



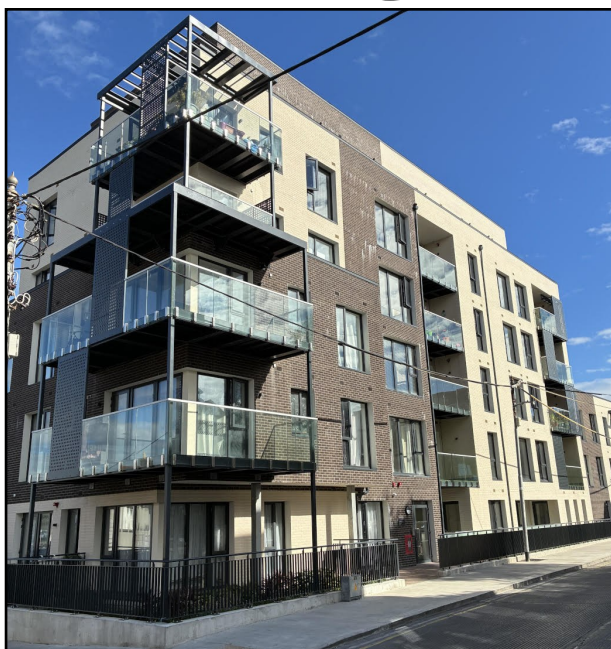
Sept 2026

The DLCRA has been trying to encourage affordable housing in the town that might help essential workers in and around Dún Laoghaire. We have been working on this for over 3 years now and thought it would be good to give an overview of where things currently are.

By January of 2023, the DLCRA were aware that St Michael's Parish Dún Laoghaire was planning on selling the Boylan community centre building on Sussex St to Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council for the purpose of providing social and affordable housing. Around this time there had been some articles in the media discussing the problems that hospitals and schools had been having with attracting and keeping staff. There was also a lot of talk at that time about the Council's support for the 10-minute neighbourhood planning concept. One of our members, Eugene, joined the dots and raised the idea of writing to the council with a proposal.

Many residents with children are aware of the difficulties that their schools have been having getting and retaining staff. The inability to find affordable accommodation near where they worked was causing many young teachers to move away, a problem that is particularly acute in hospitals too. We thought that it might be possible for a small number of housing units to be reserved for 'essential

DÚN LAOGHAIRE CENTRAL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION Housing in Dún Laoghaire



New social housing, Bentley Apartments on George's Place

workers', that it would have a very beneficial impact on the schools' and hospitals' staffing issues.

The 10-minute neighbourhood is a planning policy and is a stated objective in the current DLR Development Plan. It includes prioritizing walking and cycling over using cars, reducing commuting, locating essential services in a community, placemaking and local wellbeing. Seen as a

way to help support environmental targets and to help communities, the 10-minute neighbourhood fits with a policy of prioritizing essential workers such as teachers and nurses in a town that has a hospital and many schools.

What We Did

We started by writing to the County Council and talking to elected officials. This went on and grew to include housing bodies, school principals and health officials as well as TD's, Councillors and DLR executives. No commitments could be made and it looked like nothing might happen.

However, over the years while we were communicating to the council and councillors trying to raise this as a possibility, Google did exactly what we were proposing in their Bolands Mill housing development off Pearse St. In January 2025 they were renting housing at a reduced rent through the Clúid housing agency. Google put in place a list of

criteria that reserved the housing units for workers in particular industries in the city centre and earning within a defined wage band. This was proof that it could be done but it was a private company that owned the development. Would a local authority be willing to try and do something similar?

We found out that it is possible to ring fence housing for essential workers if it the type of housing was Affordable Cost Rental. An allocation plan could be created that could define specific types of jobs to prioritize. This is a type of Affordable Housing that is rented at a reduced rate.

