

RATHGAR
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
LINK
•MAGAZINE•



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- CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS
- ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
- PLANNING REPORT
- RATHGAR GARDEN COMPETITION
- THE BOTANIC GARDENS
- REV. PURVIS CAMPBELL
- UPCOMING EVENTS

www.rathgarresidentsassociation.ie

As all of our lives return to a degree of normality after the last two years of the Pandemic, your Committee continues to work hard to help make Rathgar the interesting and vibrant place to live that it has always been and continues to further develop into today.

Our continued collaboration with the Rathgar Business Association and Christ Church has seen great cooperation and the recent Bloomsday Festival and the noticeboard at Christchurch are good examples of how the two associations and Christ Church working together can get things done for the benefit of the area. We continue to work with them and appreciate all that the RBA does to enhance the area. With the Rathgar Horticultural Society's Garden Show happening this year again, we restarted the Garden Competition this year, which was a resounding success with very worthy winners. We hope to team up with the Society to do even more next year.

Our Planning Officer, Paddy Marron, works tirelessly, with the assistance of other members of the Committee to keep an eye on developments in the Rathgar area and balances good planning practice with practical knowledge when making submissions. This is a big job, and so we have tried to recruit assistance here with some success, but would appreciate any member with knowledge in this area to assist our dedicated members.

Paula Moore steers us through the Bus Connects progress with her great knowledge of this area and we cannot thank her enough for her dedication to this cause. Her wealth of knowledge and expertise is much appreciated and this will become even more important as Busconnects in our area makes its eventual way through the planning process.

Ursula Budd and Christy Carty work on environmental matters and this is a wide area that demands a large amount of time, liaising with Council officials and City Councillors on various matters. Christy was also instrumental in organising the Bloomsday celebration in Rathgar. As many of the members will be aware, we have started a Saturday Clean-up, which has been a great success and continues to grow in both popularity and effectiveness.

I also think our other Committee members deserve a mention as each and everyone has a job to do and puts great effort into it to develop your Association further for the future. For instance, we hope to be more active in communicating with members in the future both by way of greater interaction by email and on social media. John McMahon, as Membership Secretary, is working on updating our membership information. Special thanks to Michael Clarke, who has put in great work as our Secretary since taking over the role this year. All of our other Committee members are also working hard on other projects.

Whilst Marie O'Reilly and Katie Ryan continue to bring their long experience to the Committee, we welcome new members like Ciara Dalton and Maura Byrne and Laoise de Brun who has taken on the role of PRO.

I would also like to thank everyone for their continued support of the Association, for your membership, attending the AGM and public meetings, helping out at the Saturday Clean-ups and for your continued feedback. The Association is your Association and it is great to see so many people so enthusiastic about our area. We always need volunteers with expertise in various areas and so if you think you can help in any way, please contact us.

Finally and importantly, I would like to remember the recent passing of two of our valued former Committee members, Sue Miller and Michael O'Brien, both of whom we remember fondly. Sue, as chairperson, was tireless in her work and Michael's enthusiasm was infectious. We also remember Daniel Slattery, who passed away recently, son of Martin and Eilish Slattery, who represent the association on their road and other roads. We miss them and remember their families in our thoughts and prayers.

Your Committee looks forward to the work ahead and to enjoying our attractive and historic village and the Rathgar area into the future.

Peter Doyle,
Chairperson.

As summer turns to autumn, we look back on the past few months of a lovely summer season in Rathgar. As a community we are enriched with trees, hedges, gardens and parks that allow us to explore the seasons and enjoy their many benefits. With the opening up of the Village Square within the grounds of Christ Church this is just one of many places where Rathgar Residents can sit and enjoy their surroundings and watch the seasons go by.

As we head into autumn, we have several exciting developments happening in the Rathgar community. We are pleased to mention that the final phase of the development of Herzog Park has been approved by Dublin City Council and resources have been allocated for its completion. We hope that their teams will begin this work before the end of 2022. It is also worth mentioning that the fences have been painted in Fairfield Park, and new park benches have been promised by DCC to replace the old ones. These should be arriving in September.

We also want to thank all of you who have joined us in helping to clean our parks and public places, and we will continue to hold our Saturday morning monthly clean-ups throughout the year. We usually meet at Christ Church on the first Saturday of each month at 9:30am for coffee and a clean-up. Hope to see you there!

