



DUBLIN COASTAL TRAIL

Destination Stories



SKERRIES



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SKERRIES

Skerries' rocky beginnings

Skerries by name - skerries by nature! A 'skerry' is a small rocky island and Skerries has a fine collection of these. 'Sker' is an old Norse word and even though the Vikings didn't stick around after they raided over a thousand years ago, their placename did...

In total, five islands lie off the coast: *Shenick Island, St Patrick's Island* and *Colt Island* are between .5km and 1.5km offshore while *Rockabill* (comprising the 'Rock' and the 'Bill') lies 5km away. St Patrick's Island (also known as '*Church Island*') is named after Ireland's national saint. Patrick is said to have settled there after being expelled from Wicklow - he seemed to make a habit of rubbing people up the wrong way.

When he arrived in Skerries, his only companion was a goat. However, locals apparently stole and killed the unfortunate animal while Patrick was preaching on the mainland. Not surprisingly, he was very unhappy. The furious saint is said to have used Shenick Island and Colt Island as stepping-stones to leap ashore and chase the culprits.

Called '*Key*' or '*Haven*' Island in previous centuries, *Red Island's* current name echoes a time when red dye for sails was made here. The dye stained the ground and inspired a new name for an 'island' that has actually been connected to the mainland for centuries.

Protected and respected. Today, Skerries' islands are most notable for their birdlife and are a Special Protection Area for Cormorants, Shags, Light-bellied Brent Geese, Purple Sandpipers, Turnstones and Herring Gulls.

Making an impact. The 'footprint' St Patrick supposedly left when he landed on Red Island can still be seen in the tidal bathing area.

The saint's sanctuary. St Patrick's Island was inhabited by monks whose monastery was burned by Viking raiders in 797. Despite this, a religious presence remained for centuries and the ruins of a 12th century church contain a window whose shape possibly resembles the saint!

Alone again. While none of Skerries' islands are now inhabited, Rockabill's nineteenth century lighthouse was occupied until its automation in 1989. Today, members of Bird Watch Ireland are present on Rockabill during the summer to monitor rare Roseate Terns.



SKERRIES

Sea-changes: Skerries' quiet harbour wasn't always so tranquil

Stormy or calm, threatening or inviting, the sea has many moods - and it certainly knows how to throw a tantrum. For over a thousand years, the people of Skerries have had to deal with the best and worst of the water...

For centuries, the sea has shaped the town's fortunes. By the eighteenth century, Skerries could claim to be Ireland's premier fishing port and teemed with boats as they arrived and departed. However, the industry declined over the years and so did all the sailmaking, netmaking, nail making and other businesses that served the local maritime community.

Today, there's a quiet buzz about the place and leisure is the principal business of Skerries' picturesque harbour. Cosy cafes, welcoming bars and eateries all act as magnets for people making the most of their free time. Hardier individuals can also find plenty of ways to enjoy the harbour and adjacent North and South strands. Both are endlessly popular venues for paddleboarding, rowing, windsurfing and kayaking.

Less taxing but equally enjoyable is a stroll by the sea, savouring the air and sound of waves just as countless others have done over the years.



All shapes and sizes. When its fishing industry was thriving, the harbour bustled with 'wherries' (two-masted boats of up to 60 tons), 'smacks' (single-masted boats) and 'yawls' (smaller eight-ton vessels).

Easy does it. Today, Skerries is a place to relax and enjoy some of Dublin's freshest seafood just a few metres from where it was landed.

Look west! Sea sunsets can be enjoyed in Skerries thanks to it being the only west-facing harbour on Ireland's east coast.

Fishing for bounties. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, parliament was regularly asked for money to improve the harbour. Unfortunately, the government's generosity had its limits and when bounties were withdrawn, Skerries' fishing industry declined.

Hidden from the law. Smuggling thrived in 18th century Skerries and the 'smuggler's cave' located beyond the South Strand is said to have been used as a secret store for contraband.



SKERRIES

Echoes of past lives

The majestic sails and giant grinding stones of Skerries Mills aren't just visually striking - they're a dramatic reminder of centuries of hard work...

While fishing was Skerries' principal claim to fame, other industries also gave local people a livelihood. Skerries Mills offers a fascinating glimpse into past working lives in the area. Don't miss the enthralling tour that explains how water wheels and windmills powered the giant grinding stones that once produced flour.

But there's more to life than work. Skerries' tradition of Christian worship dates back over a thousand years. Inscriptions in the atmospheric graveyard of *St Patrick's Church* on Miller's Lane are a direct link with past local lives. One headstone dating from 1520 remembers '*Peter Manne, formerly Prior of this House*' while the church itself is a fine Gothic-style building that opened in 1868.

Ardgillan Castle also gives a taste of the lives of Ireland's once-powerful landed families. Today, the house and its rolling parkland with views over the sea is a wonderful public amenity which everyone can enjoy.

Feeling creative? Skerries' Mills offers hands-on opportunities to grind flour while the café serves scones and breads baked to traditional recipes.

Norse name. 'Holmpatrick', which was once the locality's name, derives from the Old Norse for 'Patrick's Island'. This was the location of the area's first monastic settlements until they moved onshore in 1224.

Changing times. Ardgillan was built by the Taylor family who moved to Ireland in the 1660s. They acquired extensive landholdings in Dublin and Meath but changing fortunes led to Fingal County Council taking ownership of Ardgillan in the 1980s.



SKERRIES

Standing guard for centuries: Skerries' Martello towers

Can you imagine the fear? Standing on Skerries' South Beach and seeing masses of warships, brimming with cannon, slowly appear over the horizon. This was the terrifying prospect that led to the building of Skerries' Martello Towers...

Napoleon had conquered huge swathes of Europe in the early 19th century. Facing the very real threat that Ireland was next on his hit-list, the British government built a chain of towers to protect possible landing sites.

Since Skerries' beach and harbour would have offered easy access, two Martello Towers were built here. The tower on Shenick Island could sweep

the entire beach with its 24-pounder gun while its companion on Red Island defended the harbour and town. Both remained as military installations during the first half of the 19th century but as threats subsided, their importance waned. Skerries' Martello Towers were put up for sale in 1908 and the Shenick tower was sold for £50.

While both towers are currently locked and silent, plans exist to restore the tower on Red Island. Over the years, an appreciation of Ireland's Martello Towers has grown due in no small part to James Joyce setting the opening chapter of 'Ulysses' in Sandycove's tower.

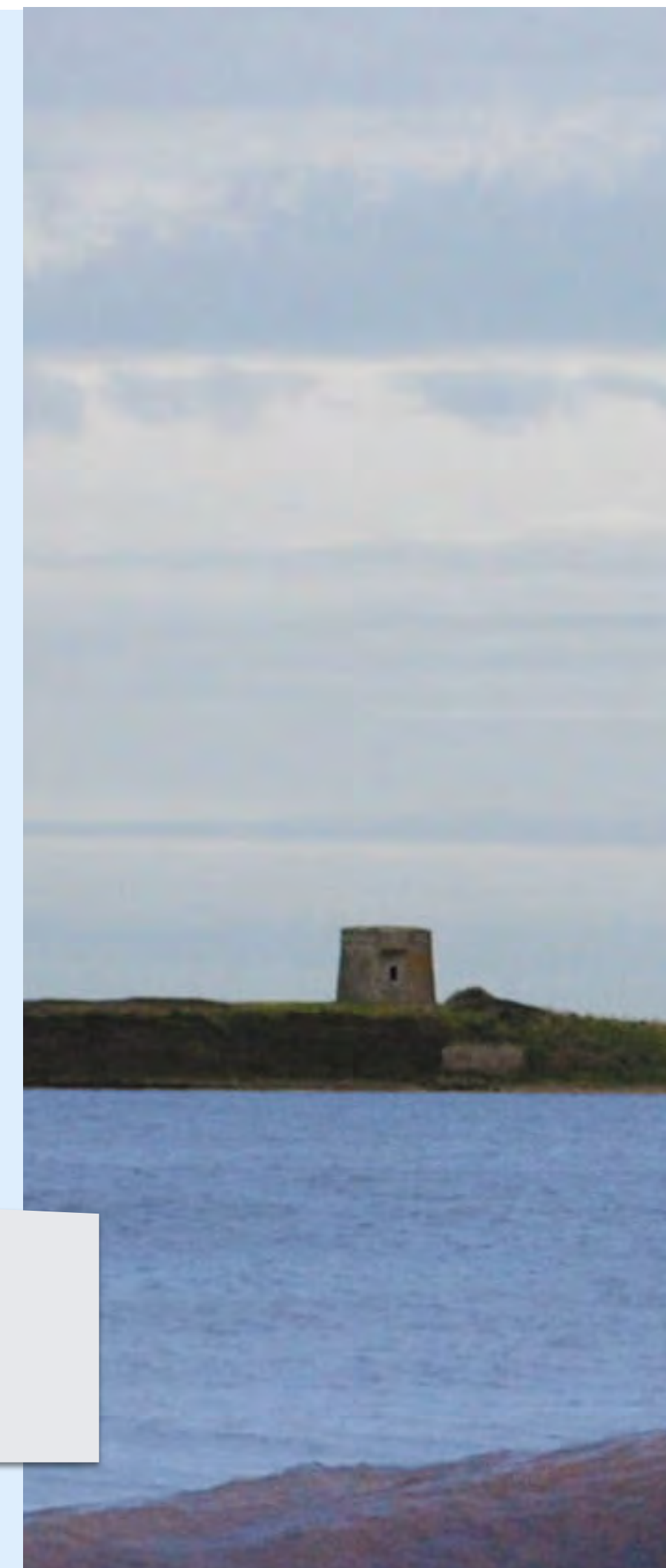


Built not to be beaten. These were known as 'Martello Towers' because their design was based on a tower in Cape Mortella, Corsica. This had withstood an intense attack from the Royal Navy in 1794.

Fire power! Martello towers were mounted with a 2.5 ton, 24-pounder gun on a carriage that could turn 360 degrees. These could fire pre-heated red hot cannon balls as far as a mile.

Standing strong. 48 other Martello towers still stand along the coast of Ireland.

Home comforts. In 1919, the Red Island tower was claimed in an auctioneer's advertisement to have been 'modernised throughout'. This also announced that 'a large annexe has been built'.





MALAHIDE



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MALAHIDE

Conquerors, the castle and centuries of change

With a little luck and a lot of greed, ruthlessness and some well-arranged marriages, a few Norman knights changed Ireland's history forever after invading in the early 1170s...

One of these was Richard Talbot. Richard managed to impress King Henry II so much that he was awarded lands in Malahide. The family made very good use of Richard's windfall. For the next 800 years, they lived in Malahide Castle and dominated the town's destiny.

Today, Malahide Castle is publicly owned and open for everyone to enjoy. Eclectic and evocative, you could call it a time machine since its jumble of furniture, art and many alterations reflect centuries of changing tastes. An engaging guided tour explains more about these and the different generations of the Talbot family who lived here until the last member died in 1973.

Not surprisingly, Malahide Castle has its share of ghost stories. But less spooky are the fairy houses and other magical places that smaller visitors can discover along its 1.5 km fairy trail. Time to kick back? Make a beeline for the ever-popular café overlooking the walled garden and its adjoining shop and treat yourself to an indulgent coffee, lunch or spot of shopping.

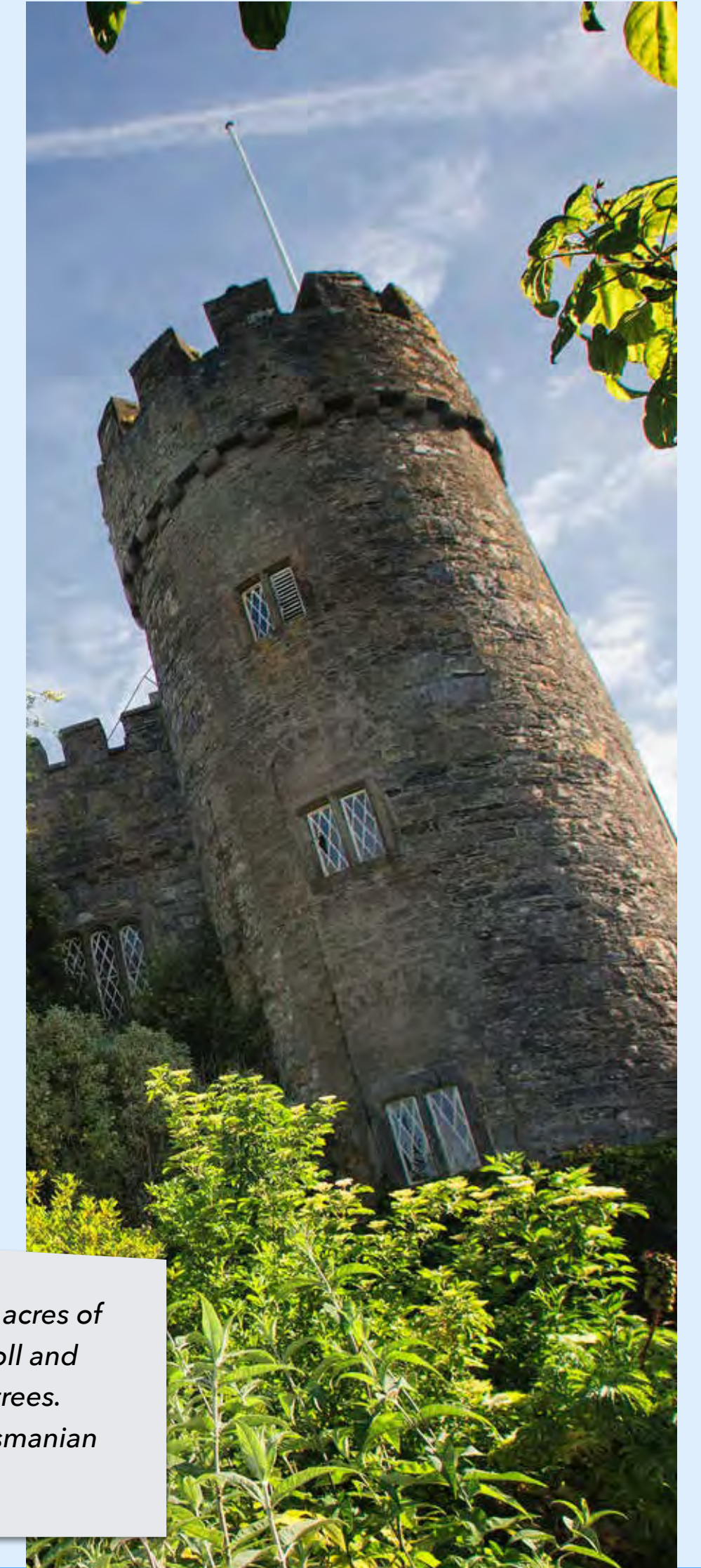


Sounds in the grounds. Malahide Castle's grounds have hosted many of the world's most famous musical acts including Andrea Bocelli, Prince, Radiohead, Neil Young, Eric Clapton and Arcade Fire.

