dlr Grants 2023

Find more information and apply at dlrcoco.ie/grants

Over €500k in funding allocated to community-led projects in 2022!
Message from An Cathaoirleach

Welcome to this Autumn edition of the dlr Times. I was honoured to be elected as Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council in June and I look forward to working with you all to improve our wonderful county. As we move through Autumn and into the winter months the Council will be rolling out a number of events and initiatives. This edition provides information on the Council’s new Irish language advisory committee, active travel updates, and national women’s enterprise day.

This edition also provides information on the dlr Grants Scheme for 2023. This scheme offers funding to groups in the area of Business, Environment, Heritage, Events, Sport, Community and Arts. This is an opportunity to help groups get projects and activities up and running. The Festival of Inclusion, which runs from 29 September to 5 November includes a wide range of events and activities organised by the Council and various organisations and community groups.

Nil neart go cur le chéile. Together we can work to improve the quality of life for citizens of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

Cllr. Mary Hanafin

Message from the dlr Chief Executive

Welcome to our Autumn 2022 edition of the dlr Times. As the increase in energy costs is on our minds this Autumn, we are hosting workshops on how you can lower your energy bills and our libraries have increased their Home Energy Saving kits which you can borrow to carry out a mini energy audit of your home.

Our dlr Grants is now open for applications for 2023 and last year alone we allocated over half a million in funding to community-led projects which assists us to improve our communities.

Works have commenced on the new town square for Dún Laoghaire at Myrtle Square and the Dún Laoghaire Baths project is due to open later this Autumn which will be an incredible amenity for locals and visitors. There are plenty of events and exhibitions coming this Autumn, and we hope you find something of interest to you.

I would also like to congratulate Mary Hanafín on her election as Cathaoirleach and wish her the very best as An Cathaoirleach for the year ahead.

Enjoy your read.

Frank Curran
Do you have an idea for an event or a project, big or small, that could benefit your local area in arts, business area promotion, community development, environment & climate change, heritage or sports? Your project could make a difference to the wellbeing and quality of life, even in a small way, of the people in your local neighbourhood!

dlr GRANTS SCHEME 2023
NOW OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

Each year Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council opens a grant funding scheme for the following year, known as dlr Grants. It provides funding to individuals, groups and organisations engaged in projects, events or initiatives at a neighbourhood or County level within our area, with a particular emphasis on supporting locally driven and grass roots initiatives. Grant funding is available for art projects, community-led initiatives, local business area promotion, sports development, local heritage and environmental protection.

In order to ensure good governance and transparency there are a number of general guidelines that refer to applying for the grants and some additional guidelines around specific grant categories. This helps ensure that the Council is supporting the very best in the development of our communities.

This is your chance to apply for funding that could kick-start a new local project or event. For further information on the specific grants available, how to apply online and the relevant terms and conditions please go to dlrcc.ie/grants.

Applications close at 5pm on 25 October.

Watch our dlr Grants promotional video here.

dlr Podcasts: Meet the people behind the services
dlr have launched a new podcast that will showcase our staff and highlight some of the many different services we provide to communities across the County. The podcast, called ‘Insight’, will hear from our staff as they shed light on some of the many services provided by dlr to more than 200,000 residents.

The first two episodes are available online now on dlr’s website at dlrcc.ie/podcast and on all major streaming platforms. The first episode focuses on the dlr Grants Scheme for 2023, and this episode features Ian Smalley & Deirdre Black who are involved in the Community & Heritage grants respectively, and they explain the grant application process and the supports in place for applicants.

The second episode hears from Conor O’Shea, the Irish Language Development Officer for dlr, as he explains his love of the Irish language and the many ways the Council is involved in promoting the Irish language across the County.

If there is a service you would like us to examine on the podcast, email podcast@dlrcc.ie.

Over €500k in funding allocated to community-led projects in 2022!
New dlr Irish Language Advisory Committee

This Committee has been put in place as part of dlr’s Irish Language Scheme and the aim of the Committee is to promote the use of Irish within the Council and the County and to report on the progress of the implementation of the Council’s Language scheme.