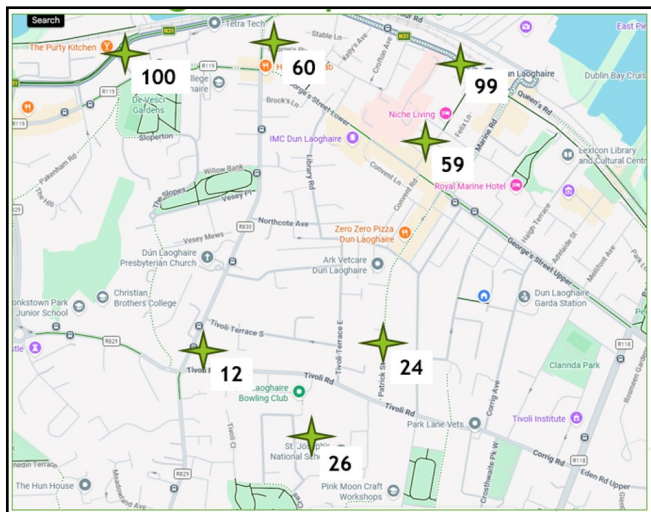
The council's plans for the Boylan Centre were revealed earlier this year as it went to Part 8 planning. They proposed 4 3-bed houses, 16 2-bed apartments and 39 1-bed apartments for a total of 59 units. We presumed that no decision had been made on how the units might be used. However, during the summer we were informed that DLR had already secured funding to develop the Boylan Centre from central government and the type of funding that they applied for defined the type of development that it could be. It could only be social housing and not affordable housing.

Where to now

While this means that the Boylan Centre cannot be considered, there are a number of other housing projects under development at the moment. These include 60 units on Clarence St, 100 on Harbour Rd, 26 on Tivoli Rd, 24 on Patrick St and over 100 on Old Dunleary Rd. Each of these developments under the Part V planning requirement must reserve 20% of their apartments for social and affordable housing.

We believe some of these units can be Affordable Cost Rental with allocation plans that prioritize key workers or at very least prioritize middle income workers who work within the town.

We will discuss this issue and others at our next public meeting on the 5th of November in the Maritime Museum at 7:30pm. Book your ticket at on eventbrite



The location of housing developments across the town

Let's put the heart back into Dún Laoghaire town

The Field on Tivoli Terrace South

Most readers will be familiar with the 3 acre field on Tivoli Terrace South which was most recently used by St. Josephs Football club. It was purchased by a private developer in 2021. The field is currently for sale.

Many residents over the years had written to us expressing hopes that the field might become available for use by the wider community. Some wrote how they wished it could be a park available for residents of the nursing and retirement homes in the vicinity. Somewhere nearby where they could take their parents when visiting them. Some wished the

field could be rewilded, be given back to nature to protect and enhance the biodiversity of South County Dublin. Some wrote about how they have to travel far from the town to bring their children to sports, wishing there were sporting facilities there, others from community groups saw an opportunity for their own endeavours to be supported, local charities, allotments. There were many different voices and suggestions.

We remain cautiously optimistic that the field will return into public hands and become a resource for everyone.



The field on Tivoli Terrace South



Potential development idea

Updates & Town News

Specsavers will have moved into their new premises on the ground floor of **The Dun Laoghaire Centre**. HSE is taking over their old unit but there will be a retailer moving in for the Christmas period. Ireland's leading Asian supermarket, Spice Bazaar will be opening before Christmas, and work has started on Aldi. Lots going on in the shopping centre.



The shopping centre has been rebranded and is now just called **The Dun Laoghaire Centre**, new logo in time to celebrate its 50th anniversary in October. Lots of events and activities are planned for the birthday and for the coming Christmas celebrations.

GotFrames is a new addition to the town, a new shopping option with a wide range of stylish eyewear. They are opposite another new addition, **Maru**, the Japanese Hair Salon. The

Carnegie Library end of the town is starting to look very elegant, that whole area outside the library will be shortly redeveloped by the Living Streets project.

Living Streets should be starting the tender process for the second and final phase of the works. A contractor should be assigned before the end of the year and work is starting in early 2027. It is a very large project and we in the DLCRA expect it to take between 18 months and two years before it's finished. The final part of the project will be the modal filter closing Tivoli Rd to through traffic.