Family tragedy. The Talbot family's most dramatic and tragic day occurred in July 1690. It's said that after sitting down to breakfast in the castle's Great Hall, fourteen family members departed to fight in the Battle of the Boyne. By the end of the day, they were all dead.

Small world. Housed in a beautifully restored 18th century thatched cottage that was once a shooting lodge for Malahide Castle, the Casino Railway Museum features the unique model railway collection created by Dubliner Cyril Fry in the 1920s and '30s.

Parkland paradise. The castle's 260 acres of parkland are the perfect place to stroll and picnic amongst majestic and exotic trees. These include Cedar of Lebanon, Tasmanian pencil pines and Chinese Ginkgos.



MALAHIDE

Working the waves: Malahide's ever-evolving relationship with the water

For centuries, the people of Malahide struggled to earn their livelihoods on the unforgiving sea - and sometimes paid a high price to do so. Many crews were lost and memorials to them can still be seen around the village.

In 1831, most of the village's 237 families depended on fishing. However, as the industry declined the sea became somewhere to enjoy rather than work. Today, the marina is a base for 350 individual berths while the estuary is a popular location for dinghy sailing, windsurfing and kayaking.

If you prefer leg rather than wind-power, Malahide's spacious 2km long Velvet Strand leads to Portmarnock beach further south. Strolling along it, you'll be treated to panoramic views past Lambay Island and across the Irish Sea.

Feeling hardy? There's always the option of a dip off the 'Low Rock', a natural cove bounded by rocks. Up for somewhere even more challenging? Then brace yourself and try out the swimming spot off 'High Rock' at the rocky area of the beach closer to Portmarnock.

Gobsmacked fact. Malahide was once so famous for its cod fishing that a slow-witted person could be accused of 'standing there open-mouthed like a Malahide cod'!

Finding fossils. Eagle-eyed beachcombers can spot beautifully preserved ancient fossils on Malahide beach. These are nestled in pebbles washed out along the stretch between Malahide and Portmarnock.

Return visit. Viking raiders once used nearby Lambay Island as a base and Malahide was the final staging point before the 'Sea Stallion of Glendalough's triumphant arrival at Dublin Port in 2007. A magnificent reconstruction of a Viking longship, the Sea Stallion had sailed on its maiden voyage from Roskilde, Denmark.



MALAHIDE

Sanctuary by the sea

Vast, tranquil and teeming with life, the Malahide Estuary is a 300-hectare expanse of water, salt marshes and sand dunes divided by a railway viaduct.

When this was built, a permanent lagoon was created to the west in an area fed by a number of small streams. Trains travelling between Dublin and Belfast pass over the viaduct, giving passengers a spectacular view of what has become an ideal coastal habitat for many protected bird species.

As a Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), the estuary is safeguarded against activities that could affect birdlife. Species that benefit from this protection include Brent Geese, Oystercatchers, Great Crested Grebe and Golden Eyes.

Close escape. *In 2009, an eagle-eyed train driver averted a disaster when he noticed a 20-metre stretch of the viaduct had collapsed. This was repaired and strengthened after four months of round-the clock work.*

Humans protected too. *The estuary's protected status benefits people as well as wildlife. A walking trail heading east along the estuary's south shore offers a front-row view of this ever-changing environment.*

Field of dreams? *Early in the twentieth century, there was a suggestion that the estuary could be converted into farmland. Thankfully, this idea never got off the drawing board.*

Perfect for pedestrians. *A spectacular greenway linking Malahide Castle with Newbridge House in Donabate is now being built. This will let walkers, joggers and cyclists cross the estuary safely and enjoy unique views.*



MALAHIDE

Prayer, prison and private refuge: Lambay Island's long story has many chapters

Mysterious, other-worldly and seemingly always out of reach, Lambay is somewhere that's unknown to most Dubliners, despite being just 9km from Malahide.

A 660-acre private island, Lambay's first notable inhabitant was the formidable St Columba. A serial monastery-founder, Columba is said to have established a monastic community here in the sixth century. Over 200 years later, Lambay was also the very first Irish location targeted by Vikings. Arriving in the year 795, it was the perfect launchpad from which to spring coastal raids that struck terror into the local population. Easily defended, the island was also hard to escape from. This led to it becoming an internment camp in

the 1690s during the Williamite Wars.

At the start of the twentieth century, its relative remoteness was also a selling point – literally. A press advertisement announcing 'Island for Sale' caught the eye of wealthy banker Cecil Baring in 1904. Wanting a private retreat for himself and his new bride, Baring commissioned renowned architect Sir Edwin Lutyens to create a house now regarded as one of Ireland's finest architectural treasures.

The Baring family still owns Lambay and has, amongst other initiatives, established a Lambay whiskey brand. With a distillery in operation on the island, small groups can visit and attend retreats and courses throughout the year.

Ship cemetery. Numerous shipwrecks lie in the seas around Lambay including the RMS Tayleur which has been called 'the first Titanic'. Tragically, the fast and technically advanced Tayleur sank on its maiden voyage in 1854 with the loss of over 300 passengers and crew.

Splendid isolation. A small cottage is available for rent while Lambay Castle can be used by groups for events such as retreats and corporate training.

Wildlife paradise. A study at the start of the twentieth century revealed that Lambay was home to 90 species not seen elsewhere in Ireland. Five were also discovered that were completely new to science.

Wallabies welcomed! Besides supporting one of the largest seabird colonies in Ireland, Lambay is also home to a thriving group - or more accurately, a 'mob' - of wallabies. Dublin Zoo added to their numbers when it had a surplus of wallabies in the 1980s.

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RAHENY

RAHENY

Private playground then. Cherished public amenity now.

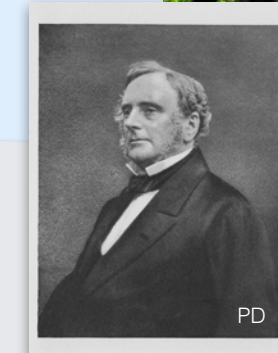
Once upon a time, St Anne's Park was a private paradise. Somewhere reserved for just a few members of Dublin's most spectacularly wealthy family. But time moved on, fortunes changed and today the park welcomes everyone. Whatever pace you live life at, there's a corner of St Anne's that matches your interests and energy levels...

At 97 hectares, St Anne's Park can fit a lot in - and it does. There are 35 playing pitches (one floodlit which is used for Gaelic games), 18 hard-surfaced tennis courts and even a par-3 golf course. If your sporting tastes stretch to cricket, boules or even model car racing, you'll also find a space set aside for you. Surrounding all this energy and activity is a beautiful and mature parkland setting. This is home to every form of wildlife including hedgehogs, badgers, rabbits, squirrels, mice and foxes.

Fire tore through St Anne's House in 1942. However, the old redbrick stables which survived have been converted into the award-winning Red Stables Art Centre. Relaxed and welcoming, this houses artists' residences, exhibitions, a café and even a regular - and very popular - farmer's market.

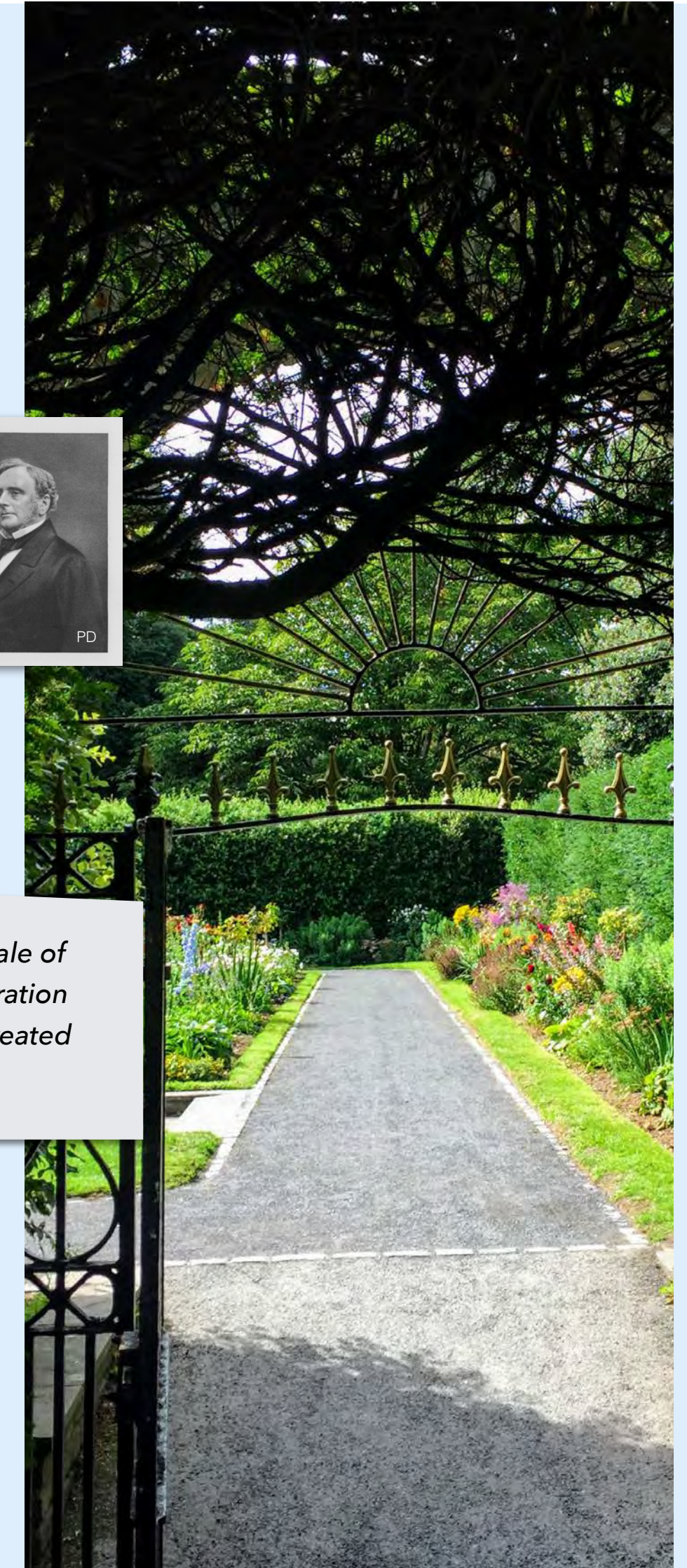
Influenced by Italy. The house's architectural style - along with the still-visible follies added by Benjamin Lee Guinness - gave St Anne's a distinctly Italian flavour.

Holy heritage. Benjamin Lee Guinness, a grandson of brewer Arthur Guinness, retained the name of a nearby holy well when he built St Anne's House in 1837.



Open to all. Financial pressures forced the sale of the estate in 1939. Since then, Dublin Corporation and its successor Dublin City Council have created a beautiful and accessible public resource.

Blooming spectacular! St Anne's award-winning Rose Garden is at its most beautiful between May and August. The Walled Garden is home to a sympathetically-restored clock tower and Dublin City Council's 12-acre plant nursery.



RAHENY

Reimagined and reborn: *the tree that became a much-loved work of art*

In 2015, Dublin City Council faced a dilemma. A 200-year-old Monterey Cypress tree at the north-west corner of St Anne's Park was dying. Should it just be cut down - or was there a better option?

There was. The Council commissioned sculptor Tommy Craggs to transform the tree into a stunning piece of art. Inspired by St Anne's Park and the nearby North Bull Island, Craggs carved the ten-metre-high trunk into an intricate menagerie of birds, animals and sealife.

The 'Peace Tree' (also known locally as the 'Tree of Life') is crowned by a magnificent swan. Owls, sparrowhawks, hares, badgers, bears and even an octopus can also be spotted emerging from the wood.

Guided by nature. Sculptor Tommy Craggs admitted being intimidated by the size of the tree. He didn't start with a masterplan; instead, he let the natural shape of the wood in specific spots dictate the creatures he carved.

Care and creativity. Despite the delicacy of its carving, the work was actually done with a standard-issue chainsaw. After initial carving, the wood was treated with oil.

Time well spent. In total, the project took three years to complete with the final section finished in 2018.



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HOWTH



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HOWTH

Born in battle: Howth Castle's bloody beginnings

Everyone knows that Dublin's Vikings were vanquished at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014 - but were they?..

The local Norse community didn't entirely vanish. Instead, some clung on in nearby Howth. However, their day of reckoning finally came over a century later.

In 1177, they were wiped out by a ruthless Anglo-Norman force led by Almaric Tristram. Almaric's descendants, the St Laurence family, built a castle in the 1230s and lived there for the next 800 years. Naturally, the castle and grounds changed considerably over this time. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the family established a racecourse here followed by the Deer Park golf club and hotel.

