



LINK

• MAGAZINE •



NO.71 JANUARY 2023

- Chairperson's Welcome
- The Snowdrop
- Environmental Report
- How you can help
- "The Villager"
- Planning Report
- Owning a Pet
- Greater Spotted Woodpeckers

restaurant
cocktail bar
delicatessen
events
catering

Bijou

46/47/49 Highfield Rd
info@bijourathgar.ie
Tel: 01-4961518

First of all, on behalf of the RRA and the Committee, Happy New Year to all our members and to all the residents and businesses in the Rathgar area.

As we make our way through Winter and look forward to the Springtime, with longer evenings and warmer weather, our village continues to flourish and go from strength to strength.

The village and surrounding areas' monthly clean-ups are always well supported and are a great way for the community to get together one Saturday a month. It has certainly helped to make the village look neater and we are hoping to make these even more special over the coming year so that even more people can get involved. We have even recently had someone come to the clean-up who was not from the area but was visiting for a short while! Watch out for upcoming dates on the signs and details on social media and our website.

The Rathgar Business Association and Christ Church, in conjunction with the RRA, continue their great work to make the village a better place to shop and spend time in and we thank each of them for their continued support of the village. We encourage the residents to shop locally, so that the village can remain vibrant.

As we eventually move towards the brighter days, we will all look forward to upcoming events in the village, such as the Bloomsday Festival and other events, including those staged in Christ Church.

We will be running the Garden Competition this year again and hope to widen the categories somewhat – more about this later in the year.

Planning issues continue to be important for the area and tied into this are the issues for provision of services and infrastructure, including Bus Connects, which is likely to come before an Bord Pleanála before the end of this year for the Rathgar Area. On the issue of Bus Connects, we as a Committee are always interested to hear what our members' views are on the issue, so please let us know.

As part of our job as a Committee we are tasked with maintaining membership so that the Association is representative of everyone's views. We have a very loyal membership from year to year, we would like to increase these numbers – so if someone moves into the house beside you or if you know a neighbour who may not be a member, let them know about the Association and perhaps encourage them to become a member! So that we have a voice, we need to keep up our good representation of the area. Also, in an effort to be more efficient and environmentally friendly, we are making contact gradually with our membership to update contact details, including email addresses, so that we can communicate in this way - we will of course communicate via paper for anyone who prefers this.

As always, I would also like to thank everyone for their continued support of the Association and for your Membership. Later on, we will be sending out details of our AGM and look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. I would also like to thank each member of the RRA Committee for their continued tireless work and to encourage any willing members to come forward to help with the work of the Association.

Your Committee looks forward to continuing to represent as many of the residents of Rathgar as possible in the coming year.

Peter Doyle,
Chairperson."

The Snowdrop

The Snowdrop

Lone Flower, hemmed in with snows and white as they

But hardier far, once more I see thee bend

Thy forehead, as if fearful to offend,

Like an unbidden guest.

William Wordsworth from 'To a Snow-Drop' (1770-1850) –

January can be a quiet and often dreary month following December's festivities, but we all look forward to the first blooms of Ireland's lovely little Snowdrops.

Gavanthus Nivalus is the scientific name of the Irish species of Snowdrops, from the Greek (gala- milk and anthos-flower). Carl Linnaeus named the genus in 1735. *Nivalis* was added later, and it means "snow". It is known throughout Europe as either the Snowdrop or the Milk Flower.

The plant is native to large parts of Europe, but the first recorded history of their cultivation in Ireland was in the 16th century. Some believe that the monks brought the Snowdrops from Italy into the monasteries in Britain and then on to Ireland. Others describe soldiers from the Crimean War returning home with the bulbs from Turkey. According to Irish folklore, the Snowdrop is meant to mark the end of winter and the beginning of spring.

Snowdrops prefer to grow in shady woodland areas, but you may also find them near streams, on roadsides, hedgerows and other damp areas and where they have naturalised in some counties on the eastern side of Ireland. Many of us in Rathgar will have the lovely little Snowdrops growing in our back gardens.

There are places throughout the country that offer special opportunities to view the beautiful lit Snowdrops in their full glory. From February, Primrose Hill in Dublin opens their gardens for visitors to view their Snowdrops and other winter garden plants. They are meant to be lovely there. And if you'd like to venture further afield, there is often a beautiful blanket of snowdrops this time of year at the Kilmacurragh site of the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland in Wicklow. Their gardens are open to the public in the winter from 9am-4:30pm.

As we start a new year, it's a good time to look back and celebrate the positive changes to the environment and village of Rathgar in 2022. We've now had monthly clean ups for almost 2 years, and we are pleased by the change this has made to the look and feel of Rathgar village. Many of you have seen us meeting at the village square in the grounds of Christ Church on a Saturday morning, and perhaps you have wondered what it's all about. We meet the second Saturday of the month outside the doors of Christ Church, and we each take a bag and either a litter picker or brush/rake and do a quick clean up of the village, the parks and the surrounding roads. The clean up times start at 9:30am, and we generally finish by 11am. Bijou often generously sponsors refreshments, so we're able to have a coffee or tea with our clean up. Clean ups are a great time to meet other Rathgar residents and learn a little about our upcoming programs. Of course, we would love to have more volunteers! The more people who attend, the easier it is to get the village looking its best! We are also thankful to Christ Church for giving us access to the village square with tables and benches sponsored by the community, and we do feel that it's important to keep that space tidy and welcoming for all.

