



**Dún Laoghaire-  
Rathdown  
Chamber**  
Advancing business together

# PAST PRESIDENTS

1949: M.J.Cullen  
1950: W.J. Costello  
1951: W.J. Costello  
1952: J.J. Jennings  
1953: T.R. Potter  
1954: W.P. McNeany PC  
1955: P.L. Mc Evoy  
1956: F.F. MacCarthy  
1957: A.J. Sweeney  
1958: A.J. Sweeney  
1959: B. Briscoe  
1960: J.J. Jennings  
1961: J.J. Jennings  
1962: J.J. Jennings  
1963: J.J. Jennings  
1964: A.H. Crawford  
1965: E.J. Neville PC.  
1966: J.J. Smyth  
1967: J.J. Smyth  
1968: May Caulfield  
1969:  
1970:  
1971: Michael Corr  
1972: J.R. Pile  
1973: J.R. Pile

1974: Brian E. Martin  
1975: Brian E. Martin  
1976: Brian E. Martin  
1977: Jack Corr  
1978: Edward De Groot  
1979: Harwill Orr  
1980: Desmond McCabe PC  
1981: Desmond McCabe PC  
1982: Desmond McCabe PC  
1983: Desmond McCabe PC  
1984: Ted Magee  
1985: Ted Magee  
1986: Ted Magee  
1987: Ted Magee  
1988: Ted Magee  
1989: Ted Coffey  
1990: Ted Coffey  
1991: Tess Eyre  
1992: Tess Eyre  
1993: Brendan Henderson  
1994: Patrick J. Fitzpatrick  
1995: Patrick J. Fitzpatrick  
1996: David Farrelly  
1997: David Farrelly  
1998: Paddy Beare

1999: Tom Nolan  
2000: David Plunkett  
2001: Hilary Haydon  
2002: Hilary Haydon  
2003: Michael Johnson  
2004: Michael Johnson  
2005: Andrew Clarke  
2006: Liz Ferris  
2007: Brian Crawford  
2008: Michael Sanfey  
2009: Michael Sanfey  
2010: Liz Ferris  
2011: Neil Keenan  
2012: Neil Keenan  
2013: Josephine Browne  
2014: Josephine Browne  
2015: Kevin Kelly  
2016: Pat Neill  
2017: Pat Neill  
2018: Aileen Eglington  
2019: Aileen Eglington

# **Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Chamber 70 Years of History**

2019 marks a special anniversary for the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Chamber. This year the Chamber celebrates seventy years of its existence.

The Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Chamber is a business network. Its aims include the promotion and protection of the interests of the business community in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

Today the Chamber represents a dynamic county community that stretches from the mountains to the sea. The Chamber helps unite the community by promoting and protecting more than eight hundred companies and connects over fifty industry sectors through a membership programme designed to engage every level and discipline. The DLR Chamber offers members over one hundred events per annum at which to learn best practice and connect with the wider business community, thus making networking a pillar of the DLR Chamber.

This book aims to help the reader discover some of the significant events over the last seventy years and how the DLR Chamber has made a positive impact on the local community at large. The book will also look at a history of its council, the reasons for the establishment of the Chamber and the impacts made on tourism, industry and development. The hope is that this book will remind everyone of the progress that has been made these last seventy years and give encouragement and motivation to continue to develop Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

# Acknowledgements

**Editorial Committee:** Jonathan Douglas, Aileen Eglington, Brendan Henderson, Liam Madden, Gabby Mallon, Dan Mulcahy

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Above all thank to our members for all their support.

# Foreword

Welcome to DLR Chamber's Book which celebrates our 70 years of incorporation as the leading business organisation in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. The book reflects the history of those 70 years, from a business perspective.

We should always look forward and, despite some uncertainties, we are in an era again of growing prosperity and success on the business front, both locally and nationally. And we have to nurture that growth.

Yet we learn from looking back as well. 1949, the year of our inception was a year of huge change in our fledgling country. We officially became a Republic. The ESB power station in Poulaphouca was completed, to bring electricity to Dublin. And yet the last tram ran to Dalkey that year..... not to be seen again until DART and then of course Luas.

Through our connections, we advise our members on adopting best practice in the current business climate providing stability in a changing environment. That is what I believe Chambers do. We lobby at all levels, we communicate with Europe, we encourage our members to train and learn, to network and exchange ideas. We started that 70 years ago. And we are still doing this today.

There is a fine history of Presidents of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber since 1949, and indeed the boards who served. And I am more than proud to be the current President, in this our 70th Year.

Enjoy the read.

Aileen Eglington  
President Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Chamber

# Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Chamber



1949-2019

# Contents



**SALE OF ODDS**  
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**SHATTERED AND BURNED**  
**Final Act In Japanese War Drama**  
**GERMANS TO Be Weighed, Measured**  
**BRITISH nutrition experts are on their way to the British zone to study the effect of Germany's food situation on the people's health.**  
**Germans will be weighed in the streets, weighed and measured and asked their age and profession, Reuter says.**

**NO HATRED, SAYS MacARTHUR**

**THE FINAL ACT IN THE FAR EAST WAR DRAMA TOOK PLACE THIS MORNING WHEN THE JAPANESE SURRENDER WAS SIGNED.**

The scene was a grey, steel-walled room in the American battleship Missouri anchored in Tokyo Bay. The time was 10.30 a.m. in Japan (2.30 a.m. Irish Summer Time).

The battleship has been the temporary headquarters of the man who led the Allied forces victoriously to Japan—General Douglas MacArthur.

When the Japanese delegates lifted their pens from the paper the war in the Far East was officially at an end.

Scores of star-bedecked generals and gold-brated admirals of the Allied nations watched the ceremony. Hundreds of Pressmen and photographers crowded every inch of the space on the decks and turret tops.

In a remarkable speech—the first since he was obviously influenced by Lincoln's Gettysburg address—General MacArthur declared at the ceremony: "I announce it by my own power and by the authority of the United States Government. I represent you present and absent, and I represent the United States and the United Nations in their common purpose to ensure that the terms of the surrender are fully, promptly, and faithfully carried out."

**Higher Dignity**

We are gathered here as representatives of nations to witness the signing of the final act of the war. It is a day of peace and reconciliation. It is a day when the blood of the victors and the blood of the vanquished are mixed together in the waters of peace. It is a day when the world is united in a common purpose to ensure that the terms of the surrender are fully, promptly, and faithfully carried out.

**TRUMAN ON THE DAY OF RETRIBUTION**

Day of Retribution—as we remember it—other days of the war. It is a day when the blood of the victors and the blood of the vanquished are mixed together in the waters of peace. It is a day when the world is united in a common purpose to ensure that the terms of the surrender are fully, promptly, and faithfully carried out.

**PRICES TEN TIMES HIGHER IN GREECE**

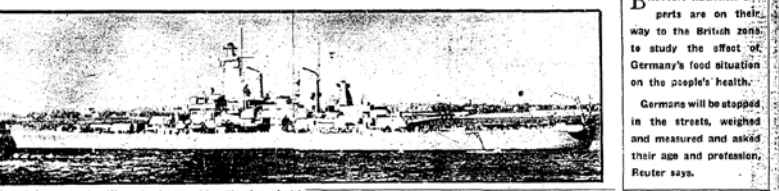
ATHENS, Saturday. WITHIN the past month or so the cost of living in Greece has resumed its normal course, with the single exception that the contrast between wealth and poverty is more marked than ever.

**Last Chance**

The General then invited the Japanese representatives to sign the instrument of surrender. After this had signed, General MacArthur himself signed, and then one by one, each of the other Allied representatives. It was a solemn and historic occasion.

**NO-DAYS RADIO**

**RADIO EIREANN**—1.30-1.45 (Irish News), 1.45-2.00 (Irish News), 2.00-2.15 (Irish News), 2.15-2.30 (Irish News), 2.30-2.45 (Irish News), 2.45-3.00 (Irish News), 3.00-3.15 (Irish News), 3.15-3.30 (Irish News), 3.30-3.45 (Irish News), 3.45-4.00 (Irish News), 4.00-4.15 (Irish News), 4.15-4.30 (Irish News), 4.30-4.45 (Irish News), 4.45-5.00 (Irish News), 5.00-5.15 (Irish News), 5.15-5.30 (Irish News), 5.30-5.45 (Irish News), 5.45-6.00 (Irish News), 6.00-6.15 (Irish News), 6.15-6.30 (Irish News), 6.30-6.45 (Irish News), 6.45-7.00 (Irish News), 7.00-7.15 (Irish News), 7.15-7.30 (Irish News), 7.30-7.45 (Irish News), 7.45-8.00 (Irish News), 8.00-8.15 (Irish News), 8.15-8.30 (Irish News), 8.30-8.45 (Irish News), 8.45-9.00 (Irish News), 9.00-9.15 (Irish News), 9.15-9.30 (Irish News), 9.30-9.45 (Irish News), 9.45-10.00 (Irish News), 10.00-10.15 (Irish News), 10.15-10.30 (Irish News), 10.30-10.45 (Irish News), 10.45-11.00 (Irish News), 11.00-11.15 (Irish News), 11.15-11.30 (Irish News), 11.30-11.45 (Irish News), 11.45-12.00 (Irish News).



The U.S. battleship, Missouri, aboard which the formal act of Japanese surrender took place this morning, is one of the mighty vessels of the same type added to the American navy since the war began. The others are the New Jersey, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Illinois, and Iowa (pictured above). They are 45,000-tonners, 850 ft. long, 103 ft. wide (for comparison, the Nelson Pillar, Dublin, is 123 ft. in height). Each has a crew of 2,500 men, and they carry four aeroplanes as part of their equipment. Their armament consists of nine 16-inch guns, 56 5-inch guns, and 128 anti-aircraft guns. Their speed is 30 knots.