One of Rathgar Residents Association's newest programs includes the development and support of community events at Christ Church. We hope that many of you were able to attend the fantastic Jazz music sessions in May and July, and our second Rathgar Bloomsday in June. We have been pleased by all of our past events and our collaboration with RBA and Christ Church. We are also excited to announce that we will be supporting our second Rathgar Children's Book Festival on Saturday, October 8. Many talented Irish authors will be joining us and engaging with our young people. Mark your calendars for October 8! We will release more details about this exciting event in the next month.

We thank each and every one of you for your assistance in the past and for your efforts in keeping our special village clean and tidy. We look forward to your continued support. Let's Keep Rathgar Beautiful!

Your Association is still concerned at the direction that the planning process is headed. A rushed bill was presented to the Dail in mid July, which would allow the outcome of judicial reviews to be frustrated by *“providing for an effective presumption that the matter can be remitted back to An Bord Pleanála at the commencement of the legal proceedings. The purpose of this is to recognise that errors can be corrected quickly and delays can be avoided. In effect, an appeal, rather than a judicial review challenge, should be the default position in the first instance”*.

This is a further example of government by passing the democratic process in planning.

A review of the Planning acts is also in hand, led by the Attorney General and a bill is due to be published before the end of the year.

The Dublin Democratic Planning Alliance (DDPA) continues to keep an eye on planning legislation.

Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028 Also in hand is the city manager’s draft of the new City Development plan 2022-2028 and your Association will review it and make a further submission to the one made earlier this year.

Bus Connects It is expected that the National Transport Authority will submit its plans in the Autumn to ABB for the proposed Bus Corridor passing through Terenure/Rathgar /Rathmines

Local planning cases

Since the latest report in January last, the planning committee of your Association has reviewed week by week planning applications within the Rathgar Area and also significant planning applications across the city which if approved might set an undesirable precedent for the future of our area.

Below are some of the proposed developments which were reviewed or submissions made by the RRA and decisions made by Dublin City Council and/or An Bord Pleanala

107 Rathgar Road previously O Donovan Butchers. Change of use to Restaurant. **Granted**

14 Coulson Avenue Modifications. Granted

19 Grosvenor Road Modifications: widen gate install sliding gate.
Granted

21 Kenilworth Square N Convert from bed sits to family home: **Granted**

**8/10 Dunville Avenue(protected structure) Open front for carparking:
Refused**

Highfield Nursery site .Highfield Road 120 room Nursing Home: Large number of submissions :Additional information sought by DCC

13 Brighton Road; (protected structure). Modifications to house and build garden room: **Additional Information sought by DCC**

Garville Place (Queen of peace Nursing Home) modify previous approval:
Granted

22 Rathgar Road (**protected structure**) Restore to family home : **Granted**

3 Patrons Church Replace portals (architectural decorative feature) on Leicester Ave side **Pending**

89 Upper Rathmines Road: Change from Restaurant to community use:
Pending

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Rathgar Garden Competition

We were delighted to bring back the garden competition again this year after the “Covid hiatus”. The garden competition runs alongside the Rathgar Horticultural Society gardening competition in Christ Church in July. <https://www.facebook.com/RathgarFlowerShow/>

There are some fabulous garden spaces in Rathgar and maintaining front gardens and balconies can make a huge difference to the enjoyment of the area.

There were 6 categories this year:

The Best Garden in Bloom Award, went to John Alexander, Rostrevor Road.

The judges felt that this garden was a joyful burst of colours, to be enjoyed by people and pollinators alike.

The Specimen Tree Award, went to Audrey Turley, Terenure Road East.

This is a beautiful, large Copper Beech tree. The Association noted with grave concern that this tree is still at risk under the proposed BusConnects plan for this area.

The Best Flower Pots/Containers, went to Jim Trueick, Garville Avenue.

The owner has clearly taken great care to choose lovely potted plants to create a beautiful green and colourful front entryway. The front garden is an excellent example of how plants can be utilized to create beautiful urban gardens.

The Best Small Garden Award, went to Claire Lynch, Grosvenor Road

The judges agreed that the garden is in keeping with the style of the house and has a balance of colour and symmetry.