We also hope you've noticed some of the positive additions to Rathgar in the past year. Progress has been made on several fronts. We have new benches in Fairfield Park (located on Highfield Road), and the fence around the park has been repaired and repainted. We are also happy as a community to be using our Rathgar Village Sign inside the grounds of Christ Church. It's always worth checking there for village updates or details on new events. Some work has also begun on the grounds of Herzog Park, and we're looking forward to additional refurbishment of that area in the upcoming year.

We'd also like to acknowledge the beautiful work done on Bijou's Deli and the SuperValu supermarket in Rathgar Village. Both businesses are an asset to our community, and it's a pleasure for the village to have them. Both of these businesses have sponsored and supported our efforts to enhance the village of Rathgar. We look forward to offering them our patronage in 2023.

Christy Carty
Environmental Officer

How you can help.....

WHAT CAN YOU AS A RESIDENT DO FOR THE RATHGAR AREA?

As residents of such a beautiful part of Dublin city, with it's historic streetscapes and buildings, it is useful for us all to know what we can do for our village from time to time, here are some suggestions:

- Come to the RRA organised clean-ups once a month.
- Keep the pathway outside your house/premises free of leaves and litter.
- Organise with your neighbours to do a road clean-up every now and then.
- Keep your hedges cut at the appropriate times of the year.
- In Summer, plant some flowers in your front garden.
- Sponsor a bench for the benefit of a green area in Rathgar Village.
- Shop locally, so that the village remains vibrant and busy.
- Help out at the festivals or activities in the Village.
- Write an article of interest in Link!
- Get involved!

If people don't know where to start, the Association are only too happy to point them in the right direction, to get the required support with clean ups.

%%

The Villager

From the first school days to present ways
the granite steps have always greeted,
my arrival to the grass I graze;
this throne where I'm forever seated.
Beyond the door; the family's resting,
while up the road, the business booming.
All my needs in this little nesting,
little village, so unassuming.

Mizzoni's chips have students stopping,
while Coman's bar keeps elders smiling.
The Deli caters lunchtime shopping –
our custom keeps their business thriving.
This little village that entertains
all its residents to dusk from dawn,
will feed my youth into old age
that's why I call this village home.

R. McSweeney

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 2022, 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 has been published in December.

The Association has made representations to our local representatives (Dail and Senate) about some of the more undemocratic proposals such as refusing the rights of residents associations to seek judicial reviews of An Bord Pleanala decisions.

Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028 The plan was approved by the city councillors and came into effect on the 14th December 2022

Bus Connect It is expected that the National Transport Authority will submit its plans in the spring 2023 to ABB for the proposed Bus Corridor passing through Terenure/Rathgar /Rathmines. Some properties on Terenure Road east have been served with compulsory purchase orders by the NTA.

Local planning cases

Since the latest report in August 2022 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

Highfield Nursery site .Highfield Road 120 room Nursing Home: Large number of submissions.

Permission granted but now under appeal

60 Brighton Road: Protected structure: Extension: Granted

11 Charleville Road Rathmines. A second mews development in the rear garden. Refused

56 Orwell Road: Demolish and rebuild. Granted

Supervalu Rathgar. Replace signs: Granted

162 Rathgar Rd: Protected structure Extension and refurbishment: Granted

65, Highfield Road: Side extension: Refused by DCC 1st party appeal to ABP

Swan Centre Rathmines Build over: 120 bedroom hotel: Refused by DCC 1st party appeal to ABP

Rear 138 Rathgar Rd Mews development: Refused DCC

1 Cowper Rd: Open front as drive way: Decision awaited

To Brighten your January -

Some quirky facts & important facts about your pets

(with thanks to *Renvyle Cat & Dog Rescue*)

Canine facts

Puppies don't open their eyes until they are about two weeks old

Dogs have twice as many muscles for moving their ears as people

Dalmatians, with those cute black and white spots, are actually born white

The greyhound is the fastest dog on earth

Newfoundlands have webbed feet making them great swimmers and divers

Feline facts

Cats spend 15% of their day grooming themselves and a massive 70% of the day sleeping

A cat's tail helps it to balance when it is on the move especially when it is jumping.

Cats can see six times better than we do in the dark.

Cats can use their whiskers to help them find things in the dark.

