

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

DUN LEARY · KINGSTOWN · DÚN LAOGHAIRE

A VISUAL HISTORY CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF THE TOWN'S
NAME CHANGE IN 1920 DURING THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

2 NOVEMBER 2020 - 31 JANUARY 2021

LEVEL 3, DLR LEXICON, HAIGH TERRACE, MORAN PARK, DÚN LAOGHAIRE



DÚN LAOGHAIRE A BRIEF HISTORY

From kings of Tara to monarchs of Britain, the ancient town of Dún Laoghaire has hosted its share of dignitaries over the centuries. The name rhymed with 'Mary' to eighteenth century Dubliners and referred to the fort of a notable person named Laoghaire, often identified as Lóegaire, son of Niall of the Nine Hostages, a fifth century contemporary of St Patrick. Before him, there is evidence of settlement in the general area dating back to around 6,000 years ago. The region has always combined the two aspects of the maritime and rural hinterland in its story.



St Patrick's Day postcard, sent from Kingstown in 1911.

The coastal area only became populated during the nineteenth century after a network of military roads linked defensive Martello towers. The harbour and railway established the town's reputation by the 1830s. The area rapidly expanded to become a desirable residential location and a thriving centre for trade and commerce. It was a town of great contrasts for most of the nineteenth century, ranging from wealthy Italianate villas and prestigious yacht clubs to wretched slums and tenements. Famous politicians, royals, celebrities and even a papal legate used the ferry terminals over the last 200 years.



Crowds at Victoria Wharf, Kingstown, c. 1890.



The National Yacht Club from the East Pier. Building works on the spire of St Michael's Church are visible at left, c. 1895.

Throughout the twentieth century, Dún Laoghaire continued to expand towards the mountains, extending the suburban reach. The town merged with other coastal townships in 1930 to form the Borough of Dún Laoghaire. Dún Laoghaire town underwent extensive regeneration in the mid-1990s; County Hall was extended, a new ferry terminal was built and a 600-berth marina was developed, new apartments and offices were erected. The new Bloomfields Shopping Centre opened in May 1997 in place of St Mary's Dominican Convent. Much of this activity stemmed from the establishment of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council in January 1994 together with the other Dublin local authorities of Fingal, South and Dublin city. It marked the end of the Borough of Dún Laoghaire.



The Borough of Dún Laoghaire was formed with the amalgamation of the Urban Districts of Blackrock, Killiney/Ballybrack, Dalkey and Dún Laoghaire in 1930.

Today, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown has a population 218,018 according to the 2016 census. It is a thriving cultural centre attracting international and national authors to high profile literary, music and poetry festivals over the years such as the Dún Laoghaire Summer Festival, Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival and dlr Library Voices and major sporting fixtures such as Ironman, Volvo Regattas and Tall Ships.



Yachting in the harbour.



The arrival of the Papal Legate at Carlisle Pier, marking the beginning of the Eucharistic Congress, 1932. The legate was greeted by Ministers of State including Eamon de Valera.

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HERALDRY AND COATS OF ARMS

IN DÚN LAOGHAIRE



A ramble around the town reveals many past traces of the County's governance. The civic arms of local corporate bodies abound in Dún Laoghaire and take at least three forms. Their iconography adds to the rich and varied visual history of the town.

FIRST COAT OF ARMS: KINGSTOWN TOWNSHIP, c. 1834-1929.

These civil arms include the following iconographic symbols:



- **Trefoil, or Shamrock** – The symbol of Ireland but in this case it is taken from the seal of Rathdown No.1 Rural District Council. Kingstown lay within the old barony of Rathdown.
- **Skep** – A domed straw beehive symbolising industry.
- **Crown** – This represents British Imperial connections with the name Kingstown, when it was renamed after the visit of George IV. The George IV State Diadem created in 1820 continues to be used in coronations and state occasions in Britain.
- **Viking Ship** – The ship represents the Viking associations of this coastal and maritime area.
- **Castle or Tower** – This may represent the old *dún* or fort of King Laoghaire

The Kingstown Town Commissioners, or KTC, did not have a permanent base until the magnificent County Hall building was built by John L. Robinson in 1880. Here the crest is seen to its greatest effect in stained glass, painted stonework and is incorporated in the ironwork of the grand staircase. Robinson was also responsible for the Gothic spire of St. Michael's Church. He was Chairman of the KTC. The popular People's Park opened on 29 September 1890 by Robinson proudly announces the KTC in glorious iron strapwork and lists all the sitting Commissioners in an elaborate plaque in the park.



The insignia continued to be used for the Kingstown U.D.C. (Urban District Council) 1898-1920 and Dún Laoghaire U.D.C. 1920-1929.

SECOND COAT OF ARMS: BOROUGH OF DÚN LAOGHAIRE, 1930-1993

For a time it was decided to continue to use the Seal of the Dún Laoghaire U.D.C. for the new Borough Council. Over time various elements were altered unofficially to remove the more Imperial references. The form of an Irish crown with its distinctive jagged features for King Laoghaire and Dún Laoghaire's ancient origins replaced the crown of George IV. Later



versions substitute a Viking longboat with sails furled, also representing trade, for the bee-skep on electric street-lamps in the town. This evolved again to become a religious hat referring to Monkstown and its abbey foundations. These changes were given official sanction in 1954.



THIRD COAT OF ARMS: DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL COAT OF ARMS AND THE COUNCIL LOGO, 1994-PRESENT

The coat of arms of the county used on formal and ceremonial occasions was designed by the Office of the Chief Herald. It was selected from two designs which were put on display with comments invited from the general public in 1994. It features the following new symbols in addition to retaining the Irish Crown, the Shamrock and the Viking ship:

- **Oak Branch with Acorns** - represents the ancient wooded nature of the entire county and the aspiration for conservation of its natural environment.
- **Mountain / Hill (triangle)** - This represents the hills and part of the Dublin Mountains to the south and south west of the county.
- **The Sea** - represents the maritime tradition of the county and its importance for trade and recreation. It also represents the common coastline of the two former administrative areas unified by the Council.
- **Council logo** - A simplified representation of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council identity, takes its inspiration from the Council Motto.



The motto on the coat of arms of the County Council, used on ceremonial occasions reads *Ó Chuan go Sliabh*, which translates as 'From the Harbour to the Mountain' and the Irish crown in the device is that of Lóegaire mac Néill.



