

DÚN LAOGHAIRE - RATHDOWN SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

— SPORT IRELAND —

NEWSLETTER

For an Active Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown



Comhairle Contae County Council

**Inclusive
Watercamps**



**Two Coastivals
One Great Team!**

**1970's Netball Club
Still Thriving!**

**ESF+ Officer
Getting Stuck In!**

INFORMATION

EDUCATION

IMPLEMENTATION





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What's On at DLR Sports Partnership



Looking for events near you?
Want to know more about DLR Sports
Partnership?
Scan the QR Code to take you to our
website.

DÚN LAOGHAIRE- RATHDOWN SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership was set up in 2008. DLR Sports Partnership works closely with the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's Sports Development Office and other key partners to promote participation, inclusion and coordination in sport at a local level.

All those statutory bodies, organisations and groups operating in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown with a responsibility for or interest in sports development are invited to participate in the Local Sports Partnership.

This includes the involvement of the Local Authority, Education & Training Board, HSE, third level sector, sports clubs, schools and local voluntary/community organisations.

Support DLR Sports Partnership



Proud to support local sport?
Download the DLR Sports Partnership
logo and add it to your website.
It's a simple way to show you're part of
a community that champions inclusion,
activity, and opportunity for all.

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**Got a story
for us?**

Declan is our Sports Marketing & Information Officer and the Editor and Designer of our newsletter. Get in touch with him if you'd like to feature your club, recognise someone doing great work in the community, or celebrate a sporting or community achievement.

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COASTIVAL



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Community Participation Engagement

A central focus of Coastival 2026 was encouraging participation, providing opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to get active, connect with others, and enjoy the unique recreational opportunities available along Dún Laoghaire's coastline.

The programmes were designed to appeal to a broad audience, including families, women, men, teenagers and older adults. Across the nine-day festival, more than 18 participatory events were delivered, creating opportunities for people to try new activities, develop new skills, build confidence, and enjoy being active in a social and supportive setting.

Participants embraced a diverse range of land- and water-based activities, including Tai Chi in the Baths, Yoga by the Sea, Kayaking, Paddleboarding, the popular West Pier Water Park, and Kayaking le beagán den Ghaeilge, which combined paddling with the Irish language in a fun and engaging way. Water Fest in Coal Harbour added to the excitement, creating a vibrant atmosphere for families and visitors throughout the week. Blessed with excellent weather, the festival enjoyed ideal conditions that helped make the busy programme both enjoyable and memorable for all involved.

The wider participation programme attracted **220** participants, demonstrating strong community interest in active recreation, outdoor activity, and engagement with Dún Laoghaire's unique coastal environment.



Accessible COASTIVAL



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Comhairle Contae County Council

Coastability

This year, alongside its broad participation programme, Coastival 2026 placed a strong emphasis on accessibility and inclusion, ensuring that as many people as possible could take part, including neurodivergent individuals, people with visual impairments, wheelchair users, and children with autism.

Supported by Gwen O'Looney, Sports Inclusion Disability Officer with DLR Sports Partnership, the festival worked to create opportunities for people with disabilities to experience new activities and engage with the coastline in a supportive environment.



Find out more about our Sports Inclusion Disability Programme here. Scan the QR Code for more.





Ciaran Casey focusses on fostering social inclusion to increase participation, and create meaningful pathways for marginalised and socially excluded groups.
CCASEY@DLRCOCO.IE



Africa Day Youth Football Tournament Brings Young People Together

Delivered in partnership with Cuala GAA, the DLR Integration Forum, the DLR Local Authority Integration Team and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board.



As part of the 2026 Africa Day celebrations, DLR Sports Partnership was delighted to support the Africa Day Youth Football Tournament at Cuala GAA Club in Dalkey.

The event showcased the power of sport to bring people together. Throughout the tournament, players displayed excellent teamwork, determination and respect, creating a positive and welcoming atmosphere both on and off the pitch.

While the football was competitive, the emphasis remained firmly on participation, inclusion and making new connections.



Netball Ireland Deliver on Africa Day at People's Park, Dún Laoghaire

Delivered in partnership with Netball Ireland.

