barnaslingan Wood. Continue along this track until a T-junction is reached at which there is a way-mark post with a red arrow, indicating a turn to the left. Turn left and follow the track until a crossroads of tracks is reached. The main route of the **walk is straight ahead, however** . . . a short four minute detour along the narrow track to the right leads to a viewing point on top of the Scalp from which there is a fine view of the gorge below and of the distant mountains. Getting to the viewing point, although very near, requires careful attention to navigation. Turn right at the crossroad and follow the narrow track for about 8 metres upwards beside a large sloping granite rock to your right. At the top of the rock bear left through the trees along a short track that passes

between two clearly visible granite boulders into open mountainside. Follow the track downwards to reach the viewing point which is at the top of a precipice high above the Dundrum-Enniskerry road as it passes through the Scalp. To return to the main route carefully retrace your steps back to the crossroads which is only four minutes away. **If in doubt, consult the sketch map. If there are small children with you, it is essential that they are closely supervised at the view point.**

Having returned to the crossroads, **turn right** and follow the track downward which is clearly indicated by a red way-mark post. Ignore a faint track that leads off to the left into the woods. Continue straight ahead and downwards along a narrow but clear track which soon passes through some bushes. Shortly after this the route bears left and, having cut across another track running downwards, continues across the woods before turning upwards again. Watch out for red marks on the trees which mark the route. Continue upwards through the wood following the red tree marks until a clear well used track is reached. Turn right along this track to arrive back at the car park. This delightful looped walk through Barnaslingan Wood takes about 35 minutes.

To continue the walk, exit the car park, cross the road to the junction that branches off Barnaslingan Lane, i.e. Murphy's Lane. Proceed onto Murphy's Lane and take the first turn left through a black and yellow gateway onto a dirt road that leads straight ahead, alongside woodland on the right, to the Lead Mines Chimney which is at the top of the hill, on the left side of the track.

- *Lead and silver ore were mined and smelted at Ballycorus (Baile Mhic Fheorais – Home of the Pearses) from 1824 until 1913. The granite chimney which was originally much higher, stands at the upper end of a flue which ran along the rising ground for 2 km from a smelter at the foot of the hill. The inside of the flue was regularly cleaned by boy workers to collect arsenic which accumulated on the inner lining! Sections of the flue, now in a ruinous state, can still be accessed. In addition to the lead ore mined at Ballycorus, ore from the mines at Glendalough was transported by horse and cart to Rathdrum Railway Station; by rail from there to Shankill Railway Station, and thence by horse and cart to Ballycorus for smelting.*
- *There are fine views of Dublin City and Bay from the base of the mine chimney.*

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

From the chimney, return to the main track, turn left, and continue straight onwards along the track towards the sea. Do not take the immediate turn to the right. The track soon runs downhill. Take the next turn to the right onto a forest road that runs alongside a major overhead power line. Continue walking on the forest road alongside the power line, passing a junction to the right and later straight through a crossroads where a second overhead power line appears on the other side of the road. When the road reaches a T-junction, continue straight forward and upward along a narrow track alongside an overhead electricity power line until you reach a T-junction where there is a fine view of Bray. At this point the route turns right and proceeds, via a short rocky scramble, to the summit of Carrickgollogan which is 276 metres (905 feet) high.

Despite its lack of height, the summit of Carrickgollogan offers spectacular views of the surrounding countryside.

- *The name Carrickgollogan is from the Irish Carraig Ologón, meaning Wailing Rock. It is reputed that in pre-Christian times the rocky summit of Carrickgollogan was a site for cremation rituals at which wailing took place. Because of difficulty with Gaelic pronunciation, generations of Dubliners have referred to the mountain as "Katty Gallagher".*

From the summit of Carrickgollogan descend via a zig-zag track on the north side, and proceed forward along the narrow track, passing through a number of cross-tracks, until a forest road is reached. Turn left onto the forest road and continue straight ahead, ignoring all junctions to the right and left, until a T-junction is reached. Turn left to emerge, almost immediately back onto Murphy's Lane. Turn right and return to Barnaslingan Wood car park and the end of the walk.

Those using public transport should enter the car park, walk directly to the other end and walk down the green way-marked track to the Scalp and the 44 bus.

## Walk 7. Cabinteely Park – Kilbogget Park

<b>Distance:</b>	7 km	<b>Estimated Time:</b>	2 hrs
<b>Terrain:</b>	Footpaths and park paths (trainers or walking shoes)		
<b>Public Transport:</b>	To Cabinteely Park: Bus; 45, 84, 86. To Kilbogget Park: Bus; 46, 45A, 58, 7, 7B, 111		
<b>Parking:</b>	Cabinteely Park car park, Park Drive, Cabinteely Kilbogget Park car park, Churchview Road.		

The walk can be commenced at either Cabinteely Park or Kilbogget Park.

**The walk begins** in Cabinteely village at the main gate of Cabinteely Park.

On entering Cabinteely Park, take the pathway to the right and walk around the perimeter of the park until the pathway reaches Cabinteely House.

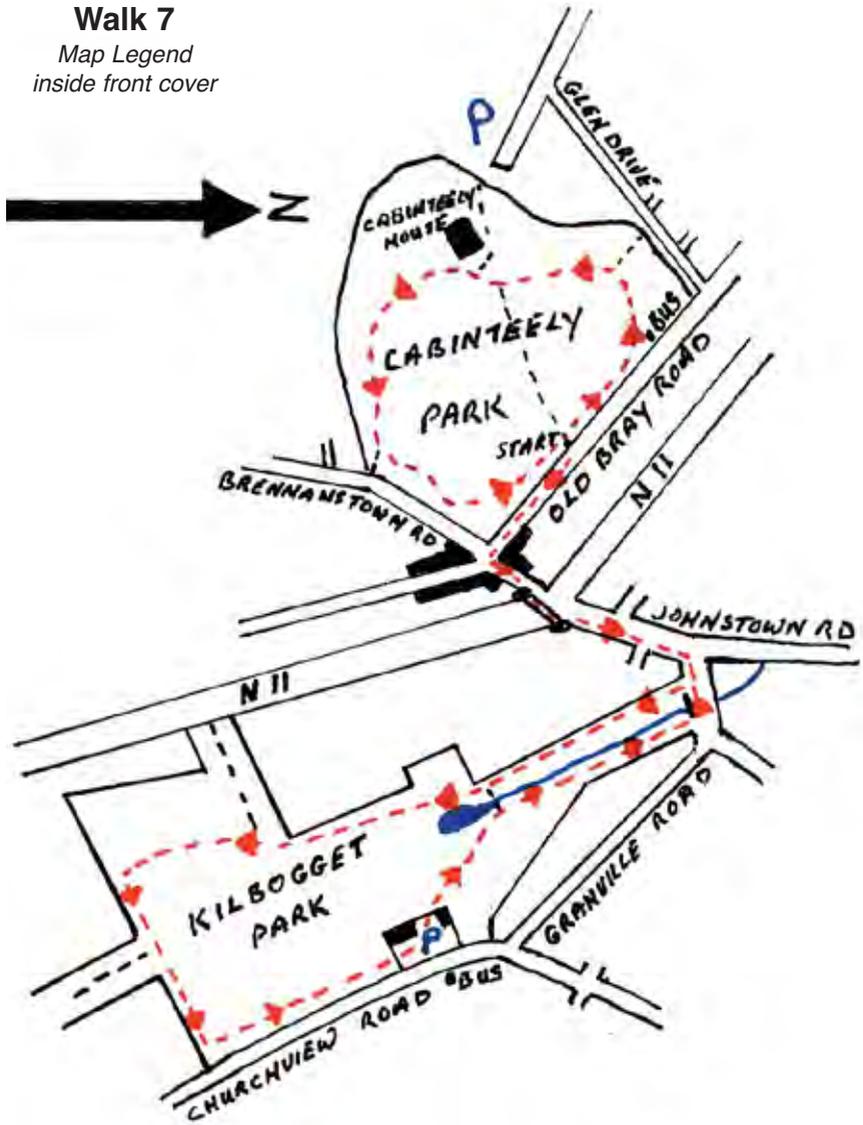
**Those commencing the walk from Cabinteely Park car park can join the walk at Cabinteely House via a short pathway from the car park.**

