



Rathgar

Residents Association

LINK •MAGAZINE•

No. 72 June 2023

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The Editor thanks all those who contributed articles and information for LINK.

We are grateful to the local firms in Rathgar who support the RRA by taking advertisements in LINK.

Special thanks to Léan McMahon who did the design and layout of LINK in its new A4 format.



Bloomsday festivities in Rathgar Village

Saturday 16th June 2023

Photograph by @shamrockone

See more inside... @WeloveRathgar_Village

A Note from the RRA Chair, Peter Doyle

I hope everyone is enjoying our Summer weather!

Your Committee has been particularly occupied during the past six months with Busconnects, ably informed and led by **Paula Moore**, Committee member.

Paula has tracked the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Busconnects developments and devoted considerable time and effort to guiding the Committee on its response on behalf of members.

You will have received a copy of the letter Paula prepared in May. On 17th June 2023, she submitted to An Bórd Pleanála, on behalf of the RRA, a six-page document outlining our views on the proposed routing of buses through Rathgar and adjoining areas. A copy of the submission is available on our website.

We had a very productive meeting with representatives of Dublin City Council on 15th March 2023. Among the items discussed were Herzog Park and its improvement, the new 'Welcome to Rathgar' signs, shop-front improvements, RRA Garden Competition, footpaths, graffiti, and many more items. It was agreed such meetings take place at six monthly intervals and we are following up with DCC regularly.

Our AGM on 23rd March in St Patricks Hall was a successful public meeting attended by over a hundred residents and several city councillors. I made a request for more people to give some time to the Committee – all voluntary, doing significant work on behalf of the citizenry of Rathgar.

We have had very successful monthly road/street clean-ups in the past six months organised by Committee members **Christy Carty** and **Ursula Budd**. We encourage people to join them.

Maura Byrne, our Rathgar Business Association Committee member, provided shops in Rathgar with a laminated copy of our letter to the NTA about Busconnects for display in their windows.

We have over 20 **RRA Road Representatives** who do sterling work for the Association, distributing envelopes and the LINK newsletter to a wide audience in Rathgar.

Paddy Marron scrutinizes all planning applications in Rathgar and adjoining areas. We make appropriate submissions, where necessary.

The RRA is encountering significant challenges and needs all the support it can get. I would encourage any households who have not yet paid their sub., to renew their membership of RRA and encourage your neighbours to join and work with us to improve and enhance Rathgar.

Thank you.

Peter Doyle, Chair RRA

Rathgar Horticultural Society 67th Annual Flower Show



Christ Church Rathgar
Saturday 8th July, 2023, 3.00-5.00pm

Admission: Adults €3.00; Children Free

Entry forms & Schedules available from
plantdesignbyhilary@gmail.com or **086 813 2433**
Follow us on **Facebook**

This traditional show is the last of its type in South Dublin. It is a fun and friendly competition to display garden produce and home baking in the following categories:

- Flowers and shrubs
- Roses
- Violas and pansies
- Pot plants
- Floral art
- Fruit
- Vegetables and Herbs
- Cookery section
- Outdoor hanging baskets and Plant containers



We would like to encourage you to enter. Multiple entries are welcome.

Please come along on **Saturday 8th July 2023, 3.00pm** to see the exhibits and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with neighbours and competitors.

Summer 'coffee and clean-up'

Saturday 8th July 2023
Rathgar Village Square



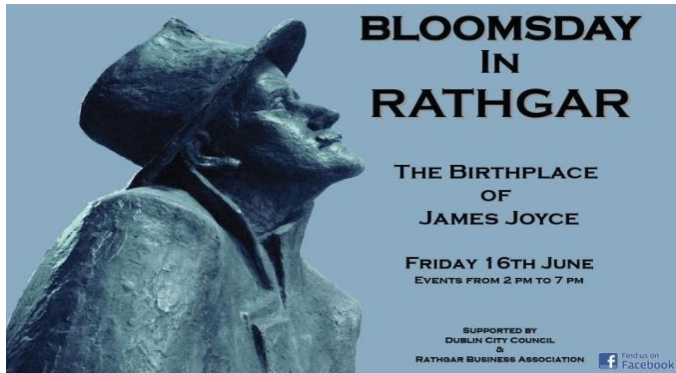
The big Summer 'coffee and clean-up' will be held on **Saturday 8th July 2023** in Rathgar Village Square (Christ church).