Cats rub against you to put their smell on you to tell other cats you belong to them

A group of kittens is called a kindle

With the absolute explosion in people owning pets over the last three years, it's important to be aware of the key facts of pet ownership

The Ten commandments of pet ownership

- 1 Get an annual health assessment and vaccinations
- 2 Feed them the right type and quantity of food and always provide a full water bowl
- 3 Get them neutered at 3-6 months
- 4 Ensure you have Pet health Insurance
- 5 Prevent fleas ticks and worms
- 6 Train your pet well
- 7 Get them micro chipped
- 8 Stay on top of their dental care
- 9 Keep your pet slim fit and mobile with plenty of exercise
- 10 Have fun!

Finally, we have a piece from a local resident on the Greater Spotted Woodpecker.

Eyes Open

It is unfortunate sometimes how the name of something can detract from its importance. A case in point is the Greater Spotted Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos major*. The terms Greater Spotted and Lesser Spotted anything have become synonymous with an almost nerdy obsession with the often maligned hobby of birdwatching. However that maybe, Ireland and specifically the east coast and more specifically Wicklow and south county Dublin are at the centre of a natural recolonisation by the Greater Spotted Woodpecker.

When I was a child the only woodpecker in Ireland was to be found on the telly, his name was Woody, he was great fun and a little bit exotic. Woody is modelled on the either “critically endangered” or “presumed extinct” Ivory billed woodpecker of the southern USA and Cuba and habitat loss has been the cause of its demise.

In Ireland we are seeing the reverse occurring. From bones reportedly uncovered in the Edenvale caves in Co. Clare we know that the greater Spotted Woodpecker was historically a breeding resident and it is believed to have become extinct here due to the deforestation of the 17th and 18th centuries but fortunately its range was not confined to Ireland and it continued to prosper in Britain and mainland Europe.

It is not clear if widespread planting of forestry as a commercial crop across Ireland is contributing to the spread but it has coincided with a rapidly increasing population of the species in Britain and the woodpecker has crossed the Irish sea apparently from a number of different regions of Britain according to genetic analysis and comparisons.

It makes sense that if the bird was dependent on oak forest the clearances referred to above would account for its demise, but sources agree that the bird is very adaptable so possibly as the sitka and other fir crops reach maturity they are providing a usable habitat for the Greater Spotted Woodpecker.

In the last 15 years there have been recorded sightings of the bird from practically every county on the island with successful breeding recorded in at least 6 counties. Part of the population increase in Britain is being put down to the increasing use of garden bird feeders by the woodpeckers and certainly many of the pictures I've seen of woodpeckers here are taken on bird feeders.

So keep an eye out for this eye-catching blackbird-sized red and black and white beauty in your garden and local parks. With confirmed sightings in Stllorgan over the last few years it's only a matter of time before it turns up in Dublin 6.

There are many suitable trees in the parks along the Dodder and elsewhere that would provide perfect nesting habitat and as with many of the other wonderful species like the Dipper and Treecreeper that are already present there it may just be a question of looking for them, and very helpfully they have their giveaway woodpecking drumming sound to help locate them.

By

Mark McDowell

USEFUL LOCAL CONTACTS

City Councillors and local TDs

Councillors

Deirdre Conroy	N/A	deirdre.conroy@dublincity.ie
Carolyn Moore	N/A	carolyn.moore@dublincity.ie
Pat Dunne	0877764422	pat.dunne1@dublincity.ie
Tara Deacy	0879389904	
Anne Feeney	0872955256	anne.feeney@dublincity.ie
Mary Freehill	0868126378	marycfreehill@gmail.com

TDs

Chris Andrews	087 2851515	chris.andrews@oireachtas.ie
Eamon Ryan	01 618 3898	eamon.ryan@oireachtas.ie
Jim O Callaghan	01 618 3134/01 475 8943	jim.ocallaghan@oireachtas.ie
Ivana Bacik	01 6183136	ivana.bacik@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

LMO@dublincity.ie - to get action on litter and leaves.

Keep up to date:

The Association's website: rathgarresidentsassociation.ie

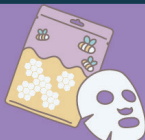
Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/RathgarResidentsAssociation/>

Contact the Association: info@rathgarresidentsassociation.ie

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



Roches Chemists



**SKINCARE
CONSULTATIONS**



**OPEN 7 DAYS
A WEEK**



**MEDICATION ADVICE &
BLISTER PACKING
AVAILABLE**

ABOUT ROCHE'S CHEMISTS

Roches Chemist is your local chemist in the heart of the Rathmines & Dartry areas.

Our pharmacy prides itself on our quick prescription dispensing service, along with providing professional and friendly advice.

Along with our prescription services, we also carry a wide selection of skincare products including: La Roche Posay, Vichy, Avene, NeoStrata, Uriage, SVR, The Inkey List, CeraVe, and Nuxe- and much more.

Furthermore, we also stock a huge variety of vitamins to help you feel and look your best, inside and out, throughout the year



**8.30-7.30 MON- FRI
9.00-6.30 SATURDAY
11.00-1.30 SUNDAY**

163/165 Upper Rathmines Road, Dublin 6
014972693

rochespharmacy.rathmines@gmail.com
WWW.ROCHESPHARMACY.IE