

# Dublin



September  
2015

# Project Week 2015 in Dublin

## Class MW5i

### Schedule

Sunday:           Arrival and a good night's sleep  
30.8.

Monday:           City Walk  
31.8.               Guided tour through the Trinity College, Book of  
                      Kells and College Library  
                      Start of group work  
                      Pub dinner

Tuesday:          James Joyce Centre  
1.9.               Group work: Modern Dubliners  
                      National Museum

Wednesday:      Trip along the coast to Dalkey and Dun Laoghaire,  
2.9.               Martello Tower  
                      Free afternoon  
                      Irish House Party

Thursday:         Finalizing group work  
3.9.               Guinness Storehouse

Friday:            Journey home  
4.9.





# Dublin Picture Diary

On Sunday evening our class gathered at the airport to start an unforgettable trip to Dublin. It didn't take long until we had landed in Ireland and were on the bus on our way to the hotel. Thankfully we saved an hour to the time difference. As soon as we got the keys to our rooms, we directly fell asleep since the flight was a bit exhausting and we knew the coming days would be full of activities so we had to stay fit!



## Monday:

After having had a nice English breakfast at the hotel we went for a city-walk, had some presentations about different sights and Dublin's history and made a good first impression of the streets. Later we had a tour at the famous Trinity College, very inspiring for some. At noon we went for a lunch break on our own. Then we met up back at the hotel again to find out what our mission exactly was for the week. → Interview some Dubliners, make our own impressions and compare them to James Joyce's typical image which we got from the book. In the evening we went out to an old typical Irish pub. Not for a drink though but to have a cozy dinner together.



## Tuesday:

On Tuesday morning we got the opportunity to hear the full story written by James Joyce called *Araby* by an expert in a workshop. He took us on a path of thinking which we never could have imagined ourselves. All details were mentioned and mattered to understand the story completely. But first we walked around the city where the author had lived and got inspired by while writing his stories. In the afternoon we had time to do our interviews until we then went to the famous green park in the middle of the city. It was on our way to the land museum, where we saw some fascinating exhibitions. Afterwards we had the evening free for ourselves.



### **Wednesday:**

It was a very early start of the day since we were going to take an early train to the countryside. After about an hour's trip we reached the coast and it was totally worth it. The landscape was typical Irish and so was the weather but we still enjoyed it very much. It wasn't just somewhere out in nowhere, there was actually a small James Joyce exhibition in a small light tower.

Even though it seemed far too cold for us, people went for a swim. Very hard for us to understand, but as open-minded as we try to be - 2 courageous classmates went for a swim in the cold ocean. Thankfully they didn't get sick. We took a longer walk by the coast and at lunch we then took the train back. In the evening we then met up to go see a small typical Irish band in a pub.





### Thursday:

On the day before the last day, we went to the enormous Guinness exhibition, which consisted out of 5 floors. All details on how the world wide famous product from Ireland is made. On the way we heard again some presentations and even tried to dance a typical Irish dance. In the afternoon we then met up again to present our work which we had done during the week and to compare experience and exchange thoughts.



**Friday:**

The last day of our amazing week in Dublin and nobody really wanted to fly back home. After breakfast we had time to pack and take a last sight of the city before we then had to go to the airport and take the flight back to Zurich. This was definitely an unforgettable week we had together and many already knew they were coming back someday.



*Tina & Paulina*

# Modern Dubliners

Having read a couple of stories about the Dubliners by the well-known Irish author James Joyce, we were given the impression that the typical Dubliner enjoys drinking, has the dream to escape the boring and depressive Irish everyday life and leads a conservative as well as religious life.

Having been given the opportunity to go to modern Dublin, to walk the historical streets, to breathe in the atmosphere with our own lungs and to talk to real-life Dubliners ourselves, we are now able to tell something more about our most recent updates and experiences.

Wandering around the city, we mostly put the focus on the younger generation and interviewed three adolescents who were all studying Art in Dublin. Besides, we also spoke to an older Irish couple.

In comparison to James Joyce's image of the inhabitants, none of the people we had the privilege to talk to had considered leaving the country. They simply find the city, the people and the culture too appealing, though even the Dubliners themselves are confused by the weather. It may look like it will be a sunny day but never trust the Irish weather, they warned us and always take your umbrella with you. They try to enjoy their 20 degrees in summer and their cosy rainy days the rest of the year.