Check the Rathgar Village Square for posters with details.

We love Rathgar Village

Check out our Community Organization Page on Facebook and Instagram @WeloveRathgar_Village

A super day in **Rathgar Village** on Saturday 16th June 2023, as we all celebrated #bloomsday2023... Thank you to @shamrockone and @tarynbarlingphotography for some super shots of locals and visitors enjoying the summer sun and festivities in Rathgar.
@WeloveRathgar_Village



Let's Keep Rathgar Beautiful

As the weather improves, we find our lovely green spaces in Rathgar are being used more frequently. We would like to remind everyone to please remove your trash and be respectful of these spaces.

Our special **Rathgar Village Square** with picnic tables is on the private grounds of Christ Church. Dublin

City Council does not help with the clean up of this area (as it is a private space), so it is important that we as a community keep it tidy.



The biggest problem thus far has been pizza boxes because they don't fit inside the bins. If you bring a takeaway pizza to the Village Square, please take the box away with you.

Sadly, graffiti on the picnic tables has become an issue. We ask you to remind your young people that the grounds of the church need to be respected.

Musings on the humble street post box

Written by Paddy Marron

When you drop your letter into your local street post box, whether on Orwell Road, Bushy Park Road, or Rathgar Road, have you ever wondered about its origin? When you dropped your letter into the slot, did you muse on why the letters V R, ER V11, GV are stamped boldly on some, while others carry the later symbol P&T or An Post.

The idea of the street post box started off in England in 1850s, shortly after the introduction of the penny post in 1840. Introduced by Anthony Trollope, novelist, who was also worked at the Post Office, after he had seen the idea in France. The plan was to make it simpler for people to use the post and avoid travelling to the Post Office.

Anthony Trollope worked for the Post Office in Ireland and lived here for 18 years. It was at Drumsna, Leitrim that he wrote his first novel, 'The Macdermots of Ballycloran' (1847) and got much inspiration for the 46 novels that followed.

The Macdermots of Ballycloran



Anthony Trollope

Ireland got our first post boxes in 1855, in Belfast, Ballymena, and Dublin. Initially, English post boxes were painted green, so that they would 'pleasingly' fit into the landscape. Later, in 1874, it was decided that they fitted too well in the landscape and didn't stand out enough. So, red was chosen. Hence, 'Pillarbox Red'.

Ashworth Pillar Box

The oldest pillar box in Ireland was the Ashworth Pillar Box, an example of which can be found in the National Museum at Collins Barracks.



When did our post boxes change colour, throwing off the redcoat and resuming the green coat? Well, unsurprisingly, shortly after the formation of our new state in 1922.

As a clear statement of separateness, Michael Collins ordered that the post box in Palace Street, then painted red with its Crown and E VII embossing, to be painted green.

Those boxes that were placed between 1855 and 1874 were first green, then red, and then green again after 1922. Mind you, around the country you can still spot the relics of the original red paint where time and Weather has worn off its green overcoat.

In recent years, An Post has removed a number of post boxes from our local roadsides on Rathgar Avenue and Zion Road. Their belief is that letter-writers should be able to walk a distance of up to one kilometre to their nearest box.



As a final thought to ponder, why are post box slots horizontal rather than vertical?

From London to Rathgar

By the Veale Family: Ronan, Stephanie, Isabel (7), Chloe (5)

We moved to Rathgar (Frankfort Avenue) in late 2017, returning from living in London. When we moved back to Ireland, we wanted to retain some of the city feel we enjoyed in London, reduce our commute to work in town, and be close to excellent choice of shops, restaurants, parks, and so on. Rathgar fitted the bill exactly.

I always liked the thought of living in a Victorian or Georgian redbrick. The house we live in was renovated by the previous owners who preserved it while giving it a modern feel.

