



## DÚN LAOGHAIRE CENTRAL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



*Supermarket One has a wide selection of fruit and vegetables*

## A Focus on Artisan Food Stores in Dún Laoghaire

In our last issue we conducted a Retail survey where we asked residents if there were any types of retailers or businesses that they felt were missing in Dún Laoghaire. The results of the survey were extensive with a number asking for more restaurants, night time options and interesting ideas like a second-hand antique market, changing each day. Greenwich market in London immediately sprang to mind.

40% of correspondents asked for specialist food retailers / delicatessens, a number mentioning Cavistons and Avoca and said that we didn't have anything like that in the town. It made us realise that many people may not know about some of the fantastic food shops that we have in town so we are thought we should focus on some.

There is also a common misconception that retail in the town is 'dead', this false impression of the town is one of the reasons why the DLCRA initially came

together. We aim to highlight the true positive stories about the town rather than just the negative press that rarely reflects our town.

Here are some amazing food retailers in the town that you might not know about.

### The Gourmet Pantry

Located in 47 Lower Georges St, The Gourmet Pantry was opened by Agata and Des in 2019 and a hidden of Dún Laoghaire grocery options. They stock a vast range of different products, but for me the highlight is their wonderful

selection of vegetables, the majority of which are organic. A wide selection of fresh fruit, vegetable and nuts greet you when you walk into the shop. Some of which comes from their small farm in Kildare.

Healthy and quality options are foremost to their mind with organic canned, bottled and dried goods, beans, grains, pastas, herbs as well as spices.

They stock a wide selection of cheeses from Ireland as well as France and Italy and have a fridge full of tofu, kimchi and other exotic 'live' options that are worth very interesting.

My wife loves their selection of delicious biscuits and chocolates are a real treat.

The shop has no signage in front, consequently many people think of it as the *shop with the bonsai in the front window*. A unique shop that adds to the character of our town. We hope you will pop in and see what they have we think you'll be as amazed as we were first time we popped in.



*Bonsai Trees in the window of the Gourmet Pantry*

### Strudel

Tibor Bernscherer was a baker with a passion. Strudel when he opened on Patrick St in 2017. Originally a café selling coffee and their home baked pastries from his little kitchen in Baldoyle. He had only done markets before hand so this was a big step for him and his partner at the time.



*Tibor Bernscherer*

After 18 months of people requesting it, Strudel started baking what became their award winning breads. It required new investment, new equipment, staff and even a power upgrade to the building, but sourdough bread production is now their staple product and has won Blas na Heireann awards in the last two years!

They are open 6 days a week selling pastries, sourdough breads, baguettes and brioches while also growing a wholesale business.

Tibor says that thankfully people living in the town feel that good, nutritious bread



*The Gourmet Pantry in an Aladdin's cave of delicacies, some imported and some from their Agata & Des's farm in Kildare*

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

## Artisan Food Retailers

has a place in their daily diet and have rewarded his business. You only need 3 ingredients to make fantastic bread, flour, water and salt. Look at the ingredient list on your sliced pan in the supermarket in comparison! Keeping it simple and high quality has managed to put us on the map as the place to go for good bread in Dún Laoghaire.

You can preorder online or call them and they are happy to keep orders for you to collect.

Tibor wanted me to say that he is forever grateful for the loyalty that has been shown to Strudel over the last 7 years. Thank You!

### Number One Food Market

When we first mentioned the idea of this article among our members, many told us that we had to highlight the new mid-sized supermarket just off Marine Rd. Located on the ground floor of the Pavilion 2 apartments, they



*Pastries in Strudel*

have a wonderful range of fresh fruit and meat as well as wide selection of international goods, biscuits, cakes, drinks, frozen food

Max opened the NumberOne supermarket on the 7th of March of this year and he says that he chose our town both because it is well populated but also because he felt Dún Laoghaire has very nice customers.

When you walk into the shop you are greeted by a beautiful display of fresh fruit and veg including many items not available in traditional shops such as custard apples, yellow and white courgettes, buffalo tomatoes, green tomatoes, etc..

