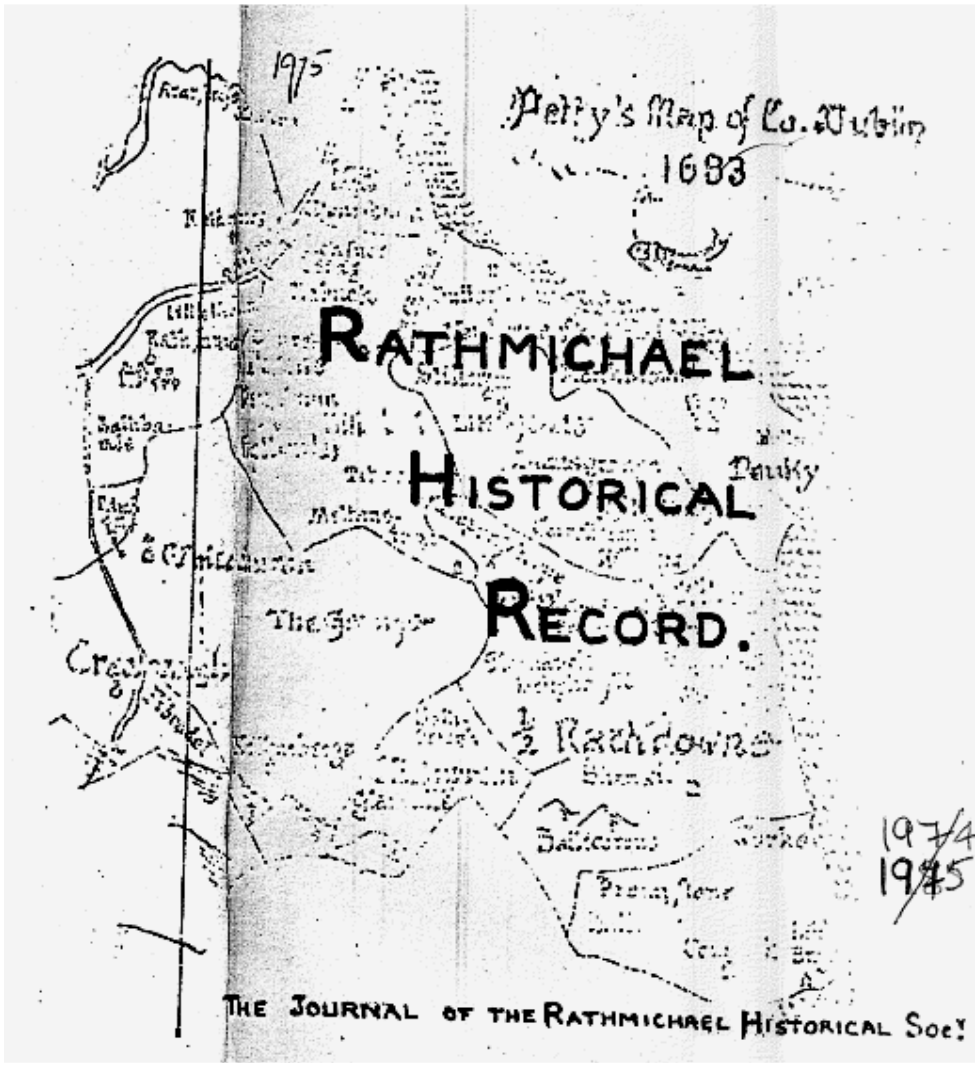

RATHMICHAEL HISTORICAL RECORD.

1974
1975

THE JOURNAL OF THE RATHMICHAEL HISTORICAL SOC.

Rathmichael Record 1975

Editorial

Once again the "Record" is late, but in that respect we seem to be in the best company. With apologies to our contributors for the delay, we thank them all for their help, without which we would not be able to appear at all. This again is a double issue summing up the activities of the Historical Society during the summer of 1975 as well as the talks given in the winter of 1974/75.

Archaeological Course

The most important event in the life of the Society to date is that which took place in August 1975. We refer to the start of a new venture, a course in Field Archaeology which was held in Rathmichael under the auspices of the Rathmichael Historical Society during the last week in August. Organised by Joan Delany, this course was the result of years of dreaming and hoping. It proved to be an outstanding success. About 22 people joined, for the most part young but a few not so young, and an excellent spirit prevailed.- Everybody worked with zeal and in perfect harmony under the direction of Mr. Marcus Ó hEochaidh who has not only years of experience of field work but a way of making people work and enjoy it.

Mainly survey work was done at Shankill Castle - the most interesting medieval site in the area – and later on, as a follow-up, more surveying was carried out at the hill-fort above the old Rathmichael site and not far from Puck's Castle. This fort had been planted over by the Forestry Commission some years ago, which meant that virtually nothing could be seen of it. At the end of July 1975, an accidental fire destroyed a large area of it, enabling something of it to be seen for the first time in many years - and how exciting it was!

This is a double ring-fort, if not treble, as there seem to be traces of a third ring; and it could well be that once it was of considerable importance. Dalton, writing his "History of Co. Dublin" about 1837, calls it "perhaps the finest rath in Ireland" and states that it "extends over an area 28 yards in diameter, the circumference of which was marked by a stone circle now nearly sodded over; below, in a wider range, the ambit of the hill was cut into a deep fosse, much of which is still discernible, as also of a yet wider mound and wall enclosing even this." Dalton ends "the position of the fort is most commanding and describes the fine panorama to be had of the surrounding country."

In view of this there would seem to be nothing inherently improbable in-the suggestion that this fort is the 'town' marked on Ptolemy's map of the 2nd century A.D., somewhere between Dublin and Avoca and slightly inland.

Canon Scott wonders how high these ramparts or stone circles were originally. It is now believed that they may well have been as much as 13 ft. in height. If so, it must have presented a very impressive sight.

For once it may be claimed that a fire has done some good. It is only fair to add that the Forestry Commission has promised to co-operate in any work on the fort and not to plant where it is better left. More has been achieved than was ever expected.

The Ballycorus Flue

It is disturbing to find that the old flue of the Ballycorus Lead Mines has, for the second time in the last few years, been bulldozed. About half-way up the road alongside which it runs, some 30 feet have been knocked down to make the entrance to a new house.

It is on record that this flue cost £10,000 when it was re-modelled about the middle of the last century, and at the time it was claimed to be not only unique in Ireland, but one of the best constructed in the (then) British Isles. Today it is of great interest to Industrial Archaeologists, in particular. Over 100 years ago it was also of considerable interest, as shown in an extract from "The Engineer" of August 1865, recently given me by Dr R.C. Cox of TCD. This extract gives a report of a visit by members of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, London, to the Ballycorus Lead Smelting Works. The party came out from Dublin by train and was met at Carrickmines Station by the Directors of the Mining Company, Sir Robert Kane, etc. The Company's principal officers showed them round and explained the various operations connected with the smelting of lead, the de-silvering of lead ore, the manufacture of sheet lead, etc and the refining of silver. The visitors were especially interested in the operation of separating the silver from the lead. After this, they followed the road parallel with the flue to the shot tower, no doubt surprised to learn as they walked, that the lead deposit recovered from the flue realized £1,500 each year for the Company.

The Shot Tower has, unfortunately, disappeared long ago and its exact site is not known. Joyce in his "Rambles" (a reprint of articles written for the Daily Telegraph) places it "lower down" from the chimney. The London Engineers were told that the tower - 120 feet high - was enabled to add to this height about 80-100 feet by utilizing an old mining shaft underneath it, thus getting a drop of some 200 feet.