**Clans Gather For All-Ireland Battle**

**F**ROM Cork and Kerry to the Glens of Antrim and the fastnesses of Donegal lovers of the Gaelic game have arrived or are en route to the great hosting at Croke Park today, when Kilkenny and Tipperary meet in the All-Ireland Hurling Final.

Early in the week the Irish began, since when hotels and boarding houses have been booked to accommodate the 30,000 to 40,000 who are expected to witness the contest. The hurling is expected to start at 2.30 p.m. on Friday at Croke Park. Kilkenny and Tipperary were on sale and played.

**KILKENNY GROWS**

The hurling fever has gripped Kilkenny, whose team are in Dublin today. The Kilkenny hurlers will be in Dublin today.

**Close Ties**

Dr. MacDonnell will be present of the opportunity to visit his country before he returns to Ireland. He will be accompanied by his wife and children.

**EXTRA TRAINS**

The extra trains will be run from Dublin to Cork and Kerry. The extra trains will be run from Dublin to Cork and Kerry.

**Prize Flowers**

Miss Bernadette Murray with one of Mrs. R. Anderson's exhibits will win the Bronze Medal and Mount Merrion Horticultural Show yesterday.

**Record Crowds At Ballsbridge**

There was an attendance of 12,000 at the Ballsbridge show which exceeded yesterday's figures by 5,000. The record crowd was witnessed last night at the show.

**THE ATOMIC BOMB: TWO STATEMENTS**

Here are two statements about the atomic bomb. Mr. Stettinius, former U.S. Secretary of War, has stated that the bomb is a new type of weapon.

**AFRICAN ORDERS FOR U.S.**

Major H. L. Chipley, former chairman of the Elder-DeWitt shipping trust and brother of Sir Stafford Cripps, has been named as the President in an interview in London.

**Move For Return Of Irish Students To Spain**

It was his intention to get in touch with the Irish Hierarchy, on behalf of the Spanish Hierarchy, so that the Irish College at Salamanca, closed since the outbreak of war in 1939, may be reopened as soon as possible for the reception of Irish students, stated Right Rev. Dr. Casimiro Morcillo, Auxiliary Bishop of Madrid, in an interview in Dublin yesterday.

The Spanish Hierarchy, who is on a short visit to this country, had with him Rev. Ignacio Macho de Lozano, Professor of Political Science at the University of Seville, who acted as interpreter. The matter of reopening the college is being discussed with the Spanish Hierarchy.

**Work of Church**

The Catholic Church was contributing largely to the rebuilding of Spain. One of the main ways in which the Church was contributing to the rebuilding of Spain was through the work of the Holy Family Society.

**Berlin Police Chief Killed**

Dr. Hinn York, Chief of Police of the Zehlendorf district of Berlin, was shot dead yesterday by four unidentified persons. They also killed Wilhelm Voght, Director of the Prussian State Bank.

**KILLED BY A BULL**

While working at a farm at Oshesha, a young man was killed by a bull. The man was identified as Mr. J. P. Perry.

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**FALL OF GLASS GRATE**

Killed by a fall of glass grate. The man was identified as Mr. J. P. Perry.

**FALL OF GLASS GRATE**

Killed by a fall of glass grate. The man was identified as Mr. J. P. Perry.

Special Offer





# Chapter 1

## A New Era

**O**n September 2nd 1945, the Second World War officially ended and with it a new era began. These were momentous times for Ireland. As a nation we had just come out the other side of “The Emergency” - a euphemistic term used to describe the time when there was a state of war. This era had kept the country in a state of emergency for exactly seven years from September 1939 to September 1946. During this time ‘The Emergency Powers Act’ had given the government censorship of the press and correspondence, as well as control of the economy. The Act also allowed Ireland to remain neutral during the War. By 1946 a new era of post-war development had come about and the citizens of Ireland were ready for it.

By 1948, Eamon de Valera had finished his first term as Taoiseach and the ‘First Inter-Party Government’ was formed following a banding together of political parties. This brought about the first non-Fianna Fáil led government in sixteen years. John Costello became the new Taoiseach and the following year ‘The Republic of Ireland Act’ was declared stating that Ireland could officially be termed ‘The Republic

of Ireland'. The Act was signed into law on December 21st 1948. On Easter Sunday, April 18th, 1949, the Republic of Ireland Act came into force. Just twelve days later saw the official formation of the Dún Laoghaire Chamber of Commerce.

Initial agreements to establish the Chamber of Commerce began on April 8th, 1946. The Chamber was formed on the 30th April 1946 and the first official meeting held on Thursday May 12th, 1949, seventy years ago. The council members along with the first Chamber President were elected and the development of industry and tourism began for Dún Laoghaire.



*Inauguration article in Dun Laoghaire Borough Times*

# Chapter 2

## The Beginning: 1948-1949

**T**his chapter will look back to the very beginnings of the Dún Laoghaire Chamber. You will discover why the Chamber was established, the history of its formation and learn about the first members of the Council that have helped shape and mould the Chamber to what it is today.

### **Why a ‘Chamber of Commerce’?**

Prior to the establishment of the Chamber of Commerce the main bodies involved in Dún Laoghaire’s development were the Dublin Corporation and the Dún Laoghaire Borough Council. However with the increasing running costs of local factories, the recent declines in the yachting industry and other preventative factors to development in Dún Laoghaire it was decided by men like H.P. Dockrell (Chairman, Dún Laoghaire Corporation) and M.J. Cullen (First Chamber President), that a provisional committee of directors be formed to organise a Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber was formed in Dún Laoghaire in hopes of giving businesses the opportunities to look after themselves instead of being under the control of the

## The Beginning: 1948-1949

government. There was also a strong desire to have greater control over Dún Laoghaire port. By forming a Chamber of Commerce the business community of Dún Laoghaire would have representation when addressing the government over relevant concerns and disputes. (Evening Herald, 09/04/1946), (Irish Press, 05/05/1950). Jack Corr, Chamber President 1977, once stated that the Chamber's main objective was the creation of a suitable climate for the expansion of trade and industry in the Borough. (Dún Laoghaire Borough Guide and Directory, 1978)

In the decades that followed the formation of the Chamber it was described as an influential body in the life of Dún Laoghaire. The Chamber was also described as playing an increasing role in promoting the particular interests of the commercial life of the Borough, as well as the general interests of its inhabitants. The Chamber did not limit its activities to its relations with the Borough Council but also dealt directly with various central government departments, and the regional authorities having an interest in the Dún Laoghaire area such as the Tourist Board, the Health Authorities and the Industrial Development Authority. An active interest was, and still is, taken in the affairs of the Harbour and the companies based upon it. In later chapters of this book you will read some specific examples of the Chamber's interactions with these bodies in their efforts to improve Dún Laoghaire.

Significantly, the increasing activity of the Chamber resulted in the growing awareness of its value and this, in turn, has translated into a growing membership. Although based in the Borough, the Chamber did not restrict itself to matters relating to the area within the legal Borough boundary. The Chamber took a practical view and dealt with matters of interest to the whole

## Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber - 70 Years

hinterland of Dún Laoghaire. Fully affiliated to its sister bodies in Ireland and internationally, the Dún Laoghaire Chamber of Commerce played a vital role in ensuring that the commercial aspects of the life of the Community were not overlooked. The Chamber was very anxious to ensure that it drew the widest possible membership from the commercial life of the Borough and its hinterland.

### Formation of the Chamber

Those that formed the Chamber were also the first directors of the Chamber. They included: Thomas R. Potter, a headmaster from Sandycove; Victor G. Shaw, an auctioneer from Blackrock; William A. Corr, a newsagent from Dún Laoghaire; William J. Costello, a company director from Booterstown; Concetta Quinn, a caterer from Dún Laoghaire; Peter L. Milroy, a company director from Monkstown and E.F. Duke, a bank manager from Dún Laoghaire.

### The First Council



*At the Inauguration of the Dún Laoghaire Borough, Chamber of Commerce.-Left to right: Mr N. Purcell, Legal Adviser; Councillor M. J. Cullen; Mr. J. R. Clarke, Secretary, Associated Chambers of Commerce; Mr. F. C. Kirkpatrick, President, Dublin Chamber of Commerce; Councillor T. R. Potter, Chairman, Dún Laoghaire, Commercial Association; Mr. T. J. Kelly, Honorary Secretary of the Association; Councillor P. L. McEvoy, Caithaoirleach, Dún Laoghaire Borough Corporation; Councillor Thomas Maguire.*

## The Beginning: 1948-1949

The first Chamber of Commerce council members were elected in the Town Hall of Dún Laoghaire on Thursday, May 12th 1949. Some of the initial members stayed with the Chamber for some time and even became Chamber Presidents themselves. The first Chamber President was M.J. Cullen, a Councillor and owner of The Coliemore Hotel (later renamed Dalkey

### **M.J. Cullen (President 1949).**



M.J. (Matt) Cullen, was born in 1905 and was the first elected President of the Dún Laoghaire Chamber of Commerce. Signs of his passion for Ireland and its development can be seen early on in his life. From a very young age (12 to 16) he was involved in the War of Independence as a member of Fianna Éireann, for which he later received a medal. Here he likely supported the Anti-treaty side of the Civil War. During his life he worked as a salesman in the U.S., a draper in Dalkey and a member of the Fianna Fáil party. He was the founding Chairman of the Dalkey

Development Association in the 1940s and he represented their interests on the Borough Council during the 1950s.