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

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A KING'S TOWN

Dunleary emerged in the first quarter of the nineteenth-century as a fashionable marine resort and yachting centre. As one of the largest artificial harbours in the world, equipped with a newly-established rail service, the town served as an important gateway to Ireland and Dublin, the capital city.



Advertisement for The Purty Kitchen celebrating its royal connections, from *Dublin by Day and by Night* (1939)

The royals were always happy to meet representative figures of the public. Two locals who met with the honour of being addressed 'Sir' were Davy Stephens and Thomas Brown. Stephens was a well-known newspaper-seller for nearly fifty years, counting King Edward VII as one of his satisfied customers. Sir Thomas Brown, a tobacconist at the junction of Lower George's St and Sussex Street was knighted by Edward VII on 26 August 1903 after he presented the king with an address of welcome on his visit to the town a month earlier.



Photo by: (L. Ward, 181, Strand, Dublin, W.C.)
"SIR HAVY" STEPHENS, KINGSTOWN.



The visit of King George IV who took his departure from Ireland here in 1821 changed both the name and the role of old Dunleary, thereafter Kingstown. The town and harbour would serve as an arena of reception for British monarchs on



Souvenir postcard of the visit of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra to Ireland in 1903.

tour. Queen Victoria visited Ireland on four occasions during her reign, Edward VII three times, and George V once; each time they stopped off at Kingstown to well-orchestrated receptions.

Royal tours provoked fierce debate within the nationalist community. Local nationalist sporting and cultural organisations pointedly used the old name of Dunleary as a badge of identity. Royal visits served to highlight the ever-deepening rift between constitutional and 'advanced' nationalism which ultimately led to the successful name change in 1920 to Dún Laoghaire.

These royal visits attracted enormous public interest with their aura of pageantry and spectacle. Visits provoked rivalry between adjacent townships and institutions who vied to showcase their loyalty to the crown in expressions of welcome that many more nationalist-leaning commentators



Souvenir postcard of the visit of King George V and Queen Mary to Ireland in 1911.

saw as abject servility. Sandyford even erected a triumphal arch for George V to mark his visit to the Leopardstown Races in 1911.



Queen's Road Kingstown Co. Dublin, c. 1910.



WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

The proposal on 6 July 1920 by Sean Ó hUadhaigh, Sinn Féin councillor, to change the name of Kingstown Urban District Council to Dún Laoghaire was part of a campaign to use local government bodies as levers in the struggle for Irish independence.

Ó hUadhaigh was successful in the municipal elections in January 1920. He was a solicitor and active in the Irish language movement. He later defended Kevin Barry at his trial in October 1920. Dublin County Council became Sinn Féin-controlled from June 1920 and by 5 August the name 'Dún Laoghaire' was officially changed.

The War of Independence intensified and Dún Laoghaire was caught up in guerrilla fighting from late 1920 up to the Truce of 11 July 1921. Local targets included the naval base at the harbour and the Royal Marine Hotel, where officers quartered. British troops, occupying tents by the harbour, often came under gunfire and a curfew was in force after 9pm. IRA Captain Patrick Moran, a grocer's assistant and barman, was responsible for smuggling arms and men in and out of the country via the harbour. He was executed by the British authorities on 14 March 1921.

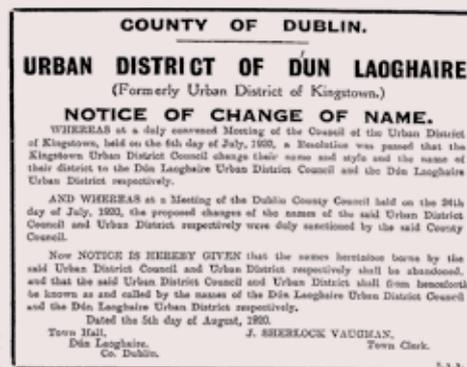


The Royal Marine Hotel, an IRA Active Unit target during the War of Independence.

During the night of 25 May 1921, Dublin Brigade HQ ordered a diversionary attack to take place in Dún Laoghaire with the intention of drawing troops from the city. It was notable for a sustained attack on British positions in the town and a fatal clash between two British patrols. The ploy was to distract from a deliberate arson attack taking place that night on the Custom House. Another audacious attack by the local IRA Active Service Unit on the Auxiliaries at the Royal Marine Hotel took place on 19 June 1921. This skirmish left volunteer James McIntosh mortally wounded. Ó hUadhaigh delivered an oration at his funeral.

Following the Truce, Irish delegates to Treaty negotiations in London travelled to England via Dún Laoghaire. When the IRA split over the Anglo-Irish Treaty, virtually the whole of the Second Brigade in south

County Dublin was against the settlement. South-east Dublin saw two active anti-Treaty columns during the Civil War. They were however unable to hold their position against old comrades who now formed the Free State.



Notice of name change from Kingstown to Dún Laoghaire (Courtesy Irish Newspaper Archives).



Plaque to commemorate the opening of Marine Parade, Dún Laoghaire Urban District Council's first major project after the town name change. The names of both Sean Ó hUadhaigh (in Irish script) and J. William Sullivan, the instigators of the name change, appear with their fellow councillors, including local unionists.



Photo: MR. GRIFFITH WITH STAFF AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION TO THE PEACE CONFERENCE IN LONDON. [Dublin, Dublin]

Arthur Griffith, heading the Irish delegation in the negotiation of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, 1921. The delegation travelled from Dún Laoghaire to Holyhead by boat.



Sean Ó hUadhaigh with Éamon de Valera and Count Plunkett at a funeral in Dundrum, 1922. Countess Markievicz follows immediately behind (Courtesy Nicholas Ryan)

DOWN BY THE SEA

TOURISM IN KINGSTOWN / DÚN LAOGHAIRE
THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

Kingstown was ideally placed to develop into Ireland's leading point of entry for passenger traffic. The Mail Boat facilitated the arrival of visitors from England and the reputation of the town was further enhanced by royal visits. Visitor guides listed the unique advantages and alluring attractions of Kingstown and it was marketed as another seaside town of the empire, referred to in some literature as the 'Brighton of Ireland'.