It is envisaged that the Committee will host a range of events throughout the year to promote Irish and the Irish culture both in the Council and around the County. The Committee will meet at different intervals throughout the year and is due to have its first meeting this Autumn.

A subcommittee of the Committee will be formed to support with the naming of new developments around the County and to carry out an audit of all placename signs around the County that contain errors in the Irish versions.

If you have any further questions please email our Irish Language Development Officer, Conor O’Shea at coshea@dlrcoco.ie

Calling all householders to cut back hedges

We are calling on householders and landowners/occupiers to please ensure that footpath and roadside hedges, overhanging trees, and bushes are cut and maintained so that all pedestrians can travel safely along footpaths and at junctions. This can be a problem on some routes for visually impaired persons as they are not expecting an overhead obstruction.

We carry out a verge and tree cutting program on our road network within the appropriate seasons and in line with our policies and plans, where relevant. Some verges may be part of the dlr pollinator sites and require a separate management regime. If you have any queries in relation to verge cutting in your area, you are advised to contact us by emailing info@dlrcoco.ie or calling 01 205 4700.

The season when hedge cutting is permitted under the Wildlife Act is between the start of September and the end of February the following year.

Road safety is a shared responsibility; it’s about us all doing our share to make our footpaths and roads safer and ensure the success of our Road Safety Strategy. This initiative is supported by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Disability and Consultation Group.

Revaluation of Rateable Commercial Properties

Walk-in clinics for Ratepayers

Revaluation is the process by which all rateable commercial properties in a local authority area are valued at the same time, by reference to the same valuation date. The revaluation brings equity, uniformity, fairness and transparency into the local authority rating system resulting in a more equitable distribution of commercial rates among ratepayers. The dlr revaluation project was deferred due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, work has continued on the revaluation project and the Valuation Office issued Proposed Valuation Certificates to occupiers in the dlr local authority area on 23 September 2022. We are holding walk-in clinics for ratepayers to attend. Please bring your Proposed Valuation Certificate with you:

3 – 4 October, 2022 in County Hall, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire
From 9.30am – 1pm and 2.00pm – 4.30pm

and

5 – 6 October, 2022 in the Council Offices, Main Street, Dundrum
From 9.30am – 1pm and 2.00pm – 4.30pm

Please review the Proposed Valuation Certificate when you receive it. If you are not satisfied with the proposed valuation or with the details on your certificate, you should request a review by 1 November 2022 by following the “make representations” link at valoff.ie Further support is available to ratepayers at valoff.ie

Competition

Samhain Haunted Forest Walk

Would you like to be the winner of one of four family passes to our annual event at Marlay Park? Not for the faint hearted, this will be a free fright fest of spooky thrills and chills in our haunted forest on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 October. Each pass will consist of six complimentary passes which will allow 6 people to enter the Haunted Forest.

To enter all you have to do is sign up for the dlr Times by email. Log on to dlrcoco.ie/SamhainComp by Monday 17 October. Winners will be notified on Tuesday 18 October.

Best of luck!
dlr Festival of Inclusion 2022
29 September – 5 November 2022

dlr is delighted to host the dlr Festival of Inclusion every autumn. The aim of the annual dlr Festival of Inclusion is to highlight and celebrate social inclusion initiatives and to support and encourage all to actively participate and engage in the community.

dlr Festival of Inclusion is a community based social inclusion events programme that promotes the many groups, organisations and volunteers organising activities and events and offering supports in the community. All events involve groups and organisations bringing people together to connect and celebrate community well-being and raise awareness, provide supports and promote social inclusion and diversity in dlr.

The Festival of Inclusion, which runs from 29 September to 5 November includes a wide range of events and activities organised by the Council and various organisations and community groups.

