

May 2023



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DÚN LAOGHAIRE CENTRAL Congestion

**RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION** 



Image showing the pedestrianised area of Georges St

# Living Streets – Council vote in Summer

The plans that DR have for the town, after much testing and consultation, have started to merge and solidify into concrete decisions.

Living streets Dun Laoghaire is the title of the project that will have far reaching and hopefully beneficial effects on everyone who lives and works in and around the town. It will be the largest investment and upgrade of the public realm the town has ever seen.

View our website to see the official DL presentations for more detailed information including maps and data. Here we will cover the main points of relevant information for residents.

Filters (bollards/ Modal planters) will be installed on Road (where Tivoli the pedestrian crossing is located), on Cross Ave (between Patrick St and Convent Rd) and on Clarinda Park West at the junction with Georges St. The filters will prevent traffic from passing. This will turn Tivoli Rd/Corrig Rd effectively into 2 cul-de-sac's. The modal filter on Cross Ave will prevent east/

west through traffic while that at Clarinda Park is to prevent rat running. To drive from Patrick St to Tivoli Terrace will require going around the town either along the coast and up York Rd or around the Glenageary Rd's Lower and Upper.

Coast Road currently Windsor Terrace/ Marine Parade from the baths to the 40ft are 1-way going eastwards. This will be reversed to prevent the back log of traffic on Summerhill Rd. coming from Glasthule, traffic will be able to drive along the coast on to Queens Rd and through towards Blackrock without going through the town

### Pedestrianisation

permanently pedestrian of Lower Georges St is planned with new paving throughout, lots of new planting and street furniture as well as better landscaping to improve the environment and create a coherent look and feel to the town. New areas will include outside the Carnegie library and outside St Michaels

church.

Deliveries and loading will be facilitated up to 11am each day along pedestrianised areas and through Myrtle Square, so there should be a noticeable reduction in the number of trucks during the day.

Changing the 46A bus route is being considered with the bus going through the town and up Lower Glenageary Rd rather than going back up York Rd, Dublin Bus will have the final say on this after weighing up all the pro's and con's.

This is part of a larger plan by central government to facilitate a 51% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030. It also feeds into the National Demand Management Strategy that was adapted in April and which aims to reduce congestion and free up our cities and towns.

The traffic reports show that they expect an increase of traffic on Glenageary Rd Upper by 13% and on York Rd of 15%. Residents of York Rd have been requesting traffic calming measures on the road for some time now. The council have committed to looking at potential options such as raised crossing points/ signalised crossings to calm traffic an increase pedestrian safetv. Changes to speed limits are also a possibility

A general fear that some have is that the heart of our town will be a building site for a number of years. Looking at the delays to works on Convent Lane / outside Bloomfields it is a concern to residents and to businesses.

This is part of a larger plan by central government to reduce carbon emissions by 51% by 2030. It also feeds into the National Demand Management Strategy that was adopted in April and which aims to reduce congestion and free up our cities and towns.

More details with final plans and public consultation in June and then there will be a vote by 40 councillors in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown county council.

If you have any feelings on the project it is worth contacting your local councillor to let them know.



Landscaped area outside of St Michaels Church

# Town Info & Updates



Proposed development at the corner of Patrick St & Cross Ave

The proposed beside the pumping station behind the west pier looks to be postponed indefinitely. We believe that there is a continuing issue with the proposed location being on top of water tanks that belong to Irish Water and there are complicated negotiations between DLR and Irish Water with no time scale for them to be resolved. In the meantime DLR has decided to put a temporary bicycle pump track on the car park on the other side of the pump station, the one beside the sea. That should be starting imminently and will be finished within 4-6 weeks.

The proposed development of apartments on the corner of Patrick St and Cross Ave (part 8 planning process ref: : BHLF-8J38-PYR7-Y, pictured above) has been withdrawn. The council still plan to develop this site, if they do build housing there, hopefully it will be more in keeping with the architectural heritage of the area.

skatepark The planning application for Durham Place which is composed of 8 apartments and 16 houses (Tivoli Rd at entrance to St Josephs & Cualanor) ref: D21A/1050, was granted with some amendments and it has been appealed to An Bord Pleanala. Decisions from ABP are suffering from long delays so there is no clear idea when we will know the outcome.

