



Rathgar Residents Association

LINK

MAGAZINE

Summer

No. 75 Summer 2025



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Note from RRA Chair, *Christy Cart*y

It's always wonderful to write for the Summer edition of our Link Magazine. Rathgar shows off its real charm when our roads are lined with trees in full leaf and flowers in bloom. We love celebrating Rathgar's beautiful summer gardens, and we hope you were able to join us at the Rathgar Flower Show in July. Here are some of our achievements so far in 2025...

Growing RRA Committee



We are pleased to announce that our Committee has grown to 15 hardworking and dedicated volunteers. This expansion has allowed us to engage more frequently with our community, and we were pleased to meet with many of you at our AGM, monthly clean ups, and Rathgar Flower Show. Nicky Ashe is our new Membership Officer, taking over from John McMahon who continues to compile LINK Magazine.

Rathgar Security and Engagement with Gardaí...

The RRA regularly meets with our Terenure and Rathmines Gardai to update them on security concerns in the area. We also ask our residents to report anything of concern directly to the Gardai. The Gardai are working with us to bring in additional support for the area, but our community reports are important in helping them allocate appropriate resources. We would suggest that our members join a local road WhatsApp group, as our residents are good at alerting each other of local concerns.

Village Beautification and Repairs

Following several written reports from the RRA and regular engagement with DCC, we are pleased with a number of important upgrades in the area. Resurfacing and extensive work have been carried out on roads and footpaths at Winton, Garville, Oaklands, Frankfort, and Grosvenor Roads (below). Several others are scheduled for resurfacing this year, including Auburn Villas.

THEN...



NOW



You may have noticed the newly-planted flower pots in and outside of Christ Church, new flowers for our village sign flowerbeds, and new large pots on Orwell Road.

We are also anticipating work to be completed in Herzog Park this year. DCC has put the project out to tender.



AGM: Our AGM in March was well attended.

We were pleased to have Cllrs Fiona Connolly and Patrick Kinsella join us, along with our TD's Ivana Bacik, Eoghan Hayes, and Jim O'Callaghan (Minister for Justice, Home Affairs, and Migration). This year we have worked with our local Councillors and TD's in addressing concerns raised about Kenilworth Square and Rathmines Post Office.

RRA Gardens & Shopfronts Competition

The 69th Rathgar Horticultural Society (RHS) Flower Show was held on Saturday 5th July 2025 in Christ Church, Rathgar. Some of the winning blooms and flower arrangements are shown here (right):



The event also saw the announcement of results of the RRA Best Garden & Shopfront Competition 2025. We are delighted that many of our local businesses sponsored this competition again...



Owner 99b,
Fiona Mullins,
with Jane
Mullett, RRA

RRA Best Gardens & Shopfronts Competition 2025

List of Winners (& Sponsors):

1. Best Garden in Bloom: 23 Victoria Road (Sp: Quality Cleaners)
2. Best Front Door: 50 Rathgar Road (Sp: The Vintry)
3. Best Window Box: 54 Frankfort Avenue (Sp: Orwell Road Restaurant)
4. Best Small Garden: 12 Wesley Avenue (Sp: 99b)
5. Best Large Garden: 19 Villiers Road (Sp: Samadhi Centre)
6. Best Specimen Tree: Kensington, Upper Garville Road (Sp: Anna May Floristry)
7. Best Overall Garden: 12 Wesley Road (Sp: Mehek Restaurant)
8. Best Shopfront: 99b (Sp: Bijou Café)
9. Best Improved Shopfront: Anna May Floristry (Sp: Fat Cat Café)

Rathgar Summer Party: Saturday 12th July 2025



Maud Gonne's 'scandalous' Battle at Coulson Avenue

On a summer's day in 1903, Coulson Avenue in Rathgar Village found itself in the middle of a rather unexpected political protest. It was July 1903, and King Edward VII had planned a visit in hopes of strengthening his ties with Ireland. Many Nationalists were opposed to a royal visit, and the King's visit sparked a month of national protests.