Ballyman Dump

Another very disturbing piece of news is the intention of the Dublin and Wicklow County Councils and the Dublin Corporation to use Ballyman Glen as a refuse dump.

Beside the stream known as the County Brook which divides County Dublin from County Wicklow at the bottom of this valley, lies an ancient Celtic church which has connections with Glendalough and St. Kevin. It is one of a small number of churches in the Barony of Rathdown at which early gravestones decorated with concentric circles, cup-marks and other designs have been found. It is, therefore, of considerable antiquarian interest and strong protests have been made against such sacrilege.

Winter Lectures

January 28th 1975 **The French Are on the Sea…**
Paul O'Dwyer

[This is a summarized version of an illustrated lecture delivered to the Rathmichael Historical Society January 1975 by Paul O'Dwyer. The lecture was based on an essay which won first prize in the local history competition in the 1974 Oireachtas, and fuller version with sources will be appearing in the forthcoming issue of "The Irish Sword", journal of Military History Society of Ireland.]

Since the beginning of the war between Britain and France in 1793, both political and military leaders feared a French attack on the United Kingdom – and what better place to attack than Ireland? If a westerly wind persisted for a period of four days the French fleet could sail from Brest and reach Dublin before the British could lift a finger defend the capital. The same wind which would bring the French ships to Dublin would effectively keep whatever British ships were stationed in Portsmouth or Plymouth cooped up in those ports. The Hon. George Napier, a colonel in the Brit Army felt that Killiney Bay would be the best for the French to disembark and take possession of the heights overlooking Dublin "before 800 British soldiers of the garrison could be disentangled from the Town and thrown into any position even half way between the Enemy and Dublin". He also feared that the rabble would welcome the French and plunder the City, and that "the whole Kingdom would be undone for a Century to come".

In order to cope with this threat, Napier proposed that about a third of the Army be devoted to the defence of the Capital, starting with Killiney Bay, where a camp should be set up for 5,000 men. This Camp would have to be sufficiently back from the shore to be put of range of the guns on any invading ships - a full two Irish miles. He also suggested that the army assemble a small corps of enlisted artificers to construct earthworks and suchlike.

Thus, the Loughlinstown camp was opened on June 1st 1795 on the townland of Lehaunestown owned by the Established Church and situated about a mile inland. During the year that followed the troops were given intensive training to cope with whatever emergency might arise - night operations, meeting daybreak alarms and surprise attacks and repelling landings.

In December 1796 the French attempted a landing in Bantry Bay and this increased the authorities' fear of a seaborne invasion. Lord Carhampton, Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in Ireland, decided to draw up a plan to defend Killiney Bay against the French Fleet. He asked Major La Chaussee to reconnoitre the Bay and draw up a plan of defence. La Chaussee was a Frenchman and he appears to have joined the British Army following the French Revolution. He submitted his report to Carhampton on February 11th, 1797. La Chaussee identified three places which would suit an enemy trying to land. These were the points where there were breaks in the cliffs. He considered the Bay had one great advantage, however, it was almost a straight line and so the attackers could not push the defenders out to the perimeter, and the defenders would not have to spread their forces any wider than those of the attackers.

I think it is worth summarising La Chaussee's report as it adds a new dimension to this scenic Bay and it also illustrates the concise mind of a professional soldier. La Chaussee included a map with his report, but unfortunately, this cannot be found today.

Although Carhampton requested information on particular points, La Chaussee drew up a comprehensive report on the geography of the Bay and its military significance. He examined the Bay under five headings:-

1. The Coast

The coastline is bordered by cliffs, varying in height from 30 to 70 feet, except in three places:

i. between the bottom of the Obelisk Mountain (Killiney Hill) and the Lime Kiln - a distance of 300 yards.

ii. at the mouth of the stream which runs across the brow of the Camp (Shanganagh River) - a distance of 400 yards.

iii. at the mouth of the Dargle - a distance of 500 yards - and from there to t-Mountain of Bray Head.

As well as these three places there ar other small breaks in the cliffs caused by little streams or made by local residents for the convenience of access to the beach.

2. Inland

The inland of the Bay is shaped like an amphitheatre, stretching back to the hills, but three major divisions can: be identified:

i. from the Obelisk Mountain to the wood at Fair View, a distance of 2½ miles. There are no natural barriers in this section to impede the progress of the enemy should he succeed in penetrating the coastal defences.

ii. from Fair View Wood to Bray village (a distance of 1½ miles). This section is made up entirely of two fairly regular slopes, the summit of which is about 500 - 700 yards from the sea. The coastal slope is fairly open, but the inland one is broken by a considerable number of ditches, land rises, streams, etc. all of which make communication and access very difficult.

iii. from Bray village to the foot of the mountain called Bray Head (a distance of ¾ mile). This section is fairly regular; the coast is low on the seaward side and it rises in the form of a crater, the centre of which is occupied by a fairly large castle, surrounded by trees and walls.

3. Deployment of Forces

This will depend on:

i. the number and type of the troops.
ii. the degree to which they are experienced in battle.
iii. the geography of the area.
iv. the general's choice between engaging the enemy on a broad front or at selected points.

Having taken those points into account the actual deployment of forces will depend on the judgement of the general on the spot. Military theory does not provide a once-and-for-all answer to this question.

4. Modifications to the Coastline

i. position batteries to cover the sea and defend the approaches from the shore; even if these are not sufficient to prevent disembarkation, the loss they will occasion to the enemy will mean that much less to be contended with when he lands.

ii. set up 12 pounders or howitzers, hidden behind the shoulders of the cliffs, not to be fired until the very moment when the enemy start getting out of their launches. I think that these flanking batteries would cause chaos among the enemy as they could not be fired upon from the ships due to the presence of the enemy's own troops in the line of fire.

iii. escarp all the slopes and ravines which leave openings in the cliff in order to reduce to a minimum those points where the enemy can get through, and in this way keep him longer exposed to the raking fire, should he disembark in front of the cliffs.

5. Inland Modifications

i. cut and destroy all the hedges, ditches and ravines which are parallel to the shore and so not give the enemy cover and allow him to advance unnoticed.

ii. entrench the country houses and fortify them with big guns.

iii. set up turnpikes at the top of the pathways to deny the enemy entry for as long as possible should he try to penetrate the defences at any one of these points.

The troops for all this defence would, of course, be drawn from the Loughlinstown Camp.

Despite all these preparations the French never came in 1797, and the Loughlinstown troops were not called on to defend the Bay. But towards the end of 1797 and the beginning of 1798 the Camp was the focal point for another quite different plan. The Camp contained a large number of Catholic militia and the United Irishmen planned to subvert these, take over the Camp and use the troops to march on Dublin.

This was a very clever and ambitious plan which would provide the revolutionaries with trained forces and deprive the city of its main defence all at one blow. Needless to say, it did not come off. The wonderful plan came a cropper when the United Irishmen accepted Captain Armstrong as a member of their organisation. Armstrong was in charge of the King's County Regiment in the Camp and he met the Shears brothers regularly in the city centre to work put details of the plan against the Camp. After each of these meetings, however, he dropped in to Dublin Castle and brought the authorities up to date on the latest developments. He was, of course, only one spy among thousands, but I do not think it would be an exaggeration to say that he was responsible for considerably changing the course of the rebellion. He testified against the Shears brothers on July 12th 1798 when they were in the dock for treason; part of the charge was that they "did make...a plan...to surprise and take the camp at Loughlinstown...". By April 1799 the Camp was at an end. The authorities were satisfied that there was no further danger in the United Irishmen movement now that the rebellion had been quelled, and the French who landed in the west with Humbert the previous year had failed to achieve their objective. And in the last analysis, was the Act of Union not going to solve those problems once and for all?

