



Rathgar Residents Association

LINK

MAGAZINE

No. 76 February 2026

INSIDE THIS ISSUE OF LINK..

- Rathgar's Special Merit Award
- Village Clean-Ups
- Citizen Hub
- Children's Book Festival
- Sonny's comes to Rathgar
- Lucena Clinic, 70 years in Rathgar

- Sarah Purser, Irish Artist RHA
- Children's Art Competition
- Christmas Carol Services
- Guidelines for online safety
- Herzog Park Playground
- Community & Business updates

- Rathgar Avenue development
- Advertising sign, Rathgar Road
- Kenilworth Square
- Rathmines Post Office
- Keeping Rathgar beautiful
- BusConnects Update
- The RRA Area: Where? Who?

RRA AGM Notice:

Tuesday 24th March 2026,
7.30pm

St Patrick's Hall,
Church of the Three Patrons,
Rathgar (behind the Church)



RRA: rathgarresidentsassociation.ie

Welcome from RRA Chair, Christina Carty

Welcome to this edition of the LINK Magazine. We start each new year with a look back on our accomplishments from the last year... some of the highlights include:

- Monthly Village Clean-Ups
- Rathgar Children's Book Festival
- Christmas Carol services
- Children's Art Competition
- Refurbishment of playground at Herzog Park
- Welcoming new businesses: Sonny's, Earthy Pilates, Tribe Coffee Shop
- Local Rathgar improvements, including new heritage bins, potted flowers, village benches

Winning achievement

Rathgar Village was awarded a 'Special Merit' in the 'Urban Village' category of the City Neighbourhoods Competition. The award is in recognition of the collaboration between Christ Church, the Rathgar Business Association, and the RRA in providing and maintaining the Village square, which has become central to Rathgar and is greatly enjoyed by residents and visitors.

Citizen Hub

The RRA Committee is frequently asked about general "housekeeping" things, like leaves on pavements, graffiti, potholes, etc. The easiest first point of contact for these issues is citizenhub.dublincity.ie.

Here you can choose to report something, request something, or apply for a range of services (e.g., bulky household waste collection, road sweeping, road maintenance). If you find you are unsuccessful with this avenue, then please contact the RRA and we will do our best to help through our contact with Dublin City Council rathgarresidentsassociation.ie

Village Clean-Ups

We would like to thank all volunteers who participate in the monthly clean-up. This helps keep our village attractive and a pleasant environment for all. Everyone is welcome to join in. Clean-up equipment is provided, along with refreshments. Meeting point is Rathgar Church, usually on the first Saturday of the month.

The Rathgar Horticultural Society

replanted the planters in and around the village, which always gives a bit of joy and makes Rathgar look cheery and well-maintained.

RRA retirement

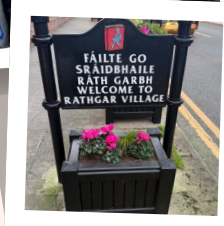


Thank you to **John McMahon**, our retiring Membership Officer and Link Magazine Editor, for all your work with the RRA.



Welcome to LINK, February 2026...

"What the new year brings to you depends a lot on what you bring to the new year",
Vern McLellan, author, speaker, broadcaster, and musician.



Rathgar Children's Book Festival

In October, we celebrated our 6th annual Rathgar Children's Book Festival. We were grateful to return to the beautiful Zion parish. Seven of Ireland's finest children's book authors held workshops, creative engagements and book signings for children from ages 3-14, and we were thrilled to have over 200 attendees.

This year's authors included Steve McCarthy, Megan Wynne, Judi Curtin, Alison Weatherby, Alan Nolan, Dave Rudden and Lauren O'Hara. **Kevin McGahern** kindly joined us with his family as this year's celebrity emcee, and **Dubray** once again offered books from all of our authors. **Bijou** provided snacks for our guests, and an ice cream van had very welcome treats for our young visitors.



Left (l-r): Steve McCarthy, Megan Wynne, Judi Curtin, Alison Weatherby, Alan Nolan with the Festival organising team, Louise Potts, Kevin McGahern, Siobhan Cassidy, and Christy Carty. Right: Alison Weatherby, Dave Rudden, Alan Nolan. Lauren O'Hara and Aisling Carty, volunteer.



Sonny's comes to Rathgar

Sonny's is a new addition to the retail offering in Rathgar. The brainchild of local resident, **Laura McKenna**, it opened in September and has already been awarded the accolade "one of the Best 100 shops" by The Gloss Magazine.