The city has a wide range of nightlife which is perfect for younger people but which also introduces alcohol at a very early stage among teenagers. Some may not be able to handle it very well and walk down the more difficult road. In some way the stereotypical image has some truth to it and all Dubliners we talked to agree on alcoholism being a huge problem both for the government and the people. It is visible abroad when they compare their drinking habits to others but also on the streets, where many people end up because of their addiction.

In many corners there are people spending the nights since they don't have any other place to go or that they simply can't get home on their own in such a drunken state. Somehow it is deep-rooted in their culture and it's not easy to get away from it. Although, it has good sides to it as well. For example people are very open and honest and aren't afraid of strange or foreign people.

But as one of the students said, it really depends on which parts you go to and if you choose your people wisely and carefully since there are similar problems around alcohol in every single country.

Some recommendations we got about places to visit before leaving the Green Park in the city centre, a club called Hanger, the Abbey theatre with a very good reputation,

the great shopping paradise on Grafton Street and to take a trip outside the city and go to the Cliffs of Moher. Many signs around the country are written both in English and in Gaelic, which we already got to see at the airport when we took the bus to the city centre. These two languages are completely different and don't resemble each other in any way. Gaelic is studied for about 10 years at school. One student even said people find it easier to learn French in Ireland at School than Gaelic, since it's almost a dead language. She thought it was good to keep it up and that there were people who spoke it more often.

At last we wondered if James Joyce was as famous for his work in Ireland as in the rest of the world. All of our Dubliners had heard of him but none had read anything, not even "The Dubliners". So we didn't have the chance to go into further details or discuss any of his work. Other than that, it was definitely worth interviewing every single one of them! Now we would recommend you to visit Dublin yourself and make your own impression! Don't forget the most important word when you go out to the pub; Slainte!

*Paulina, Meret & Tina*

## **Seamus (James) O'Donnold**

The first person is a well-dressed, 88-year old and retired man who still drives his car. We met him just in front of the hotel where he was on the way to the car park. He's called Seamus (James) O'Donnold and has lived here for 60 years. He moved from the countryside to the city due to work, to find a job.

"I like the city as the city.", he answered our question about his opinion of Dublin. It's hard to describe Dublin for him, the atmosphere and the people are the reasons why he never would dare to leave Ireland. He's just in love with his country. So we weren't surprised when he couldn't tell us any negative aspects about the city. We can see, it's real love.

If he's not absorbed in his books, he still likes to hold down his work at the tribunal to help unfairly dismissed people. Although he's in contact with so many people he was really challenged as we confronted him with the question "What makes a Dub-



liner a Dubliner?“. “Where did you get all these?“, was his first reaction to our hard question.

He is very enthusiastic about James Joyce. The modern Dubliners are still similar to James Joyce`s characters in “Dubliners“, he said. These people are depressive and like to drink but he`s the opposite: He`s always had a job, is happy and has never drunk in his whole life.

He was smiling when we offered him our Swiss chocolate but then he hesitated and pointed at his belly because his wife is going to protest.

## **Tiernan Nugent**

As we were looking for our last person it began to rain. We had just decided to surrender but then we saw him. He was wearing black jeans and a black leather jacket and was carrying a guitar. He was very open-hearted and immediately began to speak to us. His name was hard to understand and honestly also after he spelled his name we didn't get it luckily we recorded the whole interview.

He's called Tiernan Nugent and has lived all his life in Dublin. His passion is music and art in general. At the moment he's unemployed but he'd like to live from playing music. In his free time he likes to be a semi professional photographer and a painter, but there should be always time for music.

From his point of view a Dubliner is defined by his dialect. He told us that he had to learn the Gaelic language at school, but he doesn't like it and use it at all. We suppose it was one of his bad subjects.

One of the things he dislikes is poverty. There are a lot of beggars on the streets and the people struggle for money. Another downside of Dublin is the drinking problem, plenty of Dubliners drink too much. He would love to travel to another country like New Zealand, the USA or maybe Australia but in the end he would come back to his home country.

*Kathrin, Valentina & Olivia*

## **A Man of 79**

He has lived in Dublin all his life. He likes everything about Dublin – even the rain. He recommends to tourists to go to all the interesting museums and to St. Stevens Green.

In his free time he plays golf and indoor ball games. He also likes walking. He thinks that the only difference between a Dubliner and another Irish person is the accent. He doesn't speak Gaelic but he understands it and speaks a couple of words (for example "it's raining" or "good morning").

He knows James Joyce but he has never read Dubliners. When he was two or three years old, his family lived in a two-bedroom apartment. He and his three brothers had to share a room. This could be linked to the dark, depressing setting in Joyce's stories. After they moved to a bigger house, they were happy to be able to run around the house ☺. The tenement houses are now gone, he says.