From 1800 on there was a sort of informal truce with the French and the Treaty of Amiens was signed in 1802. However, war broke out again in 1803 and once more the authorities began to fear a French seaborne invasion.

A plan was drawn up to construct a series of Martello Towers around the coast of Ireland and the south of England. Since Ireland was uppermost in the minds of the authorities, the first towers were built in this country, starting with the southern half of Dublin Bay. Seven were built in Killiney Bay itself and concentrated around the points identified by La Chaussee as coastal weaknesses. Each tower cost somewhere in the region of £1,800 and was garrisoned by six to eight men at first. By 1815 each tower appears to have had a garrison of about 30 men, and the batteries about 45 men. The towers were generally mounted with one gun while the batteries had on average three to four guns. These numbers were subsequently reduced when the French threat subsided after Waterloo, though some gunners, pensioners perhaps, are recorded as living in the towers as late as 1867.

March 18th 1975 **Dublin's Architectural Heritage**
J. A. Culliton

Despite Ireland's isolation to the north and west of the European land mass, an isolation that no longer exists because of modern advances in travel, it nevertheless owes most of its culture, and has derived much of its knowledge of Christianity, church building, domestic building and Local Government, from various countries such as Spain, Portugal, Brittany, Scandinavia, Britain, France and Holland.

The present capital was not always as readily accessible to sea travellers as today. The city was first named Eblana by a Greek Geographer in the .second century A.D. At that time the sea approach to the River Liffey (Anna Livia) was extremely dangerous to shipping, and as ships grew in size it became more dangerous because of sand bars and rocks. Many centuries were to elapse and many ships were sunk before the narrow channel was made navigable.

The Romans never came to Ireland; their arrival could have changed the whole way of life in Dublin, and would without doubt have influenced the planning and architecture of the capital.

The Irish have always been influenced by the skills, culture and knowledge of the various and differently orientated invaders, while at the same time introducing modifications that made the changed thing peculiarly Irish. This is particularly true for Architecture.

The culture of the Celts, the Normans, the megalithic tomb builders and Christianity as well as Romanesque and Gothic Architecture got through to Ireland. The Romans, Saxons and Baroque Architecture did not.

Most of the very early primitive Christian churches in the City of Dublin have disappeared. Smal1 churches on the site of Christ Church Cathedral and at St. Patrick's Cathedral were removed to make room for the larger and present Cathedrals. The early church of St. Doulough's with its stone roof may be seen near Malahide in the County Dublin.

The earliest parish church in Dublin is the old church of St. Audoen's High Street in 1190 A.D. The earlier building is roofless and preserved as a ruin, the later church building is in black calp limestone and is still used for services. The original church was founded by the Anglo-Normans and dedicated to the Norman Saint, St Audoen of Rouen. The west doorway probably dates to about 1200, but the lower portion of the tower above is largely 17th century in date. The present church consists only of the nave of the original church dating to the first half of the 13th century.

At the corner of Nicholas Street and Christchurch Place stands the roof-less ruin of the church of St. Nicholas Within (meaning within the walls of the old City). This church was founded in the middle of the 11th century by Bishop Donat who was the first Danish Bishop of Dublin. The Danes or Scandinavians were converted to Christianity shortly after their defeat at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014 A.D. This parish church was united to St. Audoen's in 1867. St. Nicholas Within was rebuilt in 1573 and again in 1707. The Dublin Corporation has recently carried out works of preservation this ruin. This is of particular interest now since the Museum Authority has carried out an Archaeological excavation on the adjoining site revealing a Viking settlement.

Christchurch Cathedral is 12th century, built to replace an older church on the site. The original founder was Dunan, first Bishop of Dublin about 1038 on land given by Sigtryggr Silkenbeard, King of Dublin. The parts of the original 12th century church which survive are the north and south transepts which are in the best Romanesque style with three sets of

windows one above the other. The present nave was probably built around 1212/ but the western bay was added after 1234 and its lower portions have been considerably restored in the 19th century. There was considerable reconstruction towards the end of the 19th century. English influence can easily be discerned in both the design and workmanship of the Cathedral.

The Vikings in the 9th to 12th century established themselves in power in Dublin and introduced community life to the Carty. The remains of their settlements in Dublin have been exposed in Archaeological excavations at High Street, Christchurch Place and Winetavern Street. Remains of their mud and wattle settlements may be seen in the Dublin Museum.

St. Patrick's Cathedral was founded in 1191 by the first Norman Archbishop of Dublin, John Comyn. It was advanced to the status of a Cathedral in 1213 in opposition to Christchurch. From 1688 to 1816 the Lady Chapel was used by the Huguenots. A general restoration of the fabric was undertaken in 1865 at the expense of Sir Benjamin Guinness, the wealthy Dublin brewer.

According to tradition St. Patrick, the Patron saint of Ireland, baptised converts in a well on the site.

The famous Jonathan Swift was Dean of St. Patricks from 1713 – 45 and his pulpit and tomb can be seen.

In many respects this Cathedral is architecturally more satisfying than Christ Church.

The Norman invasion of the 12th century brought about many radical changes in Dublin. They set up a form of Local and Central Government which has prevailed with little basic change down through the centuries. A famous charter from Henry I in 1171 gave Dublin over to his men of Bristol. This and other Charters are preserved in the Muniments room of the present City Hall.

The Normans, fearing attack from the hostile Irish dwelling in the mountains south of the City, decided to strengthen and rebuild the City Walls. Dublin was to become a fortress complete with fortified Castle from which the English were to rule the country until 1922 when the Irish Free State was set up.

Most of the City Wall has disappeared. A small section may be seen at Cornmarket, High Street. A larger section together with St. Audoen's Gate 1240 A.D. at Cook Street is at present undergoing work of preservation and reconstruction as part of Dublin Corporation's programme for European Architectural Heritage Year.

It was within the narrow confines of this walled city that the Corporation functioned with its Mayor, Aldermen and Sheriffs. Strangway's map of 1904 gives some conception of the minute yet complete city that managed in relative calm to survive and administer laws, despite assaults and threats of destruction. One such threat came in 1316 A.D. when Edward Bruce from Scotland arrived with a large army and encamped at Castleknock on the outskirts of Dublin.

The City Walls were in poor condition in places, and there was a frantic rush to close the gaps before the enemy arrived at the gates. Bruce, however, never attacked but retired from what he considered and impregnable fortress.
The Corporation continued to administer the affairs of the city, at first from a small building in the Winetavern Street, but subsequently it moved to a new building, the Tholsel in what is

now Christ Church Place. The first Tholsel was built on a bad foundation and was demolished. Nothing remains of the second Tholsel

After some centuries of relative calm, it was felt safe to build suburbs outside the medieval walled city, and once this practise started, the expansion and growth became rapid. In order to appreciate the growth, it is of interest to compare the small city shown on Speeds map of 1610 with ordnance maps of the early and late 18th century.

The extensive growth became obvious after the arrival of Cromwell who devastated the Irish countryside. This was followed by the arrival in Ireland of the French and Dutch Huguenots. Many of these settled in Dublin and enriched the City with their various skills and crafts. In particular they introduced Banking and the weaving craft to the City.

Their weavers set up business in the areas outside the city walls. They brought with them too their own style of gable-fronted houses, in some of which they both lived and worked.

