



**Official Newsletter of the Rathgar Residents' Association Link No 43 Dec 2008**

## A view from the Chairman

The period, since the previous issue of Link in May, has been a very busy one for the Committee of the Association.

On the planning front our planning officer has had an intensive period dealing with planning applications to Dublin City Council and in number cases, bringing appeals to An Bord Pleanala. From his report which is included with this issue, you will get some feeling of the variety of cases and the principles which guide the Association's becoming involved.

A meeting with the Minister of the Environment John Gormley TD took place in late summer. The Minister sought the Associations views on the current state of Planning Laws and their application. This meeting forms part of his current review of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

Our environment officer has responded to requests from members on various issues and has helped by providing contact numbers and departments within DCC. The Association has responded to the Department of the Environment on a discussion paper issued by them on noise pollution. As part of the continuing contact with An Garda Siochana, the Association had a meeting in July with the local superintendent and her team. The meeting dealt with traffic, antisocial behaviour and crime in the area.

A meeting has taken place with DCC traffic department where topics such as parking, traffic, pedestrian and cyclists road rights and safety, were examined.

An invitation to all members and to the general public to make submissions to the Rathgar Study drew quite a lot of favourable discussion and the consultant received a very satisfactory level of submissions. This input will inform the Study and its direction. There has been a series of interim meetings with DCC officials to progress the document.

Finally as another year draws to an end may I extend every good wish for Christmas and the new year 2009

Paddy Marron

## Planning: Vigilance is Unending

The RRA Planning Officer has been as busy as ever fending off undesirable developments in the area and quite a number of activities were recorded since earlier this year

During the year we had a large input into various appeals with An Bord Pleanala which were taken either on our own or in conjunction with various residents or groups of residents in the area.

Early in the year saw an appeal being submitted in respect of a development at **63 Highfield Road** for the refurbishment of the original house and the development of a completely new house to the side and extending to the boundary with Templemore Ave. This development would have been very intensive and would have seriously protruded ahead of the building line of the houses on the west side of Templemore Ave. Having met with the owner who was anxious that we drop the appeal and let the Dublin City Council permission proceed, we elected to let the appeal run on the basis of over development and intrusion on the existing building lines and vistas. An Bord Pleanala found in our favour in the late summer.

A separate proposal for a new development in the original back garden of no **63 Highfield Road** and fronting on to Templemore Road was opposed and appealed by the local residents. The Association had no input in respect of this development, the outcome of which appeal is expected any time now.

The chequered planning history of 63 extends back over 30 years!

The Association with the Richview Residents and others, successfully appealed an application to demolish no **1A Palmerston Park**, a very fine detached 1930's house very much still in its original state at the top of Dartry Road. It is now intended to apply to have this building, of which there are not many of its type in Dublin, placed on the protected structures list.

An appeal in respect of a development at **Sunbury Gardens** which was also strongly fought by the local residents was also successful.

An appeal by the RRA was made in respect of a development at **47 Rathgar Road** in the hope that some improvement could be gained in that which was proposed but this was not successful. Bord Pleanala has recently granted permission for the original application.

The Association has been involved again with the **108 Rathgar** where hot on the heels of a successful appeal by the Association last year for a 4 storey development, the owners had a meeting with us to discuss the options for some development on the site and to try and see if a meeting of minds could be arrived at. However their new proposals were largely similar to that which went before and after two meetings and with no agreement, they went ahead and submitted their proposal.

In spite of the previous ruling of An Bord Pleanala, the City Council granted permission.. The matter is now again with An Bord Pleanala and a successful outcome is hoped for in the new year.

An equally contentious but much more complicated proposal across the road from the 108 at **44/45 Highfield Road** was appealed by local residents and supported by the

Association. Here Superquinn is proposing a significantly large store. Regrettably they have gone about the development in such a way as to challenge considerably the credibility and credulity of the principles of proper planning and development. The Association together with a number of residents felt that it should not be allowed to proceed unchallenged. The development in all its various aspects is a very technical one and a decision from An Bord Pleanála is expected early in the New Year.