He didn't touch alcohol until he was forty years old and now he only drinks a very small amount. He doesn't agree with the picture of Dubliners drinking a lot but there is a minority of alcoholics (Just like in any other country.). He has never been depressed in his life.

He never thought about emigrating and when he was on vacation, he always missed Dublin. When he was fourteen he spent three weeks in England but he was very homesick and missed his hometown Dublin. At the end we asked him if we could take his picture but although so far our conversation went quite well he didn't want us to take one of him.

## A Lady

She has lived in Dublin all her life – just over 50 years. She likes Dublin because it is a small town, the buildings aren't too tall, the people are friendly and she loves the rain. She recommended us the Paddy Wagon, the castles, the museums, art galleries and the beaches. In her free time she likes shopping, baking and reading. Dublin is the biggest city and the rest of the country looks up to the Dubliners because they think they know everything – but she doesn't think that this is true. She doesn't speak Gaelic fluently. She knows Dubliners by Joyce but hasn't read it. She can't identify herself with any of the characters from his books but at his time it must have been a true image of Dublin. She feels like everyone wants to escape in their lives but she doesn't feel that way. She has travelled a lot in her life (Paris, America, etc.) but always returned to Dublin.

The Irish people are known for drinking a lot but she says it's just a stereotype. Today's youth sees drinking differently than the generation before hers who drank a lot



to escape from their problems. About 80% of the Dubliners are Catholic, but only about half of them practise it.

## A Young Man of 19

He has lived in Dublin all his life. He likes about Dublin that everyone is friendly and in his free time he likes to skateboard and to do comedy. He also volunteers for charity (Amnesty International).

The culture in Dublin is very different from anywhere else for him. You'll know a person is a Dubliner by the way they act, go on and present themselves. He doesn't know the Gaelic language at all. He knows and has read Dubliners but he really didn't like it. He also can't identify with any of the characters. Dublin appears happy and bright to him, not as Joyce describes it.

His dream is to be the best comedian in the world, He also has thought about emigrating to America because you can do everything in America and it's warm.

*Léa, Geraldine & Celine*



## Mary O'Shey

She has lived in Dublin for 20 years, before, she lived about 150 miles away from the city. She got married and came with her husband to Dublin.

She likes the lively side of Dublin such as music and the theatre. To her the vibrant city has the right size not too small and not too big.

The people are very friendly and Dublin is like a magnet for the Irish; that's why there's such a big variety of culture. On the other hand a lot of traffic.

Mary dreams of pedestrianized streets.

As a middle-aged woman she likes going to the theatre, reading, cycling or going for a walk in her spare time. She works as a social worker with parents who want to foster children.

She can't image that the Dubliners are like James Joyce describes them in his books. But in one point



she has to admit that the Dubliners drink too much alcohol. But she's not the typical Irish woman who drinks a lot which is understandable due to the fact that she also works with addicts.

What a Dubliner makes a Dubliner is the fact that they've got a wicked sense of humour and they're fun laughing with. Her love to Ireland and its people is so big that she has never considered emigrating. And what's nice about Dublin, even though it's a big city, is that you're very close to the sea and to mountains and you can get there by train.

*Kathrin, Valentina & Olivia*

## Four Modern Dubliners

We interviewed four Dubliners who either were born in Dublin or have been living there for some time. In our case all were born in the city. But it does not matter if you have just arrived you're going to like the city anyway. An original Dubliner especially likes the Guinness beer. The riverside and the seaside with its big and beautiful houses are popular places. But there's the other side of the coin too. Due to the heavy thirst of many Dubliners the crime scene booms at night. Many people complain about it because especially students from 15-19 cause trouble. While the men drink beer and watch football or rugby the women read books or go for a workout.

Although Gaelic is one of the two official languages of Ireland and can be found on every Irish street-sign, just a small part of the population actually understands it. Only in the Catholic schools it's a compulsory subject because it's part of the Irish history.

The people we interviewed all know James Joyce. Two of them think his writing is complicated and you need to be intellectual to really understand his books. They read them while they were at school.

Their dreams are very different and reach from winning the lottery over buying a big house or finding the right girl to visiting Switzerland.

They all think that migration generally is a good thing but emigration of younger people isn't good for the Irish economy because the knowledge is going with them.

*Yichao, Maurus, Pascal & Paul*



## Terry

We met Jerry, a 62-year-old Dubliner who's been living here since 1977. He is not the first one that told us that he liked the people here.

