



DÚN LAOGHAIRE CENTRAL

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

As many of you are aware the council has been planning on doing some major changes to the centre of our town. The space outside the entrance to Bloomfield shopping centre is going to be redeveloped into a new civic space which is called Myrtle Square. The works will also include the lane that runs from this square to Convent Road parallel to Convent Lane, Convent Lane.

The sod was turned on Monday the 17th of September and the work is scheduled to take **12 months** but the hope would be that it will be completed sooner than that.

The project proposes a dramatic redistribution of public realm space in favour of pedestrians and will result in a new focal point for the town. The space will retain access for deliveries, albeit in a sporadic and highly controlled manner. We feel that balancing the needs of both deliveries for the commercial interests of the town with residents' use of the space is the key issue. Safety and the ability for all ages to comfortably enjoy the space while also enabling a limited amount of heavy goods vehicles. A number of residents and their associations have raised the issue of a high volume of delivery trucks coming and going from the large retailers in the town.

The environmental aspect of the project is fundamental to its success. Indeed it is called Myrtle Square & Convent Lane Greening and its funding was



Artists impression of the canopy in Myrtle Square

no doubt linked to this. Therefore greening is seen as contributing functionally to the scheme. It does this in a number of ways.

- 1) 66 new trees indigenous to Ireland
- 2) 400m² of planting with raised planters that double as seating
- 3) >40% of rainfall recovered with sustainable water management (SUDS)
- 4) A landmark canopy structure that acts as a frame to grow plants on
- 5) Possibly the introduction of bird/bat boxes.

Other features of the development include high quality granite paving & surfacing throughout and calisthenics equipment on the laneway.

The construction period will last

for up to 12 months, and hopefully there won't be any unforeseen problems that arise. During the construction phase there will be almost no vehicular traffic on Convent Lane. Tesco delivery vans will enter and leave via Convent Road. Tesco HGV deliveries will be restricted to before 11am & after 10pm. The taxi rank and loading bays look like they will be removed permanently in the plans, but this is not confirmed.

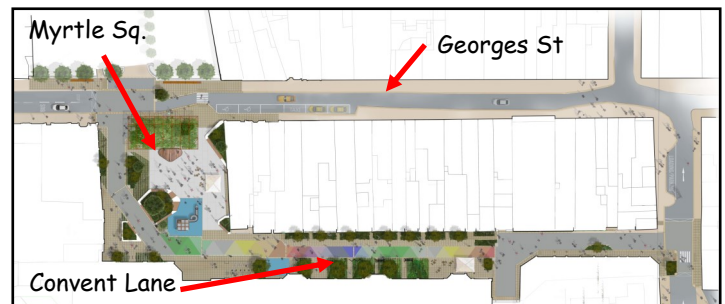
A resident of Convent Lane Gerard Lawlor, notes that "the greening of the Lane is a positive addition" and that "aesthetically it has to be an improvement" and it will hopefully "set a precedent for other areas to follow".

While welcoming the plan to improve the town, the **DLCRA** would stress that there are a few issues that need to be kept at the forefront at all times.

Safety – the safety of people using this space needs to be the highest priority and come before all other needs. We can't see another tragedy like we have already seen.

Anti-social behaviour - too much civic space in Dublin has been surrendered to anti-social behaviour, if it finds a footing in this square all the work and investment is for nothing. A regular Garda presence would be welcomed.

Cleanliness – new granite paving sounds lovely but the pale pavements in other areas around the town only serve to show the filth, especially near bins. Regular cleaning is essential.



Plan of Georges St, Myrtle Sq & Convent Lane

Mounttown Community Centre

Dún Laoghaire doesn't have its own community space in the town. While Park House on Library Rd is a lovely facility, its small size does not allow it to be used for many endeavours. Likewise the Lexicon does have meeting rooms with beautiful views, however its cost and primary usage as a library means that its quite limited in its use for community groups.

The nearest the town has to a true Community Centre is the wonderful Munttown Community Centre off Lwr Mounttown Rd.