The **Dún Laoghaire Borough Historical Society** has started up its new season of talks with a lecture on the Harbour. They are held monthly in the Royal Marine Hotel that provides free parking for attendees. It's €5 on the door and a yearly membership is €15. December's lecture on

"Myths, Mistakes and Misunderstandings in the History of Dun Laoghaire" will be well attended. See www.dlbhs.com for more



The plans for the **Interdenominational Carol Service** are in full swing. The Anglican Church on Park Ave will host this year and it will be held on the early evening of the 6th of December, so put it in your diary. There will be rehearsals for singers from the 4 churches who will be leading the carols. If you would like to join please get in touch with your church and ask to get involved with the choir. The aim of the Carols are to bring the community together and to encourage people to join

their own choirs which was a success last year. There will be cups of tea and some mince pies afterwards!

Talking of anniversaries, the Sisters of Mercy founded **St. Michael's** hospital 150 years ago this year. **Tierneys** was 75 years this year and **Facets and Shoe** will be 50 years in business the year after in 2028, and **St. Michael's Church** will be celebrating 200 years in 2029. It was constituted exactly a week prior to the passing of the *Bill of Emancipation* on April 13 2029. Perhaps we should do something in Dún Laoghaire to celebrate this event in April 2029?

There was a trial to reduce **Dog Fouling** by spray painting messages on footpaths (stencilling) and it was a great success. A survey of fouling in the area prior to the stencilling found 73 instances of fouling. This was reduced to 14 after the stencils were in place for 6 weeks. Stencils will be made available to Tidy Towns group across the County so that they can use them to target areas where fouling is a problem.

Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town

Queens Rd Shelters

It is approximately 100 years ago, some time in the 1920's, that the shelters appeared on the Queens Road looking on to the harbour. The Dún Laoghaire Borough Historical Society informs us that there were more of them and they were originally positioned nearer the baths and the seashore. They were built

around 1905-1910 and were then moved to their current location in the 1920's.

Their purpose seems to be to shelter people from the elements all year round and they are not the cab man's shelters that used to be in Dún Laoghaire. Those were located at the bottom of Marine Rd where the



Inside one of the shelters is a large photograph of Victorian Dún Laoghaire



Two of the three Shelters by the East Pier

Pavillion is.

The shelters used to be open for use by the public throughout the 20th century but anti-social behaviour prompted the County Council to lock them and they have remained out of use for probably 2 decades or more.

Dún Laoghaire Tidy Towns has been trying to clean inside the shelters for a while

now. Litter was being blown into them and volunteers were using 'litter pickers' to take out what they could. They have since been speaking with DLRCC and hope to help clean the shelters and encourage the council to repair the rotten wood. Wouldn't it be great if they could come back into use again?

Speeding & Congestion

Recently a number of residents have highlighted issues about the traffic on their streets. Car speeding down roads, too much congestion on certain streets, cars being clipped and worries over safety are all issues that have been raised.

Individual residents' associations and groups have contacted the County Council and councillors with their concerns. We have also high issues on specific streets and lanes including Corrig Ave, Crosthwaite Park and Lynch Lane.

The streets and traffic in and around the town will change when the Living Street project is implemented and

so in some cases the council is probably wary of making any changes when they know that Living Streets will have a large impact on both



Residents are reporting a rise in their cars getting 'clipped'

the volume and the routes.

We will be making note of all the incidents that we hear of, so that we can compare the problems with how things will be after Living Street has been implemented.

Hopefully with the projected reduction in cars on the road most issues will be greatly reduced. If some streets continue to have problems or they get worse, we can bring them to the attention of the council to get resolved.