> The **Dún Laoghaire Educate Together Primary School** on Georges Ave has finally received planning approval from An Bord Pleanala and the building will hopefully be open have children attending by September 2024.

> **Myrtle Square** had some delays due to utility pipes not having been originally buried deep enough to be safe for delivery trucks to drive over them, but is now back on track. Deliveries will be coming the square by June, with barriers preventing deliveries after 10am in the morning. The Square itself will have the



The Old Senoir College Dún Laoghaire building which is being refurbished



Proposed Dun Laoghaire Educate Together school

Canopy installed in May and will be finished and fully open by the middle of August.

Many will be aware that the Boylan Centre on Sussex St is in the process of being sold to Dun Laoghaire County Council. Fr Paul Tyrrel had approached the council to potentially use the site to build social and affordable housing. If the county council do buy the site the DLCRA feels that it is a great opportunity to revitalise the town centre, especially with the new connection that has opened between Sussex St and the train station. We look forward to seeing what the council might do.

The DLCRA will be making a submission to the county council regarding the Boylan Centre in the coming weeks. We believe that, if the planning

The **Dun Laoghaire Primary Care Medical Centre** should be opening by the end of May. This will include Sheehans Medical practice and hopefully this will bring lots of additional footfall to the shopping centre and help the retailers inside.

The old Senior College Dún Laoghaire building on Eblana Ave is currently being refurbished to be able to house asylum seekers. The works to make the building habitable are significant and it is not known for sure when it will be ready to accommodate people seeking international A few residents protection. have contacted the DLCRA saying that they wish to do something to make the asylum seekers welcome, if any women want to help, send your details to info@dlcra.ie and we can pass them on.



Tourist Kiosk in the Harbour with gifts & information on walking tours

regulations permit it, the county council should try and ensure the Boylan Centre is redeveloped for social and affordable housing that can be reserved for essential workers or to have an element that addresses the needs of elderly residents, assisted living or independent living. Having blended communities living in a town is shown to be a benefit to all residents.

Down by the **Harbour** a new kiosk has opened providing gifts and refreshments to passengers from the cruise ships as well as offering walking tours of the town. Volunteer Welcome Ambassadors are also going to be assisting passenger and tourists from the 93 cruise ships arriving in our town over the summer. See more information on page 5.

# **Best Decorated House** & Shop Winners

We continued our tradition of to encourage the trying residents and retailers of ou town to decorate their houses and shops. We reward those that go the extra mile with their decoration, usually asking a local priest to help us choose the winner. Biggest is rarely best and we aren't looking for who has the most money to spend on ornaments or electricity bills, rather we are looking for people who have decided to do something for



One of Nolan's window displays

their neighbour, brought a little bit of joy and brightness to peoples lives and our community.

This year we want to honour Ms Adrienne Hughes of 41 Desmond Avenue. Adrienne was shopping with her sister when she saw a pink artificial tree for sale and had an idea. She took the tree apart and made decorations for her front door and windows. Her sister helped her string lights from out of her house to the tree in front. The photos here don't do the house justice but they give you an idea of how beautiful the house was during the day and at night how her house was a delight during the cold, dark winter.

She won a nice bottle of gin as a thank you and has continued to decorate her house, her decoration Faster were particularly beautiful. Look out for her house when you are taking a stroll around the town.

# Tivoli Safe Mobility

Tivoli Safe Mobility is one of the community groups the Council has met with over the past month.

A spokesperson for the group said, "The Council has clearly undertaken a considerable amount of traffic analysis and modelling. The filter location has been chosen because it is predicted to reduce traffic not just on Tivoli Rd but on the roads between Tivoli Rd and George's Street. This is in keeping with the aim of our group which has always been to address the serious dangers and congestion on Tivoli Rd without negatively impacting neighbouring streets."

Tivoli Safe Mobility says it still has concerns about the left turn at the top of Patrick Street, where cars, vans and HGVs often mount the

footpath. However, they raised these concerns with the Council at their meeting and Council engineers are now working on a road & pavement design to mitigate them. They also understand that, where possible, footpaths will be widened at points along Tivoli Road, and that trees & planting can be incorporated around the filter.