The centre was built in 2010 and is managed by a voluntary Board of Management with a small number of dedicated staff, expertly lead by Peter



Mounttown Community Centre

McGeough.

Over the years the facility has been used for many activities and they are constantly looking to host events, programmes and organisations that will benefit the local community in a variety of ways.

There are a number of regular activities that take place in the centre, including Yoga,, Monkstown boxing club, after schools study classes and grinds, Bridge Clubs, French Classes, Dance Classes, Fashion classes, Art Classes and children's Coding Classes. Have a look at their website, there is something for everyone.

If there are any individuals or community groups across the town that think they could use the facilities including rooms and computers, contact 01-6636131 or contact Peter directly at petermcgeough@mounttowncommunity.ie

Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town

Planning Updates

Dun Laoghaire Educate Together primary school has submitted a planning permission to refurbish the old Fire Station on Georges Place. The planning permission was granted by the Council and residents of Stable Lane & Crofton Rd objected to An Bord Pleanala who were due to rule on the appeal on the 14th of July. So far no ruling has been issued: ABP Case number is [PL06D.312993](#)

The council has asked for more information on the proposed development of apartments and houses beside St Josephs school off Tivoli Rd. Council decision is due before the 16th of December.

St Michaels Private Hospital development for 88 apartments on the site was granted by the county council and has been appealed to An Bord Pleanala,

Ref: 314309. Decision is due by the 12th of December 2022.

Submissions before the 6th of October.

The council's Infrastructure & Climate Change Dept is proposing Pedestrian & Cycling infrastructure on Kill Ave, Mounttown Rd Upper & Lower as well as Glenageary Rd Upper. Jim Long from Mounttown RA, says residents are concerned about the loss of on-street car parking and the increased difficulty in exiting driveways. View details on the [DLR CitizenSpace website](#), **Active Travel Improvements.**

There is a proposal for a development of 8 apartments at **27 Patrick St**, the junction with Cross Ave. The style and size of the development is out of character with the surrounding area which is an area of architectural significance. DLCRA made a submission pointing out the areas Special Local Objective in the Dev Plan and asked if a more sympathetic development would not be more suitable.



Proposed Development beside St Joseph's School



Proposed Patrick St Development

D.L. Town News

Dún Laoghaire was one of 3 towns shortlisted for the **Urbanism Award 2023**. The Coastal Mobility Cycle Route connecting the coastal areas/towns was highlighted as being particularly effective. The winner will be announced in November.

A group of residents are looking to improve the **Clarinda Park Tennis Courts** and have been talking with council officials and county councillors to try and get the courts refurbished as well as to put a structure to their maintenance and running. If anyone would like to help this, please email us info@dlcra.ie and we will pass on your contact details.

An additional 10 murals were erected around the town as part of the Anseo campaign. Many beautiful additions to the town, the response has be very positive.



The **Eblana Club** is hosting the Eblana Forum who have a range of interesting debates and talks including topics such as future of pedestrianisation, Nuclear Power in Ireland and DL's links to penal transportation to Australia. See more at eblana-forum.com

Local Policing Forum reported that Jet Ski's were a problem during the summer and there were confiscations. More CCTV cameras will be placed in the town centre to stop petty shop-lifting. Operation Irene which saw 12 extra cycle Garda during the summer was a great success and will be enhanced next year. Anti-Social behaviour in Honey Park and Cualanor they hope to 'nip it in the bud'.

New outlet store opening at 50 Georges St Lwr, menswear at Outlet prices, open 7 days a week, opening offer 50% off.

The Skatepark has been held up by interdepartmental requests for additional information but the funding has been secured so it is still expected to go ahead early next year.

Ad

Ad

Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town

Lights on Church

The DLCRA has connections with different stakeholders across the town and aims to help communication to get issues resolved..

As most people are aware the steeple of St Michaels Church has been illuminated since the early summer. It looks fantastic in conjunction with the steeple of the Mariners church, from the sea they enhance the beautiful skyline.