In 1948, he was ratified as a Fianna Fáil candidate in the three-seater Dún Laoghaire Rathdown constituency, along with Sean Brady, T.D. As a Councillor of the Dún Laoghaire Borough Council he advanced a proposal for a cheaper houses scheme. A month before the establishment of the Chamber he was elected Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of Dublin County Council.

While some reports show the first meeting of the Chamber to be in May 1948 others establish the first meeting later in the year, in December 1948. At the first meeting he presented a financial report on the Dún Laoghaire Borough Commercial Association whose finances were transferred to the Chamber of Commerce. In the 1950s he was a part of a Joint Committee of Dublin

Corporation and the Dún Laoghaire Borough Council. The goal of the committee was 'to enquire into the methods whereby control and supervision are exercised over the expenditure of Municipal funds in order to secure economy and prevent extravagance in the financial administration of the Borough'. For some time the Borough Council, which Cullen was a part of, had been advocating a separate system of management for Dún Laoghaire, with its own manager. This theme of taking back control for the proper development of Dún Laoghaire would continue right up to today.

Like his successors, Cullen had always cared about co-operation and the continued commitment of bringing development to the area. He served as a Councillor through various elections up to about 1960. Cullen served as Chamber President for one year until 1950. He passed away peacefully on January 6th 1991.



## Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber - 70 Years

Island Hotel). Other council members and future Presidents included, W.J. Costello, a company director from Booterstown and Chamber President 1951; J.J. Jennings, Chamber President 1952, 1960-1963; Thomas R. Potter, a headmaster from Sandycove, Chamber President 1953; F. McCarthy, Chamber President 1956; P. McNeany, Chamber President 1954 and E.F. Duke, a manager of the Provincial Bank (later AIB) Dún Laoghaire (see picture below). The final first council members of the Chamber of Commerce were, H. Mackey, J.J Sheehan, J. Dixon, J.A O'Rourke and G. O'Neill. They held their first quarterly meeting on Tuesday September 13th 1949.

The meeting was held in the Royal Marine Hotel under the auspices of the Dún Laoghaire Commercial Association. All sections of the people of the Borough had been invited including lawyers, doctors, dentists, industrialists, builders and general traders. Two guest speakers attended: Mr. Kirkpatrick, President of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Clarke, Secretary Associated Chamber of Commerce of Ireland.

Councillor T. Potter (Future Chamber President 1953) presided over the meeting. He welcomed the large crowd and stated that the size of the crowd was an indication of the interest taken in the proposed Chamber. He said that their meeting augured well for the future of the organisation which he believed would be of inestimable value to the whole Borough community and he appealed for the widest support. Potter then called on M.J. Cullen, the soon to be elected President of the Chamber, to give a statement on finance. Cullen said that for the benefit of those present who might be unaware of it, he would state that his report was that of the outgoing Dún Laoghaire Borough Commercial Association. It had been decided

## The Beginning: 1948-1949

by the members of the Commercial Association to put their credit balance at the disposal of the Chamber of Commerce as all the Members of the Association would now be in the Chamber of Commerce. The present cash balance in the bank was £75 8 shillings and 9 pence (€2,715 in 2019). Certain expenses had to be met regarding the Memorandum and Articles of Association and other incidentals and when these had been paid the balance would be roughly £25, 8 shillings and 9 pence. The membership of the Association was 113 members. These members would be transferred to the Chamber.

The outline of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, its committees and its purposes was given in hopes of helping to outline the Dún Laoghaire Chamber of Commerce. It was put simply that the purpose of the Dún Laoghaire Chamber of commerce was to do everything its members wanted it to do.

Councillor P.L. McEvoy (future Chamber President 1955) was then the current Cathaoirleach of the Dún Laoghaire Borough Corporation. He thanked their guest speakers Kirkpatrick and Clarke for their help in getting the new Chamber off on the proper foot. He hoped that since Ireland was now a Republic they would seek membership of the International Chamber of Commerce and give up being represented by the London Chamber of Commerce. He commented on the disgraceful conditions prevailing in Dún Laoghaire harbour, pointing out the injustice being done to the people in allowing the harbour to go to waste while good trade could be flowing through its piers daily. The Chairman appealed to intending members to come in, not with the idea of taking something out but of putting their all into making the Chamber of commerce a force to be reckoned with in the future development of the Borough.

# Chapter 3

## Dún Laoghaire: Eras of Development

In this chapter we see the Chamber's impact in the areas of tourism, specifically the ports, ferries and hotels of Dún Laoghaire. When brought together we discover how the Chamber of Commerce has helped make a positive impact on Dún Laoghaire's tourism and development.

### **The 1940s & 1950s:**

#### **The Early Harbour Development Era**

The war was over and for too long development had been at a standstill. The time for growth was now. In the late 40's and early 50's there was a strong desire to have greater control over Dún Laoghaire port from the Chamber and Borough Council (May 1950). Dún Laoghaire had untapped potential in the tourism market. As a result a 'Tourist Development Company' was established. This company was sponsored by the Chamber. (January 1954). An obvious area to aid the tourism market was Dún Laoghaire port. The Chamber held a conference to discuss measures to consider car ferry transport services between Dún Laoghaire Port and Holyhead

## Dún Laoghaire: Eras of Development

### **Thomas Potter, (President 1953)**

Thomas Potter, founder and headmaster of Potter College, Dún Laoghaire was Chamber President from May 1953 to May 1954. Born in Northern Ireland, he contracted polio at the age of one and at age seven he was told by doctors that he would never walk again. However, in later life, he did not let his disability keep him from attaining his goal of owning his own College, and he was never bitter. In his twenties he invented a device whereby people could drive cars with their hands and chest. This consisted of a clutch controlled by a plate placed in front of the driver who would operate it by leaning his chest forward, with other controls being worked by hand. When he demonstrated this before the Press and members of the Infantile Paralysis Fellowship at their

headquarters in England in 1949 he had been using it himself for more than 20 years, in Austin, Belsize and Morris cars, covering some 150,000 miles without an accident. The device was inexpensive and allowed the car to revert to foot control instantly. His invention was hailed globally as a great boon for people with disabilities.

Potter was a well-known figure through the many important positions he held in public life, both in Dún Laoghaire and in County Dublin. He was elected to the Borough Council in 1945 and later as Chairman of the Borough Corporation - the highest office the Borough had to offer. He was also elected to the Fine Gael Party in June 1945.

Potter started his first school in Crosthwaite Park in Glenageary in the 1930s. At the start of his career he began

with six students and by the end some 3,000 students had passed through his school. Once a year Potter's College held a big charity drive in aid of the Mount Street Club for Unemployed Men. This charity was a favourite with Mr. Potter. He left his college in April 1960 to start as Headmaster of a College in Cornwall, England, a decision which stunned many of his friends, students and fellow councillors. But he was confident the college would continue to thrive and, indeed, it continued its role until the late

1960s. The Dún Laoghaire Chamber of Commerce made a presentation to him in the Royal Marine Hotel saying "Farewell Tommy Potter. It's been an honour knowing you. Try and come home again."

Thomas Potter died on 27th July 1972. He was aged 73. A vote of sympathy was passed by the members of the Council and the Officers. Councillor Thomas Richard Potter was a small man physically, but in many ways, he was a giant.



*Pupils of Potter's College (left to right): Valerie Ward, Michael Naughton, Joan Flynn and Ismay Phipps making a presentation to their teacher, Councillor T.R. Potter, before he left Dun Laoghaire for a post in England*

## Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber - 70 Years

Port. This would bring in tourists from the UK and help bolster Dún Laoghaire development in tourism, hospitality and industry (April 1958). By the end of the 1950's works on the pier allowed for the loading and disembarkation of two boats at the same time. This rivalled any cross-Channel services. This also resulted in no passengers being left behind. Improvements were the result of negotiations between British Railways, the Chamber and the Board of Works (June 1959)

**January 1951:** The Chamber asks for a conference to settle dispute between the parties concerned with the bank strike.

**September 1954:** The Chamber meets the Minister for Industry and Commerce to stress the urgent need for more industries in Dún Laoghaire.

**June 1955:** The Borough Corporation, still active in 1955, proposes to purchase Harbour House. This is supported by the Chamber.

**September 1955:** The Chamber provides the special prize for 'The Dún Laoghaire Bridge Congress' - an annual ten day event.

**June 1956:** "With a population of 47,000 the Borough of Dún Laoghaire must be one of the least industrially developed areas in this country in proportion to population" - Chamber President Mr McEvoy appeals to members of Chamber to use their influence in getting industries for the Borough. This included a revival of the shipbuilding industry.

**October 1957:** The Chamber organises a meeting to bring a Christmas atmosphere to the Borough, including a monster organised fairy light display. This became an annual event for many years. It included a

## Dún Laoghaire: Eras of Development

window display competition.

**July 1958:** 'Pull them in' project - a group made up of Chamber members, Dún Laoghaire Corporation, Bord Fáilte and Borough Enterprises Ltd. They desired to see Harbour House converted into an £80,000 recreation and entertainment centre.

**April 1959:** An Industrial Exhibition is announced and sponsored by the Chamber. Showed the main functions of 25 of the important industries in the Borough. This appeared in the windows of their shops.



