



# Pedestrianisation, Living Streets to reduce car dependency

Many of you know that the council plans to reintroduce pedestrianisation on a permanent basis. They are planning on producing a plan for the redevelopment of Georges St by early 2023, which would be voted on by the 40 County Councillors. Essentially this is the Part 8 planning process. There are now some changes to these plans.

In Nov, DLR was awarded one of Eamon Ryan's Pathfinder Projects. This means additional funding to facilitate reducing the town's carbon emissions, hopefully by reducing traffic volumes.

Stated Objectives are:

- Promote inclusive, sustainable mobility & reduce car dependency
- Improve the neighbourhood
- Enhance economic vibrancy
- Improve connections with public transport/cycling



A Modal Filter in London

## DÚN LAOGHAIRE CENTRAL

### RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



Pathfinder Project Map

- Promote health/wellbeing in the community
  - Promote Urban Design
- Potential changes include modal filters on roads preventing through traffic, cycle lanes, footpath widening, new planting and urban landscaping, to name a few possibilities. Traditional road amendments such as speed bumps and pedestrian crossings.

The council is planning on broadening the scope of the previously planned Part 8 planning submission to include the pathfinder interventions. They

are currently modelling the effects of these changes on the surrounding roads. They are looking for residents, individuals and groups to contact then with proposals for potential changes that they would like to see.

The current timeline is for the Part 8 planning process to take place in Summer 2023.

So far most residents associations that have spoken to the council are happy with the potential plans and how they will hopefully enhance the pub-

lic space and further calm or remove traffic.

Tivoli Road Safe Mobility are encouraged that the council are looking into preventing through traffic on Tivoli Rd to cars with a modal filter, maintaining access for residents, something they have been actively campaigning for. Clarinda Park RA have wanted to reduce through traffic as well and see their park get some needed care and attention. York Rd residents have long asked for traffic calming near the Presbyterian church while residents of Mellifont Ave have had problems with traffic and illegal parking for as long as the market has been going in the park. On Crosthwaite Park an elderly resident was knocked down recently by someone using the park as a rat run, shocking for all across the town. Cross Avenue RA has long been concerned with the volume of delivery vehicles and through traffic on their roads.

The council seem open to all potential options at present to reduce traffic and will be reaching out to all areas across the town and will have people on the ground next year to engage in consultation. It is in everyone's interest to get involved in this process. [dlrcoco.citizenspace.com](http://dlrcoco.citizenspace.com) is where to look for updates.

See [our website](http://our website) for more information and a Project Outline Document.

## Dun Laoghaire Wins Urban Award

When a group of residents originally met in the winter of 2018 to try and see what we, residents from different areas and different associations across the town, could achieve by working together. Our number one priority was to promote more good news stories about the town. The only time you heard or read about Dun Laoghaire was in a negative light. As long-time residents of the town we loved living here and saw the potential of the town. We

wanted to change the 'narrative' around the town, to emphasis all the great things that the town has to offer.

The news that Dun Laoghaire has won the Great Town 2022 award from the Academy of Urbanism is an example of the good news stories that we want more people to hear about. The Great Places Urbanism Awards are the Academy's primary platform for recognising and celebrating outstanding examples of good urbanism across the UK,

Ireland and Europe. Dun Laoghaire's success shows how well our town is working and developing.

An Cathaoirleach Mary Hanafin said "The judges were particularly impressed with the energy in the town, the political and executive leadership, the inclusive nature of voluntary and business groups and the willingness to incorporate active travel, landmark buildings like the Lexicon and our natural environment into a vibrant town." You can read the full report on Dun Laoghaire here.

All of us working together is what enables the town to work,

*Continued overleaf*



Cathaoirleach Mary Hanafin with Award

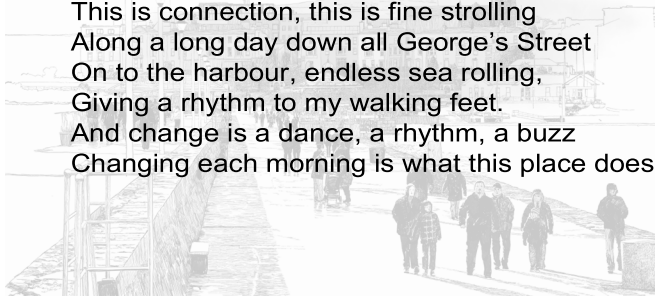
*Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town*

continued from front page

this is only a start. The town needs constant work to keep on improving and there is a lot of work to be done, there is still too much dereliction and neglect in the town, if we all work together constructively anything is possible. A poem was written especially for the occasion by the Academy's Poet-in-Residence Ian McMillan.

