

The Future of Dún Laoghaire

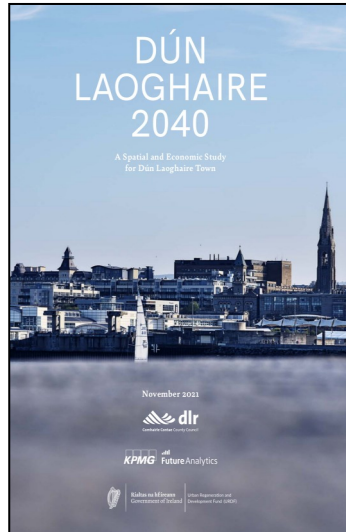
DÚN LAOGHAIRE CENTRAL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



In September of 2019 the county council tendered for two reports for Dún Laoghaire, requiring an economic plan for the Harbour and a Spatial & Economic plan for the town. These tenders were won by Indecon in the case of the Harbour and KPMG/FA for the town. They were delayed by the pandemic but have finally been completed and are now available to the public.

The purpose of the reports is to give recommendations on the potential activities and strategies that could be undertaken. The reports are not part of official council documentation, such as the Development Plan, rather they act as advisory documents where the council can decide which recommendations to follow, if any at all. This is the DLCRA's understanding of the purpose of the reports.

It is therefore important for residents to understand what recommendations are in the reports and if there are any particular policies that people feel would be beneficial or



Economic & Spatial Plan for Dún Laoghaire

indeed detrimental to the town, they should engage with their local representatives and let them know.

Here we will give a brief overview of the main recommendations contained in the reports.

Indecon Harbour Report

1. Increase in use of Water

2. Consider leasing of land for a waterside hotel development
3. Special designation of the Harbour as a Strategic Enterprise Zone
4. A limited & targeted increase in Cruises – Cruises that bring a value to the town & a small number
5. Aim to increase tourism in the town
6. Support for the Wind Farm— an area of the foreshore can hold infrastructure & facilities to support the Dublin Array
7. Ferry Terminal building to be encouraged to be a Business Innovation Centre
8. Invest in Higher/Further Education

KPMG/FA Economic & Spatial Report

- a. Enhancing Streets & public spaces — pedestrianisation, new streets & new quarters
- b. New Urban Design Guide— reference for future development
- c. New Local Area Plan—this

- d. Create a Way Finding plan— Attractive signage for the town
- e. Create a Steering group to guide an increase in educational activities
- f. Create a program of events for the town such as Summer Streets, etc..
- g. Do work on preventing Anti-social behaviour
- h. Encourage Co-working spaces in the town—future work patterns will need more of this.
- i. Create new Enterprise Supports – new grants should be considered
- j. Create a role for the brand development & management of Dun Laoghaire town as well as a new Communications specialist to promote Dún Laoghaire town.

There are some interesting ideas there and the reports go into a lot more detail, so it is worth looking at the reports themselves if you are interested.

Any thoughts on the report that you would like to share, please email us as info@dlcra.ie or tweet us on [@DunLaoghaireCRA](https://twitter.com/DunLaoghaireCRA)

And remember your Councillors will have a say in the uptake of any policies.

Tivoli Road Safety

Residents from Tivoli Road & surrounding areas have formed a group called 'Tivoli Road Safe Mobility', with the aim of putting pressure on DLRCC to address the issues affecting pedestrians, cyclists & residents on Tivoli Road.

Local households are worried the road is becoming increasingly congested & dangerous as the number of cars, bikes & pedestrians rises (see DL News). Daire Townend, who lives on Tivoli Road, says pavements along the road are generally narrow & unsafe for the volume of pedestrians using them. "When walking the dog to the vet, or heading to the shops on foot, I am concerned by the volume & speed of traffic, relative to the width of the footpath – it's quite intimidating."

Dr Nuala Quinn, who also lives on the road, shares Townend's concerns. "The pedestrians using the pavement include lots

of school children, parents with buggies, older people, wheelchair users, dog walkers, etc. There just isn't the capacity on the pavement & my heart jumps when I see people stepping into the road to pass each other."

