



February 2026

**Heritage:** *Objects and qualities that have been passed down from previous generations, an inheritance.*

It may be trite to say every town is special, Dún Laoghaire however does have a distinctive place in the history of our country. Its geographical location, its environment, the people who travelled through it as well as those who lived and worked here, have all played a part in the creation of our town.

The earliest history of Dún Laoghaire begins with it being the location of the mouth of the navigable Monkstown stream. It flowed into the Irish sea at a location close to where the West Pier is now. It was on an elevated rocky outcrop that Lóegaire mac Néill is thought to have built his fort, or Dún, back in the 5th century, using this small estuary and navigable stream as a base to sail from. From its inception, Dún Laoghaire has been looking outward, and some might say, forward.

From the coming of the monks in the 8th century, the small fishing village that developed, with granite quarries dotted across the land to the south, remained a small affair until the building of the harbour was begun in 1817.

Two ships sailing from Dublin carrying troops to fight in the Napoleonic Wars were caught in gales on the 19th of November 1807 and sank with over 400 bodies being washed

## DÚN LAOGHAIRE CENTRAL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



### The Heritage of Dún Laoghaire

ashore along our coast. In response, construction started on our 'asylum' harbour which in turn created the town that we now know and love.

Our town is full of examples of heritage all around us, Georgian post boxes, street gas lamps, wash houses, churches, oratories and houses as well as evidence of stories that involve famous figures such as Guglielmo Marconi, James Joyce, Captain Bligh and many lesser known but equally important figures such as Charles Haliday, the Pim Sisters and Richard Toutcher.

Heritage is something that is passed down to us, we are its caretakers and it is our responsibility that it is passed on to those that come after us.

#### Future Development

In the past urban planners and designers often wanted to ignore the built environment and start from a 'blank slate'. This was done for political and economic reasons but thankfully there is a growing sense that a locale's historical character should be integrated with modern development. Now there is a growing belief that what is best for attracting investment and providing

meaning in urban environments is to create locales with a strong sense of identity that maintains their distinctiveness.

Valuing our heritage does not mean preserving everything as if we lived in a museum, our town is here for the benefit of all its residents and workers, if it doesn't work for them, the town isn't working. Like all living things the town needs to grow and develop, it just needs to find a balance that is aware of its environment and works with it for the people of the town.

Our country is growing faster than any other country in the EU and we have witnessed unprecedented changes over the last 40 years. Accompanying this growth and change there needs to be new development to facilitate new ways of working and living. This means we need to embrace development.

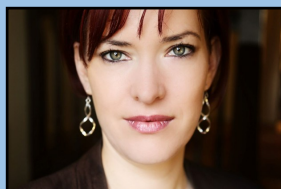
The population of the town will only increase, the various public transport options in the town will be an incentive for new housing while the internet's effect on shopping and the high street will continue to alter our retail environment. Our town needs to adapt and provide new housing, entertainment and community facilities. We just have to make sure that it is sympathetic to the heritage of our town.

Such policies as a return to more living over the shop, similar to how it was in the past and how it is in other European countries, commercial development of under-utilised spaces without damaging what is already

### Carol Service

On the 7th of December the DLCRA helped organise an Interdenominational Carol Service in St. Michael's Church on Marine Rd.

From our inception members of DLCRA had emphasized that there were many churches in Dun Laoghaire and they were all equally important to the



St. Michael's Organist, Judit Máté

town and are a unique part of our heritage.

We thought a Carol Service bringing all the churches together, Methodist, Catholic, Presbyterian and Church of Ireland would be a good way of bringing people together. The

Carol Service had 8 carols with 6 readings interspersed between them and the 4 ministers each gave a blessing. We also had a reading as Gaeilge by Tidy Town's own, Máire Uí Scolai which was a great addition.

Musical director of St. Michael's, Judit Máté was wonderful on the organ accompanying the singers. Judit was a great help during the whole process as she generously gave up her time to



assist with rehearsals.

Everyone left awash with a Christmas spirit and pledging to make it an annual event, next year in Christ Church by the park, God willing.

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

## Heritage of Dún Laoghaire cont..

there. We need to celebrate our shared history as well as create a positive future that we are all walking towards.