Highlights this year include:

- UN International Day of Older Persons events around 1 October celebrating the resilience & contributions of older women, including Dance Theatre Ireland performances and get-togethers across the county on the day
- Panel event on the UN theme of ‘Resilience & Contributions of Older Women’ on screen and film, organised by the Institute of Art, Design + Technology (IADT) during October

The dlr Community 5K is back and even bigger for 2022!

Want to take part in a fun active event for all the family and all abilities? If so register now for the dlr Community 5K, taking place at 2pm on Saturday 8 October 2022. This inclusive event returns for its 13th year in full force with over a thousand participants expected to be running, walking, jogging or rolling the 5km scenic route around Kilbogget Park.

Taking place during Dun Laoghaire Rathdown’s ‘Festival of Inclusion’, this annual 5km event prides itself on being fully inclusive, suitable for all ages, abilities and fitness levels. With a DJ on hand to add to the joyful atmosphere, each participant will be chip-timed as well as receiving an event t-shirt and uniquely designed medal on crossing the finish line.

At just €5 for adults and free for children, this event will give everyone the opportunity to get out, have fun and be active in your local area.

You can register online at dlrcommunity5k2022.eventbrite.ie or contact us by emailing sportspartnership@dlrcoco.ie or by phoning on 01 271 9502.
Climate Action

Inspiration and Advice for Home Energy Upgrades

How to lower energy bills and make a warmer, more comfortable and healthier home.

As part of the Open House Dublin architecture festival programme, dir’s Architects’ Department are hosting an event to inspire and encourage people considering residential extensions and home energy upgrades from 11am – 1.30pm on Sunday 16 October. This two-part event will be held in County Hall, Dún Laoghaire. The modern Council Chamber and the Assembly Room in the Old Town Hall will be open to the public for this event.

Firstly, there will be presentations in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Chamber from 11am to 12pm, featuring ‘information and examples of home renovations’ with Architects and Energy Experts, sharing case studies of energy efficient homes. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) will give information about the grants available. A Conservation Architect will also highlight upgrades to traditional and protected structures.

This will be followed by an opportunity to ‘Meet the Expert’, where attendees can see examples of residential projects by Architects and Home Energy One-Stop-Shops. Attendees can also view demonstrations of the Home Energy Saving Kit and discuss grants with SEAI representatives, from 12pm – 1.30pm in the Assembly Room which is part of the historic 19th century Town Hall.

Energy Upgrades Supports from SEAI

Homes owned by private homeowners, non-corporate property owners and Approved Housing Bodies are eligible for the SEAI scheme to upgrade to a warmer, healthier and more comfortable home, with lower energy bills.

The National Home Energy Upgrade Scheme provides increased grant levels of up to 50% of the cost of a typical deep retrofit to a B2 Building Energy Rating (BER) standard. There is a grant, equivalent to 80% of the typical cost, for attic and cavity wall insulation for all households.

The SEAI approved Home Energy One-Stop-Shops provide an end-to-end service for homeowners. This includes surveying the home, designing the energy upgrades, managing the grant process, helping with access to finance, engaging contractors to deliver the work and quality assuring the work.

Book now and start your energy-saving journey towards a more comfortable home.

Tidy Districts 2022

dlr would like to congratulate and thank all participants of the annual Tidy Districts Competition. The Tidy Districts competition offers the Council an opportunity to recognise and reward the efforts made by residents’ associations and tidy towns groups to enhance their local environment. 2022 marks the 30th year that this programme has run within dir and featured twenty-seven local community groups. While the competition is primarily an anti-litter and anti-graffiti competition, it has evolved over the years and now considers biodiversity, waste prevention, climate action and community engagement.

Calling all Green Schools

As schools within Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown return for a new school year, the Environmental Awareness Section would like to remind schools of the Green Schools programme which is facilitated locally by dir County Council staff, in conjunction with An Taisce. The Green Schools programme is designed to promote and acknowledge whole school action for the environment.

Training and information seminars will take place over the month of September and October in collaboration with An Taisce and updates with regards to these can be found on the Green Schools website: greenschoolsireland.org.