- *The lands on which Cabinteely House stands were for many years in the ownership of the Byrne family, one of whom, in the eighteenth century, married a sister of Robert Nugent, Lord Clare. Cabinteely House was erected on the Byrne lands by Lord Clare in 1769 and was originally named Clare Hill. The outer facade of the house was greatly changed in the late 1800s.*
- *In 1933, the Byrnes sold Cabinteely House and Demesne to Mr Joe McGrath who is best known for his involvement with the Irish Hospital Sweepstakes and Waterford Glass. In 1969, following the death of Joe McGrath, Dublin County Council purchased the house and 96 acres of land. The park was provided as part of the open space provision for a nearby housing estate.*

From Cabinteely House, continue forward along the pathway which runs around the perimeter of the park, back to the main entrance. Exit the main entrance and turn right into Cabinteely Village (*Cábán tSíle – Sheila's Cabin*).

SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

**Walk 7**  
Map Legend  
inside front cover



## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

- *Cabinteely Village, now bypassed, stood at a busy crossroads on the old coach road from Dublin to Wicklow. For many years, life in the village revolved around meeting the needs of passing travellers and providing services for nearby demesnes in the Cabinteely-Foxrock area.*

Turn left at the traffic lights in the centre of the village and walk down to the nearby N11. Cross the N11 via the pedestrian bridge and continue forward down Johnstown Road. Turn right onto Granville Road and turn right again into Kilbogget Park. Walk forward along the pathway with the Deansgrange Stream alongside on the left. The stream flows under a bridge, forms a large pond and disappears into an underground culvert.

Continue along the pathway in an anti-clockwise direction around the perimeter of the park. As the pathway returns towards Granville Road, it passes a number of sports clubhouses and the main car park.

**Those starting the walk from Kilbogget Park should commence from this car park.**

The path continues on past the car park towards Granville Road with the Deansgrange Stream now on the left. After emerging onto Granville Road, turn left and, almost immediately, left again onto Johnstown Road. The N11 is reached after about 200 metres. Cross the N11 by the pedestrian bridge into Cabinteely Village. Turn right at Cabinteely Village onto the old Dublin Road. Walk along this road to the main entrance into Cabinteely Park and the end of the walk.

Those who commenced the walk at Cabinteely Park car park should enter the park, turn right and walk around the perimeter of the park to Cabinteely House and the car park.

Those who commenced at Kilbogget Park car park should continue the route as described above from the main gate of Cabinteely Park.

SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES



Cabinteely House

*K. Swords*



Cabinteely Park

*K. Swords*

## Walk 8. Dun Laoghaire – Sandycove – Dalkey – The Metals

**Distance:** 7 km                      **Estimated Time:** 2 hrs

**Terrain:** Footpaths (trainers or walking shoes)

**Public Transport:** Dun Laoghaire:- Dart; Bus 46A, 75, 746, 45A  
7B, 111, 59.

**Parking:** Dun Laoghaire (on-street pay and display  
or off-street multi-storey car park).

The first half of the walk is along the seashore from Dun Laoghaire to Dalkey and the second half from Dalkey to Dun Laoghaire is along the route of "The Metals", a light rail track that carried quarried rock from Dalkey Quarries to Dun Laoghaire Harbour while it was under construction in the early 19th century.

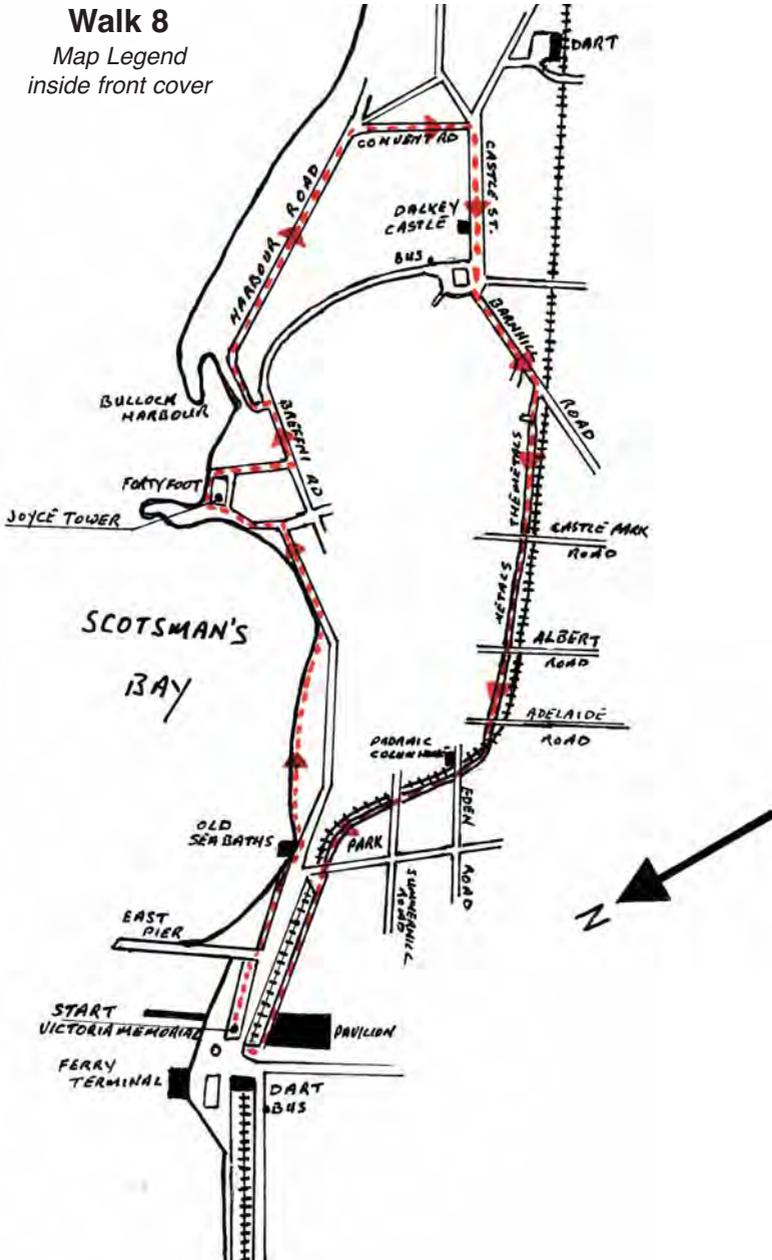
**The walk begins** at the Victoria Memorial on Queen's Road, Dun Laoghaire (*Dún Laoghaire – Fort of Laoire*) and proceeds south-eastwards along Queen's Road towards the East Pier. In the short distance between the start of the walk and the East Pier there are a number of monuments worth noting.

