

Memories of Griffith Park

There were 7 of us living in our home. My mother, father, two sisters, my brothers and myself. This was during the war and my father, like many other fathers, was working in England.

During the long summer days all the mothers would send their children off to the park. We all looked forward to this, for Griffith Park was like heaven. The mothers would wave us off smiling, knowing that they could depend on the older children to take care of us. They were happy to see us go because it gave them a bit of peace for the day. They would stand and chat for a while before heading off to do their housework and to prepare the family dinner. I think, perhaps, many of them also had a little nap. Off we went, boys, girls, babies and prams. Altogether the summer seemed to last forever and we were like one happy family.

Our mothers would make up sandwiches, which were mainly made up of bread and jam. We filled up empty glass lemonade bottles with water and we stuffed them with homemade paper corks to stop the water from spilling out. Sometimes, we also used old stout and sauce bottles. The older girls would spread a pram blanket on the ground and lay out all the goodies. They were very fussy, just like mothers. However, all the children were happy to do what they were told because the fresh air and playtime had made everyone starving. To the hungry children this picnic was like a Christmas party.

The Tolka River flowed into three long concrete pools, each ranging in depth from one foot to four feet. This enabled babies, children and teenagers to swim, play and splash in the water with safety and those of us who had swimming trunks brought them. The boys would bring an old net curtain for fishing. This could be three or four feet long and it would be held up at each end by a boy or girl. They would drag it through the water easily and steadily until it came to the reeds. It would be full of pinkeens of all sizes and if you were lucky, there could also be a couple of redbreasts. Sometimes we might even catch small eels.

At the end of the day when we were tired and hungry we were all glad to be on our way home. We felt just like the tired 'Little Teddy Bears'. This song was sung by all on the way home. When we turned the corner onto our road our mothers were all happy and smiling to see us home safely again.

Teddy O'Driscoll

Comprehension Memories of Griffith Park

Where was Teddy's father working?

Who took care of the younger children?

What were the sandwiches made up of?

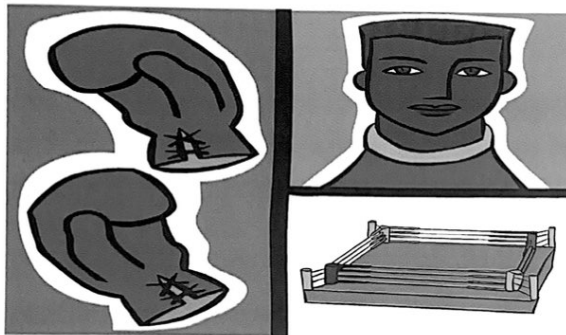
What did the boys use as fishing rods?

Boxing

My dad got me into boxing to keep me out of trouble. When I started boxing I trained seven days a week. I did a lot of skipping, shadow boxing and jogging on the spot.

Before I left the house to do my running on the beach I would have some breakfast. Then I would go down to Dollymount Beach and run for 2 hours. After the run I would jump in for a swim. I did weight lifting at home.

I did this training 7 days a week. It was worth all the effort when I won my first competition. My dad was so proud of me.



Declan

Making the Park Safer

I live in the Coolock area with my family. The area has not that much for the children. They have the Plex and the cinema and the summer projects, but the place that I think is most needed is the park.

The park we have is not safe for small children. They have to play at the fountain. They can't go to the playground because sometimes there can be needles there.

At night there would be the people that drink and break the bottles. When you walk through the park you have to watch where you are going and if there are children the parents would have to watch where their children are going.

The park is not safe in the day or the night. At night you can't walk through the park because you might be attacked or shot at or stabbed. The park should be a place where people can send their children to and not be worried about the child picking up needles or falling on glass. At night people should be able to walk through the park without being afraid. The children should be able to go to the playground without the parents having to worry about them. If people involved with drugs and drink didn't hang around the park things could be cleaned up and our children and other people could feel safer in the park. It would be a lot better for the area if people got help for their drinking and drugs.

Gloria Redmond.