Pictured at the Dun Laoghaire Chamber of Commerce dinner in the Royal Marine Hotel last night were: Miss May Caulfield, president; Foss Maxwell, president, Dun Laoghaire Rotary; W. T. Carpenter, First Secretary, U.S. Embassy; Joseph Hogan, cathaoirleach, Dun Laoghaire Corporation.



## **The 1960's:**

### **The Hospitality Development Era**

In the 60's hospitality development was given a focus. It was realised once tourism started to develop Dún Laoghaire would need the infrastructure to accommodate its increasing population.

At the annual dinner it was announced by the Minister for Industry and Commerce, John Lynch, that new grants would be provided to improve existing hotels. Lynch said the tourist industry was vital to the prosperity of Dún Laoghaire (January 1960). However, in 1964 Minister for Power and Transport, Mr. Erskine Childers, was quoted as saying that Dún Laoghaire as a tourist resort was "proceeding very slowly" (November 1964).

However, a new car ferry service would start using the temporary facilities at the East Pier in 1965. The total carrying capacity would reach 32,000 cars per season at a 90% occupancy and 382,000 people came by regular shipping service in 1963. The President of the Chamber, A.H. Crawford, remarked that while a 15% levy applied by Britain was a body blow to the economy, it would be faced with traditional Irish courage. "We cannot get rid of the levy, so let us live with it - let us beat it. I believe we can beat it" (1965).

Two years later, Childers stated that the Irish banks had assured the Minister for Finance that they would continue to attach a high priority in lending policy to loans for hotel development. Childers also spoke of the opportunity for increased tourism to the area. This would come from having the benefit of Ireland's first Olympic sized swimming pool. This would come from the grants provided by Bord Fáilte for the improvement of Dún Laoghaire's parks, tennis courts,

## Dún Laoghaire: Eras of Development

car parks and bathing facilities. It would be up to the Dún Laoghaire Corporation to grant permission for the pool (January 1967). It soon resulted in an increase of 153% in bed bookings, according to the Tourist Information Office (November 1967).

Despite the rising utilisation of bed bookings Dún Laoghaire still had a relatively low average utilisation of accommodation (53-55%) compared to 65% in other seaside resorts. Bord Failte hoped a development plan with the Corporation could be agreed upon in 1968. Mr. J.J. Smith, president of the Chamber pointed out 'that apart from being a well known tourist resort, the Borough was also a thriving and progressive business centre' (January 1968).

**August 1964:** New E.S.B. showrooms open at a time when the Corporation has new plans for better street lighting in the Borough to such an extent that there would be no dark corners or shaded spots.

**February 1965:** 'Buy Irish Week'. The Chamber holds a meeting in the Royal Marine Hotel hoping that members of the distributive trade would attend and put forward their views and suggestions for the campaign.

**June 1966:** Industrial strikes in Ireland and seamen strikes in Britain are a cause for concern for the Chamber. The ferry service is idle. President Smyth of the Chamber hopes wisdom would prevail.

**June 1966:** Banks strike again. Dún Laoghaire Chambers and Dublin Chamber are urged to call on the Government to get both sides to come together with a view to an early settlement. The Chamber calls on the Minister for Industry and Commerce to intervene. The strike was adversely affecting trade in the Borough and throughout the country.

## Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber - 70 Years

**February 1967:** Plans for two conference halls are put in place at the special general meeting of the Chamber. Another approved scheme is for the development of Upper George's Street. Included in the scheme is a proposal for 20 shops, a cinema, a hotel and parking facilities.

**March 1967:** In order to fulfil community needs a call for a planned co-operative effort between members of Junior Chamber, Dún Laoghaire Chamber of Commerce and Dún Laoghaire Tourist Association is formed.

**September 1967:** A draft development plan is discussed by the Chamber at a luncheon. Dún Laoghaire Corporation is to provide parking facilities for 600 cars over the following year. A 'Welcome to Dún Laoghaire' sign is to be put up on the main Dublin road near Booterstown.

**October 1967:** The Chamber passes a resolution to request to the Department of Justice for the establishment of a Circuit Court and a District Court in Dún Laoghaire.

**February 1969:** The Chamber sends a telegram to the Minister for Labour asking to make every effort to end the current industrial strike.



Mr. B. Briscoe, President, Dún Laoghaire Chamber of Commerce (centre) talking to Mr. J. C. Tonge, President, Federation of Irish Industries (left) and Mr. P. E. Rowan, President, Junior Chamber of Commerce of Ireland, at the annual dinner of Dún Laoghaire Chamber of Commerce in the Royal Marine Hotel

### The 1970's:

#### The Shopping Centre Boom

The 1970's brought about a boom for shopping in Dún Laoghaire. The Chamber president, Michael Corr, approves a plan for a £5 million shopping centre to be built by M.E.P.C. Ltd on a portion of Upper George's Street (November 1972).

Later that decade at a Chamber dinner the Minister for Transport and Power states an additional £11.8 million would be given to tourism in the coming year due to the massive success in tourism over the previous year, partly thanks to the 'Discover Ireland' programme (January 1977).

While not forgotten the development of the Harbour continued as the Dún Laoghaire Corporation decides to seek sanction to become the authority for the local harbour. Formal discussions with all relevant interests included the Chamber of Commerce and the Junior Chamber (September 1978).

**June 1971:** The Chamber continues to press the Minister for Justice to establish District and Circuit Courts in the area, for the 3rd time in 4 years.

**February 1972:** The Chamber holds a meeting on the approval of entry into the EEC.

**July 1972:** The Chamber appeals to the Dún Laoghaire Corporation not to grant planning permission for a four storey office block between the seafront and the People's Park. The Chamber fears this would set a precedent for future developments that would replace the bright tourist business on the seafront by office blocks that would be empty and dark at night.

**August 1972:** The Chamber lodges objections against a

## Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber - 70 Years

proposed development for a shopping centre that many Dún Laoghaire traders were worried would ruin their business lives.

**January 1975:** The Chamber sends a letter to the Minister of Industry deploring the importation of low cost Korean and Taiwanese goods and the serious effect it is having on the Irish manufacturing industry.

**December 1975:** The Chamber opposes plans for development in the marina and suggests an alternative marina at the West Pier.

**November 1976:** The Chamber makes a move to recognise the contributions of people whose work for the community normally goes unnoticed. Nominations are requested. This was known as ‘The Outstanding Citizen’ award.

**January 1977:** The Outstanding Citizen award is given to housewife Angela McGovern who, for ten years, had been helping handicapped people.

**May 1977:** Due to a crime wave in Dún Laoghaire the Chamber president, Jack Corr, states that it was time for juveniles to be committed by the courts and introduce corporal punishment. “Every day we see and hear of numerous happenings, where women are attacked in the street, windows of business premises broken and juveniles committing larcenies. In three weeks 130 cars were broken into in Dún Laoghaire”. Corr reports that the Taoiseach and the Minister for Justice, Mr. Patrick Cooney have agreed to provide more Gardaí.

### Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel

The original house, Mount Mapas was built in 1740 by Col. John Mapas, although records show that a building or buildings stood here at a much earlier date. By 1755 it was acquired by a Captain Maunsell who was succeeded by a Colonel Loftus in 1770.

The Colonel's stay was a short one; in 1772 he advertised the castle and its 150 acres for sale despite his short tenure. During his time in residence however, Colonel Loftus and his nephew converted the barren stoney soil to meadow and pasture and cut a road around the hill, his successor was Lord Clonmel who in 1790 improved the estate further spending £3,000 in the process, a handsome sum of money in the early 19th century.

The name Robert Warren is very much associated with the Castle and it was he who in 1840 enlarged the house and called it Killiney Castle. He also restored and added to the monuments on the hill, repairing the obelisk originally erected by Col. Mapas and donated land and most of the money for the building of Killiney parish church. The land on the hill - once part of the estate - was purchased from his son, Robert Warren Jnr. by Queen Victoria's jubilee memorial association and subsequently re-named Victoria Hill - as we still know it today.

Its subsequent owners included a Mrs Chippendale Higgan. The trees and shrubs she planted can still be seen today and provide a decorative setting for the castle.

In the 20th Century Killiney Castle was used by the Black & Tans, the IRA and the Republicans in the civil war before being burnt by Free State Troops. It was requisitioned by the Government during the 1939-45 period and used as billets for the army.



Killiney Castle exchanged hands again with the late Paddy and Eithne Fitzpatrick taking over the helm in the 1970's, transforming it into a first class hotel and re-naming it Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel. Today their daughter Eithne Fitzpatrick Scott-Lennon owns the hotel and together with her family continues to guide the way to its continued success, whilst maintaining the original Castle charm and Irish welcome long associated with the Castle.



## The 1980's:

### The Harbour Development Boom

The 1980s saw a massive boom in the development of the harbour. The papers were almost constantly talking about its development. The decade kicked off with the President of the Chamber, Desmond McCabe calling on the Government to establish a port authority in Dún Laoghaire for speedy improvements of facilities at the ferry-port. This included banking facilities, car hire services, fast-food restaurants, tourist information posts and easier access to roads and railways. “The harbour last year was responsible for handling 717,000 ship-to-train passengers and 423,000 people using motor cars.” An Irish Independent article reported, on April 25th 1981, on the establishment of a new harbour authority and also the positive reviews of the recent and ongoing developments to the East Pier, including a public amenity area (April 1981).

Harbour development allowed for new community events including a two day ‘Centenary Regatta’. Ted Magee, Chamber President was directly involved in the marine industry and participated in the Regatta (June 1984). Within the same year Sealink Ferries began to advertise a five-hour journey from Dún Laoghaire to Holyhead and Rosslare to Fishguard (July 1984). However, just the following year as the recession hit the 80s, Dún Laoghaire town braced itself for an estimated £1 million drop in business following the decision of Sealink to axe its mid-day sailing excursions from Holyhead the coming summer (February 1985).