If you are interested in the heritage of our town, there are some excellent community groups that do great work engaging with the town's history. First and foremost is the **Dún Laoghaire Borough Historical Society**.

Formed in 1978, the DLBHS have been publishing their journal annually since 1990. They organise 9 lectures a year, split between their Spring and Autumn series, in the Royal Marine Hotel. They

cover local history throughout the whole county of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. In their current Spring series they have lectures on Irish artist Evie Hone and Dunleary before the Royal Harbour. The complete range of their journals are available in the Lexicon library.

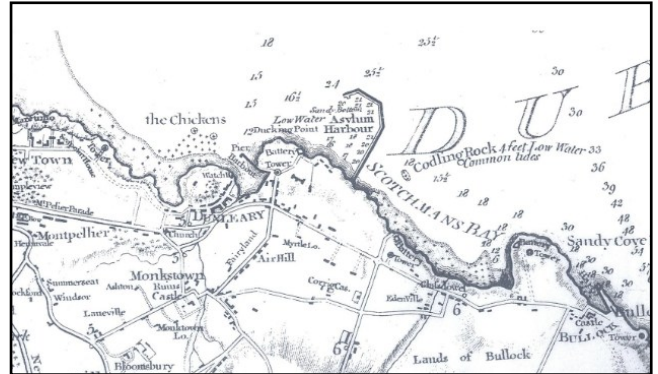
They also arrange 2 trips annually and as well as being a great source of information have a social element which brings like minded people together. Lectures cost €5 for non-members, membership subscriptions are only €15, the DLBHS are a valuable part of the Dún Laoghaire community,

we encourage everyone to support them and their work.

We try to encourage residents to get involved with their community, get informed and engage with the council on future planning developments. The harbour will see some small changes in the coming

years, if you are in favour of developments let them know, if you have concerns raise them and if you have ideas don't be afraid to write to them.

Like all living things, our town will change, it's up to us to take care of our future generations inheritance.



Taylor South Map of Dublin showing Dun Laoghaire (1816)

## Town News and Updates

### Corrig Ave

The engineers have completed their assessment of the road and have said that they will be meeting with the residents of Corrig Ave to show them the proposals.

They are recommending work to slow down traffic on the road to make it safer. We expected to see them by Christmas but hopefully they will be out in the new year.

**Centenary House** on York Road, previously occupied by the HSE, was purchased a few months ago. The new owners FEBAC Ltd have applied for planning and are in consultation with DLRCC regarding potential uses for the property.

FEBAC have agreed to meet with representatives of DLCRA early in 2026 to discuss their plans for the property.

### Boylan Centre

Since the Boylan Centre was sold by the church to the county council we have been trying to get some of the units in the proposed development reserved for 'key workers'. We have written to the council and some politicians. In the last few months we have written to and spoken to schools, hospitals and housing agencies, especially since the new

housing legislation came into effect.

We believe that the council could offer some units on a **Cost Rental** basis with an **Allocation Plan** that defines priority for teachers, medical workers and guards. This would have many benefits for the town, these important employers and the environment with reduced commuting times. If you agree that this is a good idea, please write to the council or your local politician to ask them to support it.



Maritime Museum at our public meeting

### Future of Dún Laoghaire

We held a public meeting in the Maritime Museum where we discussed the beginnings of the DLCRA, some of the various initiatives that we have been a part of and then looked at future developments as well as factors that will influence future developments.

There was a good turnout with approximately 130 attendees on the night. We sold 50+ Tidy Towns Calendars and a number of people

expressed interest in getting involved with the group to help.

There were calls for it to be a regular event so we are looking at holding another public meeting in March, email us at [info@dlcra.ie](mailto:info@dlcra.ie) if you wish to know more.

Some of you will have noticed that there are more Gardaí on the streets of Dún Laoghaire over the last few weeks. Well your eyes are not deceiving you, the division has got an extra **18 Gardaí** and we were told that the constant call for resources from the DLCRA & DLBA helped ensure we got so many. A visible presence will reduce anti-social behaviour

Last issue we published an article by Matt Skinner on the field on Tivoli Terrace South. We received a number of positive responses including some ideas of how it could be developed. We can share the positive news that the council are open to the idea of taking control of the land, but as private land a deal would have to be made with the owner. If you would like to see a particular future for the site, we encourage you to write to the council with your thoughts and ideas. It will only help the council if it is making plans for the future of the field.