If your school would like to discuss your Green flag or if you would like to join the Green Schools programme, please contact the Environmental Awareness Section by emailing info@dlrcoco.ie or phone 01 2054700.

Halloween Appeal

dlr would like to appeal to residents and businesses alike for their assistance in ensuring this Halloween is safe and enjoyable for everybody. The uncontrolled burning of waste in a bonfire is an illegal, costly and dangerous practice. The Council would like to appeal to residents to be vigilant and report any stockpiling of waste. Please note that allowing unpermitted waste collectors to remove waste is an offence and could incur a fine of up to €5,000. Any materials that are likely to be taken and used for bonfires should be stored safely and securely, or disposed of correctly, prior to Halloween. To report stockpiling please call 01 2054700 or email info@dlrcoco.ie.

Leave only Paw Prints

In line with our Corporate Plan, dir aims to enrich the quality of life through vibrant communities by promoting the Green Dog Walker Programme. The Green Dog Walkers is a community led programme that promotes responsible dog ownership in a positive and non-confrontational way. If you are a dog owner who always picks-up after your dog, take the pledge to become a Green Dog Walker Champion. The Council will post you some complimentary dog waste bags, bag dispenser, used bag holder and further information. To take the pledge, please visit our Green Dog Walkers webpage here: dlrco.co.ie/en/environment-awareness-education/green-dog-walkers or contact info@dlrcoco.ie.
**Climate Action**

**Myrtle Square and Convent Lane Greening**

Work on a new civic space is due to commence in the centre of Dun Laoghaire. It will offer users of the town a place to linger, rest and enjoy the atmosphere. The removal of the small building block opposite the hospital in early 2021 has opened a generous space that will now be transformed into a civic square.

Through traffic will be eliminated fostering a safe, enjoyable and peaceful atmosphere in the new destination. The space will feature generous seating, a strong emphasis on trees and greening as well as play opportunities for a range of children. A bespoke structure supporting climbing plants and habitat will be located on the edge of the space next to George’s Street. Its shape will reference both the gable fronted houses synonymous within the town and the silhouette of dry-docked sailing boats seen in the harbour. Convent lane will see a similar transformation. New, high quality paving, abundant trees & planting as well as play and exercise opportunities will invigorate Convent Lane. The removal of through traffic will invite vibrancy and life along the laneway.

This project has been designed, developed and the construction will be led by the Parks and Landscape Services Section. It is due to start at the end of September and will take 1 year to complete.

**Killiney Hill Park Accessible Entrance**

dlr Parks & Landscape Services are currently working on the new accessible entrance at Killiney Hill. Once the works are completed, it will showcase the Victorian entrance and create a new contemporary entrance that is accessible for all and is age-friendly in design.

The entrance will be inviting, organised in its arrangement and appearance, and will provide safe access for all. A considered and suitable planting scheme will provide colour and interest, appropriately framing the Victorian gateway entrance and enhancing the sylvan setting. Resurfacing and new seating opportunities will further enhance the space outside the Tearooms.

The existing Victorian gated entrance leading into Killiney Hill Park is a beautiful example of a public park entrance of its time. The wrought iron gates and railings and cut stone piers project a sense of arrival. Unfortunately, the apron to the entrance failed to respond in an appropriate manner, mainly due to the materials and general arrangement of the space. Unauthorised and ad-hoc vehicular parking detracted from the original entrance, resulting in a disorganised and cluttered appearance. A conflict between pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles had developed due to the unstructured arrangement. The site topography means that accessibility through the Victorian entrance is difficult and challenges visitors with weakened or constrained physical abilities, or those wheeling bicycles or buggies. These works are supported by the National Transport Authority (NTA) stimulus initiative to support pedestrian and cyclist movement and enhance accessibility and are due to finish at the end of 2022.
Business and Tourism

Developing a Strategic Mindset - National Women’s Enterprise Day

Join us for National Women’s Enterprise Day on Thursday 13 October when we explore strategies for business success.