Quiz Television Programmes Soap Characters

What programme was the character Nidge in?

Fair City

Love Hate

Eastenders

What programme is the character Debbie Dingle in?

Eastenders

Coronation Street

Emmerdale

What programme is the character Yvonne Doyle in?

Fair City

Hollyoaks

Holby City

What programme is the character Jett James in?

Neighbours

Holby City

Home and Away

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Jazz Festival in Cork

On Friday, Oct. 25th, my Dad and myself went to the Cork Jazz Festival. My Dad had never been to Cork before. We both took the bus and Luas to Heuston. Before we got on the train we had breakfast in the station. The train departed at 10am. We both read the papers on the way to Cork. The train arrived at 12:45pm and we got a taxi to the Hotel River Lee. The room was ready and we checked in. It was a big room and very comfortable.

I brought my Dad to the English Market and he enjoyed the markets. At 5pm we went to Tony's Bistro for dinner. After that I went for a swim and my Dad went for a pint. After my swim I went to the music jazz session in the hotel, I loved the music and went to bed at 2:30 am!! My dad left earlier and watched the movie, The Magnificent Seven in his room.

On Saturday I got up at 9:30. Again we went to Tony's Bistro for breakfast. My Dad wanted to hear the Shandon Bells so we got a taxi to the cathedral. At the cathedral we had to put ear protection on. We had to climb 300 steps to see the bells. My dad really enjoyed it.

In the afternoon we went to see St. Francis' Cathedral. After that I watched football. My Uncle Paddy arrived in the afternoon and we all ate dinner in the hotel. I swam again in the pool. I got myself ready and I then listened to jazz bands until 3:30am. I had a really great time. That night the clocks went back an hour so I was really in bed at 2:30am. I was knackered the next morning.

Sunday, we were up at 9:30am. We went to mass in the local church. After mass we went into Tony' Bistro for breakfast. I then relaxed and went for a swim. That evening I went to another jazz session in Cork city. Cork was packed for the Jazz Festival. Monday, we were all up at 8:30am. The three of us, Uncle Paddy, my Dad and myself, took the train home at 9:30am.

It was a lovely relaxing journey and we arrived home at 1pm. It was a great weekend. Next year I will go with my friends....

William O'Brien

Word search Jazz Festival in Cork

N S T A T I O N A O O N F S J
V G M A R X R Z I S K V W B N
I F C Y O E X J R J W I Y L Z
J K C C P V N U A Y M G X I Z
L L N A U S U D N Z N R W Z S
H A P S F H E I D J Z V F M L
U V M K L A C N A H U K X T Q
M I D X H L B N Y M A R K E T
U T G N I E B E P A G K N D L
S S T M G Q A R G I I K T B E
I E B F T R U I G W M R N R T
C F M H V Y N W L O C A L O Q
V V R H F C B D M U O V U R C
P E H O T E L M K O D Q E D L
E Z O K N Z N N S Q B B D K D

CLIMB
MARKET
DINNER
MUSIC
FESTIVAL
PAPER
HOTEL
STATION
JAZZ
SWIM
LOCAL
THREE

Book Review

Not Just for Christmas by Roddy Doyle

The start of the book was very enjoyable. The book was based on two brothers living in Dublin. They parted company in the seventies and met twenty one years later in a pub in Dublin. The brothers' names were Jimmy and Danny.

While in the pub they reminisced about old times and how they fell out as teenagers. Jimmy used to dominate Danny. For example, Jimmy cut Danny's hand to become blood brothers. Danny was afraid but Jimmy forced him. Jimmy found that his parents sided with Danny most of the time. The breaking point came when Danny found Jimmy with his girlfriend. The parents sided with Danny this time so Jimmy decided to go to England.

He decided to come home to make it up with Danny for all the bad things he had done. To find out what happens read the book.

The start of the book keeps you guessing. As you get into the book it is interesting but the end of the book was disappointing.

A variety of readers would like this book. It is a bit of fun. I would give it six out of ten.