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



# Secure Bicycle Parking in town

A number of resident, business and community groups believe there needs to be more long-term bicycle parking in the town for commuters, shoppers and visitors to the town coming for hospitality and entertainment.

The main consideration for bicycle owners when leaving their bikes for an extended period is security. The average cost of a bicycle is €500-€750 and with higher end and electronic bikes being over €1,000, it's a significant financial loss if they are stolen. It is estimated that there are 20,000 thefts annually in Dublin alone and with thieves using

tools like angle grinders, normal bike locks provide little deterrent from theft.

In cities and towns in continental Europe where there are many more bicycle users they use parking solutions such as gated areas within car parks, dedicated rooms within buildings and cages with fob or key locks.

With other groups such as the business association we are engaging with the county council to see if there is a possibility that even a temporary solution could be put into the town to see how popular it might be.

We have highlighted a number of potential locations such as the following:

The **Boylan Development** could possibly accommodate a secure space and is ideally located between the train



*Bike lockers in the train station.*



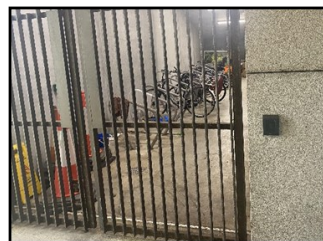
*Example cage construction secure bike storage space*

station and the main street.

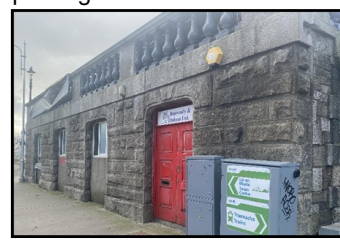
There is space in and around the **train station**, under **Hartleys restaurant** there are rooms and at the rear entrance to the station, with Irish Rail open to the idea.

Space within an existing DLR car park such as the **Lexicon carpark** could be easily used but is not the best regarding location.

Contact your local councillor if you want to see secure bicycle parking.



*There is already a secure lock up space for Lexicon staff in the car park.*



*The rooms under Hartleys are accessed from the road behind the train station.*

## EV Charging

Dún Laoghaire has a large number of households that do not have off street parking and therefore are not able to easily provide access to a domestic charging point. It is twice as expensive to charge at a 3rd party on-street charging station as from a domestic one.

This disparity will prevent households from buying electric vehicles and creates a two-tier system that is fundamentally unfair.

The problem is that using charging arms from your front garden or gulleys that go under the pavement are not covered by insurance and therefore the local authority will not officially allow either solution.

Local residents have had some consultation with the county council regarding the provision of on-street car charging. The

council are investing in more on-street charging and are currently doing a trial with a charging station having been installed on Cross Ave between Mulgrave St and Patrick St.

However, without finding a solution to allowing households use arms or gulleys this will never be enough. The solution surely lies in insurance companies accommodating these devices either on the householder's insurance policy or on the county council's.

We will continue to write to appropriate bodies and organizations and believe that Dún Laoghaire could be a location for a trial to get past this impasse.



*Cross Ave Charger*



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*Storm Chandra giving the Baths a rinse*

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

# Power to the People

## How Local Residents' Associations Can Lead the Energy Transition

The energy transition is one of the biggest challenges our society faces, often discussed in terms of government targets and big projects. But the most meaningful changes start right here, on our streets, in our homes, and within our communities. For DLCRA, Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) offer a practical, structured, and financially supported pathway to a warmer, more resilient, and lower-carbon Dún Laoghaire.

Gavin Harte, your local SEC Mentor tells us more.

### Why Community Action Works

Working together offers a smarter route than acting alone. When a community tackles energy efficiency as one, the scale allows for the potential of bulk purchasing, simplified project management, building technical expertise and delivering tangible benefits back to local homes and buildings.

The SEC programme focuses on three clear, actionable pillars for your community: 1. using less energy (efficiency), 2. switching to clean energy (renewables), and 3. adopting smart energy solutions (technology measures).

