

A View from the Chairman

The Association

At the March AGM a number of new members were elected to the Committee of the Association. I cannot emphasise enough the importance of new blood coming into and taking an active part in the affairs of the Association.

It is important that the Association is continually renewed in its thinking and doesn't become staid and frozen in time.

Having said that, it is still important that matters raised by members whether large or small, are still pursued with vigour and commitment.

Developments proposed by Dublin City Council:

Having agreed the new city development plan last November with its controversial proposals on high rise developments, the city manager and planners are now moving to define more precisely a plan for the Georges Quay area. Present proposal is that Tara Street Station will have one building at 50m+(Liberty hall is 58m) with three further adjoining blocks 19-50m. Such a development would have an impact on the historic Custom House and Trinity College Buildings. Submissions and views should be made before 16th June but there will be an opportunity later for further observations.

As a context for this sort of planners thinking, it should be pointed out that some 44000 hectares nationally have been zoned for residential development whereas 4500 hectares are probably what is needed over the next few years. As well some 24% of commercial and office properties in the Dublin region are currently vacant. (Irish Times 18/5/2011).

I suggest this can be a topic for discussion with your local councillors.

May I wish all members an enjoyable Summer.

Paddy Marron

Notes and Comments	3
Schools in Rathgar	4
Recalling Rathgar	6
Special Request	7
Gardening	8
Biodiversity	9
Environment	10
Planning	12

Some Notes and Comments

The Rathmines Ranelagh and Rathgar Historical Society

Monthly talks continue from September through to June

These are held in Rathmines Town Hall.

Some recent lectures

28th April: *Ireland's First Railway* (Jim Scannell)

26th May: *Ranelagh Balloon Ascent* (Brian McMahon)

18th June (Sat): *Visit to National Print Museum in the Old Garrison Chapel of Beggars Bush Barracks, HAddington Rd, Dublin 4.*

Further information: Principal, Rathmines College, rathmineshistoricalsociety@dublin.ie

Heritage

Try dublinheritage.ie. This is an interesting site. There is a lot of archival material available in Pearse Street library

Rathfarnham Historical Society

Regular talks on local history—recent talk on the pre Norman grave slabs in Dublin south area

Enquiries: Vera Brannigan, tel: 4931840.

National Museum and National Gallery.

Regular talks and discussions throughout the year at both venues. Details available by contacting both

Rathmines Discourses: Spring/Summer 2011

This is the inaugural series of the Rathmines Discourses – public conversations on matters of national importance. The series is organised by the Rathmines Initiative, a non-profit group which aims to improve quality of life throughout the diverse community of Rathmines.

Monday, 16 May, 8 p.m: Seamus O Cinneide, Professor Emeritus of Social Policy, NUI Maynooth *“The promise of the 1960s in Ireland: the realities of now”*

All discourses will take place at Holy Trinity Church (Church Ave., Upper Rathmines). The format will be a short lecture followed by Q&A and general audience discussion.

Enquiries to: Margaret Dillon, 4965558 or rathminesinitiative@gmail.com

Nature continues to be busy on the Dodder.

The dippers are nesting in the weirs both at Rathfarnham bridge and Dartry park A pair of swans are making their nest. The Dodder anglers are taking up their position and one angler reports that having hooked a one pound trout he had it snatched by one of the herons who patrol that stretch of river.

Shops vacant in Rathgar

The Association hopes that recently vacated shops in Orwell Road and Rathgar Road will be reoccupied soon

Dublin Council cycling officer:

DCC have appointed for the first time a cycling officer. Your comments or views on cycling in the city may be addressed to Ciaran Fallon at tel. 2226268

Repairs and maintenance around the home for elderly residents.

Age Action Ireland has a team of honest and trustworthy trades people who will do repair work. Call 1890369369

Annual garden competition.

The judging for the Annual garden Competition and the Dixon Cup will take place in the latter part of June. The cup will be presented at the The Rathgar Horticultural Society's Show in early July

RRA: AGM

The AGM took place on 31st March last with some 60 members present. With formal business concluded, a number of issues were raised by members. These have been included in the work programme of the incoming committee.

It is planned to hold a public meeting in the Autumn.

Items of news or local interest and indeed your comments about *Link* would be appreciated.