### Dún Laoghaire

This is a place of coming and going, Arrivals, departures and so much more. This is a place that's steadily growing So come to Dún Laoghaire, open the door To This; a future not about leaving But staying and working, settling down For years or for moments; time believing That time is well spent in this shifting town. This is connection, this is fine strolling Along a long day down all George's Street On to the harbour, endless sea rolling, Giving a rhythm to my walking feet. And change is a dance, a rhythm, a buzz Changing each morning is what this place does.



## D.L. Town News

There are **classes to learn and improve online skills for older people in the Glasshouses** on Georges St. Called Hi Digital, they are free, in-person classes run by Active Retirement Ireland in conjunction with Vodaphone Ireland, visit <https://activeirl.ie/hidigital/> or call 1800 203030 for more information.

We are sad to say goodbye to Steve & Caitríona of **The Cali Kitchen**, which was operating on the grounds of the Royal Marine for the last several years. We wish them all the best in their new ventures. **The Vanilla Pod** from Blackrock will be taking over the location and we wish Veronika Murean, #Kate O'Sullivan and Chef Derek the best of luck!

The Baths have reopened, or should we say, **The Dun Laoghaire Baths** site. The Baths essentially closed in 1997 due to lack of use with the site falling into dereliction over the following 25 years. Finally the seafront will have been reopened by the time you read this. Many see this as a missed op-

portunity to include a swimming pool. If you agree, let the council know, write to them and your elected officials requesting they look at reinstating a pool. If they think there is the demand there is a good chance they will do it, hopefully it won't take another 25 years.

The **HSE Primary Care Centre** has not opened yet in Dun Laoghaire shopping centre, but it is on track to start opening during the middle of 2023. It will include a doctor's surgery as well as optometrist services and will offer a wide range of services, providing an alternative to going to the hospital.



Proposed Skate Park

## Planning Updates

An Bord Pleanála who were due to rule on the **Dun Laoghaire Educate Together** appeal have still not made a decision. ABP Case number is [PL06D.312993](#)

The proposed development of apartments and houses beside St Josephs school off **Tivoli Rd** was approved with some amendments. We were informed that the 4 story apartment block aspect of the development was removed and it is now just a row of 18 terrace houses. We are not aware of any objections and expect the development to go ahead.

**St Michaels Private Hospital** development for 88 apartments on the site was granted by the county council and has been appealed to An Bord Pleanála, **Ref: 314309**. Decision is due by the 12th of December 2022.

The development of the **Ferry Terminal** is experiencing some delays. Many councillors have

been raising concerns about the delays which seem to stem from inflation ballooning the cost of necessary works that are required before the building can be opened. Hopefully the situation will be resolved one way or the other soon. A derelict building does nothing for the town.

**The Cotton House** is the new 4 story block of 12 apartments on Northumberland Ave. It is nearing completion and will hopefully welcome addition to the town providing new housing during a housing crisis.



Proposed Tivoli Rd Development

# Ad

# Ad

Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town



# Artwork in Cualanor

A new piece of public art was installed in Cualanor in the last few months and we thought many people would be interested in learning a little more about it. For everyone who lives in Cualanor who wants to know a bit more about the art on their doorsteps, and for those who don't live in Cualanor, maybe this article will prompt you to have a walk up and take a look. Cualanor is one of the best neighbourhoods in Dún Laoghaire and always looks spectacular in winter. Last years winner of the best

there, they always make a special effort for Christmas.

-----  
 "Copse" is an artwork by Irish artist Caoimhe Kilfeather. It is comprised of three tree-like, crystalline sculptures made from coloured glass and steel. Combined, they produce an elevated and striking coloured canopy.