This shared commitment to energy efficiency brings local benefits that go well beyond simply reducing carbon emissions. It delivers warmer, more comfortable homes, lower bills, improved comfort, improved community spaces, and ultimately, stronger social networks capable of facilitating local resilience. It can even encourage the creation of local jobs and skills as we build the necessary retrofit supply chain at scale.

### The SEC Journey: Learn, Plan, Do

The SEC Programme is a nationwide network designed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) to empower communities to take

local ownership of their energy future. This SEC journey is broken down into three easy-to-manage stages, making it accessible even for busy volunteer-led committees.

Your first point of contact is your County Mentor. Think of me as your dedicated local, trusted expert, offering one-to-one community guidance and technical support. The journey begins with the Learn stage, which is deliberately low-commitment. By formally joining the SEC Network, you instantly connect your residents' association to a network of over 1000 communities nationally for peer-to-peer sharing and learning. The early practical steps are simple: organising an SEC working group, defining your geographical area, running energy information events, building your energy knowledge, drafting a simple community charter, and identifying existing community assets and needs through opportunity mapping.

### The Energy Master Plan

Once your group is ready, the most exciting part is accessing the Plan stage to create your Energy Master Plan (EMP). This is the cornerstone of the SEC model, transforming good intentions into a practical roadmap. The EMP is a professional document that quantifies your community's current energy use across all sectors—homes, local businesses, schools, and transport—and sets clear targets for energy and carbon reduction.

Crucially, SEAI provides 100% grant funding for the EMP. Typical grants range from approximately €10,000 up to €25,000, depending on the size and complexity of your community. For example, a Level 3 application covering a large town or urban area can receive up to €20,000 in professional funding to define its plan.

The final EMP delivers actionable results, including a Register of Opportunities. This detailed list ranks potential projects—such as street-by-



street solar installations, deep retrofits, or transport measures—by estimated cost, energy savings, and feasibility, giving you a clear three-year action list.

Furthermore, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council can provide bridge financing, procuring and paying the technical consultants directly so your volunteer committee avoids the stress of having to pay the cost upfront.

### Taking Action: Funding the "Do" Stage

The "Do" stage marks the transition from planning to action, turning your community's visions into reality. Your EMP now serves as a roadmap providing quantified targets and a robust strategy to guide community decisions in securing SEAI grants for energy upgrades.

To further facilitate Do projects, communities could consider establishing a local Buying Club. This model leverages the power of collective purchasing to streamline home energy upgrades such as insulation, solar PV, and heat pump installations. By grouping individual household projects, communities gain access to economies of scale, more efficient technical support and can more easily identify quality contractors. Buying Clubs offer residents a structured, collective pathway to investigate and implement home improvements tailored to their specific needs, within the added support of group purchasing and knowledge sharing.

### Decarbonising Dún Laoghaire

Decarbonising Zones (DZ), a National Climate Action Plan initiative, are local test-beds for innovative emission reduction solutions. DLR selected Dún

Laoghaire and Blackrock as a single DZ, covering 6.4 km<sup>2</sup> and home to approximately 28,000 people.

This area's mix of residential, public, and commercial sectors offers high potential for community action. The ambitious target is a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and will require collaboration between the Local Authority and the community.

The SEC model can help communities generate local projects, build enthusiasm, and foster ownership that the council could then help scale up.

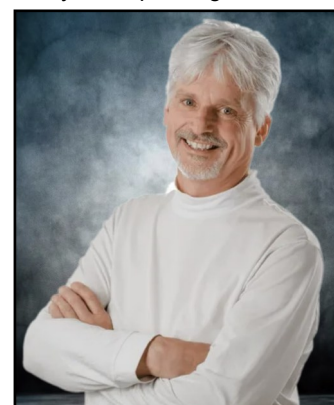
### A Simple Call to Action

The journey towards a warmer, lower-carbon Dún Laoghaire begins now, with a small, simple step. If you are part of a Residents' Association or a local community group, I invite you and your neighbours to begin an SEC journey today.

Form an energy group, sign up to the SEC Network online and meet me, your SEC Mentor. It's that simple and takes less than five minutes opening the door to free energy support for your community.