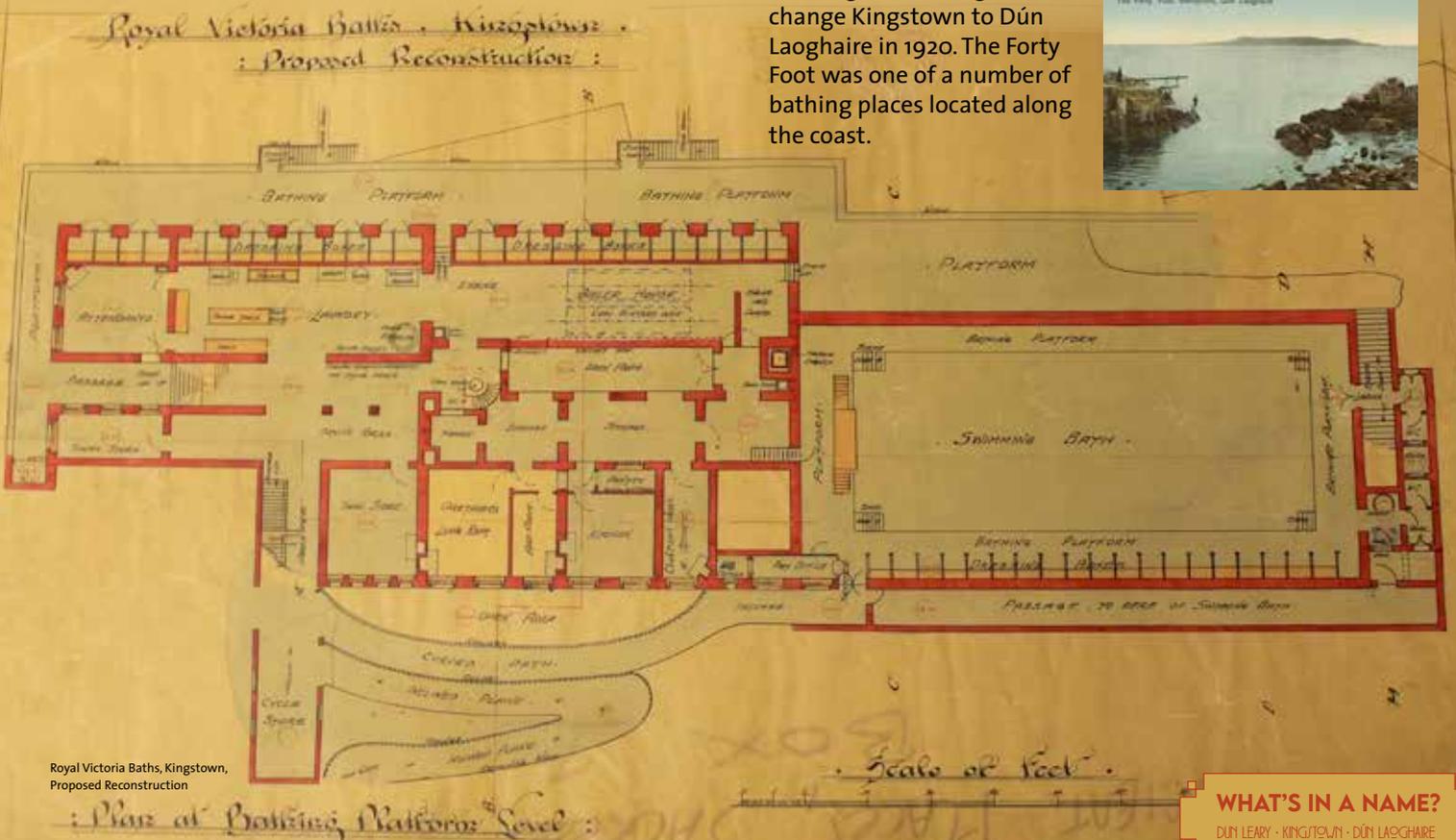
Following Irish independence and the change of name, Dún Laoghaire was marketed in much the same way as it had been as Kingstown. Established attractions of the town such as the Pavilion, the piers, promenades and the People's Park continued to bring day trippers and more long term visitors, creating a thriving tourism hub. As an official guide book in the 1930s noted 'It is not necessary to sleep away from Dún Laoghaire for a single night, to enjoy scenic delights and vistas of loveliness without compare'.



Sea and beach images were popular images for postcards throughout the twentieth century. As the focal point of Kingstown/Dún Laoghaire, the harbour featured heavily in postcards. The East Pier quickly became a favourite promenade to take the fresh sea air or watch the arrival/departure of the Mail Boat. As recreational sailing grew in popularity, visitors and spectators flocked to the town to watch regattas and other events.



The health benefits of sea swimming provided another draw to the town. The Royal Victoria Baths offered both open sea bathing and indoor baths. The name of the Royal Victoria Baths was changed to Dún Laoghaire Baths at the same meeting as it was agreed to change Kingstown to Dún Laoghaire in 1920. The Forty Foot was one of a number of bathing places located along the coast.



Royal Victoria Baths, Kingstown,
Proposed Reconstruction

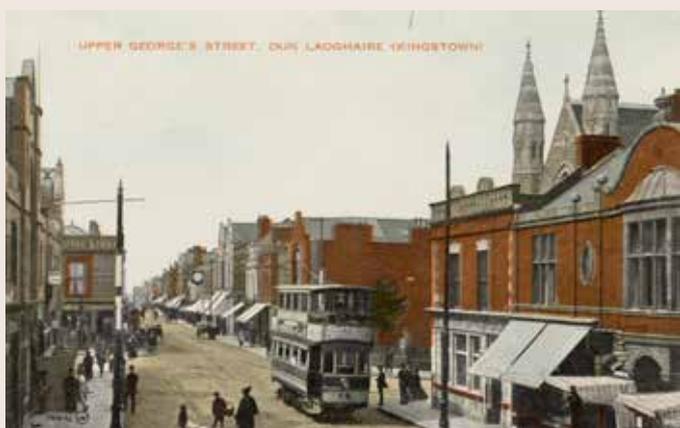
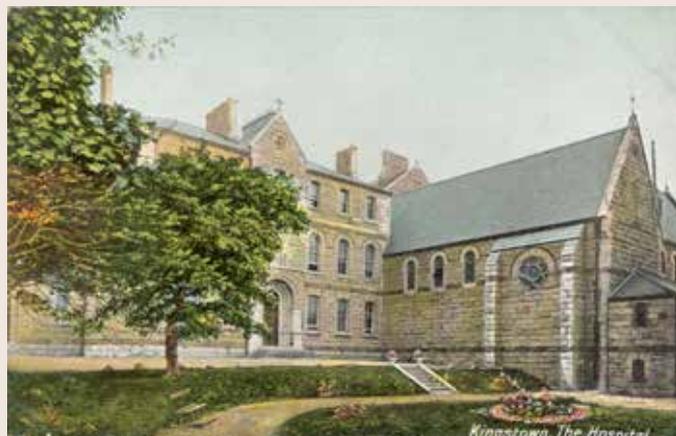
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UP THE TOWN

TOURISM IN KINGSTOWN / DÚN LAOGHAIRE
THROUGHOUT THE YEARS



A number of charitable institutions as well as a hospital and schools were also located along the street.

