



## A VIEW FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Since our AGM in March last, the work of the Committee of your Association has continued apace. In April a public meeting at which most local political representatives were in attendance as well as Garda representatives, drew a large number of members as well as members of the public. The evening facilitated the public to raise matters of concern and interest

A special issue of Link was published in early June 2009. The purpose of this special issue which was distributed to all households in the Rathgar area( some 4500 in all) was to inform all residents in the area of the existence and the work of the Association. It is hoped that this publicity will increase membership in 2010.

A meeting was held in late Summer with the local superintendent and her team of An Garda Síochána. Matters discussed were local crime, the impact of crime on the victims and the need to keep victims informed of progress of Garda enquiries and prosecutions. Also among other matters on the agenda were antisocial behaviour, drinking in public and in the local parks.

There were continuing discussions with Dublin City Council on parking and traffic (particularly Rathgar Avenue). Amongst other issues on the agenda with the Council was the use of the public pavements for parking of commercial waste bins.

This Autumn a new City Development Plan 2011-2017 will be under discussion by our local councillors. Please make your views known to them about what you want for the city and your local area. The Association will be putting forward its views and will be drawing on the proposals in the draft Rathgar study.

At the Association's AGM last March, it was agreed that a special members meeting be held in the Autumn to allow members to bring forward issues which the more restrictive agenda of the AGM doesn't allow. It is proposed to hold this meeting in early December. Members will individually receive notice of the meeting.

Finally may I extend my good wishes for Christmas 2009 and the new year 2010.

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## The Rathmines, Ranelagh & Rathgar Historial Society

The Rathmines, Ranelagh and Rathgar Historical Society hold monthly talks from September through to May . These are held in Rathmines town hall.

### Talks this Autumn have been:

24th September Patrick Pearse-educational revolutionary by Elaine Sisson.

29th October Rathmines and the Dublin Fusiliers in the Great War by Sean Connolly

26th November Rothsay Castle Shipwreck, 1831-the Rathmines Connection by Seamus O Maitiu

10th December Members Night-Variety of Topics.

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

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## Rathgar Study (Draft)

The completion of this study which has been in process since mid 2008 has, unfortunately fallen victim to the current financial exigencies. To complete the study would have required a further period of public consultation. The funding of this requires financial support from Dublin City Council. This is not forthcoming. The Association whilst disappointed, will seek to complete the study at the earliest possible moment.

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## Superquinn in Rathgar

A recent enquiry to Superquinn about their current plans for a store in Rathgar brought the following response from their Chairman, Mr Simon Burke:

*"You will be aware no doubt that current economic conditions have played havoc with our store opening plans, along with those of every other retailer in the country, but we remain committed to the Rathgar site. Unfortunately, I am not in a position to give you an exact opening date but it would certainly be our intention to see the store open in the course of 2010 and with luck it will be in the early part of the year."*

He undertook to let the Association know when he had more specific information..

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## Garden Competition

The judging of the Annual Garden Competition took place in early July. Rose gardens were particularly luxuriant this year.

The overall winner, **Mrs. Mary Coman** of Grosvenor Road, was presented with the Dixon Cup at the Annual Rathgar Horticultural Society's show on the 11th July 2009. Runners up were Peter Brown, Kenilworth Park and Mrs Noreen Tempamy, Orwell Park.

### Congratulations to all!

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## Good Neighbours

Good neighbourliness is still alive and well. Members keep telling us all the time about kind acts of neighbours. This is what makes a community thrive and grow. Look after the old folk on your road particularly as the dark days of Winter set in.



## Cromwell Road

The English names of Leicester Avenue, Kenilworth Square and Brighton Square suggest that the developer of the area was an Englishman. That he knew little of Ireland is shown by his naming one of the new roads Cromwell Road and it is listed in the 1863 and 1864 directories with three houses , all vacant.