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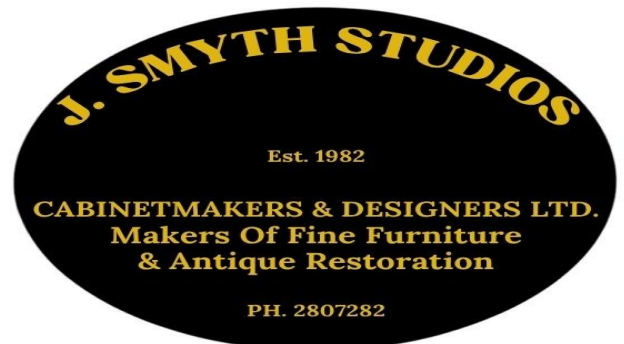
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Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town

The Men's Shed

Dun Laoghaire Men's Shed plays a significant role in the community, particularly for mainly retired men, but also for some with various ability challenges, and, for the community in general through its activities. Founded in 2015 it joined the Irish Men's Sheds Association (IMSA) and became a participant in the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council (DLRCoCo) Public Participation Network (DLRPPN). Dun Laoghaire Evangelical Church kindly rented a derelict coach house on their grounds to the Shed, and the first project was to restore and upgrade the premises with water, electric, insulation etc. to become the busy, comfortable and conveniently located premises that it is today.



Cualanor Book Exchange, DLTT has requested one for the town

Over the past ten years the members have developed personal skills and benefitted in personal health and wellbeing through participating in activities that include: woodwork, woodturning, art, gardening, cycling, 3D printing or simply providing a safe place to socialise over tea/coffee and chat. In addition, as requested by people in the community, members respond to projects such as making garden seats and planters, building Book Exchanges, doing odd jobs

that require specific skills and restoring or repairing treasured personal items to become functional again. Participation in such activities allows the members to utilise their personal skills and develop new ones assisted by the experience of other members.

To enable their activities to be undertaken the Shed has built up a significant range of equipment that has been generously funded, mainly through the DLRCoCo Community Services grants, but also through the Department of Rural Affairs grants nationally through the IMSA. Funds are also provided through the Annual Membership Fee, which covers Insurance, a Christmas Party, a couple of barbecues and the cost of daily socialising at the Shed. To bring the various group activities together day trips are arranged, and periodic evening meetings are designed to give training in First Aid, talks on Men's Health, and joint meetings with spouses/partners on specific relevant topics.

The Shed is managed by a committee which meets fortnightly to look after their affairs. It is composed of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Projects Co-ordinator, Public Relations/Health & Safety and Activities Organiser made up of representatives of the various groups. New members are always welcome though there is a limit to what the available space can accommodate. If you want to become a member or have any particular requirement, please contact the Shed by email at dlmensshed@gmail.com, through their website www.dunlaoghaireshed.com, ie, or by phoning the Secretary at 0868240497.



They have regular BBQ's which are well attended and great fun



Making a special planter



The Men's Shed, it's a refurbished coach house with a workshop in the attic



The sign for Men's Shed at the entrance to the DEC

Let's put the heart back into Duñ Laoghaire town



**Clean
Green
Nurture
Preserve**

Hello Dun Laoghaire Central Residents!

Catherine from Dun Laoghaire Tidy Towns here again.

As I write, today is the 1st of September, the first day of the meteorological autumn. It's hard to believe the summer is over. reflecting over the last three summer months, I would say it has been one of the busiest summers we have had in Dun Laoghaire Tidy Towns.

The beginning of June is always challenging, as it is the start of adjudication season. We entered the national Tidy Towns competition and the local Tidy District competition, both of which send their adjudicators out from June onwards. We never know where or when, so all we can do, with the help of the council cleansing department, is to keep the town clean and tidy as possible and hope for the best.

Meanwhile, Dun Laoghaire Tidy Towns soldiered on, adding an extra day to our already four-day week. **Watering Wednesdays!** We met at 6pm and watered the 30 plus planters that we have in all corners of the town. We used the rainwater that we collect in our large water butt. We filled up watering cans and buckets and loaded them onto trolleys and off we went. It made a huge difference. We still watered on other days but having that dedicated watering day meant that our plants, herbs and flowers flourished, even during the drought.

We continued that routine all summer long. We welcomed new volunteers, big and small! Our youngest two volunteers were less than 1 year old! And our oldest? That would be telling!



Some volunteers and residents of Royal Terrace

In June we began training with **Bird Watch Ireland**. We are in the process of choosing sites for swift boxes to provide the swifts with a place to nest when they reach our shores. The swift boxes come with audio sounds of swift song, which helps attract the birds.