On this day, **Maud Gonne**, who lived at 25 Coulson Avenue, was returning from protesting the King's visit. She and her political allies had posted hundreds of posters around Dublin City Centre. Maud returned home a bit early, as it was a warm day, and she was already pregnant with the son of her husband Major John MacBride. As a young woman who was both tired and politically motivated, she was annoyed to see her small street lavishly decorated with Union Jack flags hanging from the windows of her neighbours' houses.



Too tired to confront them, Maud devised a display of her own. She hung her black petticoats outside her windows. Then she waited...

It wasn't long before her Unionist neighbours gathered outside her home, demanding she remove her unsightly undergarments. Maud refused. The police were summoned, and a Sergeant and twelve of his men arrived to ask Maud to remove her 'flags'. Maud calmly told the police that she was hanging her black flags in recognition of the recent death of Pope Leo XIII. She chastised the policemen for supporting the royal visit and insisted that as Catholics and Irishmen they should "occupy themselves hauling down those unseemly decorations opposite".

The encounter ended as Maud's friends arrived, and the police decided to leave the charming young activist to her own little protest. Maud removed her undergarments at midnight, and the Battle of Coulson Avenue ended peacefully.

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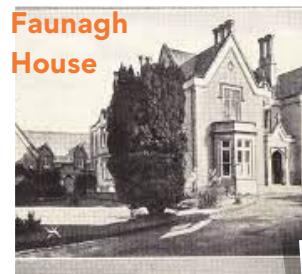


Marianella, Orwell Road

In 1910 the Redemptorist Order purchased a house at 30 Highfield Road to provide a residence for their students attending the National University in Dublin city centre. They called this house **Marianella**. Over time, the house proved too small and so in 1919, a larger house, Faunagh, was purchased at 75 Orwell Road. Faunagh House was the home of the Colley family for several years before they moved to Corcagh House in Clondalkin (right), the estate of George's wife Edith (née Finlay).

The Colley family had strong military and literary connections, counting among their ancestors the Duke of Wellington and George Pomeroy Colley, a General in the Boer war, and Elizabeth Bowen, a cousin. George's brother Edward perished in the Titanic in 1912.

The Redemptorists moved into their new home which soon became known as Marianella. This served as a centre for students and, later, for missions and retreats. In the early 1960s, a major development took place with the construction of a Seminary to accommodate "seven professors, 50 students, a missionary community of 20, and 10 guests". Faunagh House was demolished soon afterwards. A chapel was added in 1974. A Driving Test Centre was located there in the 1980s.



As the Redemptorists declined, in 2007 they decided to sell Marianella. The last Mass was celebrated in January 2016.

In 2015, Cairn Homes bought Marianella's 8.11 acres from the Redemptorists for €43m. The first sales of apartments was in 2019.

Today, the development consists of over 300 apartments and 12 large family semi-detached homes.

Road and footpath repairs

Grosvenor Road



Before...



After

Recent road and footpath repairs carried out on Grosvenor and Winton Roads... Thank you to Dublin City Council and their engineers who liaise with the RRA.

Winton Road



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River Dodder



We are fortunate to live near the **River Dodder**, with opportunities for walks, fishing, hearing and seeing birds and wildlife along the beautiful section of the river flowing through Rathgar.



Wildlife along the River Dodder, by Nick Bradshaw, Irish Times photographer

In the past, the River Dodder was used to power mills for flour, paper, and cloth. Up to 45 mills and factories operated along the river at one time. This intense level of industry led to serious pollution and resulted in local communities turning their backs on the river.

Today, while there is less pollution in the Dodder, there are still areas where the quality doesn't meet minimum legal requirements: raw sewage flows into the river and toxic blends of soap, bleach, detergents and car shampoo seep into the river, depleting insect and fish life.

The fragmented nature of the river, with an estimated 189 man-made barriers, many obsolete, prevents free movement of migratory fish and sediment along its 26km course. Atlantic salmon, for instance, are found in the lower parts of the Dodder, but are stuck there, unable to move upstream. Groups such as **Dodder Action** are mobilising voluntary and municipal support for action to remedy these negative issues.