In creating the work the artist was keenly aware of the wide-ranging demographic of the area – the number of young families particularly. "The artwork is designed to conjure questions around colour, light, optics, geometry, pattern, the sun's movement, as well as relationships to the materiality and colours of both the built and natural environment. My hope is that it hold a sense of beauty, intrigue, vibrancy and change for the community at Cualanor."

Public Art advisor on the project Claire Power adds... "the commissioning of a public artwork was mandated by DLRCC



Planning. Cosgrave's, as the Commissioners, entered the process with an openness to the different, imaginative possibilities and created a generous and supportive brief for artists. "Copse", referring to a small group of trees, plays with the intricate qualities of colour, light and pattern as they interchange in the daily natural and built environment. The elegant forms create a canopy, a covering for a gathering place and a meeting point at the entrance to Cualanor. In the panel's mind in selecting this artwork, in addition to the excellent artistic quality, was the anticipation that this visually

attractive and dynamic sculpture would capture the imagination of the children, young people and families who live in and visit Cualanor and be enjoyed over time."

Kilfeather says of the artwork "it explores the elusive qualities of light and colour, changes in daylight, climate and street lighting will result in a continually changing palette where the coloured glass will reflect and refract light to varying degrees. For the people living in the houses and apartments surrounding the work, I hope for it to provide a beautiful and ever-changing spectacle."



decorated house was from

## Beautiful New Shop Fronts



Two shops on Georges St Upper are in the process of having their shop fronts refurbished in a architecturally sympathetic style that we feel will greatly add to the heart of Georges St.

With all the potential changes that the county council are planning, the DLCRA hope that the council is working to help and support the retailers of Dún Laoghaire. A '10 minute town' needs a wide range of retailers not just coffee shops.

The shop fronts were deigned by Ross Cathal-O'Brien a local architect who works in the town and both fronts availed of the DLRCC Shop Front Improvement scheme. We expect these high quality shop fronts will spur other local retailers to consider upgrading their shop fronts in keeping with the cultural heritage of the town.



Shop fronts before

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Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town



# Christmas Traditions

For those of you who wondered about the origins of some of the traditions of Christmas.

## The Christmas swim

The tradition of the Christmas morning swim reputed to have started in Brighton England in 1860 has become an annual event on the Irish calendar for more than 40 years. One of the most famous locations in Ireland for the Christmas morning swim has been the Forty Foot in Sandycove, where hundreds of people both young and old take the morning plunge and brave the cold temperatures. From morning to afternoon swimmers come to take the plunge in the Forty Foot as part of the traditional activities at Christmas. But why do so many people take to the sea on Christmas morning? Some believe it is a great hangover cure while others like to think it helps to burn off the excesses of Christmas. But many take the plunge as a fundraising event with their collection going to a number of charities

or a charity of their choosing. After the Christmas plunge it is also very traditional to finish up with a hot strong drink and even a mince pie or two.

## The Christmas Run

For many Irish people Christmas running has also become a tradition and not just for the seasoned or regular runners but for many people who just want to lace up, get out to run, jog or walk. But most people just run over the Christmas period to enjoy the experience and to meet up with friends and family and all in a good cause or for a dedicated charity. One of the more popular Christmas runs in Bull Island is the Santa Dash where every participant gets a full Santa Suit which must be worn for the full race duration. Other Christmas runs around the country include Run off the Pudding, Fat Turkey run, Christmas Dash and the 12 Days of Christmas to name but a few. Full details of all Christmas run events can be found on the Run Ireland web site.



Patricia McGettrick

## Secret Santa or Chris Kringle

One popular tradition at Christmas undertaken by friends, family, work colleagues and even classmates in schools and colleges is known as "Secret Santa or Chris Kringle." It is a type of gift-giving Christmas tradition where each person in the group (friends, family, schools or work colleagues) write their name on a slip of paper. Each person in the group then randomly picks up a slip of paper and whoever's name is on the slip is the person they will get a gift for

without that person knowing who that Secret Santa is. Normally a price point is assigned to the value of the gift. The important thing of course is that you cannot tell the person that you will be getting their gift. The concept of Secret Santa owes its origin to a man called Larry Dean Stewart a Millionaire philanthropist who anonymously gave money to people in need on the streets in Kansas every Christmas. That tradition has since become the Secret Santa tradition we now celebrate in Ireland.