Eventually someone must have told him that, however highly regarded in England, the name Oliver Cromwell was most unpopular in Ireland. He therefore changed the name to Brighton Road, a natural companion for the Square and Avenue already built. Thereafter he had no problem and by 1868 there were 15 houses occupied in Brighton Road with just three vacant.

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## Kensington

Probably the same developer as introduced Cromwell Road adopted the very English name of Kensington for what he originally planned as a square in 1862.

He soon changed this to Kennsington Road but by 1865 he found it convenient to change again to upper Garville Avenue whose name, incidentally, was applied also to the south side of Brighton Square on some of the Ordnance Survey Maps of the time.

*The above is taken from Link, June 1984*

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**The Celtic tiger may be dead but nevertheless, while the number of planning applications for the year so far has been down in the order of 20% overall, the workload for the RRA Planning Dept. has only been moderately lightened.**

Some old reliables were with us again this year.

On the second attempt, the proposers for the demolition of 1A Palmerston Park got the go ahead from An Bord Pleanala after an appeal from the local residents with support from the Association.

Once again, as well, 8B Sunbury Gardens appeared in the lists and is currently awaiting a decision from An Bord Pleanala. The local residents appealed this and asked for support. This is the third time out at An Bord Pleanala for this particular address.

Residents at Laurelton (Bushy Park Road) looked for support in respect of an unacceptable development in their area and were refused both at Local Authority and An Bord Pleanala stages. The residents were very pleased when their appeal was successful.

Another old reliable was 1 Cowper Road. A smaller proposal this time, was appealed to An Bord Pleanala on grounds of being incompatible and inappropriate with the unique Victorian house and terrace; the entire length of which the Association has twice requested to have put on the protected buildings list. To date there has been no success with the Local Authority.

Another property, on the rounds again, is 83C Kenilworth Sq.- a small infill house.. The adjoining household at no 83 objected and got the Association's support. Having been with the Local Authority twice (once refused), it is now with An Bord Pleanala. Interestingly, pending the outcome, the property has gone on the market.

Some other major developments in the Rathgar area during the year was the granting of permission by Bord Pleanala for Superquinn. The store remains boarded up.

Also the Redemptorists at Marianella have a major development proposal for their 8.25 acre site on Orwell Road.

The Local Authority granted permission for some 275 residential units, a monastery, a driving test centre and a 30m high communications mast. The residential units are in a series of blocks reaching up to 7 storeys. The Association appealed to Bord Pleanala the two applications which had been lodged for this development. Also because of the size of the development and the major impact it would have on the whole of the Rathgar area, it also called for an oral hearing. It is certain that Marianella will feature majorly in the 2010.

Support for local residents in respect of a development at Leinster Road/Grosvenor Place area where flows the Swan river, has been with An Bord for some time now and a decision is imminent.

All of the above coupled with some matters relating to off street parking (where we have been ably assisted by favourable decisions from An Bord Pleanala) have kept the RRA Planning Dept. busy in its ongoing campaign to keep Rathgar free from inappropriate developments.



The Association has also pursued with vigour the Local Authority in respect of illegal developments and derelict buildings in the area.-18 Highfield Road and 47 Rathgar Road have been very much to the fore. But other than the repair of a section of wall at 47 Rathgar Road there appears to have been very little progress in this regard. The Association continues to press the Local Authority enforcement section to have them enforce the planning legislation as currently enacted.

**Philip O'Reilly**  
Planning Officer.

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### **Tennis for Juniors in Rathgar**

If you think you have a budding young tennis star at home or you simply want to give the kids a good start at the game look no further than Rathgar Tennis Club and 'stay local'!

RTC has developed an exceptional junior coaching programme in the last two years with over 200 children enrolled. And it doesn't stop there; there are social weekend activities including multi sports events, supervised tennis camps during school holidays, teen tennis on Friday evenings and family tournaments. All great fun and so close by! Log onto [www.rathgartennis.com](http://www.rathgartennis.com) or drop by for a chat.