Laura views Sonny's as an extension of her style interests. She sources unique, distinctive products from Europe and the UK. In 2026, she plans to open a space to the rear of her shop as a gallery and location for events and exhibiting arts and crafts. She hopes artists and photographers will avail of this display opportunity. Laura has plans to offer courses in window display and craft manufacture.

Laura attended Alexandra College and studied communications at DCU. Rather than pursue a career in that area, she followed her attraction to styling and creative design. With her natural flair for costume design and commissions from photographer friends, Laura nurtured a career in styling.



And, she lives over the shop... Laura McKenna and her partner Tadgh McNealy outside their new shop Sonny's on Rathgar Road.



Some Rathgar residents will recall the shop was originally a butcher's shop run by Tony Byrne, who retired a few years ago.

Laura has spent the past year re-modelling the shop to present original, novel, decorative, and useful items for the home.

Lucena Clinic

Celebrating 70 years in Rathgar...



Established in 1955, the Lucena Clinic in Rathgar was the first Child and Family Centre in Ireland. Over the years, Lucena has expanded into a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and today provides services to approximately 170,000 young people in South Dublin and Wicklow.

In 2025, Lucena Clinic was honoured at the Irish Healthcare Centre Awards with the **Healthcare Initiative-Community Care Services Award.**

Sarah Donnelly,
Director, with
Members of the
Lucena team



Committee member ...Lesley Conroy



I attended the RRA AGM in 2025 out of curiosity, having been a member for the previous year.

Blown away by the vitality of the Committee, I found myself wanting to be a part of that energy and volunteered to join.

'Epiphany': Over the past year I've been busy writing 'Epiphany', an adaptation of James Joyce's 'The Dead' told from Gretta's perspective. Walking the Rathgar streets of Joyce's birthplace has been an honour and the ghosts of many past creative residents - Synge, Bram Stoker, George Russell AE, the Sheehy-Skeffintons, Ulick O'Connor, literary editor David Marcus - have kept me company. I look forward to sharing my work when the play premieres in June.

If you would like to follow the play's journey from page to stage, you can follow me on Instagram

@lesleyconroyactor

*James Joyce
junction box in
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Sarah Henrietta Purser, RHA

Sarah Purser (1848-1943) was born in Dun Laoghaire and reared in Dungarvan, Co Waterford. Her grandparents and extended family lived at Rathmines Castle (*right*) from c.1834. (*Rathmines Castle was situated on the grounds of Kildare Place School today.*) Sarah came from an aristocratic and educated family: they were deeply connected with the Guinness Brewery and the family had extensive interests in business, engineering, and the arts.



Sarah attended the Dublin Metropolitan School of Art and went on to become a notable artist. She was particularly recognised for her portraiture and, later, her work with stained glass.



An astute business woman, Sarah owned shares in major companies such as Guinness and she financed **An Túr Gloine**, which was set up to train Irish artists in stained glass.



Commemorative Stamp, issued 2020



Sarah was an important Patron of the Arts and was involved in setting up the **Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery** on Parnell Square. She was instrumental in persuading the Irish Government to purchase Charlemont House for the gallery.



Rathgar Children's Art Competition

To highlight Sarah Purser's work to younger residents in Rathgar, the RRA ran an **Art Competition** for pupils in 5th & 6th class. The pupils were asked to produce their own A4 stained glass window to the theme of 'New Year/ Festive'. All local primary schools were invited to participate; details were publicised on the Rathgar Village Notice Board and circulated on the RRA WhatsApp group.



Above are three prizewinners and their art works: (l-r): Alison Ryan (1st), Goga Borodina (2nd), Liam Drew (3rd), with RRA members Jane Mullett and Nicky Ashe, presenting the awards.

Congratulations to all the entrants. There was an extremely high quality of talent displayed. Thank you also to their teachers and schools. You can view the winning entries on the Village Noticeboard at Christ Church.



Christmas Carol Services



Rathgar Community was fortunate enough to host two Carol Services in the Village square. The first was on Thursday 4th December. The event was sponsored by **DCC** and **Rathgar Business Association**, with special thanks to **Bijou**, **The Vintry** and **Supervalu** for their continued support. Thanks to the pupils of **Rathgar National school** for their lovely melodic singing voices! Santa paid a visit along with his helpers. A magical night!

The second was held on Friday 19th December. This was the Community Carol Service, kindly sponsored by Bijou. Another opportunity for the residents of Rathgar to gather together and enjoy the festive spirit.

