OLD BALLINTEER
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COUNTY DUBLIN

A SOCIAL HISTORY

1930-1960

draft

Ballinteer Active Retirement Association
Local History Study Group
2014
Ballinteer Active Retirement Association (BARA) was established in 2005. A local history study group was formed in 2012 to collect information concerning the history of the locality. This publication is the result of information gathered from archival sources and from people who lived in Old Ballinteer and who were kind enough to tell us their story. It is an important chapter in the local history of the Ballinteer.

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Introduction

“Old Ballintee” means that community which was established in the 1930s and ‘40s at the corner of Ballinteer Road and Avenue. There was an older community in the area associated with the big named houses which was involved in agriculture. The new community consisted of three small urban close-knit estates. There was a close association between the old and the new in that many people migrated from the old rural community to the new urban estates. Mayfield House, dating at least from the beginning of the 19th century, was an old named house at the top of Mayfield Terrace, at the centre of the new community. The land was part of the Pembroke Estate for centuries.
Old Ballinteer

In 1918 the Pembroke Estate decided to divest itself of the farming lands in Dundrum and Ballinteer. One lot, (no.5), containing 10 acres 1 rood 10 perches of land on the corner of Ballinteer Road and Avenue was sold in fee simple to Richard Paul Kingston for £9701 (see map). The 10 acres consisted of two fields called Wheatfield and Cloverfield, and Mayfield House. Richard P. Kingston of Fortfield House, Cowper Road, Rathmines, died in 1926 leaving an estate valued at £30,000. His trustees sold the 10 acres in Ballinteer to Joseph Noonan, a contractor, of Mountain View House, Crumlin, for £600.2 Noonan sold Mayfield House, together with a small amount of land around it, as a separate property to Thomas Joseph Condon, clerk, of 67 Drumcondra Road for £800.3 Noonan then sold one of the fields containing 5 acres 19 perches together with the private road, Mayfield Terrace, to the Irish Sailors and Soldiers Land Trust for £375, reserving a right of way for Mr. Condon.4 An application was immediately made by the Trust to Rathdown Rural District Council to extend the 3 inch water main to accommodate the planned new houses.5 Noonan sold another part of the land, containing 4 acres 3 roods 10 perches with a cottage thereon, to Mary O’Keeffe.6 On this ground the shops on Ballinteer Road, the first phase of Ballinteer Park and the bungalows on Ballinteer Avenue were later built. In 1935 Dublin County Council declared Mayfield Terrace, ‘til then a private road, and the new road at Ballinteer Park, public roads.7

The new estates were bounded on the north by Geoghegan’s Lane and Ballinteer Villa and on the west by land leased from Peter Byrne of Westerton on Ballinteer Road, on which Cosgrave, a butcher in Dundrum and Rathfarnham, grazed cattle. Mayfield House was occupied at this time by the Condons, a self-sufficient Protestant family.

Old Ballinteer consisted of four elements: Ballinteer Gardens, Ballinteer Park, Ballinteer Avenue bungalows and the rural neighbours adjoining.

2. RD 1926 14 75.
3. RD 1927 28 51.
4. RD 1930 7 69.
5. Irish Independent, 7 March 1930.
6. RD 1932 10 173.
7. Irish Independent, 29 April 1935.
Ballinteer Gardens: Irish Sailors and Soldiers Land Trust (ISSLT)

Ballinteer Gardens, on the Ballinteer Road, was the first housing estate to be built in Ballinteer, on the initiative of the ISSLT. The following is an outline of the origin of the scheme.

Because of the very poor housing conditions in Ireland at the beginning of the 20th century, a promise of housing after the war was used to tempt Irish recruits into the British Army during the latter part of the Great War. In 1919 the Irish Land (Provision for Sailors and Soldiers) Act was passed in Westminster. After independence, and despite the initial opposition of the new Free State Government, the British authorities felt obliged to build homes for Irish ex-servicemen in Ireland. The Free State Government in 1923 passed the Land Trust Act establishing the Irish Sailors and Soldiers Land Trust (ISSLT) to allow the provision of housing in Ireland by the British authorities for Irish ex-servicemen.

Many schemes were built in Ireland but the terms of the leases were a constant source of complaints. Members of the Killester scheme took a High Court action claiming that they were entitled to have the cottages vested in them rent-free. This action, known as the Leggett

8. Map courtesy of Paul & Mary Richardson.
Case, was lost. On appeal, the Supreme Court in 1933 overturned the decision of the High Court on the Trust’s right to levy rents on the tenants.

The result of the Leggett case was that the tenants were not subject to rent but were deemed to have only a life-interest in the cottages. Residents were now also liable for all rates, water rates, repairs and maintenance and the upkeep of the estates. No further schemes were built. In the 1940s the Trust was wound up and the cottages were offered for sale to the occupants. In the 1980s legislation was passed in Dail Eireann and in the British Parliament to dispose of funds left in the Trust.

Ballinteer Gardens

In 1932 the Irish Sailors and Soldiers Land Trust (ISSLT) built 59 houses in Ballinteer for veterans of the Great War on the field they had bought from Joseph Noonan. Three bungalows faced on to Ballinteer Road. Thirty nine houses were built in Ballinteer Gardens and seventeen on the north side of Mayfield Terrace. They consisted of terraced units of five houses, terraced units of four and semi-detached two-storey houses arranged in a cul-de-sac typical of other ISSLT schemes. The end houses in each block have entrances at the side, with front entrances in the middle houses. Some had redbrick finish while others were pebble-dashed. The houses, also referred to as cottages, were small by later standards, and had 3 bedrooms upstairs, two with fire places, a kitchen in front with a range, a scullery with a fire place and bath-room at the back downstairs. There was an outside toilet and a coal house. There was a timber porch at the front door.

A Ballinteer and District Ex-Servicemen’s Association was also formed.

Crest on the pillars into the Ballinteer Gardens

The following list of occupiers was recorded in *Thom’s Directory* with the house rateable valuations. The three bungalows with higher valuations were occupied by officers. The other houses had valuations between £9 and £11. As a result, the residents of Ballinteer Gardens were entitled to vote and could be called for jury service.

**Ballinteer Gardens (1935)**

No.1 Joseph Mahony, £15 15s.
2 James Turnbull,
3 James Steadman,
4 Denis O’Sullivan,
5 Peter Lacy,
6 Andrew Doyle,
7 Michael Cooper,
8 Mathew Murray,
9 John G. Grant,
10 John Nolan,
11 Rowland Munn,
12 James Phillips,
13 John Doherty,
14 John Vaughan,
15 Garret Keogh,
16 Patrick Scanlon,
17 Richard Connolly,
18 Joseph Hurley,
19 Patrick Downes,
20 John King,
21 Edward McGuinness,
22 Christopher Byrne,
23 Frederick Ross,
24 Thomas Docksey,
25 Mathew O'Neil,
26 Thomas Stafford,
27 Martha Reid,
28 Patrick Coughlin,
29 Arthur McPartling,
30 John Daly,
31 Sydney Gordon,
32 Michael McGrath,
33 James McCausland,
34 William Green,
35 William O'Neill,
36 Thomas Mullen,
37 James Kearney,
38 Richard Phoenix,
39 Richard Doran,
40 Richard Boyle,
41 William O'Leary,
42 R.F. Kinnimont. £15 10s.

**Mayfield Terrace**

No.1 Luke O'Reilly, £15 10s.
2 Frederick E. Gilmore,
3 Peter Brophy,
4 Michael Holohan,
5 Ernest Waters,
6 Michael Moore,
7 Albert Traynor,
8 John H. Quinn,
9 Patrick Dowdall,
10 Hy. Corbally,
11 Edward Costello,
12 William Rowley,
13 Peter Power,
Only one woman, Martha Reid, No. 27, was among of the first householders.

Disputes between the residents and the Trust were a constant problem. The Trust was very strict in the application of its rules. In 1937 it sought an ejectment order in the High Court against Michael Holohan, No. 4 Mayfield Terrace, who had gone to Liverpool to find work. Major J. C. Hunt, an inspector of the Trust, stated that Holohan had never lived in the house since he took possession in 1933. Mrs. Holohan and a child continued to live there. The Trust contended that if a tenant went away, he lost his right to the house. Under the circumstances, a stay of execution of 6 months was granted. The responsibility for repairs remained in dispute. It was stated that the Trust had 300 names on a waiting list for houses.\(^\text{10}\)

In 1942 arrears of £8,000 in rates were outstanding, which the tenants of the ISSLT in Dublin were refusing to pay. Representatives of the tenants of the Churchtown, Taney and Ballinteer schemes were in negotiations with the County Commissioners regarding the arrears. The Commissioner made a compromise proposal which the tenants were to consider.\(^\text{11}\)

John E. King, a native of Kilkenny, No. 20, served in the British Army in France during the Great War. He later worked for the Office of the Revenue Commissioners and, when he retired, he became a director of the Irish Permanent Building Society. He died in 1962.\(^\text{12}\)

Monsignor Dan O'Connor, now serving as P.P. in Dun Laoghaire parish, lived in Ballinteer Gardens from 12 years of age. His father Denis was involved in establishing St. Attracta’s Oratory, Meadowbrook. Timothy O’Sullivan, ex-D.M.G., late of Rathmore, Co. Kerry, died at his residence, Mayfield Cottage, Ballinteer, on 21 Oct. 1936, deeply regretted by his wife. After mass in Mount Argus he was buried in Mount Jerome.

A resident in Ballinteer Gardens observed a custom every Christmas of giving her neighbours a piece of coal wrapped up in gift paper. Another custom involved a neighbour putting coal on another neighbour’s fire.

Within a year of tenants occupying Ballinteer Gardens, a garden competition was held and was reported in the newspapers as follows:\(^\text{13}\)

“A large gathering assembled at Ballinteer, Dundrum, last night for distribution of prizes to the winners of the garden competition held under the auspices of the Ballinteer branch of the Irish National Garden Guild. The gardens were decorated with hunting and


scrolls extending a welcome to the Lord Mayor of Dublin, who presented the prizes and
the Dundrum Brass and Reed Band played musical selections during the evening.

Lieut.-Col. J.P. Hunt, C.M.G, D.S.O, President of the branch, presided and the
attendance included Rev. Fr. Larkin, C.C., Vice-President, and Chairman Mr. J. T.
Mahony. Bouquets of roses from the prize winning gardens were presented by Miss N.
McGuinness to the Lord Mayor and Mrs. Capps, Seafor Road, Clontarf, and to Mrs.
Mulvey and Mrs. Pim, donors of the prizes.

The Lord Mayor paid a tribute to the appearance of the gardens and
congratulated the prize-winners and donors. Tributes were also paid by Mr. T. Shaw,
President of the Plot-holders Association and Lieut.-Col. Hunt.

The Capps cup, (first prize for front gardens) was won by Mr. J. Kearney, 37
Ballinteer Gardens. Mr. R. Doran, 39 Ballinteer Gardens, secured the second prize, and
Mr. C. Byrne, 22 Ballinteer Gardens, third. The result of the competitions for front and
back gardens were: 1, Mr. T. Docksey, 24 Ballinteer Gardens, (medal), 2, Mr. E.
McGuinness, 21 Ballinteer Gardens, 3 Mr. T. Stafford, 26 Ballinteer Gardens.

The Guild held competitions in the Spring and Summer every year for all the ISSLT
schemes in Dublin at which the Lord Mayor, Alderman Alfie Byrne, often presided. The
Ballinteer residents were prominent on the list of prize-winners. In 1937 the committee of the
Ballinteer Branch consisted of R. Doran, Chairman, T. Docksey, Treasurer, and J. Phillips,
Secretary.\footnote{Irish Press, 21 August 1937.}
An aerial view of the scheme taken shortly after it was built in 1932, shows it in splendid isolation with Ballinteer Lodge, the residence of Everard Hamilton on Ballinteer Road, in the background and Mayfield House at the bottom left-hand side of the scheme. The photograph was taken by a member of the Geoghegan family who was a keen flyer. A copy was given to all the residents.15
Dublin County Council Housing Scheme - Ballinteer Park

Housing conditions

The condition of the housing stock in the Dundrum district was very poor. In 1937 a report of Dr. J. A. Harbison, County Medical Officer, illustrated the situation. He carried out a survey of the outlying Dundrum area, showing there were 104 houses unfit for human occupation, 24 were probably unfit and 25 overcrowded. In the Dundrum dispensary district, 173 were totally unfit, 121 were unfit but had been repaired by the engineers; 70 were considered unfit but could be made fit, and 15 were overcrowded. He also reported on the excessive rents some tenants paid. A labourer earning 30s., for instance, had to pay a rent of

16. Irish Independent, 29 Aug. 1938
15s. a week. Rents of 10s. to 12s. were paid for single rooms. There was, therefore, an urgent demand for new moderately priced modern housing.

First Phase

Soon after the building of the Sailors’ and Soldiers’ houses in Ballinteer Gardens, the first shop was opened on the corner of Mayfield Terrace and Ballinteer Road by Mary O’Keeffe with a view to supplying the residents. A two-roomed cottage on the corner of Mayfield Terrace was bought and converted into a shop called Mayfield Stores. The shop was in the front room. Living quarters for her brother, John O’Reilly, who ran the shop for her, were located at the back. Mary O’Keeffe was an enterprising woman who was instrumental in developing the area. She bought 4 acres 3 roods 10 perches of land with the cottage from Joseph Noonan with a mortgage of £260 from the Irish Civil Service Permanent Building Society at an interest rate of 5% p.a. Soon after, on 1st August 1933 she sold 2 acres 2 roods 9 perches of the land, part of the land behind the shop, to the County Council as a freehold site.

for £240. The Council paid £200 to the building society and £40 to Mary O’Keeffe, discharging the mortgage. On 19th February the Council contracted with Hodgins, Marsh and Waters, builders from Kimmage, to build sixteen houses at a cost of £4,930 15s. 6d. using direct local labour. A contract for £192 8s. was awarded to Messrs. Kennan and Sons, Fishamble Street, for fencing and gates.

Because of the large number of unemployed men in the area, there was a demand for work on the road and housing scheme in Ballinteer and this led to local political rivalry. There was a dispute among councillors at the Dublin County Council meeting that men who were not on the Relieving Officer’s list, or who had not registered with the labour exchange, were getting work on the scheme because of their membership of the Fianna Fail Club. Mr. Murphy, chairman of the Dundrum Fianna Fail Cumann, stated that only one member had got employment. It had been agreed by all in the Council that a quarter of the jobs were to go to ex-IRA men. It was unanimously agreed that the charges were unfounded. 18

In May 1934 the Dublin Board of Public Health invited applications for tenancies of 99 new labourers’ cottages in the Rathdown No. 1 Rural District Area, including the 16 cottages in Ballinteer. 19 The healthy environment in Ballinteer was deemed to be beneficial for people with T.B., then a great scourge in Dublin city and county. Sixteen semi-detached houses, sometimes referred to as cottages, were built by the Council to house deserving T.B. patients, among others. The tenants took occupation of the houses on 5th January 1935 at a weekly rent of 4s. The original sixteen tenants, including two women, were:

No. 1 Teresa Doolin,
2 John Geiron,
3 John Hennessy,
4 John Colgan,
5 Laurence Kilty,
6 Elizabeth Cummins,
7 William Mahon,
8 Charles Cowan,
9 Edward McCabe,
10 Christopher Tobin,
11 William Polion,
12 Thomas Finney,
13 George Jones,
14 Jeremiah Cronin,

The houses in Ballinteer Park, the first phase of the Council involvement in Ballinteer, and Ballinteer Gardens, are marked on the 1937 OS map of County Dublin. The first 16 houses were known as “The Old Labourers’ Cottages” up to the 1960s.

An incident which stands out in the memory of many of the then children was the death and funeral of Mrs. Polion, from Ballinteer Park, who died from T.B. She was the young wife of William and mother of Ted and Peggy, who lived there until the 1970s. The large funeral carriage was pulled by two black horses with tall black plumes, which both frightened and impressed the children.

Thomas Finney, No.12, was a T.B. victim in the early 1930s. He was a patient in Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda, in 1932. That year had a very good summer, dry and warm, good conditions to fight the disease. He was discharged and lived in No. 12 Ballinteer Park. He died in 1989 at the great age of 85, despite the previous illness. His father, who was English, had been in the British Army, and settled in Ireland, marrying an Irish girl. The Finneys moved to another house later.  

Tenants who suffered from T.B. were entitled to a half-pint of milk each day and six eggs a week to help to improve their health.

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20. Labourer’s Cottages Ledger, FCCA/LCA/02. Fingal Archives.

21. Information courtesy of Paddy Finney.
Second Phase

A second larger development was undertaken by the Council quickly after the first. Mrs. Bridget Lambert from Drummartin owned 14 acres 14 perches of land on Ballinteer Avenue, adjoining the 16 houses already built. She sold the land to the County Council for £1,400 in December 1936. In May 1938 the Dublin Board of Public Health, under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883-1931, Special Agreement Scheme, 1936, sought tenders for the erection of 96 Labourers’ Cottages at sites 17-112, Ballinteer, Dundrum, in the Rural District of Rathdown No. 1. The cost of the proposed cottages was £369 each, which was higher than that of the previous scheme. Each site would have a rood of land with the house. The council entered into a building contract, dated 25th September 1939, with Joseph Rooney, from Balbriggan, to erect 96 semi-detached cottages on sites 17 to 112. The final cost was £33,718, £300 under the original contract price. Kennan and Sons were again contracted to erect fences and gates at a cost of £1,534. Included in the cost were extra foundations to

Nos. 37, 38, 109, 110, the removal of a masonry wall along Ballinteer Avenue, the repair of an old masonry wall, and a base wall for railings along Ballinteer Avenue.

