



Winter 2023



Living Streets

DÚN LAOGHAIRE CENTRAL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NETWORK

The full details of the Living Streets Project have finally been revealed. At **€20 million** this project would be the largest investment and have the greatest impact of any project in recent memory. Deciding whether or not the project happens will be down to our elected Councillors who are there to represent us. In theory, we, the people of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County, will decide how this project progresses. We will try and give a balanced overview of the project and help show where you can get more information and how to get involved and have your voice heard.

The DLRCC has a website dlrcoco.ie/living-streets-dun-laoghaire where you can see all there information including videos, maps and links to where you can give feedback

Overview

The main element of the project is the refurbishment of all of Georges St including pedestrianisation of the street between St Michaels Hospital and Patrick St. Starting outside the Dun Laoghaire Further Education Institute on



Modal Filter between Patrick St and Cross Ave.

Cumberland St, the **paving and the lighting** for over a kilometre to the Peoples Park will be refurbished. Much of it will have new granite paving similar to that in Myrtle Square & outside St Michaels Church, the rest will be newly poured concrete and paving to help accessibility. The lighting will be in the vein of that in Monkstown village which is sympathetic to the heritage of the town. Throughout the length of the street there will be a lot of **new planting**, widening of footpaths and the removal of some car parking spaces. They will also review and remove as much of the **unnecessary street clutter**, signage, utility boxes, etc.. as possible.

There will be some traffic calming measures and road

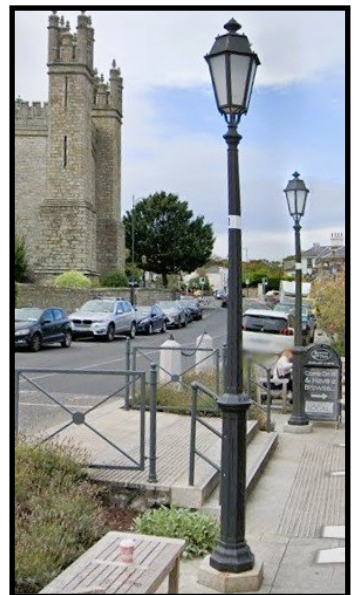
interventions including **3 modal filters** to stop any through traffic. These will be at the bottom of Clarinda Park stopping car access to/from Georges St. On Cross Ave between Patrick St & Convent Rd, stopping traffic and preventing rat running on Cross Ave. Finally on Tivoli Rd near the junction of Patrick St, preventing all traffic between the entrance to St Johns primary school and Patrick St. These modal filters will stop most of the through traffic in Dun Laoghaire and will reduce the overall volume of traffic across all the streets. Traffic will now have to go 'around' Dun Laoghaire if the town is not the destination. The Upper Glenageary Rd will take most traffic between Glenageary/Dalkey and Monkstown/Blackrock.

Though the coast road will be open for traffic traveling towards Blackrock.

Removing the through traffic is projected to reduce traffic on all the inner streets including those that become more important as alternatives are removed ,such as Corrig Ave and Mulgrave St. This will push traffic to the edges, so the Upper and the Lower Glenageary Rd's will have more traffic along with York Rd. Though to slow down traffic and help residents on York Rd, a pedestrian crossing is proposed near the junction of Northcoate Ave.

Clarinda Park will see big changes including removing a significant amount of car parking spaces and a refurbishment of the park including new landscaping and additional facilities. This will hopefully be to the benefit of residents of whole town.

There will be a **reduction of some car parking** on Georges St, mostly at each end, but the total number of lost spaces will be quite small in comparison to the overall amount of space in the town. Currently many of the car parks are over half empty with a lot of visitors insisting on parking on residential streets. The Living Streets project will encourage visitors to Dun Laoghaire to park in a car park and enjoy the town as a pedestrian. There are >4,000 car parking spaces in the town centre which should be utilised more.



Similar lamp design to Living Streets

Additional aspects of the project aimed at reducing the disruption of the changes include:

3 new bus stops installed on Crofton Rd and York Rd. The 46A, 63 and 75 will no longer travel through Georges St, these new stops will make it easier to access the hospital and Bloomfield SC, with the distance to St Michael's being less than it currently is from St Vincent's entrance to it's nearest bus stop.