Hosted by Áine Kerr, this high energy, informative and inspiring event will help you develop your business strategy or strengthen your existing one. The event will feature superb female entrepreneurs from across Dublin talking about their experiences. Attendees will hear about the wealth of supports, funding and training available to you as you grow your business.

In addition to vital lessons in developing your business strategy, this event will also include time for personal reflection and help with planning your strategy. You’ll also get the chance to discuss your plans and ideas with other women in business.

Hosted by Local Enterprise Office dlr, Dublin City, Fingal and South Dublin, this is the National Women’s Enterprise Day event for the Dublin region.

Places at this event are strictly limited and will book out quickly.

Host Áine Kerr has already been there herself. She’s founded, built and sold one company already and she and her team are now building Kinzen, enabling trust and safety professionals and policy makers to get ahead of emerging threats and disinformation.

Marie Gleeson will lead a dynamic business strategy session, highlighting the importance of your strategy and identifying key actionable steps for your business. Marie Gleeson served for over 20 years in the Irish Navy reaching the rank of Lieutenant Commander, during which time she commanded the LE AOIFE and completed UN service in Chad. Her expertise in strategy development, operations, leadership, governance, and individual and team performance maximisation, will ensure a highly focused and valuable strategy session for all.

Kingsley Aikins is a global leader on building strategic networks. Kingsley will focus on why your network matters, how to build and manage your network, how to communicate effectively, add value and ask for help. CEO of The Networking Institute, he has developed a method for professional business people to survive and thrive by building strong and diverse business networks.

Date Thursday 13 October 2022

Time 8am – 2.15pm

Venue The Pavilion, Leopardstown Racecourse, Foxrock, Dublin 18, D18 C9V6


Dún Laoghaire Anseo Street Art

Over the course of ten days in August, some of the best Irish and international street artists arrived in Dún Laoghaire to paint nine stunning pieces of street art. Now in its second year, Dún Laoghaire Anseo is funded by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, with support from Creative Ireland.

Further details are available on dlrco.ie/dlanseo

Food on the Edge at Airfield Estate and Gardens

Food on the Edge was the brainchild of Irish Chef JP Mc Mahon, a Galway based chef, restaurateur and author. The two day symposium takes place again this year in the beautiful grounds of Airfield Estate & Gardens from 17 – 18 October. Its open to chefs & food enthusiasts with over 50 speakers debating & discussing the future of food in our world & setting a benchmark for best practice.

Dún Laoghaire Comedy Festival

10 – 12 November

dlr is proud to announce the debut of the Dún Laoghaire Comedy Festival. The festival will bring over 15 world-class comedians to a number of different venues all over Dún Laoghaire. Tickets: dunlaoghairecomedyfestival.com. This event is an initiative of dlr’s Economic Development Section.

Dún Laoghaire James Joyce Tower and Museum

dlr are delighted begin a new partnership with the James Joyce Tower and Museum at Sandycove.

A new management company, the Friends of James Joyce Tower along with the council will together put in place a new strategy for the sustainable future of the museum.

The museum annually attracts thousands of fans of Joyce and his works from all over the world.

The new partnership will firmly secure the museum, Joyce’s artifacts and his stories for generations to come while continuing to bring his work to new audiences in a new and exciting way.
Connecting Communities with Active Travel

The dlr Active Travel team works with the National Transport Authority (NTA) to provide sustainable transport solutions and promote Active Travel in the County. By developing high quality walking and cycling facilities our aim is to encourage more people to switch to active travel which in turn will contribute to tackling climate change.

The funding we receive from the NTA assists us to facilitate the development of various infrastructure projects across the county, including projects such as junction improvements for cyclists and pedestrians, greenways in parks, harbour area public realm improvement and accessibility improvements. Connecting communities and making walking and cycling attractive, safe and accessible to everyone is what this direct funding will help to accomplish. Full list of projects

Read more below about our current public consultations & active school travel.

dlr Central

It is proposed to provide high quality pedestrian and cycling infrastructure to promote active travel on: Kill Avenue (R830), Mounttown Road Lower (R829), Mounttown Road Upper (R829) & Glenageary Road Upper (R829), Dún Laoghaire. It is also proposed to improved bus priority along Kill Avenue up to the Bakers Corner Junction & provide improved landscaping along the extent of the scheme including sustainable urban drainage systems.