The group's spokesperson added, "We know changes to Tivoli Rd and other streets in the Living Streets area will take time to get used to and involve a little inconvenience at times, but we hope most people will see the benefits of creating a safer and more pleasant environment. At the end of the day, we are privileged to be living or working in such a beautiful area, with access to the sea, shops & facilities and decent public transport. If we can't make positive environmental changes here, who can?"

Tivoli Safe Mobility can be contacted at tivolisafemobility@gmail.com



The winner of the best decorated house was beautiful day and especially night

A big thank you from everyone lately have had a gentle Adrienne.

Among the retailers and businesses in the town, Brian S. Nolan's had a beautiful winter display with some wonderful new additions. Even though they won in our first year in 2020, we felt that it would be remiss of us to not acknowledge the great work that Brian S. Nolan's did and have consistently done for many years. Every winter their shop windows add to the festive atmosphere in the centre of Dún Laoghaire.

Their use of animatronic puppets to create displays that

## 

One way to support Dún Laoghaire is to try whenever possible to shop locally. You only have to have a brief look around the town to see that we are lucky to have a large number of independent retailers rather than a high street full of international retail chains. Supporting these independent retailers, many of whom live locally, benefits the wider community in many ways.

- 1) Support Local Community, locally owned businesses support other local businesses, hire locals, engage local accountants, estate agents, solicitors, etc.
- 2) Local shops are more likely to stock locally made products and will have items unique to your community.
- 3) Invest in entrepreneurship, when you buy local you are often rewarding people who

environmental message are definitely one of the highlights of Christmas in Dún Laoghaire.



Adrienne Huahe

- have taken a risk to follow their dream
- 4) Help the environment, with fewer miles travelled by yourself and the product as well as a greater likelihood of locally sourced goods, its definitely environmentally friendly
- 5) Make DL a destination, making your community unique and more interesting attracts visitors and quests which benefits everyone.



# **Dunnes Stores**

Dunnes Stores have a track record of leaving premises vacant and unused across the country and this has been highlighted by journalists and ministers all to no avail. In our town they own a block of units that includes the large retail store on George's Street Upper. Three of these units have historic shopfronts which are currently boarded up while the rest of the site is generally underutilised. These units are available to let, but with conditions attached that make them hard to rent, as can be seen with the length of time they have been empty.

There is a feeling that Dunnes have a wait and see position regarding the town as a whole and the future of the Shopping



Councillor Lorraine Hall

# **Corrig Ave**

#### A stroll back in Time on **Corrig Avenue by Camillus** Dwane

For the people lucky enough to be living on Corrig Avenue Dún Laoghaire, a vibrant street scape full of energy and life, but have you ever wondered what it must have been like many, many years ago? Before the avenue was lined with different period houses and beautiful front gardens, a district court and the home of AN GARDA, each individual house has its own unique and interesting history of people and family's who came to live on the avenue over time.

Of course, we would love to hear the history of your house and the people who dwelt there over time. All this information can be found in your house deeds. If you have any interesting stories about your house or the individuals who lived there over time we would be delighted to publish a resume of some of your stories.

Centre, specifically before deciding what to do with their buildings. There is a tenant living in the building which adds another dimension, and their last planning permission has now lapsed.

**Councillor Lorraine Hall** recently set up a petition calling on Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to add the vacant Dunnes Stores buildings to the Derelict Sites Register. Over 1,000 people signed the petition, demonstrating the huge frustration locally about the condition of these buildings. You can sign the petition by following the QR code attached or searching Change.org

Tidy Towns, the DLCRA and the Business Association have written to report the Dunnes Stores buildings to the Council and requested that some of the block be added to the Derelict Sites Register. This incurs a significant annual fee on the owners.