**Liz O'Kane**

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**When we moved to Rathgar in the mid eighties the most abundant “wild” animal about was probably the hedgehog. They were in the front and back gardens of our house and it was, unfortunately, quite common to see them dead by the roadside during the summer months.**

I suspect there has been a serious decline in the hedgehog population around Rathgar as I haven't laid eyes on one alive or dead for years. This is a shame as hedgehogs are interesting creatures as well as a great asset to any garden. They will gladly eat all the snail and slugs they come across as well as earwigs, beetles and millipedes among others. If you want to feed them, then tinned cat food or dog food is fine but don't give them milk, they will drink it but it gives them the runs, yuck!

Remember if you have hedgehogs in your garden never use slug pellets as many hedgehogs die annually from eating poisoned slugs.

Hedgehogs have a home range generally around an acre in size which means in most cases they wander from garden to garden to find enough to eat. So if you do have hedgehogs in your garden make sure that you don't accidentally block off their entrances like a gap under a fence or hedge between you and your neighbour or you may not have them much longer.

Hedgehogs have some unexpected skills like climbing trees and rough walls, they can also swim but if you have a garden pond make sure there are ways to climb out as hedgehogs often drown in ponds with sheer edges. They also run surprisingly fast, over 2m per second has been recorded and can apparently kill some venomous snakes.

The hedgehog method of fighting snakes is quite simple. It rolls up in its famous defensive ball and lets the snake wear itself out biting at its spines, it then uncurls and bites the snake on the neck. Some sources say they are immune to snake venom, others say that snakes are unable to bite them as the hedgehog spines are longer than the snakes' fangs. Whatever the truth, the hedgehog endures. Neat trick!

We shouldn't be surprised that hedgehogs are multi-talented. In its present form the hedgehog has been around for the last 15 million years but the fossilised remains of their ancestors have been found in rocks from the late Cretaceous period or 70 million years ago. So these “little ugly fellows”, or gráinneog in Irish, have survived whatever it was that killed off their contemporaries the dinosaurs and they have seen many formidable mammals come and go, think of mammoths and sabre toothed tigers.

Now they carry out their hedgehog endeavours in our gardens and parks and we have a responsibility to them to ensure that our thoughtlessness and detachment doesn't cost them their lives. It would be a shame if we managed to do in twenty years with slug poison and cars what seventy million years of mass extinctions, climatic upheaval and predation failed to do, namely eradicate the hedgehog.

There is an excellent Dept. of the Environment website ([www.noticenature.ie](http://www.noticenature.ie)) with all the necessary information for making your hedgehogs' lives a little easier.

If you do have hedgehogs in your garden or at a country retreat they would love to hear from you at [www.biology.ie](http://www.biology.ie).

*Mark McDowell*



## Security

Now that the evenings are getting darker we need to be alert on keeping our houses safe and secure. This means locking all windows and doors when leaving the house. Do not tempt the intruder. A security light is of great benefit as the intruder likes to work in the dark. Never do business with anyone calling unannounced to the door. Always use the security chain when answering the door. Little changes can make a big difference.

## Graffiti

Following a meeting with the Gardaí Síochána we were informed that action is being taken with a number of people responsible for graffiti in our area. The gardaí informed us that they are in the process of setting up a database detailing the different types of styles of graffiti of those who have been caught. Each person has their own particular style.

## Recycling Centres

Herzog Park, Bring Centre, Orwell Road.

Opening Hours

9am-4pm (Mon- Thurs)

9am-1pm (Fri)

Closed Saturday and Sunday.