Quinn adds, "You also see cyclists mounting the footpath sometimes, & while it's not the right thing to do, I understand why they are feeling nervous & squeezed off the road by trucks & cars. To be honest, it's nail-biting to watch the increasing number of young children trying to compete with traffic to cycle to school every day on this road. As a parent, I'd love to be able to get my own children cycling, but I feel very concerned about the safety of it."

Tivoli Road is one of the oldest roads in Dun Laoghaire, part of the ancient track from Bullock Castle to Monkstown Castle, & while it is mainly residential in

nature, it is also a key access route to many local schools.

Professional monitoring equipment was recently installed by Tivoli Road Safe Mobility to gather data on traffic, cyclist & pedestrian usage of the road. The group has spoken to many households on Tivoli Road & Royal Terrace West & concern about traffic & safety on the road seems to be unanimous. Representatives of Cualanor have also linked with the group because their residents rely on Tivoli Road as a pedestrian & cycle link to schools & the town/seafront.

Tivoli Road Safe Mobility has taken the first steps in engaging with the Council regarding its concerns, but to get the Council to prioritise this issue, the group needs the support of as many



Tivoli Rd, personal photograph

local residents as possible. They are particularly keen to get the views & involvement of residents on Corrig & Eden Road, who may share some of the same issues & in adjoining areas such as Clarinda Park, Cualanor, Myrtle Park, etc.

If anyone would be willing to get involved in the campaign or would like to be added to Tivoli Road Safe Mobility's mailing list for future communications, please email tivolisafemobility@gmail.com with your name & address.

Twitter: [@roadtivoli](https://twitter.com/roadtivoli)

Let's put the heart back into Dún Laoghaire town

A Christmas Message

This year we have asked one of the Churches in the town to write a short message

The Methodist Church

On behalf of the Methodist community in Dun Laoghaire, I bring you warm greetings for this Christmas season. I pray that you will all keep safe and well over this period of uncertainty and challenge, as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour.

Welcome

The present church on Northumberland Avenue was beautifully renovated in 2014 and if you have never been inside, it's well worth a look! Our Sunday morning worship service is at 11am and there is always room for visitors. Unfortunately, due to Covid, we have had to suspend the children's Sunday Club and Creche for the time being.

Open Door

Sadly, we have also had to suspend our 'Open Door' drop-in on Tuesday mornings from 10am to 11.30am. We live in hope of re-starting this weekly event in the New Year!

Christmas Services

We are planning to have a Carol Service on Sunday 19th December at 7pm and the Christmas Day worship celebration will be at the earlier time of 10am. Do keep an eye out on our Noticeboard and Website (www.dlmc.org) for other services and events.

Online Services

One of the few benefits of Covid has been a greater use of technology, especially for visual communication. All our

Services can now be watched live from our website and a recording viewed during the week.

Best Decorated House

We are delighted that it is our turn to assist in judging the 'Best Decorated House' this year, so we look forward to seeing the fruit of your hard work this year!

Every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

Rev. Forsyth (covering for Rev. Nixon at present).



Church Services over Christmas

With covid advice and restrictions changing by the day at the moment the best advice is to check the following websites to find out the latest information on individual church services over the Christmas period.

CATHOLIC

www.DunLaoghaireParish.ie

METHODIST

www.dlmc.org

PRESBYTERIAN

www.dl-pc.org

ANGLICAN

[Facebook.com/DunLaoghaireChurch/](https://www.facebook.com/DunLaoghaireChurch/)

D.L. Town News

Many residents have asked about additional **recycling facilities in the town** to help sustainability. There are no plans for extra bottle banks etc, but from next year the supermarkets, by law, will have to start providing facilities themselves.

St Michael's Church is planning on dedicating the tree that was recently planted outside the church to all the people who have died during this terrible pandemic that has negatively effected so many of us. For more details see www.DunLaoghaireParish.ie

Work Commencing

Work on the **HSE Primary Care Centre** on the 3rd floor of DL Shopping Centre will commence the 1st week of Dec and should take up to a year.

The planned **Redevelopment of Convent Lane/Myrtle Square** has been given the green light to go to tender and hopefully work is due to commence by summer 2022

Planning permission for the **Ferry Terminal** to be used as a shared office working space has been given and it is expected to start operating in 2022.