The Best Large Garden Award, went to Julie Hopkins, Kenilworth Square

This beautiful double-fronted property is perfectly complemented by its charming front garden – with roses climbing around the front door, relaxed and pretty planting and a table and chairs in the sunny spot it feels like an oasis of calm.

The Best Garden Award overall and the Dixon Cup, went to Kate Crone, Kenilworth Square

The judges loved this garden, with its beautiful grasses and soft planting. It had a lovely array of flowers and looked like a proper Victorian Garden. The judges believe that this garden catches the eye and prompts people to stop for a moment of reflection.

This year represents the 50th anniversary of the first presentation of the Dixon Cup in 1972 to Mrs G.B. Savage.

Congratulations to Kate Crone and all the other category winners. It was great to see the gardens of Rathgar looking so well. The attached photographs give a good idea of the work that goes in to maintaining gardens and The Association is grateful to the winners for sharing photographs of their gardens with us.



Trinity College Botanic Gardens

Carrying on the theme of gardens, adjacent to Palmerston Park in Dartry, is a largely unknown botanical gem. Trinity College's botanic garden was set up in 1687 to support the teaching of medicine in the University. It is one of the earliest botanic gardens in the world. In 1806 the garden moved from College Green to Ballsbridge and in 1967 it moved to its present location. Today the garden supports the teaching research and conservation activities of the Botany Department of TCD.

The layout of the gardens.

The arboretum: This area covers three quarters of the garden and contains over 700 trees and shrubs from Europe, East Asia and the Americas. Here you will find many specimen trees such as conifers *Abies Pinsapo* which was discovered in China in the 1940s at the same time as the genus was described from fossil material. Also look out for the long pendulous fruits of the Wingnut

The Walled Garden: This sheltered part contains the ordered beds arranged to display the evolutionary relationship of plants. This area is used for teaching and various research experiments including plant, insect and climate studies

The Irish House: This contains native Irish and other cool temperate species The collection includes important plants of turloughs-a priority habitat for conservation.

The Stove House: Here are mostly tropical species such as ferns, orchids and bromeliads. Many of these plants grow on other plants(epiphytic) and derive moisture and nutrients from the air.

Near the door are a group of plants-Cyperus Papyrus- which is the subject of research for biomass use and its role in methane emissions from tropical wetlands.

The Cycad House: In the arid conditions of this house, you will find a collection of cycad plants from Australia and SE Asia. Cycads are an ancient plant group from prehistoric times.

The Long House: This house features a large collection of insectivorous plants which have adapted to nutrient poor habitats. They survive by trapping and digesting insects.

If you are lucky, you may experience a performance of trapping and consuming an insect. Something that fascinates both young and old.

The garden is home to the Irish Threatened Plant seed bank. The seed bank is an important gene bank and a major focus of the garden's conservation strategy.

As we become more conscious of our environment and its survival, a visit to these gardens should make us reflect. It is worth a visit!

The gardens are open to the public on Monday -Friday and you will find helpful staff to answer your queries.

The logo for 'ALONE' is displayed in white capital letters on a red rectangular background. The letter 'O' is replaced by a white circle with a small dot in the center, resembling a stylized eye or a planet. The background of the entire advertisement features a grayscale image of a person's face, partially obscured by a dark, curved shape that resembles a garden path or a shadow.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE

**CALL OUR NATIONAL SUPPORT LINE ON
0818 222 024 FROM 8AM-8PM, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK**



EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS 2023

It is vital for the ongoing work of your Association that we expand our membership and effectively communicate with members on key issues and to ensure that subscriptions are kept up to date.

As a small group of volunteers, your Committee has been developing plans for 2023 to use email to communicate with members more efficiently, request subscriptions and send out our bi-annual magazine, LINK.

More than three-quarters of our paid-up members currently have email addresses and emailing our members will reduce the administrative work involved in preparing mailings in future.

Emailing will also enable us to communicate from time to time on important matters in between issuing our LINK magazine and subscription letters and envelopes.

In January 2023, we will email members with a subscription letter and LINK and later in the year, a reminder letter with another LINK.

It is important to emphasise that we will continue to deliver letters, reply envelopes and LINK via our Road Reps to those who wish to receive mailings and pay their subs. this way.