PO Box 9574 Dublin 6 or info@rathgarresidentsassociation.ie

The schools in Rathgar

**Stratford National School –
Tom Hanley, Principal.**

WHO WE ARE

Stratford National School is a publicly funded, co-educational National School with a multid denominational enrolment, run under the auspices of Dublin's Jewish Community. We are based in Zion Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6 and currently have four mainstream class teachers and a Learning Support Teacher. The present class arrangements see Junior and Senior Infants taught as a combined group, as are First and Second, Third and Fourth and Fifth and Sixth. Our enrolment is approximately 90 pupils.



The secular programme followed by the school is the official curriculum of the Department of Education & Science. A separate team of teachers teach Hebrew Studies to our Jewish pupils each day, while Catholic pupils can study the official Catholic Religious Programme before school commences at 10.05am. Some of our pupils opt to do the secular programme only.

HISTORY

In 1934 Zion National School was set up in Bloomfield Avenue, South Circular Road, to provide an education within a Jewish ethos, provided for under the Irish Constitution. In 1980 Zion School relocated onto the site of Stratford College, Rathgar, where it incorporated the smaller Stratford Primary Preparatory School. On its re-location in 1980, the newly amalgamated Jewish Primary School changed its name from Zion National School to the present Stratford National School, or, as per its official Irish name, Scoil Náisiúnta Stratford.

Stratford National School is Ireland's only Jewish primary school and provides a primary education within a Jewish ethos, as defined by The Chief Rabbi of Ireland. We are very proud that our enrolment consists of pupils from a wide range of religious and cultural backgrounds and we cherish the valuable contribution all our families make to the school.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Stratford National School commits itself to providing a caring, friendly environment in which children of the Jewish faith, of other denominations and none, can together develop spiritually, intellectually, physically, creatively and socially. Stratford National School furthermore commits itself to promoting an atmosphere of tolerance and celebration of difference, mutual respect and understanding, thus providing our pupils with a positive model for life in a pluralist society. The School aims to always provide an atmosphere of warmth and understanding where pupils will be happy and enjoy learning in pleasant, supportive surroundings. We welcome and encourage constructive communication between parents and teachers, in our shared commitment to our children's welfare.

FACILITIES

Our school stands on approximately an acre of secure playground for the children, including two basketball courts and a large grassed area, together with an indoor hall. We have well-equipped classrooms with up to date ICT, including computers, data projectors, DVD's and laptops. We provide specialist music and physical education teaching to all our classes and we offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Stratford NS also has a very active and dynamic Parents Association, who make a most meaningful and valuable contribution to the education of our children.

CONTACT DETAILS

Further information can be got from Stratford NS, 1 Zion Rd, Rathgar Dublin 6, or by telephoning 01 4922315.

See also our website at www.stratfordns.ie



Stratford College

Co-educational Secondary School

Limited places available in some classes.

Wide range of subjects and small class sizes. Excellent facilities.

For further information contact the school at

www.stratfordcollege.ie

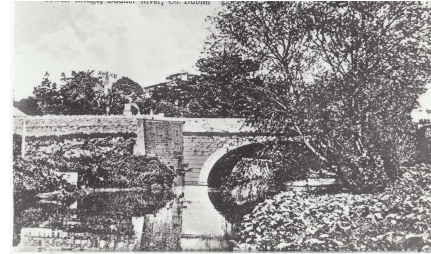
1, Zion Road

Rathgar

Dublin 6

Telephone: 01-4922315 E-mail: admin@stratfordcollege.ie

Recalling Rathgar



Waldron's Bridge(Orwell Bridge)



Sluice keeper's cottage in Dartry Park



Dodder below Rathfarnham Weir



Drumm battery locomotive which ran on the Harcourt Street line. Prof Drumm was first Chairman of the RRA



Rathgar: Christchurch



Zion Road and Church



Weir at Dartry Park

Trevor White has a request.

Trevor White writing in the Irish Times Magazine April 30th 2011 outlined work in a project to create a people's museum of the city. Many of our members knew and enjoyed our Civic Museum in South William Street. Indeed the closure of the Civic Museum was a source of great disappointment to many Dubliners.