While the judicial review of the **St Michaels Private Hospital** development was postponed until Jan 2022, there has been a new planning application submitted on the site. **D21A/1041**

The **Skatepark** proposal is progressing and we remain hopeful of its success. Nothing can be confirmed at this stage but we should have news in the new year.

Planning permission has been submitted for 8 apartments in a four storey block & 16 houses (mix of 3 & 4 beds) on Tivoli Road beside the entrance to St Josephs Primary School. **D21A/1050**

The **Dun Laoghaire Historical Society** has released its latest issue of it journal & can be picked up in Easons, Dubray, Hewett's in Monkstown and Eamon's in Sandycove.

Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town

Pedestrianisation

Between the 1st of July and the 1st of October Georges St was closed to all traffic between the junction with Patrick St on the eastern end and St Michael's hospital and Myrtle Square on the western end.

We are printing here two letters that we received from residents describing their slightly contrasting experiences of the trial.

Hopefully you will find their letters interesting and possibly enlightening.

I have been living on **Convent Rd** for over 20 years I have seen many changes over that time. Including the closure of Georges St 17 odd years ago for resurfacing of the road which resulted in a lot of problems around Cross Ave. So when the council announced it was doing a trial period of pedestrianisation, I was a bit hesitant.

The experience of residents on Convent Road and Cross Ave has probably been more mixed than it was for other residents. The volume of traffic has definitely seemed to increase during the 3 months of the trial. Mostly this was an increase in delivery vans and articulated lorries who seemed not to know the best way to get to the shops they were supplying.

The largest problems we had on Convent Rd were caused by large trucks and the weekly arrival of bin lorries. Previously they had all been crossing Georges St and going down Eblana Avenue. They were now turning right at the bottom of Convent and going through the lane to Patrick St. There is a parking bay outside the school and if someone was there the trucks and lorries couldn't make the turn and had to reverse back

up the street. This continued every now and again throughout the whole 3 month trial.

I also know of elderly friends who lived in Mounttown that depended on the bus to get home from the town. They were used to doing their shopping in Bloomfields and the shopping centre & then jumping on the bus with their shopping at Marine Rd or outside Argos. The walk to Crofton Rd & York Rd was too much for many who have had to use taxis instead.

Pedestrianisation might seem a nice idea but I felt there were issues that still needed to be fixed.

For my family and I, local residents for over 18 years, the pedestrianisation in Dún Laoghaire could not have come sooner. For us, the immediate shift it created in the town centre atmosphere was palpable. With no cars and trucks driving through or in and around Lower George's Street, it allowed for a sense of calm as shoppers meandered in and out of retail shops, enhancing the consumer experience and creating a sense of community where locals and visitors could congregate by day or night.

Suddenly, our little town was being likened to European cities. A stroll into the centre to grab a few things became more of a destination; sauntering around the local shops was followed by a pit-stop at a café or bar. On-street socialising in the absence of cars and trucks inspired local restaurants and pubs to create lively outdoor dining spaces and congregation points, welcomed by residents and visitors as they could relax and enjoy fresh air and town vibes in the absence of bustling traffic.



Courtesy of dlrcoco

County Development Plan

The new Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County development plan is in the final stage of public consultation, which will end on the 9th of December.

The DLCRA made two written submissions to the process and towards the end we spoke with the councillors to ensure that they knew of some of three main requests that residents in the town had,

- 1) Retention of the Special Local Objective (SLO) for Cross Avenue & surrounding streets. We requested that it be reinstated to protect this important area of central Dún Laoghaire.
- 2) An SLO on Clarinda Park to promote the refurbishment and reinstatement of historical features which will benefit the whole town.
- 3) An SLO on the old training pitches on Tivoli Terrace South

to reinforce the existing zoning & encourage the retention of the field as something that could benefit the community.

The planning authority had recommended against all three proposals but with the help of some councillors we were able to get the motions voted on by all the counties councillors. We achieved the SLO's on Cross Ave and Tivoli Terrace but were not able to get the SLO on Clarinda Park.

We would say thank you to all the councillors who supported us and that we will continue to advocate for the improvement and refurbishment of Clarinda Park in line with what the residents of the Park wish.