We brought to the attention of the council, the beautiful Cabmen's shelters that are situated on Queens Road. There were in

a sorry state of repair and full of litter and debris. With ingenuity and determination, we were able to remove the rubbish and clean the shelters despite being unable to open the gates. Subsequently some repair work was carried out and the ironwork restored and painted. There remains some restoration of the woodwork needed, and we will make sure this happens.

We continued to recycle and return all glass bottles, cans and plastics, cardboard, vapes etc. We weeded and planted and watered. We used our weeding machines, Animal and Monster, to keep paths and curbs free of weeds.

Our graffiti team grew in numbers and were able to tackle most of the black spots in the town. It is a thankless job, often needing repeat visits. Huge thanks to Brian, Jim and the team for the perseverance and patience it takes to do this job.

In July we joined the residents in **Royal Terrace** and **Crosthwaite Park** for a community clean up which were great successes.

We spruced up the wall beside our shed with recycled paint donated to us by the ReDiscovery Centre.

We were given a display cabinet by the manager of Dun Laoghaire Shopping Centre. He gave us permission to **display** our trophies on level 2 of the centre at the top of the front escalators. We were very grateful and very proud to be able to show off our glassware!

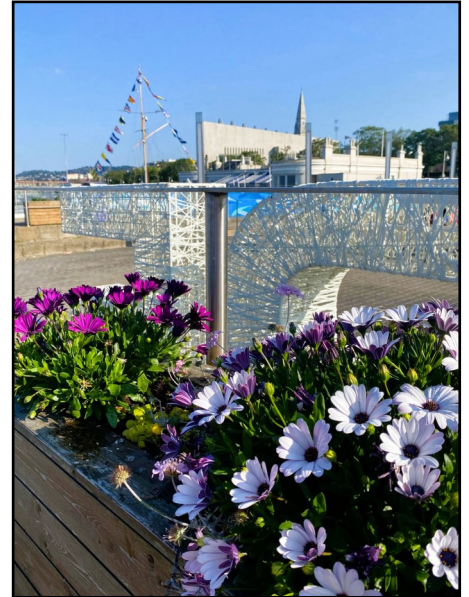
We installed a *water butt* in **Desmond Avenue** for the residence to use to keep the eight flower beds on the street well hydrated.

To celebrate **Shoe Lane's 10th birthday**, we presented them with a planter for outside the café. For the last number of years Shoe Lane has provided DLTT with free coffee every Saturday, which is such a generous gesture and very much appreciated.

We made a call out on our social media for submissions of photos and painting to feature in our **DLTT/DLCRA calendar 2027** and have received some really beautiful pictures. Our 2027 calendar is going to be very special.

We joined An Cathaoirleach at the **Ukulele Hooley** in the Peoples Park to launch the Gum Litter Taskforce Roadshow

Now, we begin planning for the Autumn and Winter. We joined Clean Coasts for the **Big Beach Clean** on Saturday the 19th of September. After gathering at our HQ beside St. Michael's Church at 9am and heading down to the coast roads. Our volunteers were on both the sea and the shore, with small boats in the water removing debris from the shoreline. There were refreshments for all volunteers at Helios coffee shop on the Coal Harbour Pier, afterwards. We were delighted that it was a success. This is



Flowers at Harbour Plaza, watering Wednesdays helped them through the long dry summer

always a fun event and a vital awareness campaign to emphasise the importance of keeping our seas plastic and litter free, because without clean and healthy oceans, quite simply there would be no life on earth.

We have our DLTT/DLCRA calendar 2027 launch in early November and will welcome one and all to join us for a beverage or two on the night, just so long as you buy a calendar!

That is all from me for now.

Dun Laoghaire Tidy Towns meet at our HQ at St. Michael's Square for one hour every Saturday at 10:30, Mondays at 09:00 and on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 14:00. We have volunteers who also go litter picking outside of these times as suits their schedule. If you would like to join DLTT please contact us at dltidytowns@gmail.com or simply come down to the town at the times above and join the crew. You'll be glad you did!