Submit your views here

Deansgrange Cycle Route

The scheme proposes to deliver a high quality pedestrian and cycling infrastructure to promote active travel on: the current demand within the Deansgrange area. This scheme provides a key connection between the “Park to Park” Route and the “Mountains to Metals” Route proposed as part of the overall Active School Travel Project. It is proposed to upgrade the existing cycle facilities along Kill Lane between the entrance to Conkeen Park and the junction with Deansgrange Road. A new pedestrian crossing at the entrance to the park is proposed. Along Deansgrange Road segregated cycle facilities, new pedestrian crossing facilities and indented parking is proposed. A section of the route enters Deansgrange Cemetery via a new entrance and continues along existing paths. Public lighting and other upgrade works are proposed within the cemetery in addition to altering the existing entrances. It is also proposed to alter the boundary wall of the cemetery.

Submit your views here

Active School Travel

Construction on the active school travel routes is nearing completion. We have started adding the wayfinding markings. This marking represents the “Sea to Mountains” route, the “Park to Park” and “Mountains to Metals” routes will have their own logos. Users will follow the ‘dots’ that will be placed on the roadway as a wayfinding method. These replace the majority of upright signs to avoid proliferation of signage.

Rock Road Scheme

Construction on the route from Blackrock Park to Trimleston Avenue is expected to commence towards the middle of September and works are expected to take 6 months. Details of this scheme are available here.

What do you have for breakfast?
Breakfast consists of a bowl of porridge, honey, peanut butter (generous scoops) banana and mango.

I eat the same breakfast everyday with the exception of a Sunday. On the sabbath I treat myself to a fry.

What do you do?
I’m a Senior Staff Officer in the Active Travel Unit. My admin team supports the engineers in the delivery of Cycling infrastructure and Public Realm improvements. I’m also involved in soft infrastructure projects such as The Inclusive Bike Scheme and Cargo Bikes for Business.

What are your hobbies?
I’m a co-founder of a Children’s foundation which supports Orphanages in Africa. I’m also Co-founder and Secretary of an over 35’s football club which was created to promote inclusivity, friendship and positivity.

These two hobbies take up most of my time. I also enjoy walking my dog Obama and trying to instil some discipline into my three year old son.

What is your typical workday like?
Each day is different, we have a huge program of work to deliver and each scheme contains its own complexities. I have very much enjoyed working with technical staff and the cross departmental approach to service delivery in dlr. Very soon we will have the best cycling network in the country and its very exciting to be involved with the program.

What is the most difficult part of your job?
The section is new, so we have had to start from inception and design all operating procedures. That’s been challenging to do with a new team whilst predominately working from home.

We have endeavoured and its been really fulfilling to see the team grow.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?
We have managed to establish the unit in a relatively short space of time. It has required a good level of commitment from the team and a willingness to take on every challenge.

It has been rewarding to see the progress that’s been made with all the Active Travel schemes and from a personal level its been great to watch the come together and really support each other.

Favourite place to visit?
My Mum’s house. Most of my family live in London. Visit to Mums always guarantees loads of laughs, hugs and the best Congolese food.

dlr staff profile

Joe Lumumba
SENIOR STAFF OFFICER, ACTIVE TRAVEL

dlr Central Route

Favourite place to visit?
My Mum’s house. Most of my family live in London. Visit to Mums always guarantees loads of laughs, hugs and the best Congolese food.

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My Mum’s house. Most of my family live in London. Visit to Mums always guarantees loads of laughs, hugs and the best Congolese food.
ADHD Awareness Talks

Ahead of ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) Awareness Month in October, dlr Libraries are organising a series of talks, both online and in-person, on Tuesday evenings throughout September and October.