The recession didn't deter people's passion for Dún Laoghaire. Two years later in 1987 the Taoiseach,

## Dún Laoghaire: Eras of Development



*Paddy Fitzpatrick (Pres 1994 & 1995) with President Mary Robinson*



*Hilary Haydon (Pres 2001 & 2002) (right) with Betty Coffey (dlr CoCo Cathaoirleach) and Garret Fitzgerald*

## Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber - 70 Years

Garret Fitzgerald, announced a new Authority to operate and develop Dún Laoghaire Harbour would be set up. This was announced at the President's Dinner for the Chamber and would create a healthy competition between Dublin Port and Dún Laoghaire harbour (November 1987).

Thanks to the development of the harbour, new and improved links could be made with Holyhead in Wales. This resulted in the Dún Laoghaire Festival being twinned with the Holyhead Leisure Island Festival. In June 1987, Chamber President, Ted Magee, attended the Festival but he was far from satisfied with how development was being handled in the harbour. He stated that while the Chamber welcomed new developments in the harbour, "the way it is being handled at the moment is very wrong - with no consultation from the local community" (March 1988). This soon led to the Chamber pressing for one of its members to be appointed to the board of the Interim Harbour Authority. This later led to the Marine Minister, John Wilson, making a commitment to keep Sealink in the port (September 1989).

**March 1981:** At the annual dinner the Minister for Transport, Albert Reynolds, says he is convinced the solution to the present traffic problems lies in 'the development of a flexible strategy which, while allowing the private motorist the maximum possible freedom, would at the same time permit public transport to operate with a greater degree of reliability and efficiency than is possible in present chaotic conditions'.

**July 1984:** Ted Magee, Chamber President, appeals for a 14% VAT rate. "I feel the Government is naive to carry on its present policies. How many more companies have to go to the wall before they realise

## Dún Laoghaire: Eras of Development

there is something radically wrong”.

**November 1986:** Of the 665 IDA projects approved for Dublin, 57 of them are for Dún Laoghaire. Of the £59 million invested £5.4 million is for Dún Laoghaire. This was expected to create 330 jobs over the subsequent years.

### Alphonsus J Sweeney (President 1957 & 1958)



Nephew of renowned Irish playwright and poet, Seamus O’Kelly, Sweeney was a successful auctioneer and businessman. Having more than one celebrity connection Sweeney once sent a copy of his uncle’s story, ‘The Leprechaun of Kilmeen’ to Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy following the death of President Kennedy, who had expressed a keen interest in leprechauns during his visit to Ireland. His second connection can be found with George Bernard Shaw,

who he once wrote to when Shaw’s boyhood home, ‘Torca Cottage’ in Dalkey, was up for auction. Sweeney felt the home ought to be preserved as a museum. Shaw replied, ‘homes were to be lived in and not used as museums’. Sweeney once owned a building in Dún Laoghaire which today is the premises occupied by Douglas Newman Good, Estate Agents. There, he had a book shop of an antiquarian nature. This building was also his family home. As an auctioneer he held a very high profile in South County Dublin. He sold many well-known premises in Dún Laoghaire, including Downey’s Public House, where the 14 year strike took place, hotels such as the Ardeen, the Lismara, the Pierre, the Carney Arms, the Argyle and the Haddington House. He later went on to establish ‘Sweeney’s Yacht Auctions’, a comprehensive catalogue of some 60 yachts, cruisers and motor boats.

In 1957 Sweeney became the Chamber of Commerce President and soon followed as the President of the Irish Auctioneers and Valuers Association. As Chamber President Sweeney was responsible for the erection of the first ever set of Christmas lights in Dún Laoghaire Town. He died after a short illness in St. Michael’s Hospital, Dún Laoghaire in January 1984 at the age of 84 years. He is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery. (Dún Laoghaire Borough Historical Society, Journal No.16, 2007)

A.J. Sweeney was one of the first to purchase an item new to the market, called a ‘dictaphone’. It comprised of a cylinder recorder, enabling the typist to type letters, details of the properties and other data from it. The cylinder could then be erased for further use. (Dún Laoghaire Borough Historical Society, Journal No.16, 2007)

## Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber - 70 Years

**September 1987:** The Chamber lodges an objection to the plan for a new £8 million shopping complex in Cornelscourt. Chamber President, Ted Magee states that the planning permission granted by the Dublin County Council was in direct contravention of the county's Development Plan. Fears are expressed that established areas (like Dún Laoghaire) could become a 'ghost town'.



*Jack Corr (pres 1977) (left) , Ted Magee (Pres 1984/5/6/7/8) (2nd from right)*



### The 1990's:

#### The Ferry Development Boom

The 1990's saw an increase in tourism with a major development in ferry advancement. Ted Coffey, Chamber President, stated that the Sealink Ferry would add £20 million to the Borough and would help create hundreds of jobs. The Sealink Company also stated it wanted to stay in the Borough and had no plans to leave. However, over the following few years there was a question over the pros and cons of having a ferry service (February 1990).



*Three presidents: David Farrelly (Pres 1996 & 1997)  
Tess Eyre (Pres 1991 & 1992) Ted Coffey (Pres 1989 & 1990)*

A seminar would take place two years later on whether or not the West Pier should be developed and if the ferry should stay. Some questioned whether the issues of traffic chaos and parking outweighed the benefits to Dún Laoghaire. The seminar was called, 'Pride in Our Place - The Challenge for Dún Laoghaire' and included other topics on tourism, development, environment and employment (April 1992).

Dún Laoghaire was also to expand and take on a new status. Later in 1992, it was announced that Dún Laoghaire was set to take on the new status of 'Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County' encompassing Clonskeagh to Bray, the sea to the mountains and beyond Dundrum. The remit of the Chamber expanded to reflect the changing county boundary.

Fears over a lack of development soon dissipated



as competition brewed over the development of the port. Irish contractors scrambled to compete with construction giants from across Europe to build Dún Laoghaire's new hi-tech ferry port, costing around £14 million. Stena's new ultra modern and high-speed catamaran ferries, each the size of a football pitch and capable of carrying 1,400 passengers, began services at the Harbour. Construction began in July and opened the following Spring. Being twice as fast there would be at least five sailings daily. Deputy Chamber President, Brendan Henderson said he hoped that hotels and B&Bs should benefit most and property values would increase (March 1994).

Seeing the potential success from the development plan for Dún Laoghaire Harbour, Stena Sealink immediately announced it wanted to dock two high speed ships, including the new HSS (the world's largest high speed ferry). A survey confirmed that Stena's contribution to the local economy - when tourism was taken into account - was £14 million. Chamber President, Brendan Henderson, stated that, if the development plan for the harbour didn't go through, Dún Laoghaire could become a ghost town and the 400 businesses in the Chamber would suffer. Some local residents and solicitors objected to the harbour plans. Their objections, however, weren't upheld and Dún Laoghaire soon welcomed three HSS vessels: the Stena Explorer, the Stena Discovery and the Stena Voyager.

**June 1991:** An article written by Chamber President, Tess Eyre, states "developing and promoting your business - this is the objective of the Dún Laoghaire Chamber of Commerce. No matter how small or how large your business is, by being a member of the Dún Laoghaire Chamber of Commerce, your business can benefit". The Chamber goes on to state that members

## Dún Laoghaire: Eras of Development

will be provided with early knowledge of forthcoming events so businesses can target their market. Members would also be kept informed about markets both near and abroad. Also included are 'Business Contact After Hours' meetings.

**June 1992:** Volunteers (including Chamber President Tess Eyre) help clean up the weeds from the derelict Pavilion Cinema site.

**October 1992:** The Chamber opens a business information centre at the Shopping Centre.

**July 1993:** A spokesperson for the Chamber states the area around the bathing shelters, 'can be very unnerving if you are not used to it'. The article describes the area as 'painted with graffiti, stinking of urine and a disgrace to the Borough'.

**July 1993:** The Chamber supports Monarch Properties, who were recovering from their second defeat following an Bord Pleanála's decision to refuse permission for its proposed £8 million cinema, car park and shopping complex in Dún Laoghaire. The Chamber recommends that Monarch should continue to pursue their plans.

**May 1999:** The Chamber links up with leading communications company GTS Ireland to launch a special telephone saver scheme for its members.

**October 1999:** Chamber President, Tom Nolan, pledges to get the Local Authority to rectify the severe flooding in the area.

**September 1999:** The Chamber runs an enterprise scheme which caters for the unemployed and entrepreneurs who want to strike out on their own in the competitive commercial world.

### The 21st Century:

The first two decades of the 21st century have seen Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown enter a new period of rejuvenation. This time has seen the planning, repair and, in some cases, demolition and reconstruction of many familiar landmarks. These included the Irish International Diaspora Centre, the Cruise Tender Facility, the Coast Guard Cottages, the East Pier, the East Pier Battery, Harbour Square, Harbour Lodge, the Analematic Sundial, St. Michael's Wharf, the Public Boatyard, Carlisle Pier, Pavilion Theatre and the Dún Laoghaire Baths. These projects are all evidence that Dún



Laoghaire-Rathdown is continuing to thrive. Through its long and rich history Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown has shown the rest of the country that it is a leader in the areas of Tourism, Industry and Development.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown currently has a population of approx. 222,000 people, settled in over 98,000 homes. By 2022, it is expected that the population will increase to 240,000 people settled in over 117,000 homes. This is based on expectations of completed land and property development over the next three years.