It is our belief that the council will not find the building eligible to be added to the Register but maybe this activity will put pressure on

In 1815 the first house was built on the Avenue and oddly enough was called Corrig House. It was a late Georgian style house of two stories and with its own basement. The house being the only house on the avenue, it became known as Corrig Avenue and linked directly with George's street. The occupier of the house in 1854 was one Sir William Leeson, who would leave his mark on the city of Dublin in later years. In 1880 the house became a school catering for 300 pupils with a teaching staff of just under 20 masters. The school had a good reputation and became a very notable school at that time. The pupils were introduced to various sporting activities such as cricket, athletics and rugby. Corrig House did however closed as a school in 1910 and returned to being a private dwelling house. The original Corrig House was demolished in the early 1970's and today a complex of apartments stand on the site. What next for Corrig Avenue in the future town development plans, I wonder?



Dunnes to do something with this vacant site. It really is unacceptable that a block like this in the heart of our town would go unused for so long. The painting of the hoarding was done by the Council so they recognise that leaving units sit idle is not ideal.

Another building many feel is neglected is the Shopping Centre. Owned by Galway businessman Joe Higgins through his company Coltard. We might approach him about his plans for the largest building in the heart of our town.



Brian Flynn, Tidy Towns



# **Local Policing Forum**

Out Chairperson Mary Kelly Borgatta attended the latest meeting of the join policing committee. It is a partnership between the Gardai and the Council and various community groups. The aim of the LPF is to create a safe and secure county.

Concerns have been raised about anti-social behaviour at Myrtle Square, especially in the evenings, these were raised by the manager of Bloomfield shopping centre among others. There were also concerns about antisocial behaviour at Hudson Park.

Operation Irene is starting up again with 8 dedicated officers on bicycles patrolling the coast with a special focus on the area around the Baths, the Dart station and the 40ft. Patrols are being put in place on the Dart and at stations.

The Cualanor/Honey Park sub -committee has been dissolved. It was set up as a

way of tackling anti-social behaviour, they have identified the people involved. Technically a sub-committee can be set up again to manage areas where antisocial behaviour has broken out. Residents can request this.

One thing that was emphatically stressed was that it is essential that residents call the gardai if there is an incident. As **Detective Sargent Trevor** Scanlan said during the meeting, "If you don't ring there is no incident". Issues have to be logged for the gardaí to enable them to react. Having a record of incidents & calls is what gives them the ability to request resources.

So please do remember to call your garda station if you see any antisocial activity or incidents occurring in Dún Laoghaire.



# Clean Green Nurture Preserve

### Spring in in the Air

As the evenings lengthen and the weather gets warmer many more people are around and about in our town. This includes residents, shoppers, day visitors and tourists. This year we expect more than 90 cruise ships to visit Dún Laoghaire, up from 75 last year. While the increased footfall and better weather bring economic and social benefits to our town, it also brings challenges in the form of increased littering. Thankfully the council are keeping up their twice daily clean-ups and recently the Parks section are litter picking daily in the Pleasure Gardens by the East Pier. Our Tidy Towns group is out twice weekly cleaning the town. However, the number of volunteers has fallen off somewhat over the last year. We would appeal to readers of this Newsletter to join us, even occasionally at our Saturday morning clean-ups. It is not just work. It is a great opportunity to meet other Dún Laoghaire residents and make new friends. There is always a lighthearted atmosphere and excellent coffee is provided by Shoe Lane after each session.

### Young Tidy Towners

We have been very fortunate to have groups of Transition Year students from Newpark Comprehensive and Coláiste Íosagáin work with us during this academic year. Individual students from several other schools have also joined us. We are constantly looking for new young talent. So, if your children / grandchildren are looking for some meaningful and fun activity during the coming months, please encourage them to come along. We have robust child protection and safety policies which ensure that minors can work in a safe and fun environment. It is not just litter picking. Our young volunteers have been involved in a range of activities, litter picking, weeding, bulb planting, graffiti removal, carol sing in aid of the Simon Community, etc.



### **Communal Herb Planters**

We have provided a communal herb planter in Crosthwaite Park and are in the process of doing the same in Royal Terrace. The planters have been made by the Dún Laoghaire Men's Shed and financed entirely from Tidy Towns funds. We would love to install others. If your area would like to have one, please let us know at

dltidytowns@gmail.com. All we need is a person(s) from the area who is willing to carry out occasional maintenance and watering.