- *Victoria Memorial: An ornate cast iron canopied fountain erected to commemorate the final visit of Queen Victoria to Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) in 1900.*
- *George IV Memorial: A stone obelisk commemorating the visit of King George IV to Kingstown in 1821 and the opening of the new harbour.*
- *Lifeboat Memorial: An engraved granite memorial to a heroic lifeboat crew who perished in stormy weather in 1895 attempting to aid a ship in distress.*
- *RMS Leinster Memorial: Memorial to the 501 persons who perished when the mail boat RMS Leinster was torpedoed in October 1918.*

SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

**Walk 8**

Map Legend  
inside front cover



## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

Continue along Queen's Road past the East Pier and the old seawater swimming baths. Immediately after the swimming baths, bear left onto the esplanade pathway that runs alongside the seashore at Scotsman's Bay. Walk to the T-junction with Sandycove Avenue West, turn left and walk forward past Sandycove Harbour to the Forty Foot Bathing Place and the Martello Tower which features in the opening sequence of James Joyce's *Ulysses* and is now a Joyce museum.

Walk onwards past the Martello Tower and turn right onto Sandycove Avenue East. At the next T-junction, turn left onto Breffni Road and, shortly after, turn left again onto Harbour Road arriving, almost immediately, at Bullock Harbour (*Béal Dubhach – Gloomy Bay or Bloyke – Danish for Little Bank*) which in past times was a small fishing hamlet.

- *Within the convent grounds above Bullock Harbour is Bullock Castle which was constructed by Cistercian Monks in the 12th century.*

Continue along Harbour Road and then bear right onto Convent Road, a one-way street with no entry signs for cars. At the far end of Convent Road turn right onto Castle Street, the main street of Dalkey (*Deilg Inish – Thorn Island*). Located at the other end of Castle Street is a complex comprising Dalkey Castle (*Goat Castle*), Dalkey Heritage Centre, and St. Begnet's Church. This historic complex is well worth a visit. Guided tours are available. Continue along Castle Street passing The Queens, an inn dating back to 1745.

- *Across the road from The Queens is Archbold's Castle. The castles in the Dalkey area were merchants' castles used to store goods that had been imported from abroad and landed at Dalkey Sound.*

Walk straight forward across the various intersections onto Barnhill Road and continue until after 300 metres a bridge over the railway is reached. Take the turn to the right, just before the railway bridge, onto Atmospheric Road.

- *The term "atmospheric" refers to the Atmospheric Railway that opened in 1844 and ran for 11 years between Dun Laoghaire and Dalkey. Trains were propelled from Dun Laoghaire to Dalkey by means of an ingenious vacuum system. A large static engine at Dalkey created a vacuum within a 15 inch pipeline under the train.*

SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES



Goat Castle, Dalkey

*P. D. Lynch*

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

*A pipe and connected to the underneath of the train moved through the pipe propelling the train at speeds of between 30 and 40 mph. The system encountered continuous air sealing problems and was replaced by a conventional rail system.*

You are now on the route of The Metals.

- *During the construction of Dun Laoghaire Harbour in the early 19th century, a small twin-track narrow-gauge railway known as The Metals was constructed to transport quarried granite in wagons from Dalkey Quarries to the site of the harbour. The weight of the loaded downward wagons was used through a system of cables and pulleys to haul the empty wagons back from Barnhill Road where horses took over. The route of The Metals still runs as a laneway alongside the present railway line.*

Continue walking forward along The Metals laneway beside the railway. The route cuts across Castlepark Road, Albert Road and Adelaide Road after which it crosses, via a small bridge, to the other side of the railway track.

The laneway next cuts across Eden Road.

- *After crossing Eden Road, turn right and walk to a quaint little cottage on the other side of the bridge. A plaque on the cottage indicates that this cottage was the home of the poet, Padraic Colum.*

### **The Old Woman of the Roads**

*O to have a little house,  
To own the hearth and stool and all,  
The heaped-up sods upon the fire,  
The pile of turf against the wall.*

*I could be quiet there at night  
Beside the fire and by myself,  
Sure of a bed and loath to leave  
The ticking clock and the shining delph.*

*And I am praying to God on high,  
And I am praying Him night and day,  
For a little house – a house of my own –  
Out of the wind and the rain's way.*

*Padraic Colum (1881 – 1972)*

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

After crossing Eden Road continue forward into Magenta Place.

- *On the right hand side, at the entry to Magenta Place, there is a granite pillar stone similar to a milestone. However, the engraved symbols on the face of the stone would seem to indicate that it is a technical feature, possibly an engineer's marker related to "The Metals".*

The Metals continues along Magenta Place and across Summerhill Road and soon passes The People's Park on the left before emerging onto the seafront at the junction of Park Road and Queen's Road.

- *The People's Park, which opened in 1890, is a very nice small Victorian park. It was previously the location of a Martello Tower and a quarry from which stone was extracted for the construction of Dun Laoghaire Harbour.*

Cross directly across Park Road and continue along The Metals which runs parallel to Queen's Road between the railway and the fine Victorian houses overlooking the seafront.

- *After approximately 350 metres a large, and very unusual, sculpture of Christ the King can be seen above the pathway at the top of steps on the left. This bronze sculpture is the work of the American sculptor, Andrew O'Connor. The three-sided sculpture depicts three aspects of the crucifixion; Desolation, Consolation and Triumph. Although the erection of a sculpture was approved in 1931, O'Connor's sculpture was not erected until 1978, initially because of World War II, and after that because of opposition to the starkness of the design.*
- *On Haigh Terrace, immediately behind the sculpture of Christ the King, is the Mariners' Church, which houses the National Maritime Museum.*

Continue forward along The Metals, past the cafes and shops in the Pavilion Centre on the left, to the junction of Marine Road and Queen's Road, opposite the Victoria Memorial and the end of the walk.

## Walk 9. Dalkey – Dalkey Hill – Killiney Hill – Roches Hill Commons – Dalkey Quarries

- Distance:** 6 km      **Estimated Time:** 2 hrs
- Terrain:** Footpaths and tracks (trainers or walking shoes).  
This walk includes an ascent of 130 metres (426 feet) to the summit of Killiney Hill
- Public Transport:** Dalkey:- Dart; Bus 8 (page 55).  
Killiney Village:- Bus 59 (page 53).
- Parking:** Dalkey Town (pay and display):  
Killiney Hill Park (near Dalkey Hill Quarries — free).

This walk provides a delightful combination of urban and rural walking with stunning scenery. Those using public transport can start at Dalkey Town (*Deilg Inish - Thorn Island*) or Killiney Village (*Cill Iníon Léinín – Church of the Daughters of Léinín*). Those using a car should start from Killiney Hill Park, close to Dalkey Hill quarry where parking is free. The following description of the route begins at Killiney Hill Park near the quarry on Dalkey Hill.

**The walk begins at** Killiney Hill Park car park near the quarries on Dalkey Hill. Leave the car park by the south east path at the top right hand corner. Bear right onto a path leading to the main entrance of Killiney Hill Park.

- *Killiney Hill Park was purchased from Robert Warren Jnr, owner of Killiney Castle, previously called Mount Mapas, for a nominal sum. It was opened for public use, and named Victoria Park, by Prince Albert of Wales, later King Edward VII, in 1887. The names of the trustees are on the pillars at the entrance.*

Exit the park by the main entrance onto Killiney Hill Road, turn left and then right onto Claremont Road, a cul de sac. Continue to the end of Claremont Road and cross a stile into Roches Hill Commons. Follow this narrow off-road track, initially through woodland, and then onto open hillside. Bear left at the branch in the track. Straight forward leads, via a gateway, to a right-of-way through Killiney Golf Course. This stretch of the route offers fine views of the Dublin Mountains to the west. The track leads onto Glenalua Road. Continue forward along Glenalua Road to emerge back onto Killiney Hill Road at Killiney Village.



## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

Walk onwards from the Obelisk and bear right down a path through the woods until the pass between Killiney Hill and Dalkey Hill is reached. Continue straight forward and upwards on the path alongside an old wall to the tower on the summit of Dalkey Hill.

- *The Telegraph Tower was built around 1807 by the military to communicate by semaphore with the surrounding Martello Towers, which were built as lookout posts and signalling towers in anticipation of a Napoleonic invasion of Ireland. Near the tower is a distinctive pylon. This pylon is a radio navigation beacon for aircraft landing at Dublin Airport. Stroll around the summit to absorb the magnificent views of Dalkey, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin City, Dublin Bay and Howth. To the seaward side of the beacon is a broken Celtic cross erected in 1911 to the memory of Thomas Chippendale Higgin. Immediately below the wall at the summit are the vast quarries from which the granite for Dun Laoghaire Harbour was extracted and which is now a popular location for rock climbing.*

Turn right, walk past the tower, and follow the path leading downwards with the wall on your left until it reaches Torca Road. Turn right to the nearby end of Torca Road and onto a track leading into the park again.

- *Before turning right, walk to the second house on the left, Torca Cottage, where the playwright, George Bernard Shaw lived from 1866 to 1874. Now turn around and retrace your steps back to the end of Torca Road and the track into the park.*

Proceed into the park, initially through woodland, and then onto open hillside where a fine view of Killiney Bay unfolds. Take the next path on the left leading down to Vico Road. Cross the road to the footpath on the other side and turn left.

- *At this point, another path leads sharply downwards, across the railway, to White Rock Beach. A diversion down to the beach and back again will add about thirty minutes to the walk time.*

Continue along Vico Road until it reaches the junction with Sorrento Road. Turn right and immediately cross the road into the tiny Sorrento Park. On entering the park, follow the pathway on the left to the summit of the park from which there are fine views of Killiney Bay and Dalkey Island.

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

Descend from the summit and leave the park by a gate at the opposite end onto Coliemore Road. Turn left. Very shortly the tiny Coliemore Harbour is reached (*Caladh Mór – Big Harbour!*).

- *Prior to the construction of Dun Laoghaire Harbour and Dublin Port, the sheltered sound between the mainland and Dalkey Island was the principal anchorage for ships carrying goods and passengers to Dublin. Small boats transferred the goods and passengers from the anchored ships to the shore at Coliemore and by road to Dalkey. In summer months it is possible to hire a boat or arrange a boat trip to Dalkey Island where the ruins of St. Begnet's Church, the Martello Tower and the Battery Fort can be explored. The present Coliemore Harbour was completed in 1867 and for many years was locally considered to be the smallest harbour in the world.*

Continue onwards along Coliemore Road to Dalkey Town. Turn right and proceed along the main street, Castle Street.

- *Located at the other end of Castle Street is a complex comprising Dalkey Castle (Goat Castle), Dalkey Heritage Centre, and St. Begnet's 7th century Church and graveyard. This historic complex is well worth a visit. Guided tours are available. Across the road, beside the Catholic Church, are the ruins of Archbold's Castle.*

**Those using the Dart or 8 bus can start the walk from Dalkey Castle.**

Continue along Castle Street passing The Queens, an inn dating back to 1745, and turn left onto Dalkey Avenue.

- *A short distance along Dalkey Avenue the road crosses a bridge over the railway. A stone on which a very small Celtic cross is carved can be seen in the wall on the left hand side. This marks the location where, in past times, coffins would be rested and prayers said by mourners on the way to the graveyard in Dalkey.*

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

Continue upwards along Dalkey Avenue. Shortly after passing Cunningham Road a path of old paving stones veers off to the left. Follow this path.

- *This path, known locally as The Flags was also the route of a narrow gauge, gravity operated, rail system known as The Metals that carried quarried rock from the quarries to Dun Laoghaire for the construction of the harbour. The weight of the loaded wagons descending to Dun Laoghaire pulled the empty wagons back up to the quarries by means of a cable system. The path was also used by quarrymen on their way to and from work in the nearby quarries. Halfway up along The Flags is a square stone structure. This was the base of a windmill that was used to pump water to local houses.*

The path emerges onto Ardburgh Road. Cross the road, turn left, and after a few metres, turn right into the Quarries. Turn sharp right and almost immediately turn left up a narrow track that rises steeply up a ridge between two quarries.

- *On this track, stones with drilled holes and groves can be seen. These are remnants of the support structure for The Metals. Today, the quarries are a popular location for rock climbing and rock climbers can be regularly seen tackling the many challenging ascents within the quarries.*

Continue upwards and forwards along this track until a tarred path is reached. Turn right and return to the nearby car park and the end of the walk.

SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES



Dalkey Island

*P. D. Lynch*



The Obelisk, Killiney Hill

*P. D. Lynch*

## 10. Glencree – Oldboleys

**Distance:** 7 km **Estimated Time:** 2 hrs

**Terrain:** Roadway, forest roads and tracks (walking boots)  
This walk includes an ascent of 80 metres (262 feet) from Glencree to the slopes of Knocknagun.  
The track from Oldboleys Quarry along the lower slopes of Knocknagun is rough underfoot in spots, thus the need for walking boots.

**Public Transport:** There is no public transport to Glencree

**Parking:** Glencree Reconciliation Centre.

**The walk begins at** the Glencree Reconciliation Centre. On leaving the Centre, turn left and walk for approximately 300 metres to the junction with the Military Road\*.

- *At this junction there is a metal cross embedded in a granite boulder. This cross was erected in 1939 by the Oblate Brothers of St. Kevin's Reformatory in memory of all the past residents of the Glen.*

\*The Military Road runs from near Rathfarnham, Co Dublin for over 60 km across the mountains to Aghavannagh, Co Wicklow. It was built by the British Army between 1801 and 1809 to facilitate the movement of troops into the mountains to counteract the ongoing activities of rebels in the Wicklow Mountains following the 1798 rebellion. A full account of the building of the Military Road and the history of areas through which the road passes can be found in a book *The Wicklow Military Road* by Michael Fewer published by Ashfield Press in 2007.

Turn sharp right, and proceed upwards along the Military Road which shortly bends to the right.