Cleaning and maintenance of the new planting and spaces will be covered by the contractor for the first 2 years



Plan of Clarinda Park with new landscaping and less car parking

Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town

Have your voice heard in two easy steps

Do you want to have your voice heard and want to give your opinion to the council you must write to them. Ideally twice, once to the council before the 14th of December and again to the councillors before they vote in February.

1. Make a submission before the 14th of December at Info@dlrcoco.ie OR [Online Survey](#)
2. Write to a councillor before the vote in February

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 Lettie McCarthy (Lab) lmccarthy@cllr.dlrcoco.ie
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 Liam Dockery (FF) ldockery@cllr.dlrcoco.ie

Living Streets Cont.

and afterwards will revert to the county council. DLR say that they are budgeting in the addition resources that will be required and this will be part of the projects success.

There will be **7 real time car parking signs** around the town showing which car parks have available spaces.

The project if it was to be given the go ahead would not be scheduled to start until the **first quarter of 2025**. The scale of the project is unprecedented and could be expected to take 2 years, possibly more. The town would have building going on until sometime in 2027.

Have your say

The Part 8 planning process is currently running and the council will accept feedback until the 14th of December. All the feedback they receive will

be read and put into a report that will be given to the councillors to vote on. The councillors will vote on the project in February. If you want to give support to this plan or recommend any changes or additions, you can make a submission to the council before Dec 14th. You should also send your views to the councillors who will be voting on the project and can make amendments.

This project is being funded by the National Transport Authority and one of its core aims is to **reduce the volume of traffic** in Dun Laoghaire. After the vote in February the NTA are then informed of the outcome. If the councillors have voted to make amendments the NTA will decide if these are acceptable to the aims of the project, if they are not, then the project won't go ahead.



Carnegie Library

In the committee meeting on Oct 23rd when the plan was shown to the councillors, Councillor Baker asked is the project all or nothing. The Project Lead, Conor Geraghty responded as follows; "So what happens with the funding from the NTA is that we do a Gateway approval at each stage, so we have gateway approval to go to planning based on this plan. If the Part 8 Plan was amended and something was taken out, then it runs the risk of losing the support of the NTA and the money."

To have your say, make a submission to the council online and also send an email the councillors. This is a €20 million investment in your town, your voice should be heard.

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Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town

Yes to Living Streets

Why I support the Living Streets initiative.

Dun Laoghaire is a place where many people proudly trace their local roots back over generations. I came into the town at thirteen, which makes me a blow-in. That said, I am now approaching retirement age. It gives a certain perspective.

The 1970s Georges Street of my teenage years was not an attractive place. Pavements were narrow, and shoppers had to shout above the noise of traffic. I've heard people reminisce about the days when they could park on the street. I can't remember that. I do remember, though, when it was common for people to double park while 'just running in to collect' something. In such cases, the honking of car horns from irate, blocked drivers added another note to the cacophony of traffic sound that drowned out human conversation. All the same, the street was busy, despite

its shortcomings. Dundrum shopping centre wasn't there to compete with the local shops, and online shopping was a concept from science fiction.

The shopping centre was the real focus of the street in the 70s and 80s. Later, it fared badly faced with competition from the larger and more modern Dundrum complex, and the arrival of Bloomfields. As the decades progressed, Georges Street became moribund, losing position to the more attractive, and pedestrianised, area closer to the harbour, where restaurants flourished. Charity shops sprang up along the street like buddleia on a disused building site.

In 2021, Lower Georges Street closed to traffic for one glorious summer. The cafes were full, the town buzzed with life and the hum of conversation. The elderly could walk without fear of traffic, families could sit and relax at the cafe tables which

colonised the car free space. For the first time in my life I thought of central Dun Laoghaire as a place to meet friends and family. It was a successful experiment. 81% of residents declared themselves in favour of the change. Since then, the issue has been further debated, problems discussed, and solutions suggested. Meanwhile change continues in Dun Laoghaire. Pedestrians have, at last, been given central place in the planning of the town, as can be seen in the newly created Myrtle Square. Trees and shrubs have been planted to add beauty and absorb water runoff. We will appreciate them more as climate change brings heavier rains. It feels as if the balance of priorities has tilted towards people and community rather than traffic.