DLR Sports Partnership was proud to be part of the vibrant Africa Day celebrations held in People's Park, Dún Laoghaire, where hundreds of people came together to celebrate African culture, diversity and community.

Alongside a fantastic programme of music, dance, workshops and cultural activities, the Sports Partnership teamed up with Netball Ireland to deliver fun, inclusive sports activities for children and families throughout the afternoon.

Volunteers and coaches created an encouraging environment where everyone, could get involved and have fun.



DLR Sports Partnership, Tivoli Training Centre & the Irish Probation Service Collaborate



During April and May 2026, DLR Sports Partnership was delighted to work in partnership with the Tivoli Training Centre and the Irish Probation Service to deliver a four-week yoga programme for the women's group at the centre.

The programme provided participants with an opportunity to take time for themselves in a welcoming and supportive environment, using gentle movement, stretching and breathing techniques to promote both physical and mental wellbeing. Across the four weeks, participants developed confidence in practising yoga while learning simple techniques that can be incorporated into everyday life to help manage stress, improve flexibility and encourage relaxation.

The sessions also offered valuable opportunities for connection, with participants supporting and encouraging one another throughout the programme.



DLR Sports Partnership visit Embassy of Malaysia, Dublin



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership was honoured to meet with H.E. Ms. Sharon Ho, Ambassador of Malaysia to Ireland, during a courtesy visit to the Embassy of Malaysia in Dublin.

Representing DLR Sports Partnership were Shane McArdle, Sports Coordinator, and Ciaran Casey, ESF+ Social Innovation in Sport Officer, who met with Ambassador Ho to discuss shared interests and potential opportunities for collaboration through sport.



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Gwen O'Looney is the Sports Inclusion Disability Officer for DLR Sports Partnership. She is the point of contact for all of our inclusive programmes, events and information.
GOLOONEY@DLRCOCO.IE



dlr Inclusive Watercamps Still Making Waves! dlr

Comhairle Contae County Council

For four weeks every summer, the waters of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown come alive with laughter, excitement and achievement as more than 90+ children with additional needs take part in the DLR Inclusive Water Camps.

While the activities on the water are often the most visible part of the programme, the real story behind its continued success is one of partnership, collaboration and a shared commitment to inclusion.

The success of the camps is only possible because of the strong partnerships that underpin the programme.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council continues to play a vital role by fully funding the initiative each year.

Another cornerstone of the programme's success is the invaluable support of the **Royal St George Yacht Club**.

The club generously opens its doors each year, providing access to outstanding facilities and creating a welcoming environment for participants and volunteers.

Equally important is the contribution of **Active Connections**, whose dedicated team works tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure every participant receives the support they need.

The DLR Inclusive Water Camps are a powerful example of what can be achieved when organisations come together with a shared vision.

Through the support of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, the dedication of Active Connections, the generosity and inclusive leadership of the Royal St George Yacht Club, and the coordination of **DLR Sports Partnership**, more than **90+** children each year are given an opportunity that might otherwise be out of reach.



ROYAL ST GEORGE YACHT CLUB



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Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council named title partner of the 2026 Irish Open

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is proud to support the 2026 Irish Open as title partner, strengthening the connection between one of Ireland's premier tennis events and the community that hosts it.

Returning to Carrickmines Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club for a third consecutive year, the Irish Open showcases DLR as a leading destination for international sport.

The Council's investment helps bring world tour tennis to local courts, creating opportunities for Irish players to compete at elite level on home soil.



Cllr Barry Saul, Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, said:

"Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is proud to be the title partner of the 2026 Irish Open, bringing world-class tennis to our county once again.

This landmark partnership strengthens the connection between the event and its home in Carrickmines, while showcasing our area on an international stage."



Kevin Quinn, CEO of Tennis Ireland, said:

"Having Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council on board as title partner is a significant moment for the Irish Open.

Their backing allows us to grow the event and to mark a real milestone this year, with professional women's tennis returning to Ireland at this level. It is a partnership built on a shared belief in what tennis can offer local communities and aspiring players across the country."



Shane McArdle, Coordinator of DLR Sports Partnership said:

"It was a pleasure to join players, partners and supporters at the opening barbeque of the DLR Irish Open here in Carrickmines. This tournament is sponsored by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and is a fantastic example of how sport can bring communities together while showcasing the County on an international stage.