However, changing times and fortunes finally led to the St Laurences selling Howth Castle in 2019. The coming years will see a new chapter in its long story; but what won't change is the beauty of Howth Castle's commanding location and its importance to this very special part of Dublin.

Always welcome. For centuries, an extra place has been laid at Howth Castle's dinner table. This was rebel leader Grace O'Malley's sole condition for releasing the Earl of Howth's son whom she kidnapped after she was refused entry to the castle in the 1580s.

Winner takes all. After bloodily defeating Howth's Norse community on St Laurence's day, 10 August 1177, Almaric Tristram adopted the family name 'St Laurence'. The family later became the Earls of Howth.

New chapter. Howth Castle's new owners are planning to establish a luxury hotel, leisure centre and championship golf course around the castle.



HOWTH

Fish, firearms and a fun-loving king: a lot has landed at Howth over the years

Fresh, glistening fish have been landed at Howth for at least 700 years. Today, it's the principal fishing port along Ireland's east coast - but for its first 500 years or so, Howth didn't even have any harbour walls.

These were finally built in the early 1800s and the harbour had a major upgrade in the 1980s when the central pier was built. However, fresh fish aren't all that's been landed here. In 1821, a less-than-sober King George IV staggered ashore. This was at the start of a royal visit, just five days after the suspicious death of his estranged wife Queen Charlotte.

93 years later, in July 1914, a shipment of rifles was hurriedly unloaded here which saw service in the 1916 Easter Rising.

These had been smuggled from Germany on board the 'Asgard' by Erskine and Molly Childers, the parents of Ireland's fourth president.

With sea air and the pick of the catch, it's not surprising that the harbour's restaurants are so popular. Delicious seafood fresh from the boat, sea air and a buzz of activity make Howth harbour somewhere with a character all its own.

Today, the harbour is also a point of departure for fascinating cruises to Ireland's Eye and across Dublin Bay to Dún Laoghaire. These are all the more enthralling because they offer a chance to enjoy rarely-seen views of Dublin and its coastline.

Pirates ahoy! Once, ships travelling to and from Howth were targeted by pirates from as far away as Algeria and Turkey. In 1777, three American privateers operating off Howth captured no fewer than 14 merchant ships.



Fishing frenzy. By 1878, over 1000 herring boats were operating from Howth harbour.

The king and the prints. When King George IV landed at Howth harbour in 1821, a local stonemason marked the occasion by carving his first footprints into the stone. These are still visible today.



HOWTH

Life on the edge: observe the Dublin Bay Biosphere from a breathtaking vantage point

Spectacular views, dramatic rugged cliffs, all the fresh air you can breathe - plus a very picturesque lighthouse. Howth's cliff walks are leg-stretching, eye-opening experiences that help you feel like you're a million miles from the city.

Howth's four cliff loop walks are among a nationwide network of loop walks. Fáilte Ireland recommend these as excellent ways to enjoy breathtaking Irish locations at a very human pace. Taking between 1.5 hours and 3 hours to complete, Howth's different walks range from a rating of 'easy' to 'hard'. This means there's a route to suit all abilities and timetables while many bookable walking tours around Howth are also available.

Whichever you choose, you can look forward to stunning views of the Irish Sea, Dublin Bay and Dublin Port. In recognition of its important habitats and diverse wildlife, Dublin Bay is now a designated UNESCO Biosphere with Howth protected by a Special Area Amenity Order. Biospheres are locations where a balanced relationship between nature and people is encouraged, allowing both to co-exist in a mutually beneficial way.

So as you walk, keep an eye out for sea birds such as Herring Gulls, Razorbills and Guillemots. Peregrine Falcons have also been known to make their home locally and are well worth watching out for too.

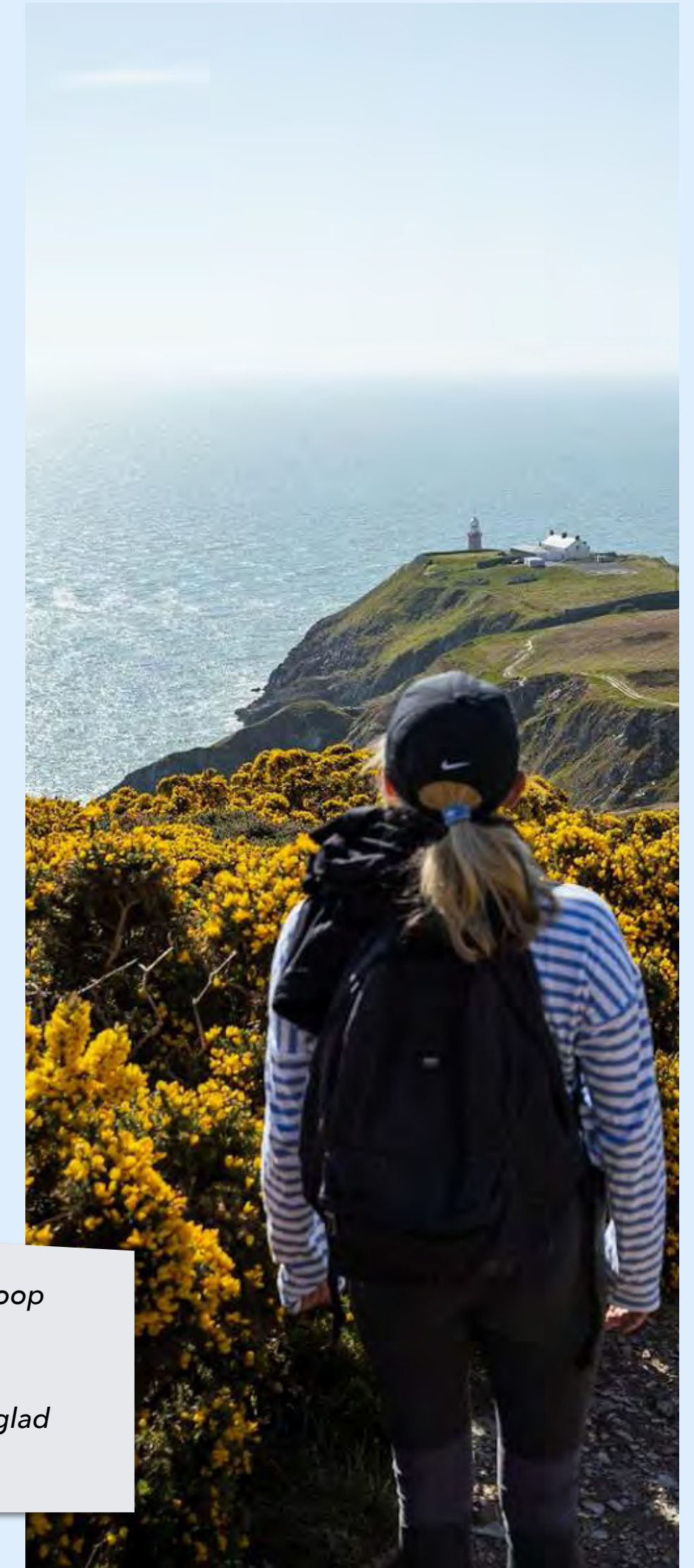
Cliff Walk walkabout. Britain's Prince William and his wife Catherine were notable recent visitors to Howth's cliff walk when they visited in early 2020.



Safer waters. An unmissable cliff walk landmark is the Baily Lighthouse, perched on an outcrop at Howth's most southeasterly point. Dublin Bay's savage reputation as a graveyard for ships led to the Baily being built in 1811. It replaced an earlier coal-powered lighthouse.

End of an era. The Baily was Ireland's final lighthouse to be automated. Its last resident lighthouse keeper only departed in 1997.

Be prepared! When setting out on a loop walk, suitable footwear is always recommended. Given Ireland's unpredictable weather, you might be glad you also packed some rain gear!



HOWTH

Mysteries and monuments at the heart of Howth

Huge, brooding and with its true story lost in the mists of time, 'Aideen's Grave' is a massive collapsed stone dolmen in the grounds of Howth Castle. In the absence of facts, legend has long-since filled in the gaps...

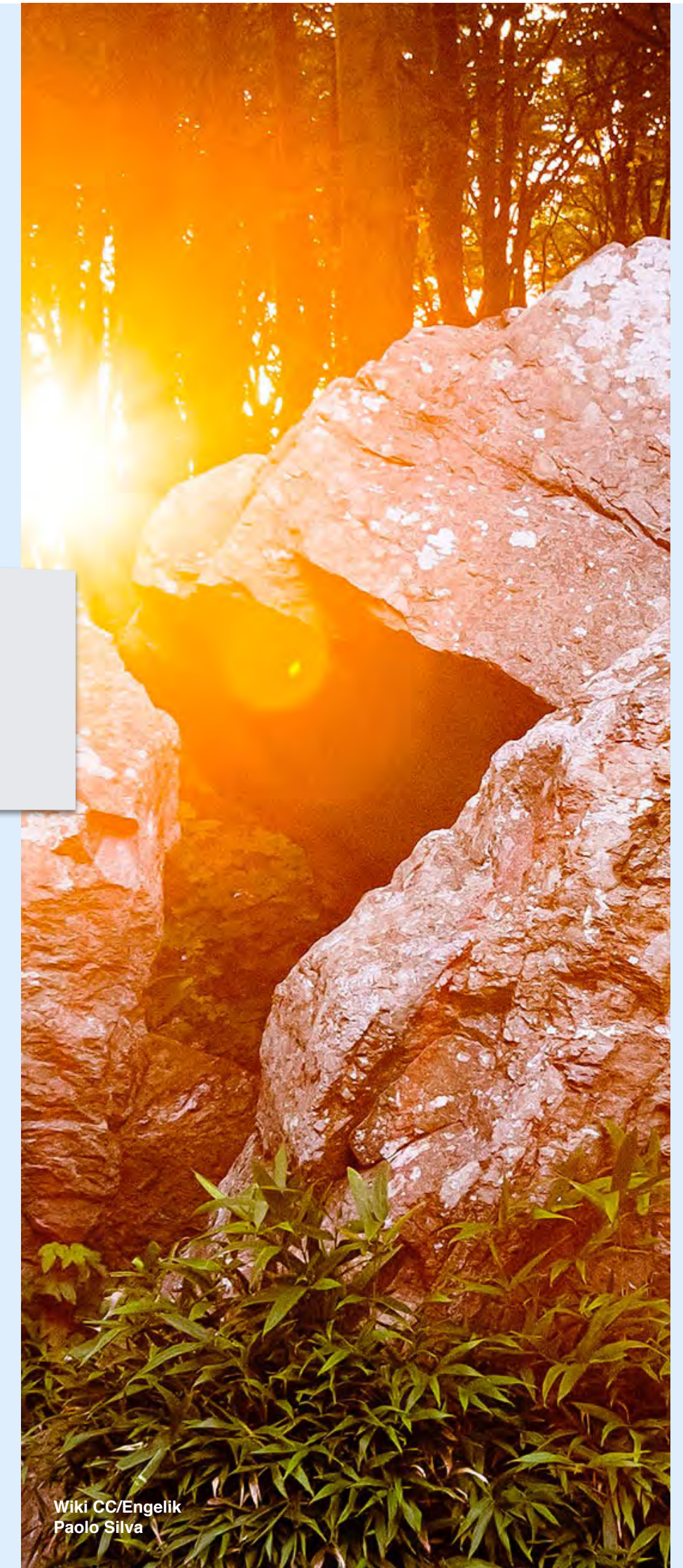
It's said that the stones mark the grave of the daughter of Aengus, king of Howth. Aideen was married to Oscar, supposedly the bravest of the mythical warriors, the Fianna. On hearing of her husband's death during the Battle of Gabhra, Aideen died of sorrow and was buried at the heart of her father's kingdom.

A far later king - and one who definitely existed - also left his mark on Howth. Sitric Silkenbeard, King of Dublin in the early 1040s built the first wooden church on the site later occupied by St Mary's Abbey. The ruined stone building still visible on Church Street dates from the 15th century.

Another enduring echo of the Norse occupation can still be heard in the placename. Although it's known in Irish as 'Binn Éadair' (Éadair's Hill), the name 'Howth' seems to be a corruption of the Old Norse word 'Hǫfuð' meaning 'headland'.

Built for the ages. The capstone of Aideen's Grave weighs an estimated 75 tons. This makes it Ireland's second heaviest dolmen. Dolmens date from the Neolithic period, between 4000BC and 2500BC.

Total legend! Aideen's husband Oscar was the grandson of the legendary Fionn MacCumhaill. His slaying led to the destruction of the Fianna, the band of warriors whose deeds are celebrated in the Fenian Cycle of Irish myths.



Wiki CC/Engelik
Paolo Silva

NORTH BULL ISLAND

DUBLIN COASTAL TRAIL



NORTH BULL ISLAND

Captain Bligh and the taming of Dublin Bay

The safety of Dublin was in sight. But experienced mariners were never fooled - they knew that a final hurdle had to be negotiated: the treacherous sand bars of Dublin Bay. Difficult to navigate in good weather, they were impossible during a storm. So ships would be battered by driving wind and rain - and some would never reach their destination...

For centuries, Dublin Bay was a place where ships were wrecked and lives lost. Something had to be done. So in 1800, Captain William Bligh was commissioned to survey the bay and make recommendations. This led to the building of the North Bull Wall twenty years later.

As hoped, a clearer channel for shipping was created - but the wall's construction had an unexpected side effect. Soon after its completion, sand started building up behind it and an island emerged, 5km long and 800 metres wide. North Bull Island is now a cherished leisure amenity and an internationally recognised and protected wildlife habitat.

Its southern half is home to the Royal Dublin Golf Club, Ireland's second oldest club, while Dollymount Strand stretches along the island's entire eastern shoreline. Two hundred years after its building, Dublin still benefits from the 2.9 km North Bull Wall which is more popular than ever as somewhere to walk, cycle, swim and fish.