This new people's museum will be called The Little Museum of Dublin and it will be run by an independent non-profit company. A community museum such as this will remind us of the importance of local history and of the connections we share; connections that are all too easily neglected. The hope is that it will open later this year and it will occupy a single floor of a Georgian building at 15 St Stephen's Green. Presently the building is owned by Dublin City Council and the other patrons of the project are Dublin Regional Authority and Fáilte Ireland. There will be regular events in the museum, as well as an outreach programme.

Their other project, known as City of a Thousand Welcomes, will also be housed in the Little Museum. This initiative will enable Dubliners to welcome tourists over a free cup of tea or a drink. It's a simple but timely idea and many people have responded to the call for volunteers. The goal was to recruit 1,000 volunteers within three months but two weeks after the appeal they had more than 2,000 applications!

Trevor White *is looking for any objects of historical significance* and if your loan is accepted for the collection, your generosity will be noted on the museum walls and you will receive free admission for life. Furniture, paintings, photographs and first hand accounts of key moments in the century are all being sought. Indeed they will consider anything to do with Dublin in the 20th century.

For further information about this very interesting project see: littlemuseum.ie

ooooooooOOOoooooooo

Container Gardening. Mary Healy 01 49065552

Container gardening has never been as popular as it is today. This is because it fits in with many aspects of modern life. For many of us our gardens are small. Some may be just a yard, terrace, balcony or even a windowsill. Container grown plants are an ideal way of softening a hard surface area bringing the garden to the door of the house. A wide selection of pots is available in all shapes and sizes; troughs, urns, alibaba pots, terracotta, wooden tubs, window boxes. The pot must be big enough to accommodate the plant and also must have drainage holes.

When planting add some broken crocks at the base and then use multi purpose compost. You don't necessarily have to use the same type of container, many will mix together quite successfully. Different shapes and sizes will add interest to your garden. Hanging baskets will transform a garden in summer time when they are dripping with colour. But don't have hanging baskets unless you know you are able to water them everyday, as they only contain a small amount of soil. ***They must not be allowed to dry out.***

Hanging baskets can be lined with moss but if this is difficult to obtain, a porous lining can be bought in garden centres. The same rule applies for window boxes but make sure they are firmly fixed to the wall. When choosing permanent plants, steer clear of those which will outgrow the pot in a short space of time. Architecturally shaped plants usually make best effect such as **Phormiums, Fatsias, Bay or Box**. Some small **Acers** look very attractive in pots. **Camillias** and **Azeleas** are also suitable but they will need acid soil. This can be got in any garden centre. Position these pots so that early morning sun after frost, doesn't damage the buds. Conifers and Junipers are good for providing greenery all year round. Make sure you choose slow growing ones so they won't outgrow the pot too fast. For a more informal look, **Hydrangeas** are good. You can even buy the compost to suit the colour of the flower, alkaline for white or pink, acid for blue. They need to be kept well watered and do best in light shade. If you have paving right up to your house, you can grow climbers and position them so that they climb up the wall. **Clematis** can look very attractive but the roots need some shade. This can be done by planting in especially large tubs with a layer of gravel on the surface of the compost. It prevents the sun from baking the roots. Sinks and stone troughs can also look very attractive. **Succulents** are often grown in sinks or shallow containers. They will need plenty of sun but apart from that, they are undemanding. The **Sempervivums** or some of the smaller **Sedums** eg. **Cappa Blanka** are particularly attractive. You can also create your own miniature alpine garden in a sink or trough. However for something different and less conventional, try planting your sink with bright **Gasinias Impatiens** (Bizzie Lizzies) These are ideal for growing in shade. There are some very good compact varieties such as **Nouvelle mixed** which flower over a long period of time, if kept moist.

Lastly herbs are **a must** as part of the ideal container garden. Pots of parsley, chives, marjoram, thyme, tarragon and sage can be planted individually or together. Mint is best grown on its own as it's very invasive. If at all possible, place near your kitchen door for easy access, remembering that herbs do require sun in order to thrive fully.

Good luck with your pots and tubs etc..... Enjoy!

What is the big deal about Biodiversity?

Mark McDowell

A recent letter writer to the Irish Times finishes a letter, in which he suggests most people would prefer better motorways over saving Corncrakes, with the question, “What has Biodiversity ever done for me?”