However, shortly after the lights were installed a number of residents in the Pavillion

apartments on Marine Rd found that the lights were angled in such a way that some of them were shining directly into the apartments. We are happy to say that we were able to contact Fr Tyrrell, DLR, the lighting engineers & the affected residents to get photographs from various angles. Adjustments were made to the lights which have hopefully made a significant improvement. As we go into the long winter nights, we will see how effective the changes have been. Hopefully the problem has been resolved.



The two steeples of Dun Laoghaire illuminated

Pedestrianisation

The council is currently putting together its plan for the permanent pedestrianisation of Georges St which it hopes to have finished by the beginning of the new year.

After calls from the Business Association and the Tivoli Safe Mobility group the council is undertaking a traffic management study of all the roads in and around Dun Laoghaire. This is due to end in October and will feed into their overall plans.

The plans should go through a Part 8 planning process and be open to public consultation by early January. After 3 months of public consultation the councillors will be able to vote on whether or not the pedestrianisation goes ahead.

The plans will include upgrading the whole of Georges St,

signage, street furniture, planting, trees, paving, utility boxes, cleaning, etc.. Everything will be considered and incorporated into the plan. They will be reviewing the parking allocation on Georges St and on the streets immediately off it. They will consider electric signage for car parking in the town and potential solutions to the problems of moving bus stops from their current locations.

This could be an opportunity for the town to get investment and orientation to develop and flourish into the future. If done properly this could be a positive opportunity for the whole of the town.

The DLCRA is hoping to hold a public meeting after Christmas to highlight potential plans and to hear peoples opinions.

Town Centenarian

A resident got in touch to tell us about their mother who is approaching her 101st birthday. We include her correspondence and I'm sure you'll join us in wishing her and her musical family a very happy birthday in November.

My mother Queenie Brady Byrne will be 101 yrs. Old on the 4th of November 2021.

She was very well known when she was young for her singing and dancing. She is one of the Brady Family from Rosary Gardens and they ran charity shows for St. Michael's hospital. Queenie won medals and cups and got a scholarship as a teenager to the Grafton Academy. She was called Dún Laoghaire's Diana Durban. She also trained in ballet & classical dance under Miss Tully.

At 19 Queenie got married to Eddie Byrne, a sailor and banjo player from Dominick St. Queenies father brothers and sisters all took part in the pantomimes. Queenie, Maureen, Patsy, Rosaleen & Dolores, all sang while her brothers Tommy, Joey & Willie were musicians. Tommy played the bass, Joey played

piano/accordion and Willie played the guitar, becoming well known in his own right recording several albums in the USA.

Queenie is very well and has six children, 23 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.

Anne Byrne, queenies eldest daughter was well known in the 60's/70's folk scene even singing in Central Park and touring the East Coast of America.

Congratulations, Queenie!



Queenies on her 100th birthday

The Business Community and Pedestrianisation

DLCRA is continuing to work with the Dun Laoghaire Business Association and enjoys collaborating on issues that benefit the whole town and its communities.

At the moment the plans for Christmas are gathering pace and we all hope that everybody will be happy with the return of the festivities. Hopefully we wont have a return of the Covid restrictions this winter and we can all truly enjoy the first normal Christmas since December 2019.

The business community has been divided on the councils plans to reintroduce the pedestrianisation on a permanent basis from next year if possible. A number of businesses have called for a comprehensive traffic impact study and management plan to be carried out prior to any vote by the councillors. They have voiced their concerns about the potential impact on business resulting from changes to traffic flows, increased congestion, bus access and the loss of the bus

stop at St. Michael's Hospital.

They also called for a public meeting to take place on the 23rd of August, but this was subsequently cancelled.

It is hard to accurately know the true number of businesses that are in favour or against the pedestrianisation. The County Council commissioned an agency to poll businesses that were located on the area that would be pedestrianised or adjacent to it while the Business Association polled it own members but both processes left a lot of businesses in the town unable to express an opinion.

The DLCRA has undertaken a short informal survey of business from the Peoples Park to York Rd and while the results have not all been collected, so far it looks like a majority of businesses are in favour of the pedestrianisation being reinstated.