Cars have their place in our lives. The 20th century showed us the liberating power of car ownership, but also demonstrated its limitations and drawbacks. Now, almost a quarter of the way into the 21st century, the developed world is pushing back on car usage to reclaim

space for community. Climate change has given added urgency to this attempt at a new balance. Most accept the need to encourage more people on to public transport, or to cycle and walk. Of course, car usage isn't the sole cause of climate change. It is something we can tackle at local level though, whereas we've never, in my experience, had a problem with flatulent cows in Dun Laoghaire.

Four generations of my family now call Dun Laoghaire home. They range in age from infant to octogenarian, and the summer of 2021 was a revelation to them all. There aren't many things that can produce enthusiasm in such a divergent group. The Living Streets proposals offer an opportunity to move towards a more people-friendly lifestyle. Lower Georges Street, so long a drab and decaying place, has a chance to reinvent itself as the centre of our community, the place where neighbours meet. We should seize the opportunity.

J.M. Royal Terrace

A Word of Caution

Navigating the Crossroads - Balancing Progress and Sustainability in Dún Laoghaire

Dún Laoghaire, a town steeped in history and charm, finds itself at a crossroads with the ambitious Living Streets Project. The overarching objectives are clear: reduce cars, enhance the town's liability, and create an inviting destination for visitors. However, the path chosen to achieve these objectives raises questions about the potential unintended consequences on residents and businesses.

Innovation Over Austerity:

The project's emphasis on reducing traffic is a noble goal, but I believe there should be a challenge put

forth to see if there are not more innovative and simple ways to achieve the goals. While cutting car access is the straightforward approach to reducing CO2, true progress requires a more creative lens. Understanding the sources of current traffic, beyond its mere quantity, is essential for thoughtful urban planning. Simplifying access to Dún Laoghaire mustn't come at the cost of deterring visitors and hampering the overall experience. It must also take into account the impact on our neighbours in Dalkey, Monkstown, Blackrock, etc., as businesses in the area depend on this wider catchment area for custom.

Residents Matter:

The heart of any town is its

residents, and the renewal project must prioritise their well-being. A balance must be struck between reducing traffic and ensuring a reasonable living experience for residents. Without this equilibrium, losing its vitality, and becoming a ghost town after 6 pm. Many of the current changes to Tivoli Road and Clarinda could make being a resident here more challenging, with basic tasks (e.g. weekly shopping) becoming more costly (Fuel) and time-consuming.

What Happens to Commuter Traffic:

The Sandycove, Dalkey, Shankill commuters that may be coming through Dun Laoghaire will be forced onto the main arteries. There is a question on the efficiency of displacing these cars and their CO2 to simply report better numbers in our town.

The introduction of modal filters must be complemented by an enhancement of transportation alternatives.

In Conclusion:

The Living Streets Project in Dún Laoghaire holds immense potential, but its success hinges on a delicate balance between progress and sustainability. While acknowledging the urgency of addressing climate change, it's essential to ensure that responsibilities and impacts are distributed proportionately. Residents, businesses, and policymakers must collaborate to navigate this intricate path, ensuring that the town's rich heritage and promise for the future remain intact. In the quest for renewal, let us not sacrifice the very essence that makes Dún Laoghaire a unique and cherished community.

A.B. Adelaide St

Let's put the heart back into Dún Laoghaire town

Skatepark Officially Opens

The first phase of the skatepark was opened by An Cathaoirleach, Denis O'Callaghan on the 14th of November in Apna Park, overlooking Seapoint beach.

The initial phase consists of a pump track which has been given a tarmac surface. There have been a number of pump tracks installed in the county in the last 3 years but most have gravel or soil surface, the tarmac makes the facility safer and more durable. It is particularly good for cyclists, BMX's and scooters but roller blades and skateboards can all make use of the facility.

The county council is currently working on the second phase of the park which is a 6ft half pipe, perfect for skateboarders and great for scooters and BMX's too.

There is room and there are plans for more additions to the park if there is the interest from the public, with bowls, ramps and steps all being considered for future phases.

The park is located behind the West Pier in Dun Laoghaire, you can drive to it and there is a car park next door, though access from Seapoint DART station and Monkstown are both deceptively close and of course there is also cycle paths too.