He himself was very open and friendly. Many dislike the weather in Dublin and so does Jerry.

As tourists, he told us, one should plan a lot before coming to Dublin and take the bus tours in the beginning before wandering around and maybe get lost somewhere. He also said that we should stay on the south side of the city since it is more interesting and especially safer.

In his leisure time he does a lot of sports, for example golf.

The Gaelic language, according to him, is not typical for Dublin. Many people once had it at school and understand it but it's more common in other parts of Ireland.

We asked him about James Joyce's 'Dubliners' which he hasn't read, but knows it. He thinks that in certain parts of the city it's still the same as James Joyce describes it in his stories. He says that people live in their own little 'villages'.

In the past, lots of people emigrated because of the famine. Now, more are coming than leaving, because they prefer to stay in Dublin. If somebody leaves, it's not because of the city and the life there, but more for economic reasons. Jerry would never want to emigrate as he likes Dublin very much. He has studied in the UK and his daughter works in New York, but apart from that he has always been in Dublin. For the city he wishes to get rid of the big traffic. He supports the public transport and wants more space for the pedestrians in the city centre.



## Owen

Owen, a 17-year-old college student, is a clean-shaved guy of normal height.

He was born in Dublin and has lived there ever since. In his opinion, Dublin is a nice city with friendly inhabitants and lots of free time activities, even if there are also some dangerous places and poverty strikes in some cases.

To tourists he'd recommend to go to the Guinness Storehouse, and even more to try out their product. He'd also recommend Temple Bar and, if they're interested in cul-

ture, the National Museum.

That's what he recommends tourists to do during their Dublin; he, however, likes to keep it simple and go out with his friends for some shopping or a visit to a cafe.

Some people emigrate from Dublin, because of the worsening economy, but not Owen. His dream is to move around just for a few years and then come back and live in Dublin again as an architect.

For that he hopefully doesn't need his Gaelic. Like lots of people in Ireland he learns it in school, but few get to be really good at it. Mostly it gets used as some sort of dialect.

At last, he hasn't read James Joyce's „Dubliners“, which we had in class, but knows about it and its author, who was born in Dublin.



## Chloe

Chloe is 20 years old and has been living in Dublin for 2 years, where she goes to the college. She likes the city, because there's always something happening and the pubs and the nightlife are perfect for young people like her. The only things she doesn't like about Dublin are the weather and that it's not really clean. To tourists she recommends to visit a botanic garden, one of several shows, the Exhibition in Dublin Castle or simply go out and enjoy the nightlife.

In her free time, she usually goes shopping with friends and relaxes in a cafe.

She speaks Gaelic because she learned it at school. Lots of Irish people have a basic level, but Chloe thinks that you don't really need it in Dublin. She just uses it on holidays to gossip with her friends about other people who are not familiar with the Gaelic language.

She hasn't read James Joyce's „Dubliners“, but she has heard of it. She doesn't see that people are trapped in Dublin, as you can go everywhere from there. Also you aren't trapped in the same things every day for there are so many different things to do. Although she considers emigrating after college to see different places she plans



to come back to Dublin.

She knows people who emigrated for different reasons, for example because they didn't like the Irish culture or because of different opportunities.

*Simon, Marc & Carmen*



# The living sign

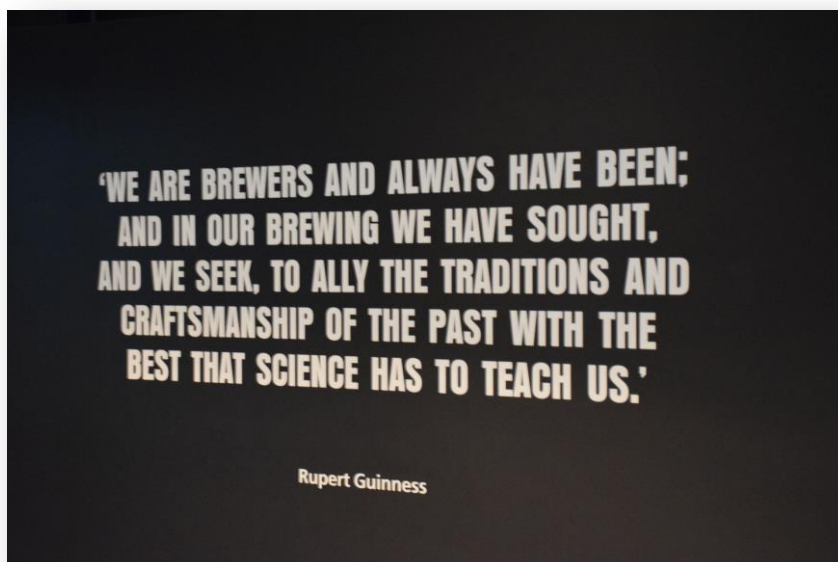
The young man shifted his weight from one foot to the other. After a long rainy morning he felt cold and twitchy by just standing there doing his job. Standing around all day long was really against his sportive nature. He would have preferred to run or go to the gym but he had to stand still wearing these ridiculous signs.

