Exhibition marks Coombe hospital 200-year history

Jo Kenny

The Coombe Hospital has unveiled an exhibition marking the hospital's bicentenary and celebrating two centuries of care for women, newborns and families.

Born in Dublin: 200 Years of The Coombe Hospital is an exploration of one of Ireland's leading providers of women's and newborn healthcare,

The new exhibition was officially launched by Lord Mayor of Dublin, Daryl Barron, at The Little Museum of Dublin.

"The Coombe holds a special place in the life of Dublin, having cared for generations of women, newborns and families over the past 200 years," said the Lord Mayor.

"Its history is woven into the story of our city, and its continuing contribution to women's health is a source of immense pride."

It tells the story of one of Ireland's oldest maternity hospitals and the generations of women, newborns, families and healthcare professionals who have shaped its history.

Founded in 1826, the exhibition explores some of the people, milestones and healthcare advances that have shaped The Coombe over 200 years.

"From its beginnings in The Liberties to the specialist hospital it is today, The Coombe has continually evolved, shaped by the dedication of its people, advances in medicine and a commitment to improving care," commented Master of The Coombe Hospital, Professor Michael O'Connell.

"Our bicentenary is an opportunity to celebrate that remarkable journey, recognise the generations who have contributed to it, and reflect on the role The Coombe continues to play in women's and newborn healthcare. We are proud of our history and the part we continue to play in shaping the future of care."



In 1867, Queen Victoria granted the Coombe Lying-in Hospital a royal charter, formally recognising its vital role in providing maternity care to poor women in Dublin.

The charter continues to shape The Coombe's identity and governance today.

Dr John Drumm, working with Dr Dermot FitzGerald, pioneered the use of Doppler ultrasound to assess blood flow in the umbilical cord at the hostpiral.

Their research, published in 1977, contributed to the development of techniques that help clinicians assess foetal wellbeing and identify risks in pregnancy.

The exhibition also explores the origins of The Coombe Hospital which date to the harsh winter of 1825, when two pregnant women attempting to reach the Rotunda Hospital became stranded in a snowstorm near Thomas Street. Both women and their newborns tragically died.

Led by Mrs Margaret Boyle, a group of concerned citizens responded by establishing maternity care in the Meath Hospital in Dublin's Liberties.

A maternity service was established there in 1826, before the hospital was purchased and formally opened as The Coombe Lying-In Hospital in 1967.

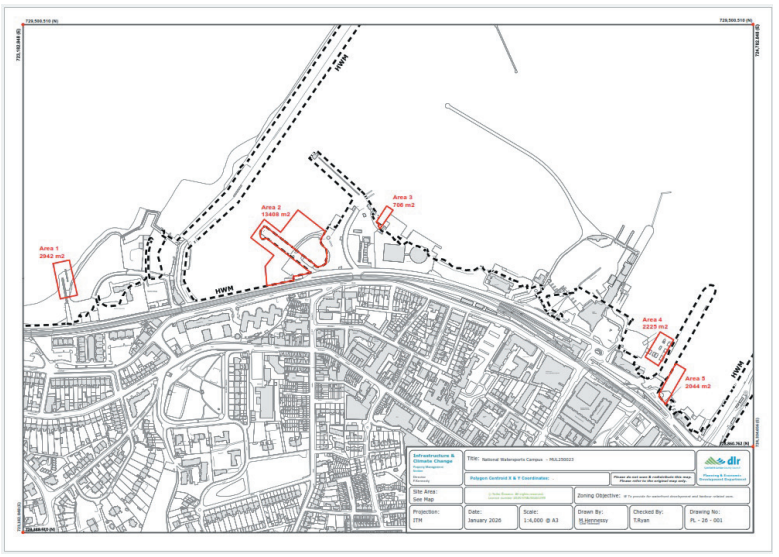
A special commemorative coffee table book 'The Coombe Hospital: 1826-2026' written by Dr Michael O'Dowd was also launched and is available to purchase from the Little Museum of Dublin shop.

dlr Comhairle Contae County Council
www.dlrcoco.ie

THE MARITIME AREA PLANNING ACT 2021 AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (BIRDS AND NATURAL HABITATS) REGULATIONS 2011

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS ON AN APPLICATION FOR A MARITIME USAGE LICENCE AND AN APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council has submitted an application to the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority ("MARA") for a maritime usage licence under Section 117 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 to undertake Site investigation (SI) for feasibility of constructing components of a National Watersports Campus. The duration requested in the licence application is for a period of 1 year.



A related Natura Impact Statement has been submitted with the above licence application. The licence application and the Natura Impact Statement are available for inspection on MARA's website https://www.maritimeregulator.ie/application/mul250023/ and at the following address by appointment– Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35 RF29.

Members of the public who wish to make a submission in writing to MARA on the licence application and the Natura Impact Statement may do so quoting MUL250023 by email to licence@mara.gov.ie or by post to Maritime Usage Licensing, Maritime Area Regulatory Authority, 2nd Floor, Menapia House, Drinagh Business Park, Drinagh, Wexford, Y35 RF29.

The closing date and time for a written submission to be received by MARA is 17.30 on 29/11/2026.

MARA will then, as soon as practicable, carry out the appropriate assessment determination in accordance with Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. After the determination, MARA will either grant, part grant or refuse the licence application.

Dated this 29 day of Oct 2026.

Signed: Representative of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council,
County Hall, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland.
Comhairle Contae Dhún Laoghaire-Ráth an Dúin,
Halla an Chontae, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Átha Cliath, Éire.
Tel: 01 205 4700 Email: info@dlrcoco.ie Web: www.dlrcoco.ie

Ireland at Venice exhibit Assembly

Fifth Class students from St Laurence O'Toole's NS pictured at the opening of the Ireland at Venice exhibit Assembly, by Cotter & Naessens's Architects, at Áras Mhic Dhiarmada / Busáras as part of Cultúr 2026 - Sharing Ireland's Culture, the Culture Programme of Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

A joint partnership between Culture Ireland, the Arts Council and the Office of Public Works, Assembly will feature at Busáras throughout November, along with a public programme of free events entitled How We Gather curated by artist Luke Casserly. Programme and tickets at http://irelandculture2026.eu/

Pic: Aishling Conway / Marc O'Sullivan Photography