Local resident David conceived the idea and had the drive to push it. So special thanks must go to him as well as Tim Ryan (Harbour), Eoin O'Brien (Parks) and Adian Blighe the director of Municipal services of DLRCC. THANK YOU!



Luca Houlton testing out the pump track: Peter Cavanagh



An Cathaoirleach Denis O'Callaghan with other local councillors, DLRCC executives as well as David and Paul from the DLCRA.: Peter Cavanagh

St Patricks Day Parade Coming to Dún Laoghaire

We are delighted to report that a St Patrick's Day Festival will return to Dún Laoghaire on the 17 March 2024. After a long absence, Dún Laoghaire Town is set to celebrate St Patrick's Day in grand style. The Parade, driven by Dún Laoghaire Business Association and supported by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, aims to unite local businesses and the community in celebration. Not only will it commemorate Ireland's national day, but also showcase the spirit and pride of Dún Laoghaire town.

Local Fine Gael Councillor, Lorraine Hall, who chairs the St Patrick's Day Coordination Committee, said the following, "Dún Laoghaire is a beautiful town, and given it is the County Town, it is appropriate that the St. Patrick's Day Festival returns, after a long number of years. This is a fantastic opportunity to bring people together to celebrate our culture, heritage and community, as well as showcasing our fantastic

shops and hospitality businesses."

"The St Patrick's Day Coordination Committee is very busy right now sourcing funding for the event, securing the relevant permissions and approvals, and getting everything up and running to make this a great occasion for all. In the coming weeks, we will be publicising details about the event publicly, and inviting local sports, community, dance, music and arts groups, and others, to participate in the Parade. We will also invite our local businesses to get involved to make this a really memorable weekend."

"We live in a beautiful place that has so much to offer. St. Patrick's Day is key date in our annual calendar of events, we invite people to experience the best of Dún Laoghaire. If you would like to get involved or help out with the Parade, please get in touch with me.

Further information will follow in early 2024 on social channels.

Dún Laoghaire & the Anglo-Irish Experience

It is said that people will not look forward to prosperity, who never look back to their ancestors. Our communities are rooted in a place with history, tradition and heritage. The heritage of our town can be a guide to how we grow and flourish into the time ahead.

Dún Laoghaire has always been one of the most diverse parts of Ireland with a large proportion of Protestants (31% of pop. vs 22% in the rest of Dublin in 1901) and extremes of both wealth and poverty with a larger than average % of unskilled and professional workers. This uniqueness in Dún Laoghaire's heritage includes being a large part of the story of the Anglo-Irish in Ireland.

The protestant population of Dublin fell by over 80% between 1920 and 1990. Often referred to as the silent minority, they are traditionally the largest

minority group in our country and to many are invisible. Their contribution to our history includes important figures in the arts such as Oscar Wilde, Jonathan Swift, Bram Stoker, J.M. Synge, Eileen Gray, WB Yeats, Frances Bacon, William Orpen, George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett and C.S. Lewis. Not to speak of important historical figures such as Charles Stewart Parnell, Wolfe Tone and Countess Markievicz. To say nothing of the affect the Anglo-Irish diaspora has had on other parts of the world.

Could there be a place in Dun Laoghaire's future to include a coming to terms with our shared history, a museum to the Anglo Irish experience in Ireland?

If you would like to know more please email info@dlcra.ie

Let's put the heart back into Dún Laoghaire town



**Clean
Green
Nurture
Preserve**

The focus on the Living Streets Project in this issue means that we only have a short update from the Tidy Towns.

We are delighted to announce that we have been chosen for the **Tesco Community Fund from 27th November** for 12 weeks. Please support us by shopping in Tesco Dún Laoghaire and putting the blue tokens in the Community Fund box

Also we had a record turn out over the weekend of the weekend of the 18th of November with 62 volunteers! Our volunteers include our friends from the International Protection Centre in Eblana Avenue, transition year students from 8 local secondary colleges, and of course our regulars. Come and join us, it's a great way to meet people and do something positive for your community.