Michael Kennedy

Jack's Trip to the Zoo

Hi, my name is Jack. I live with my Mam, Dad, my sister and brother in Hackney, London. I was born on July 20th 1961 and today I am five years old. Mam and Dad said for my birthday we could go to the zoo for the day. Mam made a pack lunch and off we went. We jumped on the number eight red bus and before I knew it, we were at the zoo.

As it was the summer holidays, the place was very crowded. I said to Mam, "I want to see the lions first, No! I want to see the sea lions." Dad told me to calm down. "We will get to see all the animals in good time," he said. It was time for the sea lions to be fed. There were lots of people and this made it hard for me to see the sea lions. I let go of my Mam's hand so that I could climb up onto the fence to see them. After the sea lions were fed I looked for my Mam and Dad but the crowd was so big I could not see them. I then decided to walk over to see the monkeys beside the lake. They were on a small island. I tried to get onto the island and fell into the lake. I was calling out, "Mam! Dad! Mam! Dad! Next thing I knew, I was on the grass crying and wet. Then I heard a man's voice and I looked up. There was a man in a uniform and he had pulled me out of the water. He said he was the Zoo Attendant and he asked me my name. "Jack" I replied. "Where is Mam? I want my Mam". I cried. He picked me up and wrapped me in a blanket. He put me in a small cart and brought me to the First Aid Hut. He gave me a bottle of Fanta and a Milky Bar. My tears stopped as soon as I saw such great treats. This was the first time I had a whole bottle of Fanta to myself. I didn't even have to share it with my sister or brother and I could not wait to tell them about what I had got.

I was having such a good time that I was distracted from my ordeal. The nurse looked me over. She gave me a clean bill of health and said that I was just a little wet and scared. She dressed me in fresh pants and a red Mickey Mouse t-shirt. She told me I could keep the clothes. I was over the moon with joy because Mickey Mouse is my favourite Disney character. The Zoo attendant said, "Now young lad, let's go and find your parents." Off we went in the cart

again. I was having great fun going around and I felt really special when I saw all the other boys and girls looking on at me with envy.

We came to the lake and we saw a large crowd. Just then I cried out, "Mam! Dad!" Mam cried as she ran towards me with her arms stretched out and she had tears streaming down her face. She grabbed me out of the cart and she hugged me. My Dad, sister and brother were behind her and we were all overjoyed to be together again. This is a birthday I will never forget.

Josephine Lynch

My Shadow Robert Louis Stevenson

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me
And what can be the use of him is more than I can see
He is very very like me from the heels up to the head
And I see him jump before me when I jump into my bed

The funniest thing about him is the way he likes to grow
Not at all like proper children which is always very slow
For he sometimes shoots up taller like an Indian rubber ball
And sometimes gets so little that there's none of him at all

He hasn't got a notion of how children ought to play
And can only make a fool of me in every sort of way
He stays so close behind me he's a coward you can see

One morning very early before the sun was up
I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup
But my lazy little shadow like an errant sleepy head
Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in bed

I like this poem because it reminds me of my shadow behind me.

Michelle

Second Time Around

It was coming up to February and Valentine's Day I always hated that time of year. I had been on my own since my husband died eight years ago. I would take out an old Valentine card that he had brought me many years ago, but this year was different. I had met a nice guy when I was on holidays last year. I was looking forward to February 14th this year. He made arrangements with me for dinner and a night away in The Crown Plaza Hotel, it was a great night and the meal was good.

He gave me a gold ring and flowers when we went to the room. I had forgotten what it was like to be fussed over. It is a wonderful feeling when someone makes you feel good about yourself. I am going to enjoy his company while it lasts; it's only six months since I met him. He is kind and has a good sense of humour and it is lovely to have someone in my life again.

It is great for me, we are getting on at the moment but it is still early days. We are both hoping that things will come together. He has booked a holiday to Spain. I would like it to work out for both of us. Maybe by the end of next year wedding bells will be ringing.



Terry

Love

I saw her across a crowded room
She was beautiful she could hold herself well
When she moved she got my full attention
She lit up the room with her beautiful complexion
Her brown eyes and her tanned skin
The way she looked at me filled me with joy

I waited patiently for the moment to walk over and introduce myself

When the moment came I wasted no time
I walked over and introduced myself
It was extra ordinary because I felt an over whelming presence
I could see the sparkle in her eyes
She looked like a girl who is full of passion
I imagined us together

She blushed and my face went red I knew she was the one
We talked about our own interests briefly
Her likes and dislikes, she liked travelling I liked travelling too
I cherished every moment with her, we exchanged numbers
I desire for her to be mine I felt she touched me deep inside
We only met but I feel I know her a lifetime
She touched my soul

Wayne Curley

War

Germany in the year 1933: the country was on the brink of civil war. There was an uprising mostly against the Jewish people. The treatment of the Jewish people was terrible, they were treated like dirt. Jewish shops were locked up then burnt down. Their houses were burnt and their families were rounded up. While some were shot or beaten to death, others were sent to one of the concentration camps and gassed to death.

In 1939 Hitler invaded Poland and that was the start of World War 2. After taking Poland, Hitler set his eyes on Holland, then France, Belgium, Hungary and the Czech Republic. The invasion of these countries dragged England into the war. Some parts of England were bombed and even Ireland did not escape as two stray bomber planes dropped their bombs on Dublin. One of these killed many people in the North Strand area of Dublin.

The war lasted for six years, in these six years over six million Jews were executed or gassed or starved to death by Hitler's henchmen. When the war was over any Jewish survivors made their way to other countries while some came to England and a few came to Ireland. Many made it to Israel to begin a new life for themselves.

Michael Lynch

Trends in Shopping

Have you ever thought on how shops are laid out? When you enter the supermarket you are faced with rows and rows of special offers.

Do you need it? , Do you want it? Probably not but do you buy it, yes you do. 2 for 1, special offer that's a good deal – they have you again. Is it a good deal, no it's not, you are spending more than you intended to spend.

As you continue through the supermarket you think you see more bargains, your trolley is getting fuller and yet you have not got the items you went in to buy.

How can you change your shopping habits? Go in with blinkers on, no don't think so. Just look straight ahead, no looking sideways. Don't think so. Go directly to the shelves where the things you want are. Even with the best intentions still don't think so.

Well here are a few tips.

Avoid the herd mentality (when the supermarket is packed with shoppers) because this leads you to buying more.

Monday and Tuesdays are suggested as the best days to shop and weekends are to be avoided at all costs.

Make a list and stick to it.

Have you noticed that shopping trollies are getting bigger, this is to encourage you to put more into them. Tip

Choose the smaller trolley.

Store vouchers can lead you to spend more money. If the offer is for a particular brand and you pick up the wrong brand by mistake you end up buying it even though you probably did not need it in the first place. You were only buying it because you had a voucher saying €1 off. Be careful when choosing from a special offer displays. Sometimes things are placed close by and you end up buying them just because they are in your eye line.

Did you ever think why fresh bread is placed in paper bags? Well if you leave the bread in the paper bag it will be stale by the next morning and what do you do? Go back for more and as usual buy more than the bread you went in for.

Put fresh bread into a sealed plastic bag this way it will stay fresh for much longer.

Be aware that supermarkets have many tricks to part you with your money. Next time you go shopping remember some of the tips to avoid overspending.



Tuesday Morning Computer Class

Capital Letters

Put in the capital letters

1. we saw o'connell bridge.
2. we're going to england in june.
3. we spent our holidays in the italy last year.
4. i'm starting my job in april.
5. we often go to the beach in the summer.
6. i love learning french.
7. the chinese man was cooking dinner.
8. i'm fairly bad at maths.
9. one of the courses that i have to take is communications.

Answers Page 72

Learning to Drive

I passed the theory test last September (2013). The test consisted of all the sign posts, traffic signals, dangerous signs etc. I went to Raheny Driving Centre to do my theory test, I was a little nervous going in. The supervisor said no.13 was a lucky seat I didn't think so but I sat on the chair. I think it's lucky now because I passed.

Now I am going to do my driving test. Before I can do that I must attend rules of the road classes. I hope to do them in June. I am very excited at the idea of being able to drive. At the moment my husband Paul is teaching me to drive. He is very patient and we have fun. I am really enjoying learning to drive. I am very happy because it is interesting and it will give me independence. All the people say I'm very good and you're great and this gives me confidence. I am very happy.

I am getting more confidence the more I drive and I will be able to pick up and collect my girls from school. Now Paul will be freer to do things because I will be driving and I will be able to drive him too!!!

Venky

Worksheet

Learning to Drive

On what date did Venky pass her driving test?

From what centre did she take her test?

Why does Venky now think number 13 is lucky?

What is her husband's name?

What will Venky be able to do when she passes her driving test?

Rama and Sitha Festival Day

On Rama and Sitha festival day we like to eat chakkara pongal (sweet pongal). Rama is a very kind God, he has two brothers the older brother is called Lakshmana and the younger brother's name is Bharatha. Sitha is Rama's wife; Rama and Sitha are a very interesting couple. Their wedding anniversary is celebrated every year between March and May. We celebrate it by having a wedding feast in their honour. The festival's name is "Sri Rama Navami". Below is the recipe for one of the dishes we make for the feast:-

Chakkara Pongal (Sweet Pongal)

Ingredients:

1 Cup of rice (Basmati rice)

1 Cup of dhall (pulses)

3 Cups of water

1 Cup of warm milk

2/3 Spoons of ghee

1 Cup of sugar (Jaggery)

4 or 5 cardamon

Handful of Cashew nuts

Dried grapes (Raisins)

Method:

I cup of dhall and I cup of rice mixed together and rinse to clean.

Add three cups of cold water to rice and dhall and cook until soft.

Add I cup of warm milk and I cup of sugar (Jaggery) to rice and dhall and mix well.

Then stand aside.

On the pan put the ghee and when hot add cardamon and raisins and then cook until brown.

Then add to rice and put into a serving dish.

Ready to eat – yum yum.....

Venky

Slave Labour Working from an early age.

When I was about 9 years old I began working in glasshouses. I watered tomato plants every day. A girl who worked there too said to my brother that he would not put the hose on her. She dared me and I drowned her. The water ran down from the top of her head and she ran in to the boss's house. The boss came out and asked who drowned the girl. I told the boss I did and that she dared me. The boss said, "She must have been too hot". The girl was never allowed into the glasshouses again.

I went to work with a farmer and the wages were better and I worked on the farm for six years until I was about 19. I was going in and out to Dublin on the lorry with the driver. He would be going to the market with vegetables and to horse stables with hay and straw. He said the count on the lorry was wrong every day. He started to miss a Monday and Tuesday and the boss would drive on the days that he was missing. The count would be right and over. The two of them had a row about the count. The boss told him he was on the fiddle and he sacked him.

When I was about 19 I went to work on another farm. I started to drive tractors on this farm. I got married a year after I started working on this farm. I bought a mobile home. I started washing carrots at night. I paid the money for the mobile home in six weeks. I worked for a good while for this farmer. I thought he was the best boss I worked for. I stayed with him for about 5 years.

Gay

Exercise Slave Labour

Put the following words into sentences:

Glasshouses _____

Hose _____

Allowed _____

Count _____

Mobile Home _____

Carrots: _____

The New Pup

We got a new pup last November and my son and my wife picked the pup up. My wife said that I could get up if the pup started to bark at night. She started to bark at 2 in the morning. I got up and she was playing until 3.30a.m. The following evening my wife said I would have another good night. I told her the pup would not be going into the pen until 11p.m. The pup never woke up until 9 o'clock in the morning.

Some months later I got up at six o'clock and brought the pup for a walk. She went into the water. She was walking in the water and she thought she was great. I threw a ball and the pup went to get the ball. The water was deeper than she thought and her paws were grabbing at the rock and she finally got up on the rock. She was delighted when she got out. She stood and shook herself.



Gay