The question highlights a few issues. **Firstly**, many people do not understand the term “biodiversity”. **Secondly**, if they do know what it means they are unclear as to its importance. **Thirdly**, how can any of us be allowed to leave school without a clear understanding of this importance?

Biodiversity is defined by the World Wildlife Fund as: the HUGE variety of other animals and plants on our planet, together with the places where found.

There it is, biodiversity literally means every living organism and their natural habitat. Through the activities and interactions of these species, e.g. pollination by insects or worms aerating the soil, the basic requirements for the continuation of life as we understand it are produced and maintained. That means: clean air, clean water and healthy soil.

These conditions exist in areas that are either untouched by human activity or where human activity is part of the natural balance. Problems are arising where human activity is upsetting this balance and causing a breakdown in the systems that produce our requirements for living. Every species plays a role in maintaining the natural balances and this brings us to the science of Ecology.

Ecology is defined as the study of the interactions between organisms and their environment. It is through this study that we have learnt the importance of all species in making the Earth a fit place for life.

Environment in the above definition has two components, a) the physical environment, eg temperature, water availability etc., and b) the biotic environment, which is the influences the different species have on each other, e.g. predation, competition and so on.

Ecology is a vast area of study but what it constantly shows is how one thing influences another. At the moment all things working together produce a planet that has naturally clean water, air and soil and for the most part species survive and endure because evolution over millions of years has equipped them to deal with what nature throws at them.

But now the natural processes which have resulted in this “huge variety of other plants and animals” are under strain from human activity. Our activities, whether industrial or agricultural, are affecting the physical environment, e.g. increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and acidification of the oceans, and are having an effect on the biotic environment, many species have been lost and many more are threatened.

The question is, and it's not really a question it's more of a worry, how many species can we lose before the finely balanced system on which we rely breaks down entirely? This is what is meant by the importance of preserving biodiversity.

What has biodiversity ever done for you? The answer is...everything, though you may not have realised it, and all it requires to maintain it is respect.

<http://www.geos.ed.ac.uk/ccs/Technical/Ocean/> This is a web address for a rather sobering report on ocean acidification from 2005, in very plain language. The threats are very real.

From *Links* of the past Dublin Millenium 1988

Songs of Praise- Sunday 5th September 1988

In a joint venture in Millenium year of the Residents Association and the local church choirs, “Songs Of Praise” was held in Christ Church Rathgar at Harvest Festival Time. The church was beautifully decorated and the choirs of Christ Church, Church of the Three Patrons, Zion Church, St Josephs, Terenure and Brighton Road Methodist Church took part and joined together to provide a range of hymns, interspersed with readings by Ulick O'Connor and Rosalie Pickering. The Concorde brass band under conductor Eric Banister, completed the evening. A benediction was given by Monsignor John Maloney of the Church of the Three Patrons and the evening was hosted by the Reverend Robin McDermott. Liam Devally compered the evening, lending to it his ease of manner and general musicality and it was a most enjoyable occasion of entertainment, music and wit. Tea was offered in the church hall below. Proceeds of a collection went to St Luke's Hospital, Rathgar

-----OOO-----

Environment report: Winter Spring 2011

Kenilworth Post Office closed without any notice a few months ago. It caused concern for a large number of people who used this office on a regular basis. Having contacted An Post they said no decision had been made as to whether the post office would remain closed. We have contacted City Councillors and T.D's. to lobby the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Pat Rabbitte to try and get the post office open again.

An issue unresolved following a period of time is the removal of the bus shelter from the 128 terminus on Palmerston Park (outside Brookfield Tennis Club) and whether the 128 bus route is to remain. We were very disappointed not to receive **any** reply following correspondence with Dublin Bus. We have written to the T.D.'s and the City Councillors and some have agreed to help us with this matter. Dublin City Council received a letter from Paddy Doherty, Chief Executive, Dublin Bus dated 18/04/11 stating **“Public consultation hasn't taken place on the proposed changes to 128 route – we are in the process of securing a venue for same and prior notice will be given to all our customers both on bus and in the local media.”** We will keep you up to date *with any progress*.

Brighton Avenue is having problems with cars driving through having come in from the Harold's Cross Road. There is a “no turn left sign” and drivers are ignoring it. We have been in contact with the Guards who have arranged to meet with ourselves and a resident from the avenue.

Maxwell Road is causing concern with people driving in the opposite direction on this one way road. The Guards are to do spot checks.

Dublin City Council is looking into the possibility of putting pedestrian lights in the village from “The Rathgar” to the “Deli Boutique.” This was requested following the opening of Superquinn and the increase in pedestrians in the area.

Contact Numbers:

Once again a few numbers that are handy to have if you have local problems:

Graffiti:

This is a major problem at present; numerous people have contacted me in this regard. Generally the offenders are under age and if caught will only get a warning. One solution is having a few tins of left over paint of different colours and painting over the graffiti as soon as it appears. If on a public wall contact D.C.C. Phone: 2221000 or email: waste.management@dublincity.ie or www.dublincity.ie and click on Report it.

Dog Fouling or Littering

Dog fouling is an ongoing situation and gets worse at this time of the year.

Littering can be reported. Dublin City Council: **Litter hotline: 1800 248 348**

If littering from a car-cigarette butts, paper etc, take the number and report to the above hotline

Garda Station, Terenure: 01 - 6666400

Garda Station, Rathmines: 01 - 6666700.

Computer Classes:

These classes are aimed for people with little or no knowledge of computers. Following on from the success of last year classes Stratford College are willing to run another course commencing 4th November. It will run each Friday for six weeks. It covers the basics from turning on the computer, to setting up your own email, using the internet, shopping on line, booking flights, on line banking, security on the internet and any topic you wish to cover. It is aimed to fulfil the persons requirements.

Interested people may contact me by phoning: mobile 0872 414946

Orla Devane Environment officer

This is a very difficult time for business.

Your local shops and businesses are an important part of the Rathgar Community. Without them, we would lose an important element of that Community.

Please make a major effort to support them

Planning Report Winter/Spring 2011

The number of planning applications has fallen over the past year and consequently the number of submissions and appeals has correspondingly dropped.

Following on from the decision of An Bord Pleanala to give approval for a large residential development for much of Marianella last year, much of the Association's time on the planning front in recent times has been taken up with the St. Louis Sisters' proposal to seek permission for a similar extremely contentious and large residential development on the green field recreational area of St. Louis Senior Girls' school in Charleville Road, Rathmines.

An Bord Pleanala held an oral hearing in respect of this matter in March which lasted for 4 days

The outcome will hinge on whether An Bord Pleanala considers that the greater community (which has been resolute in its opposition to the scheme) is better served by ensuring that St. Louis School should be allowed to grow and develop and serve the wider community using the existing resources that are currently available to it, or whether it should be confined to a straight jacket with some 100 apartments in 5 blocks up to 5 storeys in height being constructed in its grounds with some token offering of some improved facilities towards the school in the form of a new PE hall and two new basket ball courts.

There were some 70 + objections to this scheme to Dublin City Council who approved a scheme of a smaller size than that sought for, while there were 15 separate third party appeals to An Bord Pleanala.

A decision should be forthcoming by midsummer.

The most contentious scheme after that was one for a superlatively modern structure in the grounds of a 19th century villa type house at Bellville Ave. The development as proposed, would completely upset the layout and balance of the existing Victorian houses in the area and would seriously detract from the visual and residential amenity of this quiet cul-de-sac. Additional information has been sought by Dublin City Council which implies that if this is answered to their satisfaction, they will give their permission.

The next most contentious issue was a proposal to add two two storey side wings to a detached protected structure at 25 Rathgar Road. It was to our dismay that An Bord Pleanala reversed the refusal of Dublin City Council for this development at the foot of a 1st party appeal. However, modified drawings were submitted with the appeal so it is hoped that the modified proposal will be an improvement on what was initially proposed.

Many of the residents were concerned about the proposal to seek permission for the erection of an advertising hoarding on the side of 10 Terenure Road East. This was refused by Dublin City Council and a 1st party appeal to An Bord Pleanala ensued. It is indisputable that the principles of proper planning and development would dictate that this development should not be permitted. And besides, the said side wall of this building

is very well screened by a yew tree in a neighbouring garden on Terenure Road East as well as trees and bushes in other gardens on this side of the road. Such a development would constitute a serious distraction to motorists approaching a very dangerous and congested traffic junction. Cars are continually jockeying for position at the end of the Terenure Road East bus lane (heading into town) so that they can negotiate the approaching junction safely and efficiently.