These houses were built in brick to a simple plan with a large central chimney stack which was a party chimney to the next house. They invariable had a small annexe building at the rere. There was no basement. The cruciform roof was a notable feature of these houses with the ridge set at right angles to the gable front. Few of these houses now remain intact. The most perfectly preserved front is at No. 11 Lower Leeson Street, although some later work was carried out to the sides of the gable front. In many cases the original front was subsequently taken down and a later Georgian front substituted, presumably at the dictates of fashion. This left some houses in the city with Georgian fronts and Huguenot backs. Their flush-framed windows were now in breech of an English regulation of 1707 which forbad the use of such windows to prevent the lateral spread of fire. This belated regulation followed on from the disastrous great fire of London

In this particular period the church of St. Michan, north of the River Liffey was largely rebuilt. It is famous for the preservation of corpses in its remarkable crypt. The church has an early 18th century organ, notable wood carvings, and the only stool of repentance preserved in Dublin.

In 1680 the Royal Hospital was complete. It was designed by Sir William Robinson as a hospital for old soldiers.

At the turn of the century, in 1715 St. Werburgh's Church was built. It has been considerab1y altered, but has one of the most beautiful interiors in the city.

The date 1715 is a highly significant one in Dublin's growth and architectural history. It coincides with the opening reign of successive Georges to the English throne. The first major buildings in this period are Trinity College and the Parliament House (now the Bank of Ireland, College Green).

Trinity College was founded in 1592, but no trace of the original Elizabethan structure now remains. The library was begun in 1712 and was designed by Colonel Thomas Burgh. The staircase is by Cassels (1750), who also designed the Printing House (1734) and the Dining Hall (1759-61). The Corinthian façade facing College Green was built in 1758 and was designed by Henry Keane and John Sanderson.

The Bank of Ireland was until 1804 the Irish Parliament House (the Dáil and Seanad now meet at Leinster House, Kildare Street). The designer of the original building was Sir Edward Lovett Pearce, and the Westmoreland Street portico, and extra accommodation for the Lords

were added by the architect Gandon in 1785. The western quadrant and the Foster Place Portico were added, with Robert Parke as Principal Architect, about two years later. Francis Johnston adapted the building for the Bank's occupation.

The Mansion House in Dawson Street is pre-Georgian (1705) it was bought by the Corporation in 1715 and has since been the official residence of Lord Mayors of Dublin.

St. Anne's Church Dawson Street (1720) has one of the finest interiors in Dublin. The front remained incomplete until 1868 when it was pulled down and replaced by the present "Romanesque" front by Sir Thomas Deane.

The Tailors Hall in Back Lane, High Street, built in 1707 for the ancient Guild of Tailors. It has recently been restored and is now in use for various functions.

With the advent of the new Irish Parliament in College Green, and the obvious supremacy of the English Protestants, Dublin's development ceased to be a sporadic and uncontrolled building of isolated and unrelated dwellings scattered outside the walled City, instead there began what might be deemed a serious attempt at town planning. This became evident in the formation of streets for the new suburbs. The walled Mediaeval City was bursting at the seams and was thrusting outward to the the sea and the mountains, particularly to the East and South. One significant and very early new Georgian Street appeared on the north bank of the River Liffey and this was Henrietta Street (1730). This street is now largely given over to tenements but still shows remnants of its former glory. It is the earliest street of really large houses in Dublin. Two of the finest houses, numbers 9 and 10 (1730) are both by Cassels, the latter for Luke Gardiner, who was responsible for the layout of this and many other streets on the north side of the City. The Gardiners were later Viscounts Mountjoy and Earls of Blessington.

The early Georgian Houses between 1714 and 1750 were less refined in their door and window detailing than those built in the golden era that followed in 1760 to the turn of the century. Some were altered to conform to the style of the later period but some remain. The later period of the 18th century was responsible for the elegance and simplicity of the Great Georgian Squares and Streets of central Dublin. The great expanses of red-brown brick facades with the minimum of rusticated stonework create a warm background broken only by the delicate and beautiful windows which are invariably framed by the thin white plaster or timber reveals. The wrought iron railings and later balconies help to create a third dimension in Townscape which has never been bettered in these islands.

The second half of the 18th century, approximately 1760 onward, saw Dublin develop a finer and more classical style of architecture. Dublin was now established as the second largest City in the British Isles, and remained as one of the great cities of the world up to the mid-nineteenth century. In fact the City became one of great wealth and fashion. The great wealth of building that commenced with the building of the Parliament House was now in the mid century about to blossom into one of the most beautiful cities in Europe.

The great legacy of beautiful buildings, streets and squares that evolved to the turn of the century are too numerous to mention in a short treatise, but the following great buildings and squares cannot be omitted:

Merrion Square, one of the best squares in the city was designed by John Ensor. Building began in 1762. Leinster House, is situated in a commanding position on the Square,, This was the residence of the Dukes of Leinster (1745) and is now Dáil Éireann (the Parliament House). It is flanked on one side by the National Gallery and on the other by the National Museum. The Rutland Fountain opposite dates from 1791.

The brick houses on this Square preserve their uniformity and the best of them display the typical classical refinements of this golden era.

Fitzwilliam Square is the smallest and possibly best preserved of the Georgian Squares. It dates to 1825 approximately.

Parnell Square is the second oldest of the great Squares and dates to the mid eighteenth century. It contains Charlemont House, designed by Richard Chambers for the Duke of Rutland. It was originally one of the best of the City Mansions. It now incorporates the Municipal Gallery of Modern Art. This Square also contains the more recent Garden of Remembrance designed by Daithí Hanley (a former City Architect) with Bronze Sculpture by Oisín Kelly.

Belvedere House is a large house not far from Parnell Square in Great Denmark Street, It was built in 1785 by Michael Stapleton, a stuccodore, and lavishly adorned with his best plasterwork. It has been used as a Jesuit College since 1841.

The Casino at Marino was designed in the Palladium style by Sir William Chambers for Lord Charlemont, who laid the foundation stone in 1762. This pleasure house with its finely proportioned rooms is a miniature masterpiece of 18th century architecture. It is now national monument.

The Church of Saint Catherine.This church is situated in Thomas Street. The present church was built in 1769 on a foundation dating from 1105. John Smyth was the architect who designed and modelled this front elevation in the Palladium Style in mountain granite which includes pilasters and a central portico, surmounted by a pediment. It is also surmounted by a massive unfinished Tower. This church is now being restored and preserved for Architectural Heritage Year.

The Civic Museum in South William Street was built in 1765/71 for the Society of Artists. It has an octagonal exhibition hall. It was used temporarily in the 19th century as a Municipal Council Chamber after the old Council building in Christchurch Place became dangerous. The building was converted to a Civic Museum in the early 1950's and it contains a collection of Dublin relics which were largely supplied by the Old Dublin Society and members of the public.

The Customs House. This is the masterpiece of James Gandon, probably the most famous architect in Dublin City at this period. The building has four decorated fronts, the south front facing the river was begun in 1781 and embellished with sculptures by Edward Smyth. In 1921 the building was gutted by fire but was restored later. On the lawn of the north front is situated the Bronze Memorial to the Dublin Brigade of the Irish Republican Army. It was designed by the Breton Sculptor Yann Renard-Goulet.

Dominick Street. One of these Georgian Houses, no. 20, is beautifully preserved, particularly in the interior which has some of the finest of Robert West's rococo plasterwork of 1758. It is now in the hands of a religious order who care for the building and are responsible for its present good state of preservation.

Four Courts. This building was designed by James Gandon, the architect who designed the Custom House. It was begun in 1786, and it has a frontage to the River Liffey which is dominated by a great Corinthian portico of six columns, behind which rises the Central Dome. The main central building is flanked by identical pavilions. This building was badly damaged both by shell fire and fire during the 1922 civil war and has since be reconstructed.