**This Christmas, Support Dún Laoghaire
Support Tidy Towns**



Beautiful photos of Dun Laoghaire by local resident photographers Catherine and Ken. All money goes to support Tidy Towns & the DLCRA

E-mail info@dlcra.ie to order

Your copy



DÚN LAOGHAIRE CENTRAL
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town



HISTORIC DÚN LAOGHAIRE

A resident sent in the photo you see above. It shows the Royal Marine Hotel with the old St Michael's Church in the background. Can you guess what is missing? Answers on a postcard please. :)

For those who might be interested in history, 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the construction of St. Michael's Catholic Church on Marine Rd. To mark the occasion they have a lovely display with images explaining the construction and the unique design of the building and its furniture, well worth a visit.

**CHRISTMAS
COMPETITION**

BEST DECORATED HOUSE

D.L.C.R.A.

TO CELEBRATE THE RESIDENTS WHO DECORATE THEIR HOUSES AND MAKE OUR TOWN MORE WELCOMING EACH YEAR DURING THE LONG NIGHTS OF WINTER WE GIVE A SMALL PRIZE TO THE BEST DECORATED HOUSE

judging ends on Saturday the 23th of December
 All houses from Lwr Glenageary Rd to the sea can win
 see our website for more details

WWW.DLCRA.IE



DÚN LAOGHAIRE CENTRAL

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Chairs Letter Christmas 2023 as was Santa's Parade visit. We look forward to the Christmas Charity Carol Singing.

Dear Residents

Christmas Greetings to all our readers and very best wishes for a happy, peaceful and festive season.

It's great to have Myrtle Square finally open. Pouring energy into the town, a vibrant colourful public space where all ages are meeting, connecting, shopping and having fun. It's thrilling to hear so many small children playing noisily and happily there even in darkest winter. The Halloween opening event was a huge success

Dun Laoghaire is full of fun this year with the Christmas festival providing a wide range of events for all the family. Ireland's largest skating rink is running in the Harbour until the 23rd January. The National Maritime Museum is hosting a sustainable Santa experience to 23rd Dec. The town is bedecked with decorative baubles, lighting and Christmas trees. The Traditional Christmas Family Funfair is being held at the

Harbour Plaza. Santa's post box is at the Lexicon. We hope that residents and visitors will continue to 'buy local to support local businesses' Another new exciting development is the Pump Track at West Pier, open now for young people of all ages. Congratulations to David Houlton DLCRA whose idea it initially was.

Living Streets Dun Laoghaire, the new scheme for the town is currently in public consultation, make sure you have your say. Go to <https://www.dlrcoco.ie/living-streets-dun-laoghaire> to see more information on any scheduled information meetings that are planed as well as to look at all the latest videos, maps, studies and testimonials.

As ever we thank the Dun Laoghaire Tidy Towns and all their volunteers for their wonderful work in improving

our physical environment and bringing such colour and beauty with all the planting around the town. We also thank our local gardai for their constant vigilance and hard work in keeping us safe.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Gardaí for all their work in ou town. Keeping our community safe is sometimes seem like a thankless task but we very much appreciate it.

DLCRA would like to thank you for all your support this year and remind you of our mission which is to provide a forum for the residents of Dun Laoghaire to work together on areas of common interest to effect change. info@dlcra.ie

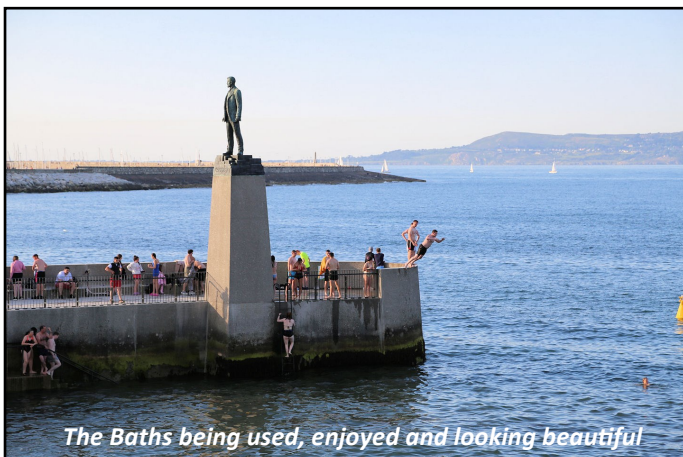
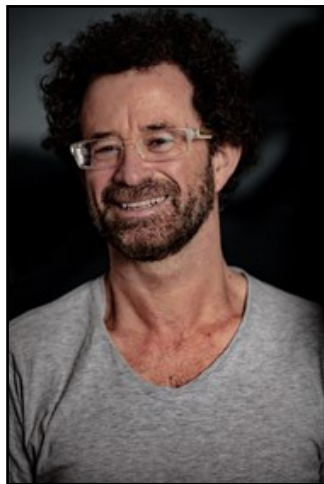
Mary Kelly-Borgatta,
DLCRA Chair