Andrea was a short but burly man with tanned skin and black stubbles as hair. His appearance clearly marked him as the immigrant he was.

Originally he was from warm and sunny Brazil, which seemed only a far-away memory after his time in Dublin. He had come here for his studies but for financial reasons he had taken this job as a walking street sign.

Every day anew he cursed the terrible weather he was exposed to on a daily basis. Dublin was a great place, the people were open and friendly and the city and landscape were beautiful. As he had only lived here for four months the warm and helpful character of the people came in handy. They never seemed to have a problem with his origin and deplorable English. He had always felt welcome in Dublin.

Andrea shifted his weight back to the other foot and hated the nasty sensation of water getting squeezed out of the sole and pressing through between his toes. It was comforting to know that he would be gone in a while. He would go to Australia where he would feel warm again. He didn't know exactly when he would leave but he would go. That's all he thought about when he started to play around with his phone again to pass time.



# Nostalgia

MARIE walked through the busy streets of Dublin, peering into the windows of jewellers and pharmacies and occasionally stopping to admire a particularly beautiful piece of jewellery. While her bags brushed her leg with every step, she had to try and not walk into somebody. How crowded the streets of Dublin were! So many people doing their errands scurrying around like ants.

She noticed the empty crisp packets and bottles of beer that were lying at a bus stop. It was one o'clock in the afternoon and still no one bothered to clean them up after the hurling game last night. She had always this fast and energetic sport and in her teens she had been an enthusiastic participant in the hurling team in her hometown. Although she was happy about the result of the game last night she was still annoyed about the irresponsible people who threw away their litter like children who had lost their interest in a toy.

She walked past a group of teenagers who were laughing and chatting. How much she would love to be young again! At their age, they must have been about 18 or 19, she had just finished secondary school and moved to Dublin. Although she hadn't been and still was not the biggest city-person, there still were some things she loved about Dublin: the location which made it possible to experience both the sea and the 'mountains', which the Irish liked to call the small hills you could find around Dublin; the cultural events the city offered such as several theatres, the art galleries which she was, being an artist herself, very interested in and various centres and memorials to famous Irish writers. She enjoyed reading and had 'binge'-read many books in her 69 years of age, one of which was "Dubliners" by James Joyce, which she liked despite being quite depressing and hard to read.

Her mind wandered on to her profession of teaching kids, then to the time when she had been in school herself. Gaelic language had been her favourite subject and she had continued to use it wherever she could.

She was pulled back into reality by a toddler who was pushed by in a buggy and was screaming loudly. It reminded her of her granddaughter in Switzerland. Marie soon forgot about her nostalgic thoughts and walked on through the crowded streets of Dublin.

*Linda Wachter*



## Along the Liffey

John walked along the Liffey on the boardwalk enjoying the few minutes of sunshine on an otherwise rainy Monday afternoon. He had lived in Dublin all his life, gone to school and learned Gaelic, which he still spoke at the age of 52.

He was on his way to an art gallery where there was an exhibition of his favourite artist. He liked the art galleries and museums of Dublin because you could go there, no matter how awful the weather was. If the sun shone as brightly as it did that very moment he also liked to walk through the shopping passages and talk to the people. They were always very friendly and helpful when he needed assistance in this modernized world. He would have loved to see the streets the way they were in James Joyce's "Dubliners" because he really liked the stories but couldn't find that dark atmosphere anymore today.

He wouldn't miss the shops, the people or the weather once he felt the warm sun of Egypt on his face in a few days. The heat, the beautiful artefacts and the unique architecture. He couldn't wait, even if he was going to stay for only two weeks. But this wasn't his only vacation planned for this year. All his life he had really wanted to visit South America and right before Christmas, John would finally be able to experience their lively culture and the antique buildings and cities.

But until then he would continue to enjoy the museums he could visit in Dublin. So he dug out his umbrella and continued his walk along the Liffey.

*Kerstin Schilling*