We supported the residents of **Wesley Road** in an appeal to An Bord Pleanála regarding a proposal for medical consulting rooms on two floors of **89 Rathgar Road** at the junction with Wesley Road. While permission was granted by An Bord for the ground floor (already commercial), permission was refused for the 1<sup>st</sup> floor which continues to be zoned residential. This floor is currently being used as commercial, contrary to the planning laws. The Association will continue to watch this.

Another significant development in our area was the proposal for the grounds of **Dartry House** where a large number of apartments were proposed fronting on to Orwell Park. This was the second application and the second appeal for this site in as many years and permission from An Bord eventually came though with the overall development being scaled down to a more acceptable level.

The residents in the **Orwell Road and Rostrevor** areas have had an uphill battle in their dealings with developments at the Orwell Nursing Home on Orwell Road where many breaches of the planning order have taken place. The site has been characterised by numerous complaints, enforcement orders and in some cases court orders but not much seems to improve. The Association is not in the front line here but is being advised by the local residents and acts as is necessary.

Proposals for extensive developments at **Marianella on Orwell Road** were reported in the media during the year but to date no formal planning application has been put forward. A presentation to the Southeast City Councillors was made some months ago reiterating what was largely reported in press in late 2007.

Elsewhere on the request of the residents of **Grosvenor Place** we have supported them in their opposition to an intense proposal on a site behind houses on Grosvenor Place and Leinster Road. Presently the planners are waiting for additional information to be submitted for a significantly scaled down proposal .

Finally, illegal developments at **35 Grosvenor Road**, (now on going for over two years) and that of the maintenance of a protected structure at **18, Highfield Road** which is in a serious dilapidated state, are to heard in the District Court in early November. .

To conclude, it is likely that planning activity in our area will be at a much lower level next year and submissions to An Bord Pleanála are expected to be reduced considerably.

The Association normally can only see the bigger picture and does rely on the residents to be vigilant about development in their vicinity. In saying this, the Association will support requests for advice and assistance from its members in fighting unacceptable proposals. It is important to all that the character of the Rathgar area and its environment is preserved.

Philip O'Reilly -Planning Officer.

Impressions on viewing *Dublin from Chapelizod* a painting by William Ashford 1746 - 1824  
The National Gallery of Ireland.

*Dublin from Chapelizod* is one of a pair of paintings, the other being *Dublin from Clontarf*, which came from the Camden collection and are presumed to have been commissioned by the second Earl, later First Marquess Camden, when he was Lord Lieutenant 1796-98

This picture by Ashmore is in the classical tradition set by Claude and Poussin. He chose his vantage point on the hill above the man made weir at Islandbridge. Between the trees on the left, stands the Magazine Fort (sometimes known as Wharton's folly), which was built early in the 18<sup>th</sup> C on the instructions of the Duke of Wharton, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, as a retreat in case of emergency. Through the distance on the left bank of the river is the Royal Military Infirmary, now the Dept. of Defence. Dublin city, the focus of the picture was painted in small scale, has however many detailed features, St Michans, Christchurch, St Werburgs, St Patricks Cathedral and the dome of the recently built Gandon Four Courts.

The view might be described as idealized. It is however of an actual scene from the high ground in the Phoenix Park, half way between Sarah's bridge at Islandbridge and the bridge in Chapelizod

The influence of Claude Lorraine can be seen in the warm tones which sets a happy note to the whole composition. The figures in the landscape contribute to the feeling of peace and tranquillity.

The horseman passes along a path below the artist. The fisherman and his dog stand on the river bank beyond -or is he a herdsman? The soldiers with carriages come from the direction of the arsenal passing a woman and dog walking and in the distance people on horseback cross Sarah's bridge. Soldiers parade around the arsenal, with its flag flying. In the distance beyond Sarah's bridge crowds stream in the direction of the city, the deer close by gazes but alert. The cows populate the fields on both sides of the river and enjoy the warmth of the setting sun on what is no doubt a late autumn evening. The trees are beginning to change colour and the russet browns are illuminated by the setting sun. The river meanders its way across the cataract and passes behind a group of trees in the near foreground to reappear as it heads towards the city. Nature is serenely calm. The setting sun casts long shadows across the river meadows illuminating the facades of the buildings that line the road leading to the entrance to the Royal Hospital. These buildings are executed in fine detail. To the right of the picture on the sky line is Kilmainham gaol, built some years earlier. In the long distance is the skyline of the city with spires and domes.