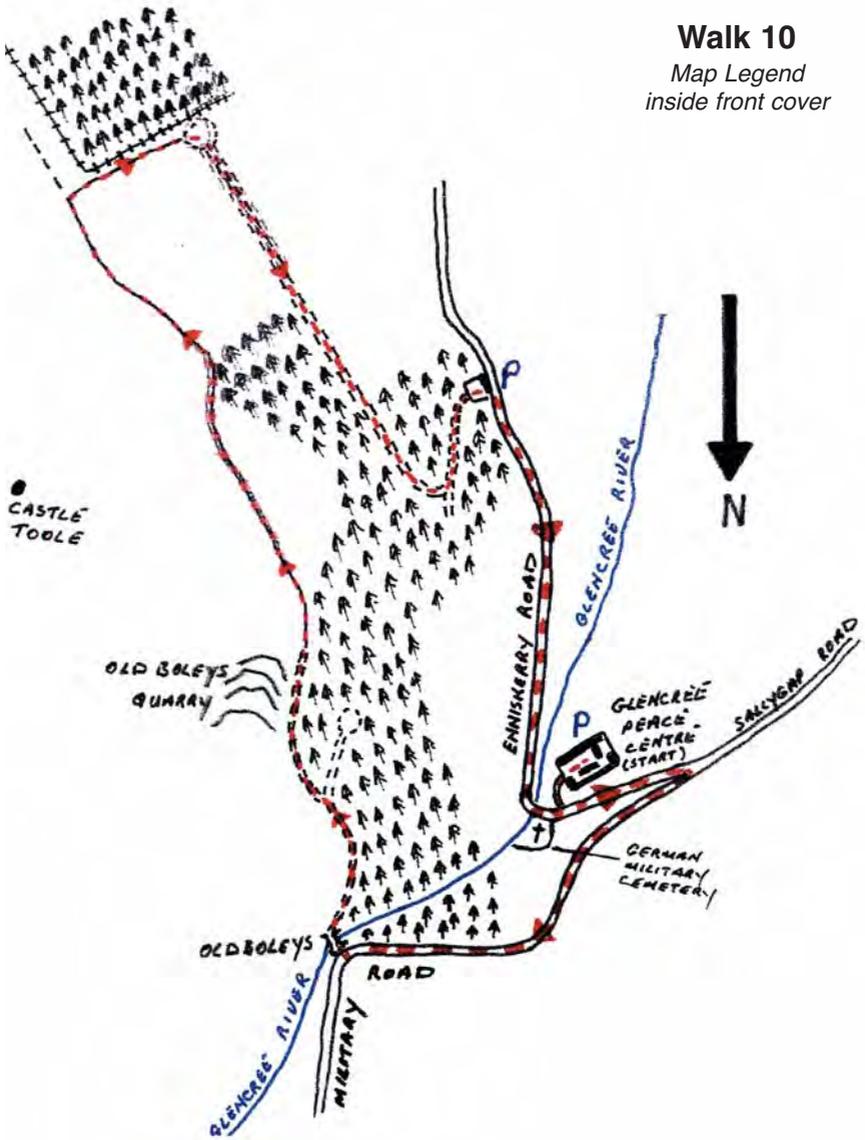
- *Along this stretch of roadway a spectacular view of the Glencree valley and its encircling mountains can be seen.*

Continue along the Military Road until a sharp left hand bend in the road is reached. Straight ahead an unsurfaced forest road leads off into an area called Oldboleys. Walk forward onto this forest road.

SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

**Walk 10**

Map Legend  
inside front cover



## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

- *The term ‘boley’, in Irish bulaidh or buaile, means ‘summer pasture’ and refers to the custom in past times of moving cattle from lowland winter shelter to upland mountain pastures during summer months. It is clear from the name ‘Oldboleys’ that this was an area used in times past for summer pasturing of cattle.*

The forest road turns almost immediately to the right and crosses a bridge over the Glencree River where it cascades steeply down into Glencree. The road continues along the top of the tree line along the slopes of Knocknagun Mountain (*Cnoc na gCon – Hill of the Hounds*). Continue forward. When the forest road bears right into the forest, **keep left** on a narrow unsurfaced road running above the tree line. After approximately 1.5 km from the Military Road, large man-made spoil mounds appear on the left hand side.

- *These mounds and the surrounding workings, known as Old Boleys Quarry, are the remains of an old gravel quarry that would originally have provided material for the Military Road.*

After Oldboleys Quarry, the unsurfaced dirt road diminishes into a narrow track.

- *Upon passing the old quarry, a large rock outcrop, known locally as Castle Toole, can be seen higher up on the slopes of Knocknagun Mountain. This outcrop has an IHS motif that was carved into it in the late 1800s by Oblate Brothers from St. Kevin’s Reformatory in nearby Glencree.*

Keep straight ahead on the winding track. At this point, the upper tree line of the forest descends away from the track down the mountain, rising up again to meet the track after around 500 metres.

- *In fine weather, a clear view of Kippure Mountain (Cíop Mhór — Great Place of Mountainy Grass) and Lower Lough Bray (Loch Bréagh — Lake of the Hill) can be seen over the top of the forestry on the right.*

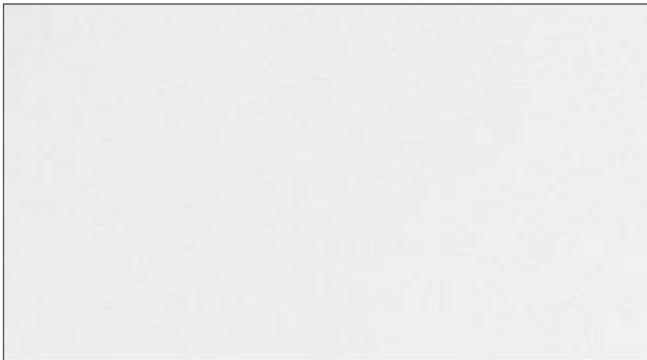
From here, the track again follows the tree line for a short distance. Ahead, the track rises steeply beside an open area of recently harvested forest (2007). Continue upwards along the track for about 300 metres at which point it descends again. A fine view of the Sugarloaf Mountain emerges in the far distance straight ahead.

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

About 150 metres ahead, a mature forestry plantation can be clearly seen on the right of the track. This plantation is enclosed by a 2 metre high deer fence. About 200 metres down the side of this plantation, is a large turning circle at the end of a wide unsurfaced forest road. Continue forward along the track until it widens considerably at a point directly in line with the top corner of the plantation. At this point, turn right and walk some 30 metres down to the top corner of the plantation. Walk down along a track running roughly parallel to the deer fence to reach the turning circle below. Upon reaching the turning circle, turn right and walk along the unsurfaced forest road.

- *While walking along this road, take time to absorb the beautiful views of the Glencree Valley with its magnificent backdrop of mountains – Maulin (Málainn – Round Top), the Tonduffs (Tóin Dubh – Black Bottom), Powerscourt Mountain and Kippure. Glencree (Gleann Criothaigh – Quaking Glen), originally called Lackandarragh (Slope of the Oaks), was an oak glen which was designated in Anglo-Norman times as a Royal Deer Park. Over the centuries, the oak woods of Glencree were gradually but persistently felled to provide timber for the construction of buildings and warships in Ireland and England. By the end of the 16th century, the oak woodlands of Glencree were effectively gone.*

Continue forward for about 1.2 km, until, after a final zig-zag downwards, a forest car park on the Enniskerry-Glencree road is reached. On exiting the car park, turn right and walk along the tarred road for around 1.5 km to reach the Glencree Peace Centre.



Glencree Reconciliation Centre *P. D. Lynch*

## GLENCREE

### **Military Barracks**

Before 1800, the only human settlements in the glen were the scattered cottages of shepherds and peasant farmers. By 1802 the Military Road had reached Glencree and planning began for the construction of a military barracks. The barracks was completed by July 1806 and the opening was attended by Lord Wellesley, the future Duke of Wellington. Initially, the barracks housed a garrison of 75 soldiers. However, it had a short life and by 1825 it had been vacated by the army. Over the next 30 years, it fell into a state of semi-dereliction and was used on occasion as a store and as a base for Ordnance Survey surveyors.

### **Reformatory**

The years following the Great Famine gave rise, among other things, to widespread juvenile crime among the impoverished people. The Irish Reformatory Schools Act of 1858, led to the establishment of a network of Reform Schools. The Catholic religious order, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, undertook to set up a reformatory for juvenile offenders in the old military barracks at Glencree. St. Kevin's Reformatory opened in Glencree in 1859. Within a few years over 300 boys were incarcerated at Glencree. Using the boys as labour, the Oblates restored the old barracks buildings as well as reclaiming over 100 acres of the surrounding land for the production of crops. A reservoir was constructed on a hillside above the complex which still provides the complex with water. The Oblates operated the reformatory at Glencree until 1940 when it was transferred to St. Conleth's Reformatory in Daingean, Co. Offaly.