Rathmines Bring Centre, Gulistan Terrace (off Mount Pleasant Ave)

Opening Hours

9am-4pm (Mon –Thurs)

9am-1pm (Friday)

10am-4pm (Sat and Sun)

10- 4pm (Open Bank Holidays)

Garden waste is accepted at Rathmines Bring Centre

## Cyclists:

Following the introduction of the Bike to Work Scheme and the Dublin City Council cycling initiative there is an increase in cyclists on our roads. We appeal to cyclists to be vigilant on wearing their helmet and reflective clothing at this time of the year. A front and back light is standard but with the reflective clothing it is visible from a long distance. (Be safe, be seen) Constant reminding from parents is essential in keeping children safe on our streets.

## Local Garda Station Phone Numbers

Rathmines Garda Station (01) 6666700

Terenure Garda Station (01) 6666400

**Orla Devane**





For almost 150 years the Presbyterian Church has stood at the junction of 5 major roads. The congregation itself was established in November 1859 when the records of the Dublin Presbytery show that permission was granted for a regular evening service to take place in the Old School House in Rathmines. The first task was to find a site for the church and by December that had been accomplished.

The foundation stone of the new church was laid on 19 July 1860 and two years later on the 2nd February 1862 the church was consecrated and has graced the landscape ever since.

Over the years as the congregation grew it became necessary to enlarge the building and in 1899 the church was extended to the 'footprint' it has today.

In the 1960's the land adjacent to the church was acquired and the 'Tennant Halls', as they are now known, were built and provide a very valuable meeting place for a range of different activities.

In the Centenary Year, 1959, a History of the congregation was produced and for the 150th - the

sesquicentennial - this was updated by the Rev D L Cooney and a very informative and attractive book has been produced and can be purchased.

Right from the very beginning the congregation has sought to serve both its own members, the local community and further a field.

CCR has always supported programmes designed to encourage children and young people. The present youth programme reflects a different era from that of 1859 and the children and young people engage in a wide range of activities both at home and abroad all of which seek to help young people to grow and mature into adults with a sense of who they are and with a firm commitment in faith.

As the years have come and gone the area in which the church stands has changed dramatically and the needs, hopes and aspirations have also changed.

Though built in the style and architectural fashion of the 1860s the congregation has never locked itself in the past but rather sought to meet the challenges of each age and generation in an appropriate manner. Today is no different. This generation looks to the future with enthusiasm and energy because though society and it's needs may change the fundamentals of faith do not. As our Mission Statement says:

*"We are here to worship and serve God together, through prayer, praise and Bible Study.  
We are here to be a caring source for others, Christ's instruments of peace, justice and love.  
We stand for a united church and welcome all Christian denominations to share in worship with us."*

As our 150th year has progressed we have grown more aware of our past and have been reinvigorated for the future. The notice boards outside the church provide information of the various activities currently taking place and the congregation's website, which incidentally won the award of Excellence in Commu-





-nication in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in 2007, gives much more information and can be accessed at [www.christchurchrathgar.org](http://www.christchurchrathgar.org).

We may wonder what the future holds in store for us as a congregation but the seeds of faith which brought the congregation into being are still bearing fruit and, with God's guidance, will continue to do so for many years to come.

**Rev. C. M. Hunter**

Christ Church



November is not the time for armchair gardening. There is much to be done which will pay dividends in the spring to come. With a little ground work now and these simple pointers, you can make sure you will be the envy of your less diligent green fingered friends.

## **Lawn care**

For established lawns; scarify, aerate and rake in an autumn fertiliser. This will make all the difference for a greener, healthier and thicker lawn next spring. Trim all the edges; this will improve the look no end.

## **Trees and shrubs**

Now is the time to plant. If pots are dry, soak in a bucket of water and keep moist 'til Spring. To plant, dig a hole twice the size of the root ball, quarter fill the hole with well rotted compost or farmyard manure. Place the plant in the hole and fill the rest with clay. Water well and firm with your foot. The same method applies to planting roses. Existing roses can be half pruned and then more severely in March (about 8 inches from ground level). Continue to spray for greenfly, blackspot and other fungal diseases throughout the winter.