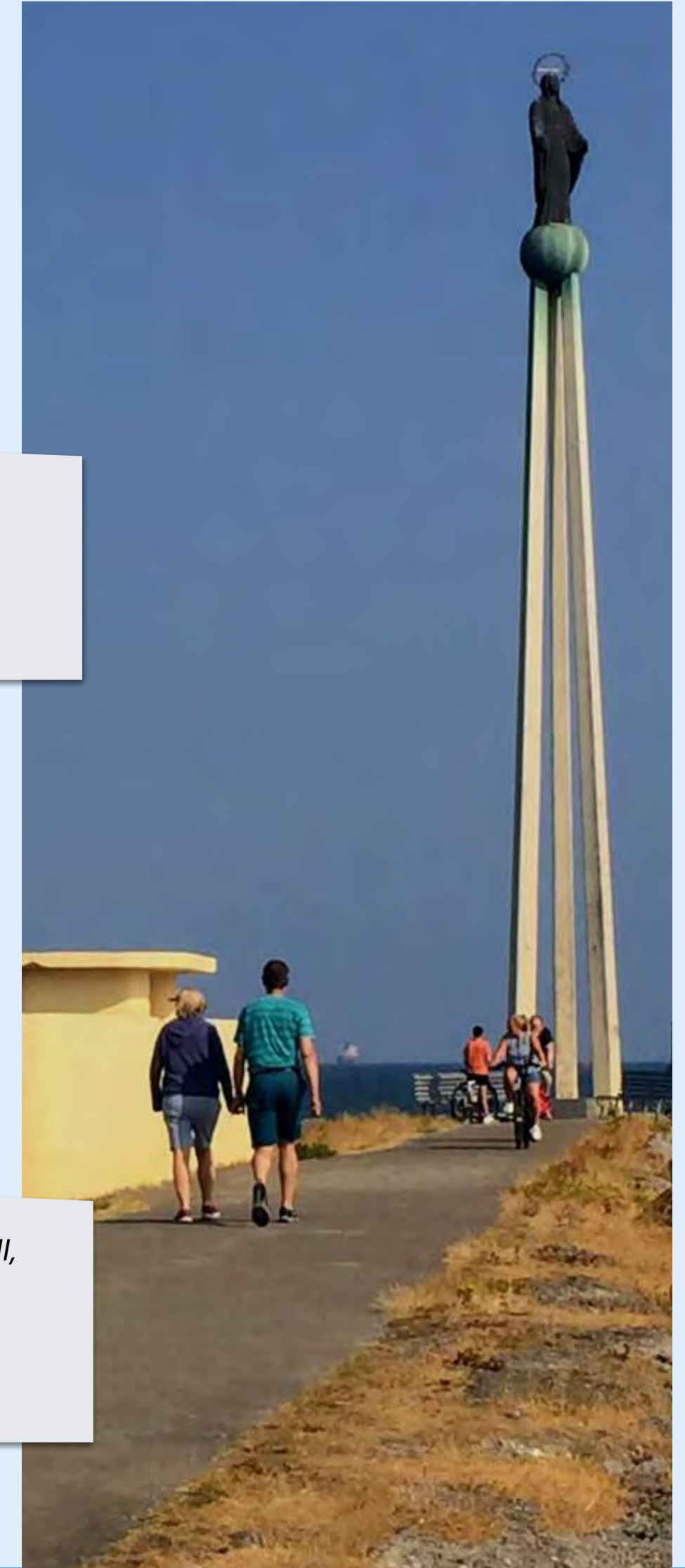


Rest and refuel: Built in the 1930s, North Bull Island's bathing shelters are unique modernist structures located close to the island's only café which serves snacks and speciality coffees.



Against the odds. William Bligh, who surveyed Dublin Bay in 1800, had been captain of HMS Bounty eleven years earlier. After mutinying, the ship's crew abandoned Bligh in a small open boat with 18 comrades. In a legendary feat of seamanship, Bligh navigated them across 7000km of ocean to safety.

Worth the wait. At the end of the North Bull Wall, the soaring 70 foot Réalt na Mara landmark was unveiled in 1972. It had taken 11 years to complete, over twice as long as the wall itself.



NORTH BULL ISLAND

A world away from the city

The contrast is simply incredible. Just 5km away is the non-stop buzz of O'Connell Street at the heart of Ireland's capital city. On the North Bull Island, the oasis of calm is broken only by the occasional cry of a bird or sound of the wind. It's a place apart - and the natural world has embraced it as a refuge and haven...

North Bull Island is now a wildlife habitat of international importance. At its northern end, Harbour Seals and Grey Seals rest and breed amongst large numbers of roosting and feeding waterbirds. During the winter months, species including Light-bellied Brent Geese, Black-tailed Godwit and Bar-tailed Godwit add to the island's bird population, arriving after an arduous journey all the way from Canada.

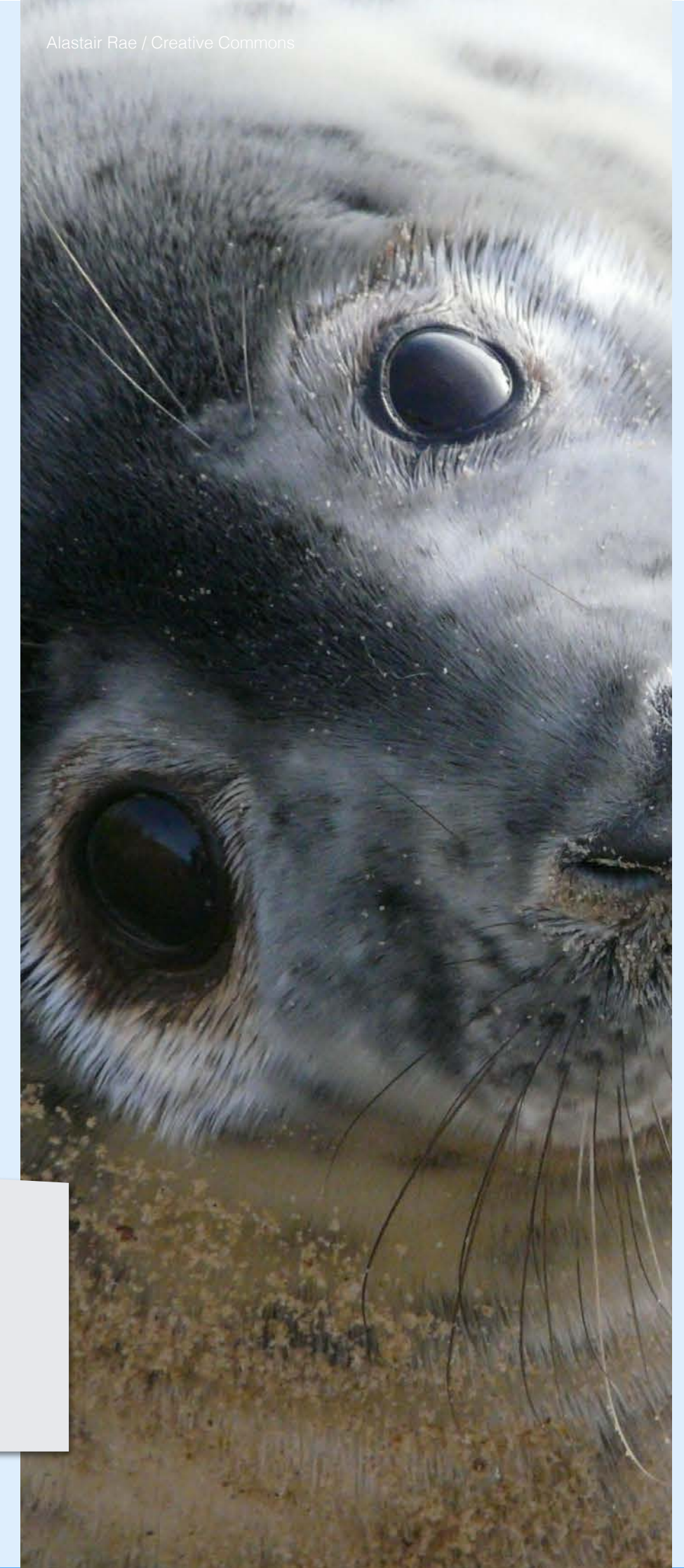
Many other species including Shovelers, Oystercatchers, Grey Plovers and Golden Plovers can also be seen in large numbers. Across the entire island, numerous types of plants, butterflies, seals, bats and even moss are also protected under the EU Habitats Directive. This status highlights North Bull Island's value and how much it continues to enrich Ireland's nearby capital.

Step carefully! *The Ringed Plover and Terns that congregate at the island's northern end sometimes camouflage their nests too well. As a result, these are easily trodden on.*

Urban and unique. *North Bull Island is an essential element of the UNESCO Dublin Bay Biosphere, the world's only UNESCO biosphere located in a capital city.*

Somewhere very special. *First designated as a bird sanctuary in 1931, the island is now a Special Area of Conservation and a Special Protection Area amongst many other designations.*

Do not disturb. *To reduce disturbance to wildlife, access may soon be restricted to the North Bull Island's northernmost areas. The island's seals should only ever be observed at a distance.*



SALTHILL & MONKSTOWN

DUBLIN COASTAL TRAIL

SALTHILL & MONKSTOWN

All aboard! Monkstown's transformation by the railway revolution

They could be dirty, uncomfortable and unreliable - but Ireland's first trains utterly transformed lives. Journeys that took days could be done in hours. Finally, it was possible to live in far more pleasant surroundings and take the train to work, a luxury that earlier generations couldn't have dreamt of...

Not surprisingly, Dublin's more affluent citizens leapt at the chance to live by the sea, away from the city's grime and noise. Before the railway revolution of the 1830s, Monkstown was remote and sparsely populated. In 1834, a regular commuter train service began - and a building boom was unleashed.

A fashionable new seaside suburb

sprang up. Street names such as Belgrave Road, Brighton Avenue and Queen's Park gave a very clear idea of the new arrivals' social ambitions. Today, we can still enjoy their good taste with beautiful doorways, windows and ironwork designs around every corner. Complementing all this, an abundance of excellent restaurants has made Monkstown an oasis of fine dining.

Assuming that cars would take over from trains, Salthill & Monkstown station was closed to passengers in the early 1960s. It took almost 25 years before the new DART service reestablished the convenient rail link to Dublin city centre that first sparked Monkstown's expansion.



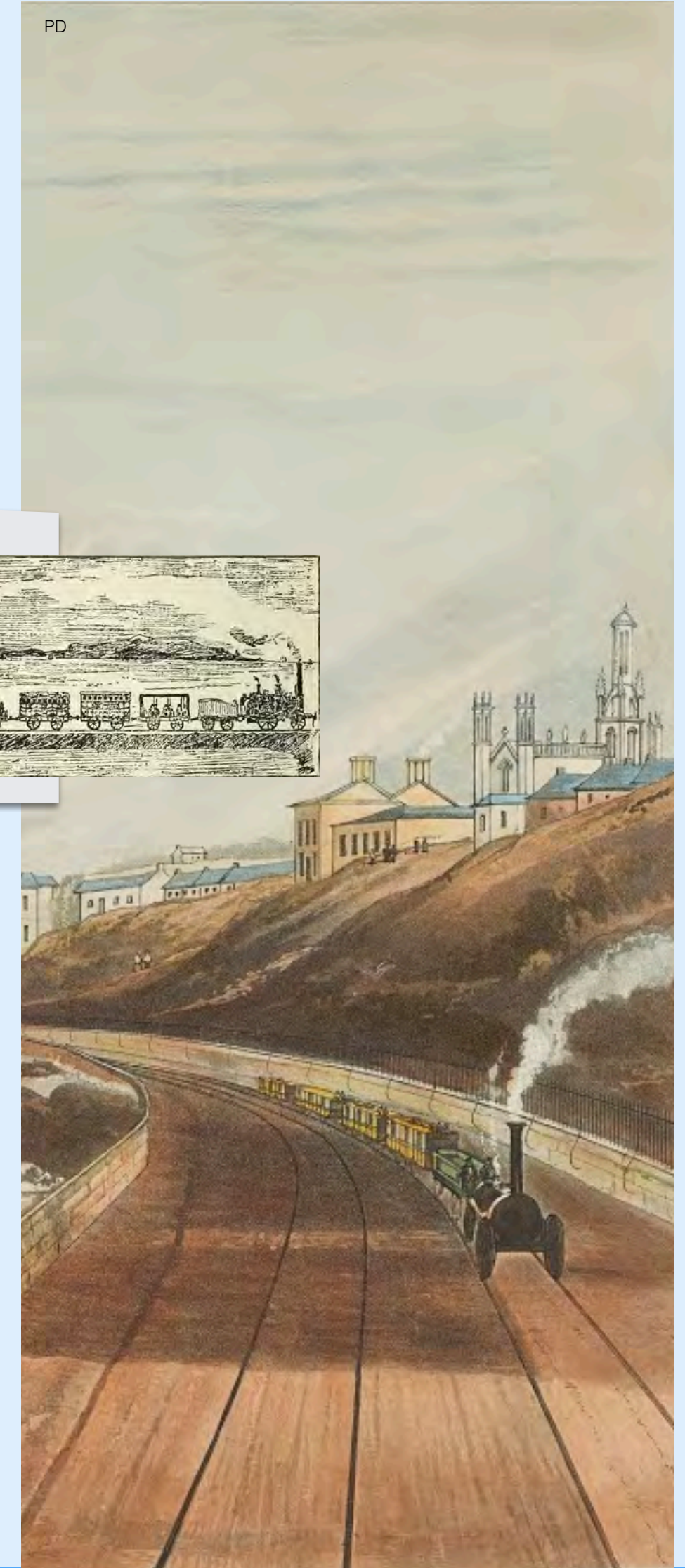
Inspired innovation. It's said that sleepers, the horizontal sections of timber that link railway tracks, were invented by local railway pioneer William Dargan. Inspired by the wooden blocks that blacksmiths placed under anvils to absorb shocks, Dargan first used sleepers to connect the rails that terminated in Monkstown.



