

# DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS



SPRING / SUMMER EDITION 2026



## OUR LOCAL heritage

Welcome to the 2026 Spring/Summer Edition of our Dundalk Tidy Towns newsletter. In this issue we will look at **What is Heritage?** and the importance of our **local Heritage** to our town. Heritage is all around us and provides us with a fascinating history that can be seen in our buildings, industry, local stories and our local historical people.

### WHAT IS OUR LOCAL HERITAGE?

Our **LOCAL HERITAGE** comprises of: Our historical sites, our important buildings, our monuments, our amazing objects in our museum as well as its artefacts and archives. **HERITAGE** is our man-made structures, our historic buildings and our historic sites, buildings that reflect Dundalk's historical, artistic, architectural, manufacturing and transportational achievements. **OUR NATURAL HERITAGE** includes our waterways, our local landscapes, our native wildlife such as our insects, plants, trees and birds. **OUR NATURAL HERITAGE** is our region's biodiversity.



A HERITAGE HERO



INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE



SPORTING HERITAGE



BUILT HERITAGE

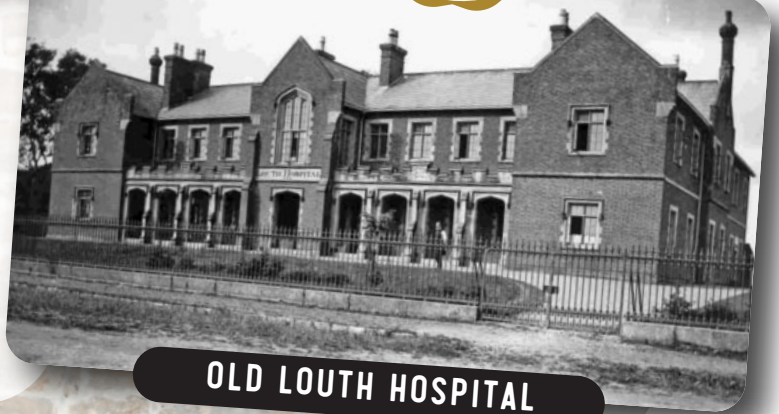
**OUR HERITAGE** is also our culture, our traditions, our customs, our sports, our music, our dance, our literature, our folklore and our crafts. Our amazing **HERITAGE** shapes who we are, it is part of what we are. **OUR HERITAGE** provides clues to our past and how our town and society has evolved. **OUR HERITAGE** is a keystone to our culture and preserving **OUR HERITAGE** protects the character of Dundalk now and into the future. Protected our Heritage creates a sense of pride and belonging, it allows our town to grow and develop in every way, across innovation, tourism, agriculture, entertainment, education and business.



## OUR BUILT HERITAGE

# OLD LOUTH HOSPITAL

Built in 1834 and designed by architect Thomas Smith in Tudor-Gothic style. The building is now used by the nearby Grammar School. It was designed to compliment the elegant Stapleton Place, *named after Maria Frances Catherine Stapleton, wife of the third Earl of Roden.* The street design and its surrounding buildings were envisaged and laid out in 1813 but not fully completed for another 100 years.



OLD LOUTH HOSPITAL

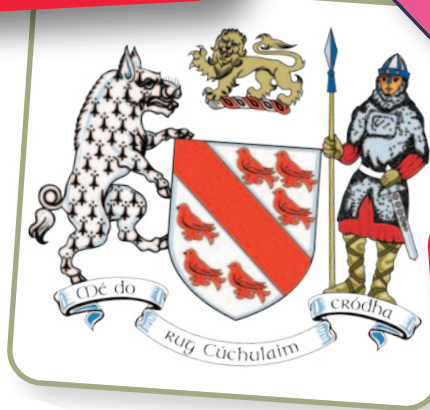


## OUR HERALDIC HERITAGE

# ORIGINS OF A CREST

### *The Dundalk Town Crest*

The Dundalk Town Crest was officially registered in 1968 but had originated from a 14<sup>th</sup> century seal, featuring a *silver shield* with a red diagonal band and surrounded by *Six Red Martlets* (mythical footless birds). The crest is supported by an *Ermine Boar* and a *Norman Soldier* and a *Gold Lion* with the motto: "*Mé do rug Cú Chulainn cródha*", meaning "*I gave birth to brave Cú Chulainn*".



DID YOU KNOW?  
DUNDALK TOWN IS  
OVER 800 YEARS  
OLD, DATING BACK  
TO 1189.



## OUR SPORTING HERITAGE

# DUNDALK FC

## ITS HISTORIC ORIGINS

Dundalk FC originated as Dundalk Great Northern Railway (GNR) AFC in 1903, and was set up by the local railway workers who switched from a rugby club to association football. Originally playing in black and amber, they joined the League of Ireland in 1926. This year marks 100 years from when they joined. The club crest is three martlets on a shield, which was adopted from the town's coat of arms. The original colour of the jersey was black and amber as illustrated opposite.



THE EARLIEST KNOWN PHOTOGRAPH OF THE DUNDALK GNR FOOTBALL TEAM CA. 1910.



The G N Railway have this season started an Association Club, and have already made application for the Athletic Grounds. Though not aspiring to any great heights as yet, they give promise of turning out a couple of clever elevens.