### **Operation Shamrock**

Following the 2nd World War, the Irish Government agreed to accept up to 500 displaced German children. Under the auspices of the Irish Red Cross, the Glencree complex was reopened as a location to house the German children. The project was named Operation Shamrock and was run by the French Sisters of Charity on behalf of the Red Cross. By October 1946, one hundred and ninety children had arrived at Glencree. Not all of the children were orphans and most were ultimately to be reunited with their families in Germany. The remainder stayed with foster families in Ireland and ultimately became Irish residents.

### **Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation**

Following the completion of Operation Shamrock in 1948, the complex at Glencree lay dormant and under the control of the Office of Public Works.

In 1970, deep rooted historic tensions between the nationalist and unionist populations in Northern Ireland erupted into violent conflict that was to last for over thirty years. An organisation called 'Working for Peace' was established in the Republic of Ireland with the objective of setting up a reconciliation centre to provide a peaceful haven for people from both sides caught up in the violence in Northern Ireland. The OPW agreed to hand over the Glencree complex to the new organisation and work began on its restoration. For over thirty years Glencree has been a place of peace and respite for families, and for peace conferences and programmes in conflict resolution, thus making an important contribution to the process which ultimately led to the Northern Ireland Peace Agreement. Today, the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation is committed to peacebuilding and reconciliation in Ireland and beyond. Programmes are organised for schools and youth groups, survivors of conflict and former combatants, women, politicians, people of faith and international groups.

### **German Military Cemetery**

Close to the Peace Centre, at a sharp bend in the road, is a German Military Cemetery located in a tastefully landscaped old quarry beside the Glencree River. This cemetery contains the remains of 134 Germans who died in Ireland during the two world wars, or whose remains were washed up on Irish shores. Amongst those buried here are German airmen, sailors, soldiers and prisoners of war. Also interred in the cemetery are forty six German civilians who were interned in Britain at the start of the war and whose ship, "Arandora Star", was sunk by a German U-boat off Tory Island in 1940 while they were being transported to Canada. Also there, is the grave of Dr. Hermann Goertz, a German spy captured in Ireland some eighteen months after he parachuted into the country, who committed suicide when, after the war, he was to be deported to Allied custody in Germany. At the back of the cemetery is a small carved stone memorial to Dr Goertz, depicting a sword wrapped in barbed wire.

### **Youth Hostel**

In 1950, An Óige, the Irish Youth Hostel Association, established a youth hostel in the old Commanding Officer's house which is located on the roadway outside of the Barracks. This hostel operated until 2001 when it was closed. It is now a private residence.

### **Church and Grotto**

The church of St. Kevin at Glencree was built by the Oblates around 1870 and has been tastefully restored in recent years. In the top corner of the small graveyard beside the church are the graves of Oblate priests and brothers who died in Glencree. Each grave has a small inscribed headstone. Just below these graves are a number of plain white iron crosses marking the graves of boys who died at Glencree. Alongside the river, at the bottom of a flight of steps leading down from the avenue beside the graveyard is a beautifully located Lourdes Grotto built by the Oblates.



The German War Graves in Glencree

*P. D. Lynch*

SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES



Two views of Glencree

*P. D. Lynch*



## Walk 11. Kilgobbin - Rockbrook

**Distance:** 13.5 km

**Estimated Time:** 4 hrs 30 mins

For many years, the possibility of an East-West trail across the Dublin Mountains has been mooted. Recently work commenced on the development of a *Dublin Mountains Way* from Shankill to Killinarden under the auspices of the Dublin Mountains Partnership (DMP), an amalgam of State and Voluntary agencies. A section of the proposed Way along Tibbradden Mountain has recently been substantially upgraded by the DMP. This walk encompasses some of the proposed route of the Dublin Mountains Way.

**Terrain:** Roadway, forest roads and tracks (walking boots)  
This walk includes an ascent of 536 metres (1,758 feet) to the summit of Fairy Castle.  
This is a linear walk i.e. it does not start and finish at the same location. It is the longest walk in this guidebook and should be undertaken only after a number of the other walks have been successfully completed. That said, it is an extremely interesting and rewarding walk for those who are reasonably fit.

**Public Transport:** **Start:** 44 Bus to Kilgobbin  
**Finish:** 161 Bus at Rockbrook

**Parking:** **Start:** Kilgobbin Lane  
**Finish:** Cruagh Cemetery

**The walk begins at Kilgobbin Church.** (see Walk 11, Section a, page 67).

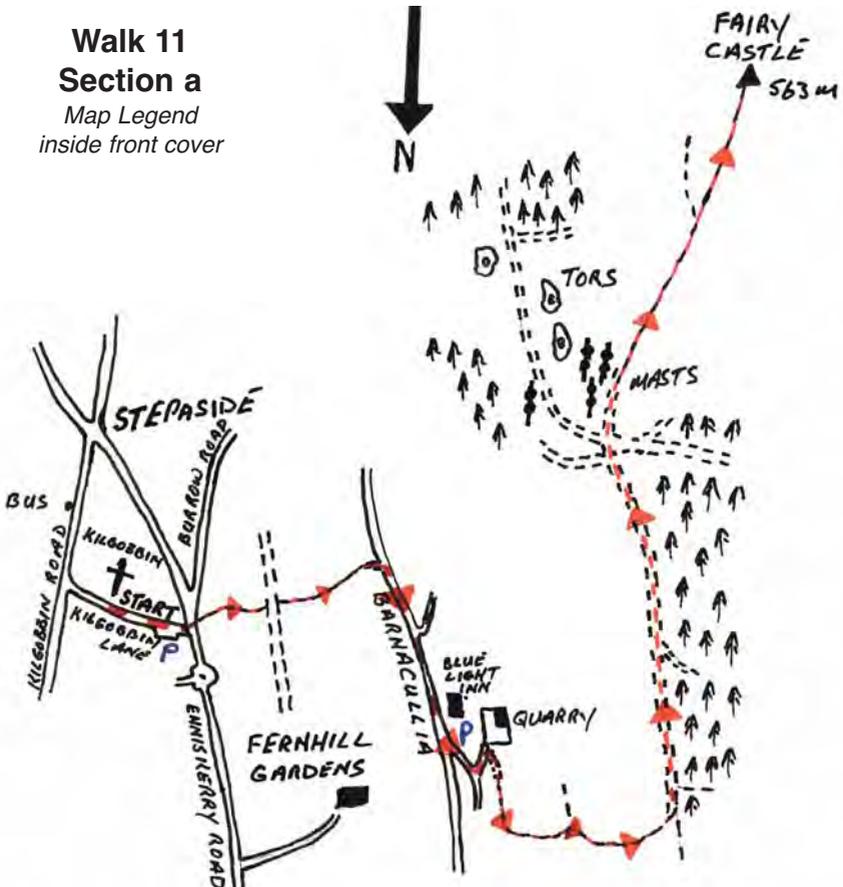
- *Kilgobbin, (Cill Gobáin, the Church of Gobán) stands atop a small hill, giving it a striking location. While the site is clearly ancient, the present church was built in the eighteenth century on the site of a much earlier church. The church is unusual in that there are no windows or doorways in the gable walls. Close by is a large granite high cross, 2.45 metres high, bearing carved, low relief figures of Christ on both sides and rounded moulding on the edges. This cross*

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

was unearthed many years ago in the nearby graveyard and possibly dates from the 12th century.

- A full Rathdown slab and other fragments have also been unearthed in the graveyard in recent times, giving clear testimony to the antiquity of the site. Rathdown slabs are early Christian grave slabs, so called because of their predominance in ancient burial sites in Rathdown and also in South Dublin County. The slabs are usually rectangular in shape and are decorated with herringbone patterns, concentric circles and cup marks. The decorative motifs of Rathdown slabs are regarded as a fusion of Viking and early Christian symbols.

### Walk 11 Section a Map Legend inside front cover



## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

Proceed onwards along Kilgobbin Lane until it emerges onto the main Dundrum to Enniskerry road at a junction where a secondary road branches off to Glencullen. At the start of this branch road, directly opposite Kilgobbin Lane, and almost hidden in bushes, is a gateway in a rusted iron railing. This is the start of an old mass path leading to Barnacullia.

- *500 metres to the right of the start of this path, on the main road to Dublin, is Fernhill. In 1815, Alderman Frederick Darley built a house on land at Newtown Little which he called Fernhill. In 1936 it was sold to a Joseph Walker. Successive generations of the Walker family have created magnificent gardens at Fernhill, which are open to the public.*

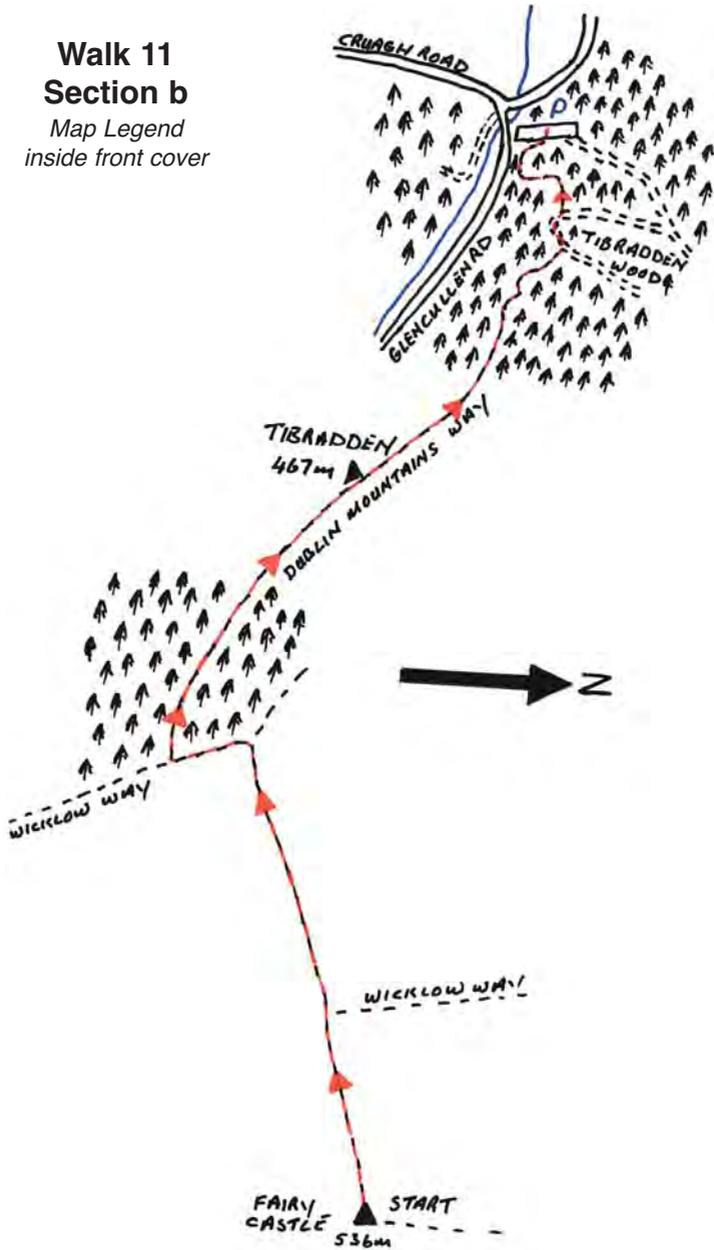
Proceed up the mass path which passes, via an underpass, under the Broad Walk on the Fernhill Estate. A small section of this path at the underpass can at times be very wet but can be traversed with care. The path continues upwards to emerge onto the roadway at Barnacullia (*Barr na Coille – Top of the Woods*). Turn right at Barnacullia and walk about 250 metres to arrive at the Blue Light Inn.

Having passed the Blue Light Inn, take the narrow, steeply rising road on the left immediately after the car park. This road, which turns sharply to the left after approximately 50 metres, leads to a granite quarry and stone works. At the entrance to the quarry, turn right onto a steeply rising, unsurfaced and heavily eroded dirt road. At the top of this short dirt road proceed straight ahead onto a narrow track. Walk upwards on this track until it reaches a T-junction with another track and turn right. Proceed forward until the track reaches the edge of a forestry plantation.

- *A special feature of this track is the magnificent views of Dublin City and Bay. These views extend from Dalkey to Howth. The entire city and outer suburbs are also clearly visible. It is an ideal location to pause, with binoculars, and absorb the amazing panoramic view.*

On arrival at the forestry plantation, bear left and continue upwards on the track alongside the plantation, towards a cluster of large communication pylons clearly visible further up on the summit of Three Rock Mountain.

**Walk 11**  
**Section b**  
*Map Legend*  
*inside front cover*



## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

A number of forest roads converge near the pylons on Three Rock Mountain. Walk past the first road to the left to arrive, after a few metres, at a crossroads. The dirt road straight ahead leads to the summit of Fairy Castle Mountain.

- *The unsurfaced road to the left leads, after approximately 250 metres, to three large rocky tors from which the Three Rock Mountain gets its name. It is worth diverting to see these tors and also to enjoy the views from them before returning to the junction to continue the route.*

Proceed straight ahead up the dirt road towards the summit of Fairy Castle Mountain. After a short distance, this dirt road deteriorates into a single track leading to the summit of Fairy Castle Mountain.

- *The large stone cairn on the summit of Fairy Castle is a passage tomb dating to about 2,000 B.C. and is typical of many similar cairns to be found on other summits of the Dublin-Wicklow Mountains. These stone cairns cover a central chamber where cremated or skeletal remains were placed. Entry to the central chamber was by way of a narrow passage.*

A westerly track leading downwards from the summit of Fairy Castle Mountain connects, after about 400 metres, with the Wicklow Way (see Walk 11, Section b, page 69).

- *The Wicklow Way is a 130 km way-marked hiking trail that runs from Marlay Park in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County through the Dublin-Wicklow Mountains to Clonegal on the Wicklow-Carlow County border.*

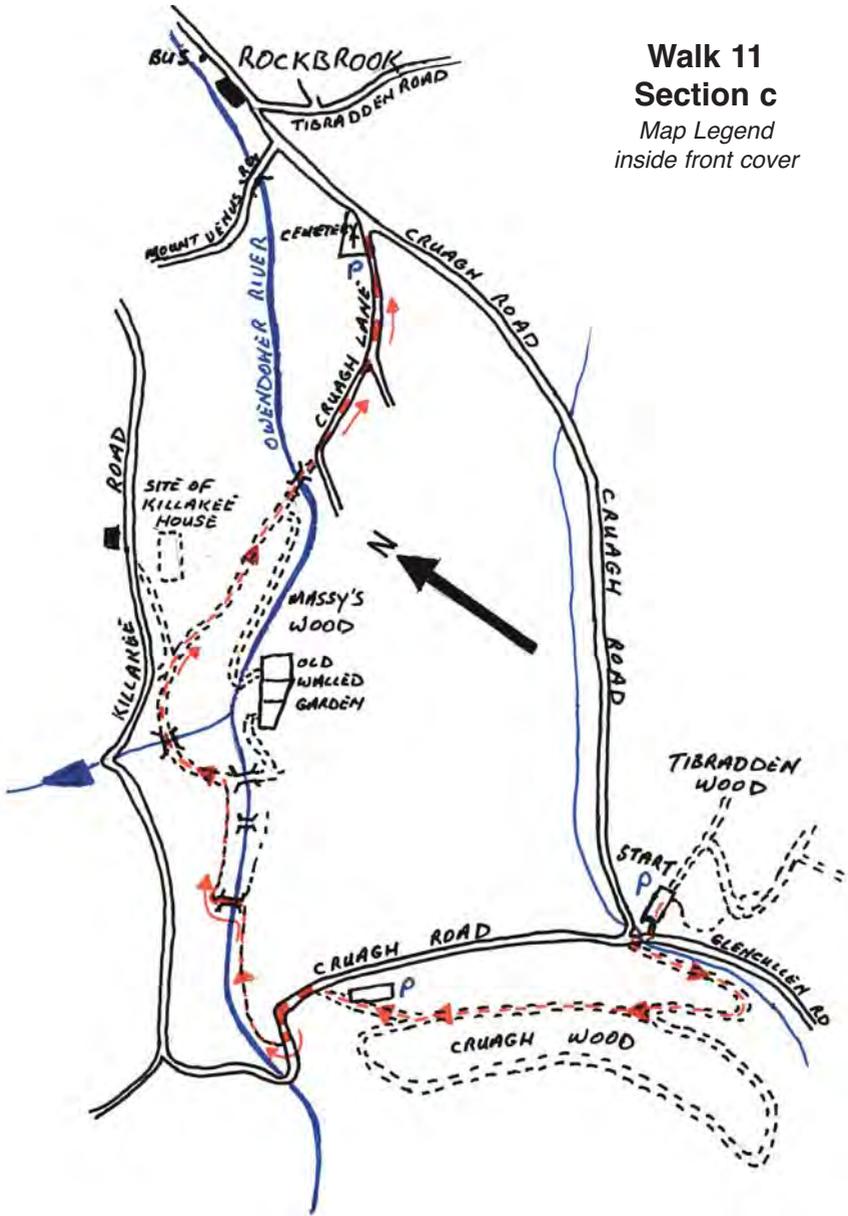
Having linked up with the Wicklow Way, proceed forward for approximately 1 km at which point the track turns sharply left. Ignore the track that goes to the right at this location. Walk on for approximately 200 metres to a junction with a track leading to the right. The Wicklow Way proceeds straight ahead into Glencullen. Take the track to the right through the woods.

- *The track from here to Tibbradden Wood car park has recently been renewed and upgraded as part of the development of the Dublin Mountains Way.*

SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

**Walk 11**  
**Section c**

Map Legend  
inside front cover



## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

Having left the Wicklow Way, the track continues to the summit (467 metres, 1,532 feet) of Tibradden Mountain (*Tigh Bródáin – the Place of Bródáin*).

- *The remains of the passage tomb on the summit of Tibradden are of particular interest in that the cairn that once covered the passage tomb has disappeared and the inner burial chamber and entrance passage are exposed. It is a good place for a break as it is not too often that one can have a snack in a prehistoric burial chamber!*

From the summit of Tibradden Mountain, proceed onwards along the summit ridge which gradually descends along the renewed forest trail to Tibradden Wood car park.

The tarred roadway at the entrance to Tibradden Wood car park i.e. Glencullen Road, marks the border between Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County and South Dublin County.

Cross the tarred road onto a forest road directly opposite the exit from the car park (see Walk 11, Section c, page 71). Follow this forest road upwards until it joins another forest road. Bear right and continue along this road through Cruagh Wood (*Creebheach – Bushy Land*). Turn right at the next junction onto a forest road that leads down to nearby Cruagh Wood car park.

On exiting the car park, turn left onto Cruagh Road. After a short distance the road bends to the left and the woodland of Massy's Wood appears on the right. Watch out for a clear narrow track between two slim concrete fence posts on the right that leads down alongside the Owendoher River into Massy's Wood. Continue down this track across a number of stiles to arrive at a narrow bridge across the river on the left.

**Cross this bridge** and proceed down the track along the other side of the river. This track emerges onto a wide forest road. Turn left onto this forest road which soon passes across a bridge over the Piperstown Stream. Continue along the forest road until a crossroads is reached.

- *The section of the walk from the narrow bridge onwards passes through delightful woodland. Take time to absorb the beauty of this woodland.*

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

Turn right at the cross roads and walk down the forest road.

- *This road was the main avenue to Killakee House, the residence of Lord Massy of Duntrileague\*, which stood on open land overlooking the city about 200 metres to the left of the road. The Killakee Estate was owned successively by the Conolly, White and Massy families. The 6th Baron Massy inherited the estate from his uncle, Col. Luke White, who died without issue and whose sister, Matilda, was the 6th Baron's mother. In 1924 the Massy family trust was declared bankrupt. The house was taken over by the Munster and Leinster Bank. In 1941, having failed to find a buyer, the house was sold for salvage and demolished. The woods passed to the Forestry Commission which we know today as Coillte.*

\*A full history of the Massy family is recounted in a book *If Those Trees Could Speak* by Frank Tracy, published by South Dublin Libraries.

- *This stretch of unsurfaced road through Massy's Wood is also the last remnant of the Military Road\*\* in its original state.*

\*\*The Military Road runs from near Rathfarnham, Co Dublin for over 60 km across the mountains to Aghavannagh, Co Wicklow. It was built by the British Army between 1801 and 1809 to facilitate the movement of troops into the mountains to counteract the ongoing activities of rebels in the Wicklow Mountains following the 1798 rebellion. A full account of the building of the Military Road and the history of areas through which the road passes can be found in a book *The Wicklow Military Road* by Michael Fewer published by Ashfield Press in 2007.

Continue down along this road until a barrier pole across the roadway is reached.

- *Pause at this barrier pole to observe the huge tree on the left hand side of the road, just beyond the pole. This tree is one of the finest Irish Oak trees in the country.*

Continue forward along the road.

- *Remnants of a pebble stone drainage channel that ran alongside the avenue to Killakee House can be seen on the left hand side of the road.*

## SOUTH DUBLIN RAMBLES

Shortly, a wide path branches off steeply down to the right towards the river.

- *Pause at this junction to look down at the huge tree at the bottom of the track. This is a Monterey Pine tree, native to California. Immediately behind this tree is a Sequoia, a California Redwood tree.*

**Continue straight forward** along the forest road, across a bridge over the Owendoher River, to emerge from Massy's Wood onto a tarred roadway. Continue forward along this roadway, which passes by a gate lodge at the old main gateway into the estate, and walk onwards to arrive at Cruagh Cemetery. Turn left onto Cruagh Road and walk another 400 metres to arrive at Rockbrook and the 161 bus stop. A further 250 metres brings you to the Merry Ploughboy Inn and refreshments.

ISBN 9780955379864



9 780955 379864

**Price €5**



Comhairle Contae  
Átha Cliath Theas  
South Dublin County Council