The General Post Office in O'Connell Street. It was designed by Francis Johnston and completed in 1818. It has a very fine Ionic portico of six fluted columns, the pediment being surmounted by statues. It was the headquarters of the Irish Volunteers during the 1916 Rising, and was shelled from the River Liffey by a British gunboat. It has since been reconstructed.

Kilmainham Gaol was built in 1796 and designed by Sir John Traill. It has recently been reconditioned by voluntary effort. There were two nineteenth century extensions. In this gaol the leaders of the 1916 Rising were imprisoned and executed.

Kings Hospital known also as the Blue Coat School is an example of delicate Palladianism, erected in1780, architect Thomas Ivory. This building has been recently acquired by the Law Society.

Mountjoy Square Laid out for Lord Mountjoy and finished in 1818, this square has been partly restored and will eventually be completely restored.

St. Georges Church designed by Francis Johnston in 1802. The portico of four columns is Neo-Grecian and the ceiling spans the whole interior without intermediate support. This is one of the finest churches in Dublin,

St. Mary's Church (known also as the Black Church) is built in black Dublin Calp limestone. It was designed in the Neo-Gothic style by John Semple. The church has neither wall nor ceiling; instead it has an amazing parabolic vault which takes the place of both. The church which stands on an interesting island site is now owned and used by the Dublin Corporation for exhibition and other lay purposes.

St. Stephen's Church (Upper Mount Street). This was designed by John Bowden in the Neo-Grecian style in 1824. It is on an island site and closes the Vista when seen from Merrion Square.

St. Stephen's Green originally a common on which the Lord Mayor grazed his horses, is one of Dublin's earliest Squares. The earliest houses were French style but have long since disappeared. It still has some of the later Georgian houses particularly nos. 85 and 86 known as Newman House of the University College. Some Georgian houses at the corner of Hume Street have been restored in facsimile thus preserving the Georgian character of the 18th century style houses through Hume Street and Ely Place to Merrion Square.

Powerscourt House was the Town House of Lord Powerscourt. Designed by Robert Mack in 1771/4, the interior is beautifully detailed in plaster work. The stuccodores were Michael Stapleton and James McCullagh.

Mount Pleasant Square is one of the very late squares in this general period. It has three sides, two of which are curved. It was built in 1830.

From 1830 to the turn of the century Dublin began the slow change from the classical style of the late 18th century. The transition to the Victorian style is one of uncertainty. Architects at first merely produced designs for smaller houses still essentially Georgian in character. They tended to introduce the basement storey at a higher level. This was accomplished by increasing the number of stone steps to the hall door and therefore bringing the basement floor up to garden level. This major improvement was maintained throughout the Victorian period.

The style of this period which was reasonably simple and plain in the opening years changed to a heavily ornamented and fruity style which at times showed a strong Italian influence; it

was severely criticised as an art form by the serious contemporary architects and lovers of the classical architecture who went so far as to describe it as sheer vulgarity at its worst. Posterity, however, is not so critical and there is now a far better climate for acceptance of the work of this era. Certainly the workmanship displayed in the brick and stonework of the period is worthy of note.

Notable in this period is **Broadstone Railway Station**, (now used as a bus garage). This massive Graeco-Egyptian block was designed by J.S. Mulvany (1841-50). It has a long colonnade to the east.

Church of S.S. Augustine and John by Pugin (1862) is amongst the finest Victorian-Gothic designs in Dublin. The spire rises to 160 feet.

Some streets of the Victorian era which illustrate the various features and changes already referred to are listed here for the benefit of those who might like to visit and take note of the transition from Victorian to the 20th century style of architecture:

Heytesbury Street	Elgin Road
Clyde Road	Raglan Road
Rathgar Avenue	Belgrave Square
Waterloo Road	Rathgar Road

December 5th 1974 **Newgrange**
by Joan Delany

At very short notice an interesting talk on Newgrange was given by Mrs. Delany illustrated by the author's own most excellent slides.

Summer Visits

Sunday May 25th **Ballyedmunduff – Kilgobbin - Brennanstown Dolmen**

Ballyedmunduff

Perhaps the only dull day in a wonderful Summer. We met at the The Fox, Glencullen and went about ½ mile along the road to Stepaside intending to take the shortest way up the 2-Rock Mountain to our objective. This way cuts across the top of a Pitch-and-Putt and, being Sunday, the golfers were out and we had to find another route through a farm some way further on.

It is however, well worth any trouble to find this place; apart from the great interest of the grave, the view over the mountains and sea is superb. The monument, which takes its name from the townland in which it lies, is technically known as a Wedge-shaped Gallery Grave, dated to the Early Bronze Age, i.e. about 1700 B.C. It was excavated in 1945, cremated bones, pottery and a stone hammer etc. being found. Estyn Evans, in his "Prehistoric & Early Christian Ireland" gives a full description of it.

Coming down the hill, a startled deer sprinted across our path, and one was reminded of the Anglo-Norman days when the Royal Forest of Glencree was preserved for the King and his favourites, and kept stocked with deer from the Royal Park in Chester.

Kilgobbin Church and Cross

From the Two Rock Mountain to Stepaside, where we saw the ruined church of Kilgobbin in its ancient graveyard perched on top of a high mound. This church was built in 1703 by Archbishop King - one of several which he caused to be erected when he found so few churches standing in this area - on the site of an early Celtic church in ruins since the beginning of the 17th century. In 1826 it was superseded by the present Kilternan (C. of I.) Church.

The granite cross, 8 feet high, standing at the foot of the mound, must have been a fine one in its time, but, as well as being badly damaged with its right arm missing, it has suffered so much from weather that scarcely anything remains of its sculpture - the Crucifixion on both faces - can be seen today. A drawing by T. J. Westropp done in 1905 reproduced in Dr. Ball's "History of County Dublin", part 3, shows that much more could be seen then. Opinions as to its age differ - some place it as early as the 10th century, others say the 12th.

Brennanstown Dolmen

This is one of the best known and the largest in the country. We got permission - very kindly given - from the owner of Glen Druid House (in the grounds of which the dolmen lies) to walk through his place to the banks of the river to see it. Peter Harbison calls it "an excellent example of a Portal Dolmen" and likens it to a bird about to take off! Its enormous capstone, almost square, measures roughly 15' by 15' and is estimated to weigh between 40 and 60 tons.

Sunday, June 22nd **Kilmashogue and Kelly's Glen**

The members met at the car park on Kilmashogue and visited the Wedge-shaped Gallery-Grave on the hill-side just above the car park. It was originally covered by an oval mound of stones and on excavation some years ago was found to comprise a roughly rectangular chamber and a small ante-chamber, dating probably to the earlier part of the second millennium B.C. The excavation disclosed that later burials took place within the mound and a fireplace was constructed. This tomb is referred to in Peter Harbison's "Guide to the National Monuments of Ireland".

The party next proceeded up the road towards the valley known as "Kelly's Glen", breaking off on the way to inspect the "Larch Hill" Portal Dolmen, having a very large capstone which unfortunately has slipped (displaced, according to local history by an earthquake). Traces of the covering mound are just discernible. At the head of the glen are two stone bridges crossing the head waters of the Little Dargle, and erected in or about 1850 by a member of the Caldbeck family who owned Larch Hill, as a memorial to his sister, and bearing inscriptions in Italian.