Crosthwaite Park

## Buildings of note in the borough

**31. Crosthwaite Park West** became the home of the Synge family in 1890. One of the sons of the family of five became one of Ireland's greatest playwrights – John Millington Synge. Famous for such plays as *Playboy of the Western World*, *Riders to the Sea*, *Well of the Saints* and the unfinished *Deirdre of Sorrows*. He died from Hodgkin's disease at the young age of 38 years in 1909.

**17 Rosmeen Park** was the last home of Sean O'Faolain. He is one of Ireland's famous short story writers with his first collection called *Midsummer Night*

*Madness* published in 1932. He went on to write 90 stories over a period of 60 years. He also wrote a number of biographies, including ones on Eamon De Valera, Wolfe Tone, Daniel O'Connell and Constance Markievicz. He died in 1991 at the age of 91 years.

**James Joyce Martello Tower** in Sandycove was built in 1804. Having spent six days living in the tower, it became the location for scenes in the opening chapter of Joyce's greatest work *Ulysses*, and every year on the 16th of June it is celebrated and celebrations start at the Martello tower in Sandycove. Regarded as one of the most influential and important writers of the 20th

century. He died in 1941 at the age of 59 years.

**Moran Park House**, formerly the Harbour Master's house, is now the Irish Design Gallery. In 1898 Guglielmo Marconi became the first person to use wireless technology by transmitting the results of a Dun-Laoghaire sailing regatta from a steam tug (*The Flying Huntress*) in the harbour to his assistant and shore receiver in Moran Park House. The regatta results were then telephoned to newspaper offices

and circulated all over the world. This was the first time wireless technology was used in journalism.

**Perrins Row Cottage** was the home of Padraic Colum, Irish poet, novelist, biographer, playwright, children's author and collector of folklore. He wrote over 61 books during his life and some of his works include *The Fiddlers House*, *The Old Woman of the Roads*, *The Saxon Shillin*, *She Moves Through the Fair*. He died in 1972 at the age of 91.



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Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town





**Clean  
Green  
Nurture  
Preserve**

Our town has just won the European Academy of Urbanism Great Town 2022 award! This is a great recognition of the work carried out by DLRCOCO and all stakeholders, local businesses, DLCRA, Tidy Towns, etc. We often hear criticism of the council, and indeed both our organisations have been critical of some aspects from time to time. Nonetheless, it is appropriate to recognise the many achievements of the council and to thank all the officials involved.

We were awarded two prizes in the DLR Tidy Districts competition – best newcomer and best graffiti management.

Although we increased our score in the National Tidy Towns competition, we were disappointed that some of our efforts and achievements appear to have been overlooked. We have increased our collaboration with all stakeholders (community organisations including DLCRA, schools, clubs, etc., local businesses). However, our score in this category did not increase.

Hopefully new initiatives such as the Sussex Street (Boylan Centre) flower beds and our management of the St. Michael's Square flower beds

will get fuller recognition next year.

We know that we are relatively weak in the Sustainability category – recycling, reducing waste, energy saving, etc. Cualanor residents' association has a great energy saving project. It would be fabulous if such initiatives could be adapted by other residents' groups.

DLTT is aware of the residents' recent leaf sweeping in Northumberland Avenue and we joined Royal Terrace residents on the 3rd of December to carry out a leaf sweeping and clean-up of Royal Terrace Park. We need to know about such ventures so that we can include them in our Tidy Towns entry. I should say "your" Tidy Towns entry as the competition judges the efforts of all stakeholders in a town, and any recognition is for all our joint efforts.

Our Tuesday clean-ups with Transition Year students from Newpark Comprehensive school and Coláiste Íosagáin are going very well. We have had up to 15 students from these schools. In addition, individual students from John Scotus School, Blackrock College, and Our Lady's Grove in Goatstown have joined us on Saturdays.



Transition Year students planting bulbs at Boylan centre.