While we have no family living close by – we hail from Howth (Ronan) and Louth (Stephanie) respectively – my mother grew up on Orwell Road and my father in Glenayr Road, off Bushy Park Road, and he still remembers as a student cycling up the mile-long Rathgar Road on wintry evenings.

The only downside for us is we're a bit away from the coast, both of us having grown up beside the sea. But we're still not too far away to head there at weekends.

Alternatively we can get up to the Dublin mountains at the weekend in the car or on the bike.

The proximity makes Dublin such a liveable city versus London and the international feel to the area with lots of different nationalities in the area or as classmates with our two girls in school locally.

Since we moved here, the area is constantly evolving, it's great to see lots of other young families moving in, there is a strong feel of community and we have made lots of new friends through the two girls' school.

It's great to see the Rathgar Resident Association work to continually improve the area and help address the concerns we all have of the potential negative impact on the area of the 'Bus Connect' plans.

Rathgar Butcher Retires

Written by John McMahon

After over 60 years in the business, Anthony Byrne, Tony, victualler and butcher in Rathgar, is retiring and his shop is For sale.

Tony started his butcher career working with his father in 1962. He learned the trade on the job. At that time, the Byrnes owned an abattoir in Terenure and they trucked cattle from the North Circular Road market to Terenure, before they transferred the meat to the butcher shop in Rathgar.

There were seven children in the Byrne family, five girls and two boys. From a young age, Tony understood he was destined to succeed his father in the business, even though a younger brother was born 12 years after himself.

He attended De La Salle Brothers school in Churchtown. After sitting his Leaving Cert, he started to work with his father. His father continued in the business until shortly before he died in 1994.

The Byrnes also kept sheep in a field in Rathgar village, behind what is now Supervalu. When new regulations brought this to a close, Tony recalls the field provided an opportunity for local youth, Ulick O'Connor to practice his pole vaulting, subsequently becoming Irish schoolboy pole-vaulting champion. Tony recalls Ulick boarding one of the old buses from the rear carrying with him his pole. Far too long to be accommodated on the bus, he asked the Bus Conductor to hold the pole while he ran upstairs to the upper deck, opened a window, then ran back down, collected his pole and pushed it out the window for the duration of his journey.

Nearly every retail shop in Rathgar has changed hands since Tony

started his career. He recalls in the 1960s, two sisters owned the two pubs now owned by Coman's and The 108. There was a branch of Hayes Cunningham Robinson pharmacy, one of many throughout the city, and a branch of Gilbey's, wine merchants. Two sisters, the Misses Madden, ran the Post Office in Rathgar.

Furniture, televisions, hardware, vegetables were sold in small shops where Supervalu and Bijou are located now.

Tony remembers in the 1950s, 'Lady Hogan' a cross-dresser who used to cycle around the area. And Bang Bang of Inchicore occasionally boarded a No. 15 bus and fired his imaginary pistol at startled Rathgar passengers. He recalls the tram tracks and their lethal effect if a bicycle wheel got caught in one.

Opposite his shop, there was a Dentist practice, run by a father and son. Tony recalls they charged 10 shillings for an extraction and £3/10 shillings for a filling. "That made people's minds up awful fast" he says.

Recalling some of the activities started during the Covid pandemic at Christ Church, opposite his shop, Tony was impressed with Rev Purvis Campbell's initiatives to

open up the grounds and install and maintain outdoor seating.

Tony says, "I enjoyed dealing with customers and had different generations of the same families come to buy their meat here. But times are changing., a lot of younger customers don't know the different cuts of meat in the way their parents might have. I think they cook less and use ready-made meals and deliveries instead. There are far fewer butchers now than when I started in the 1960s... but that's progress I suppose".