Bob Hannon DL Architect RIP

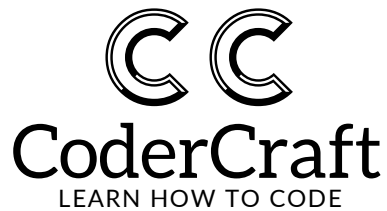
Few people have had the impact on the town of Dun Laoghaire than Bob Hannan has.

Working in DLRCC for over 20 years, he saw the potential in a seaside town that many had written off. He was instrumental in the Metals which transformed what the town could be, as well as the Baths and Kellys Ave housing to name a few.

He passed away on October 21st 2023, peacefully. Beloved father of Demetrios. He will be missed.



The Baths being used, enjoyed and looking beautiful



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



The Glasshouses are a network of work spaces that help businesses grow faster. We create workspaces that engage, excite and help companies to be more productive.

Locations in **Blackrock, Sandyford & Dún Laoghaire**, our offer includes a wide range of office space types from single floating desks to fully serviced (Co-working) spaces (from 1 person to 10 person offices) and meeting rooms.

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Let's put the heart back into Duñ Laoghaire town

Home Thoughts from Abroad

Christmas is that time of the year, when we endeavour to come together with family and friends and spend some quality time away from all the hustle and bustle of our daily life. We travel back home to spend some precious hours, relaxing, eating, drinking, singing, squabbling and capturing that sea air we so miss throughout the year. It's important therefore to spend those few days meeting and greeting as many of our own loved one's as is possible. It's a short but magical time, full of memories and full of life.

But spare a thought for all those people who for whatever reason, will not get the opportunity this year to come back home to Dún Laoghaire for Christmas holidays and spend time with their family and friends.

Angela and her Austrian

husband Martin will not be able to get home to Dún Laoghaire this Christmas, but she has her memories of Christmas past in Dún Laoghaire and what she misses most. "I love walking down George's Street on Christmas eve and seeing the crowds of people and the frantic look on their faces as they rush for that last minute gift. There is always such a warmth about the place and people no matter how stressed, always have a warm smile and always wish you a happy Christmas. It's such a lovely time and I will miss that this year".

Derek an IT specialist all the way in Montreal, Canada will also not be able to get back home to Dún Laoghaire as he is working right up to Christmas Eve. "What I'm going to miss this year is my

Christmas swim at the 40 Foot with all the mates. It's a Dún Laoghaire ritual, when we all meet up in the carpark in front of Teddys and follow the throng of people making their way down to the 40 Foot. I love the crack and banter with the crowd of people who brave the weather and the freezing water just to have that end of year splash. But it's the hot whiskey and mince pies from the car afterwards that helps the gang to warm up and catch up on what happened over the year. It's the one and only time we all physically come together to catch up. I'll really miss that get together this year".

Patricia and her family in Brisbane, Australia who have just had their third baby, will also miss out on a return to Dún Laoghaire this

Christmas. "We always walk down the Pier before Christmas dinner and its wonderful to see all the small children with their new scooters and prams and the excitement of it all. The Mums and Dads frantic that they don't fall and their dog barking and straining at the leash. Such excitement as the early morning walkers smiles at the kids and their new toys. Its just a great atmosphere around at that time. But I can still see all the kids with their mums and dads on the pier in my minds eye this Christmas I know it's not the same, but I still have that memory".

We wish all a very Happy Christmas, no matter where in the world you may be, and you will always be in our home thoughts here in Dún Laoghaire.



Brain Teaser

Hello again,

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

We have 7 questions this issue. If we receive more than one response with the correct answers, we will draw the winner out of a hat.