Contact Gavin at [gharte@ksncommunities.ie](mailto:gharte@ksncommunities.ie)

Sign up to the SEC Network today at: <https://is.gd/EN8QO6>



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





Clean  
Green  
Nurture  
Preserve

Season's Greetings to All Residents of Dun Laoghaire Central!

It's January already, its hard to believe how quickly the year flew by.

What an extraordinary year 2025 was for Dún Laoghaire Tidy Towns! We hit the ground running on January 4th, 2025, and haven't stopped since. Thanks to the growing number of volunteers who've joined our efforts, we've accomplished so much together.



*Snow drops on Mill St, spring is around the corner*

Our hard work didn't go unnoticed, and we were honoured to receive recognition for our dedication on several occasions:

**Ireland's Greenest Places:** In a competition run by The Irish Times and Electric Ireland, Dun Laoghaire was proudly named Ireland's Greenest Suburb. In September, DLTT were part of a group of representatives who attended the ceremony to accept this award.

**Tidy Districts Competition:** In October, we were thrilled to be named runners-up in our category, a significant achievement.

**Tidy Towns Competition:** In November, we secured 5th place in our category, just three points shy of a bronze medal. We gained points in all eight categories of the competition, and we saw an overall

improvement of 15 points compared to 2024.

**Community and Volunteer Awards:** Also in November, we were delighted to take 1st place in our category which was a perfect way to end the year.

I am incredibly proud of every volunteer who dedicated their time and energy to making all of this possible. These results are a direct reflection of your unwavering commitment and hard work.

A special thank you is due to many individuals and groups who contributed in various ways throughout the year. I want to express my gratitude to the Transition Year students from CBC, Cluny, Coláiste Éoin, Dominican College, The Institute of Education, St. Conleth's College, St. Raphaela's, Rathdown School, and John Scottus Secondary School. We are also deeply grateful to the Festina Lente Group, the staff at the Royal Marine Hotel, Outreach, English Path Ireland, UCD Volunteers Overseas, Dominican Primary School, the Sea Explorers at the Irish National Sailing School, LinkedIn, the team from Eblana IPAS Centre, our regular volunteers who show up week after week, and all the other community members who joined us throughout the year.



*Volunteers from the Path language school*

I would particularly like to thank the committee. Your wise counsel, support, and experience have been invaluable to the success of our group.

Being part of this community group is



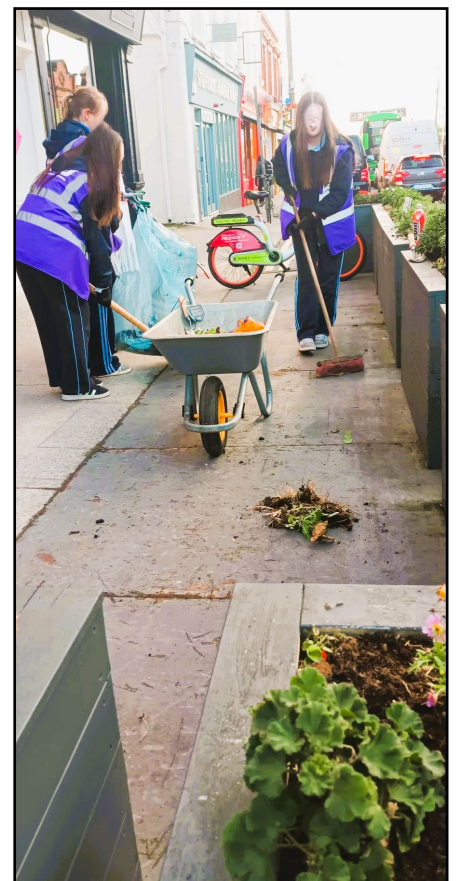
*The May image from our Tidy Towns Calendar, contact us if you want one.*

truly special. It brings together like-minded individuals who, together, can make a real and lasting difference to our town. There is strength in unity, and our collective voice is one that is heard and respected.

It is an honour to serve as Chairperson of this incredible group, and I look forward with great anticipation to the rest of 2026. I am excited to continue being part of the movement that is Dún Laoghaire Tidy Towns.