Catherine Harris
Chairperson



The Tidy Towns Charity Calendar will be available by the beginning of November and will be in shops around the town as well as being sold by our volunteers over the winter.

E-mail INFO@DLCRA.IE to order yours



DÚN LAOGHAIRE CENTRAL
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town



DÚN LAOGHAIRE CENTRAL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Dear Residents,

September Song.

It's that month when robins resume their haunting melancholy songs as they establish and defend their Autumn and Winter territories. The return of the rain has cheered up gardens and parks. And the lower light and blazing leaves remind us that everything around us is transient. What a wonderful, unusual, warm and sunny summer we have had.

Summer 2026 is officially Ireland's hottest summer on record, breaking the previous record set just last year. The intense high-pressure systems (heat domes) brought long periods of hot weather and high humidity in June, July and August. Long term global warming makes these extreme heat patterns much more likely.

Which brings us to the question of the need for more trees to provide shade in the public realm. Planting the right shade trees can drastically lower localized temperatures during extreme heat waves. "Trees provide a dual cooling mechanism: structural shade, which blocks solar radiation and evapotranspiration, a process where leaves release water vapor into the atmosphere, acting like a natural outdoor air conditioner"

Paris has planted tens of thousands of trees to create urban shade and cool the city during severe heatwaves. The city is also removing asphalt and concrete in busy areas to build dense micro- forests. Many residents in Dun Laoghaire have contacted me to point out the poor level of tree cover in some of their neighbourhoods. They feel there is "an urgent need for more extensive tree planting in the light of the ongoing biodiversity and climate

emergencies"

Things are moving on with the Sports Field at Tivoli Terrace South which is up for sale. We are cautiously hopeful there will be positive news by the end of the year or sooner and that the Council will be able to protect this last green space in central Dun Laoghaire and hopefully plant more trees there.

The DLCRA will be hosting another Public Meeting at 7:30pm on the 5th of November at the Maritime Museum. Please come if you can, please book on EventBrite to help us plan the seating.

DLCRA are also starting to organize the Interdenominational Christmas Carol Concert which was a great success last year. It will be held in Christ Church Dun Laoghaire this year.

Many residents have requested we extend their thanks and appreciation for the work of Dun Laoghaire Tidy Towns in their work to keep the town 'clean, green and biodiverse'. They are a voluntary community who meet at St. Michael's Square on the corner of Marine Road on Saturdays 10:30am Tuesdays at 1:30 Monday and Thursday at 2:pm All are welcome, no registration required and equipment is provided. dltidytowns.com



Mary Kelly-Borgatta

POETRY CORNER

Words That Inspire

Seeing this poem by A.E. Housman recited recently I was struck by how it evokes nostalgia for the past. Having also just read Melyn Braggs wonderful autobiography 'Back In The Day' and attending the Dun Laoghaire Borough Historical open day where I saw some marvellous talks on people's family history. I was compelled to include it in this issue's Poetry Corner.

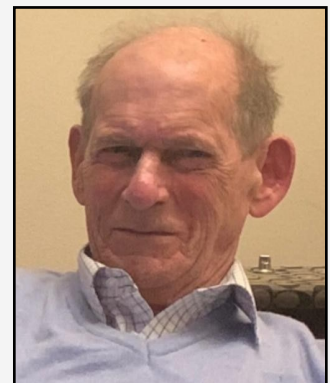
Someone once said to me that there is always room for more poetry in life, I couldn't agree more.

A Shropshire Lad, XL By A.E. Housman

Into my heart an air that kills
From yon far country blows:
What are those blue remembered hills,
What spires, what farms are those?

That is the land of lost content,
I see it shining plain,
The happy highways where I went
And cannot come again.

RIP Thomas (Tom) Dunphy



On the 25th of August Dun Laoghaire lost one of its most cherished son's.

Tom Dunphy was born and bred in Dun Laoghaire, being reared in his home above the family pub Dunphy's on Lower Georges St. Dunphy's is a landmark in the heart of the town as was his presence in the pub.

A great supporter of the town and all aspects of the community, Tom will be sadly missed. Condolences to his family.