*William Ashford was born in Birmingham in May 1746. He came to Ireland in 1764. Over the next 30 years he established himself as a landscape artist. He was voted first president of the Royal Hibernian Academy in 1823 but died before the first exhibition was mounted in 1826.*

Tim Anthes

## **Tennis and Bowling in Rathgar**

Rathgar Tennis and Bowling Club is a voluntary and community club. Its origins go back to 1985 when discussions between Rathgar residents Association and Dublin Corporation identified the need to improve the utilisation of the public courts on the site. Many residents will remember the original hard courts were on the site of the old quarry, in what is now known as Hertzog Park.

From those early days in 1985 the club has thrived and the facilities have been steadily improved over the years . The club now has an excellent set of ten allweather, well illuminated courts for its members and there are facilities for non members to come and pay and play.

An active committee oversees an evolving programme of events and in late 2005 the club was voted Leinster mid size tennis club of the year in the annual Eagle Star awards- not bad for a club from such humble beginnings! . The award is intended to recognise clubs that are succeeding in promoting in their community, providing a consistently high standard of facilities and involving all age groups in tennis activities.

Specifically in Rathgar's case the judges cited the success the club had in recruiting new members through open days and the large number of juvenile players that the club introduced to the game through its Summer activities. In addition this cooperation between club and Dublin City Council was noted as an important factor in the club's success.

The club offers bowling and competitive and social tennis for all ages, from seven to seventy five, in a congenial and secure environment.

If Rathgar is an urban village , the Herzog Park must be its village green. Rathgar Tennis and Bowling Club lies in the heart of the Park where once there was a quarry, later to become a "dump". The success of this venture arises from the cooperation between the local community and Dublin City Council and the ongoing voluntary hard work of various committees within the club.

For further information please contact the Secretary or see [Rathgartennis.com](http://Rathgartennis.com)

-Sheila Marron

## Environment

### **Blocked Drains**

Autumn has passed and while it is a beautiful time of year it leaves behind the leaves, which can be a hazard from blocking drains to being slippery with rain fall. We have been in contact with Dublin City Council to encourage them to clear the drains on a more regular basis. In reply they have scheduled to clean the gullies in the Rathgar area in the near future. If you have a problem with a blocked drain please contact D.C.C. on:

Drainage Section,,Floor 2, Block 1, Civic Offices, Fishamble Street, Dublin 8  
Phone: 2222155, Fax: 2222300

We could all keep the pavement outside our own homes swept on a regular basic and this would reduce the waste being washed down the gullies.

### **House alarms**

Existing legislation is in place for house alarms (Irish Standard 1987). The external alarm should have a maximum duration of 30 minutes and a minimum duration of 15 minutes. There is also a European Standard which recommends maximum duration 90 seconds and minimum of 15 seconds. We all know that neither of these recommendations is implemented.

The Minister of the Environment John Gormley is at present reviewing all matters relating to noise and noise nuisance. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government invited submissions from the public on any issues relating to noise. R.R.A. sent in a submission requesting that the present guidelines be enforced with charges taken against people who do not comply.

### **Dog Fouling**

This problem still remains and we urge dog owners who may have neglected to clean up after their dog in the past to reconsider. If you know someone who fails to clean up to have a word with them and point out that it is an offence. Regular reminders will pay off in the long term.

We urge dog owners to prevent the dog from barking incessantly day or night as it is a nuisance for neighbours.

### **Brown Bins**

Bins should not be put out too early in the day prior to collection and should be brought in as soon as possible following collection

Every household within the next year will receive a brown bin. It will take cooked, uncooked and garden waste.

The first three months will be free and then a €2 charge will apply. Further information is available:

Email: [brownbin@dublincity.ie](mailto:brownbin@dublincity.ie) or Phone: 2221000

Write to: Brown Bin Project, WasteManagement Services, 68-71 Marrowbone Lane, D8.