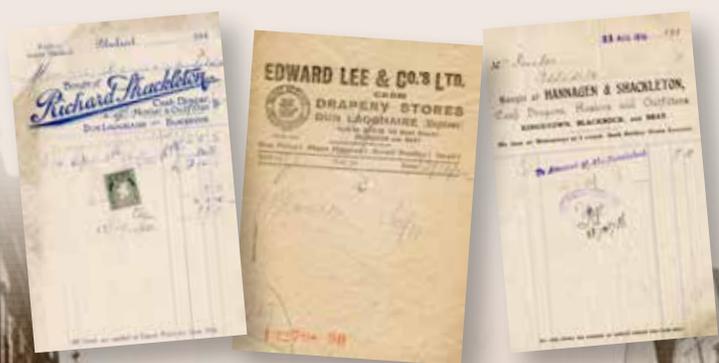


C. Neville Cook was one of a number of photographers operating in the town and his business, selling souvenirs, fancy goods and postcards, was located at 3 Upper George's Street.



As the main business and commerce quarter of Kingstown/ Dún Laoghaire, George's Street was a hive of activity with a wide variety of businesses including bakeries, banks, chemists, drapers, grocery stores, public houses and tobacconists.

At the turn of the twentieth century, many Kingstown shop fronts were built or rebuilt in red brick, giving the street its distinctive look. Postcards show busy streets with trams passing down the thoroughfare.



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PARKS AND PROMENADES

TOURISM IN KINGSTOWN / DÚN LAOGHAIRE
THROUGHOUT THE YEARS



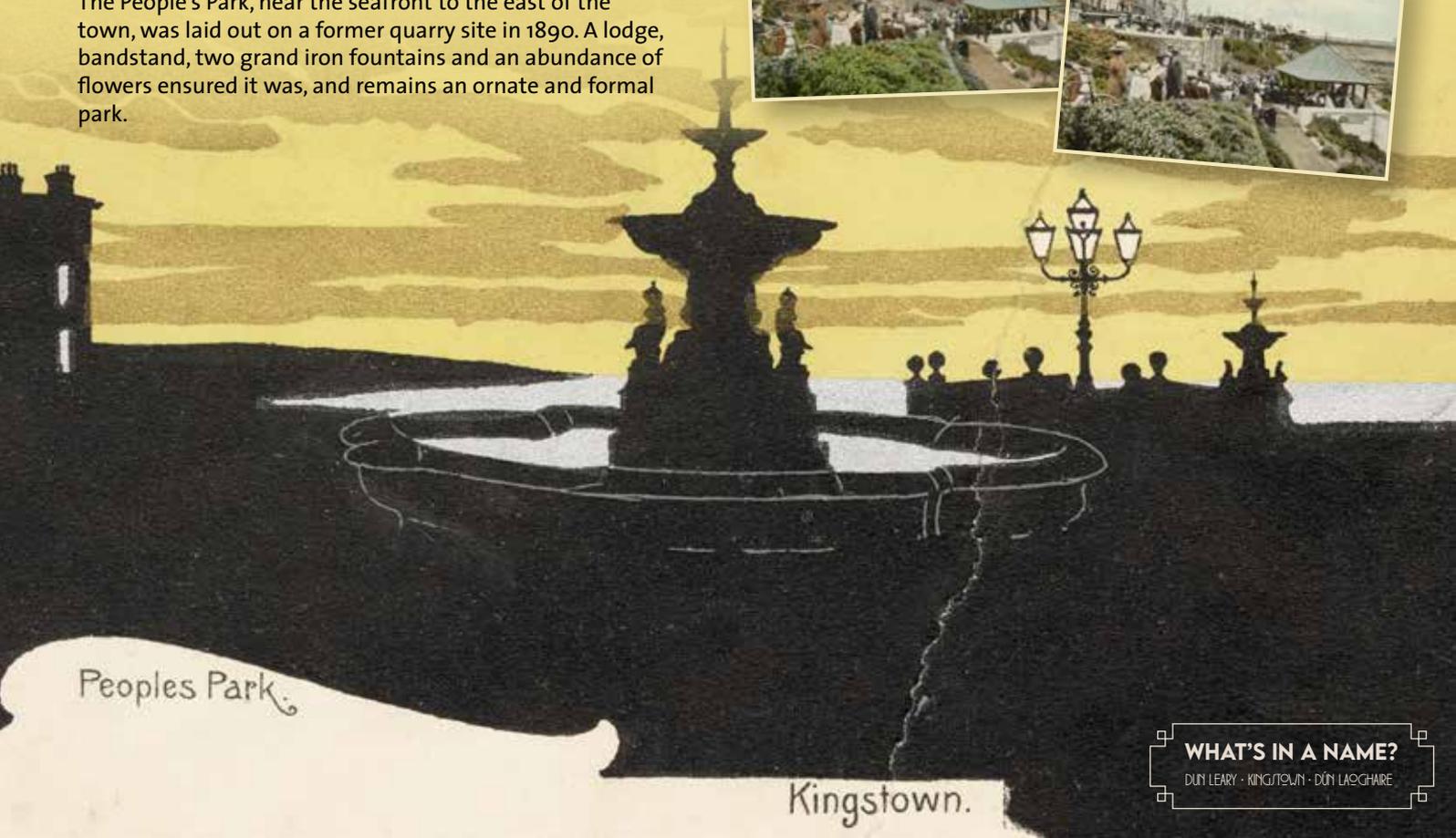
While the East Pier was undoubtedly the most popular promenade for residents of the town, a number of walks were advertised on postcards. The Queen's Road promenade was laid out to celebrate the visit of Queen Victoria in 1900. The tree-lined walkway began at the memorial fountain close to the railway station.



The Marine Gardens, overlooking Scotsman's Bay, were laid out during the early twentieth century, and another coastal walkway, known as Marine Parade, running from Dún Laoghaire Baths to Sandycove, was constructed by local officials during the early 1920s. Moran Park was created in 1954.



The People's Park, near the seafront to the east of the town, was laid out on a former quarry site in 1890. A lodge, bandstand, two grand iron fountains and an abundance of flowers ensured it was, and remains an ornate and formal park.



Peoples Park

Kingstown.

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CHECKING-IN

TOURISM IN KINGSTOWN / DÚN LAOGHAIRE
THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

The rapid development of commercial hospitality in Kingstown is evident in that it was regarded as the most expensive place for food and lodging in Ireland in 1830. As the number of hotels grew and competition increased, businesses often produced their own postcards as a convenient way to advertise.



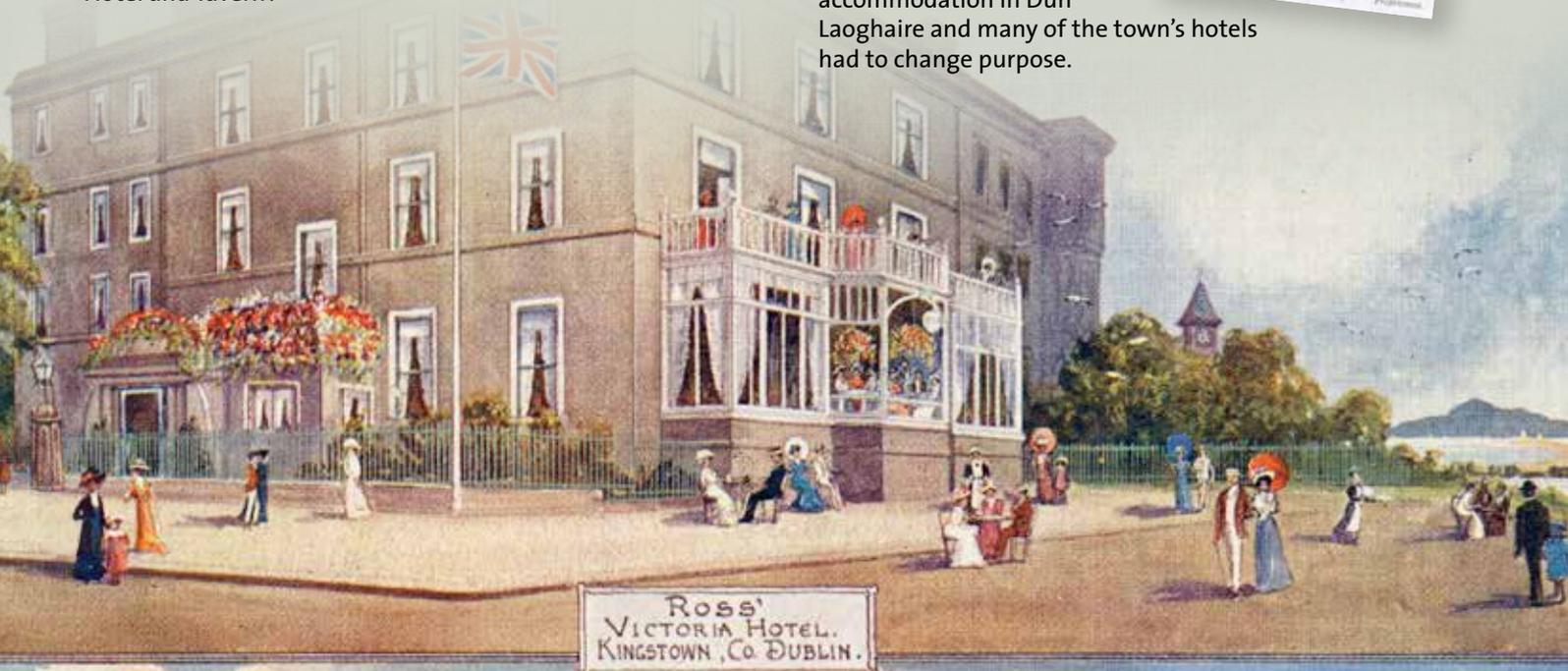
Hayes' Royal Hotel, later redeveloped as the Royal Marine Hotel, was one of the first hotels to open in Kingstown (1820s). It is the only surviving nineteenth century hotel in Dún Laoghaire today. The prominent Salthill Hotel near Old Dunleary began life as the 'Dublin and Kingstown Railway Hotel and Tavern'.



The demand for hotels, boarding houses and restaurants grew and detailed lists of hospitality businesses were available for consultation at the Town Hall.



The advent of large-scale car ferries during the twentieth century meant that many tourists arriving to Ireland no longer required accommodation in Dún Laoghaire and many of the town's hotels had to change purpose.



Panoramic View from Balcony of Hotel.

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From the time of its construction in 1903, the Pavilion Theatre was advertised as providing 'first class entertainments' in Kingstown. The impressive and unusual structure, built almost entirely of timber and glass, stood in an imposing position opposite the railway station.



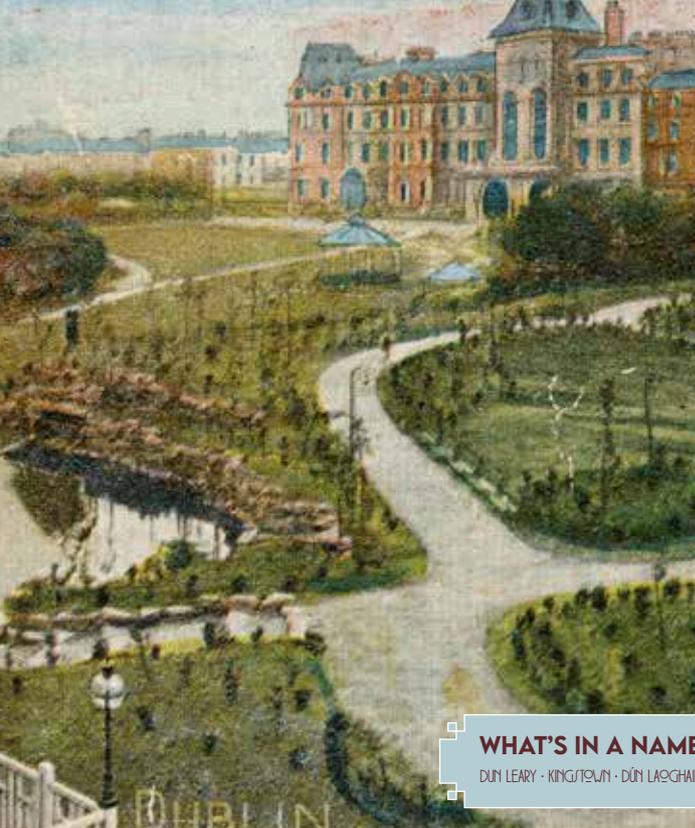
The building contained a large and spacious concert hall that was used for concerts, dances and variety shows. The Irish tenor John McCormack performed to a packed Pavilion concert hall in 1908.



The Pavilion also hosted a roof-top walkway, tea-rooms, a smoking room, and ladies' and gentlemen's reading rooms. The Pavilion Gardens to the rear of the building included a waterfall, archery and tennis courts; the area was frequently used for firework displays.



Following a disastrous fire in 1915, the Pavilion building was modified and rebuilt as a cinema, known as the Pavilion Picture Theatre. The Pavilion complex was closed entirely in 1984. The site was redeveloped in recent years with a mix of retail and residential facilities. A new theatre, aptly named 'The Pavilion' was opened on the site.



The modified Pavilion, erected after the original building suffered fire damage in 1915.

NOVELTY POSTCARDS

TOURISM IN KINGSTOWN / DÚN LAOGHAIRE
THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

While images were used on visiting cards, letterheads and other paper material from the eighteenth century, it was not until the 1880s that postcards began to be printed with small sketches and vignettes. Early postcards were printed in monochrome but postcard printers rapidly realised the commercial benefits of printing in colour. Surprisingly, it wasn't until 1894 that the Royal Mail gave permission to print picture postcards.

Illustrated postcards quickly became a phenomenon and humorous scenes were a popular feature.



As the holiday postcard evolved, some of the bestselling cards were those that were cut into specific shapes with flaps that opened to reveal a strip with smaller views of the specific holiday resort.

It is quite clear that many of our novelty Kingstown postcards follow a template and the setting could just as easily be Brighton, Blackpool, Whitby or Worthing.



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AT KINGSTOWN.

NOVELTY POSTCARDS

TOURISM IN KINGSTOWN / DÚN LAOGHAIRE
THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

Humorous or novelty postcards became a key feature of card design during the twentieth century; the popularisation and affordability of seaside holidays led to the use of bawdy and oftentimes risqué humour.

The saucy postcard became a staple of the seaside holiday, particularly in Britain. While these postcards oftentimes shocked more sensitive members of society and attracted the attention of censors, they display a cheery innocence and retro naivety to twenty first century eyes.



Here I am by the silvery sea.
What would you say to a dip with r



Clicked at last, and by gum,
I do feel Goosey!
At Dun Laoghaire



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EMIGRATION

The harbour at Kingstown/Dún Laoghaire served as a departure point for generations of Irish emigrants who left their homeland to make a better life abroad. Carlisle Pier was known by some as the 'pier of tears', a place where final goodbyes and last embraces were exchanged. Many left who were never again to return to Ireland's shores.



Waiting to board at Carlisle Pier, c. 1920.



Passengers at the harbour, c. 1920.

The transfer of the mail service from Howth to Kingstown in 1826 secured the town as the primary mail and passenger link with Britain. From 1800 until 1921, movement from Ireland to England was treated as internal migration. Emigration from Ireland rose steadily during the nineteenth century and was exacerbated by the Great Famine. From 1848, Irish emigrants arriving in Holyhead could take a direct train to Euston Station in central London. The journey from Kingstown could often be the first step on a much longer and perilous route to the New World. Canada and the United States were popular destinations for Irish emigrants.



The Carlisle Pier was sometimes referred to as Victoria Pier.

While most travellers from the port consisted of emigrants seeking a better life abroad, the Carlisle Pier was also the principal departure point for Irish troops who fought in the Boer War and the Great War. Following the torpedoing of the RMS Leinster in October 1918, crowds thronged at the harbour for news of loved ones.



Postcard sent from Ireland to the US by Noel Henderson in 1918. He writes 'I hope to send you more pretty cards if the Huns don't sink these'.

Dún Laoghaire continued to serve as an embarkation point for emigrants after Irish independence. The number of emigrants leaving Ireland rose alarmingly in the years following World War Two, with many citing poverty, unemployment and restlessness as the cause for their departure. Britain provided more jobs with better wages and many Irish emigrants found work in areas like industry and services. The London Irish Centre, established in 1955, was purposely located close to Euston Station so that Irish travellers disembarking from the Holyhead train could locate the centre easily.



The advent of commercial air travel in Ireland provided easier means of movement and passenger traffic was discontinued from Carlisle Pier following the construction of a ferry terminal at St Michael's Wharf in 1995. However with successive recessions, Dún Laoghaire remained an important point of departure until the final ferry service ended in 2015.



PLACENAMES:

TRANSLATIONS FROM THE IRISH LANGUAGE

Local placenames in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown are derived from multiple sources. Approximately half of the placenames in this county are derived from the Irish language. Other influences include topography and landscape; religious and social history; the colonial legacy; legend and mythology; the Italianate influence, and some personal names. Not all derivations can be explained with absolute certainty but this panel highlights placenames of Irish origin.



Gortmore, Dundrum. The name of the property was changed to *Gort Muire* (Maryfield) after it was purchased by the Carmelites in 1944.



Names of Irish origin include Dún Laoghaire, *Dún Laoghaire*, the fort of Laoghaire; Rathdown, *Rath an Dúin*, the ringfort of/near the fortress; Dundrum, *Dún Droma*, fortress on a ridge; Taney, *Teach Naithí*, the house of St. Nathy; Booterstown, *Baile an Bhóthair*, town of the road; Glasthule, *Glas Tuathail*, O'Toole's stream; Ballinteer, *Baile an tSaoir*, town of the craftsman, Clonard, *Cluain Árd*, meadow on high ground, and many with a component 'Glen', *Gleann* meaning valley.

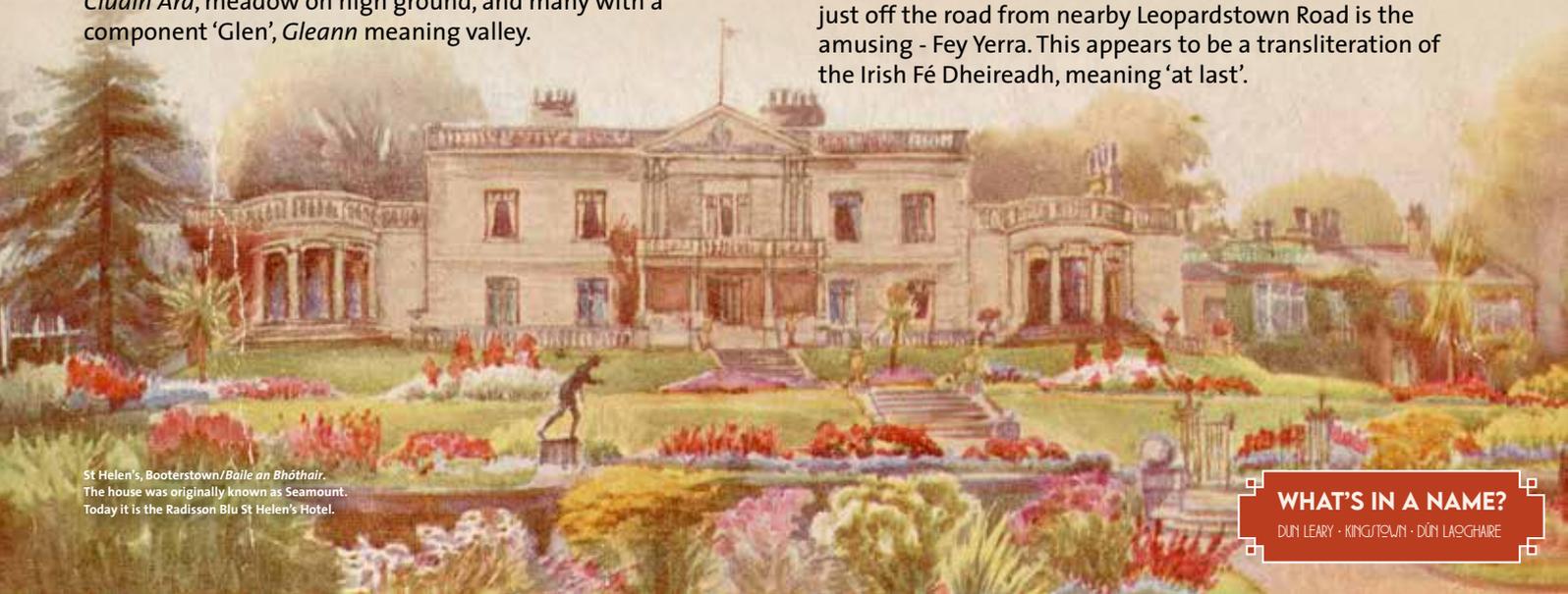


The influence of geology is evident in the case of Blackrock, *Carraig Dubh*; Carriglea or Carraig Liath, literally grey stone, indicates granite. Glencullen, *Gleann Cuilinn*, holly glen, owes its name to local flora as do names featuring heather, holly and hazel. Fauna also features in Glenamuck, *Gleann na Muc*, which means valley of the pigs, not to be confused with Glenageary, *Gleann na gCaorach*, valley of the sheep!

Placenames beginning with Kill, generally indicate a religious origin, derived from the Irish *cill*, meaning church. Examples include Killiney, *Cill Iníne Léinín*, the church of the daughters of Léinín and Kill Avenue, Kill Lane, Abbey Road, St. Fintan's Park all relate to the ruined church at Kill o' the Grange associated with St. Fintan. Shankill, *Seanchill*, refers to an old church.



Leopardstown is first referred to as *Ballenelowre* in 1534, and derives from *Baile na Lobhar*, literally Lepers' town, from St. Stephen's lepers' hospital established in 1230. *Galloping Green* is reputedly associated with it, suggesting that travellers hastened past the leper hospital! Finally, just off the road from nearby Leopardstown Road is the amusing - Fey Yerra. This appears to be a transliteration of the Irish *Fé Dheireadh*, meaning 'at last'.



St Helen's, Booterstown/*Baile an Bhóthair*. The house was originally known as Seamount. Today it is the Radisson Blu St Helen's Hotel.

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PLACENAMES: COLONIAL TO REPUBLICAN

The colonial legacy is unavoidable in the town of Dún Laoghaire, formerly Kingstown. Further reminders are George's St. named after King George IV. The various lord lieutenants and members of the royal family are represented in York St., Cumberland St., Northumberland, Haddington and Sussex. There is an older colonial legacy also, celebrated in the names Dalkey and Bullock, both of Scandinavian origin dating from Viking times. Some names are of Norman origin such as Cornelscourt and Rochestown.



Personalities prominent in Irish nationalist history feature in local placenames, in particular in many of the adjoining suburbs: Charles Stewart Parnell, Michael Davitt, Patrick Sarsfield, Wolfe Tone and Robert Emmet are represented. The fiftieth anniversary of the 1916 Rising prompted use of the names of some of the leaders from that time: Roger Casement, Patrick Pearse and Rory O'Connor. Moran Park and McIntosh Park refer to Patrick Moran and James McIntosh both of whom worked in Dún Laoghaire and played key roles in the War of Independence.



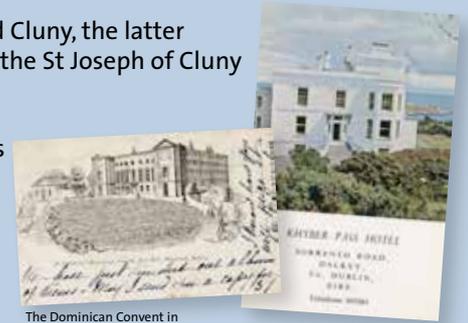
Commemorative postcard of Charles Stewart Parnell

A significant number of names of Italian origin are a testament to a fascination with classical culture among the aristocracy, many of whom would have embarked on the Grand Tour. These include Vico, Nerano, Tivoli, Frascati, Sorrento, Maretimo. Add to this a sprinkling of names of French origin: Montpelier,

Bellevue, Granville and Cluny, the latter of which derives from the St Joseph of Cluny order of nuns.

There are many names from other places in Ireland too: Idrone Terrace is named after a barony in Carlow; Achill Road, Ardagh Avenue, Breffni Road are other examples.