A final Chief Executive's Report will be drafted by mid January after which the elected representatives will consider the final version of the Development Plan.



County Council Review of Trial Pedestrianisation

Warm summer days meant families and friends could meet and dine outside cafés like Chocolate de Fred and The Natural Bakery, sipping coffee outside JJ. Darboven, enjoy the new public seating installed at St Michel's and Myrtle Squares, while after-hour diners and drinkers could while away the warm summer evenings outside The Lighthouse and Dunphy's pub.

The area was transformed from a noisy, busy town with crowded paths and traffic lights, to a cosmopolitan hub, with bright, cheery painted murals to enjoy and chat about, lush green planters and space to meander in and out of shops and enjoy all that Dún Laoghaire town has to offer.

As the three-month pedestrianisation project drew to a close, it did what it set out to do: provide safe, welcoming and people-friendly public spaces in our town to bring life, food and energy to the streets. As long-time Dun Laoghaire residents, we are hopeful the initiative will return in 2022 and even more optimistic for full pedestrianisation to come in an effort to revive our town centre and create a permanent and vibrant destination for locals, visitors and workers.

Sive O'Brien, York Rd

The county council are in the process of producing a report on the trial and hope to have it finished by early in the new year.

They undertook a number of surveys with the businesses in the town as well as residents across Dún Laoghaire and other individual stakeholders such as St. Michael's hospital, An Garda Síochana, the NTA, Bloomfields, etc..

DLRCC received approximately 800 responses to the survey of residents, so thank you to all who took the time to respond.

The council also want to obtain two months of traffic and air quality data after the trial has ended. This will be analysed with other data such as football numbers and additional metrics from businesses where possible.

The results of all the analysis of the trial will be collated into a report that will be made public when completed.

Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town



Dún Laoghaire Business Association

Message from DLBA (Dún Laoghaire Business Association)

Thank you from the businesses in Dún Laoghaire Business Association for all the support throughout 2021 – another year that none of us will forget too easily! It has been heartening to see so many people out and about walking and cycling, and building a wonderful community, along with supporting the businesses.

Never before have we seen such support in the local community and it is wonderful for the town. You will see the collaboration between the DLBA, the DLR Chamber and DLRC Council for the Christmas Campaign – red posters around town saying “SHOP EAT CLICK LOCAL”.

The Business Association is an active participant in the town and is planning some projects to help improve the town such as a de-weeding of the facades on Georges St.

DunLaoghaireTown.ie is a great resource for everything “Dún Laoghaire” It is run on a not-for-profit basis to act as a digital channel to promote the town, it’s businesses and the broader community through a range of free services that are available to all, including Community Groups.

Also be sure to tag Dun Laoghaire Town when tweeting or adding anything to your social media accounts and we will reshare and like it.

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 @dunlaoghairetown

 @DunLaoghaireTown

#ShopDunLaoghaire

#DunLaoghaireTown

ShopEatClickLocal



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Help for Holiday Meltdowns

Here is an article from a fellow resident for all the families out there. The holiday season can be a stress at the best of times and with ongoing Covid restrictions we thought this article might be useful.

Christmas is such a busy season for so many. Presents to be sorted, meals to be made, guests to be entertained Our children are full of anticipation, bursting with excitement, hoping for dreams to be fulfilled, anxious they might not. They sense our tension, see us busy and less available, while expectations for their own behavior are higher than usual if we celebrate with extended families or friends.

At one point or another big feelings will spill out. Our child might have a big upset about

Family Corner



something small, throw a tantrum, pick a sibling fight, be rude to a relative, or disappointed about a “wrong” present. It is going to happen.

Here’s the thing: This meltdown is useful. You can use it to help your child in the moment and bring your family closer together.

Our children do their very best to hold it all together. They WANT to be good. But they hit a point when they can’t anymore. Firstly, when the tension inside rises too high, it just has to be let out. It is like a pressure

cooker that needs a release to function again. Secondly, your children are physically and emotionally wired to feel safe when they feel connected with you. When we get busy, they no longer feel our warm, loving attention. Their brain is no longer sure they are safe and switches into an emergency mode; logical thinking goes out the window; the brain gets flooded with feelings and the overwhelmed child becomes challenging. Parents are often confused by this; particularly when it attaches to seemingly unimportant events, such as who sits next to whom etc. But the real reason is within and the behaviour is a signal for help.