**Athbhliain faoi mhaise duit!**

Catherine Harris  
Chair of Dún Laoghaire Tidy Towns



*TY Students at planters on Upper Georges St*

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





# DÚN LAOGHAIRE CENTRAL

## RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

January 2026

Dear Residents,

Well, we have made it through to the start of the Celtic Spring, with La Feile Bride, or *Imbloc*, on February 1st will herald in the first whispers of the new season. Bringing light, the promise of new growth awakening creativity and energy.

This month's Newsletter gives considerable focus to the Heritage and vibrant history of our town. DLCRA are conscious of the duty of care we have to protect and pass on what we have inherited. We continue to work with a wide range of local community groups and the Council, to encourage the



*April's Image from our Charity Calendar*

integration and protection of our historical character and distinctive identity with modern development.

The upgrading of the 'public realm' with ensuing traffic delays is causing intense aggravation to many residents and visitors trying to get into Dún Laoghaire. On the plus side the traffic controls are already taking effect on York Road which is a great relief to pedestrians trying to cross. We look forward to the completion of such extensive work and hope it will achieve the required result. A reduction in speed, safer streets for pedestrians and cyclists and above all children.

We continue to be concerned with the lack of EV Charging points in Dún Laoghaire and hope that the trial charging station on Cross Avenue will encourage the Council to invest in more on-street charging stations.

We also hope that the purchase, and development into a public space, of the Sports Field on Tivoli South can be progressed by the Council. There is an urgent need for a public park similar to Hudson Park, which is such a great

success and used by young and old alike, on the York Road side of Dun Laoghaire.

Many thanks to all those who worked so hard to create such a vibrant and joyful atmosphere for the town over the Christmas period. In particular to Robert and Emma on Georges Place, who won this years award for Best Decorated House. They put a lot of work into making their house extra beautiful this year.

We have been asked to join the Local Community Safety Partnership. It is a county-wide project that runs for 3 years, the aim of which is to bring together the Gardaí, HSE, Tusla, community groups and councillors to create and implement a Safety Plan to make our communities safer for all residents.

Just wondering about the promised lush greenery and bird song on the Canopy at Myrtle Square. It seems to be taking an inordinately long time. Just asking?

Mary Kelly  
DLCRA



## Best Decorated House

We are delighted to announce that the winner of the Best Decorated House this year is 5 Georges Place.

Robert and Emma have been living on Georges Place for a number of years and this year they really went the extra mile to make their house stand out.

Over the years we have consistently noticed how well their house has been decorated, never simply following a belief

that more is better, their house has always been an example of a beautiful, pretty house using decorations that complement the size and location. A few years ago the house looked like a present wrapped up in a beautiful red for Christmas, it was absolutely wonderful.

This year they put illuminated wreaths along their railings and around their front door. As you walked along Georges Place you could see the soft light welcoming you, their house looked like a scene out of a movie. Gorgeous.

So we just wanted to thank Emma and Robert for taking so much time and effort in making the street beautiful, not just this year but over the last 6 years that we

have been doing this competition.

We awarded them a bottle of champagne and gave them our thanks, from residents across the town, for helping to make our town a more pleasant place to live.



*Congratulations Robert*



*The front door framed in lights*



*Illuminated wreaths along the railings brighten up the street.*

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

# Restaurant Review



By Frances Kelly

December is such a perfect month for trying out new restaurants, so with great anticipation I made a reservation for 3 at Cala restaurant on Georges Street in Dun Laoghaire town.

The reservation was for five o'clock, on arrival we were welcomed by the owner David, who showed us to our table, which was situated towards the front of the room, so we had a good view of everything. The menu was quite varied, with selections for most tastes, a good wine list and also a good selection of cocktails on offer.

Nuts, Sourdough Bread, served with Salted Butter, Marinated Olives and Padron Peppers were on offer as

appetisers, but we decided to go straight to the starters. Cala was a Tapas Restaurant when they first opened, but has now changed to a more traditional type of restaurant with a Spanish flavour, offering a more varied menu. From the starters menu we selected, Padron Peppers, Smoked Irish Gammon Croquettes, Nduja Arancini Stuffed with Taleggio Cheese and 6 Carlingford Oysters to share. From the wine list we chose a bottle of Tempranillo, which was at the correct temperature and very pleasant, as well as two Coke Zeros. The starters looked very good when presented and did not fail to impress, especially the oysters, which were served with a Japanese dressing.