They have a very good meat

counter. Sourcing the best pork and chicken from local Irish providers they have their own butchers who make lovely sausages. Using a coarser ground of meat with herbs they are more similar to sausages that you will find across Europe. Irish sausages tend to be finely ground with a higher fat content, these come in small or larger sizes and are a favourite in our home for dinner.

Their delicatessen has a wide selection of Spanish and Italian salamis, cheeses and olives as well as cured and pickled fish for the adventurous.

They are bringing in a wide range of traditional Eastern European products from Poland, Lithuania, Romania, Moldova, Croatia, Bulgaria. Cheeses, cured meats, salads, pickles, cakes, biscuits, patés, confectionary, drinks and frozen foods too. The selection has to be seen to be appreciated.

They also have section of seasonal products like easter

decorations, BBQ's firing the summer and Christmas cakes, etc.. It's a little off the beaten track but well worth a browse next time you are walking on Marine Rd.

Space means that we can only cover these 3 food retailers, but there are many other gems in the town, viculars selling fresh veg and fresh meat, dedicated pork butchers and many, many others.

Retail In Dún Laoghaire is far from being dead. It is getting stronger all the time, pop into a different shop next time and you might be pleasantly surprised.



*Wide range of Salami's*

## Latest News in the Town

By the time that you read this the scaffolding around the **spire on St Michael's church** should be coming down. Lose masonry was a hazard and required specialist equipment to be brought in from the UK for repairs, which should be completed in October.

DLRCC has started a consultation process on the creation of a **Master Plan for Dún Laoghaire Harbour**. It will run until the 23rd of October. We urge all residents to have a look at the DLRCC website and engage in the consultation.

Do you want to see more commercial activity in the harbour? Residential development? Get engaged and have your say!

The DLCRA are currently working with **Dún Laoghaire Tidy Towns** creating the **2025 Calendar** to raise funds for Tidy Towns. There will be an official launch in November. All are invited, so keep an eye out to see when and where.

During the Summer there was a trail of a **free shuttle bus** taking passengers

around the town including stops at St Michael's hospital and the town centre. For all those involved it seemed to be a successful addition to the town. The trail has now ended and all the data has been collated, the council will make a decision on if there should be a permanent offering..

**Santa arrives on the 23rd of November** and will travel down the main street with a final destination of the Maritime museum where he will set up shop for the winter with his Elves. There will also be an event in Myrtle Square marking the start of the Christmas session.

The Dublin **Fireworks**

**display for New Years Eve** will be held in Dún Laoghaire this year. It will be covered by RTE and broadcast live on the night. The fireworks will be happening down on the green at Newtownsmith facing onto Scotsman's bay. Fingers crossed that we get good weather on the night.

In previous issues we highlighted Dunnes Stores for boarding up a number of historical retail units it owns while most of its building is left unused. Something they do across the country. After some lobbying and petitions we believe positive changes might be coming soon. Watch this space for more details...

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



## In Memoriam of Gerard Dawe



Gerard Dawe and his wife Dorothea

*Gerard Dawe, the poet, writer and academic has died at his Dún Laoghaire home in the care of his family after a long illness. He is mourned deeply by his loving wife, Dorothea, beloved daughter Olwen, and stepson Iarla.*

Dún Laoghaire has lost one of Ireland's most well-known poets. Originally from Belfast, his 'mother city' as he called it, Gerald Dawe was regarded by his many colleagues and admirers as a poet of the ordinary.

Gerald Dawe founded the Trinity Oscar Wilde Centre with Brendan Kennelly in 1997, the first of its kind in Ireland. The centre went on to become a platform for a generation of writers across the world including the bestselling writer Sally Rooney. He will be remembered for his huge inspiration as a writer who examined both the awkwardness and the excitement of being in what he called the 'wrong country'. He represented the outsider in us all, exploring the overlooked spaces in our landscape and the hidden feelings of belonging in the everyday objects around us. Above all he will be remembered for his warm-hearted northern spirit, the great clarity of his vision and the extraordinary generosity he showed towards other writers.