## A HERITAGE HERO

# Francis Leopold McClintock



Francis Leopold McClintock was born in Dundalk in 1819 and was one of the greatest Arctic explorers. He always dreamed of being a sailor. In 1831 he got a letter from his uncle who had a job for him on the ship called the Samarang. He was only 11 years old. Can you imagine what it would be like to leave home for work at 11? So Francis gathered together some of his most treasured possessions a bag of marbles and a bottle of apple juice and set off for his big adventure. On the ship Francis was just a boy, he was 4ft 6 inches tall and when he was weighed he was almost the same weight as the ship's Newfoundland Dog. The crew looked after Francis and taught him how to be a sailor. Over the next number of years Francis worked on the ship and explored South America. His greatest adventure was to take part in an exploration of the Arctic, when in 1845 a man called Franklin had got lost there on an expedition with three ships. He was in search of the Northwest passage, which was a famous sea route linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and



a shipping route important for importing goods such as spices and silks. A number of rescue expeditions took place to find him in the Arctic, but with no traces found the government decided not to spend any more money sending ships to find him and his men. In 1857, Franklin's wife was so worried and upset about her husband that she organised her own ship 'The Arctic Fox' to find him. Francis was appointed Captain. On this trip Francis was to become a hero as he found the remains of the Franklin

ships. He found a note which told the sad story how the crews of 125 men had all died. When he returned back Francis was a celebrity, everyone knew who he was even the Queen wanted to meet him. He spent the rest of his life travelling around the world and advised others on how to travel to the arctic. He died in 1907.

1 SEATOWN PLACE,  
DUNDALK, WHERE  
FRANCIS WAS BORN



## OUR INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

# GNRI DUNDALK



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
CLARKE STATION WAS RENAMED ON APRIL 19, 1966, TO HONOR THOMAS CLARKE, A LEADER IN THE 1916 EASTER RISING. THE RENAMING OF IRISH RAILWAY STATIONS WAS PART OF THE 50TH-ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS OF THE RISING.

The current station (**Clarke Station, Dundalk**) was developed in 1875 when the Dublin & Belfast Junction Railway merged with the Dublin & Drogheda Railway, and in turn, this merged with the Irish North Western Railway and the Ulster Railway a year later. This new entity was known as the Great Northern Railway (Ireland). The current station was opened in 1894 and was designed by William Hamilton Mills. Throughout the 1800's, Dundalk became a busy and significant trading town, with large industries such as brewing, distilleries, tobacco, textiles, and engineering; all of which expanded as a result of this important coastal railway hub. The port of Dundalk also connected to this important rail line allowing Dundalk to prosper and grow into the large town it is today. An important part of our local heritage, Dundalk's Clarke Station, even today provides an essential daily service for those wishing to travel north or south, as well as bringing visitors and tourism to the town.

CELEBRATING OUR LOCAL HERITAGE

# MURALS OF DUNDALK



## EDWARD THE BRUCE

YOUNGEST BROTHER OF ROBERT THE BRUCE THE KING OF SCOTLAND. EDWARD CROWNED HIMSELF HIGH KING OF IRELAND IN 1316 AT MORTIMARS CASTLE ON PARK STREET IN 1316. HE DIED AT THE BATTLE OF FAUGHART IN 1318 AND IS BURIED THERE.

ARTISTS: SNIK - NICHOLAS ELLIS AND LAURA PERRET) STAMFORD LONDON



## ÉNBARR (AONBHARR) THE STEED OF LUGH

LONG AGO IN ANCIENT IRELAND - WHEN THE TUATHA DÉ DANANN RULED AND THE LAND WAS STEEPED IN MAGIC, GODS AND MYTHIC CREATURES, THERE ROAMED A MYTHICAL HORSE BY THE NAME OF AONBHARR - WITH SUCH MAGICAL POWERS THAT IT ALLOWED HIM TO FLY OVER BOTH LAND AND SEA AS QUICK AS THE WIND 'AR NÓS NA GAOTHE'!

ARTIST: MISTER COPY MICHAEL THOMPSON (JOHANNESBURG SOUTH AFRICA)



## HENRY GODFREY (HARRY) TEMPEST

BORN AT DOUGLAS PLACE IN DUNDALK IN 1881, HE WAS THE FOUNDER OF LOUTH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY IN 1903 AND WAS AUTHOR OF THE GOSSIPING GUIDE TO DUNDALK AND DISTRICT WHICH IS USED TO THIS DAY.

ARTIST: MARIANA SANTOS - (LISBON PORTUGAL)

### CÚPLA FOCAIL

HERITAGE = OIÐHREACHT  
RAILWAY STATION = STÁISIÚN  
TRAENACH  
HEDGEROW = FÁL SCEACH  
BUTTERFLY = FÉILEACÁN  
BEAUTY = ÁILLEAMH  
BLACKBERRIES = SMÉARA DUBHA  
PRIDE = BRÓD

## CELEBRATING OUR WILD HEDGEROWS

### OUR HEDGEROWS - AN ABUNDANCE OF BEAUTY & VARIETY

Hedgerows are essential for maintaining wildlife diversity, supporting species such as badgers, owls, hedgehogs, stoats, blackbirds and innumerable plants, butterflies and other insects. Not only are they an invaluable resource for much of our wildlife they are vital in providing food and shelter for pollinators, cleaning our air, defining our landscape, storing carbon and by holding back the flow of water off land they can alleviate flooding.

### FLOWERS, FOOD AND FRAGRANCE

Our Irish Hedgerows are some of the most diverse and incredible wild stretches of trees, plants, flowers and seasonal fruits, and are natural habitat to countless birds and insects, as well as providing a home for hedgehogs, pipistrelle bats and squirrels. Go out and explore some native wild hedgerows and see what you can see!



RED SQUIRREL



BLACKBERRIES



HERB ROBERT



DUNNOCK

FOXGLOVE



LADYBIRD



HOLLY



dundalktidytowns@gmail.com  
*share with us!*



Don't forget to share with us any of your photos of projects or activities from this newsletter, especially **WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN IN YOUR LOCAL HEDGEROWS!** You can share any photos with us via email, facebook or instagram.