There was a good selection for the main courses, including. Hereford Irish Beef, Crispy Fillet of Hake, Plancha Grilled Octopus and Vegetable Nut Roast, altogether a really good selection. I chose Sticky Bourbon Glazed Chicken,

which came with caramelised white onion and celeriac puree, it was delectable, the sticky glaze had a lovely flavour and it was very moist. While Arndal Pork Belly was chosen by the other two diners, coming with sauerkraut, glazed carrots and Inch House black pudding croquette, it was declared by one diner to be "yummy" and by the other as "really delicious", for sides we chose Sweetcorn Ribs with smoked paprika and Crispy fried potatoes with rosemary, equally tasty, good choices all around for the main courses.

Only one of us had dessert, though the choices were all very tempting so we decided to share one with three spoons. On offer was Burnt Basque Cheesecake, Tiramisu, Coconut Creme Brulee, Mango Passion Fruit Mousse and Warm vegan Pistachio Brownie. We decided on the Creme Brulee, which was served with a pineapple carpaccio and Malibu coconut Sorbet, a truly delicious



combination and the best Creme Brulee we have tasted in a long time.

The bill for the three of us came to 173.60 Euro, including VAT.

We all agreed that we should return as soon as we were free to, in order that we could sample the other tempting options on offer. The room was bright and inviting, nice unobtrusive music and a very inviting and hospitable staff. Before we left we spoke to the diners at the table beside ours and they were also delighted with their food and told us that they go there regularly, they like it so much. A super recommendation!



## Brain Teaser

Hello again,

We return again with some mental entertainment

courtesy of our resident Riddle Master.

We have 6 questions and they are particularly tricky this time round. I would encourage anyone who gets even one answer correct to send in their attempts, you could be lucky!

All answers to [info@dlcra.ie](mailto:info@dlcra.ie)

Good luck !!!

Q. Which of the following words is the odd one out?

Dismiss  
Waylay  
Further  
Remain  
Backpack

Q.  $N + N + M = 14$

$L + L + K = 20$

$M + K + N = 12$

$N + K + L = 18$

What are the values if  $K = 4$ ?

Q. Can you find the odd one out?

119 313 214 016 115  
and 412

Q. Which is the odd one out?

4328 5408 7142 7284  
9273 5449 2126 5255  
3217 4164 7497 6366

Q. Rearrange the letters to name the animals.

Someday  
Doing  
Corona  
Orchestra  
Trees  
Alpines

The man with the most correct answers in last issue's quiz was Tom Harley of Cualaenor.

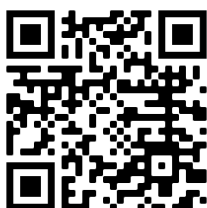
Tom won a nice bottle of Bordeaux to go with his Christmas dinner!



# 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..

This issue we have asked a lady who was raised in Dún Laoghaire and now lives just outside of the town why she loves her home town so much.

Rugadh agus tógadh mise i nDúnlaoghaire agus is breá liom mo bhaile dúchais. Born and raised in Dún Laoghaire, I love this town which has a checkered history going back to Dun Leary, Kingstown and back to Dún Laoghaire. I was raised bilingually and started my love for our native Irish language in Scoil Lorcáin, Monkstown, and from there to Coláiste Íosagáin. I use my Irish language almost every day and I love to see how many more signs are now as Gaeilge in Dún Laoghaire.

Coming from a family of 3, (1 brother, 1 sister) our parents came from Co. Chiarraí agus Co. Muineacháin. From an early age a love of this town was instilled in us. I took part in Irish dancing with the famed Bunty Phibbs. We always shopped in Dún Laoghaire where one could get wonderful items in some of the small shops that are long gone. At Christmas time it was always a trip to Miss May's shop (located at the bottom of Patrick St). That shop had everything for a small child with toys dangling from the ceiling and a very large wooden box of cards on the counter where Dad would have me searching for Brian Mc Mahon Christmas cards.