Consideration is being given to ask the elected councillors, in particular those who tried to vote down the proposals for up to 27 meter buildings in many areas of the city as proposed and adopted in the current Dublin City development plan (2011 – 2017) to rename the “Enforcement Section” of the Dublin City Council Planning Dept. the “Non-Enforcement Section” as we continue to wait for some worthwhile action to be taken in respect of no 47 Rathgar Road, 18 Highfield Road as well as other protected structures (which are by no means being protected) in spite of numerous reminders over many years now as well as enforcing planning decisions handed down by the same Local Authority and which are being ignored and flouted.

Elsewhere there is a proposal by Aldi to open a shop in Terenure. This would be directly across from the church, involving the demolition of the very unique 1943 toilet block beside Falks lighting and the non-descript building to east. No submission has yet been made from our Association but a number of objections have been lodged by individuals and the Roundtown Residents Association. The local authority has requested additional information but it can be expected that a permission of some sort will be granted notwithstanding the extremely congested state of the road in this part of Terenure village.

Philip O'Reilly Planning Officer

Dublin City Councillors—Rathmines/Pembroke

List of Councillors Rathmines Pembroke

Cllr Jim Callaghan

37 Richmond Street, Dublin 2 4758943

jim@jmcallaghan.com

Cllr Mary Freehill

77 Grove Road, Harolds Cross, Dublin 6 0868126378

freehill@eircom.net

Cllr Dermot Lacey

60 Beechhill Drive, Donnybrook, Dublin 4 087 2646960

cllr-dermot.lacey@dublincity.com

Cllr Paddy McCartan

12 Thorncastle Street, Ringsend, Dublin 4 0872248817

cllrpatmccartan@gmail.com

Cllr Oisín Quinn

7 Temple Villas, Rathmines, Dublin 6 0872520011

Oisín@oisinquinn.ie

Cllr Edie Wynn

74 Terenure Rd West, Dublin 6 W 0872851779

wynee@eircom.net

TDs Dublin South East

Lucinda Creighton

8 Herbert Park Mews, Donnybrook, Dublin 4

lucinda.creighton@oireachtas.ie

Ruairi Quinn

23 Strand Road, Sandymount, Dublin 4

minister@education.gov.ie

Eoghan Murphy

54 Ranelagh Triangle, Dublin 6

eoghan.murphy@oir.ie

Kevin Humphreys

14 O'Connell Gardens, Dublin 4

kevin.humphreys@oireachtas.ie

RathgarResidents' Association
Committee Members 2011/2012

		Title	Telephone No.	Mobile No.	Email Address
Brennan	Mary	Secretary	4926743	086 8233655	mbhealthandsafety@gmail.com
Devane.	Orla	Environment	4972267	087241 4946	devane@iol.ie
Doyle	Peter	Treasurer	4979787	087 6379366	peter.doyle54@gmail.com
Garvan	Brendan		496 0567	086 8709502	brendan.garvan@gmail.com
Horkan	Brian			086 8283971	bhorkan@mhc.ie
Keegan	Martin			087 1309039	martin@mikeegan.com
McCarthy	John		4976630	087 2413419	mccarthyjon@eircom.net
Marron	Paddy	Chairman	497 2529		pmarron@eircom.net
McCabe	Gertie		497 0092		
O'Reilly	Philip	Planning Officer		085 1254539	philipor@gmail.com
Ryan	Katie		491 1256	086 0697409	
Supple	Brendan		4979374	086 2416790	brendan.supple@iol.ie

Other key contacts

Richardson	Jane	Members data base	4905648	janemrichardson@eircom.net
------------	------	-------------------	---------	--

ROCHES PHARMACY



Open until 7.30pm
Sundays 11am to 1.30pm

Prescriptions
Medical Requisites
Cosmetics

163/5 Rathmines Road Upper, Dublin 6

Telephone 4972693 Fax 4972406