Thanks

The Communications Team

Rev. Purvis Campbell

As a community we are the sum of all the people who live and work in Rathgar. Each and everyone one of us have a contribution to make but some will leave an indelible mark for years to come – one such person is Rev. Purvis Campbell of Christ Church Rathgar and we are very sad to announce that Purvis will be retiring in October of this year. His contribution to our village has been enormous, we have so much to thank him for, and we appreciate all that he has done during his 6 years in Rathgar

A couple of committee members just wanted to give their thoughts on the contribution he has made;

““It only takes a spark to get a fire going.” Purvis Cambell, Reverend of Christ Church in Rathgar, was the spark that ignited a new movement within the Rathgar community. His commitment, passion and enthusiasm for bringing Rathgar together has inspired many of the events in the past 2-3 years, including our Saturday morning clean-ups, the community space with tables and benches on the grounds of Christ Church, the new Rathgar Village Sign, our Rathgar Children’s Book Festivals and even our most recent Rathgar Bloomsday Festival. Anyone who has spent a bit of time in Rathgar will recognize the tall, smiling pastor with a friendly word for anyone who crosses his path. You will often find Purvis sitting out at the tables in the Village Square, having his lunch and chatting with the locals. His interest in all people and his desire to make all feel welcome has helped bring the Rathgar community together.

It is also Purvis and his love of music that was the impetus behind the Jazz music nights in Rathgar. He invited some very talented jazz musicians from Ireland and abroad to join our Rathgar residents for some special evenings of music and fun. He will be very much missed.” Christy Carty, RRA.

“I first met Purvis as a result of Busconnects and he was so supportive of the community’s efforts to save Rathgar and in particular the magnificent trees in Christ Church. They are a statement feature of the village and now as a result of Purvis’s influence, under the protection of their boughs and in their dappled light, a focal point of our community has sprung up which is so valued by Rathgar’s residents, businesses and visitors alike. The loss of those majestic trees would be catastrophic for Rathgar in so many ways including loss of habitat for our wildlife, air quality and aesthetically. Purvis has been a great friend to Rathgar and I know he will be missed greatly by all”. Paula Moore, RRA

We wish Purvis and his family well, and we know that his wife, children and grandchildren will enjoy spending more time with him in his retirement.

We hope to see his smiling face at some of our upcoming events.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Several years back we set out to encourage community life in Rathgar. You will have experienced different aspects of this: The Village Square, the noticeboard, concerts, lectures, services for those with special needs, Bloomsday festival, the Book Festival, and Christmas events.

Much of this has been achieved against the background of Covid 19 and the series of lockdowns. We are privileged to have the involvement of Rathgar Residents' Association, Rathgar Business Association, The Friends of St Luke's, Christ Church, Dublin City Council and *An Garda Síochána* (Rathmines)

We have recognised the literary heritage of Rathgar, particularly in James Joyce, and our desire was to develop the areas of art, literature and music. Two of these merge at the beginning of October:

Thursday 6th: *An Evening of Classical Music in Rathgar*
The Aalto Trio

Saturday 8th: *The Rathgar Book Festival for Children*

The list of authors is:

<i>Alan Nolan</i>	<i>Megan Wynne</i>
<i>Oisín McGann</i>	<i>Shane Hegarty</i>
<i>Dave Rudden</i>	<i>Alison Weatherby</i>
<i>Lauren O'Hara</i>	<i>Gill Perdue</i>

These are complementary events. The proceeds of the Classical Concert will go towards the costs of the Book Festival. Please join with us as we celebrate music and literature in Rathgar.

USEFUL LOCAL CONTACTS

City Councillors and local TDs

Councillors

Deirdre Conroy	N/A	deirdre.conroy@dublincity.ie
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Jim O Callaghan	01 618 3134/01 475 8943	jim.ocallaghan@oireachtas.ie

Local Gardai:	Rathmines	Tel: 01 6666700
	Terenure	Tel: 01 6666400

Dublin City Council: problems with litter, potholes, graffiti, abandoned vehicles etc
Go to Dublin City Council website and key in service request and follow instructions
or Tel: (01) 222 2222 or Email customerservices@dublincity.ie

Fixmystreet.ie – a great website to report and get action on litter, pavement and road condition issues graffiti, etc.

Keep up to date:

The Association's website: rathgarresidentsassociation.ie

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/RathgarResidentsAssociation/>

Contact the Association: info@rathgarresidentsassociation.ie

Twitter: @RathgarResident; <https://twitter.com/RathgarResident>