Let's put the heart back into Dun Laoghaire town

Policing Forum / Community Safety Partnership

The DLCRA attended the Local Policing Forum on the 2nd of September, it was a public meeting that anyone could attend.

The Guardí highlighted many positives with efforts and successes on issues such as shop lifting, confiscation of e-scooters and drugs.

Residents and community groups raised concerns to do with public drinking and the anti-social behaviour associated with this. Many were very concerned that it was happening in the most public of spaces and was making people feel unsafe.

Many residents also raised concerns about rat running and cars.

There is a similar sounding group called the Local Community Safety Partnership, this is a county wide group and is very different from the LPF. The Partnership is chaired by **Cllr JP Durkan** and involves a range of partners such as the HSE & Tusla and elected representatives. It is trying to create a more holistic approach to preventing issues before they arise or to quickly address them. The DLCRA has recommended better communication between CIE and Guardí to inform the local Garda when large groups of people are coming in, especially during the good weather. This is an issue that affects most towns and villages along the coast.

Email us at info@dlcra.ie if you would like to know more or become more involved.

Litter Management Plan

Dun Laoghaire County Council asked for submissions as part of the process of creating the Litter Management Plan 2027-2029.

We spoke with Tidy Towns and the Business Association to see what their concerns were and how we could support them in our submission.

The main issues were:

- Takeaway food outlets need to be targeted with their obligations and enforcement of the litter bye-laws.
- Needs to be more regular power-washing of certain streets in the county.
- Annual detailed reporting on numbers of reports of litter and the fines issued.

There is a general belief that there needs to be more enforcement of all types of littering from dog fouling and fly tipping to general litter like cigarette butts and food wrappers. Certain streets in the county with high footfalls



and a concentration of takeaway food outlets have to deal with stains from food that other areas don't experience. These areas and town centres need to be prioritised and funding needs to be found to allow the Cleansing Dept to do their job.

The amount of litter that is created by cigarettes was a real eye opener and is something that Tidy Towns wants to try and tackle in the town centre. We fully support this as do the Business Association and hopefully we will see more retailers and hospitality outlets installing ash trays and looking after the pavements and streets near their premises.



Hello everyone and welcome to another round of brain ticklers and puzzles for your pleasure.

This issue it's a lot about finding the patterns and working out what different things have in common. A satisfying type of riddle to solve in my opinion.

All answers to info@dlcra.ie and Good Luck!

Q. 1 Find the odd one out :

- Nisob
- Giret
- Azbre
- Nethelope

Q. 2 Insert the letters that completes the first word and begins the second:

Wheat (...) Mit

Q. 3 Insert the missing number

4 1 2

2 6 3

3 2 ?

Q. 4 Insert the missing letter

A D G

G K O

O T ?