Sources: *Sylvia Thompson and Ella McSweeney*
Irish Times. July 2024. Dodder Action



Stratford College is a fee-paying, co-educational secondary-level school recognised by the Department of Education and Science (DES). Founded in the early 1950's, the school was first located in a house called 'Stratford' on Terenure Road East.



In the 1950's the Jewish Community was much larger than it is now and the student population at Stratford was entirely Jewish. With the changing population in Ireland, the Board of Management decided that the school should welcome those of all and no denominations.

Now, while retaining its Jewish ethos, Stratford is a thriving place of learning where respect for the individual is of paramount importance, high academic standards are maintained, and sport is actively encouraged and fostered for children of all denominations.

Some years later, the College moved to the present situation on Zion Road. In 1981, the house was renovated and extended to the rear. Today, only the elegant mid-Victorian facade remains of the original house and we have a whole school population of 195 students. Stratford College is the only Jewish-ethos secondary school in Ireland.

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AI technology, What is it really?

At its core, **AI (Artificial Intelligence)** is a set of tools that enables machines to mimic certain human abilities, such as learning from data, recognising patterns, making predictions, or generating content. You've probably used AI without even realising it: voice assistants, recommendation systems, language translation apps, and even email spam filters all rely on AI.

Can it help us work smarter? Yes. Can it improve access to information and support creativity? Absolutely.

But it also raises important questions: Who controls it? Is it always accurate? How do we prevent bias or misuse?

The key is **intentional use**: its value comes from how we use it. It shouldn't replace human judgment, community connection, or creativity, but it can enhance them when used thoughtfully. You don't need to be a tech expert to engage with AI. Staying informed, asking critical questions, and trying out tools with curiosity and care is a great starting point.

St Columcille

The Church Church of the Three Patrons on Rathgar Road was dedicated in 1862 to the three Patron Saints of Ireland: The most renowned is St Patrick and, more recently, St Brigid, has become widely known, with her Feast Day celebrated on 1st February as a public holiday.

The third is **St Columcille, or Columba**, whose Feast Day is celebrated on 9th June. Recently, Donegal County Council proposed that the June bank holiday should be designated as a public holiday in his name.



Born in 527 A.D. in Garten, Co. Donegal, Columba became a student of some of the most prominent church figures of his time, including St Finian at the Clonard Monastery in Meath.

Columba is remembered for spreading the Christian message, particularly in Scotland. Today, the Monastery on the island of Iona, Scotland, remains a place of pilgrimage and retreat.

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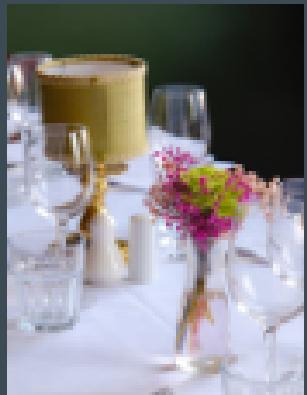
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RRA Social Media: Strengthening our Community Voice

Written by Leon Weavers

The RRA continues to build a strong digital presence that reflects our values of connection, communication, and community spirit. At the heart of this is our growing presence across **social media platforms...**

Our channels on Twitter/X, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn provide real-time updates on everything from local events and public consultations to heritage projects and community campaigns. These platforms allow us to share stories that matter to Rathgar — celebrating milestones, amplifying local voices, and ensuring transparency in everything we do.



Over the past few months, we have increased the frequency and variety of our posts, including community spotlights, event reminders, and timely alerts. This has not only broadened our reach, but also sparked valuable dialogue with residents, neighbouring communities, and local representatives.

Social media also serves as a welcome mat for new residents, a bulletin board for important notices, and a call to action for those wanting to get more involved. We encourage all residents to follow and share our updates, helping us create a digitally connected community that reflects the energy and values of Rathgar.