We will have the results of our informal survey for the next issue of the newsletter.

Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town

Greening Our Community

By the Cualanor Energy Saving Initiative

Since late 2018, a group of residents in Cualanor have run an energy saving competition across their households. The objective is to reduce the use of non-renewable energy and shift towards renewable sources.

The format of the competition is very simple; each household updates their energy readings (gas, electricity, car, and solar panels) on a quarterly and yearly basis. A spreadsheet calculates forecasted and actual total annual consumption. This can be viewed as total energy (kWh), by source (electricity, gas, and solar panels), and carbon footprint. Results are compared to historic results, national averages, BER standards, and European averages. At the end of every year, the residents review results,

share tips, and formulate ideas for how they can further reduce their energy consumption e.g. setting thermostats to 18 and 17 in sleeping areas

On average, non-renewable energy consumption has decreased by 10%. There are households that have achieved 50% reductions in non-renewable sources. While 100% renewable energy sources have increased by only 5% during this time. This demonstrates not just a shift towards renewable sources but a reduction in overall energy consumption.

Aside from the benefits for energy and carbon reduction, the competition is increasing awareness of energy and environmental concerns and community spirit. It is a great example of grassroots movement; we don't have to wait for national or international

policy change or infrastructure improvements, small changes in our everyday life all add up!

An important part of the competition is the annual retrospective where participants share tips on how they have reduced their energy consumption. Some of these tips include: switching to 100% green electricity, using instant pot multicookers rather than gas cooking, reducing water heater time to 15 minutes, setting thermostats to 18 and 17 in sleeping areas, and regular maintenance of the heating system.

The group has entered the **Dublin Regional Climate Action Open Data Challenge 2022**, hoping to scale their competition to other communities in Dublin, Ireland, and, while we're at it, the world! Long-term, the households aspire to go carbon neutral :)



Cualanor

Dún Laoghaire Tidy Towns will work closely with the Cualanor residents to try and use this excellent initiative among the wider community in Dún Laoghaire.



RNLI Volunteer

Here is a short interview with Patricia McGettrick from the Royal National Life Boat shop. We found her story interesting & inspiring, we hope you do too.

When did you start volunteering with the Lifeboat Shop?

I became a volunteer in the RNLI shop in Spring 2020 not long after I moved to live in Dun Laoghaire.

How often do you do volunteer?

Once a week, and sometimes a weekend day too. We try to keep the shop open 7 days a week though for a shorter time on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. It is a question of how many volunteers are available.

The shop is in the complex where the offshore Lifeboat station is, on Queens Road, near the National Yacht Club., opposite the Blke Hub. We are slightly off the beaten track but try to make ourselves more visible with flags and bunting. The one advantage of our location is that we are in daily touch with the Lifeboat men and they really make us feel we are part of Team RNLI.

Why did you start volunteering?

I have always had boats in my life, first, fishing as a child with my Dad in Sligo, and later sailing, teaching sailing, and racing dinghies and bigger boats. I have always admired and appreciated the life saving work done by the Lifeboat men

and the RNLI and I vowed that once I had time in my week I would help as a volunteer ashore.

What's your typical day volunteering?

I open up at 10.00 weekdays and 1.00pm weekend, prepare the till and put the flags and bunting out. I check what items we are running low on and make a note in the order book. If an order has been received and needs to be priced and put out on the shelves I will do that too. Usually I have a fellow volunteer with me for part if not all of the shift so we work together. The work is not difficult, and we are, unfortunately, rarely run off our feet.

Advice on anyone interested in Volunteering?

We desperately need more people to help keep the shop open. We are a small group, and our numbers shrank further during Covid. A shift is 4 hours long. Training is done on the job, the work is not physically difficult or mentally challenging, and you make friends and become part of the very appreciated and happy RNLI family in Dun Laoghaire.

What's the best way for people to support?

You can also support us by becoming a customer. Please visit us and spread the word of our location.