On the far bank of the stream and just above the lower of the two bridges, it is still possible to find the unusual spring which came into popularity about 1750 after the decline of Templeogue Spa. According to Dr. Rutty in his "Natural History of the County of Dublin" (1757), "the citizens of Dublin who though probably by the badness of the road they may be deterred from going to the fountain, may be daily supplied with this water conveyed to them early in the morning in bottles well corked…"

The party found the spring though no one ventured to test the curative properties of its rather unpleasant looking contents.

Sunday, July 27th **Castledermot - Moone - Old Kilcullen .**

This was the long outing of the summer. Leaving Shankill at 10 a.m., we arrived home about 5.30 p.m. Once again the weather was wonderful with sunshine all the way. First stop was Moone, access to which is greatly improved. It used to be through a very rough farmyard - now the way to the cross is via a V-shaped hole in the wall bordering the road and then a well trodden footpath.

In early medieval days Moone - then spelt Monmohenoke - became a prebendary parish in St. Patrick's Cathedral. The cross, of course, is centuries older than this, and is all that remains of a 6th century Columban monastery. It is thought to be of the 9th century. Francoise Henry places it in a group which includes Old Kilcullen and Castledermot etc. all of which are west of the Wicklow Mountains, are of granite, and repeat many of the same subjects in their sculpture. Unusually tall - 17 feet - with a very high base and slender shaft it is certainly the most elegant and one of the loveliest in the country. Because of its size, it is said to have been made in several pieces, found lying separately in the graveyard and re-erected in the last century.

<u>Castledermot</u>

Here, as in Moone, we get a slightly different name in medieval times when it was called Tristie-dermot, perhaps a corruption of the Diseart or hermitage of Dermot, the founder of the original monastery. After the coming of the Normans, Walter de Riddlesford, Lord of Bray,

was granted land here as well and endowed his Convent of Grane near by with all the churches in his "honor (or manor) of Bre" and built a castle, forerunner of the present Kilkea.

There is so much to be seen in Castledermot that we had far too little time for looking at the lovely ruins of the Franciscan Friary. There can be but few churchyards in the country with so much to offer as that which surrounds the 17th century C. of I. church. Besides the two fine granite High Crosses, depicting many of the subjects seen at Moone, and the 10th century Round Tower, which are all that remain of Dermot's monastery, there is the round-arched doorway of a later, 12th century church, and, nearby the tombstone of King Cormac of Cashel, who was once a student here. Further off in the graveyard is a swearing stone - a cross-slab with hole large enough to put a hand through to clasp another's. To add to all this and more, in 1967 a large stone known as the Hogback because of its shape was dug up in the churchyard close to where it now lies. Scholars tell us that this stone, about 5 feet in length with curved sides, is a representation of a 10th century Viking-type house with curved roof and walls, only known to-day in this form. So far it is the only one of its kind in Ireland, although there are a number in England and Scotland. Its "roof" is decorated with crosses on one side and 'lozenges' on the other.

Old Kilcullen

On the way home we turned aside from the main road to climb the little hill to the old churchyard where are the foundations of an ancient church and chancel, an early Round Tower and the shaft of a High Cross. In the top panel on the west face of this cross is depicted a Bishop with crozier and bell who appears to be administering correction with a long-handled instrument to a man lying at his feet! Could this be Bishop Mac Tail of Kilcullen who died 550 A.D., and is thought to have been the founder of Rathmichael? One can picture him standing on the hill beside his little church, looking over to the mountains and thinking how much he would like to found a church on the other side of them, facing the sea... On the bottom panel on the south face of the cross is a row of those curious neckless heads.

Coming back to the church of which only the foundations are now to be seen, in the late 18th century a fine Romanesque arch was still standing and a drawing of it was done by the antiquary Grose. By 1826 this had completely vanished. Only a few years ago a suggestion was made that this Old Kilcullen arch may have been brought to Wicklow Church of Ireland Church, where there is an old doorway with a similar arch. Just how similar is the subject of an interesting article in JRSAI Vol. 2 Part I 1972 where this suggestion is fully discussed.

Sunday September 28th **Glen of the Downs Forest Trail**

Paul O'Dwyer who was to have brought us to Delgany being unable to come, we decided as we had assembled in the Bellevue Car Park, to take the Forest Walk. It was a lovely day, Ian Booth was there to answer questions, and the walk was enjoyed by everyone.

Christopher Moriarty, in one of his Friday articles in the Irish Times, says of the Glen of the Downs:- "The forest there is especially interesting as being the nearest thing to a primeval oakwood near Dublin", and he adds that oaks would have been the dominant vegetation of South Dublin in early medieval times.

Not many people realise that the oak - which became a symbol of the strength of England - played an equally important part in Ireland. Centuries before Englishmen were proudly calling the ships of their Navy "Hearts of Oak", our Celtic ancestors gave the name "House of

Oak" (Deartheach) to the little churches they were erecting all over the country and which in the very early Christian times were usually made of wood rather than stone.

Not everyone today may know that Bellevue once belonged to the La Touche family, famous as our first bankers. David La Touche came to Ireland with William of Orange, having fled from France and the persecution of the Huguenots. After the battle of the Boyne, in which he took part, he started the manufacture of poplin and silk in High Street, Dublin. He also served as a bank for his fellow countrymen, keeping their money and lending. From these small beginnings sprang the first bank in Castle Street. His two sons succeeded him in these two trades. David the second was the banker. He became an MP and, in 1753, he bought the land then called Ballydonough from Dr. Corbett, Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral and built "Bellevue", a handsome Georgian building with a granite portico. A magnificent conservatory, added later and filled with exotic flowers and fruits, was one of the wonders of the day.

Sunday October 19th **Killiney**

On this occasion members of the Ballybrack and Killiney Branch of the I.C.A. acted as hostesses and brought us round. First we visited the old church. Owing to vandalism, the churchyard must always be kept locked, although, as has been pointed out, the iron railings are not very efficient and would seem designed to keep senior citizens out while at the same time providing just enough prospect of adventure to encourage others with less worthy motives!

The church seems to be as it was in Petrie's time when he described it as "in ruinous perfection". But the solitude which to strongly appealed to him has vanished with the building of houses and gardens all round.

Wakeman tells us that the churchyard was once encircled by a rath, and that there was a thorn tree and a cairn or altar beside it - all gone now. Canon Scott in his "Stones of Bray" calls this church "architecturally the most interesting in the district". The chief things to note are the chancel which is said to be original and not, as usual, a 12th or 13th century addition, an aisle on the N. side, added later, a stone-mullioned window on the S. side, and the cross carved on the underside of the lintel of the W. door. The only other cross known to exist in this position is in Our Lady's Church, Glendalough. There is also a Font, damaged by the lighting of fires in it, presumably by workmen cleaning the churchyard.

Five daughters of one Leinin in the 6th century are said to have been the founders of this church - their names being Duigen, Luigen, Luicell, Macha and Roimhtach. Some years ago a Rector of Killiney Parish Church (C. of I.) gave his baby daughter the charming name of Lucilla after one of these ladies.

<u>The Martello Tower</u>

From the church we went to the Martello Tower high up on Killiney Hill Road (Tarrong Hill) overlooking the sea - the only tower in this area so far from the sea. It is no. 7 in the list of towers erected (or planned to be) from Bray to Dublin. Mrs. Sutcliffe in her "Martello Towers" states that, in the first list of proposed sites for towers south of Dublin, none had been selected for Nos. 5 and 8. There is, however, a little south of the mouth of the Loughlinstown River, the remains of a battery (see on the OS map a path bordered with trees leading to it marked 'Battery Wood'). No doubt this site had been considered for No. 5 tower although there is no evidence it was ever erected.