We will miss the familiar sight of him walking the streets of Dún Laoghaire with his beautiful Japanese Shiba Inu dog - Dash, wearing his lovely woollen coat, his head of silver curls, stopping to chat to the people of the town. In his

own words we will see him in 'another time'. In a tribute by his longtime friend, the Belfast poet Michael Longley wrote the following poem after the ceremony in the Mariners' Museum.

### MARINERS

*in memory of Gerald Dawe*

The Mariners' Church is Dún Laoghaire is now  
The National Maritime Museum of Ireland,  
And here the coffin of Gerald Dawe floats in  
And anchors among the other boats of the world.

The enormous lighthouse-lamp distributes  
Sunshine from the floral stained-glass window  
On to his coffin, as through a kaleidoscope:  
It picks out yellow roses called The Poet's Wife.

Now that the soul of Gerald Dawe puts out to sea  
Let us lend an ear to his every poem  
As to a prayer, and navigate the silent dark:  
We have become a multitude of mariners.

Michael Longley, June 2024

## Some of the DLCRA's activities?

Since we first started 5 years ago, our aim was to help more residents engage in what was happening in the town & to promote sustainable development. Here are some of our achievements.

The previous version of Tidy Towns was no longer very active, so we started weekly street clean ups & called a public meeting to restart the group. We requested that special planning objectives be retained on Cross Ave & environs to protect its unique character as well as to be assigned to the field on Tivoli Terrace South. Both objectives were achieved and while the field is currently boarded up, but we feel confident that it will eventually return to community use. We lead a call for a skatepark in

the town which resulted resources being created in Apna Park behind the West Pier. We also raised awareness of the effect of the Dunnes Stores building being under used, assisting with a petition and writing to Dunnes. We facilitated resident meetings with the council on various projects, the most important of which was the Living Streets project. We also submitted some planning observations & made submissions to the Development Plan etc..

While doing all this we have been writing and distributing this newsletter. We aim to tell people what is happening in their town and to help them get engaged as well as to promote positive stories about our town and to remind

people how great Dún Laoghaire is.

The DLCRA has been working with Tidy Towns and the Business Association to help Dún Laoghaire & all 3 groups are part of a local committee called The Town Team. This committee also includes representatives from DLR Enterprise, Tourism and Heritage as well as rep's from the yacht clubs and DLR Chamber of Commerce. The aim of the group is to help all of these groups to work together for the towns benefit.

Current issues that we are working on with the other members include, planning guidelines for shop fronts focusing on the heritage of the town, preventing anti-social behaviour and improving the street cleaning in the town.

Working closely with DLBA and TTDL we hope to see positive developments in the coming year.

With the DLBA we are also working on a plan to ensure the retail mix of the town does not get into a spiral of decay. Too much of any one business can negatively effect the image of the town, we are working to ensure the town has a wide range of quality businesses.

If any reader wants to get involved with the work we do, we are always looking for proof readers and contributors to the newsletter, or if you want to attend any of our meetings please email us at [info@dlcra.ie](mailto:info@dlcra.ie)

Please look at our website for more details.

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

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



The Dún Laoghaire Business Association has a mission of fostering a vibrant and supportive business community within Dún Laoghaire town. We are very happy to work with other stakeholders, in particular the DLCRA and 'Dún Laoghaire Tidy Towns, this cooperation is invaluable as we continue to advance our mission.

We are at an exciting juncture for our town's future development, with numerous initiatives aimed at enhancing the economic vitality of our town that will play a crucial role in shaping the future of our community.

The health of Dún Laoghaire retail economy is a vital part of the overall health of our town. A diverse selection of retailers is essential with high quality shops positively reflecting our wonderful town.

The Dún Laoghaire Business Association likes to assist new businesses when they come to the town by providing them with a boost as they start their journeys. Two such businesses that have invested in Dún Laoghaire recently are Poulet

Bonne Femme and French Revolution Eclairs.