Talks coming up in September and October will cover a wide range of topics including: Executive Function, CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service), ADHD Women and Girls, and Neurodiversity and ADHD in the Workplace. On Tuesday 25 October we will be hosting “Baking and ADHD” with Lizzie Acker, contestant from The Great British Bake Off 2021. A recipe for this online talk will be sent out ahead of time so you can bake along if you wish.

For more information on all these talks, please visit our website here. Booking for all events is essential via Eventbrite.ie.

Services for those with additional needs

Did you know dlr Libraries have been working hard to make our Library services and spaces more accessible, especially for those with additional needs?

We would like to highlight some services you may not be aware of:

- Quiet evenings in Cabinteely & Dundrum Libraries
- Sensory/quiet room in Deansgrange Library and dlr LexIcon
- Sensory boxes available on request in each dlr Library
- ASC collection (Accessible Services Collection) which includes toys, equipment for those with additional and/or sensory needs. This collection can be borrowed by emailing libraryculture@dlrcoco.ie and can be collected from your chosen dlr Library
- Reader Pens for those with dyslexia, literacy issues or a visual impairment
- Inclusive events programme as well as events specifically programmed for those with additional needs

Reader Pens for Schools

We have a collection of Reader Pens for lending. Reader Pens read words and full lines of text aloud for independent reading. Those with dyslexia, those who have difficulty with reading or pronunciation, those learning languages or those with vision problems will find these pens extremely helpful pieces of technology. Scan specific words or sentences and have difficulty with reading or pronunciation, those learning languages or those with vision problems will find these pens extremely helpful pieces of technology. Scan specific words or sentences and then listen to them. With the built-in dictionary, you can also get definitions of particular words that make it easier to understand the text. The Reader Pens can also read English, French, and Spanish.

As well as pens for individual loan, we have a number of pens available for block loan to schools within dlr for the 2022-2023 academic year. Please note, Reader Pens must be borrowed from and returned directly to a dlr Library. The loan period is 8 weeks. If you are interested in borrowing a Reader Pen for your class or school, please email libraryculture@dlrcoco.ie

Summer Stars Prizegiving Celebrations

The Grand Finale of our Summer Stars reading programme will take place in Blackrock Library on Wednesday 28 September. We are delighted to be joined by An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Mary Hanafin, and guests from our main sponsor, Airfield Estate, for this event. Author Shane Hegarty and local children will join the prizewinners and their families in celebrating another successful Summer of Reading.

Summer Stars is an exciting, free reading-based programme for all children. Storytelling sessions, book-led events and fun activities took place throughout the summer in all dlr Libraries with almost 1,500 children signing up. Each child has read at least 8 books with some children completing and returning multiple Reading Cards. That’s a lot of reading!

Children’s Book Festival 2022

We are delighted, and very excited, to bring you Children’s Book Festival 2022 in all dlr Libraries this October! CBF is one of the central strands of the national Right to Read programme. This annual Festival helps spread the enjoyment of books and reading among children and families, authors and illustrators, teachers and librarians all over Ireland.

We’ve a great range of authors, illustrators and storytellers lined up with something for everyone on offer. Most of our events are for local schoolchildren but do check out the events calendar on our website for more details and booking information.

We will be welcoming many authors to our Libraries this year including Sarah Webb, Eve McDonnell, Alan Nolan, and Fiona Longmuir. Things will get a bit spooky in both Deansgrange and Dundrum Libraries when author and illustrator Una Woods comes to discuss her books Have you seen the Dublin Vampire and Spooktacular Place To Be.