No. 7 Tower belongs to the Dunlaoghaire Corporation who have the key. It is in good condition – inside the staircase to the top is intact. Outside on the East is a semi-circular battery.

The Druid's Chair

From the tower to the monument known as Druid's Chair at the top of Killiney Avenue is only a short step. In a grove of oak trees stands the 'Chair' formed of several large boulders, with others clustered nearby. While this monument has been dismissed as a pseudo or mock antique such as our Victorian ancestors favoured, Dr. Ball in his "History of Co. Dublin" states that originally it was a sepulchral memorial consisting of three small cromlechs, surrounded by a circle of upright stones 135 feet in circumference. In the 18th century an ancient burial place was discovered here of considerable extent - the bodies enclosed in coffins made of flags and laid in rows of ten each.

The Kiltuc Cross-shaft

Lying close to the Parochial House in the grounds of the Church of SS Columba and Alfonso, Ballybrack, we looked at this cross-shaft and heard how it came to be here, some miles from its original site, i.e. in the grounds of the modern Shanganagh Castle on the Dublin-Bray Road. In 1938, Fr. Sherwin, PP of Ballybrack happened to be at the Castle, then undergoing repairs. Seeing the shaft (hitherto unrecorded) and the head of a cross lying uncared for, he brought them away with him with the intention of having them united and re-erected in the grounds of the newly-built St. Anne's Church, Shankill. In the meantime he brought the shaft to the Parochial House, Ballybrack but hid the head in the grounds of St. Anne's, where it remained in safety until a few years ago, when it was removed by Fr. Loughran to an undisclosed destination.

Finally, before bidding goodbye to our hostesses at 5.30 pm, Anne Peters showed us a cross-inscribed slab built into the wall at the NW corner of the cross-roads where the Killiney Hill Road meets the Military Road.

Field Archaeology

A five day course in Field Archaeology was organised by the society 25-29 August 1975.

The full course, the fee for which was £10 included a series of evening lectures and was subscribed to the limit of 30 persons. An additional twenty people enrolled for the series of five evening lectures (£1.75 for series).

The course was directed by Marcus Ó hEochaidh, former Assistant Inspector of National Monuments. The basic theory of surveying was taught - students were given practise in the techniques of off-setting and levelling. Each evening a lecture on excavation was given by visiting archaeologists Brendan Ó Ríordáin, Dermot Twohig, George Eogan and David Sweetman. The group visited archaeological sites in the Rathmichael area, and on the day following his lecture, Dr. Eogan conduced a tour of the site at Knowth, which was one of the highlights of the week. Another was the discussion on site at Kilternan dolmen, where with the help of plans and pictures of finds, the group were able to follow the method used in excavating a small portion of the site.

The success of the course may be judged by the fact that nearly half those who participated have been returning regularly to survey the Hill Fort at Rathmichael.

The Society would like to thank all those who helped to make this first venture so successful,

<u>The Director of the Course</u>
All those who took part agreed that the success of the course was due to Marcus Ó hEochaidh, with his unfailing good humour, his careful tuition and wealth of Archaeological knowledge.

<u>The visiting lecturers:-</u>

Brendán Ó Ríordáin,
Dermot Twohig,
George Eogan,
David Sweetman

And the following:-
Mr. and Mrs. Law for allowing the group to use their land for surveying practise.

Mr. Ian Mac Carthaigh of MacConnell's Advertising for much advice and for the layout of the brochure for the course.

Mr. Brian Merry for designing the cover of the brochure, after drawings by Patrick Healy.

Mr. Don MacGreevy, the Building Centre of Ireland, for lending exhibition of photographs of National Monuments.

Messrs. Hodges Figgis for mounting an exhibition of books on archaeology. Both these exhibitions were on display throughout the course.

Cement Limited for their kind sponsorship.

Miscellaneous

"…..Since first I made my count"

By C.M.

It occurred to me that it might be worth while to record the present physical state of the Rathmichael neighbourhood, in case it might be of interest to inquirers in the future, and to compare it with that of 30 years ago when first I made its acquaintance.

For a long while there were virtually no changes, but in the last 15 years the scene has changed more and more rapidly. To keep this note reasonably short I am going to deal with only ore area, leaving the other areas for future editions and other pens.

I. Loughlinstown Neighbourhood

In the late 1940's, the village of Loughlinstown was still recognisable as a village although already somewhat decimated by the main Bray road which had been raised above the surrounding levels, thus disrupting the unity of the place. The sally gardens by the river were overgrown and the good Corporation of Dun Laoghaire were rendering them still less accessible by using the Commons as a rubbish dump and building up the land to a precipitous height above the river. There were still some thatched cottages in those days, and the row of houses with their backs to the Glendruid stream were all occupied. The forge was working continually and there were even some houses on the E. side of the main road - the cut-stone gate lodge of Loughlinstown House and the Post Office and cobbler's house set into the hill at right angles to the road.

At the corner of Cherrywood Road was the famous Jordan's pub with its yard entrance guarded by a sliding door of corrugated iron suspended loosely from an overhead rail, so that in stormy weather it banged and rattled and gave a somewhat eerie feeling of "Jamaica Inn".

Coming down the main road from Cabinteely one first met the "Big Tree" with its circular granite seat, on which the elderly could sit and watch the passing traffic. Although quite large, the tree was probably not exceptionally old and was a sycamore. Attached to the S. side of the trunk was a rusty iron lamp bracket of square design to hold some old-fashioned type of Paraffin lamp. Romantic children of the neighbourhood used to believe that the lamp-bracket was in fact a gallows from which, in the dim past, offenders had been hanged.

The Big Tree was an early victim of 'progress' as it died shortly after the Dun Laoghaire Corporation had completed this section of the new dual-carriageway. Trenches had been cut through its roots, and finally the road level was raised so that the granite seat is now buried below the surface. Few trees will stand this kind of harsh treatment and the Big Tree 'took sick' and gradually died over the next few years. Many families, including mine, have kept bits of the old Big Tree as souvenirs.

On the same descent of the hill, a very beautiful sight at most times of the year, but particularly in the autumn, was the group of large Spanish Chestnut trees beside the entrance to Lough1instown House whilst across the road in the grounds of Beechgrove, the large rhododendron had each year a special mention from R.M. Smyllie in the Irish Times as a harbinger of spring.

Most travellers will remember the two green, white and yellow flags painted on the demesne wall of Loughlinstown House overlooking the river commons, whilst further down stream the village of Shanganagh was still a peaceful compact group of houses with fields and farmland all around.

Loughlinstown Hospital, which was only used as a Home for old people, had still the full appearance of the Workhouse which it had been, whilst in the wood near the drinking trough for horses, but inside the boundary wall, there rose the apparently useless square granite tower which became another victim of the dual-carriageway roadworks.

Turning up the winding Wyattville Road from the Big Tree, the first house encountered was Wyatville itself followed by a scattering of other houses up to Ballybrack crossroads. Almost invariably one could see behind the hedge on the left and just beside the road near the present entrance to Wyattville estate, a small pond in the corner the field, and on this pond a water-hen swimming. Indeed the whole valley of the Deansgrange Stream, from Wyattville Road to Johnstown Road, Cabinteely was a very beautiful and peaceful place, well wooded with many oak trees and full of wildlife of all sorts. Even after the building of St. Lawrence's College, foxes still lived in the wild area immediately behind the buildings.

Kilbogget Farm, approached from Church Road, Ballybrack and belonging to Watson's Nurseries was one of the most distinctive 'landmarks', with the fields of roses very obvious from a long way off. In fact the beauty of the scene as one drove down the main path into the Nurseries was quite startling. The foreground composed of well-kept gardens full of colour, and rising in the background the wide panorama of the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains with the middle distance occupied by several handsome woods of modest size. The wood near the farm buildings, beside which the footpath to Cabinteely passed, was particularly attractive with large, moss-covered granite boulders under the trees and a stone-built bridge across the stream. All this has been thoughtlessly squandered and such trees as were not cut down have mostly died from ill-treatment. The whole valley of this stream has been ruthlessly obliterated by land-fill operations and the creation of two vast rubbish dumps which required the culverting of the unfortunate stream, by now considerably polluted.

Turning inland from Loughlinstown and past the gates of Jordan's, there was a scattering of houses along Cherrywood Road, but mostly on the N. side. At that time there was still a "pound" for stray animals on the S. side of the road.

The railway viaduct which is, happily, still with us, was then busy with its lawful traffic, and steam trains puffed to Dublin or Bray in their fussy way. The Drumm battery train was, I think, still working to Harcourt St. Station, and the steam trains continued to run until at least after the "Suez Crisis". A description of the rural pleasures of the rail journey from Harcourt St. could well be written.

Cherrywood Road, and Bride's Glen were more or less as now, except that there were more trees and the bungalows beside the stream had not been built, nor those up the bank on the N. side of the glen. An interesting memory is of the triangular field along the river between the viaduct and Mullinastill, when it was ploughed for the first time in many years, and just a year or so before the bungalows were built. The soil turned out to be fine sand and a vast crop of wild poppies immediately sprang up producing the most astounding and magnificent show of

brilliant colour, never repeated.

From a distance we watched the building of the various new houses on Falls Road, and I hope thee owners will not be offended if I quote some of the names by which we described them or their houses. As well as a local 'Straw Man' there was on Falls Road, the 'Copper Man', the 'Black Doctor', the 'Bridge House', the 'Hell Fire Club', and 'Matchwood'.

Rathmichael Road, as far as Puck's Castle Lane has so far changed but little except for the insertion of the new Two-storey house thatched with Norfolk reeds and the emergence of several mobile homes at Rathmichael Cottages, but Puck's Castle Lane itself has undergone considerable change. Whilst it used to be a quiet peaceful laneway winding uphill between grassy primrose-covered banks and continuing beyond the Castle as a slippery mud track through thickets of bracken to the old quarry and impassable for a car in winter, it has now become a wide tarmac car-road attracting curious motorists who, stopping to admire the lovely coastal view, continue with the fixed idea that they must acquire a site in this scenic area and build a house. Needless to say, these applications to the planning authorities are turned down or contested, as the area is zoned as 'agriculture' and 'high amenity', and one man's "dream-house" from which he has such beautiful views, is another man's "blot on the landscape, carried out in the worst of bad taste". To date I must record that, in spite of all, a few houses have been built along this lane.

Having taken a broad and wandering view of the area chosen, a more detailed account of the centres of intensive building may be of interest. Omitting Killiney and most of Ballybrack and Cabinteely as being beyond the boundary of this note, we start at the lands previously occupied by Watson's Nurseries between Church Road, Ballybrack and the Deansgrange stream, beginning at the borders of Granitefield and Johnstown Estates:-

1. Here a total of 650 houses are to be built, of which number about 600 have already been completed as well as a new church.

2. Next to Watson's Nurseries the housing constructed for the Dun Laoghaire Corporation or on land developed by them, consists of 760 houses and 3 schools. A shopping and community centre is still to be constructed in this area. Through the middle of this section there is at present under construction a new dual-carriageway leading from Church Road, Ballybrack, down to the Big Tree. The Corporation intend to extend this carraigeway back to the roundabout at "The Graduate" on Rochestown Avenue and thence through the woods at Glenageary House to the roundabout at Sallynoggin.

3. Still on the N. side of Wyattville Road, but on the Bray Road side of the stream, lies the Wyattville Estate, consisting of 140 houses which reach up to the grounds of St. Lawrence's College.

4. Within the portion of the grounds of Loughlinstown House now acquired by Dun Laoghaire corporation, the following houses are proposed and of these the contracts for the first have already been signed:- 278 - already agreed; 450 to go ahead following this, and finally about 670 more in six stages, as well as a Community

Centre.

The effect such a vast quantity of housing being imposed on the presently well-wooded lands around Ballybrack can well be imagined and certainly brings to an end the era of the quiet village peacefully soaking in the sun, enjoying the distant view of the mountains.

The Corporation of Dun Laoghaire intends to try to maintain the decorative lake in the grounds of Loughlinstown House as a feature of a small park-like oasis in the desert, but how successful this venture may be remains to be seen.

Regrettably, the field on the same property which contains the dolmen is also to be built on. I regard this as a most retrograde step, as it would be impossible to protect this antiquity properly, even by the elaborate means proposed - and as a monument it will be immeasurably degraded by having houses so close to it and becoming a possible cock-shot for heedless youths.

Rathsallagh - a note on the name

BY M.K.

Rathsallagh - or more correctly, Rathsalchan - the name chosen for the recent development of Shanganagh Park, Shankill (a private property since the 18th century part of the Roberts/Riall estate, stretching from Abingdon Park on the Ballybrack Road to Corbawn Lane and on which a fine house had been erected in about 1823), brings us back to very early medieval days.

The name Rathsalchan first occurs in 1179 in a Papal Bull confirming grants of land to the See of Dublin, in particular to the Priory of the Holy Trinity (later Christchurch Cathedral) "for the Canons' table". About the middle of the 13th century it had become the property of St. Patrick's Cathedral by way of exchange with the Priory.

It was then the name by which the northern half of Shanganagh was known (the southern portion adjoining Corke being called Kiltuc) its location roughly defined by two documents. One of these records the trial in 1259 of William le Bret, Gilbert le Serjeant and Robert le Fermistre, all three accused of "diverting the water-course in Shanganagh thereby damaging the freehold of Christina, daughter of Geoffrey de Rathsalcan and Em her sister, and their mill in Rathsalcan". (This must refer to the Loughlinstown river). The other, a lease in 1543 of land in Rathsalcan, describes it as adjoining Shanganagh on the NW and the mean sea on the E.

As time went on, the Cathedral lost contact with Rathsalchan as also with another part of its property - Ballyogan in Carrickmines; and in 1663, the Chapter Minutes record that "The Dean and Chapter not being able to discover the situation of these lands passed a resolution ....that the discoverer…should have the preference of a lease for 21 years." This state of affairs was partly due to a change in placenames, but probably more to the late Rebellion (1641) when, under the Puritan regime, the Cathedral was suppressed and all its wealth, tithes and properly transferred toTCD, much favoured by the new rulers.

There are numerous references to Rathsalchan in the Cathedral records with slight variations in spelling, e.g. Rathsalgan, Rathsalken, Rathsalethan. Rathsallagh (Rathsallaghane) does occur, but apparently due to confusion with the place of that name jin Co. Wicklow (also owned by the Cathedral) as the following extract from the records shows:- "The tithes of Rathsallagh (Wicklow) continue still with the Œconomy, but the more valuable property of two carucates of land called Rathsalchan and Ballyogan have long since been lost... "

In 1449-50 John Lawless of Shanganagh, willing his lands in Connagh, Corke, Shanganagh, etc. etc. in trust for the use of Edmund Walsh and Joan (née Lawless) his wife and their heirs, also "granted the same Edmund an ancient way from Killenyn to Rathsalchan into the lands of Black Shanganagh for a plough, a cart, and other things".

Committee 1975

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