Staying Safe Online

Written by *Leon Weavers, RRA*

In today's digital age, our lives are increasingly connected to the internet. While this brings convenience, it also opens the door to digital risks. Protecting your personal information is no longer just for tech experts—it's a vital skill for all of us.

Stay vigilant and skeptical of unsolicited messages..!

Understanding the Threat: Phishing

The most common threat we face is 'phishing.' This is when scammers send fraudulent emails, or "smishing" (SMS texts), disguised as trustworthy sources like your bank, a delivery service, or even a government agency. Their goal is to trick you into clicking a button or downloading an attachment to steal your passwords or credit card details.

Common Red Flags

Scammers rely on creating a sense of urgency or fear. Be wary of messages that:

- Claim there is a "problem" with your account or a "missed delivery."
- Pressure you to act immediately to avoid a fine or account suspension.
- Contain generic greetings like "Dear Customer", instead of your name.
- Feature slightly misspelled sender addresses or strange website names.

Simple Steps for Better Security

- Use Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA): Whenever possible, enable MFA. This adds a second layer of security, such as a code sent to your phone, making it much harder for hackers.
- Verify the Source: If you receive unexpected requests for information, do not use the contact details provided. Instead, go directly to the official website by typing the address yourself or call a known, trusted phone number.
- Update Regularly: Keep your phone and computer software up to date, as these updates often include critical security patches.

Community & Business Updates

Herzog Park

Dublin City Council is concluding the upgrading of the **Playground** at Herzog Park. Work is due to be completed in February.



The surface car park is included in the overall Herzog Park upgrading plans. This part of the work has been delayed, however, and is to go out for tender. The timeline continues to move.

Tribe, Coffee Shop

Sneak preview of the interior of Rathgar's new coffee shop, **Tribe**... Opening soon!



Local Library, Vernon Grove

The little Library on **Vernon Grove** was sadly destroyed in December. Storm Bram uprooted a tree on the footpath causing it to crash down on top of the Library. The owners say a new one may appear in the New Year...



Clare Sexton, Artist



Local artist, **Clare Sexton** held an Art Exhibition at Bottler's Bank Pub in November.

Earthy Pilates

Rathgar's new Reformer Pilates Studio, **Earthy Pilates** catering to all...

A great solution for back pain and all-over stretching.



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Bijou

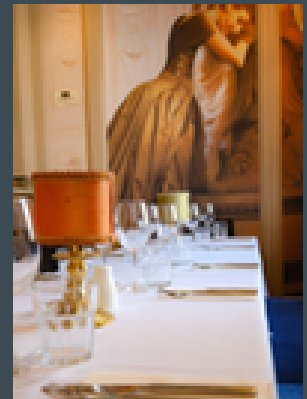
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Planning Report

Written by *Brigitte de la Malene, RRA*

The past few months has been very active...

Rathgar Avenue: The proposed Murphy & Gunn development on Rathgar Avenue has been approved, consisting of 14 apartments on Rathgar Avenue and 5 houses on Garville Lane (*artist's impression, below*).

Overall, the RRA is pleased with this outcome. The scheme represents an improvement on the existing condition and will provide high-quality residential accommodation in this desirable area.



Kenilworth Square: The judicial review for the Kenilworth Square development was heard in January. The judge is currently reserving judgment.

Rathgar Road: The advertising sign on the church grounds at the top of Rathgar Road will remain unchanged.

There had been concerns that a proposed new sign would be overly distracting for drivers and cyclists and would create a visual nuisance for nearby residents.



Rathmines Post Office: We continue to participate in the efforts of our local Councillors and TDs to keep the Rathmines Post Office open. Discussions with An Post are ongoing to explore possible solutions.

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Contact Details

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Keeping Rathgar beautiful...

Clean footpaths

Congratulations to the pupils at Rathgar National School for their eye-catching posters reminding dog owners to keep our footpaths clean.



DCC: QR Notices

If you are out for a walk and see a full rubbish bin, Dublin City Council (DCC) have introduced this clever and easy way to inform them about the problem. Simply scan the QR code at the side of the bin to notify the Council.

Magical little scenes

You may have noticed the charming window display in the house on the Lane by AIB Bank. When we asked the owner how long they've seen staging the displays, they said, "I honestly don't remember how it started. It's lost in the mists of time." Watch this space for ever-changing sets.



The RRA area: Where, Who?