Q. 5 Insert the missing number

16 (96) 12

10 (?) 15

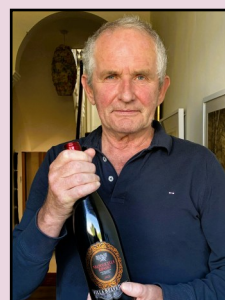
Q. 8 Insert the missing letter

S P L G ?

~~~~~

The Winner of the quiz from our previous issue was David Dwyer from Glashule. Mairead Toibin has recently started to deliver newsletters near where she lives on the border of Dún Laoghaire and Glashule which was good news for David.

A nice bottle of Italian wine was David's prize but don't forget we also have gift vouchers if children win.



David Dwyer was very happy to win a lovely bottle of VINO

## Please Donate to Support

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

# Why I love Dún Laoghaire..

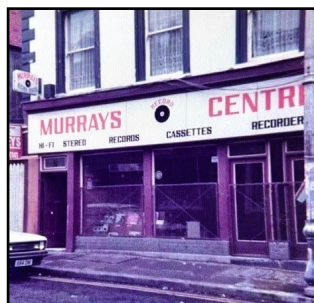
By Frances Kelly

This issue we have asked Frances Kelly to give us her thoughts and memories of our town and why it is so close to her heart. Thank you Frances.

As I walk along Upper Georges Street away from The Peoples' Park, in my mind's eye I can see the splendour of the flowers and the sumptuous layout of the flowers, trees, fountains and the bandstand. The restoration of the Pavilion has added to the magnificence of the park; in the past, it was so well kept it was called "The Jewel in The Crown". On the seafront, on the site of the old baths, now stands the much admired statue of Roger Casement. The baths (which were opened in the 1843) are now gone and in their place there is a swimming area, which has proved to be a huge success with people of all walks of life coming to "the baths" for their daily swim. Anyone who grew up in Dún Laoghaire learnt to swim there and still speak with nostalgia of those times - myself included. In all weathers, a bracing walk along the promenade cannot be beaten and the sunny East Pier is just as popular as always.

Still on Upper Georges Street, there are many new places to go for coffee and cake, a drink, or something to eat. When strolling along there are so many familiar faces, some from my younger days and many from later times. People from

Dún Laoghaire do not seem to stray far from their roots; quite a few go away for a while and then come back again. During the 1960's, Murray's record shop was a great meeting place as was the Bamboo Cafe - alas both long gone. It is very comforting to see some of the old buildings still standing. The Christian Institute has been purchased by MCD, is being refurbished and looks splendid. Further along is the site of the old Gas Company (now Intersport Elverys) so different to what was once a shop, where one could buy a gas cooker, attend cookery demonstrations and go to a play in the evening in the Gas Company Theatre, which was situated upstairs. Attendees for the theatre would go in through the front door, pass the cookers and ovens and go upstairs to see a play. Famous actors such as Milo O'Shea and Maureen Toal were regulars, as was Madelyn Erskine in the 1960s. The entrance still has the Gas Company symbol.



Murrays Record Shop, Upper Georges St



The Jewel in the Crown of Dún Laoghaire, the People's Park in the 1960's.

I attended Dominican Convent School in the town and it was not unusual to meet one of the reverend sisters out and about in the town. They were always delighted to meet you and would be full of curiosity about where you were going, and if you had bought something they wanted to have a look and say *where did you get it and how much?* My school friends Catherine Hayes and Paula Hunter were the best to window shop with. The Miami Cafe was and still is a great place for a coffee and you were always sure you would meet someone you know.

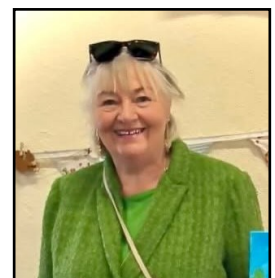
The people one meets in the town are very friendly and always greet you when passing. I often wonder if this is because we look familiar, or is it because Dún Laoghaire people are very friendly? I like to believe the latter. You would never feel lonely or bored in Dún

Laoghaire, the possibilities are endless.

The sea breezes, the gale coming up Marine Road, the dip in the baths with Roger Casement, a visit to the Pavilion Theatre or the IMC, dinner in one of the many restaurants, or afternoon tea in The Royal Marine Hotel. The possibilities are endless and not one disappoints.

I really believe Dún Laoghaire is in my DNA. I don't think I could survive anywhere else.

Frances Kelly



## The West Pier Skatepark

In the summer of 2021, the DLCRA was highlighting the need for activities for older children in the town. We supported calls for a free to use skatepark, cycling pump track that could be used by different ages. We helped drive the project bringing together representatives of BMXing, skateboarding and people with expertise in building the facilities. We also worked with Coco

representatives to see if suitable locations could be found within the town centre.

We were delighted to see in the summer of 2022 funding secured for a Skatepark and pump track to be built in the town.

The skatepark officially opened on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 with a half pipe and pump track in Apnea Park behind the West Pier. It is beside the coast

with great views, there is a car park which is accessible through the harbour but many people walk along the coast from Salthill or cross the train tracks at the pedestrian bridge on Old Dunleary Rd.

Over the last 2 and a half years it has been very successful with children and young adults of all ages using the facilities. The question has arisen is it going to be developed further? The original plans included a larger park with

basketball facilities and much more. Maybe we need to start the process again. If you would like to help email us at [info@dlcra.ie](mailto:info@dlcra.ie)



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