Tweet 28 Mar 2020, **Richard Moore** @Moorerichardpr

Who claimed bailing twine had no use in greater Dublin area? The capital's best butcher aka victualler Tony Byrne and his assistant Davy provide social distancing in Rathgar
[#CoronaLockdown](#) [#Covid_19](#)
[#Dublin](#)





restaurant
cocktail
bar
delicatessen
events
catering

Bijou

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

Garville Avenue, 1975-2023

Written by Eda Sagarra



The Garville Avenue, where my husband, eight-year-old daughter, Mireia, and I came from Manchester to live almost half a century ago, was a very different place from the one we know today. Then, typical bed-sitter land, the battered or abandoned bikes scattered across Garville's front gardens are today replaced by polished BMWs and Mercedes. (Have well-meaning government regulations banishing the often squalid bed-sits exacerbated the housing crisis for those of slender means?)

At £31,000 no. 30 must seem like an impossible bargain nowadays. Not so then. House prices in Manchester were half those of Dublin, Irish mortgage rates some 20%. When I, now the breadwinner, received my first monthly salary cheque from TCD on a cold October morning, followed next day by the heating bill, the difference was precisely £20. Off with the heating, on with three jumpers, woolly vests and long-johns. Our regular diet of thick vegetable soups kept out the worst of the cold for the next months. Salary inflation eventually

took care of our financial problems.

All our children played on the pavements, even in winter, often accompanied by young Tom's donkey, who lived in the back garden of no. 31. Today, denizens of the Avenue tend to assure the safety of theirs behind impressive electronic gates. Everyone knew everyone, or, if they didn't, Mary Lennon (1932-2023) of no. 23 ensured they did. When one of the regular winter power cuts took place, Mary would produce a wonderful stew on the Aga of her ever-hospitable kitchen and Al Lennon would dispatch their daughters Ann and Kathryn with Mireia to deliver steaming plates to elderly neighbours.

But few properties could boast the notoriety of our next-door neighbour's at no. 32, a 'safe house' for the IRA. This we only discovered years later when Mireia, off-school, was - to her great delight - woken by a Guard in search of the kidnapped Jennifer McGuinness: Wrong house. This duly 'sorted', not long after I was summoned to court as witness to the suspect who had stolen my wallet and caught using my credit card. Butter wouldn't melt in the mouth of the pretty young cashmere-twin-setted charmer, evidently the chief drug runner for the Rathmines/Rathgar drug distribution centre: no. 32! Nor was that the end. One Friday I was summoned home as flames were issuing from next-door's window beside my study. A recent tenant, an elderly arsonist, had eluded her carers and was indulging her favourite pastime. Kind nuns and the fire brigade 'rescued' the unfortunate and no. 32 became 'respectable'.

In one regard Garville Avenue was 'special': 'The real Taoiseach', Jack Lynch, lived with his wife Máirín (pictured) in the frugal comfort of no. 21, Lisieux (no central-heating here). Exemplary neighbours, they would regularly invite us all round for Christmas drinks.



Nor did Jack, courtesy incarnate, fail to attend Mrs O'Gorman-Quinn's annual Stephen's Day reception at no. 26 on the eve of his departure at 4.00am to negotiate Ireland's entry to the single European market. As a former debutante presented at court to King Edward VII in 1909, attested in her photo in full regalia, our hostess received us all 'most graciously'.



Read more about Eda Sagarra's memories in her recently published memoir, *Living With My Century* (2022), Lilliput Press.

Local Book store in Rathgar:
Papermint Store, Terenure Road
East, Rathgar

The Mighty Yew

Written by Christy Carty

While many residents in Rathgar and Terenure are learning the latest details of the current Bus Connects plan, we still have trees within our village that are literally “on the chopping block”. As we know how much the trees of the area do to offer enormous benefits to Rathgar, we decided to explore the history and Ireland’s connection with one of the special trees of the area, the yew tree.

As you may be aware, Terenure (Irish: Tír an Iúir) literally means 'land of the yew tree'. The belief is that the village at one point had many of these beautiful old trees lining its streets.

Today, there is only one left. You’ll find it outside 60 Terenure Road East, in front of Beaumont House. It is one of a few truly magnificent trees in our area and it is worth learning more about this special Irish icon.



The Yew tree is estimated to be 5,000 years old, one of the oldest trees in Europe. Since pre-Christian times, it has been associated with the eternal, often appearing in cemeteries and Abbeys. It is said that Druids made their wands from the wood of the Yew.