### **Sustainability**

As a Tidy Towns group, we are relatively weak in the Sustainability category – reducing waste, energy saving, retrofitting, etc. This is an area where DLCRA, DLRCOCO and Tidy Towns could collaborate via communal schemes, and





we would love to hear of any initiatives that are being taken by residents' groups in the town.

## **Fundraising**

We are very grateful to DLCRA and in particular to Paul Coffey for the 2023 calendar initiative. This raised more than 1500 euro for Tidy Towns which largely surpassed our expectations.

Our table quiz on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, in collaboration with the Dún Laoghaire Rotary Club,

raised 2000 euro each for Tidy Towns and Rotary charities. A great fun night was had by all, and this has become an annual highlight on the Dún Laoghaire social calendar. Many thanks to local businesses for their generous donations and to all who attended.

Brian Chairperson Dún Laoghaire Tidy Towns



Welcome Ambassadors, a group of friendly volunteers (over 18's) with local knowledge, to greet the many visitors to our town – especially those on the 93 cruises scheduled to arrive into Dún Laoghaire Harbour for the 2023 season!

Many of these guests will be visiting Ireland for the first time. They will have lots of questions and would love to meet and receive directions from a local. Welcome Ambassadors will walk around Marine Road/ Queens Road ready to help "lost" visitors.

To know more email dlwelcomeambassadornetwork@gmail.com



# Dún Laoghaire Central

## **RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

Dear Residents,

Welcome to our May Newsletter and #No Mow May

Uncut grass gives flowering plants especially dandelions a chance to blossom, providing pollen and nectar at a crucial time for pollinating insects-bees, hover flies and butterflies. One third of Ireland's bees are threatened with extinction, needing food, shelter and other vital resources. Leaving grass to blossom at this time of year can help them enormously. This month of opportunity will allow pollinators to thrive.

What a relief to emerge into light evenings, birdsong, sparkling seas, trees white with blossom and a stunning array of spring blooms. Thanks again to Tidy Towns who have made the town so uplifting with their creative and colourful planting. The tulips outside Bloomfield's car park are a joy, to mention just one display.

The Living Streets Project which aims to improve our environment by reducing traffic and related noise and air pollution and increasing planting in public spaces, is to be welcomed in this time of Climate Emergency. Understanding the need for meaningful change the majority of residents in Central Dun Laoghaire look forward to an "enhanced public realm enabling safe active travel, recreation and social interaction" and more trees. What is less clear

is the level of disruption to businesses and residents and the length of time the works will take. We hope for a speedy completion to the development of Myrtle Square, currently a very noisy building site. After some delays it is now due to be finished by September. With sixty-six new trees it should provide an attractive public space at the heart of the town. We are concerned about the businesses who have been negatively impacted by the works and hope residents will continue to show support.

To enable a quiet Living Street Neighbourhood in Central Dun Laoghaire we are being asked to weigh up the benefits of less traffic against the inconveniences of more circuitous driving routes. All through traffic is to be eliminated for the Living Streets Neighbourhood with the remaining traffic being destination traffic. Planning public consultation is now in progress, make sure you take part and have your say. Construction is due to begin in

2024. Anyone who has not had the opportunity of attending previous information sessions on Living Streets can watch the video recorded presentation on dlrLiving Streets. Further information and details of the location of modal filters is in this Newsletter.

DLCRA have again been assured by the Council that they will look at putting some traffic calming on York Road where the ever increasing speed of traffic is terrifying residents trying to cross. We wait in hope.

Many will have seen and signed the petition calling on Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to add vacant Dunnes Stores buildings in Georges Street Upper to the

Derelict Sites register. It is unacceptable to have vacant and derelict buildings lying idle in our towns with our current housing crisis.

Mary Kelly-Borgatta, DLCRA Chair



From the 1st of July until the 9th DLR will be celebrating Dún Laoghaire with a week long festival of events across the town coinciding with the Volvo Dún Laoghaire Regatta.

There will be a range of gigs and concerts across the town as part of Coastival Nights. These will include DJ's, comedians, singer songwriters and bands including Kíla, Brian Kennedy and Jerry Fish and others - there is sure to be something for everyone.

Events will be happening in all the pubs across the town including Walters, The Lighthouse, The Purty Kitchen as well as the Pavillion, its sure to be a lot of fun.