## People's Park and ....

This town had other things in it for me growing up, the

People's Park, where one could have fun on the then only 2 swings and 1 slide!, kick footballs on the grass and maybe have a picnic. It was where we always brought country cousins to see when they came to visit! That was one end of the town, the other end had the sea-side for us as Mom took us 3 down to the back of the Salthill Hotel come the summer. We walked, skipped down merrily through De - Vesci with picnic in bag. We always wanted to stay longer!. These were the needs that kept us 3 happy. However, with a nice large garden we played hurling, camogie, football and loved dressing up.

Our garden was special to me as Dad was a gardener and I soon developed my own section of the garden which eventually led me to study Horticulture. Dún Laoghaire offered us so much over the years, growing up as a teenager, we had two cinemas, the Pavillion, and the Adelphi, both within walking distance from our house. Later on, walks along one of the most wonderful waterfronts one could get on the East Coast, down to the end of the East Pier and give the door the traditional kick!

I only moved away briefly from this wonderful town for work reasons, but then I decided it was too nice an area to leave and so I stayed i mo bhaile dúchais. Many changes have taken place in this wonderful town over the years. However, one January



Máire, Mary and Maeve hard at work on Mill St, Dún Laoghaire

evening I was walking home in 2020 when I spotted something in John Hylands newsagent. Something big was about to happen in this seaside town and I was immediately interested! Yes, it was the setting up of Dún Laoghaire Tidy Towns!

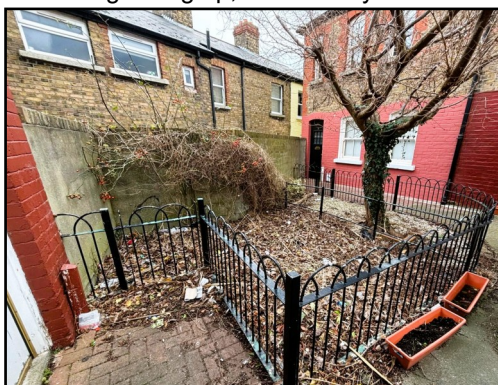
## Tidy Towns

So, this town that I was brought up in was about to make major changes. I can truly say seeing that notice on a dark January evening was one of the best things to happen in this town. Almost immediately my horticultural knowledge kicked in and to this day it is one of the most enjoyable projects I have become involved in since my retirement. It gives you a sense of belonging, a sense of pride and a sense of belonging to somewhere nice. While I volunteer in other projects Tidy Towns is

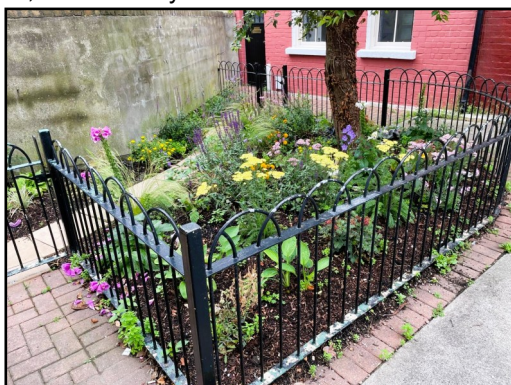
different. It is an opportunity to make new friends, an opportunity to help enhance the town in many ways. A project that gave me enormous satisfaction in 2025 was the day a small group looked at the little garden in Mills Street. A derelict site in February, by July 2025 it was a transformed garden. This small terrace of red bricked houses were built circa 1903 by Councillor Mills, hence the name. The group set to work fast. This small garden had so much appeal for me that I decided to research the plants popular back in the early 1900's. The plants were then planted in terms of popularity through the decades. It is truly a garden of the ages! Le athraithe mór ag teacht ar mo bhaile dúchais, sílim go mbeidh an tódhchaí thar a bheith suimúil.

With major changes taking place in this town I have no doubt it will not lose it's identity and will always be my hometown by the sea where many left by the mailboat, some to prosper and some not to return. Now the cruise ships come and go, but I will happily stay here!

Máire Uí Scoláí



Mills St before



Mills St after Tidy Towns

Let's put the heart back into Duñ Laoghaire town