Seaside style. Chic and imposing, the Salthill Hotel was located beside the station and attracted a fashionable clientele in the 19th and early 20th century. Although the building is long gone, its stone gateposts are still visible.



Fleeing in fear. After fleeing from Skerries in the ninth century, a community of monks settled here and the area became known as 'Monkstown'. Happily, the terrifying Viking raiders who drove them south didn't follow.



SALTHILL & MONKSTOWN

Tranquility and tragedy: Seapoint's carefree beach hides a dramatic story

The unrelenting tempest was like nothing Dublin had ever seen before. The bay was already feared by sailors as a graveyard for ships - then a savage storm in 1807 took a dreadful toll that has never been forgotten...

Today, Seapoint is a blue flag beach that attracts sea-swimmers all year-round. However, over two hundred years ago it was the scene of a tragedy that changed the area forever.

On the night of 7 November 1807, a fierce snowstorm drove two ships - the *Rochdale* and the *Prince of Wales* - onto the rocks at Seapoint. Approximately 385 people died and there was an immense public outcry. Eventually, the tragedy had a positive outcome: the construction of Dún Laoghaire's massive piers as a 'harbour of refuge' which could shelter ships if a similar storm ever arose.

In the early nineteenth century, the very-real threat of French invasion also made a permanent mark. Seapoint's Martello Tower is one of 48 such towers still standing along Ireland's coastline; these continue to silently watch for an invasion force that never arrived.

So close but so far. *Blinded by massive crashing waves and driving wind and snow, the Rochdale's passengers had no idea how close they were to safety. It was claimed they could have been rescued using a 12-foot plank.*

Buried nearby. *Many of the 1807 tragedy's victims were buried in the now-disused churchyard on the Carrickbrennan Road. Centuries earlier, the monks after whom Monkstown was named had established a monastery there.*

Defenceless against damp! *Seapoint's Martello Tower looks magnificent - but it turned out not to be an ideal home for precious documents. Until recently, the tower housed the Genealogical Society of Ireland. However, they had to say goodbye when it was discovered that damp conditions were endangering their valuable archives.*



An aerial photograph of Dún Laoghaire harbor in Dublin, Ireland. The harbor is filled with numerous boats, including sailboats and motorboats. The water is a deep blue, and the sun is reflecting off the surface, creating a shimmering effect. In the foreground, there is a parking lot with several cars and a building. To the left, there are modern residential buildings with curved balconies. In the background, there are more buildings and a large body of water extending to the horizon. The sky is clear and blue.

DÚN LAOGHAIRE



DUBLIN COASTAL TRAIL

DÚN LAOGHAIRE

A community that's serious about creativity

Its arrival was a loud, proud shout-out to Dún Laoghaire's creative heritage. Inside and out, the Lexlcon is visible proof that Dún Laoghaire still embraces all forms of the arts - just like it has done for decades.

Opened in 2014, the Lexlcon is striking in its design and forward-thinking in its use of interior space. At its heart is a library. But forget any ideas about being 'shushed' by librarians looking sternly over their glasses. The Lexlcon goes far beyond books to include craft zones (complete with 3D printers), performance areas, meeting spots and archives.

From a different era but just as stunningly imaginative is Dún Laoghaire's Oratory of

the Sacred Heart on Convent Road. Handpainted by Sister Concepta Lynch in the 1920s and 1930s, the Oratory is an inspiring gem of Celtic Revival art. Amazed visitors regularly (and rightly) describe it as a 'hidden jewel'.

More well-known to generations of Dubliners is the Pavilion. The current building on Marine Road is the latest venue to carry that name since Dún Laoghaire's first Pavilion Theatre opened on the same spot in 1903. It's had an eventful history - to say the least. Over the last century, fires, legislation and changing tastes all meant that this site has been the location of a cinema, a concert venue and even a car park.

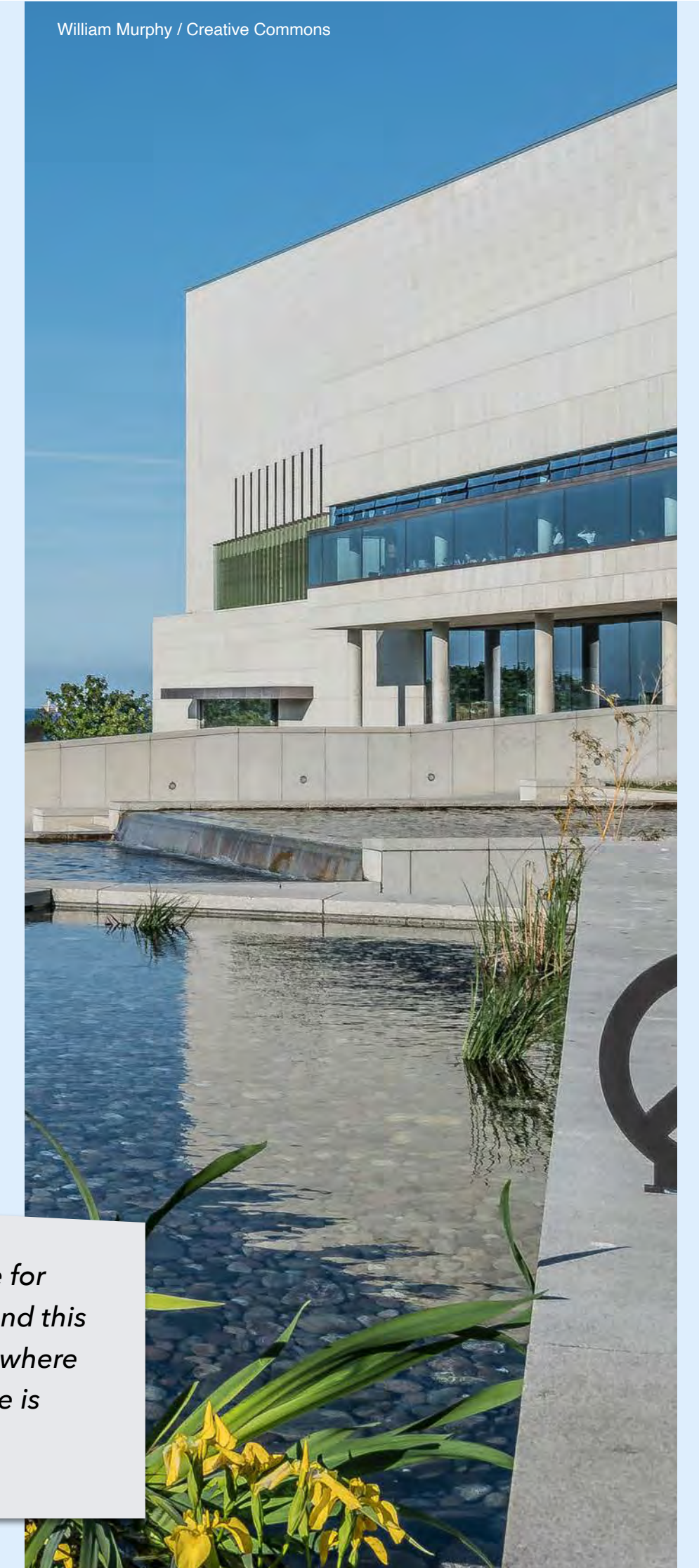
Ready to rock? Over the years, Dún Laoghaire has been an oasis of musical energy and creativity, hosting world-famous bands including U2, Thin Lizzy, The Clash and Nirvana.

Open to new ideas. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council started a street art project in 2020 designed to transform the town into a giant open air art gallery.

Ordinary becomes extraordinary. Astonishingly, the Oratory of the Sacred Heart's masterful effects were achieved with ordinary house paints.

Natural resource. Dún Laoghaire is an ideal base for exploring the Dublin Bay Biosphere. Cruises around this UNESCO-recognised area of biological diversity, where balanced relationship between people and nature is promoted, regularly depart from the harbour.

William Murphy / Creative Commons



DÚN LAOGHAIRE

From kings to kitesurfers: Dún Laoghaire's mighty harbour welcomes everyone

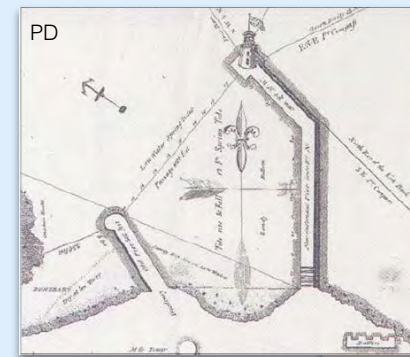
Sea breezes, a constant buzz of activity and always-excellent ice cream. Just three reasons why Dún Laoghaire harbour has always been a magnet for, well, pretty much everyone...

When its first stone was laid in 1817, this was the tiny, remote village of 'Dun Leary'. Four years later, King George IV departed from here following a visit to Ireland. In a fit of civic pride, the town's leaders changed the name to 'Kingstown'. This endured until it was replaced by 'Dún Laoghaire' in 1920.

After a huge effort that lasted decades, the harbour walls were finally declared completed in 1842. Generations arrived and departed from here until the ferry to the UK ceased operating in 2015. Now the harbour's business is leisure. It remains a home to long-established sailing clubs and is also a haven for kayakers, kite surfers, paddleboarders and rowers.

Whether strolling along its mighty walls or enjoying the funfairs, cliff diving, ironman competitions and many other events regularly held here, Dún Laoghaire harbour is somewhere everyone can enjoy.

Thinking big. When completed in 1842, Dún Laoghaire was the largest man-made harbour in western Europe.



The cost of commitment. In past centuries, Dublin Bay was a treacherous place for ships. A ferociously committed shipbroker named Richard Toutcher campaigned to build a 'harbour of refuge', even supplying granite from Dalkey quarry at his own expense. He died, bankrupt, in 1841.

Surprising savings. Despite its massive scale and the decades it took to complete, the harbour came in under budget. Projected to cost over £800,000 in 1817, the final cost was £690,717.

Going the distance! From Queen's Road, the East Pier is approximately 1.25km long while the West Pier is 1.5km.



DÚN LAOGHAIRE

Seascapes: *Dún Laoghaire's many maritime dimensions*

Let's not over-romanticise it: in the past, Dún Laoghaire was a working harbour where people led tough, dangerous lives. A striking monument on the harbour's East Marina breakwater vividly expresses the perils they faced...

Here, a tower of lifejackets commemorates the 'hobblers'. These were local men who, up to the 1930s, rowed out in all weathers to act as guides for ships approaching Dún Laoghaire harbour. Today, life on the water is very different and the harbour can be enjoyed by sailors, kayakers, windsurfers and everyone else too.

And why be confined to the harbour when cruises can be taken to Howth and

Dalkey Island? Besides giving a unique perspective of the coastline, these offer a rare chance to get up close and personal with Dublin Bay's wildlife. Have your camera ready!

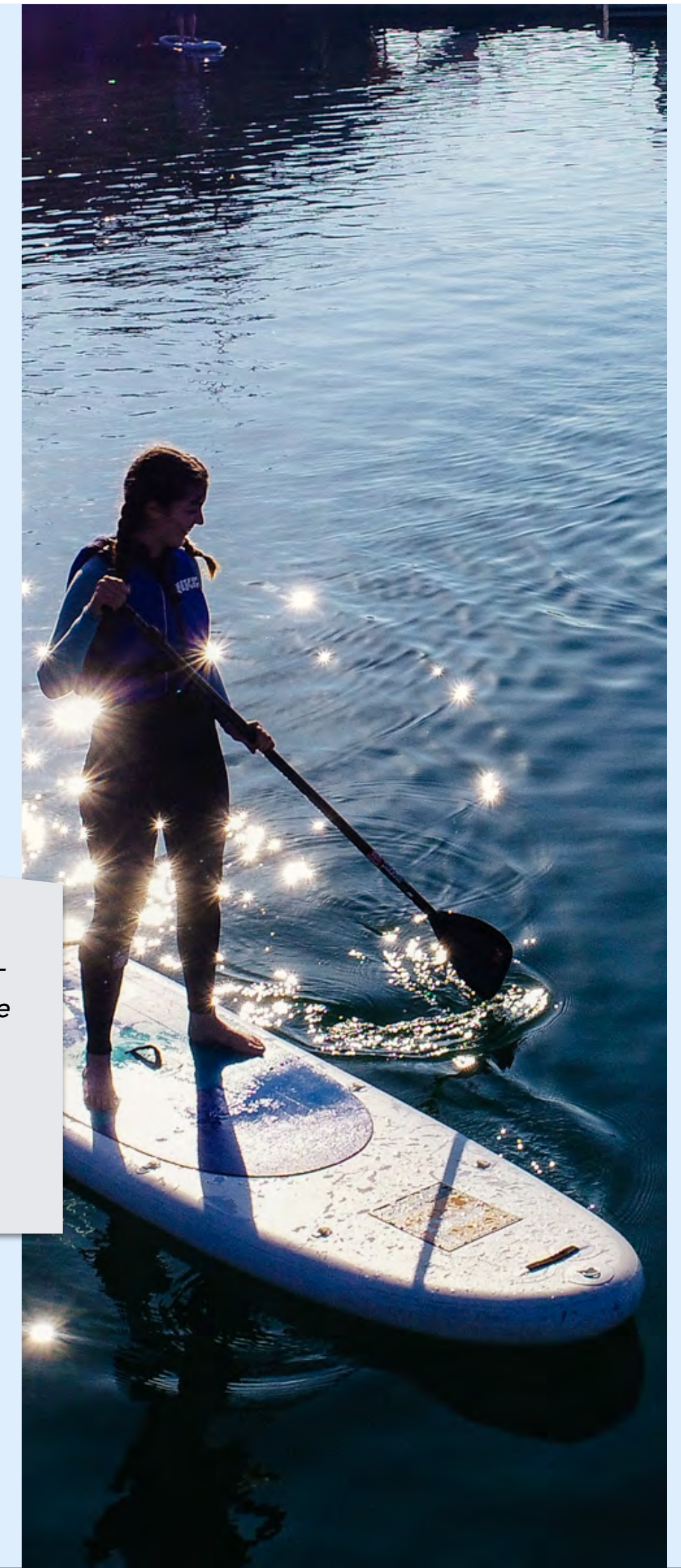
If you really want to understand the area's connection with the sea, the Maritime Museum located in Dún Laoghaire's 180-year-old Mariners' Church is unmissable. Among its many treasures is the massive 10 tonne optic that shone from Howth's Baily lighthouse between 1902 and 1972. By acting as a warning beacon for decades, this giant light helped to reduce the fearsome toll of ships claimed by the bay over the years.