This can reflect the place of origin of a developer. Some personal names crop up, typically of people prominent during the early years of Dún Laoghaire in the nineteenth century. These include Crofton Rd. after the Harbour Master of Kingstown, Capt. F.G. Crofton and Crosthwaite Park after local businessman John Crosthwaite.



The Dominican Convent in Blackrock was originally named Sion Hill by a former owner who imported rare trees and shrubs from the Holy Land.

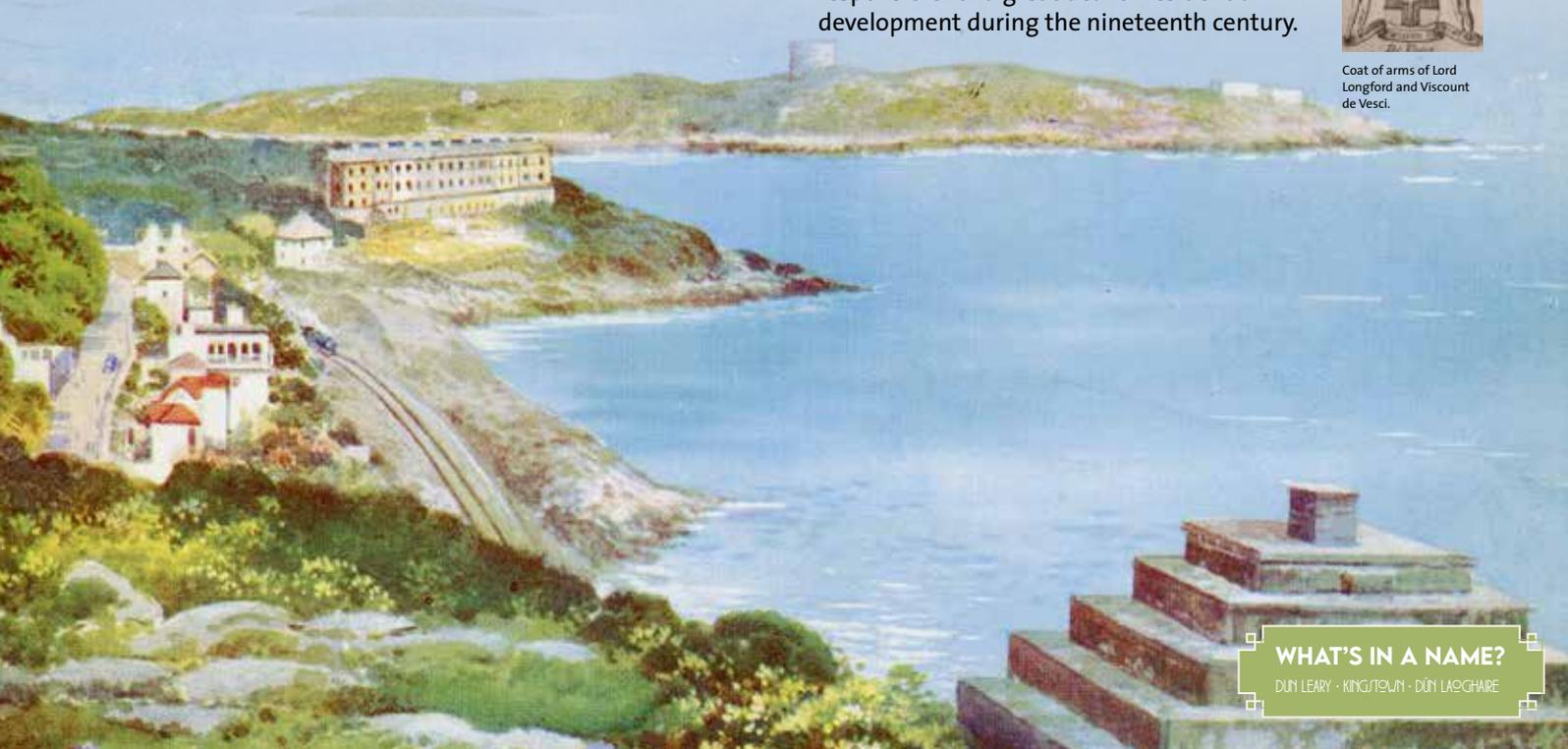
Postcard of Khyber Pass Hotel, Dalkey. The building was named after a mountain pass in India.



There are many streets named after the Pakenham family (Lord Longford) and the Vesey family (Viscount de Vesce and Baron Knapton). The families came into joint possession of the extensive Monkstown estate during the late eighteenth century and were responsible for a great deal of residential development during the nineteenth century.



Coat of arms of Lord Longford and Viscount de Vesce.



THE SEAMUS KEARNS POSTCARD COLLECTION

AT DLR LEXICON

The golden age of the pictorial postcard was the decade from 1900-1910. Their success was partly due to their low cost and prompt delivery. Postcards are attractive and quickly become collector's items.

In 2019 the Library Service acquired almost 700 local postcards in the sale of the Seamus Kearns Postcard collection. While a modest percentage of the estimated 100,000 postcards collected by Seamus Kearns (1929-2014), it is an important addition to the Library Service's collection.



A resident of Killester, Kearns worked for the Automobile Association and amassed his collection over fifty years. He was an expert on postcards and wrote on their history and design development. He was a member of the Old Dublin Society, the Irish Philatelic Society and Irish Picture Postcard Society. His collection sold for a total of €130,000, a world record for a collection of picture postcards held by a single owner.



British postage stamps issued with a new overprint 'Saorstát Éireann', 1922.

Publishers in Britain, Ireland, Germany and elsewhere produced cards for the Irish market. Local Kingstown producers included Bradford's, C. Neville Cook, Francis Dixon and Walton. Neville Cook was a local photographer, councillor, taxi-man and owner of a fancy goods shop at 3 Upper George's Street. Francis Dixon had a newsagents shop at 87 Lower George's Street. Some postcards were produced especially for local hotels and others show individual private homes produced from door-to-door sales.



Photograph of unknown man in bath chair on the East Pier, c. 1915. The stamp of C. Neville Cook can be seen at the bottom right of postcard.

Many postcards of Kingstown and Dún Laoghaire depict a set series of themes and locations.



A selection of postcards celebrate and record particular national or local events such as royal visits to Kingstown and the Eucharistic Congress. Such postcards are now regarded by social historians as a vital source documenting both specific events and more general topics of rural and urban life. By adding the Seamus Kearns material to our collection, we can make these invaluable resources available to researchers of the future.