## **Hardy herbaceous plants.**

Using a spade divide old clumps of the plant into two or three pieces, depending on the size of plant you want. Re-plant what you need and give the rest to deserving friends! Tidy beds and borders, cut all perennials back to ground level, dig over the beds, get rid of weeds, and fork in well rotted manure or garden compost. Plant hardy perennials such as cat mint, phlox, delphiniums, hollyhocks or foxgloves.- they will fare much better than if planted in Spring. The root system will get a better chance to strengthen over the winter months.

## **Bulbs**

It's not too late to plant bulbs but get cracking there's no time to waste. A tip when buying your bulbs is to choose firm ones, this is a sign of a good healthy bulb. For a more natural and less formal effect when planting daffodils simply scatter at random in the general area you wish to plant.

## **Pots and window boxes**

Pots and window boxes can add winter colour. Plant window boxes with violas, cyclamen, polyanthus trailing ivy ,ornamental cabbage or winter heather; all are suitable varieties. Don't fall into the trap of planting all these varieties in the one box, take two or three varieties of your choice and plant these and enjoy. If bulbs are your choice, choose ones that will not grow too tall so as to prevent wind rock eg hyacinths, tulips, crocuses, snowdrops or dwarf daffodils- these all are suitable.. For pots plant any of the following, phormiums, dwarf conifers, skimmias, box, trailing ivy euonymus, chrysanthemum grasses. These can be under-planted with bulbs of your choice.

## **Herbs**

Take cuttings of lavender and bay and plant them up in half soil, half sand and store them in a sheltered spot away from direct sunlight. Divide clumps of chives and mint and cut back fennel to ground level.

Finally don't forget the birds! Fill feeders with seeds and nuts, keep them topped up and you will enjoy their company all winter long.

All done and dusted (well almost ... as a gardener's work is never quite done). Relax, enjoy and hibernate 'til the green shoots of spring arrive.

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It all started in 1913 at a meeting held in 48 Summerville Park, Rathmines when C.P. Fitzgerald of Grosvenor Place (who was the young organist at that time in Rathgar's Church of the Three Patrons) talked a group of friends into forming a musical society.

As they all lived in Rathmines and Rathgar the society was named accordingly. Fitzgerald was the conductor, Edwin Lloyd (solicitor) of Kenilworth Square was appointed Chairman, WG Mulvin of York Road became Honorary Secretary and JC O'Brien of Belgrave Square became Producer.

The Society's aims were the study and production of operatic, choral and other high-class musical works. Today its aims remain the same.

By the end of 1913 the Society was sufficiently organised to book the Queen's Theatre in Pearse Street for early December and to produce *The Mikado*. A year later they performed *The Yeomen of the Guard* at the Gaiety Theatre.

The results were so enthusiastically received that in 1915 there was a May production of *Les Cloches de Corneville* as well as *The Yeomen of the Guard*.

Gilbert and Sullivan provided most of the repertoire but other composers found favour. *A Princess of Kensington* by Edward German and Basil Hood was produced in 1919 (its first Dublin performance). This was followed in December by the same composers' *Merrie England* (also a Dublin premiere).

The R&R became involved in other activities in those early days. At a Hospitals' Fete in 1920 it provided artistes for the *Café Chantant*.

When the D'Oyly Carte Company came to Dublin the Society organised a fancy dress ball at which presentations were made to Sir Henry Lytton and Miss Bertha Lewis.

Since those early days the society has been a major contributor to the musical theatre life of Dublin city. The twice-yearly productions professionally presented in prestigious locations - including Ireland's National Concert Hall - continue to attract maximum audiences.

The society offers associate membership to those friends who regularly support its musical productions. It also maintains close links with a host of individuals and organisations that have a keen continuous interest in the musical productions of the R&R.

**You can visit the Rathgar & Rathmines Musical Society online at [www.randr.ie](http://www.randr.ie)**

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**Mrs. Jan Nolan**





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