### **Pest Control**

If you have a problem you may contact:

D.C.C. Env. Health Section, Housing & Residential Services, Block 3, Floor 1, Civic Offices Wood Quay, Dublin 8. Phone: 4542087

If the problem is in relation to a neighbour's house they must contact D.C.C. themselves as it is not possible to trespass on private ground without being invited by the owner.

### **Being a good neighbour**

Ask your neighbours to keep an eye on your home if you are going away, and offer to do the same for them.

- If you trust your neighbour, give them a key while you are on holiday so they can come in and draw the curtains for you, collect your post and perhaps even turn lights on and off. This will make your house look lived in and will make it less of a target for burglars – you can then do the same for your neighbour when they are away.
- Ask your neighbour to push your post through the door while you are away.
- Never do any business with anyone calling unannounced at the door.
- Use your security equipment (CCTV, burglar and car alarms, security lighting etc.) responsibly so you do not disturb or infringe upon your neighbour.
- Keep an eye out for your elderly neighbours who are more at risk from bogus callers.
- If you see someone acting suspiciously in the neighbourhood, contact the local guards in Rathmines Phone 6666700 or Terenure Phone 6666400
- A reminder to people not to block the pavement when parking as it is very annoying to wheelchair users and people with buggies / prams and the elderly.

### **Traffic**

A number of bollards have been placed on the pavement in Rathgar on Orwell Road to stop cars driving along the footpath in a dangerous way. This issue was raised recently as it is a danger to pedestrians if cars are constantly mounting the pavement.

Parking in Rathgar now includes Herzog Park, Comans on Rathgar Ave. Street pay parking on Rathgar Road, Terenure Road East, Rathgar Avenue and Highfield Road. There are over 80 parking spaces in the vicinity of Rathgar Village.

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### **Garden Competition**

The judging of the Annual Garden Competition took place in early July.

The overall winner, Mrs Ann Hartigan of St Kevins Park, was presented with the Dixon Cup at the Annual Rathgar Horticultural Society's show on 5<sup>th</sup> July. Runners up were Mrs Heather Flynn, Orwell Park and Mr John Norris Orwell Gardens.

## Graffitists : How the Japanese deal with them

Earlier this year a group of students from central Japan and their 35 year old baseball coach were caught on a Japanese tourist's camera scrawling their names on the marble walls of Florence's Santa Maria del Fiori cathedral . There was nothing unusual in that as they were merely joining hundreds of other tourists who have already done so.

The Japanese tourist scandalised by their behaviour sent anonymously the photographs to the respective educational establishment. The national press soon wrote about it and it caused an uproar that resonated for months. In Japan the defacing of such an important cultural heritage site provoked utter horror

The culprits were found and punishment doled out. The media carried the matter for days and TV shows featured guest commentary many of which were uploaded on You-Tube. The three students from Kyoto Sangyo University were required to write letters of apology , received a two week suspension and underwent counselling sessions. The baseball coach lost his job . He decided to take responsibility for his misdemeanour and resigned. One of the female students scraped together €600 and flew back to Florence and offered the money and a sobbing apology to the slightly bemused mayor of Florence.

Back at home a TV commentator did not see it in quite the same way and remarked that shedding tears was not enough, the student should have given a proper verbal apology.

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### From *Links* of the past

Rathgar Road Names, No 4 Rathgar Road.

First shown on Taylors map published in 1816 as "New Road", without any houses indicated. The development can be reported by the names of successive terraces, with their dates and their present numbering, which was introduced in 1866.