DLTT is very grateful to DLCRA for the 2023 calendar initiative. The proceeds from the sale will provide significant finances to DLTT to enable us to continue our many projects.

Contact us

- [dltidytowns@gmail.com](mailto:dltidytowns@gmail.com)
- <http://dltidytowns.com>
- [twitter.com/DunLaoghaireTT](https://twitter.com/DunLaoghaireTT)

This will be the last DLCRA newsletter for 2022. DLTT is very grateful for the continuing support of DLCRA and we wish all readers a peaceful, happy, and tidy Christmas, and all our best wishes for 2023.



[www.DunLaoghaireTown.ie](http://www.DunLaoghaireTown.ie)

Dún Laoghaire Business Association

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Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Chamber

Dún Laoghaire Business Association

*Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town*





# DÚN LAOGHAIRE CENTRAL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Dear Residents,

Greetings for the Festive Season

We are coming close to the winter solstice on December the 21st The shining light that let our ancestors know the dark days were ending. The turning point in the year where the darkest hours begin to brighten, and the nights grow shorter. A moment of hope for all those who have been struggling to keep the lights on this autumn. The twelve-day mid-winter feast is a time of celebration, gifts and feasting. A time to pause and reflect.

There are some changes, challenges and inconvenience in Dun Laoghaire now with the development work on Myrtle

Square and Convent Lane. The positives to consider are Bloomfield Car Park is still accessible and fully open on Library Road and the addition of security guards ensures deliveries continue to Tesco without much disruption.

The long-awaited news is the redevelopment of the Dun Laoghaire Bath site is due to complete this December. It is also pleasing to see Dun Laoghaire being awarded Europe's Great Town 2022 award by the Academy of Urbanism, in recognition of the work being done by the Council to improve the urban environment. The statement from the Council said, 'the town won due to its Coastal Mobility Cycle Route and Village public

realm project, which connects urban villages, bathing places, walks and parks along the coast'.

It is heartening to know there are so many residents in Dun Laoghaire who are giving their time and energy to help improve our environment. On behalf of the Residents Association, we would like to thank our members for their continual interest and support throughout the year, especially Tidy Towns for their constant hard work.

We hope you will support our attempts to provide some extra funding for Tidy Towns by buying our 2023 Calendar. Further details in this Newsletter. If you have just moved to Dun Laoghaire or have some spare time and would like to get to know people living in the town, get out in the fresh air and make our town more beautiful, do come and volunteer. [dltidytowns@gmail.com](mailto:dltidytowns@gmail.com)

Please do what you can to extend the spirit of Christmas to those who might need as-

sistance or kindness and those suffering hardship. I hope the holiday season is one of peace, joy and happiness for everyone.

Mary Kelly-Borgatta

Chair DLCRA

## The Shortest Day by Susan Cooper

So the shortest day came, and the year died,  
And everywhere down the centuries of the snow-white world  
Came people singing and dancing,  
To drive the dark away.  
They lighted candles in the winter trees;  
They hung their home with evergreen;  
They burned beseeching fires all night long  
To keep the year alive.  
And when the new year's sunshine blazed awake  
They shouted revelling.  
Through all the frosty ages you can hear them  
Echoing behind us-Listen!

## This Christmas, Support Tidy Towns Support Dún Laoghaire



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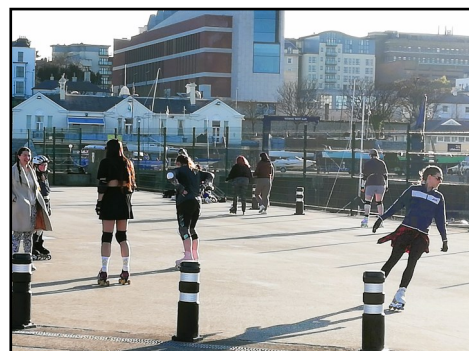


Dun Laoghaire Tidy Towns  
volunteers need your help

## Skate Park Update



The **Skatepark** proposal (above) is still on track but Irish Water requested a report relating to the tanks that are under the current car park on the site. It is our understanding that the funds for the development are ring fenced so it should still go ahead in 2023. A much needed amenity for Dun Laoghaire.



Let's put the heart back into Dún Laoghaire town

# Restaurant Review—La Dolce Italia

La Dolce Italia

104 Patrick St

01—2143600

We are starting a new section in the newsletter where we will be doing restaurant reviews and covering businesses that we think would be of interest to residents. We begin with a restaurant review by our previous chairwoman, Frances Kelly of Crosthwaite Park.

The intrepid four had been meaning to try La Dolce Italia for quite a while and so, with much anticipation, a table was booked in the outside dining area for Friday 18th November and we were all set.

On arrival we were warmly greeted with much gusto by Ebano, the chef proprietor who comes from Umbria in Northern Italy, and we were then shown to our table by the lovely Carlotta, who comes from Piedmont. The outside area turned out to be a small rear courtyard with overhead heaters. Rugs were available if required. The menu was so tempting we wanted it all. We settled on antipasti for starters,

all of which sounded very delicious. From the wine list we selected a decent Chianti Colli Senesi.

All of the starters were superb. One diner opted not to have a starter as he wanted to save himself for the main course. Prices ranged from €7.50 to €12.50; garlic bread was €4.50 for two portions. One of us had Bruschetta al Pomodoro (the tomatoes come from Lazio) and it was declared fantastic. The chef did not skimp on the tomatoes it overflowed with a taste of Italy. The Guazze di Mare; saute prawns came with squid and mussels in a spicy tomato broth with onion, garlic and herbs and garlic bread. Heavenly. The Parmigiana; oven baked aubergine, tomato sauce, basil, mozzarella with parmesan cheese was declared beyond great.

The main courses were very typical Italian fare everything on offer was so tempting, decision making was very difficult. Prices ranged from €18.00 to €25.00. One of us had Strangozzo alla Norcina; a thick spaghetti with Italian sausages, cream "tartufata" and parmesan cheese. It was declared to die

for! Another had the meat of the day, which was duck, cooked to one's liking in this case rare and it was. The duck was just as it should be, tender and moist, served with potatoes and a side salad. The Tortelli di Vitella; pasta filled with poached veal, porcini mushrooms with a cream, garlic and parmesan sauce failed to disappoint, was eaten with such gusto that not a word was said until all was eaten. The Papardelle al Salmone; a wide ribbon pasta, smoked salmon, datterini tomatoes, rose sauce and parmesan cheese, was swooned over and declared better than best!

One of our servers Degi, from Mongolia, twisted our arms and we were persuaded to share two desserts with four spoons, so we had Tiramisu, which was divine and Pere al Vino Rosso, poached pear in a spiced red wine with vanilla ice cream, a pear reduction and Amaretti biscuit.

The bill for four came to €242.30, which included three bottles of wine, one bottle of water and two coffees.

The restaurant is located at 104

Patrick's Street, Dun Laoghaire. It is hard to believe that a taste of Italy can be found in our town. The ambience, service and the quality of the cooking is as good as can be got in Tuscany or Umbria. We will be back.

Review by Frances Kelly



Chef Proprietor Ebano with diner Maria MacDermott-roe

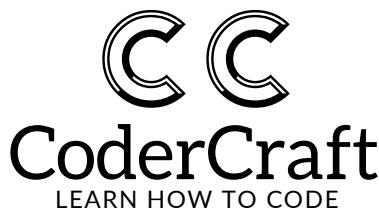


## Brain Teaser

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](mailto:info@dlcra.ie) and good luck!

The questions are tricky and some of the riddles many require a lot of lateral thinking. If you are stuck on one question or even if you only have the answer for one question don't let that put you off sending in an answer. You may not be the only one.



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### Question 1

Q. A prisoner is locked up in a cell with nothing but a toilet, a chair and a work shovel. There is a window in the cell, but it's too high to reach using the chair. The prison is surrounded by concrete that stretches 100 feet in every direction. The prisoner uses the shovel to dig a 50-foot-long underground tunnel and escapes.

How does he do it?

— : —

### Question 2

Q. All vowels of this word are given in the correct order below. Find this word that may define a South American person or culture.

A E I E A

— : —

### Question 3

Q. What 3-digit number can be divided by 3, have the order of the digits in the resulting number reversed, have 1 subtracted from the

reversed number, and yet end up being unchanged?

