



Earls Court Newsletter

September 2009

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Free Rocks

If you would like to make a rockery or to just ornament a flower-bed please come and take some, or even all, the rocks at The Rye and Oakley Drive flower-beds. These were left over after renovations to the beds and if they are not removed for re-use we will have to pay to have them dumped.



2009 – LOCK UP YOUR MOTORS

On Dunmore Road estates there has recently been a spate of night-time break-ins to cars.

The thieves can operate as early as 1am. Cars have been stolen and not found again but thieves are mostly interested in loose goods such as satellite navs, CDs, handbags, golf clubs, anything they can change to money quickly.

Their first move is to try the door of the car.

Lock your Car and park it as close to your house as possible.

Contact the Gardaí (tel: 305300) if you see any suspicious activity at night.

Another rock problem - RADON GAS

Waterford is a hot-spot for high levels of radon gas occurring in rock levels underground. More than 20% of homes in our part of the city are reckoned to have more than the safe levels of the gas (check out: www.rpii.ie/radon-map.aspx). Radon gas at high and prolonged levels can cause cancer. Downstairs bedrooms ought to be tested, as should any room where the residents spend long hours daily.

Do it Now, Today, contact the RPI I and get sensors to place around the house and test for the gas. It will cost €56 to install two detectors (recommended).

Apply at www.rpii.ie or phone 01-2697766 .

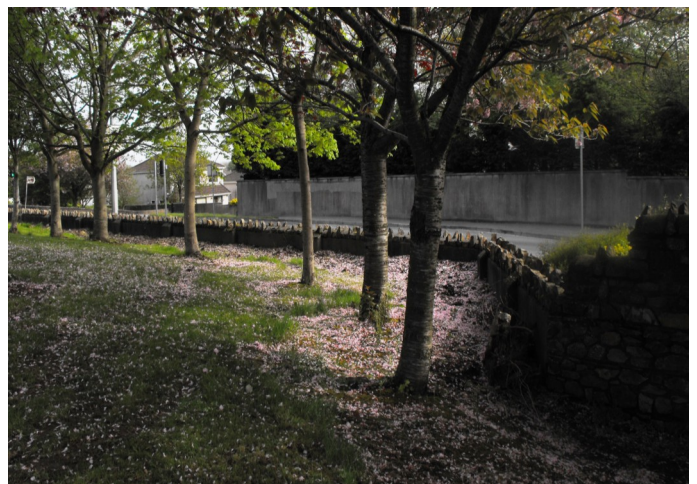
Up to the 1970s, houses had draughts that helped to clear out radon. When estates like ours were built there was no under-floor membrane fitted to prevent the cancer-causing gas from leaking up, *and* our houses were made as draught-free as possible.

Keeping your house well-aired is a good idea but if your house is on a 'hot-spot' you may have to make renovations to stop the radon.

Watching the Neighbourhood

To protect against petty crime on the estate it would be good if, as much as possible, residents were prepared to

- **Make a habit of walking rather than driving through the estate**
- **Volunteer to act as street co-ordinators in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme**



Around the Estate...

★ ★

★ Coming of Age - Earls

★ Court is 21 years Old

★ The first residents came to live in Aisling
★ and Mayfield Greens in November and De-
★ cember 1988, 21 years ago.

★ ★

For whom Wedding Bells toll

Congratulations to Pat Brennan and Lorraine Johnson from Oakley Drive, who were married in Rome in July.

Pat served as Secretary of the Residents Association and continues to serve as a collector.

Long Life and Happiness to them both!!



Remaking our beds

Following meetings of local residents at the flower-beds skirting The Rye and Oakley Drive entrance it was decided to seek tenders for the cleaning and remodelling of these beds. The Rye bed had become badly re-seeded by briars and other weeds. The Oakley Drive bed was regularly overgrown – causing a hazard to drivers exiting onto the main estate road.

Name-stones

The Association hired a local contractor, Bergin and Kearns, to clean and re-letter all the name stones. We expect to receive a partial grant from the City Council for this work.

Earls Court Website

<http://www.earlscourtwaterford.com>

This site has been developed by the Association to keep members informed of issues relating to living on and travelling to and from the estate.

The Newsletter will be accessible there, as will photos of Earls Court, more news, views and so on.

Dogs and the Greens

We have had several complaints about dogs being allowed by their owners to go to the toilet on green areas and sometimes beside people's houses.

Straightaway it can be said that many owners in Earls Court are excellent in managing their dog outdoors correctly.

But whether the dogs in question are being walked by residents or visitors we do not know. Perhaps the dogs are being let out by residents to run free and soil freely.

If you see someone allowing their dog to soil a green area, with all the danger that holds for children, either ask them would they mind cleaning it up – it is after all a serious legal offence – or ask the Gardaí to call out and point out the law to them.

COLLECTION CONTINUES

The annual subscription stays the same at €35, but the collection and other work rumble on.

Please support the collector when he or she calls.

Talking of Traffic

The issues discussed below affect Earls Court residents as much as anyone else.

1. The Ring Road.

Cars coming towards the hospital from the Tesco roundabout are crossing the white line and forming two lanes. Four-wheel drives are the most dangerous. If the situation is not changed there will be a serious head-on collision on this road.

We have written to the City Council Roads Section, and to our Councillors, asking that the road be changed from a two-lane carriageway into three lanes: two lanes coming towards the hospital and one going away—like the stretch from Williams-town Rd to the Tesco roundabout,. The Roads Section disagrees that this needs to be done.

2. The Fried Egg Roundabout.

The roundabout where the Dunmore Rd meets passage Rd is being altered. The background idea is to create a bus corridor on the Dunmore Rd.

The footpath on one side has been widened by six feet. There will be welcome cycle lanes on both sides that stop at and begin again after the roundabout (see drawing Page 4—since slightly altered).

The plan to widen the path at the Passage Rd side has been dropped in favour of putting hatching within the present white line mark. This will allow 'artic' trucks from town to turn into Passage Rd. **This means cyclists should beware of racing through the hatched area.**

Traffic through the fried egg will be reduced to one lane each side. We expect that this will cause a delay for bus and car alike, from the roundabout back in both directions. Be prepared. It will however be easier for pedestrians to cross.

3. The Hare and the Tortoise.

On average it takes 20 minutes at morning rush hour for a bus to get from the Brass Cock to the upper bus-stop at Viewmount. Recently a cyclist, a car and one of Kavanagh's buses had a rush-hour race from the Brass Cock to John Roberts Square. The cyclist won - 17 minutes (and was healthier!) The bus came second—30 mins (including a healthy run by a passenger to J. Roberts Square?) The car-driver took 35 mins including parking and getting to the square.

While Kavanaghs will run buses on the last four Sundays before Christmas (11.30am-6.30pm) they have no plans, for financial reasons, to run buses on Sundays or bank holidays long term. They say that the last two Sundays before Christmas have to pay for the first two!

If we want a bus service that is handy and quick on the Dunmore Rd **we must leave our cars at home and start using buses.**

4. Viewmount Footpath.

The new bright concrete path outside the front wall of Viewmount is welcome. However with the addition of white bulwarks at long stretches along its base the wall has lost its 'rustic beauty'.

The footpath at the bus-stop is still quite bad. Because it was made of concrete it was not replaced. The Council needs to reconsider this because the path is made very narrow by people waiting for a bus.

The City Council would like to make a proper bus-stop at this point but this would involve moving a short stretch of the Viewmount boundary wall backwards and this it has been unable to do.

The earth movers of former years are not thundering up and down the Dunmore Rd but goods have a history of falling off trucks on the hill there. Nor is there protection from passing traffic that swerves, so take care when using the path.

Behaviour that threatens

If there is behaviour outside your house that threatens you, phone the guards.

The Gardaí do not mind coming out to a call of this type.

Try not to get involved yourself

Gardaí: Tel: 305 300 or 381 333

The Community Police desk is open during normal office hours. Their number is

305 377.

The community Gardaí for this area are Mark Mills and Eamonn Kearns.

Doing the right thing by our Cats and Dogs

If your animal goes missing contact:

- Dog Pound: **872247**
- WLR: **872248**
- Waterford Soc. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (WSPCA): **841091**
- Animal Welfare (Andy): **841091**
- The Gardaí : see phone nos. P.2, or **874888**
- News & Star free ads: **875566**



Put up ads in vets, shops, pet shops, groomers etc. Give colour, breed, gender, age, micro-chipped or not, size, collar and tag. Leave a contact phone no.

Re-homing a Dog

The Residents Association has copies of a long article setting out 23 pieces of advice on what to do when taking a dog from Waterford SPCA to give it a new home.

It has been kindly supplied to us by a resident who is very concerned about animal welfare.

A copy of the article can be had by sending a text message request or a phone call to the Residents Committee on 087 1273894 .

No joy

We were promised by the Council last year that a programme of repainting our ramps would commence in the current year.

The job would have begun in 2008 but the contractors who do road-painting had no black powder to add to the paint (the plan was to paint black and white stripes).

This year, whatever about the powder, there's roughly no money, and ramps will be repainted only where life and limb are involved.

But we have not given up hope. Four of our ramps are worn and need to be repainted. And when it is done... there are the worn spots on the road.

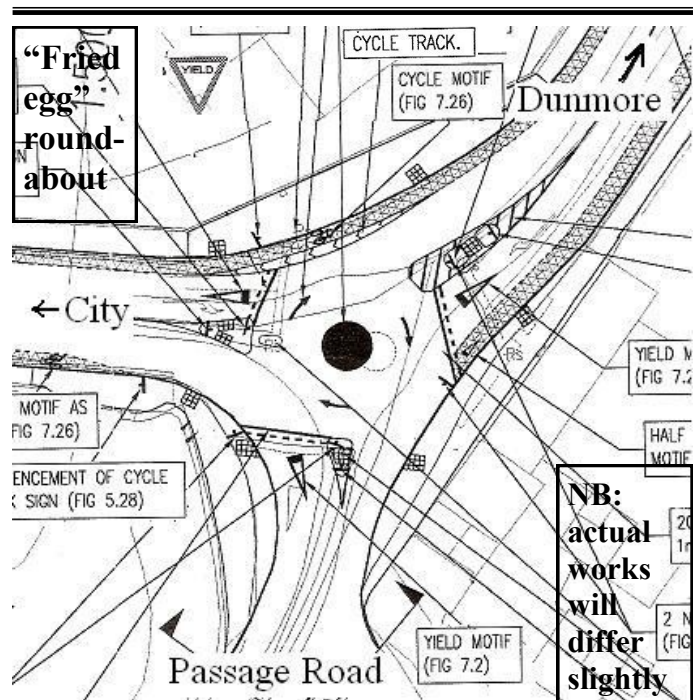
Business on a *Day Today* basis

Earlier this year former Earls Court residents Paul and Gillian Kavanagh sold their Centra business in Powerscourt to Dmitrij Brucikovs and his wife Diana. Dmitrij moved from Latvia to England in 1998 and worked as a carpenter before moving to Ireland in 2002 to set up a paint-contracting business.

He went into retail, establishing shops in railway stations at Waterford, Kilkenny and, at one time, Clonmel. Eighteen months ago, and without knowing a construction crash was imminent, he gave up the painting business and concentrated fully on retail. He and Diana opened Day Today in Powerscourt last December.

The refitting and repainting of the shop are by his own hand, not surprisingly.

Despite the recession he believes that there are still opportunities for small businesses in Ireland. We wish the new owners well in their endeavours.



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