There will also be a range of family friendly events during the day across the town and many sea based activities in keeping with the world famous

Regatta taking place at the same time.

Some of the events include:

Movies on the green

Boat Cruises and trips along the coast

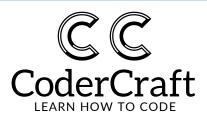
Free sailig, kayaking and paddleboarding sessions

There will be bouncy castles at the harbour from the 1st to the 4th and a fun fair from the 7th-9th.

A performance of "Telemachus" at The Joyce Tower for the culture vultures amongst us.

Free family fun day with the Coast Guard, Fire Brigade, Garda & other emergency services.

See DR Events Coastival for a full listing of all the events and gigs and how to book tickets!



Kids Coding Classes, Mounttown Community Centre Drop In, Every Wednesday btwn 4 & 5

Ages 12 –18, Cost is free but Spaces are limited Email Paul@CoderCraft.ie to find out more



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# **Restaurant Review**

# hartley's dun laoghaire

Hartleys Restaurant, which opened in 2007 has to be in the best location in Dun Laoghaire. Situated at 1 Harbour Road, beside the Dart station, in what used to be the ticket office for trains travelling from Dun Laoghaire to Dublin and Bray, there was a Tea Rooms and a very spaceous and comfortable waiting area. As time went by it became a very up market restaurant, best known for fine dining. The outdoor terrace offering panoramic views of the Dun Laoghaire coast across to Howth lent itself to offerings of outdoors dining.

Due to the pandemic indoor dining ceased, then shortly after reopening there was a fire in the kitchen of the restaurant, which meant they had to close again. Hartley's has been fully open and offering many dining options since early 2023, so it was with great expectations that I



Hello again,

We return again with some mental entertainment courtesy of our resident Riddle Master.

booked a table for two for Thursday evening.

The decor inside is completely different to before, large art paintings in dining room, lush dark green banquettes around the walls with very comfortable seating at large and small seating arrangements. On entering the main door, to the right there is a cocktail bar. But this is no ordinary cocktail bar. The decor is luxurious and fun, with a lot of surprise touches.

On arrival we opted to go to the cocktail bar to choose our food and have a drink. Our drinks comprised of one glass of prosecco and a bottle of Waita Sauvignon Blanc 46.00 Euro, we spotted two of our friends having cocktails at the bar, so we treated them to a drink, on Thursday evenings from six to seven o'clock you can have two cocktails for the price of one. We also reserved a bottle of red Le Retour 56.00 Euro, for our main course.

The menu offered many

We have 4 questions this issue. If we receive more than one response with the correct answers, we will draw the winner out of a hat.

All answers to info@dlcra.ie

Good luck !!!

### Q.1 Word

How many nine letter words can you think of that have no more than a single vowel?

# Please Donate to Support

If you like what we are doing please consider donating

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 gofundme

choices, starters included: Soup of the day, Chilli & Black Sesame Squid, Seared Scallops with sweetcorn puree, Halaomi & Spinach Pakora, Seafood Chowder. The Scallops couldnt be resisted and when they arrived they were beautifully presented: three scallops, each in it's own shell sitting on a delicious puree of sweetcorn with a bacon and breadcrumb crumble on top, they tasted as good as they looked.

For our main course we were offered: Roast Free Range Chicken Supreme, Baked Fillet of Cod Saltimbocca, Free Range Pork Schnitzel, Beer battered Fish & Chips Halibut or Hake, Crispy Wild Mushroom & Water Chestnut Chinese Dumpling, Seafood Tagliatelle. Also on offer was a range of 28 day aged prime hereford steaks and burgers. We chose the Burger with a portion of Onion Rings and Seafood Tagliatelle. The burger was cooked perfectly, the onion rings delicious and the seafood tagliatelle was

### Q2. Odd One Out

Can you figure out which one of the following numbers is the odd one out?

50-31-24-68-18

### Q3. Weigh-in

In the Grand National these four horses carry a weight handicap. What is the number of the fourth horse in the sequence?