— : —

### Question 4

Go-Cart Track The go-cart track is one mile long. If a driver does the first lap at 30 miles per hour, how fast must he drive to complete the second lap, so that both laps are completed in two minutes?

— : —

There was no winner of the Brain Teasers from the last issue, so we sadly don't have a winner.

The prize will roll over so the winner of this edition of the Brain Teasers will get a double prize.

Send your answers to [info@dlcra.ie](mailto:info@dlcra.ie) for your chance to win.

Merry Christmas!

Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town



# Why I love Dún Laoghaire..

By Captain Simon Coate

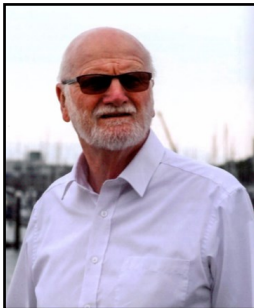
Captain Simon Coate is Harbour Master at Dun Laoghaire Harbour since 1835.

Simon was born in Bridgwater, Somerset, England in 1944 and we spoke to him asking about his experiences of Dun Laoghaire and what he loved about our town.

I was born in Somerset in 1944 and went to sea in 1962. My mother moved to Sandycove in 1964 and I joined her in 1966.

Dun Laoghaire was a great town in those days, and we had a very active social life. There were about 20 pubs from York Road to Dalkey and they were always busy – at least they were when we went there! (Little did I know then that forty years later I would be working for Dun Laoghaire Harbour)

In 1991 I started working for Dun Laoghaire Harbour as Assistant Harbour Master. As the time Dun Laoghaire was a very busy harbour with a long-established ferry service which had been running between Dun



Simon

Laoghaire and Holyhead since 1835. At its peak, the Stena Explorer was running five times a day and Dun Laoghaire was incredibly busy with lots of holiday makers. Also, day trips were very popular with people buying duty free! It was a very vibrant town and an exciting place to live.

With the abolition of duty-free and the introduction of cheap airline flights it unfortunately ceased altogether in September 2014.

In 2000 I was appointed Port Operations Manager a role mainly to liaise with all the harbour users.

In 2009 I was also appointed to the role of Harbour Master. The primary responsibility of the Harbour Master is to ensure the safety of navigation within the harbour authority's jurisdiction and ensuring safe working environment practices are maintained. I continued as Harbour Master until I retired in 2012 and was sad to leave. However, my replacement didn't stay long, and I was asked to come back to cover the role for a few weeks – this I willingly did as I enjoyed the job. I am still here ten years later!

I love my job in Dun Laoghaire. It has great variety and I work with really good people. The Harbour has now



HSS Stena Explorer in the harbour (2008), thanks to Peter Barrow

been taken over by the County Council which I think will be good for both the harbour and Dun Laoghaire. Traditionally the harbour and the town were run as separate entities, with the Dart line physically dividing them. The covering of the Metals has drawn the town closer and made it more unified which I think is a great improvement.

Also replacing the solid wall on the Plaza with glass has further opened up the vista and has become a favourite viewing spot.

I'm very optimistic about Dun Laoghaire Harbour and its future. The Piers are a fantastic amenity for the local community, but they are nearly

200 years old and require ongoing maintenance.

I think the recent increase in cruise ship calls is good for the town and is in keeping the maritime tradition within the harbour. It is a fantastic amenity, and I enjoy seeing the harbour being used in so many other creative ways, both for sailing and land-based events

Now that I am retiring from the harbour I will still be able to join everyone else and enjoy walking the East and West Piers, looking out to sea at those beautiful views

This was edited to fit the newsletter but the full unabridged story of Simon can be found on [our website](#)

To celebrate businesses & residents of Dún Laoghaire who add to the town's festive atmosphere in the run up to Christmas the DLCRA are awarding prizes for..

**Best Shop Window Display & Best Decorated Residential House**

Judging ends on Dec 23, 2022



Any house from Cualanor to the sea and York Rd to Lwr Glenageary Rd can be the winner

Let's put the heart back into Dún Laoghaire town

See DLCRA.ie for more information or email info@dlcra.ie