Be enlightened! In contrast to the giant Baily optic, the Maritime Museum also offers a chance to learn more about one of maritime history's most enduring stories. Among its displays is a light bulb said to have been fitted (and removed) from the Titanic before its tragic maiden voyage.

Not-so-plain sailing. Three of Ireland's most prominent sailing clubs - the Royal St George, the Royal Irish Yacht Club and the National Yacht Club - are all based at Dún Laoghaire.

Splash headline! Ireland's first water park - Aqua Park - an inflatable obstacle course that children and adults can use is also located in Dún Laoghaire harbour.

Next stop Australia. The Royal St George and the Royal Irish Yacht Club date to the 1830s when a prison hulk - the Essex - was moored just metres from the clubhouses' current locations. This grim vessel housed up to 300 prisoners in appalling conditions before they were transported to Australia.



A wide-angle photograph of a coastal town at sunset. The sky is filled with dramatic, orange and grey clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the buildings and the water. In the foreground, two people are sitting on a large, mossy rock formation, looking out towards the sea. The water is calm, reflecting the colors of the sunset. The overall mood is peaceful and scenic.

SANDYCOVE & GLASTHULE



DUBLIN COASTAL TRAIL

SANDYCOVE & GLASTHULE

People power: the timeless Victorian space that's open to all

Grace, gentility and elegance - the Victorians certainly got their priorities right when it came to creating beautiful public spaces.

Successive generations have cherished the People's Park, a gem of Victorian urban planning. With its bandstand, fountains and tearooms, it still enriches local life over 130 years after first opening.

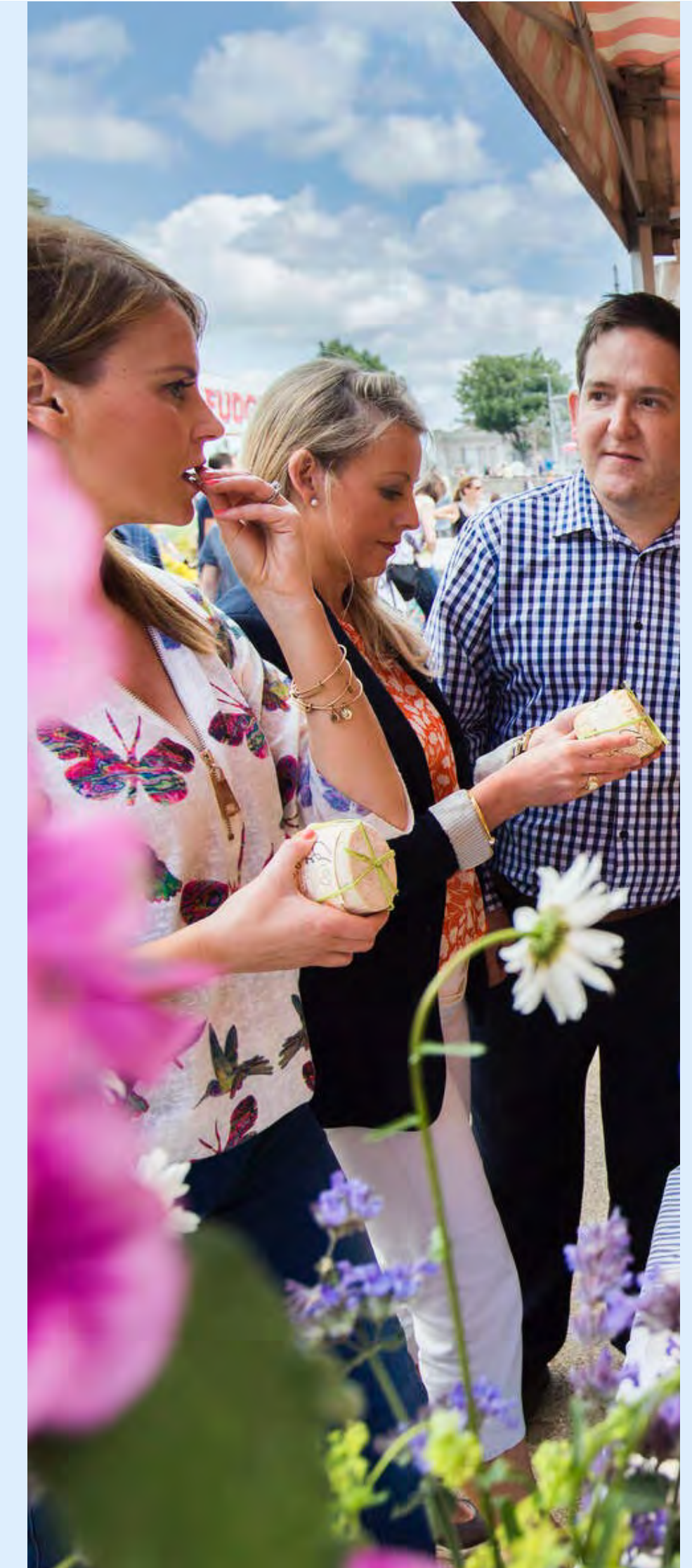
At the start of the 21st century, a concerted effort was made to return the park to its original appearance. Believe it or not, the area had originally been a quarry. This unfortunately led to subsidence affecting some of the park's iconic structures. These included the much-loved Pavilion which had to be stabilised in 2015. When this was being done, a bar and kitchen were added and the original roof terrace staircases were reinstated.

The entire two-hectare park is enclosed by wrought iron railings and stone walls that create an oasis of calm. But at weekends, the People's Park becomes a hive of activity. In particular, the Farmers' Market, which is open on Sundays, adds another dimension of enjoyment, vibrancy and colour.

Anniversary makeover. The playground and other facilities were initially upgraded at the end of the 1980s for the Park's centenary in 1990.

World of choice. Over time, every type of cuisine and produce from Japanese and Croatian to Lebanese, Greek, Pakistani and Polish has been sold at the People's Park Farmers' Market. An eclectic selection of Irish crafts, books, paintings and foods has also been available.

Fresh start. Closed since the 1990s, the Edwardian sea water baths are undergoing an ambitious €10m renovation project with the original pavilion being redesigned to incorporate artist workspaces and a gallery café.



SANDYCOVE & GLASTHULE

Towering achievement: setting the scene for a literary masterpiece

Nightmares, screams and shots ringing out in the pitch dark. It was over in a few seconds - but a terrifying incident in 1904 led to Sandycove's Martello Tower being immortalised in one of literature's greatest novels...

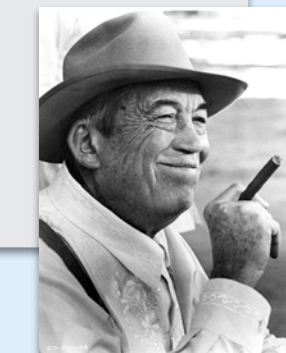
James Joyce set his opening chapter of 'Ulysses' in Sandycove's Martello Tower. The location had been burned into his consciousness when, aged 22, he lived here for six days in September 1904.

He shared the accommodation with two companions, Oliver St John Gogarty and Dermot Chenevix Trench. On the final night, Trench had a nightmare. Screaming that he had to 'kill the black panther', he unleashed two bullets from a revolver. Unsurprisingly, the terrified Joyce fled immediately and never returned.

The James Joyce Museum was opened in 1962 by Sylvia Beach, the first publisher of 'Ulysses'. Since then, it has become a magnet for those interested in 20th century literature. A visit is a fascinating chance to gain an insight into Joyce's world and the inspiration behind a work of genius that changed literature forever.

'Objet depart'. A ceramic panther is one of the many fascinating objects in the James Joyce Museum. Other exhibits include a waistcoat Joyce owned, his death mask and an extremely rare first edition of 'Ulysses'.

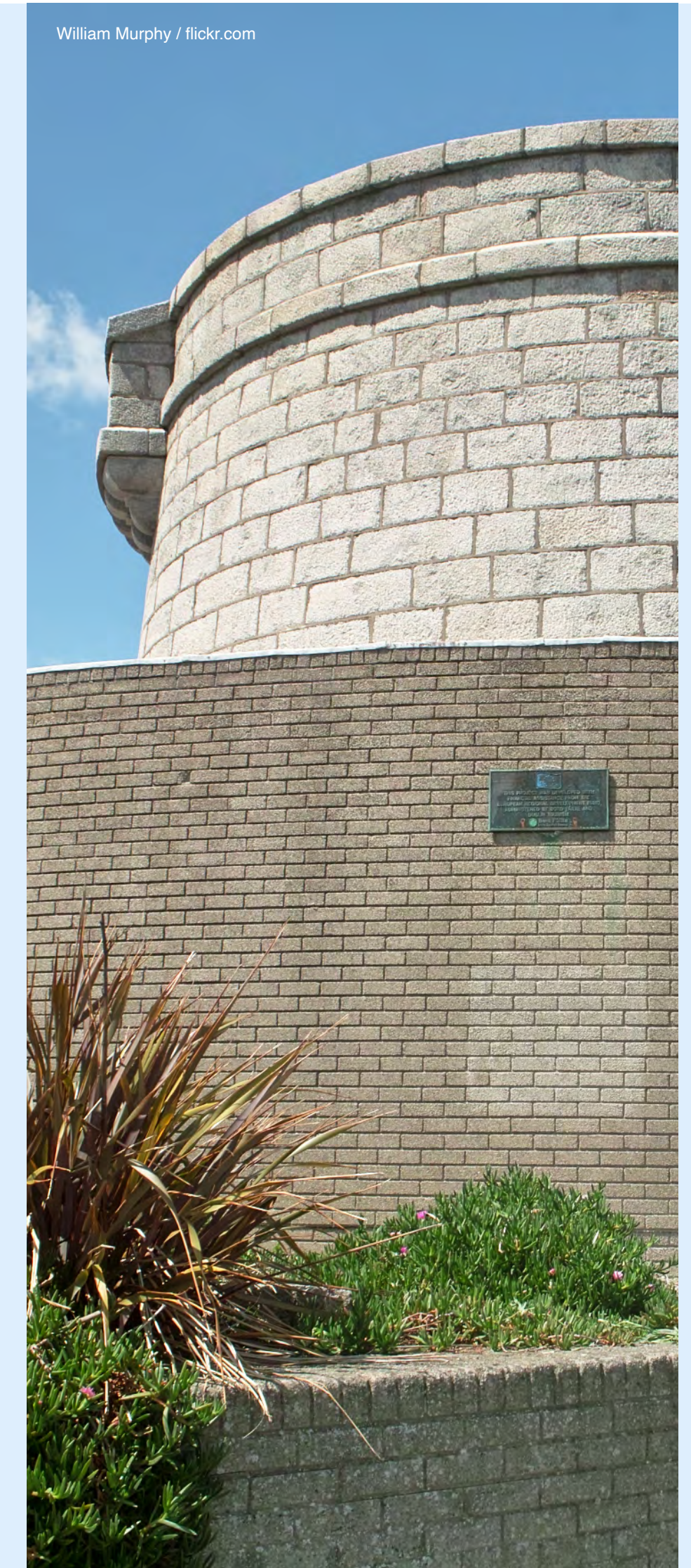
Architect with a plan. Architect Michael Scott, who built the adjacent house and designed Dublin's Busaras, bought the tower in 1954 as a location for a Joyce museum. Film director John Huston, whose last movie was an adaptation of James Joyce's 'The Dead', contributed towards the project.



John Huston

Inside story. Built to defend against a French invasion, around 48 Martello Towers still stand along Ireland's coast. The interiors of most are not accessible which makes the Sandycove tower an even more fascinating place to visit.

William Murphy / flickr.com



SANDYCOVE & GLASTHULE

Swimming against the tide: *the Forty Foot and a changing Ireland*

It's rocky, it has no comfortable facilities and it's freezing cold even in summer. Yet this was somewhere a determined battle for the right to bathe was once fought - and there was only ever going to be one set of winners...

For over two hundred years Dublin's hardiest souls have swum at the Forty Foot, a rocky promontory in Sandycove. Over most of this time, the Forty Foot was considered a male-only facility. But in the early 1970s, it was the scene of a stand-off (or more accurately, a 'swim-off') between two groups representing changing views in Ireland.

On the one side were men who claimed exclusive rights of access. On the other were a group of women who decided enough was enough and started to swim here. The old guard made an attempt to protest but quickly gave way. Since then, anyone brave enough to swim at the Forty Foot has been free to do so.