In Irish cemeteries, there will typically be two old Yews guarding the entrance to the space.

When Co. Mayo was carved out of the province of Connaught in 1556, it took its name from a small Abbey and village in the south east of the county – a place called “Maigh Eó” (pronounced Mayo and meaning “plain of the yew trees”). If you look around Ireland today, you will find many towns, villages and townlands with the Irish version of the word “Yew” somewhere in their name, e.g., Youghal in Co. Cork.

The Irish word for Yew made its way into many Irish first names, tribes and surnames. One Irish boy’s name stands out in particular: ‘Eoghan’ dates from pre-Christian times and means “born of the Yew tree”.



Eoghan was a popular name in ancient Ireland – held by many leaders and warriors of the time. It worked its way into the names of powerful tribes as well as placenames across the land. There was the “Eoghnachta” tribe of Munster – out of which came the McCarthy, O’Sullivan, O’Donoghue, Moriarty, O’Keeffe and O’Callaghan families, to name a few. Then, we had the “Cenél Eoghain” tribe in the north, across modern Counties Tyrone and Derry.

In literature and folklore, the Yew tree has evil associations due to the poisonous nature of the leaves and berries. It appears in numerous tales, beautifully described by Niall Mac Coitir in his book “Ireland’s Trees”, where he says “paradoxically, as well as being a tree of sanctuary, the yew tree is associated with war”.

From tales of warriors evading capture by eating the berries to using the berries as poison in Shakespeare’s Macbeth, this tree is the stuff of legends:

*“Gall of goat, and slips of yew
Silver’d in the moon’s eclipse”.*

So, as you walk, cycle, or drive along, take time to stop and appreciate our very own mighty Yew tree on Terenure Road East.

Heritage Trail, Jewish Dublin

Stratford College TY students have launched a Jewish Dublin interactive heritage trail, outlining areas in the city that traditionally had close links to the Jewish community, from businesses that operated along Clanbrassil Street to the Bretzel Bakery in Portobello.

Created as part of the JACI (Jewish Arts and Culture Ireland) programme, there is a video guide and map available to download. A great historical walk to do over the holidays!

<https://www.stratfordcollege.ie/content/files/Stratford-Map.pdf?v=1680089554>



The Art of Beekeeping

Written by Orla Devane



I consider August the beginning of the beekeeping year when the honey is taken off the hives. A decent Autumn will give the bee a nice crop of honey. The bees are fed syrup and treated for the varroa mite that arrived in this country in 1998.

The hives are bedded down for the winter: roofs are sealed and mouse guards are put in place. In December and January, the hives are checked for food and a packet of fondant is given (like the icing that goes on a cake) to carry them over until Spring.



Over Autumn and Winter, there is a lot of tidying and cleaning to be done for the following Spring. Getting rid of old frames, and preparing new ones, and melting and filtering the old wax that can make a few candles for the festive season.

As Spring arrives, the queen bee lays more eggs. Only one queen per hive. As flowers appear, the bees collect pollen (protein for the bees), nectar, and propolis (antiseptic) sticky glue from the trees.

The queen gives off a pheromone (scent) that keeps all the workers happy. But as the colony builds up, this pheromone will not be spread as easily and the workers prepare for swarming. Swarming is when new queen cells are prepared by the workers.

The queen lays an egg, fertilises it, and it hatches on day three. It is only fed royal jelly. This is what makes her a queen rather than a female worker bee.

On day nine, the queen cell is sealed over and the old queen is pushed out of the hive. She goes off in search of a new home, bringing with her two-thirds of the flying bees. The new queen will emerge on day 16 and in five or six days she goes on her mating flights.

Drones mate in mid-afternoon. Only the fittest and strongest will mate. By autumn, the drones are not required and are pushed out of the hive to die.

Isn't nature fascinating... and brutal?

Irish honey

Pure Irish honey has a unique flavour and aroma that can only be produced by Irish bees collecting nectar from a diverse range of sources.

The increase in the number of flowers in spring and summer can result in excess honey. Beekeepers can add boxes on top of one another to store the honey.