Mr. P.L. McEvoy (President 1955) was the President of the Federation of Irish Industries in 1946 when the Chamber was formed, Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire Borough Corporation when the first meeting of the Chamber was held in 1949 and Vice President of the Chamber in 1954.



## Dún Laoghaire: Eras of Development

Areas for development include the major centres of Dún Laoghaire and Dundrum, as well as the secondary centres of Sandyford, Blackrock, Stillorgan, Nutgrove, and Cornelscourt.

Future plans include 2000 housing units in Old Conna, 2300 in Woodbrook, 3600 units in Rathmichael / Ferndale Road, 7700 in the new Cherrywood development as well as 18,000 units in serviced land to the west and north of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

Development of one of the major centres, Dundrum, has been spearheaded by a group called 'Imagine Dundrum'. This group is made up of local residents of Dundrum and its surrounding areas. They are working for a community-focused vision for the renewal of Dundrum's core built-environment, in collaboration with the County Council, developers and all interested local organisations, businesses and individuals. Their vision is to have a Dundrum 'that will respect and reflect its unique heritage, and is a thriving, attractive and welcoming place for everyone in the local community'.

With the help of the Chamber this plan will hopefully see a village where small and medium-sized local, independent businesses are encouraged and provided for, to ensure authenticity in the commercial landscape, and a thriving day and evening social and commercial community.

One well-known and popular local attraction in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is Marlay Park. Marlay Park is a suburban park in Rathfarnham comprising the 100 hectares of estate land associated with Marlay House. The park forms an important component of the historic landscape on the fringe of Dublin City and



*Artists impression of  
Dún Laoghaire Baths*

### Royal Marine Hotel

The luxury hotel which is now the Royal Marine was first built in 1863.

Dating back to 1828 however, a hotel known as Hayes Hotel stood on this magnificent site overlooking Dublin Bay. The hotel was purchased by William Dargan, builder of the first Railway in Ireland between Dublin and Kingstown (Dún Laoghaire) and the new Royal Marine was built with part of the old Hayes Hotel incorporated into the new design.

The newly developed Royal Marine Hotel first opened its doors in 1865 and has been a Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Institution ever since.

The Royal Marine Hotel is regarded as one of the finest 4 star Hotels in Dublin and has hosted many Heads of State, Kings, Queens and celebrities including old blues eyes Frank Sinatra, Laurel & Hardy and Charlie Chaplin, to name a few. The British Queen Victoria visited Ireland via Dún Laoghaire and enjoyed a 16-course breakfast in the hotel shortly after arriving. The Irish freedom fighter Michael Collins is believed to have hidden out in Room 210 with his partner Kitty Kiernan.

The first line wireless report on a sports event was made in July 1899 when Marconi transmitted a commentary on the Kingstown Regatta. The commentary was made on board a steamboat to the Irish Daily Express in Dublin on 14th August 1923.

The hotel is independently owned and operated by the Neville Family from Co. Wexford, who purchased the hotel in 2003 and completed a complete renovation, restoration and refurbishment programme on the hotel which has produced the magnificent luxury hotel present today. Visitors to the Royal Marine will attest to the magnificent and historic feel that remains in the hotel whilst modern influences have been married seamlessly into the new design. With high ceilings, ornate pillars, traditional wide corridors, intricate detail on the cornicing, Victorian staircases and large sash windows welcoming the natural light of the bay, the Royal Marine Hotel reminds one self of a bygone era while still adding everything that you expect to find in a luxury hotel of this quality.



## Dún Laoghaire: Eras of Development

is an impressive example of an 18th Century walled demesne. The former family residence, Marlay House, is surrounded by a craft courtyard, walled gardens, landscaped parkland, woodland and serpentine water courses in a location taking in the Dublin Mountains

The rejuvenation of Marlay Park is one of many developments set out in the County Development Plan 2016-2022. The Chamber will continue to represent this dynamic and developing county that stretches 'from the mountains to the sea'. By promoting, protecting and supporting the rejuvenation of the county and its members the Chamber of Commerce will continue to play a vital part in the unity and development of the county as it has done for the last seventy years.

For Dún Laoghaire harbour there is currently a 'Masterplan' in progress. The plan is a long-term vision for Dún Laoghaire harbour to be carried out over a 15 to 20 year period. The Masterplan was adopted in October 2011 and seeks to bring the 200-year progression of the development of the harbour to

### Ted Coffey (President 1989 & 1990)



Ted moved to Dun Laoghaire in 1969 after growing up in South Dublin. He moved into the car trade working for Ryans, before starting his own car business Collinstown Motors and Brighton Motors. Being a good friend of many members of the Chamber of Commerce such as Paddy Fitzpatrick, Ted Magee, Brendan Henderson and Tess Ayre and an active businessman, as well as living in the town centre, joining the Chamber of Commerce was a natural choice for him.

The main issues that were prominent during Ted's two terms of office were concerning the continued use of the harbour by the Sealink Ferry company. The ferry was an important contributor to the economic development of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown. As such Ted was active in creating closer links between Dun Laoghaire and Holyhead, hosting joint chamber events and creating closer ties between them both. He was made an honorary lifetime member of the chamber and took an interest in it and its achievements for the rest of his life.



## Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber - 70 Years

the next stage, and to realise its potential as a major marine, leisure, cultural and tourism destination, as well as securing the long-term viability of the harbour.

**May 2006:** The Envirocom Awards were started. These were a cooperative effort by the Chamber and County Council to recognise businesses and agencies of all sizes and sectors for their environmental achievements in the areas of energy management, waste prevention, water conservation and environmental performance and innovation. They were awarded annually until 2016.

**May 2011:** Women in Business Alliance founded

**2016:** Chamber president Pat Neill visits China with County Council Cathaoirleach Cormac Devlin and Dervla Lawson.

**September 2017:** The first County Business awards are held in Royal Marine Hotel.

**May 2018:** Dlr Chamber move to their new home on Marine Road.





## Presidents Through the years



*Paddy Beare (Pres 1998) with Bertie Ahern*



*Michael Sanfey (Pres 2008 & 2009) with Mary Hanafin & Lettie McCarthy*

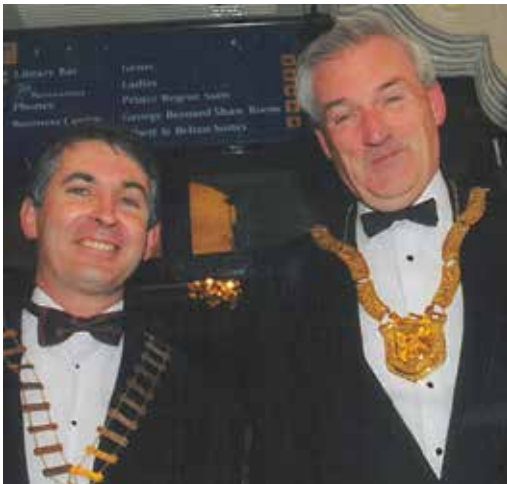
## Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber - 70 Years



*J Scott Lennon, Mary Mitchell O'Connor & Pat Neill  
(Pres 2016 & 2017)*



*Tom Nolan (pres 1999)*



*Hilary Haydon (Pres 2001) with dlr CoCo  
Cathaoirleach Donal Marron*



*David Farrelly (Pres 1996 & 1997) (left) at the  
opening of the Chamber offices at 1 Haigh Terrace*