We are open from 10am to 5pm Tuesday to Friday and 1pm-5pm Saturday, Sunday and Monday

The shop sells only new goods from a specific range of items that are sold online and from every Lifeboat shop. The goods range from buckets and spades and toy boats to mugs, stationary and clothing such as hats, gloves, socks, T-shirts and fleeces. Many items have RNLI Dun Laoghaire logo on them

We already have our famous Christmas cards on sale.

And yes, we do take credit cards.

Coming toward Christmas we would love to have a stall at the Sunday market and other Christmas Fairs.

Unfortunately we can't manage this with our current manpower levels

So, yes, we are desperately seeking volunteers.

If you are interested please visit the shop and leave your contact details. Or contact me through Paul.

We can be found on Facebook and Twitter

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/DunLaoghaireLifeboats/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RNLIDunLaoghaire>



Patricia McGettrick



CoderCraft

LEARN HOW TO CODE

Kids Coding Classes, learn how to make a video game

Mounttown Community Centre

Ages 10 –18, Cost is free but Spaces are limited

Visit [CoderCraft.ie](https://www.codercraft.ie) to find out more

Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town



**Clean
Green
Nurture
Preserve**

Autumn is coming

Now that our summer holidays are over, we are hoping that we will see an increase in the number of volunteers attending our clean-ups. Numbers fall significantly during holiday periods. The additional bins that were provided by DLRCOCO for the summer have been withdrawn. These were a great help and certainly reduced the amount of litter on our streets. Sadly, some people dispose of their household rubbish in these large bins, which of course is illegal.

Our seafront scored very well in the recent IBAL (Irish Business Against Litter) survey of harbours and coastlines. We were in the highest category – clean to European norms and the report stated, 'The overall impression created was an excellent one, with a virtual absence of litter'. We must recognise the great work of the Harbour Department of DLRCOCO as well as the regular litter picking by Tidy Towners.

Our town is a finalist in the

European Towns and Small cities 'Academy of Urbanism' awards and final judging takes place next week. These excellent results show that the combined efforts of all stakeholders; DLRCOCO, local businesses, residents associations and Tidy Towns are bearing fruit.

During the summer we installed two large flower beds in front of the Boylan Centre in Sussex Street. This was a mammoth task as we had to remove several tons of rubble, install railway sleepers, topsoil, mulch, as well as the extensive planting.

We have groups of Transition Year students from Newpark Comprehensive school and Coláiste Íosagáin joining us each Tuesday as part of their Gaisce Community service activities. Any transition year students are welcome to join us, and they will be involved in the wide range of our activities.

Now that Autumn is approaching the leaves will begin to fall. Several residents' associations organise leaf sweeping and collecting. If your group is organising such

activities, please let us know so we can include these in the community section of our Tidy Towns competition entry. If you need tools, we can loan these.

encourage new members to join us. Come hear

about our activities, ways you can help and support us, biodiversity initiatives

Contact us

dltidytowns@gmail.com

<http://dltidytowns.com>

twitter.com/DunLaoghaireTT

Dún Laoghaire Tidy Towns will be holding an Open Day on Saturday 1 st October from 10h30 until 2pm at St. Michael's Square. We invite all to come join us for a social event and hopefully to



Removing rubble in preparation for t planting at the Boylan Centre



New flower beds at the Boylan Centre

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Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town



DÚN LAOGHAIRE CENTRAL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Here is a letter from the new chairperson of the DLCRA

— : —

Dear Fellow Residents,

Firstly, a big thank you to Frances Kelly for all the tireless work she did in the past three years as Chair of the DLCRA. We are all very grateful for her creative leadership and facilitation. Francis continues as an active member of the Dun Laoghaire Central resident's association.

As we move into the season of mellow light and delicious fruit and veg. the DLCRA continue to work with as many groups and organizations in Dun Laoghaire as possible. We are trying to ensure that we continue to live in a safe, beautiful,

accessible and green town. As the county town of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown a balance must be continually sought between the commercial and administrative functions of the town and the requirements of the residents especially children and the elderly and protecting the environment.