The RRA area covers approximately 2km². It extends from the River Dodder at Dartry, along Dartry Road, Rathmines Road Upper to (approximately) Rathmines Park, across to Rathgar Road/Grosvenor Road, along Kenilworth Road, Brighton Square, Brighton Road, across Terenure Road East to halfway along Bushy Park Road, and back down to the River Dodder in Rathfarnham (map).



What do we know about the RRA area?

Based on recent data from Census 2022, there are almost 10,000 residents in the area.

There are 4,133 households and there are 2,222 families. There are reportedly 1,326 people living in one-person households.

More than two-thirds were born in Ireland.

Over one-third (37%) is in the 20-40 year age groups, while one-in-10 is over 70 years of age.

Almost two-thirds (63%) are employed, a further 13% are retired, and over 11% are students. Almost half are classed as professional/managerial or employers.

The Census data indicates that almost 10% of the housing stock in the RRA area is vacant/unoccupied.

The ratio of people living in houses to apartments is two-thirds to one-third. Over half are homeowners - either own outright or have a mortgage/loan - and approximately 44% rent.

- Among commuters:
- 34% walk/cycle
 - 21% go by car (drive/passenger)
 - 8% bus/Luas

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Thursday 7am - 10pm
Friday 7am - 10pm
Saturday 7am - 10pm
Sunday 7am - 10pm

BusConnects: Update

In October 2025, Phase 7 of the BusConnects Network Redesign was introduced. Several new routes serving the Dublin area have been introduced and existing ones discontinued...



**BUS
CONNECTS**

New routes:

- 24-hour Spine routes F1 and F2
- 24-hour Radial route 80
- Spine route F3
- Local route L89
- Radial routes 23, 24, 73, 82

The following routes will no longer operate: 9, 26, 40, 40b, 49, 54a, 83/a 123, and 140.

Route 80: Route 140, which started outside Brookfield Tennis Club on Palmerston Park and travelled to IKEA in Ballymun, will be replaced by Route 80. This new route will take a different route, travelling to Liffey Valley via Usher's Quay. Route 80 will be a 24-hour service.

Route S4: The recently introduced S4, which travels along Darty and Highfield Roads and serves UCD, also terminates at Liffey Valley, travelling in the opposite direction.

Further updates can be found on the NTA's Busconnects website

<https://busconnects.ie/cities/dublin/>

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Useful Contacts & Noticeboard

Local Contacts/Services

Local Councillors

Fiona Connelly 087-9042266

Fiona.Connelly@dublincity.ie

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James Geoghegan TD, 089-6166956

james.geoghegan@oireachtas.ie

Eoin Hayes TD, 085 1971189 eoin.hayes@oireachtas.ie

Jim O'Callaghan TD, 01-6183134/01-4758943

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

citizenhub.dublincity.ie

A useful first-point-of-contact for local residents... If you find this avenue unsuccessful, please contact RRA and we will work through our contacts with DCC.

RRA AGM

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 24th March 2026, 7.30pm

St Patrick's Hall,

Church of the Three Patrons, Rathgar
(behind the Church)

SAVE THE DATE

Join the RRA / Renew membership

Annual Membership Subscriptions:

Full €25.00; Concession €15.00

NEW! Membership Auto-Renewal

Our new payment system now includes an automatic renewal feature. This will begin after your next payment.

If you do **not** wish for your membership to renew automatically in the future, please ensure you cancel the automated setting manually.

www.rathgarresidentsassociation.ie

Become a Road Rep

RRA is currently looking for volunteers to assist as Road Reps distributing materials and acting as points-of-contact for residents on a particular road. If you are interested, please contact a Committee member or visit the RRA website:

www.rathgarresidentsassociation.ie.

Thank you to the current Road Reps who support the RRA.

RRA Committee, 2025-26

Christy Carty, Chairperson

Paula Moore, Vice-Chairperson

Cliona Mullen, Hon. Treasurer

Leon Weavers, Secretary & Social Media

Brigitte de la Malene, Planning Officer

Ursula Budd, DCC Liaison

John McMahon, Membership & LINK Editor (*retiring*)

Nicky Ashe, Membership Officer

Members: Peter Doyle, Aoife Ryan,

Lesley Conroy, Laoise Uí Aodha de Brún,

Jane Mullett, Patrick Cooney

The Editors thank everyone who contributed articles, photos, and information for 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 advert in our next edition, please contact info@rathgarresidentsassociation.ie

LINK Magazine

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