### Poulet Bonne Femme

Gavin and Sarah Mitchell established Ireland's first Rotisserie chicken business, Poulet Bonne Femme, in 2009. After tasting a hot rotisserie chicken bought straight from the spit at a local farmers market in Spain they thought they had to bring this to Ireland.

All chickens sold are Irish, free-range, slowly roasted on a spit, continuously basting in their own juice, you can take one home or enjoy in sandwich made in the shop.

They also do amazingly tasty porchetta, Irish pork loin marinated in herbs and garlic and roasted with a truly crispy crackling.



La Poulet Bonne Femme on Georges St to eat in or take away

You can find Poulet Bonne Femme at 70 Upper Georges St, near the Peoples Park.

### French Revolution Eclairs

A new arrival into Ireland, French Revolution are a bakery that specialise in a wide range of Eclairs, from dark chocolate and Chantilly

to Kalamansi and the amazing sounding Caramel & Salted butter, this pastry shop will be a welcome addition to Marine Road.

They are moving into a unit a few doors down from Eason's and will also be running a whole bakery from the premises on the basement level. A great addition to the vitality of our town.

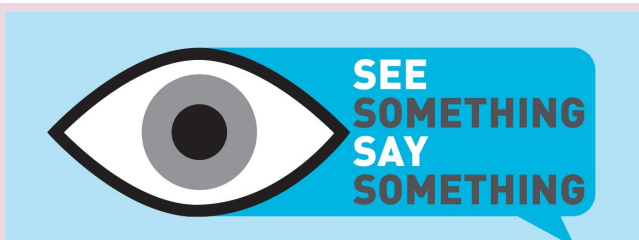


French Revolution Eclairs offer a wide range of eclairs and amazing coffee

The DLBA is working to help existing businesses as well as promote desirable businesses to open in our town. We are also organising events and campaigns such as the winter festival in the town bringing Santa to town on the 23rd of November, the NYE fireworks and many more events.

See [www.dlba.ie](http://www.dlba.ie) for more

We are working to reduce the amount of anti-social activity in the town. Whether it is graffiti, littering, noise pollution, fly tipping or public drunkenness and disorder. The first step to trying to reduce it is by reporting it. Only by reporting instances of anti-social behaviour can the authorities assess how prevalent the occurrences are and if extra resources are required to tackle them. Reporting creates a record which can be reviewed to see if problems are getting



better or worse.

### Graffiti

Graffiti poses a significant problem throughout the town. DLR actively remove graffiti from public property. Where graffiti is on private property and is visible from a public place, they contact the owner(s) of the private property requesting that the

graffiti be removed.

If possible when reporting please provide images of the graffiti as it will help DLR in locating and removing it as fast as possible. Email [info@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:info@dlrcoco.ie)

### Noise Pollution

This is a complex issue depending on the origin of the noise, please look on the

DLR website. It is very important to log a record of when the noise occurred..

### Public Drunkenness

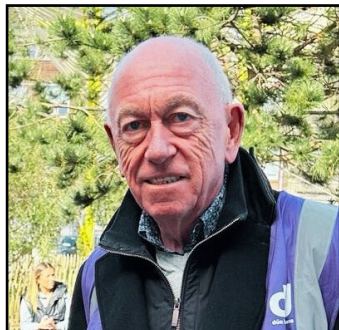
Call the Gardaí, get a pulse number. You might have to chase it, many instances are not recorded when you might think that they are. All calls are reviewed before being officially recorded. You should be willing to stand in court if necessary.

### Fly Tipping

The DLR website has a report it button for any rubbish, fly tipping etc..

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





Brian Flynn, outgoing chair of Tidy Towns

My name is Catherine Harris. It was with trepidation last May that I stepped into the very big boots of our previous chairperson, Brian Flynn, who has led us for the last two years. Brian put huge energy and effort into making DLTT what it has become, a small army of dedicated volunteers. We owe Brian a huge debt of gratitude for all he did. I will do my very best to continue in his footsteps.

My first week on the job began with a disaster! We were unable to access our tool shed, because of a collapsed manhole cover. With the adjudication of the Tidy Towns competition 2024 only six weeks away, we had so much to do and no tools to do it with! However, what we lacked in tools we made up for in volunteers. Together, we cobbled together what we could and got to work.

We had a very successfully collaborated with the DLCRA. We organised a weekly residential street clean up. We posted flyers in the doors of one street each week, to let residents know that we were coming and to invited them to join us on the day. The result was incredible. Street after street, the residents came out

with their hoes and brushes. It was a celebration of community spirit. My thanks to all who contributed. We intend to expand this in the coming weeks and months. In the meantime, we would ask all residents to keep the area outside your gates and boundary walls clean and weed free, to include clipping back of overhanging trees and bushes. Please bear in mind people with mixed physical abilities, those with compromised vision and even very tall people!

Our green team have been working constantly. Throughout the town we have 22 planters, 4 lavender beds, 2 wildflower meadows, and numerous other flower beds, all of which had to be reconditioned, weeded, replanted and watered. You might think we get a lot of rain in Ireland, in truth, we don't, at least not in Dún Laoghaire! All the beds and planters need constant watering and there are very few water sources in the town. We are most grateful to all the shops and pubs and restaurants who have allowed us to fill our containers with water over and over again.

We replaced the old lavender plants in eight small flower bed on Desmond Avenue with perennials. We were delighted with the result and the reaction from the residents on the street. We provided them with information on the different plants and instructions on how to care for them.

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we demonstrated how to plant sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds and how to propagate plants. This was a lovely opportunity to engage youngsters in the joys of growing flowers.

We are currently tackling the graffiti in the town which has become a bit of an epidemic. This involves cleaning off the graffiti and painting over it. Tough work but someone's got to do it!

Huge thanks to all our supporters and to those who have joined us over the last few months and to all our regulars who turn up week after week. Without you we



Desmond Avenue flower beds, residents came out to give us cups of tea. Lovely

We replaced the old lavender plants in eight small flower bed on Desmond Avenue with perennials. We were delighted with the result and the reaction from the residents on the street. We provided them with information on the different plants and instructions on how to care for them.

We organised three Spring/ Summer workshops where

simply wouldn't exist.

If you would like to know more about DLTT and if you would like to join us, you can find us on [www.dlittytowns.com](http://www.dlittytowns.com) You can email us at [dlittytowns@gmail.com](mailto:dlittytowns@gmail.com) or you can simply turn up. Saturdays 10:30 and Tuesdays 14:00.

**Catherine Harris**



Local Expert Horticulturist Joan Mallon giving her Plant Workshop

*Let's put the heart back into Duñ Laoghair town*



## DÚN LAOGHAIRE CENTRAL

### RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Dear Residents,

Welcome to October the change of season and the end of a glorious and sunny, grey and cloudy, wet and dry, warm and cool and generally windy summer in Dún Laoghaire, never has the raincoat had more use!

One of the many highlights of the summer was the announcement that Dún Laoghaire Baths was awarded the prestigious Architectural Review Public Award 2024 for dlr Architects and A2 Architects. It was also nominated for the European Prize for Urban Public Space. Congratulations to all. A terrific testament to the vision, skill and determination of the late Bob Hannon chief architect.

Originally built in 1843, the Dún Laoghaire baths have been redeveloped by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and include the restoration of the Pavilion, a new jetty featuring in-built seating, a changing canopy, a refurbished Edwardian gazebo and a new walkway from Newtown Smith.

According to one of the judges;

"The materials seek a dialogue with the rocks in the surf-cast from gravel, water and cement, they appear like geological formations, both materially and in terms of the dimensions of individual parts" Gunther Vogt

The Happy Out Café with its wonderful sea views, atmosphere of fun, empathy and true inclusion with great food and coffee at the Pavilion has been very popular all Spring and Summer. Its good to see a new accessibility ramp has been opened to facilitate wheelchair users. We all await the completion of Phase 2 and the hoarding coming down. And the future restoration of a pool?

Congratulations to the DLBA who with the Council provided free of charge the summer Hop-on/Hop-off Daily Seaside Discovery Tours Bus which recently featured on RTE Nationwide. The service was a twelve week pilot programme for cruise ship passengers, tourists and locals and was a great success.



A massive sea turtle installation crafted from recycled aluminium cans was unveiled on Dún Laoghaire East Pier in celebration of World Ocean Day. Composed of 2,000 cans, the PixelCan artwork was developed by the prominent recycling non-profit EVERY CAN COUNTS, in collaboration with the Council to highlight the species that are currently endangered or vulnerable to ecosystem degradation.

We look forward to 'Crosscurrents' an exhibition of new collaborative multimedia art works by artists from ArtNetdir. The Artists network in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is a voluntary group of professional artists of all disciplines working with the support of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Arts office. Curated by Claire Halpin it will take place between 7 September-30 October at The Lexicon

municipal Gallery. Further information from [artdlr.ie](http://artdlr.ie)


As the evenings draw in and Halloween celebrations are ahead the gardai will put in place Operation Tombola which will include extra patrols in the town. Residents are asked to report any anti-social behaviour particularly in relation to letting off fireworks and hoarding material for bonfires.

The current system for reporting incidents is:

- 1 Call the station to report an incident 666 5000
- 2 Wait for a call back
- 3 Call in a second time to ensure the incident you reported has been registered on Pulse. Ask for a Pulse number. (Pulse is the computer system that the Gardai use in their work)

Just imagine, less than three months to Christmas!

Mary Kelly-Borgatta

  
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## Support Local Businesses



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Specializing in collections of casual wear, occasion wear, business wear and all things designer.

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



## Casper & Gumbini's Restaurant Review

On a recent evening, I attended a book launch at the Dún Laoghaire Lexicon. Before leaving the house I vaguely wondered what to do about dinner that evening.

The book launch was most enjoyable, such a lovely venue, interesting speakers, lots of people and nice wine, but the burning question was where and what for dinner.

We set off along The Metals and Casper & Gumbini's beckoned. Looking through the window, it looked very busy, all the tables looked full. In we went and indeed, all of the tables were full, but there was space at the bar. Would that suit? We were delighted to accept the offer and two place settings were produced for the two of us. We were attended to by a most courteous and friendly server, who promptly produced two menus, two

glasses of water and a wine list. The atmosphere was very warm, with muted but audible music and not overly noisy diners.

The fare on offer looked very tasty, but as it was late we decided to opt for main courses only. All very tempting. We decided on food from the sea, my companion chose plaice and I chose scampi, both came with chips. From the extensive wine list we chose a bottle of Chateau Viaud La Lalande, a red from Bordeaux. The wine arrived promptly, was the correct temperature and very delicious. Whilst waiting for our food we admired the many varieties of gin available, along with the many other spirits, there seemed to be a lot of people drinking very interesting looking cocktails, so popular nowadays. Very quickly, our food arrived, perfectly



presented on nice warm plates. The plaice was declared delicious and cooked perfectly, as for my scampi, I have to say they were the nicest scampi I have tasted for many years. They were not Atlantic prawns, which can be quite chewy, but were the prawns which we call Dublin Bay Prawns, which are without doubt the most flavourable of all prawns. The portion was fairly large and most enjoyable, the plaice was quite large, it filled the plate. The quality of the fish was

very good and everything cooked to perfection. When finished, we declined coffee, finished our wine and called for the bill. The total for the meal came to 93.00 Euro, which included 22.00 Euro for the plaice, 24.00 Euro for the scampi and 47.00 Euro for the wine, including VAT.

Altogether a most enjoyable dinner, I could not recommend it highly enough. The service and quality of the food was second to none and the icing on the cake was the scampi.



## Brain Teaser

Hello again

This issue our resident quiz master has decided to test

your brains with questions that are more mathematical than usual. How good are you working with fractions?

As always, send your answers to [info@dlcra.ie](mailto:info@dlcra.ie) to be in with a chance to win a prize

Q. Man was born in the year 50 BC. How old was he on

his birthday in 50 AD?

Q. I am four times as old as my son, in twenty years' time I will be twice as old as my son. How old am I and how old is he?

Q. A man's property on Corrig Avenue in Dún Laoighre, has a 99 year lease. Two thirds of the time past is equal to four-fifths of the time to come. How much of the lease has already expired?

Q. A man in Dún Laoghaire sold a dog for 35 Euro and half as much as he gave for it, and thereby gained 10.50 Euro. What did he pay for the dog?

Q. The word 'FACETIOUSLY' contains the six vowels a,e,i,o,u,y, in their alphabetical order. Can you think of another English word that does the same? To find the correct word calls

for self-discipline.

Q. How much money would I have originally in my wallet, if I spent one-fifth and then one-fifth of what remained, I altogether spent €36.



Luke Slattery with his winnings

This issues winner is Luke Slattery who lives in Cualanor. He won a €20 gift voucher for Art & Hobby.

Thanks for entering the quiz Luke and I hope you enjoy this weeks Brain Teasers.

## 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 Duñ Laoghaire town*



# Why I love Dún Laoghaire..

Betty Coffey has been living in Dún Laoghaire for nearly 60 years. She was born in Clonliffe Rd and grew up in Santry, but the desire to live by the sea, her sister living nearby in Springhill Ave and hoping to get some financial security lead her to Dún Laoghaire in the late 1960's.

Becoming a local councillor in the mid 1980's and serving as Cathaoirleach 3 times before retiring in 2003, we thought that Betty would be a good person to ask what she loves about Dún Laoghaire.

In those days Dún Laoghaire was a busy town, with many hotels, B&B's and businesses aimed at tourists from the UK as well as Irish families. Sunday lunch for 2 shillings & 6 pence in the Avenue Hotel is something I remember fondly about the town. I loved the narrow streets with red bricked houses and the vibrancy of the town. But the main draw was the sea.

Being close to the sea was always something I loved since I was a child. We briefly lived in Dundrum after I got married and we used to drive here on the weekends to take the children to the baths and get tea in one of the many hotels in the town. Or sit on Victorian benches with our sandwiches along the coast.

The town was a tight knit community and once we moved in we felt welcome

and were quickly accepted. Serving as an elected representative for over 18 years in the town I got to know so many people in the town, too many to mention. It was a real privilege.

Dún Laoghaire has so much history, its monuments, previously being called Kingstown, its heritage has always been fascinating to me. Its diverse history has always been very intriguing. The many different churches representing the various denominations in the town reflects the complexity of Irelands own history.

The Oratory on Library Road is a hidden gem in our town, amazing to have something so beautiful in the centre of our town and yet so many don't even know about it. I wish it was open to the public more often so more people could enjoy it.

Since my husband Ted passed away 15 years ago I have always had a dog and I enjoy taking Lucy, the little Jack Russel I have at the moment, for walks around Dún Laoghaire and stopping to have a coffee in one of the many dog friendly cafes in the town. My favourite place in Dún Laoghaire is probably the People's Park. Walking down to the park with Lucy and sitting out with a coffee looking at all the people enjoying the park and seeing the sea in the background is just amazing few towns have such a beautiful location.



Betty and her Jack Russell Lucy

So I suppose you could say I love Dún Laoghaire for its people, its history and its lovely location by the sea. I feel so lucky to live in this beautiful town beside the sea with a great community like the Tidy Towns volunteers who come out every week.

Yes, many things have changed in the town, mostly good, some not so good, but here I am with everything so near, the pier, the shops, the restaurants, the harbour, the heritage, the parks, the cafés. I could talk for hours about my wonderful town.

## Tidy Towns / DLCRA Calendar 2025



There will be a new calendar to help fundraise for Tidy Town this year, with lots of new images of the town, the harbour and our fabulous Tidy Towners!

They will be on sale in various shops around town and through Tidy Towns and the DLCRA.

Every little bit helps

Thanks for your support.



The Peoples Park café, lovely to bring your dog and have a coffee

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