Here’s what you can do. It helps not to think “I hope it won’t happen this year”. Instead, expect it and be prepared for it. You can prevent a lot of this by keeping your child’s sense of connection with you high throughout. It only takes 10 mins

of uninterrupted, undistracted 1:1 time with your child to fill up their connection cup and help them do well for another while. Try to make time and space for that amidst the busyness. Follow your child’s lead as you play during this time. Your approval will do wonders for their positive sense of themselves and others. Once you’re facing a meltdown, move in close and focus on listening with warmth. Allowing your child to let these feelings out will help them come out the other end, regain their thinking and return to their natural, flexible self. And lastly, laughter is also a powerful tension release. If you can get the giggles going (without tickling), you might just get around that meltdown altogether.

These strategies belong to the Hand in Hand Parenting toolbox. If you’re interested in a parenting consultation, feel free to reach out anytime.

Miriam Ben-Haim

miriam@handinhandparenting.org

Let’s put the heart back into Duñ Laoghaire town



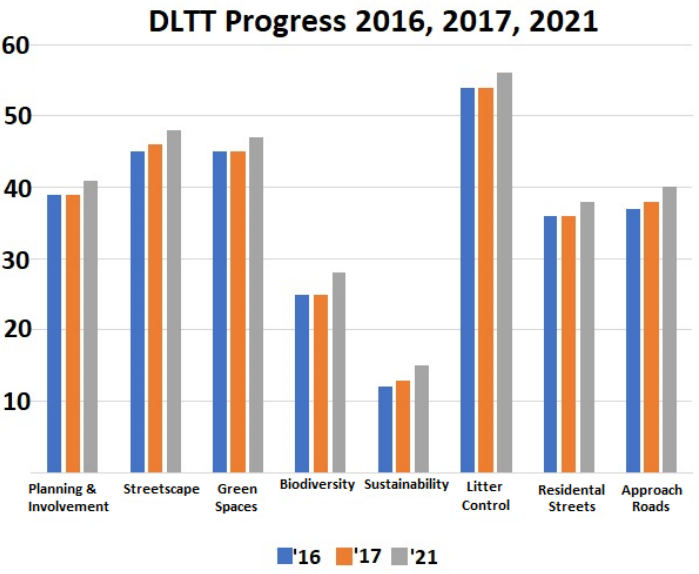
The results of the 2021 National Tidy Towns competition were announced on Friday 12th November. Congratulations to the overall winner, Ennis, and to those towns that won category awards including our neighbours Dalkey.

Although we did not win any prizes we scored 313 points, a big increase from our last entry in 2017 (296 points), and we improved in all categories. Because there was no entry from Dún Laoghaire in 2019 (the competition did not take place in 2020) we did not get a prize for this improved score.

The Tidy Towns competition is much broader than keeping Dún Laoghaire tidy. Our entry should be the sum of all activities by all actors that go towards enhancing our town and its environment (clean, green, biodiverse, environmentally friendly, sustainable, multicultural and inclusive; and enjoying and preserving our magnificent land and maritime heritage).

(DLCRA and DLTT) have excellent relations, one of our identified areas for improvement is to strengthen this collaboration, both with DLCRA and individual residents associations. Many improvement activities are undertaken by individual residents associations and informal residents groups (e.g. social events, street cleaning, maintaining and improving green areas, bulb planting, support services for elderly, etc.). The Tidy Towns competition is a means of giving recognition to these activities and in turn improving our results.

Over the coming months the Tidy Towns group will increase our coordination with DLCRA and with individual residents associations. Please let us know about the activities your residents association undertakes. Please provide us with photos and a short description of your activities via email to dltidytowns@gmail.com. Already we are aware of activities such as clean-ups at Cualanor,



fruit trees in the coming days. an excellent example of residents Crosthwaite Park residents, Frances groups, Tidy Towns, schools and Dave, participated in and the council working together to supervised the work. The work has enhance our environment. been financed by a grant from DLRCOCO to Tidy Towns and direct provision of the fruit trees by DLRCOCO parks department. This is As we said in our 2021 competition entry, "we have put the heart back in Dún Laoghaire". Together we can make it beat stronger.

If you would like to donate to Dún Laoghaire Tidy Towns you can scan the QR code here

Or you can find our [gofundme](#) campaign online.



Tidy Towns Volunteers at work planting trees in Crosthwaite Park

It is a detailed assessment of the town and its environs in all the categories shown on the chart. The contributions of all stakeholders are assessed; Tidy Towns group, community organisations, local businesses, schools, county council, etc. The collaboration and communications between the Tidy Towns group and all stakeholders is assessed.

Northumberland Avenue and Royal Terrace, children's Halloween parties, and bulb planting at Royal Terrace. We are sure that there are many more!

Very recently the Tidy Towns group, with the participation of seven transition year students from Oatlands College, has planted thousands of bulbs in the urban orchard in Crosthwaite park. We will be planting more heritage

Whereas our two organisations

info@frewen.ie Call 01-2803127 10am-4pm Mon—Sat
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Søstrene Grene Dun Laoghaire thanks the residents who have supported us throughout this difficult year

Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town



DÚN LAOGHAIRE CENTRAL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Dear Fellow Resident,

This time last year we were coming close to the end of what we thought was going to be the end of "lock downs" and mask wearing, the covid numbers were reducing and we were told that we would have a Christmas after all. Unfortunately numbers spiralled and shortly after the Christmas celebrations ended, we were back where we were before lock down. But there was a light at the end of the tunnel, we had access to vaccines, which are life savers for all of us, especially those who are medically compromised. Things are looking up for most of us and now with the new freedoms we still need to be careful and remember to take all the safeguards we are recommended to, i.e. hand washing, safe distancing and

wearing a mask when indoors, or in close proximity to others. Joe Duffy has stopped reminding us to wash our hands. I wonder why? It's not gone!

What a wonderful summer we had! The weather was warm and when Georges Street Lower was pedestrianised it was lovely to see the shoppers sitting outside having coffee, drinks and catch up chats. The new planting scheme and seating area outside St Michaels church is most welcome, the entrance to the church is greatly enhanced and it has done so much for that area of the town. Now if only something could be done about those pigeons...

DLRCC played a blinder during the summer, garbage and bin collections were done with such regularity that the streets were very clean. Dun Laoghaire was awarded fifth place for the

cleanliness of the streets, the Tidy Towns group and the Council worked very hard throughout the summer to keep the town clean and welcoming. The main culprits for rubbish are fast food outlets.

The shops are open and we must remember to shop local. In the vast majority of our local shops you will find people working there are from the Dun Laoghaire area, we must protect our local economy. Dun Laoghaire is very popular as a weekend destination, apart from Irish people taking a break, quite a number of foreign visitors come to enjoy a getaway by the sea and do some shopping. The Christmas lights are great for lifting the spirits, even on a wet day, it is a wonderful sight to see the lights brightening up the streets and shop windows. The baubles and Christmas trees make it all look very festive.

If there is anything you want to see in the newsletter or if there was any previous article that you liked please do get in touch and let us know at info@dlcra.ie

If you wish to show your appreciation of the work that the DLCRA and Dun Laoghaire Tidy Towns have done over the year a small donation is always appreciated



Our Chairperson, Frances Kelly

Don't forget about our Christmas competition, prizes going to the best residential home and the best decorated shop window or business premises. Results will be in our spring newsletter. One last thing: spare a thought for our poor and homeless, not just this Christmas, but throughout the winter. Should you have an elderly person, or someone living alone near to where you live or work, offer to shop for them, or just stop and see how they are managing. Loneliness is a terrible thing, but especially at Christmas.

Wishing you and yours a happy, safe and healthy Christmas.

From

Frances Kelly,
Chair DLCRA.

Winter
Wonderland
In Dún
Laoghaire



DONATE

If you wish to support the work of the DLCRA to enable us to continue we would appreciate any small financial support you can provide. Funds enable running costs of insurance, printing and basic services to be covered. Donations can be made by scanning the QR Code here

Or by going to

<https://gofund.me/545b2df6>



gotundme

Have your say!

If you are a member of any clubs, community groups or other organisation that is based in Dún Laoghaire and would like to promote your activities, please let us know.

We are happy to promote you in the newsletter.

Or maybe there is something that you think we should be writing about, email us at info@dlcra.ie and let us know. Maybe its dirty and stained pavements, the amount of dog dirt in the town, or the derelict units owned by Dunnes stores. We might start to print readers letters if you think it's a good idea.

If you have any feedback, positive or negative but hopefully constructive please email us at info@dlcra.ie

Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town

Mad Memories



Remembering Madelyn Erskine

by her brother Julian Erskine

Madelyn was born in 1948 and went to Glengara Park school, where our mother was the games mistress.

Our parents Eric and Clair were also actively involved in the theatre and almost inevitably Madelyn wanted to be an actress. However, obeying our parents' warning, she qualified as a hairdresser so as to have a "real job to fall back on". I remember her buying a Honda 50 so she could commute to her training in Eakins in Foxrock and then, once qualified, working in Phyllis Corrs in Dun Laoghaire.

She embarked on a career in the theatre, where she quickly met and married Bellevue Road resident Paul Wilson. They had two boys (Arron & Piers) and both Madelyn and Paul combined careers in theatre, TV and film; Madelyn rather infamously creating a national

debate after appearing nude in RTE's The Spike, which resulted in the head of the League of Decency suffering a heart attack. An early blow for a more liberal Ireland had unwittingly been struck! Unfortunately, Madelyn and Paul split up after a few years and he went to New York where he lived out the rest of his days.

Madelyn met Roy Chapman and they were very happily married. They lived in Clarinda Park with the boys and their new daughter Erika. Roy soon converted Madelyn's flat into a loving home.

Roy took early retirement from the ESB and, when an opportunity arose to head up a new enterprise in Scotland, Roy jumped at it and the family emigrated to Dundee. However, fate was to intervene unkindly in Madelyn's married life for a second time as Roy developed and succumbed to an aggressive cancer.

Even though Madelyn and her family were fully settled by this time in Dundee, Dun Laoghaire exerted its magnetic pull and she only paused long enough to let Erika finish her education in Scotland before moving back

home, buying a house in The Manor in Clarinda Park.

Having accepted early on that a life on the professional stage just did not blend with raising two - and then three - children (on her own after Paul left and then again on her own when Roy died), Madelyn successfully raised her family but missed her time on the boards. She engaged with St Patrick's Dramatic Society in Dalkey. It was to become a vital part of Madelyn's life. She loved being part of the Society in every role - from acting, directing, and stage-managing, to making the tea for the interval. She simply loved 'belonging' to St Patricks.



Madelyn with then husband Paul Wilson

worshipping (I think they were on the original Solar Panel); it's where all her true friends live; its where she went every Christmas morning to meet all those friends at Billie and Derry Power's famous gatherings; it's where she played badminton every week; it's where she walked her dogs (and more recently Erika's dog Rufus); it's where she loved her coffee sessions with "the gang" - a group of women who met on Fridays in coffee shops in Dun Laoghaire for at least 70 years. Our mother Clair went with her own mother, then Madelyn started going with Clair, and eventually took over the Erskine seat at the table.

Madelyn had just recently moved into a new house in Mounttown. She loved her new home and was just relaxing into a new period of her life in the borough. She was seeing a lot of Piers and Erika (Arron lives in New Zealand) and her grandchildren Tess, Beth and Kit and really loving it. She had so much more to do and enjoy and experience and offer but it was not to be.

For a third time fate cruelly intervened in her life and on 9th June this year Dun Laoghaire lost one of its most loyal residents and ardent fans.

RIP Madelyn Erskine



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Our latest perplexing puzzles, do you dare to try and answer the challenge of our local Riddle Master?

Answers to info@dlcra.ie and good luck!

Q1 . Sean was asked by his teacher how old he was. He said that five years ago my Dad was five times older than me, but today he is only three times older than me.

How old are Sean and his Father?

Q2. Which one of these numbers does not belong in the series?

2, 8, 4, 16, 8, 24, 32, 16, 64, 32.

Q3. When can you add two to eleven and get one as the answer?

Q4. In my garden, I've got a small aviary and an apiary. Between them there are a total of 28 eyes and 64 legs. How many birds and bees are there in my garden?

— : —

Congratulations to Rory McIver of Mulgrave Terrace, who won a 21 year old bottle of Biondi Santi Morellino di Scansano, from the DLCRA's very own wine cellars. The prize this issue is a bottle of Château Gloria, 2009



Happy winner, Rory McIver

Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town



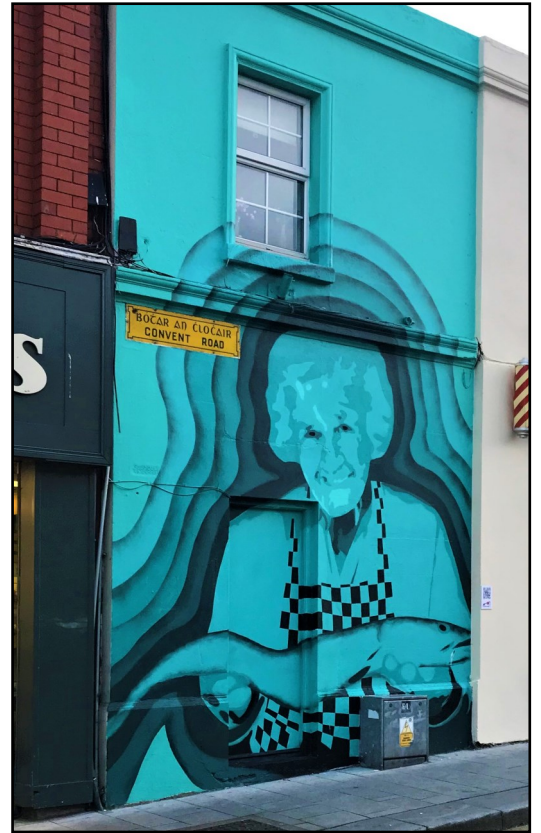
Why I love Dún Laoghaire..

By Hugo Hamilton

It's the smell of roasted coffee coming up the street from Darboven at the bottom of Convent Road – a bit like an olfactory bugle call. It's the blue mural of Vera Breslin and the vacant spot where she sold her fish from a pram. It's the hand reaching down to grab the infinite chain of pink sausages behind the counter at Hick's butchers. It's the cash register made of egg boxes in Áine's vegetable shop. It's the Dun Laoghaire laugh coming from the back of a man's throat as you pass by the open door of McKenna's pub. It's the mixture of languages from different countries along the main street and the voices of speckled children coming from the nearby primary school. It's the new Lexicon library, like a cruise ship run aground above the harbour. It's that spot by the ornamental cannon at the base of the east pier where you look out across the sea and imagine places far away and sometimes hear the illusion of a bell coming from a cathedral in some European city. It's the brass plaque placed into the granite wall half way up the pier with the words of Beckett describing the light of the lighthouse sweeping around the bay. It's the low hum of the foghorn which is gone missing and reminds me how transient things can be. That vital piece of Dun Laoghaire identity which has now been erased but still keeps coming back like a sad echo, an elongated sound that rhymed with the word 'room' and which we used to imitate as children – Room the Room. Dun Laoghaire is a place full of memory – it holds all my longing.

Hugo Hamilton—author of the German-Irish memoir **'The Speckled People'**

His latest novel **'The Pages'** tell the life story of a book that was rescued from the Nazi book-burning in 1933. A remarkable & inspiring story of the transformative power of art, exploring nationalism, identity & the echoes carried from the past into the present.



To celebrate businesses & residents of Dun Laoghaire who add to the town's festive atmosphere before Christmas we're awarding prizes for

**Best Shop
Window
Display**

&

**Best
Residential
House**



Judging takes place
on Tuesday Dec 21, 2020



For more information find us on Facebook or www.DLCRA.ie

Winners will be announced after Christmas and prizes will be given early in the New Year. We will be posting the winners on social media, so please check our Facebook page and our Twitter account for details.

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