We are proud to support an event that not only attracts world-class tennis to the county but also inspires young players and creates opportunities for the next generation to see what is possible in sport."





Angela is our Active Cities Officer, working with partners across DLR and Dublin to deliver innovative projects and events, helping communities become more active!
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#BEACTIVE

EUROPEAN WEEK OF SPORT

Active
Cities
DUBLIN

#BeActive Night Returns to Explorium This September!

Following the success of last year's **#BeActive Night** event, we are excited to return to Explorium, the National Sport and Exercise Science Centre, on **Saturday, 26th September** for another fun-filled evening for families and the local community.

As part of European Week of Sport, **#BeActive Night** is designed to celebrate the benefits of physical activity and encourage people of all ages and abilities to get moving.

The event will provide an opportunity for participants to experience the unique facilities and resources available at Explorium while enjoying a range of engaging activities in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Whether you're looking to try something new, spend quality time with family and friends, learn more about sport and exercise science, or simply enjoy an active evening out, **#BeActive Night** will have something for everyone.

The event is also a chance to connect with others in the community, discover new ways to be active, and experience firsthand how movement can positively impact our physical, mental and social wellbeing.

We are looking forward to welcoming participants for an evening of activity, learning and fun as we join communities across Europe in celebrating European Week of Sport.

More information on activities, registration and event timings will be announced in the coming weeks. Be sure to keep an eye on our website and socials media channels for updates.



Discover BoxUp This Summer!



Samuel Beckett Civic Campus



Kilbogget Park



Marlay Park

“Open
the
Box.
Get
Active”.

Download the app today



Android



Apple



Download the app & sign up

Find a nearby locker

Borrow sports equipment for free

Return it to the locker when finished



Looking for a fun and easy way to get active outdoors this summer? BoxUp is an innovative self-service sports equipment system that provides communities with free access to equipment for sport, play and recreation in local parks and public spaces.

With just a few taps on your smartphone, you can unlock a BoxUp unit and enjoy a variety of equipment with family, friends or neighbours. Whether it's a casual game, trying a new activity, or simply spending more time outdoors, BoxUp makes it easier than ever to get moving and make the most of your local park.

BoxUp is a fantastic way to support active lifestyles, encourage social connection and help people of all ages enjoy the benefits of physical activity in a fun and accessible way. By providing equipment where people need it most, it removes barriers to participation and helps create more active communities.

So why not give it a try this summer? Gather your family or friends, head to your local BoxUp location, and discover just how easy it can be to get active and have fun outdoors. Add QR codes to download the app.

How's Your BoxUp?

Have you used one of our BoxUp units?

We'd love to hear about your experience and learn what equipment you'd like to see added in the future.

Your feedback will help us continue to improve and grow the BoxUp programme, ensuring it meets the needs of our communities and encourages even more people to get active outdoors.

Scan the QR Code to Leave Feedback



ST ANNE'S NC



CLUB FOCUS

Every Newsletter edition we focus on highlighting great work done by many local sports clubs and organisations. This edition we look at St. Annes Netball Club.

St. Annes - 50 years in the making!

St Annes introduces the sport of Netball to beginners and any women returning to the sport or wanting to learn something new at a later stage in life.

The Start

Saint Annes Netball club was created in the late 1970's and is still thriving.

It derived from the St Annes school based in Milton Dublin 14.

It has grown over the years from a club of 1 team to now a club of 6 teams and 80+ club members.



Facts about Anne's

1 of 9 clubs who compete in the Netball Irelands Senior League across both divisions 1 and 2.

St Annes have the most league titles of any club in Ireland.

4 of our teams made the the Division 1 & 2 semi finals 2025/26.

We are the current Division 1 and Division 2 winners 2025/2026.

Our aim is to continue to grow the sport in Ireland in a fun, competitive, inclusive environment.

We'd love to hear from you!

Anyone interested in contacting, joining, volunteering etc:
Training Mondays in Wesley College, Ballinteer, Dublin 16.