Anna May Floristry: An Interview with Leah McEvoy

“Follow your dream” is advice often given, seldom followed. One lady recently arrived in Rathgar has done just that – followed her dream of owning a florist shop and sharing her love of the variety and colour of blooms to enhance and enchant places and occasions.

Last August, Leah McEvoy of **Anna May Floristry** took over the business of the Flower Bowl on Orwell Road. Merna O’Neill of the Flower Bowl had supplied flowers to Rathgar for over 30 years. Leah looks forward to continuing her excellent traditional service.

“I was born and brought up in Terenure”, she says, “and I was always fascinated by flowers and arranging them. At school and at home I was always trying to beautify rooms.”

“I was fortunate to meet a wholesaler of flowers who took me on, parttime, to help and I learned a great deal from working with them. I left school, worked, bought a house in Lucan, and married Paddy. I had a number of jobs ending up as manager of a data centre in Dublin for ten years, leading a team serving clients throughout Europe.”



After Covid, Leah decided to use money originally intended for a trip to New York, to return to her girlhood dream to train as a professional florist. She enrolled in Kay’s School of Floristry and completed her training. She also opened a small studio in her garden and began supplying flowers to bridal and corporate clients on a small scale. In August 2024, Leah resigned from her full-time job to take on her new florist’s in Rathgar.

Where did the shop name come from? When Leah was a little girl, her grandmother often said she looked like a little “Anna May” the name of a Japanese actress she adored...

S4 from Rathgar to UCD...

with Billy Conroy-Roche

I'm Billy, a 20 year old UCD Law/History student and permanent resident of Rathgar. I start my day with a blind smash of the snooze button. I'm lucky that I can consistently repeat this pattern as I place all faith in the recently developed S4 bus. It's incredible, the punctuality, efficiency, and above all, the feeling of connection to college.



After passing through Rathgar and arriving at the hustle and bustle of Belfield, I either alight to search for a seat in the library or stroll into the Law Building. Believe me, that I have no bias in saying that it's the best building in UCD.

We cover a range of subjects, including Contract and Property Law to name two. I also find the practical understanding of how our legal system works through Constitutional Law highlights the importance of having a distinct voice and speaking up when you feel disillusioned or ignored. I have always had a passion for History and modules from distinguished historians such as Diarmuid Ferriter and Edward Burke who routinely publish works in their fields of expertise have added to my appreciation. My ever-increasing interest in Law and History have motivated me to learn more about my local area of Rathgar and play my part in the community.



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Local News...

RRA Links with Rathgar Business Association (RBA)

So far, 2025 has been a very strong year for businesses in Rathgar. **Anpa Nail Salon** opened up where the Hair Studio used to be, **Tribe** will be opening a large café very soon and Tony Byrne's Butcher shop is being transformed into a **Gift Shop**, due to open on 1st August.

Sadly, the **Bloomsday** event scheduled to be run on 14th June had to be postponed because of torrential rain all day. Instead, we enjoyed the Summer Festival on Saturday 12th July (see page 2).

The **RRA Best Gardens & Shopfronts Competition** organised in connection with The Rathgar Horticultural Society was run on Saturday 5th July (see page 2). Rathgar businesses donated generous gifts for the nine successful winners. The RRA thanks them all for their support.

BusConnects

A decision on the application was reached by An Bórd Pleanála (ABP) on 16 December 2024 to approve the proposed road development. The full ABP Order for the Templeogue/Rathfarnham to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme, including the conditions, and further information on the BusConnects planning can also be found on the ABP website <https://www.leanala.ie/en-ie/case/316272>

The RRA is very much in favour of improved public transport in Dublin City. However, there are several issues in the BusConnects plans that are not consistent with the RRA's values, including the removal of mature trees, hedges, and heritage features in the Rathgar area, most notably on Terenure Road East. The Association is also concerned about the implications of the numerous road layout changes, in particular road widening and the consequence of increased traffic flow on side streets in the area.

The RRA is aware of a number of Judicial Review applications relating to the Bus Corridor Scheme, which have yet to come before the High Court, so no further information is available at this time.