A big round of applause for dlr Parks led by Ruraí Ó Dulaing and his team and our local Tidy Towns Group. I am sure everyone will agree it has been a joy to see the range of planting and greening this spring and summer in all the local Parks and sites around the town. Spring bulbs followed by summer annuals and perennials and pollinator friendly planting. Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown was the first council to stop using injuri-

ous pesticides and the effects are stunning. The maintenance of such beauty is very labour intensive however and would be difficult for the Council to manage without the constant support of local volunteers. Thank you to all of them.

The hoarding at the Baths is gradually coming down to reveal a new walkway and viewing point as works to the new jetty near completion, the restored pavilion looks stunning. It seems the end is in sight, finally! Residents have suggested that Roger Casement should be afforded an umbrella before he goes completely white with gull droppings. One of the many exciting events of this summer was the sighting of a pod of over 20 Dolphins playing in the bay.

Many of us missed the summer Pedestrianization this year it brought such a communal, relaxed vibe to George's Street, we are looking forward to the completion of the works on Myrtle Square and Convent Lane. The traffic review by the Council resulting in a comprehensive traffic management

scheme will hopefully address the excessive speeds on York Road, the congestion and danger to school children on Tivoli Road and the use of Cross Avenue and Tivoli Terrace North as rat runs to mention but a few of the locally affected roads. The planting of street trees to provide shade and wind breaks will soften the urban concrete and the plan to improve the look to shop fronts should really enhance the town. Further details are in this Newsletter.

We are all very grateful to the gardai who protected the coast all summer especially in the evenings as part of Operation Irene.

Thank you for all your support and kind responses for the Newsletter.

Mary Kelly-Borgatta
Chairperson
DLCRA



Dunnes Stores Building

The photograph above is of numbers 22—29 Georges St Upper. The Avenue Hotel with its entrance on Northumberland Ave and Edward Lee & Co. the drapery store occupied the majority of the buildings here with the row of terraced houses behind on Dungar Terrace having been built by Edward Lee for his employees.

These buildings are currently occupied by Dunnes Stores who have left some of the units lie idle for over 12 years. The four buildings, 26-29, are very fine examples of Edwardian shopfronts and it is a real shame that they cannot be put back into use. DLCRA will be working

with some other members of Dun Laoghaire's Town Team to try and see if anything can be done to encourage Dunnes Stores to refurbish these shops or to allow them to be brought back into use.

As it currently stands the inherent beauty and architectural heritage of Dun Laoghaire town is being neglected and allowing these historical shop fronts decay due to neglect is a great shame. The current and future residents of Dun Laoghaire deserve better, to speak nothing of the previous generations who made Dun Laoghaire what it is today.

Cleaning Pavements

The beautiful weather we had this summer makes Dún Laoghaire town beside the sea one of the most pleasant and picturesque places to live. It also becomes a destination for many visitors who flock to the town in the summer months. Maybe this is the cause of the rise in the amount of dirty and stained pavements around the town?

A number of people have emailed to say that the pavements were very dirty in the last month or two, and sent in numerous photographs. (If

you're reading the pdf click here: [A](#), [B](#), [C](#), [D](#), or visit our website)

What can be done about it? More power hosing seems needed, maybe more help from retailers who are selling the food that is spilt or maybe the pavements can be treated so that they are not so absorbent to spilt liquids. Whatever the solution is, something needs to be done.

Please send us any photos you have of stained pavements to info@dlcra.ie



Something needs to be done about scenes like this

Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town

Tivoli Rd Safety: Update

Facebook: Tivoli Road Safe Mobility

What residents are saying about Tivoli Rd:

Traffic monitoring begins as DLR Co Co and all local Councillors acknowledge action needs to be taken to make Tivoli Road safer

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council will be monitoring traffic on Tivoli Road in September, with a view to then considering what interventions could potentially be introduced to make this narrow and historic road safer for everyone who uses it.

In late June, residents group Tivoli Road Safe Mobility launched an online petition calling on the Council to take action to address the urgent health and safety issues affecting pedestrians and cyclists on the road. In just over a week, the petition was signed by well over 500 local residents and a copy was presented to the Council.