Email: Saintannesnetball@gmail.com





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*Louise Callan is our Women in Sport Lead
and Kevina Malone is our Programme Manager.*
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DLR



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**Active
Cities**
DUBLIN

10th – 16th AUGUST 2026

DAY	WHAT'S ON	TIME	LOCATION	SUITABLE FOR (AGE)
Tuesday 11 th	Pilates & Dip	10:00 AM	Apna Park - Dun Laoghaire	18+
Wednesday 12 th	Neurodiverse Teen Girls Kayaking*	4.30 PM	Moontour - Dun Laoghaire	12-15
Wednesday 12 th	Sunset Paddleboarding	8:00 PM	INSS - Dun Laoghaire	18+
Thursday 13 th	Intro to Sailing	6:00 PM	INSS - Dun Laoghaire	18+
Thursday 13 th	Beginners Paddleboarding	6:30 PM	INSS - Dun Laoghaire	18+
Saturday 15 th	Zumba in the Baths	10:00 AM	Dun Laoghaire Baths	12+
Saturday 15 th	Teen Girls Paddleboarding	12:00 PM	INSS - Dun Laoghaire	12-15
Saturday 15 th	Teen Girls Westpier Wipeout Waterpark	1:00 PM	Coal Harbour - Dun Laoghaire	12-15
Sunday 16 th	Intro to Mountain Biking	10:00 AM	Biking.ie - Ticknock	16+

*Booking link to follow



**SCAN QR
CODE FOR
MORE INFO
& TO BOOK**



Dublin Mountains
Partnership

What's Happening...

AUGUST

8 | ACTIVE CITIES PARKS & TRAILS CHALLENGE SERIES:
TIBRADDEN WOOD

9 | DMP DOG FRIENDLY HIKE: AT CRUAGH WOOD

11 | HER OUTDOORS EVENING HIKE AND SOUND BATH AT
BOHERNABREENA AND GLENASMOLE

17 | DLR SUMMER OF HERITAGE: LAUGHANSTOWN TO
RATHMICHAEL WALK

19 | HERITAGE WEEK: EVENING WALK & TALK AT FAIRY
CASTLE WITH THE IRISH UPLANDS FORUM

22 | ACTIVE CITIES PARKS & TRAILS SERIES CHALLENGE:
CRUAGH WOOD

26 | SUMMER SOCIAL EVENING SERIES: CARRICKGOLLOGAN
WOOD AND BARNASLINGAN WOOD

29 | AWARE WELLNESS WALK: MASSY'S ESTATE

Booking details will be announced 7-14 days prior to
the event.

Schedule subject to change.

Follow us on Eventbrite to receive notifications of
new events.



Comhpháirtíocht Shléibhte
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin Mountains Partnership



Shane reflects on DLR Sports Partnership's recent Irish Sport Industry award nomination



Shane McArdle
Sports Coordinator
DLR Sports Partnership

In May we were delighted to celebrate being shortlisted for the 2026 Irish Sport Industry Awards, a significant recognition of the impact that sport and physical activity continue to have across our county. The Federation of Irish Sport announced the 2026 finalists as part of the ninth annual awards programme, which recognises excellence, innovation, inclusivity and collaboration across the Irish sporting sector.

Being shortlisted was a tremendous endorsement of the collective efforts of our participants, volunteers, clubs, community organisations, schools, coaches and partner agencies who work alongside DLRSP throughout the year. It reflects a shared commitment to creating opportunities for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to be active, healthy and connected through sport and physical activity.



ENERGY UPGRADES

for Homes & Communities

Meet Trusted Energy Experts – All Under One Roof

Saturday 10th October, 11am – 2pm
County Hall, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

Admission is free, booking is required on dlr Eventbrite





Shane McArdle: Sports Coordinator - smcardle@DLRCOCO.IE

Gwen O'Looney: SIDO Officer - golooney@DLRCOCO.IE

Kevina Malone: Programmes Manager - kmalone@DLRCOCO.IE

Louise Callan: Community Sports Development Officer - lcallan@DLRCOCO.IE

Angela Monaghan: Active Cities Officer - amonaghan@DLRCOCO.IE

Ciaran Casey: ESF+ Social Innovation in Sport Officer - ccasey@DLRCOCO.IE

Declan McMahon: Sports Marketing & Information Officer - declanmcmahon@DLRCOCO.IE

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Comhairle Contae County Council

 **SPORT IRELAND**
LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS