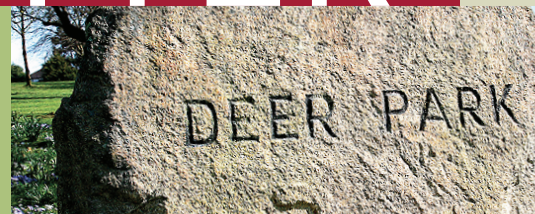


# MOUNT MERRION RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

# NEWSLETTER



Representing the interest of our community since 1935



## And People Stayed Home

And People stayed home  
and read books and listened  
and rested and exercised  
and made art and played  
and learned new ways of being  
and stopped  
and listened deeper  
someone meditated  
someone prayed  
someone danced  
someone met their shadow  
and people began to think differently  
and people healed  
and in the absence of  
people who lived in ignorant ways,  
dangerous, meaningless  
and heartless,  
even the earth began heal  
and when the danger ended  
and people found each other  
grieved for the dead people  
and made new choices  
and dreamed of new visions  
and created new ways of life  
and healed the earth  
completely  
just as they were healed  
themselves.

Kathleen O'Meara [1839-88]

## Letter from the President

On behalf of MMRA Committee members I would like to send best wishes to you all at this very difficult time. I do hope that you stay safe and keep well.

As all meetings are now cancelled, the 85th AGM has had to be postponed as well as the Annual Spring Clean Day scheduled for 4th April 2020. It is the aim of MMRA to keep you up to date with all the latest information that comes to us from the HSE, the Government and An Garda Síochana.

Our community Garda John O'Shea, has reassured us that a vigilant eye will be kept out for us. The Neighbourhood Watch Text Alert What's App has really taken off, so congratulations to all those roads who have now joined this very worthwhile venture. It was discovered during the updating of the MMRA Database that

many residents were not on email. A letter was distributed last week to them all with a mobile contact number so that they could be in touch with the appropriate administrator of the roads who have registered to be on the alert system.

Also in place is Neighbours helping Neighbours, identifying those vulnerable neighbours who may need support at this time with shopping, prescriptions and even that phone call. I would like to thank you all for your very generous offers of support and reaching out to help others. Let's hope that normality will return soon. In the meantime as I said in the beginning, stay safe and well.

Kate Canning.  
President  
Mount Merrion Residents' Association

## If the cap fits...



Martin and Elaine Maguire meeting Pope Francis in Rome

Every child that ever grew up in Mount Merrion has bought sweets or a 99 in Maguire's shop on Deerpark Road.

Our congratulations to Martin, and his new bride Elaine, who recently got married. Martin and Elaine were subsequently invited to meet the Pope in Rome, to receive his blessing. Martin took the opportunity to purchase a skullcap from the famous Gammarelli - Ecclesiastical Tailors, to present to the Pope.

On seeing the Gammarelli cap and box, the Pope removed the cap he was wearing, put on the new one and gave his cap to Martin. A souvenir that will be treasured forever.

Fair dues Martin, great thinking!

## *Membership of the MMRA*

Your support, by means of your annual subscription, provides the funding for the MMRA to operate. Subscription fees are used for the improvement of facilities, flower and tree planting, monthly Clean-Up days, MMRA website maintenance and administration costs from engaging with local authorities and bodies on behalf of residents.

The MMRA also produces a bi-annual Newsletter which features articles and topics of local interest, and delivers it to every home in Mount Merrion.

At the 2019 AGM it was suggested that the annual subscription should be €50 per household and €20 for OAP and the unwaged.

You can pay online for 2020 via myeasypay at [www.mountmerrion.ie/membership](http://www.mountmerrion.ie/membership) or email [membership@mountmerrion.ie](mailto:membership@mountmerrion.ie) to arrange payment.

Because of the situation in the country at the moment the collector will probably be making her rounds nearer the summer. The MMRA realises that some residents may be finding themselves in difficult situations over the next while. It is hoped that all is resolved very soon.

## *Annual Subscription for 2020*

Payment can be made online at [www.mountmerrion.ie](http://www.mountmerrion.ie) – enquiries to [membership@mountmerrion.ie](mailto:membership@mountmerrion.ie) or cash/cheque payment in completed subscription envelope (enclosed) to Coordinator, 43 Greenfield Road, Mount Merrion.

## *Neighbourhood Watch Text Alert Update*

We are delighted to hear that many roads in the area have now set up text alert groups.

This is a resident driven initiative and not managed by the MMRA. Please contact the Road Administrator for your road if you would like to join. (Email us at [mmra@mountmerrion.ie](mailto:mmra@mountmerrion.ie) and we will put you in touch.)

If you live on one of the following roads and would like to set up a Neighbourhood Watch Text Alert Group, please let us know so that we can put interested residents in touch.

**Callary Road, Chestnut Road, Cypress Road, Deerpark Road, Greenfield Road, Iris Grove, Lower Kilmacud Road, North Avenue, Owenstown Park, St Thomas Road & St Thomas Mead, The Close, The Fosters, Trees Avenue.**

## *Note from the Mount Merrion Historical Society*

Due to the current situation in which we find ourselves, we have cancelled/postponed the April talk on the 'Sacking of Balbriggan' by Brendan Matthews. We have also cancelled/postponed the May talk on 'Tom Crean' by his grandson Brendan O'Brien. It is our hope and desire to reschedule one or both of these talks in the new season, – Coronavirus permitting. A decision regarding the summer tour will be taken shortly.

The MMHS wishes to thank you most sincerely for your active support during this truncated season. We had brilliant attendances and audience participation. All of the Speakers commented on the interaction and have offered to return, if requested.

Thank you, please stay safe over the coming weeks/months, and we look forward to greeting you hale and hearty in the new season (which may begin in September—we'll see).

Des Smyth, MMHS

## **Covid 19 – Neighbours Helping Neighbours**

Residents on the Neighbourhood Watch groups would like to extend an offer of help to any elderly or those who may have their immunity compromised. They are very happy to run errands that might leave you in a vulnerable position over the coming weeks. If you would like to avail of this offer please email us at [mmra@mountmerrion.ie](mailto:mmra@mountmerrion.ie) and we will put you in touch.

## Old DLR depot at Mount Anville

In these exceptional times, in responding to the Covid-19 crisis, the DLR has decided to use the old depot at Mount Anville to deploy a relatively small crew of Road Maintenance staff, along with fleet and materials that they will need to do their work. We will also be installing temporary welfare facilities in the form of a portacabin with toilet facilities for the staff.

We know that local residents may have concerns about activity on the site but can assure you that the activity is related only to business continuity planning for DLR as part of our response to the Covid-19 crisis.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown  
County Council

## The Annual Spring Clean

The Annual Spring Clean, planned for 4th April, has been postponed. Likewise, the Monthly Clean up on the first Tuesday of each month has been called off. We would appeal to our neighbours to clean up outside their houses and environs. If members would occasionally clean an area in the park we could keep on top of the litter problem.

At this time, the jewel in the crown of Mount Merrion, which is Deerpark, is getting really heavy usage. It is beautiful in springtime but we need to remove the carelessly dropped litter to ensure that it is a place of beauty and comfort in these difficult times. Pickers and bags can be accessed through the MMRA website.

## Happy Birthday Ann!



The Mount Merrion Residents' Association is pleased to acknowledge the 100th birthday of long time Mount Merrion resident, Ann Roberts, of Wilson Crescent. She was born in Ballindangan, near Mitchelstown, and for many years ran her own Hairdressing Salon on Merrion Row. She moved to Mount Merrion in 1956 with her husband Ron, who sadly passed away in 1977. The MMRA was delighted to present a very special bouquet of flowers to our 100 year-old resident on behalf of the community. Ann is known by her neighbours and friends as 'being a really good neighbour'.



DLR County Council has promised us that 25+ replacement trees will be planted in Mount Merrion in 2020. The MMRA is in negotiation with them as to where the trees will be installed. Members who have requested replacement trees will be prioritised by us in these talks.

Call the Gardaí on

**01 666 5200**

*if you see anything suspicious.*

## Crime Prevention Tips

- **REPORT ALL SUSPICIONS - Phone 999**
- **DO NOT KEEP JEWELLERY OR CASH IN MASTER BEDROOM**
- **KEEP VALUABLES OUT OF SIGHT**
- **DETER, DELAY, DENY**
- **LIGHT UP & LOCK UP**
- **IF YOU HAVE HOUSE ALARM - USE IT**
- **LOOK OUT FOR YOUR NEIGHBOURS**
- **DO NOT ANSWER DOOR TO ANYONE YOU DO NOT KNOW**
- **ALWAYS ASK FOR ID.**

## Planning Information

The Planning Sub-Committee of MMRA meets monthly to review and take action on relevant planning matters that will affect residents.

The planning status of current sites that may have significant impact in Mount Merrion is summarised below.

It should be noted that a typical Planning Permission lapses after a period of five years from the date of Final Grant unless the approved development is substantially completed at that time.

### 1. 88 Trees Road:

- 4 Two storey Dwellings
- 1 Two storey Apartment Block containing 3 Apartments

**Status:** Construction well progressed on site.

**2a. Union Café:** (same owner as 2b.) Planning Permission granted for 50 apartments by An Bord Pleanála.

### 2b. Flanagans site:

(same owner as 2a.) Planning Permission granted by DLRCC for 48 apartments. **Status:** Major site evacuation is almost complete and new basement works progressing. Large trucks removing soil have caused major concern to residents along Deerpark Road, Wilson Road, Callery Road, North Avenue, Greenfield Road and the Rise, most of which are not included in the Contractor's Construction Management Plan. The Contractor offered some mitigation responses when approached by MMRA, but response still awaited from DLRCC.

### 3. Cherry Garth (Oatlands):

Granted Planning Permission for 63 houses/apartments by An Bord Pleanála. **Status:** No evidence of any development on site.

### 4. Thornhill House:

Planning Permission granted by An Bord Pleanála for 42 houses/apartments. Further Planning Application sought on 08/10/2019 for an additional 6 apartments, i.e. total 48 units granted by DLRCC despite observations by MMRA and residents. Now on appeal to An Bord Pleanála – decision expected soon. Further Planning Application sought on 28/02/2020 for an additional 6 houses i.e. total 54 units. Latest date for lodgement of observations to DLRCC is 02/04/2020. **Status:** Developer plans to commence site works on approved project in April 2020

### 5. 93 The Rise:

Planning Permission granted by DLRCC for 10 houses. **Status:** Construction near completion on site. No evidence on restoration of 11 highly treasured mature Yew trees.

### 6. Glenville, Fosters Avenue

Proposal to build 123 apartments, lodged directly An Bord Pleanála. **Status:** Many observations of concern, supported by professional advice, were lodged by MMRA and by local residents. The application was refused by An Bord Pleanála. To date there is no current live application.

### 7. 23 Greenfield Road

Planning permission was sought for a single storey dwelling in the rear of existing garden.

### 7. 23 Greenfield Road (cont'd)

Observations of concern were lodged by MMRA and local residents. **Status:** The application was refused by DLRCC and An Bord Pleanála.

### DLRCC Development Plan 2022 – 2028

MMRA attended the Pre-draft Consultation and made their Pre-draft Submission to DLRCC before the due date of 28/02/2020. The overall time frame of 104 weeks from 03/01/2020 for completion of 2022 – 2028 Development Plan is set out on the DLRCC ON-LINE "HAVE YOUR SAY" document.