The petition asked that “the Council provide for safe mobility on the road and on the footpaths, including safe active travel for children to/from local schools, and that they consider measures to reduce the volume of through traffic, such as a modal filter.”

A spokesperson for Tivoli Road Safe Mobility said the response of the Council to the petition had been prompt. “In mid-July a couple of members of our group had a very positive meeting with Council representatives. It is clear the Council is taking the issues seriously and is committed to monitoring, and then hopefully coming up with suggestions regarding how the road might be improved.

“We have made it clear that our objective is a safer, healthier road environment that can be used and enjoyed by everyone in our community, and we have asked that when exploring possible interventions, the Council gives consideration to children, people with disabilities and older people, and that care is taken not to negatively impact surrounding streets.

“Tivoli Road Safe Mobility has been campaigning on this issue for over a year and during this time we have received considerable support from many local Councillors and TDs. In June, a motion to monitor traffic and look at safety on Tivoli Rd was put forward and passed at a Council Meeting. Watching the debate

online, it was notable that every single Councillor agreed that Tivoli Road is unsafe as is and that some sort of action needs to be taken.”

If you'd like to be added to Tivoli Road Safe Mobility's mailing list, or have any ideas, suggestions or concerns, please email tivolisafemobility@gmail.com. If you wish to add your signature, the petition and accompanying information can still be accessed online at <https://tinyurl.com/TIVOLISAFEMOBILITY>

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

The following comments were gathered by members of Tivoli Road Safe Mobility at meetings and on doorsteps:

“As an older person, I feel intimidated by teenagers on bikes cycling on the pavement.”

- “I drive my kids to school because it is not safe to cycle.”

- “Some people think Tivoli was always like this, but that's completely wrong. It was a quiet residential backwater when we moved here and over the last 20 years it has got steadily worse. It was never designed to be a main artery for traffic.”



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

Send your answers to info@dlcra.ie and good luck!

Question 1

Taking the digits below, rearrange them using minus and plus to create an equation that totals 100. You will need to combine some of the numbers to form multidigit numbers, but you may not rearrange the order of the numbers.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 = 100

Question 2

Decipher the anagrams & match them to dances

1. Flank Coed
2. Decal Bylen

3. Earned Back
4. Squander Ace
5. Cadet Nap

Question 3

Michael was born in 1805 and is still alive today. He is not the oldest man in Ireland. In fact he is in perfect health and doesn't look a day over 25 years. He swims daily at the Forty Foot even though he was born in 1805, so how is he only 25 years?

He was not allowed to use a ruler to measure exactly halfway down the candle. Patrick emerged from the studio in exactly 30 minutes to win the car. But how did he do it?

— : —

Congratulations to Lingxi Yan living in Cualanor, for winning last issues quiz. She won a €15 Art & Hobby Gift voucher. Congratulations Lingxi!

Bonus Question

Patrick was the 100th caller on the local radio show contest which carried a prize of a new Hybrid car if he could win a set competition. His challenge was to go into the radio studio and come out exactly 30 minutes later. The studio room had no clock and carried no time announcements during the competition. Patrick was not allowed to wear a watch or bring in any device that tells time. The only thing he could take into the studio was a lighter and a candle in a candle holder that would burn exactly in one hour.



Happy winner of an Art & Hobby Gift Voucher, Lingxi Yan



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Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town

Why I love Dún Laoghaire..

By Christopher Fitz-Simon

Dún Laoghaire for me is DL, not much wider territory that rejoices in the R of Rathdown. When I used to visit my Great Aunt Isobel on Tivoli Road in the 1940's I decided there could be nowhere nicer to live. Eighty years later my wife Anne and I felt it was time we downsized, and DL is where we put down our new roots. It proved to be the best move we could possibly make. Like all good things there is plenty to criticise, but that does not detract from the town's very positive qualities of streetscape, seascape, practicality and convenience: censure of what is tawdry or ill-planned only shows up what is distinctive and praiseworthy.