If you are stuck on some, do send answers for the others, you never know!

All answers to info@dlcra.ie

Good luck !!!

Q. 1
CALM = 8

BACK = 4
PALE = 9
RACE = ?

What number should replace the question mark?

Q. 2

Can you find the next number in the sequence.

2 3 6 10 17 28 46 ?

Q. 3 Of the sixteen frogs in my garden pond, all but six died. How many lived?

Q. 4 If five boys can kiss five girls in five minutes, how many boys can kiss fifty girls in fifty minutes?

Q. 5 A man walked into Pennys wearing some old, tattered jeans and took a new pair into the changing room to try on. Five minutes later he walked out of Pennys wearing the new jeans without paying for them. No one saw him nor was he caught on CCT, yet when he arrived home, the

GARDA were waiting for him. How did they know?

Q. 6 How many times is the Red Sea mentioned in the Bible?

Q. 7 If we get six votes out of ten is that a majority of four or two?

— : —

Congratulations to Chloe Coyle who lives on Clarinda Park.

Enjoy the bottle of wine Chloe!



This issues winner: Chloe Coyle

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**



Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town

Why I love Dún Laoghaire..

By Ken Heffernan

There is an old saying 'Home is where the Heart is' well Dun Laoghaire is where you can find my heart.

Although I have travelled to many parts of the world and fantasised about living in many different places like Verona or Maine, Dun Laoghaire has always been and will always be my home. There is a comfort in knowing every street corner, road and laneway that I must have walked millions of times over the last 57 years of my life. No matter where I go in the world I always look forward to coming back to Dun Laoghaire - my Home. I spent the first half of my life in Sallynoggin, where as a teenager almost every day I walked up and down Sallynoggin Hill to the Peoples Park, The Amazing Sea Front, The Pier, The Baths - when we actually had baths. I spent so many summers in the Baths trying to learn to swim and failed terribly or in the many shops on the main street and the second half of my life (so far) I have lived on Tivoli Road and I'm still visiting all of the same places.

I have seen Dun Laoghaire go through some very tough times throughout my life, from the major emigration in the 1980's where so many of my family & friends left from Dun Laoghaire Harbour to many different destinations around the world, many never to return, to the disastrous first attempt at the pedestrianise Georges Street in the early 1990's that nearly put an end to the entire town. A six month project that took over two years to complete and has taken the town decades



to try and get back to some kind of normal (hopefully this time they might get the pedestrianisation right.)

There are two main things that make me love Dun Laoghaire so much; one is the amazing scenery that can be found all around the county, from walks up Killiney Hill with views to die for at any time of the year, to walking along the coast to the pier and so on, the many wonderful shops to stop off in for coffee or a treat or almost anything else you can think off. For me it's mainly just to take a moment to stop and take in the view and a deep breath to clear the mind which a walk along the sea front at Newtownsmith is perfect for.

Now as a locally based photographer I find an even deeper appreciation for what I have on my doorstep. I have spent the last good few years trying to capture Dun Laoghaire's amazing scenery through the lens of my camera. I could spend

all day every day trying to capture what is around me and every time I look at Dun Laoghaire and think I have photographed that a million times already it changes again and makes me want to photograph over again.

The second amazing thing about Dun Laoghaire and possibly the most important thing is the people (or as I like to see all of them, My Community.) There is not a day that goes by that I don't meet or exchange a smile or chat to someone when I'm out and about. Even more now since embarking on my photography career the amount of people who stop to chat and ask what your doing and can they have a look at my images. There are many different sections of Dun Laoghaire society some people who are doing quite well for themselves with everything in life and others who are struggling every day with their lives, but there is one thing that I feel is a strong thread that unites everyone I meet and

that is their Love of Dun Laoghaire and the surrounding area and wanting and wishing it to succeed in every way possible. Things are changing again in Dun Laoghaire, hopefully for the better for everyone, indeed there seems to be a strong sense that we're getting back to the old vibrant Dun Laoghaire.

To see samples of Ken beautiful photographs, you can browse his images on twitter [@hefferk](#) or get the latest Tidy Towns Calendar at [info@dlcra.ie](#)



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Let's put the heart back into Dún Laoghaire town