Rathmines Post Office

An Post has announced that Rathmines is becoming a Postmaster run post office - as are more than 95% of the 886 post offices nationwide - rather than being run directly by An Post. An Post states all the services currently available at our present post office in Rathmines will be available in a new office. It will be a short distance from the present location.

As soon as the new Postmaster is in situ, An Post intends to place the building on the market. This move is planned to take place later this year.

The mails office (An Post's delivery office for D6), which is situated at the rear of the building, will remain. All services that are accessible across the counter in the current post office will be available in the new post office in its new location.

Cllr Dermot Lacey issued a statement that Dublin City Council, without any reference to Councillors, has apparently declined an offer from An Post to take over the Rathmines Post Office building; he intends to raise the matter and recommending developing a plan that could see this building remain in public ownership and for community use.

On 15 June 2025 Ivana Bacik, TD, Labour Party Leader, addressed a meeting to protest about the closure of the current post office and its transfer out of the building. Separately, she also announced, "the City of Dublin Education and Training Board (which operates the Rathmines College in the old Town Hall building) has been awarded a Heritage Grant to explore how best to ensure conservation of the beautiful concert hall at the back of the Town Hall building. Cllrs. Dermot Lacy, Fiona Connelly, and I have been campaigning on this conservation issue for years!"



Noticeboard & Useful Contacts

Local Contacts/Services

Local Councillors

- Councillor Neolle Brown, noelle.brown@dublincity.ie
- Councillor Fiona Connelly, 087-9042266 Fiona.Connelly@dublincity.ie
- Councillor Pat Dunne, 087-7764422 pat.dunne@dublincity.ie
- Councillor Patrick Kinsella, 085-1114245, patrick.kinsella@dublincity.ie
- Councillor Carolyn Moore, 087-6452800 carolyn.moore@dublincity.ie
- Councillor Punam Rane, 089-2544372 punam.rane@dublincity.ie

Local TDs

- Ivana Bacik, Labour Party, (01) 618 3136 ivana.bacik@oireachtas.ie
- James Geoghegan, Fine Gael, (01) 618 3736 james.geoghegan@oireachtas.ie
- Eoin Hayes, Social Democrats, (01) 618 4083 eoин.hayes@oireachtas.ie
- Jim O'Callaghan, Fianna Fáil, (01) 602 8235 jim.ocallaghan@oireachtas.ie

Local Gardaí

Rathmines: 01-6666 700

Terenure: 01-6666 400

Dublin City Council

Problems with litter, potholes, graffiti, abandoned vehicles, etc., go to Dublin City Council (DCC) website to log a Service Request, or Tel: 01-222 2222 or customerservices@dublincity.ie

Have Your Say...

If you have any news articles or photographs you would like to include in our next edition of LINK Magazine, please contact John McMahon...

The Editor thanks everyone who contributed articles, photos, and information for our Summer 2025 LINK Magazine. We are grateful to local businesses in Rathgar who support the RRA by taking advertisements in LINK. If you would like to contribute an article or take an ad in our next edition, please contact info@rathgarresidentsassociation.ie



citizenhub.dublincity.ie

This serves as a useful point of contact for all local residents. At the **citizenhub** website, you can contact DCC to:

- Report something
- Request something, or
- Apply for a range of services.

If you find this avenue unsuccessful, then please contact RRA and we will do our best to help through our contacts.

Road WhatsApp Groups

Might you consider joining or establishing a Road WhatsApp group? These can be invaluable for highlighting issues in your area, as well as being great social hubs. Contact RRA for further information.

Join the RRA

Please join, or renew your membership of, the Rathgar Residents Association.

Annual Membership Subscriptions:

Full €25.00; Concession €15.00

Please contact us or visit our website www.rathgarresidentsassociation.ie



RRA Committee, 2025

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Cliona Mullen, Hon. Treasurer

Leon Weavers, Secretary & Social Media

Brigitte de la Malene, Planning Officer

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LINK Magazine

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