Events will primarily take place in our Libraries, but we will also be hosting an online event with author Zanib Mian. Zanib fell in love with writing at primary school and having studied and taught science for a while, she moved into the area of children’s publishing. She felt that characters from all minorities were missing from books for young children and launched Sweet Apple Publishers with a clear commitment to publishing inclusive books. Zanib is the author of several books including the very popular Planet Omar series.
Home Energy Saving Kits

We have recently increased the number of Home Energy Saving Kits available to borrow from all dlr libraries. These kits contain five practical energy-saving tools so that you can carry out a mini energy audit of your home and find the easiest and most important areas to save energy. Using the kit will help you to identify possible problem areas such as poorly insulated walls and appliances that are driving up electricity bills.

If you are interested in borrowing one of these kits, please contact your local dlr Library. The Kits are supplied in partnership with CODEMA.

Fadó Fadó
Storytelling Festival

Join dlr Libraries this October for our brand-new storytelling festival, delivering some of Ireland’s finest storytellers for adults, young people and school classes to enjoy. The focus this inaugural year is very much on traditional Irish storytelling with tellers from all corners of Ireland including; Liz Weir, Nuala Hayes, Maria Gillen, Orla Mc Govern, Máirín Mhic Lochlainn and many more.

Running from Saturday 22 to Friday 28 October, all event details and booking information can be found on our website.

Laptops for Lending in your Local dlr Library

dlr Libraries are delighted to re-introduce our popular laptop lending service, which was suspended during the Pandemic. As part of the relaunch, we have purchased some new, fast and efficient laptops. So if you don’t have your own laptop, and need to use one for a few hours, you can borrow one for use on-site, in your local dlr Library. They are available for loan in every dlr Library and may be borrowed, on a first-come basis, by adult library members for use within the Library only, for a period of 3 hours. Please contact your local dlr Library for more information.

My Open Library

This service is currently available in Deansgrange and Dalkey Libraries. My Open Library (MOL) allows library members access to the Library space and some services outside of staffed hours, from 8am to 10pm, 7 days a week. Whether you want to come in to borrow or return books, study, use the wifi or an internet PC, do some printing or photocopying or read the newspapers at a time that suits you, now you can. To avail of this particular service, you must first call in and register with staff in Deansgrange or Dalkey Libraries. My Open Library service offers extended hours to library members outside normal opening hours, from 8am – 10pm, 7 days a week. Contact library staff for details on how to register.

On the Edge’
The Irish Guild of Embroiderers

1 September – 12 October, Level 3

The Irish Guild of Embroiderers was founded in 2020 to bring together like-minded people with an interest in textiles and fibre art, embroidery in particular, and to share inspirations, ideas and techniques. Membership encompasses a wide variety of textile skills, and levels of ability, from complete novices to more experienced embroiderers. Some teach and exhibit nationally and internationally; some sell their work or take commissions; others are total beginners or prefer to enjoy their art for themselves alone. It is this mix of abilities and unbounded enthusiasm that gives the group a great dynamic atmosphere.

The theme for the 2022 exhibition “On the Edge” was chosen in 2021 as the group were hopeful of an end to the Pandemic and wondering what was coming next.

Small Works’
The Pastel Association of Ireland

5 – 30 September, Level 4

The Pastel Society of Ireland was formed in 1988 by a group of dedicated pastel painting artists who felt that there was a need to provide a forum where Pastelists could meet to discuss and promote the highly individual art of pastel painting. The Society aims to encourage and promote the art and practice of pastel painting throughout Ireland by bringing together artists with a wide range of abilities, so that their crafts, skills, and artistic abilities may be enjoyed and shared.

Altered Ground
An exhibition of new work
by Dianne Whyte

9 September – 22 November

Altered Ground is a new body of photographic work exploring landscapes undergoing extensive development within the local areas of Cherrywood, Lehaunstown, Carrickmines and Sandyford.

After the enforced stillness and inactivity pervading recent years the construction of these developments has recommenced. By personal interactions with the environment, Dianne Whyte looks at the transformation of these spaces, from new builds to the present ongoing alteration of the landscape. Through the use of experimental photographic techniques this work expresses an emotional reaction to a familiar environment that is undergoing profound change, concentrating on small details that would otherwise be overlooked.