As it happens DL's major wounds are self-inflicted. In the early 20th century the local Council decided to ram a straight-as-a-dye main street

through the naturally evolved avenues and terraces: oh yes, everything must be subservient to the trams. The street's dreary appearance today is only (partially) saved by several well-presented businesses. Far worse was to come sixty years later when the council granted permission for the most incredible hulk ever to dominate an major Irish town, the Shopping Centre; and, sadly the fire that devastated St Michael's church added to the awkward nature of this important space, for the parish could not afford the restoration of the church's devotional Gothic profile.

At the foot of Marine Road, however, the story is quite different in all directions – the fine Town Hall with its sympathetic extension, the enduring charm of the three main Yacht Clubs, the elegance of the Irish Lights headquarters and the best building in the town: the Railway Station, now a classy restaurant. Memorials to Roger Casement, Queen Victoria and George IV – curious bedfellows, these – enhance the Prom. The saddest thing is that passenger



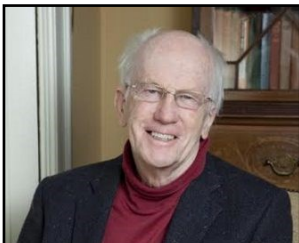
The incredible hulk (the Dun Laoghaire Shopping Centre)

craft no longer dock daily in the wonderful "asylum harbour and place of refuge"; our visitors, denied that inviting first glimpse of Ireland, are now rudely received at the bum-end of Dublin's quays, a serious failure of both Local and Government decision-making.

So what's left? Such eminently well maintained residential areas as the Cross Avenue sector, the Newtownsmith seafront, the graceful Royal Terraces East and West with their eminently successful replica North, and brightly modish Cualanor – localities where a strong sense of local pride adds lightness to the step of the admitting walker. Alas, the planners allowed an

undesirable blemish to replace my Great Aunt Isobel's typical DL home – where you enter upstairs via wide granite step and then lurch down to the bedrooms from where there is access is to a slender town garden – gone, like so many others.. But all is far from lost, rather the reverse, for since our arrival in DL we have seen no less than two dozen happy renovations in the traditional streets surround us - a welcome change back from dingy bed-sitters and office where the dignity of family living has reasserted itself.

Dr Christopher Fitz-Simon is a former theatre and TV director. He has lectured on Irish cultural topics in 11 countries and on 4 continents.



Christopher Fitz-Simon

A Calendar to Support Tidy Towns

This winter we will be selling a Calendar to raise funds for Dún Laoghaire Tidy Towns and to support the publication of this Newsletter.

Containing beautiful images of Dún Laoghaire by two resident

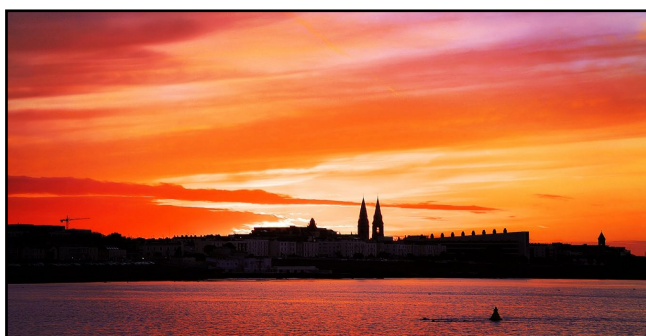
photographers, this calendar will look great on anyone's wall. Containing gorgeous images of Dun Laoghaire day and night, with many images of the sea and showing our unique sky line. Here are two images from Ken Heffernan's collection to give you an idea. A lovely gift for anyone this Christmas.

90% of the proceeds will go towards Dun Laoghaire Tidy

Towns to support their projects such as planters and flowers, the remaining will go to DLCRA to help fund this publication.

Calendars will cost €10 each, a great stocking filler for Christmas that supports our beautiful town and the work of Tidy Towns.

Please email us to express your interest in getting a calendar at info@dlcra.ie



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 googling **GoFundMe DLCRA**



gotundme

Let's put the heart back into Dún Laoghaire town