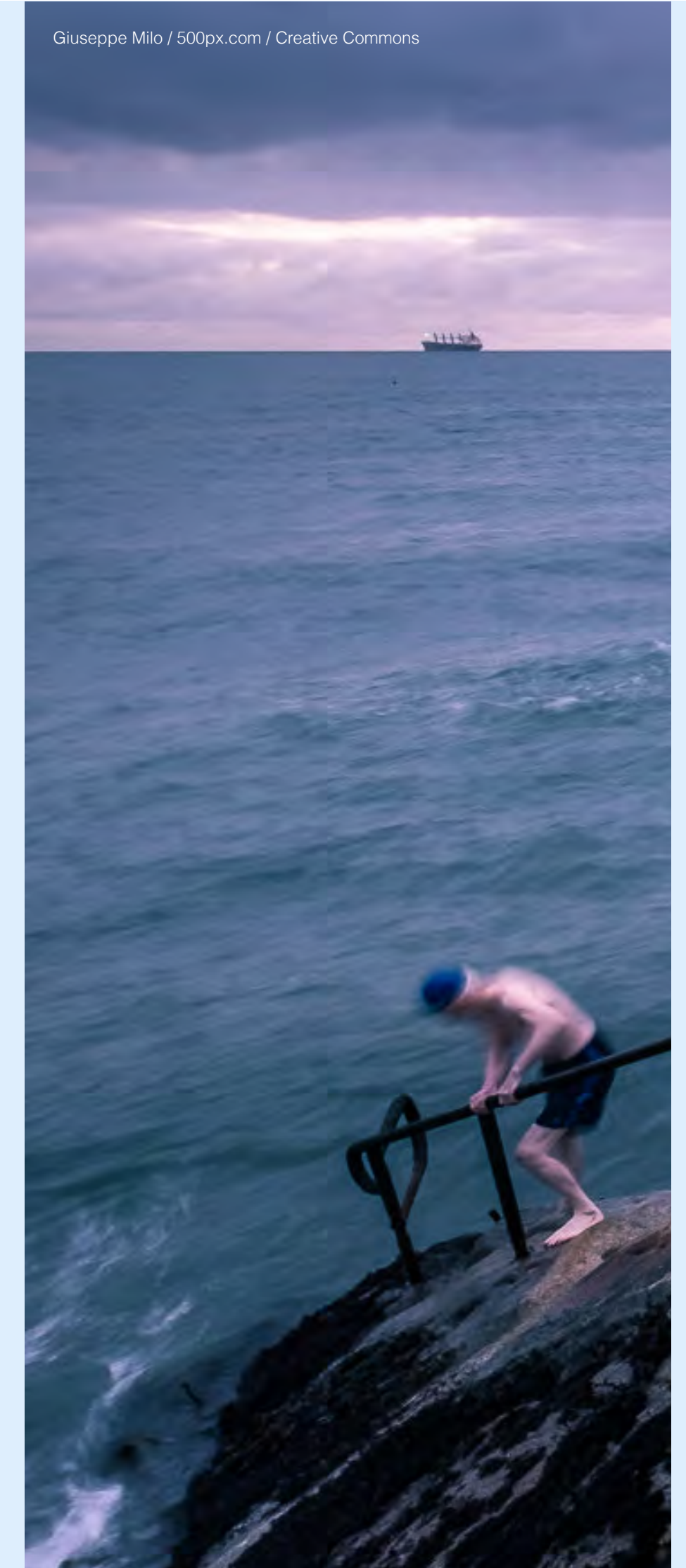
And why the name 'Forty Foot'? The reason isn't really known but various theories have been put forward. Some said that it refers to the depth of the water (it's not that deep); others, that it recalls soldiers who once swam here, the 40th Regiment of Foot which was first stationed in Ireland in the 1760s.

Baby, it's cold outside! *Since the water is rarely anything less than bitterly cold, it hardly matters what time of the year you choose to swim. Christmas Day is especially popular and a queue to enter the water is common.*

Back to basics. *Facilities at the Forty Foot are minimal: concrete steps, a handrail and very little else except rocks, water and lots of shivering enthusiasm.*

The naked facts. *When it was a male-only swimming spot, many traditionalists also believed that Forty Foot swimming had to be undertaken fully naked!*

Giuseppe Milo / 500px.com / Creative Commons





DALKEY

DUBLIN COASTAL TRAIL



DALKEY

Stronghold over the centuries: *the castle that tells Dalkey's story*

It was a golden opportunity for thieves: vulnerable and valuable cargo was being landed at one of Ireland's principal ports. They would swoop, steal and get away - and no one could stop them...

This isn't a scenario for a TV crime thriller today. It was the reality in Dalkey over 700 years ago. Then, the harbour was a key landing point for goods which needed protection. Criminals were as ruthless then as they are now - so serious steps had to be taken to defeat them. In Dalkey, this meant building seven fortified town houses in the mid-1300s where goods could be stored.

What's now known as Dalkey Castle is one of these. Strong and easily defensible, the Castle meant business: a 'murder hole' is still

visible in the entrance ceiling under which attackers would regret standing. Later, different local battles were fought in Dalkey Castle - or 'Goat's Castle' as it was also known. Until a Town Hall was added to the rear of the building in the 1890s, Dalkey's Town Commissioners gathered upstairs.

Today, the Castle is a quieter, more welcoming place. Home to the Dalkey Heritage Centre, it's where the village's long story is told with imagination and flair. Actors enthral visitors as they re-enact characters who would have lived and worked in the Castle. Celebrating another aspect of Dalkey's identity, a Writers' Gallery commemorates 45 Irish writers including Maeve Binchy who lived locally and was a great supporter of the Dalkey Heritage Centre.

Making their mark. The imprint of the wickerwork that supported the ground floor chamber's barrel-vaulted ceiling when it was being built can still be seen - 700 years after the builders left!

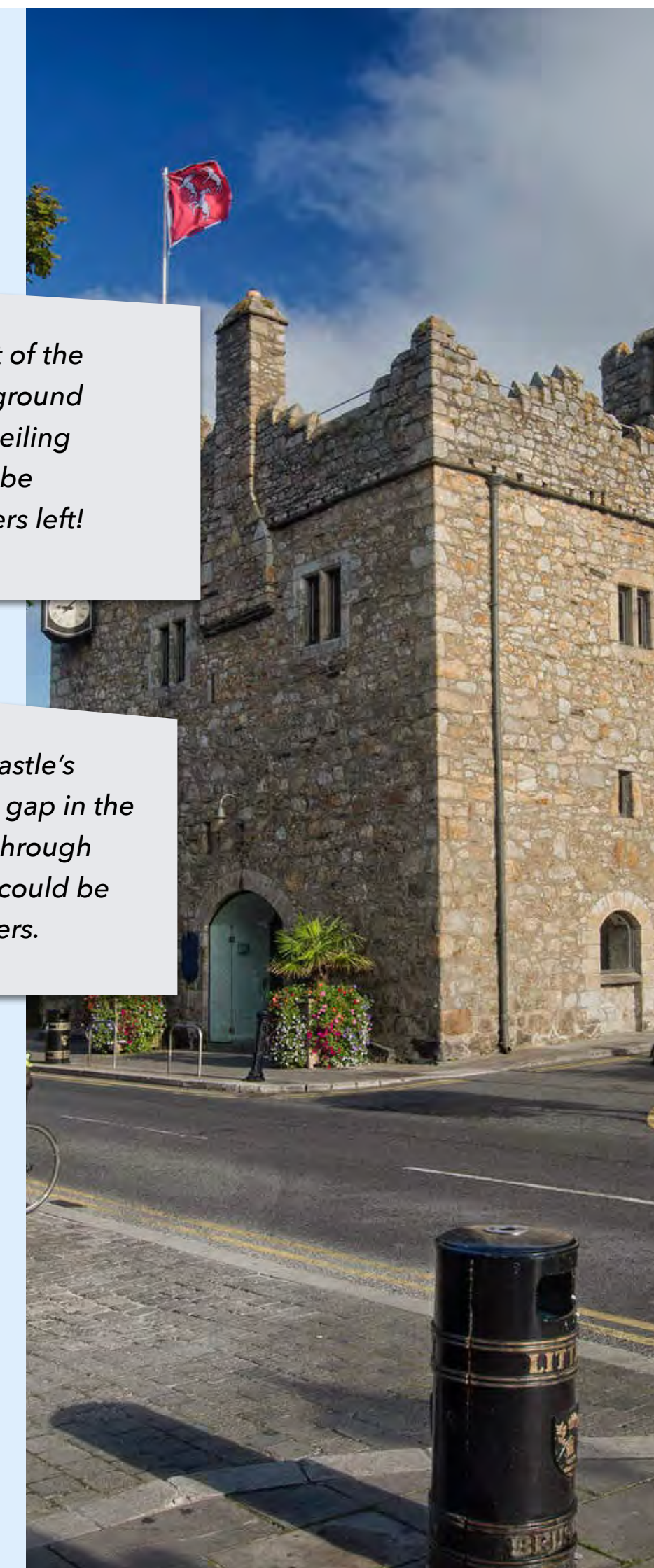
Dublin diversion. During the 14th century, ships began to unload at Dalkey after silting at the mouth of the Liffey prevented safe access to Dublin.

No mercy! The Castle's 'murder hole' is a gap in the entrance ceiling through which boiling oil could be poured on attackers.

Who's for hedgehog? Actors depicting the Castle's previous occupants include the Cook (who has a tasty Hedgehog Pie recipe!) and the Archer who shows off his deadly longbow and crossbow skills.



Hall at the heart. The Town Hall built in the 1890s became a community focal point. This hosted everything from political rallies (one in the 1930s addressed by Eamon de Valera) to dances, theatrical performances and other events. Today, it's still a valuable local amenity.



DALKEY

What (and who) is around the corner? *Exploring Dalkey's streets and lanes*

Who's your man? Is it? He looks just like... Dalkey is a low-key, quiet kind of place. But it's also somewhere that extraordinary stars can occasionally be spotted in everyday settings...

Dalkey's jumble of streets and lanes trace ancient tracks along which carts once rattled, carrying goods from the nearby harbours. In those days, Dalkey was one of Ireland's most important ports; today it's a neighbourhood that oozes character and a laid-back attitude.

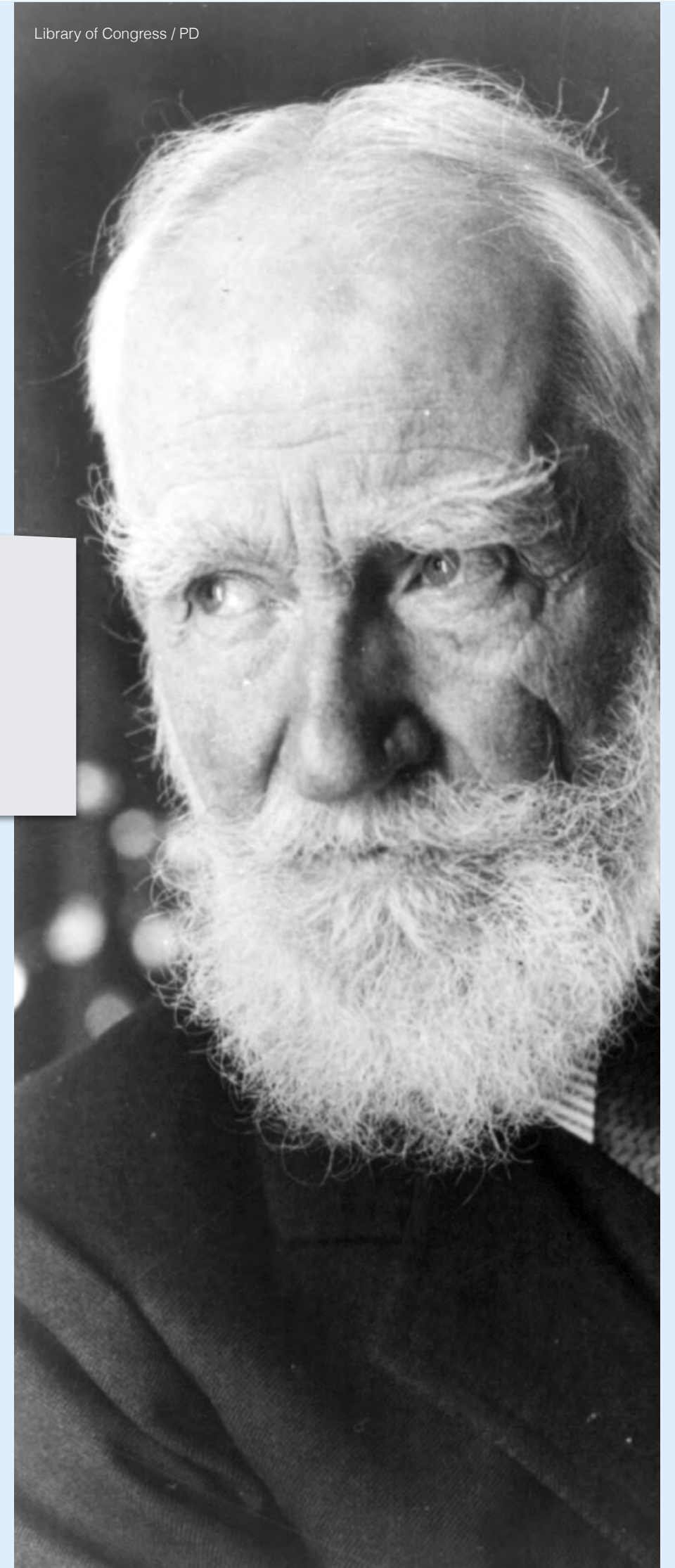
The area is best explored by walking - and when you do, familiar faces can be regularly seen. Over the years, Dalkey's charm has led to many well-known people making their home here. These include director Neil Jordan, singer Chris de Burgh and Bono and The Edge of U2.

Apart from the town's obvious charm, one reason why Dalkey is a magnet for celebrities is that its pace is so easy going. So if you spot someone famous, give them space - even stars occasionally want time out of the spotlight!

Literary launchpad. One of Dalkey's earliest celebrity residents was writer George Bernard Shaw who spent some early years in Torca Cottage on Torca Road. Following in his footsteps, many other notable writers took up residence here.

Stretched stay! During 2020's first coronavirus lockdown, a short stay in Dalkey turned into a 12-week stopover for Hollywood actor Matt Damon and his family. In that time, he became a familiar face in local shops and cafés.