1833 Spire View	nos 31-43	1855 Garville Villa	62-63
1835 Garville	65-70	1850s(late) Rosamond	54-56
1835 Garville Terrace	67-61	1850s(late)Alma Villas	188-192
1838 Cambridge Terrace	161-171	1850s(late) Annesley Terrace	27-29
1838 Salisbury Villas (later Terrace)	142-147	1850s(late) Delhi Terrace	193-195
1838 Pearemount	116-123	1850s(late) Everleigh	52-53
1839 Keanemount(North of Spireview)		1850s(late) Grosvenor Terrace	44-46
1839 Elmgrove cottages	88-97	1850s(late) Malakoff Terrace	184-187
1838 Sarzey(renamed Roseair 1851)	98-101	1850s(late) Winton Terrace	78-80
1843 Belleville	132-137	1862 De Vere Terrace	81-86
1853 Pearemount Cottges	71-73	1864 Ruby Terrace	49-50
1850 Albion Terrace	76-77	1864 Stanley Terrace	181-183

-Fred Dixon

*Link* February 1984

## A WALK ALONG THE DODDER

By Martin Joyce

The Dodder stretches for all of 18 miles from its source high on Kippure, at 757m the highest mountain in the Dublin Hills, to where it enters the Irish Sea at the three great locks of the Grand Canal, in Ringsend.

For most of its course the Dodder is a beautiful line of green, a linear park which owes its existence to a Scottish town planner by the name of Abercrombie. In 1941 he was commissioned by the 'County Borough of Dublin and Neighbourhood' and among many other recommendations he proposed that the Dodder River Valley should become a public amenity.

While Abercrombie's vision has never been fully implemented, you can still walk the Dodder in either direction from Firhouse to Ringsend, on a made path all the way, with just a little crossing of roads to join up the sections. Residents of Rathgar are fortunate to have such a wonderful amenity on our doorstep.

For this article, I will concentrate on the section starting at the Dropping Well in Milltown, proceeding upstream as far as Templeogue Bridge, a very pleasant walk of a little over an hour.

If you have access to two cars, I recommend parking one at Kilvere, a small estate off Butterfield Ave, Rathfarnham, at the end of the walk, to avoid retracing your steps. Sturdy walking shoes are all that is required and you should dress for the expected weather.

Beginning at the Dropping Well car park, walk upstream to the nearby impressive weir, watching out for wildlife, which in recent years has become more abundant on the river - herons, cormorants and kingfishers can all be seen at times, as well as the ubiquitous mallard duck. Exit to the road briefly to go around Dartry Dye Works and rejoin the river at the bottom of the hill. After passing under a bridge at Orwell Gardens, you soon see across the river the imposing triumphal arch known as the Ely Gate, built by Viscount Ely in the 1770s as a lower entrance to Rathfarnham Castle - his country retreat. Shortly cross a footbridge to the other side of the river, when you are beside the High School's Sports Grounds. You can walk on the left bank close to the water, parallel to Lower Dodder Road, where sometimes hopeful fishermen hang out, as far as Rathfarnham Road. Cross the junction there and go down to the left bank, crossing via stepping stones to the right bank after 200m.

You are now skirting Bushy Park on your right and you have a choice of entering the park and strolling through its atmospheric wood and exiting beyond the small pond, or continuing straight on the wide path outside, with the river on your left. Either way, when you see the Rathfarnham Tesco peeping through the trees, go up to the road, cross Springfield bridge and continue upstream on the left bank (the right bank is a popular dog walk which ends at a crescent of beautiful old cottages close to Templeogue village. Take this route if you want a slightly shorter walk).

From Tesco, walk along the left bank for about 800m until the path doglegs left and it exits on to Kilvere, where you have parked. If not, the frequent 15B from Butterfield Ave will bring you back to Rathgar.

Martin Joyce is Editor of *Walking World Ireland* magazine.

For more information on the Dodder, Read Christopher Moriarty's excellent *Down the Dodder*, published by Wolfhound Press.

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Rathgar Residents Association  
**Membership Application Form 2009.**

Annual subscription for household or individual member

Full €15

Concession €7.50

I would like to support the work of the Association in helping to maintain Rathgar as a residential and amenity area and wish to apply for/renew membership.

Full Name .....

Address.....

.....

Phone.....

Email.....

I enclose payment €..... (no cash please)  
Please send to RRA, PO Box No 9574, Dublin 6.  
Or hand to Road Representative or Committee member

**Colouring Competition for Children up to 10 years of age**



**Colour in Santa Claus and send it to:-**

**Attracta Madden, PO Box 9574, Dublin 6 by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009.**

**There will be a book token prize €20 for the best entrant.**

**Name.....**

**Address.....**

**Age.....**