The water content is high at this stage. It is stored in the wax honeycomb and mixed with enzymes until the water content reduces to 18%.

The bees protect it with a seal of wax.

The honey can be spun out in a honey extractor for runny honey or cut from the frame as cut comb.



Did you know..?

There are 100 bee species in Ireland:

- The honeybee
- 21 species of bumblebee
- 78 species of solitary bees



Pollination

Bees are the most important pollinator of crops and native plant species in Ireland, including apples, strawberries, raspberries, tomatoes, peppers, blackcurrants, courgettes, pumpkins.

Pollination insects are declining at an alarming rate due to several factors, namely pesticide misuse, rapid transfer of pests and diseases, suburban development, changing crop patterns, clearing of natural habitat and planting of exotic plants to replace native species



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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, Unage, SVR, The Inkey List, CeraVe, and Nuxe- and much more.

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

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014972693

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

Planning Report: June 2023

Written by Paddy Marron

The Government, earlier this year, approved the draft Planning and Development Bill after an extended consultation process. This extensive Bill, if enacted will provide sweeping changes to the current planning system. The main elements of change are:

- Amending ministerial power so that the Minister can enforce greater cohesion at local and regional level.
- Amending life span and focus of Local Development Plans.
- Requiring Local Development Plans to more strategic.
- Mandatory time limits for all consent/refusal processes.
- Changes to the Judicial Review procedures.
- Major overhaul of An Bórd Pleanála.

The Government hopes to have the legislation in place before the Autumn.

Busconnects. The National Transport Authority has now submitted its plans to An Bórd Pleanála for the Bus Connects Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City Centre Corridors passing through Terenure, Rathgar, and Rathmines with a closing date for submission 20th June 2023.

All members of the Rathgar Residents Association (RRA) should have received in early June, an advisory letter from their Committee spelling out some of the implications for our area.

Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028. The plan was approved by the city councillors and came into effect on the 14th December 2022. Some of the content may need to change when the new Planning Act is passed into legislation.

Local planning cases

Since the latest report in January 2023, the RRA planning committee 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 that were reviewed or submissions made by the RRA with decisions made by Dublin City Council and/or An Bórd Pleanála:

34/37 Richmond Street: (5-story office block to the rear of Portobello House -Protected Structure)
Refused by DCC, appealed to ABB by 1st party

Dropping Well pub car park: Coffee stall. Permission granted by DCC to retain for 4 years

Rear 27/29 Rathgar Avenue: Demolish workshop and build four houses (one of a number of applications which were declared invalid)

31 Orwell Road (Washerwomans Lane): additional information sought by DCC on changes to original plans.

53 Terenure Road East (Protected Structure): Permission granted by DCC for off street parking

1 Cowper Road: Permission refused by DCC for off street car parking.

65 Highfield Road: Single-storey family unit and closing off two garage entrances on Templemore Avenue was granted by DCC. An earlier proposal in 2022 for a much larger development to side and rear which was refused by DCC still awaits a decision by ABP on a 1st party appeal.

City Councillors, local TDs, Gardaí

Councillors

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Local Gardaí

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 with the RRA

<https://rathgarresidentsassociation.ie>



Enquiries:

info@rathgarresidentsassociation.ie



Twitter: @OfficialRathgar

Join the RRA

We would like to invite you to join or renew your membership of the Rathgar Residents Association (RRA).

RRA Annual Membership Subscription:
Full €25.00 Concession €15.00

Please contact us or visit our website www.rathgarresidentsassociation.ie if you would like information about the RRA and if you would like to join any of the activities in our local area.

RRA Committee 2023

Peter Doyle - Chair

Paula Moore – Vice Chair and Busconnects coordinator

Cliona Mullen – Hon Treasurer

Paddy Marron – Planning

Ursula Budd - Environment

Christy Carty – Environment

Laoise Uí Aodha de Brún – Marketing

John McMahon – Membership

Katie Ryan – Committee Member

Marie O'Reilly – Committee Member

Maura Byrne – RRA liaison with the RBA

If you would like to join the RRA Committee or volunteer to help with our 'one-off' events, we would be delighted to hear from you....

Please do get in touch.