*Paddy Fitzpatrick (Pres 1994 & 1995) right*

## Dún Laoghaire: Eras of Development



*Liz Ferris (Pres 2006 & 2010)*



*Paddy Beare (Pres 1998) with Chamber Staff outside 1 Haigue terrace*



*Paddy Beare (Pres 1998) with Jean Kennedy Smith*



## Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber - 70 Years



*Kevin Kelly (Pres 2015) with Sarah Kelly*



*Brian Crawford (Pres 2007)*



*Josephine Browne (Pres 2013 & 2014)*



*David Farrelly (Pres 1996) with John Hume*

## Dún Laoghaire: Eras of Development



*Michael Johnson (Pres 2003 & 2004) (right) with Michael McDowell*

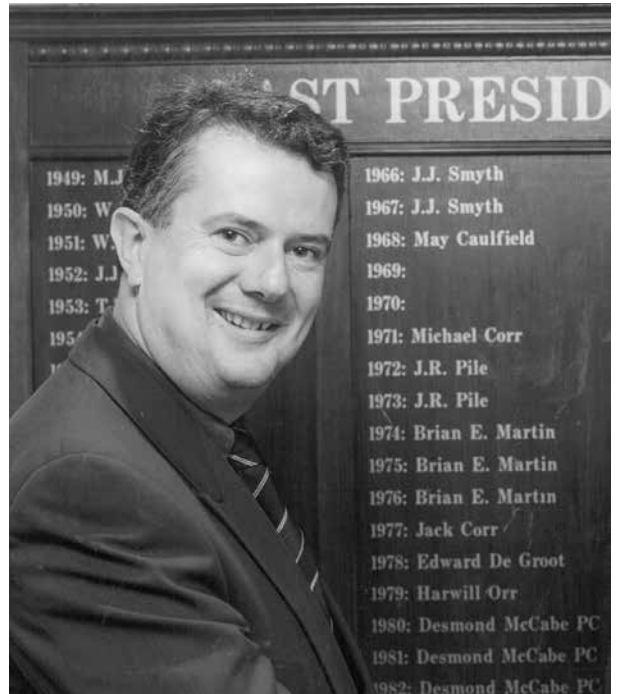


*Brendan Henderson (Pres 1993)*

## Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber - 70 Years



*Andrew Clarke (Pres 2005)*



*David Plunket (Pres 2000)*

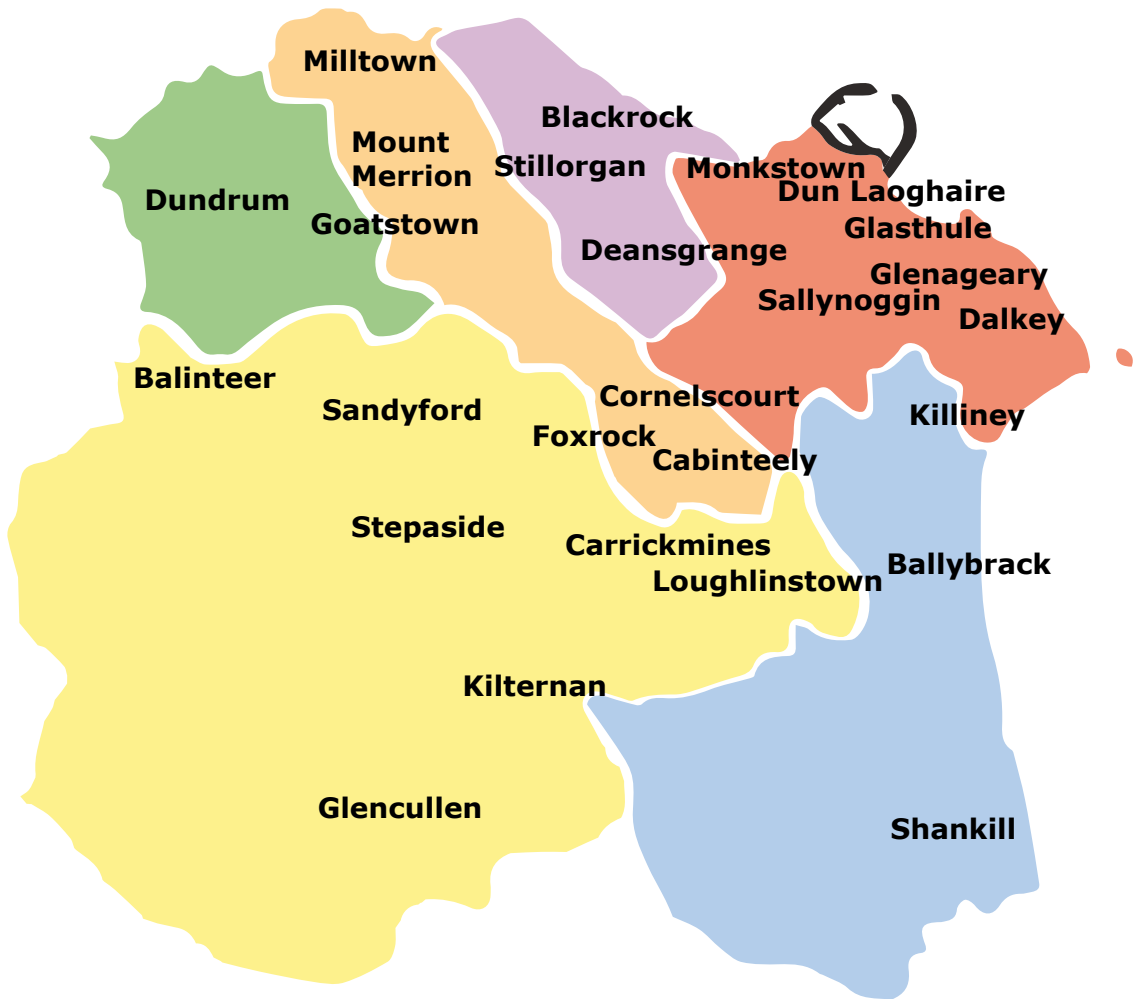


*Aileen Eglinton (pres 2018 & 2019) (third from left) and Gabby Mallon. CEO with new board members 2019.*



*Neil Keenan (Pres 2011 & 2012)*

## Dún Laoghaire: Eras of Development





# Chapter 4:

## DLR Chamber Today

**T**oday the DLR Chamber is the biggest business organisation in Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown, representing more than 500 members and affiliated businesses. We strive to enhance the economy and create an environment where business prospers, and people thrive.

We do this through networking events where our members come together, network, learn and share knowledge with each other. We usually have a guest speaker at our very popular lunches who will give a presentation on a chosen topic. Our aim is to grow a community as people do business with people they like and our networking events generate leads and sales opportunities for our members.

We run the very popular DLR Chamber County Business Awards which gives an opportunity for businesses in the locality to showcase their work and business acumen at our Gala Black Tie event which is one of the highlights of our calendar year. It is also an opportunity for our corporates to engage and fulfil their companies' Corporate Social Responsibility by way of sponsoring an award.

**Networking**



*Golf Classic in Stackstown GC 2016*



*Golf Lessons*

## Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber - 70 Years



*Table Quiz*



*President's lunch*



*Pat Neill (Pres 2016 & 2017) with guests at the president's lunch*



*Speed Networking*



*Hal Ledford with Daragh O'Neill of the Talbot Hotel at the President's lunch*



**EnviroCom Awards 2006-2016**



*EnviroCom Awards 2007*



*EnviroCom Awards 2010*

## Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber - 70 Years



*Kevin Kelly (Pres 2015) and dlr CoCo Cathaoirleach 2016 Barry Saul launching the Envirocom Awards Launch*



*Pat Neill (Pres 2016 & 2017) and dlr CoCo Cathaoirleach Cormac devlin with the 2016 EnviroCom Awards winners*



## DLR Chamber Today

### DLR County Business Awards



*KBC*



*Tesco Ireland*



*Composite Doors Ireland Ltd.*



*Equine MediRecord*



*SSE Ireland*



*Pat Neill (Pres 2016 & 2017)  
with Cllr Lettie McCarthy*

## Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber - 70 Years



*Pat Neill (Pres 2016 & 2017) with Michael Cosgrave winner Business Leader of the Year 2018*



*AIB*



*Bank of Ireland*



## DLR Chamber Today



*Awards Brochure*



*Airfield*



*Nuala Woulfe, Serenity Day Spa*



*Marie Duffy, Mary O'Donohue, Aileen Eglington, Helen ollings Making Connections\_Award\_2018*



*Brock McClure Consultants with Josepha Madigan (5th from left)*

## Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber - 70 Years



*Minister Josepha Madigan*

*Cathriona Hallahan Microsoft Ireland Managing Director winner Business Leader of the Year 2018*



*Lansdowne Partnership*



*Dan Nugent Ambr Eyewear with Alan Shortt*

## **Women in Business Alliance**



The Women in Business Alliance (WIBA) was founded in 2011 by Liz Ferris who was then President of DLR Chamber. It is made up of women and men who are Chamber members.

WIBA actively promotes women's empowerment and advancement through a number of key measures and actions working through the DLR chamber. WIBA encourages women to become part of the Chamber in order to give them a platform for their business. WIBA gives women and men a chance to network together and helps women promote themselves to their customers.

WIBA looks at issues that can affect women in their working life and helps them to overcome the challenges that they face. WIBA looks at the empowerment of women economically in their business, through development and implementation of gender sensitive issues in employment and education. It influences policy at a local, national and on an EU basis.

WIBA works collaboratively with SMEs and the Corporate client base in the Chamber.

Every year WIBA celebrates International Women's Day with a theme-based lunch that gives WIBA members a chance to network and to start the process of doing business.



## Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber - 70 Years



*Liz Ferris (Pres 2006 & 2010) and founder WIBA*



*Goody bags.*



*Glass ceiling cake*



*Nicola Byrne Cloud90*



*Aidan Ryan Royal Marine Hotel  
with Sinead Murphy AIB*

## DLR Chamber Today



*Sophie Spence*



*At WIBA Event 2018 Pat Neill (Pres 2016 & 2017) (right). Also attending is dlr CoCo Cathaoirleach Tom Murphy (third from right) and dlr County Manager Philomena Poole (second from right)*



## Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber - 70 Years



*Margaret Considine, Lorraine Higgins, Cllr Lettie McCarthy*



*Full House WIBA 2019*



**Miscellaneous**



*Liz & Jim Ferris*



*Pat Neill (Pres 2016 & 2017) with Aileen Eglinton (Pres 2018 & 2019) on Dublin South FM Radio*



*Former chamber CEO Hal Ledford*



*Chamber CEO Gabby Mallon and Aileen Eglinton (Pres 2018 & 2019) enjoying Italian day at Italian embassy at launch of Irish Italian Chamber*



*Chamber CEO Gabby Mallon at St TERNAN'S School*

## Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber - 70 Years



*Gillian Hoey (Bank of Ireland) Sen Neale Richmond, Aileen Eglinton (Pres 2018 & 2019) and chamber CEO Gabby Mallon*



*Former Chamber board member Tom Dalton*



*First meeting of the new chamber board July 2019*



**Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Chamber**  
Advancing Business Growth

## Newsletter

**2018** has been a great year for Ireland, despite uncertainties about Brexit. We have seen unemployment down to a low of 5.4% so far this year and our economy continues to be one of the fastest growing economies in Europe.

Our chamber continues to grow as well. We have had a good year. We have been delighted to welcome new members at every level.