Star spotting. Well-known visitors to Dalkey have included Michelle Obama, REM (during a summer spent writing and recording in Dublin) and Bruce Springsteen.



Library of Congress / PD

DALKEY

Wild in the water! Enjoying Dalkey Sound's many sights and stories

Dolphin fins cutting gracefully through the water. Viking raiders preparing to raid and plunder. And even executed pirates swinging in the wind. Dalkey Sound has seen inspiring, spectacular and sometimes gruesome sights over the centuries...

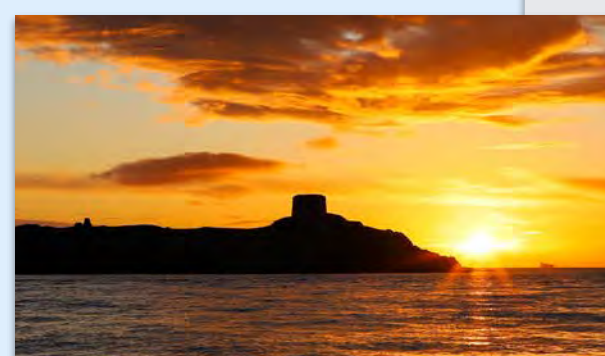
Long before Dublin's port was developed, Dalkey's deep channel led to it becoming one of medieval Ireland's most important ports. Today, the focus is on fun and Coliemore Harbour alongside Bullock Harbour are popular bases for scuba diving, kayaking, angling and sailing.

Just five minutes away by boat is Dalkey Island which was inhabited from prehistory. Later, Viking raiders used it as

a base, monks settled here (as they did on many islands off Ireland) and so did the military who built and occupied the Martello Tower in the 19th century. When they finally decided the chance of a French invasion had subsided, they abandoned the tower in 1886. They certainly didn't take any chances - they waited 65 years after Napoleon died before leaving!

Today, Dalkey Island's only inhabitants are a herd of wild goats. However other animals, including members of Dalkey's thriving seal colony, make a point of visiting. From time to time, these share the waters with various dolphin species some of whom have been tracked here from as far away as North-Eastern Scotland.

Pirates beware! In 1765, the bodies of two pirates were displayed on the Muglins, north of Dalkey Island, as a warning against piracy. They are said to be buried beneath the beacon that now protects shipping.



Sure cure? Pilgrims made their way to Dalkey Island's holy well in search of cures, especially for scurvy. Analysis has shown that the water contains high levels of vitamin C which is effective in preventing scurvy.

No way in. Dalkey Island's Martello Tower was one of Ireland's largest. It's also the only one originally constructed with no doorway. This was because enemy ships could sail around the island and bombard this vulnerable point. Instead, the tower was accessed via a ladder.



DALKEY

What's the story? Dalkey's ongoing celebration of literature

Find a quiet café, sip a coffee and take time out from the world, enjoying a good book. Dalkey's the most natural place in the world to find refuge in reading - so it's no surprise that literature has become such a vital aspect of the village's identity.

Author Salman Rushdie has described the Dalkey Book Festival as "the best little festival in the world". Even though the event is less than a decade old, the town's literary connections stretch back to the nineteenth century.

George Bernard Shaw lived here and many years later, other prominent writers were connected to Dalkey.

These include Hugh Leonard, Maeve Binchy and, of course, Flann O'Brien. Flann - one of the many pen names of Brian O'Nolan - immortalised the town in his comic fusion of humour, philosophy and surrealism, 'The Dalkey Archive'.

Today, Dalkey's literary legacy continues. Writers such as Joseph O'Connor and Neil Jordan live locally and the Dalkey Book Festival attracts many of the world's most respected authors and thinkers every June. All year round, literature is also applauded in the Dalkey Heritage Centre whose Writers Gallery introduces the lives and works of over 40 writers.



'Da'-lkey remembered. The village features in Hugh Leonard's two volumes of autobiography as well as works like 'Da', his 1978 Tony-award winning play.

Writer's refuge. During the 1860s and 70s, a young George Bernard Shaw lived on Torca Road which he found far more pleasant than the family's other home in the city centre.

Maeve's oasis. The much-loved Maeve Binchy was born in Dalkey and was a strong supporter of the Heritage Centre. Following her death in 2012, the garden behind the local library was dedicated to her.

Flann the fan. Flann O'Brien described Dalkey as a "very pretty, nice compact little town". However, he admitted having to leave because his landlady "came to the end of her patience".



KILLINEY

DUBLIN COASTAL TRAIL



KILLINEY

Higher ground: a forgotten famine and the follies of Killiney Hill

Nature can inspire awe. But it also inflicts terrible suffering. These contrasts can be vividly experienced at the summit of Killiney Hill. After a tough climb, you're rewarded with spectacular views - and a reminder of a desperate attempt to alleviate heartbreaking distress...

From the top of the 170 metre Killiney Hill, an incredible panorama comprising Dublin Bay, the Sugar Loaf and even Wales, can be seen. Nearer to hand stands the iconic obelisk built during what became known as 'the year of slaughter'.

This commemorates a tragic but largely forgotten episode in Irish

history. The winter of 1740/41 was savagely cold and tens of thousands starved. Realising that desperation would drive hungry people to take extreme action, landlords decided to act. Some put their tenants to work on projects with no practical purpose. One was the obelisk that landlord Colonel John Mapas built at the top of Killiney Hill. Just over a hundred years later, his successor Robert Warren built the nearby stepped 'pyramid'.

A more recent - and practical - addition to the area is the Tea Room located 400 metres away along the downhill path beside the Killiney Hill Road entrance.

Terrible toll. A greater proportion of Ireland's population is estimated to have died in the famine of 1740/41 than did so in the more famous disaster a century later.

Wish you were here? Local tradition says that wishes will come true if you walk around each level of the Killiney Hill pyramid to the top then make a wish. You must face St Begnet's oratory on Dalkey

Long-remembered victory. An ancestor of obelisk builder John Mapas is said to have vanquished Edward Bruce at the Battle of Faughart in Louth in 1318.

No safe haven. The winter of 1740/41 was so bad that 'mini-icebergs' reportedly damaged ships moored on the Liffey.

Bella vista! The view from Killiney Hill reminded Victorian Dubliners of the Bay of Naples. Nearby streets were given Italian-inspired names such as Sorrento Terrace and Vico Road while houses received names like 'Capri' and 'Monte Alverno'.

wiki / cc



KILLINEY

Fame, fossils and the father of earthquake science

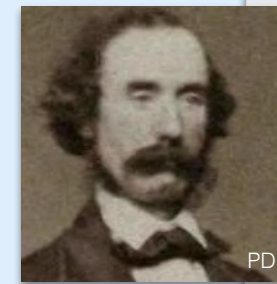
With all the pressure and paparazzis, celebrities experience stresses as well as rewards. Not every superstar always wants to live in the spotlight. So where can they retreat when the global tour is over?..

World-famous Irish musicians such as Bono, Enya and Van Morrison have made their homes in Killiney. Here, the combination of inspiring views and quiet leafy lanes offers a valuable chance to enjoy privacy and recharge artistic batteries.

In contrast, Killiney Beach, and its smaller sandier neighbour Whiterock Beach, are open to everyone. Peaceful today, Killiney Beach was rocked by deafening explosions in the 1870s. As he studied how shockwaves travel, pioneering scientist Robert Mallet detonated barrels of gunpowder buried in the beach's stony surface. These groundbreaking (in every sense!) experiments are now acknowledged as among the most important in the early years of seismology.

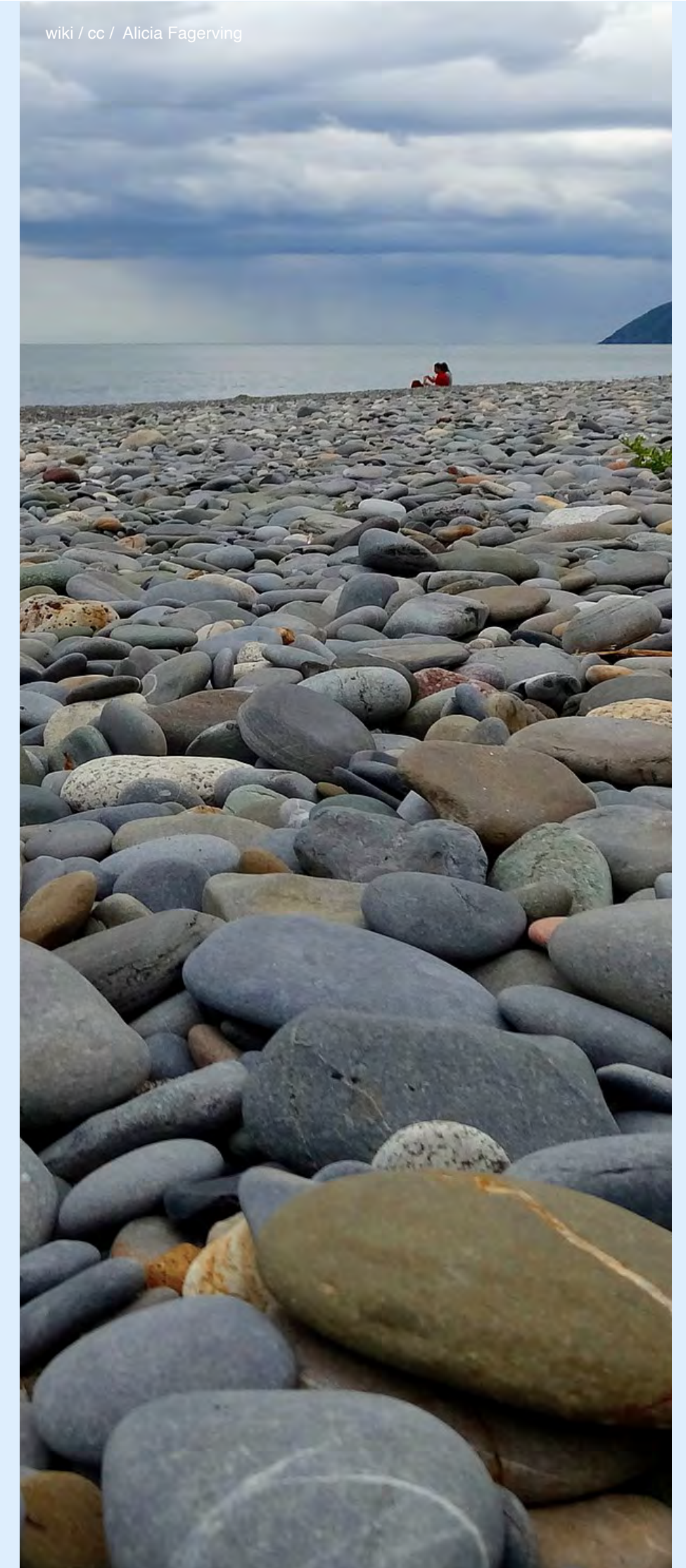
Geologists still find the beach fascinating thanks to its rich mix of shales, sandstone and limestone rocks. Many contain fossils of creatures that filled the seas around here millions of years ago.

Stargazing. Famous faces are regularly spotted out and about in Killiney. Jodie Comer, star of 'Killing Eve', has showcased the beach on Instagram while actor Matt Damon was seen taking a dip at the Vico Road swimming point during his extended 2020 lockdown stay.



Nature's forces. In 1846, Dubliner Robert Mallet coined the word 'seismology' to describe the study of earthquakes. Later, his foundry supplied the iron that reinforced the Fastnet lighthouse off Cork against the Atlantic..

Cave dweller. Whiterock Beach is the site of the mysterious 'Decco's Cave'. A century ago, this was the home of a mysterious hermit known only as 'Decco' who was said to have been a veteran of the Boer War.



APPENDIX: *attractions & experiences*

SKERRIES	Irish Commercial Charter Boats; Skerries Paddle Tours; Sea Glass jewellery making; Bleeper Bikes; Skerries Mills; Painting Workshop Skerries Mill; Ardgillan Castle; Skerries Seatours.
MALAHIDE	Little Gem tours; Casino Model Railway; Malahide Castle; Irish Centre for Cycling; Malahide Irish College of English; Lambay Island - Day Trips/Retreats; Dublin Bus Coastal Tours.
RAHENY	St. Anne's City Farm and Ecology Centre.
HOWTH	Howth Guided Tours; Shearwater Kayaking; Chaperone VIP Private Tours; Feelgood Scuba - Eco Powerboat Tour & Coasteering; Ardan Garden; Howth Writing Workshops/Retreats; Howth Walking Tours; Fish n Trips; Dublin Bay Cruises; Shanes Howth Adventures; Hidden Howth; Ireland's Eye Ferries; Hurdy Gurdy Museum; Howth Castle; Island Ferries; Howth Yacht Club; Pure Magic - SUP.
NORTH BULL ISLAND	Pure Magic (Kite Surfing, Paddle Boarding & more).
SALTHILL & MONKSTOWN	Dillon Garden.
DUN LAOGHAIRE	Dublin Bay Cruises; Irish National Sailing School; Big Style Sup School; Go Sailing; Ocean divers; Extreme Ireland; National Maritime museum; Dun Laoghaire Cycle Tours; Dublin Under Sail; Go Running - Tours.
SANDYCOVE & GLASTHULE	The Forty Foot; James Joyce Tower & Museum; Sandycove Heritage Trail; Pure Magic (Kite Surfing, Paddle Boarding & more).
DALKEY	Kayaking.ie; Ken the Ferryman; GoSailing.ie; Dalkey Fishing Trips; Mornington Garden/Dalkey Garden School; Dalkey Castle; Bullock Harbour Boat Hire.
KILLINEY	Killiney Hill; Sights of Dublin - Killiney Hill Tour [Coach]; Dublin Bay Cruises; Orchards Near Me - Killiney Foraging.



Thank You