> No 4 - 15 kg No 7 – 29 kg No 3 – 14 kg No ? – 24 kg

## Q3. Cycle Logical

Four cyclists are taking part in a race. The number of each rider and his cycling time are related to each other. Can you work out the number of the last cyclist?

No 9 - 1 Hour - 35 Minutes No 10 - 1 Hour - 43 Minutes No 14 - 2 Hours - 27 Minutes NO ? - 2 Hours - 33 Minutes

very good, with a lovely creamy sauce with an assortment of fish, including prawns, mussels and salmon, the chips which were served with the burger were however greasy and soggy, which was very disappointing. All this was accompanied by the very delicious white and red wines, which we chose from the comprehensive wine list.

The Dessert choices were many, but we were so full we decided to share a selection of homemade ice cream, delicious.



Our

Congratulations to Siddarth Patil who lives off Upper Georges St.

Siddarth moved to Dún Laoghaire from Stillorgan and says that with the sea, the pier and the transport links, Dún Laoghaire is the best place to live and we certainly agree. Stillorgan is nice but its no Dún Laoghaire

Enjoy the bottle of wine Siddarth!



This issues winner: Siddarth Patil

# Why I love Dún Laoghaire..

By Eamonn Doyle

In this issue of the newsletter we have the pleasure of a man who's family have been living in Dún Laoghaire for a very long time. Eamonn Doyle was born and raised in Dún Laoghaire, his parents lived in the town and he has raised his own children here so he has 3 generations of lived experience to draw on when we asked him what is it that he loves about living in Dún Laoghaire?

### We started by asking "How long have you been living in Dún Laoghaire?

My family have been on Convent Road for just over 90 years, my wife Ann and I were lucky enough to have been able to buy it off the family when we got married in 1989. So between here and living in Desmond Ave, you could say I've spent my whole life In Dun Laoghaire.

It would be impolite to ask just how long

### Do you have any memories of growing up I Dun Laoghaire?

"My fondest memories of growing up in Dún Laoghaire, would be the summers down at the seafront or playing football up in Tivioli South, known to us as the "bosco " or the"grammars".

My saddest memory would be when my brother Brian and his friend Ciaran drowned in the pond in Morans Park, now the library, in 1970."

Newer residents may not know what used to be there before the Lexicon Library was built in 2012. The land where the library now sits, along with its water features and the small green where the market is, used to have the Dun Laoghaire Bowling club just behind Marconi House and then there was a small



Eamonn outside Marconi House, beside the Lexicon

park with large trees surrounding a quarry pond. The pond had been created when rock was quarried for the construction of the piers in the 1800's. A dangerous feature of the town that thankfully was removed when the Lexicon was created.

# What changes have you seen in the town since you were a child?

I think Dun Laoghaire has changed hugely since I was a kid, more good changes than bad and with more changes planned. I would love to see more people engaging with the council about the concerns they have about the plans. It would be great if, between residents, businesses, and the council we could all work together to make it a town everybody could enjoy.

### What do you like the most about living in Dún Laoghaire?

The thing I like most about

living in Dún Laoghaire has to be the seafront, we just take it for granted, we always have somewhere to go for a walk. It's when you meet people from outside the area, that say God, you're so lucky to live there, then you realise, veah I am. What I would love to see in the future for the town, would be a lot more amenities, shops restaurants, pubs and more affordable water sports, I don't think we utilise the actual seafront enough.

# What is your personal favour place in the town?

My favourite place in Dún Laoghaire would be the end of the east pier on a cold winters day, when you have it nearly all to yourself and then stroll up and have a pint in Dunphys or Lockies. And lastly my favour thing about Dún Laoaghaire is that there are still enough people around that I hung around with as kid that have the same love for Dún Laoghaire as I do. I think there are many people living in the town who love the town as much as him, not all have lived here as long, some a newer arrivals and have come from other parts of Ireland or father afield. However I think many of us feel as lucky as Eamonn to live here and we want to do our bit for our town, our community.

There are many ways to help, whether its trying to do more shopping in the town, helping out or supporting Tidy Towns or even as Eamonn says earlier, engage with the council when they announce their plans.

This is our town, as it is with most things in life, the more you put in, the more you get out.

Thanks Eamonn for taking the time to talk.