We now have nearly 30 Corporate Members as well, and this is key to the future of DLR Chamber as our Corporate Members have been instrumental, both in terms of their time and their budgets, in supporting the initiatives of the Chamber this year.

We have had a huge response to our 2nd annual DLR Chamber Awards – and a great night for the Awards itself, for which we thank everyone who sponsored and attended and also the Awards Winners themselves.

We have had well attended Networking Events all year. And we had a very strong WIRA event for International Women's Day.

As the largest business organisation in the country and with our clear affiliation to Chambers Ireland, we will continue to engage with all the stakeholders in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown on your behalf.

We are all looking forward to another good year in business in 2019 with all the challenges it will bring.

Let's all work together and support in which we will celebrate 70 years celebrations with us and that over the year at our many events.

Happy Christmas and best wishes to all other in business in 2019, a year

**Aileen Eglington**  
President Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Chamber

**Winter 2018**

- PAYE Modernisation
- Speaking Tips
- Sales Preparation
- Upcoming Events
- New Members

4 months year for Microsoft in Ireland - award winning team


Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Chamber

2018 Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Chamber Awards



**DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE YEARBOOK & DIARY 2004**

IN BUSINESS FOR BUSINESS



**DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

IRISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ASSOCIATION

**WHY YOUR COMPANY SHOULD JOIN THE CHAMBER TODAY**

The Chamber is the biggest business organisation in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, representing more than 500 member and affiliated businesses. We strive to enhance the economy and create an environment where business prospers and prosper thrive. Since 2003, the Chamber has been the leading and most influential organisation representing the catchment area of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

<b>NEW MARKETS</b> Promote your name, profile and services for your company	<b>INFLUENCE</b> Effective advocacy and lobbying of local and national government on behalf of our members
<b>BUSINESS EVENTS</b> Speakers from leading companies focusing on key topics	<b>TRAINING</b> Access to business training programmes and seminars
<b>NETWORKING</b> Events that generate leads and sales opportunities	<b>EXPORTERS</b> Advice and documentation, including Certificates of Origin
<b>INFORMATION</b> National and local business news and information	<b>REPUTATION</b> Full your company's corporate social responsibility obligations
<b>WIBA</b> Membership of the Women in Business Alliance	<b>Small Business</b> Specialised opportunities to boost your business

**GLOBAL REACH** Access to Chambers Ireland, the country's largest business network and Ireland's link to the international Chambers of Commerce network

**Chambers Ireland** **ICC** **IRISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ASSOCIATION**



# Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber - 70 Years

**COUNCIL OFFICERS**

**Andrew Clark**  
President  
17 Baggin's Cross Rd,  
Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin  
T: 01 282 2262  
F: 01 282 2262  
E: andrew@dlr.ie

**Michael Johnson**  
Deputy President  
**Clair Laoghaire Rathdown Council**  
Barracks Road,  
Rathdown, Co. Dublin  
T: 01 282 2262  
F: 01 282 2262  
E: michael@dlr.ie

**Liz Ferris**  
Vice President  
Cork & Wick Avenue Ltd,  
Kew Road, Rathdown,  
Co. Dublin  
T: 01 282 2262  
F: 01 282 2262  
E: liz@dlr.ie

**Eamonn Hayes**  
Vice President  
17 Baggin's Cross Rd,  
Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin  
T: 01 282 2262  
F: 01 282 2262  
E: eamonn@dlr.ie

**Ted Puges**  
Vice President  
17 Baggin's Cross Rd,  
Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin  
T: 01 282 2262  
F: 01 282 2262  
E: ted@dlr.ie

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Paddy Beers**  
17 Baggin's Cross Rd,  
Dún Laoghaire,  
Co. Dublin  
T: 01 282 2262  
F: 01 282 2262  
E: paddy@dlr.ie

**Margaret Berk**  
17 Baggin's Cross Rd,  
Dún Laoghaire,  
Co. Dublin  
T: 01 282 2262  
F: 01 282 2262  
E: margaret@dlr.ie

**Brian Crawford**  
17 Baggin's Cross Rd,  
Dún Laoghaire,  
Co. Dublin  
T: 01 282 2262  
F: 01 282 2262  
E: brian@dlr.ie

**Hilary Hepton**  
17 Baggin's Cross Rd,  
Dún Laoghaire,  
Co. Dublin  
T: 01 282 2262  
F: 01 282 2262  
E: hilary@dlr.ie

**Kim Moore**  
17 Baggin's Cross Rd,  
Dún Laoghaire,  
Co. Dublin  
T: 01 282 2262  
F: 01 282 2262  
E: kim@dlr.ie

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Frank Murphy**  
17 Baggin's Cross Rd,  
Dún Laoghaire,  
Co. Dublin  
T: 01 282 2262  
F: 01 282 2262  
E: frank@dlr.ie

**John O'Leary**  
17 Baggin's Cross Rd,  
Dún Laoghaire,  
Co. Dublin  
T: 01 282 2262  
F: 01 282 2262  
E: john@dlr.ie

**David O'Hall**  
17 Baggin's Cross Rd,  
Dún Laoghaire,  
Co. Dublin  
T: 01 282 2262  
F: 01 282 2262  
E: david@dlr.ie

**Gerry Pollock**  
17 Baggin's Cross Rd,  
Dún Laoghaire,  
Co. Dublin  
T: 01 282 2262  
F: 01 282 2262  
E: gerry@dlr.ie

**Clair Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber**  
17 Baggin's Cross Rd,  
Dún Laoghaire,  
Co. Dublin  
T: 01 282 2262  
F: 01 282 2262  
E: claire@dlr.ie

**Yearbook & Directory 2008**

**Clair Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber**  
17 Baggin's Cross Rd,  
Dún Laoghaire,  
Co. Dublin  
T: 01 282 2262  
F: 01 282 2262  
E: claire@dlr.ie

**Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber**  
In Business for Business

**Yearbook & Directory 2007**

17 Baggin's Cross Rd,  
Dún Laoghaire,  
Co. Dublin  
T: 01 282 2262  
F: 01 282 2262  
E: claire@dlr.ie

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

**ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

**Chairman's Report**

**Business News and Information**

**Member Services**

**Business Advisory and Lobbying**

**Networking Events**

**Public Programmes**

**Education and Training**

**DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN NEWSLETTER**

**Chairman's Report**

**Business News and Information**

**Member Services**

**Business Advisory and Lobbying**

**Networking Events**

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**Clair Laoghaire Rathdown Chamber**  
17 Baggin's Cross Rd,  
Dún Laoghaire,  
Co. Dublin  
T: 01 282 2262  
F: 01 282 2262  
E: claire@dlr.ie

**DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
In Business for Business

17 Baggin's Cross Rd,  
Dún Laoghaire,  
Co. Dublin  
T: 01 282 2262  
F: 01 282 2262  
E: claire@dlr.ie

## DLR Chamber Today

Since 2011 Women in Business Alliance (WIBA) has been an important part of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Chamber. For more information and see page 56.

We strive for effective advocacy and lobbying of local and national government on behalf of our members, together with representation on SPC's by our board.

We are affiliated with Chambers Ireland and the International Chamber of Commerce. We have links with Greater Dublin Chamber where ideas and support are readily available.

Through our involvement with Greater Dublin Chamber, Gabby Mallon, the Chamber CEO recently attended the Trade Mission to Edinburgh in Scotland.

For the exporters in our Chamber, we also offer advice and documentation, including Certificates of Origin.



*Certificates of Origin*

# Chapter 5:

## The Corporations of the Chamber

**T**he Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Chamber currently has 28 Corporate Members from a number of different sectors across the county.

### Allied Irish Banks Limited

[aib.ie](http://aib.ie)



### Bank of Ireland

[bankofireland.com](http://bankofireland.com)



### BIM

[bim.ie](http://bim.ie)



### Clayton Hotel

[claytonhotels.ie](http://claytonhotels.ie)



### Commscope

[commscope.com](http://commscope.com)



### Core Credit

[corecu.ie](http://corecu.ie)





## The Corporations of the Chamber



**Cosgrave Developments**  
cosgravegroup.ie



**Dell**  
dell.ie



**Dublin Gazette**  
dublingazette.com



**Dundrum Town Centre**  
dundrum.ie



**Elavon Financial Services**  
elavon.ie



**Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel (see page 26)**  
fitzpatrickcastle.com



**Jacobs**  
jacobs.com



**KBC**  
kbc.ie



**Lansdowne Partnership**  
lansdownepartnership.ie



**Microsoft**  
microsoft.ie



**RBK**  
rbk.ie

**The Royal Marine Hotel (see page 37)**

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



ROYAL MARINE  
HOTEL

**Sandyford Business District**

[sandyford.ie](http://sandyford.ie)



SANDYFORD BID CLG

**SSE Airtricity**

[sseairtricity.com](http://sseairtricity.com)



**Synergy Facility Services**

[synergyfs.ie](http://synergyfs.ie)



**The Talbot Hotel Group**

[talbotcollection.ie](http://talbotcollection.ie)



**Tesco**

[tesco.ie](http://tesco.ie)



**Toyota Sandyford**

[toyotasandyford.ie](http://toyotasandyford.ie)



**Ulster Bank**

[ulsterbank.ie](http://ulsterbank.ie)



**Vodafone**

[vodafone.ie](http://vodafone.ie)



**Wetherspoon**

[jdwetherspoon.com](http://jdwetherspoon.com)

wetherspoon

**Women in Business Alliance (see page 56)**

[wiba.ie](http://wiba.ie)



## The Corporations of the Chamber

### Notes

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