A notice in newspapers on 11th February 1939 by the Dublin Board of Public Health invited applications for tenancies of 183 labourers’ cottages, including 96 cottages in Ballinteer, from residents in the County Health District. There were 245 applications for the 96 houses which were allocated at a meeting of the Dublin B.O.H. held on the 14th November 1939. The new tenants took possession from 29th June, 1940, at a weekly rent of 5s. 6d. Mains gas was installed from the beginning, and was used for lighting and cooking. Electricity was installed in the early 1950s.

The two Council schemes had minor variations in design. The first scheme of 16 houses had side entrances. They were all of a simple design, two up, two down: two bedrooms, a kitchen and a sitting room, with a fireplace in each room and standard railings and gates (see photos and drawings). The original wooden sash windows had 12 small panes of glass in each. Each house had a front garden, and a large back garden which allowed the tenant to grow fruit and vegetables. Many kept fowl and pigs. Vegetable plots were also made available in Gortmore, later Gort Muire, for residents.

23. *Irish Independent*, 1 February 1939.


The names of the first 96 tenants and the house numbers are as follows:

No. 17 Michael Mooney, 33 Bridget McEvoy,
18 John Mooney, 34 Samuel Lucas,
19 George Stanley, 35 Patrick Sheils,
20 Margaret Mahon, 36 Francis Gobbett,
21 James Kavanagh, 37 Philip Nugent,
22 Patrick Kelly, 38 James Ryan,
23 James J. Byrne, 40 James Whelan,
24 Anne McLoughlin, 41 James Thornton,
25 John Healy, 42 Albert Thompson,
26 Patrick Doyle, 43 Patrick Murtagh,
27 Patrick Cullen, 44 John Singleton,
28 Michael Wyse, 45 Michael Maloney,
29 Joseph Kinch, 46 Joseph Bracken,
30 Gerald Moore, 47 William Murtagh,
31 Edward Bryan, 48 John Doolan,
32 Thomas Holohan, 49 Patrick McArdle,
Six women were among the first tenants. Patrick Doyle, No. 26, transferred to Jamestown and was replaced by Frank O’Neill.
Houses at Ballinteer Park

Photo taken in 2012 and drawings courtesy of Nick Ryan
James J. Byrne, 23 Ballinteer Park (New Buildings), for many years a licensed vintner, a member of Dublin Co. Council and of the Board of Health, died in April 1940 and was buried in Dean’s Grange after requiem mass in Holy Cross Church, Dundrum. He was survived by his widow, three sons, Phillip, James J., and Michael, two daughters, Sheila and Bridget, brothers, Edward and Phillip and sister, Statia. There was a large attendance at the removal including Old I.R.A. veterans and staff from the Ordnance Survey.

OSI The 1937 map shows Ballinteer Gardens, the first phase of Ballinteer Park and Mayfield House. The second phase of Ballinteer Park was not yet built.
The new community formed a residents association. They installed seating in the area which the Council took away. The association organised regular outings for the residents. A favourite trip was to Murrays in Lusk, Co. Dublin. Two or three full buses would go. Chicken and chips and a sing-song rounded off the day.

Dundrum National School was the local primary school. Because of the increase in population, the school could not cater for all the pupils in the catchment area. Some children had to go further afield. After their primary education some pupils attended Dundrum Technical School which was located in the Carnegie Library building. The school occupied two floors so that the library was small. The small number of children in the school was taught in mixed classes until a new school was built. St. Columcilles, Loughlinstown, was the hospital for the area. Doctors Broderick, husband and wife, who lived on the Dundrum Road, were the local doctors. The local policeman was Mr. Murray from Dundrum. There was practically no crime in the area.

The members of the new community in Ballinteer Gardens, Ballinteer Park and the bungalows all knew each other well. If anyone got above his station, the neighbours would say “that fellow’s name is not dry on the rent-book”.
The Shops

May O’Keeffe opened another bigger shop beside the Mayfield Stores which she called “The Ballinteer Stores”. Ballinteer Stores and Derrickbawn, their residence, first appear in *Thom’s Directory* in 1938 under Martin J. O’Keeffe’s name, valuation £36, and are so recorded until 1950 when two other premises are noted under the names Mary O’Keeffe, valuation £40 12s. and Mrs. M. O’Keeffe, valuation £31. The original site facing onto Ballinteer Road was developed into a small group of four shops. Everything was sold in Ballinteer Stores during the Emergency: paraffin oil, coal, turf, all sorts of animal feed, butter, meats, etc. Food was sold in the traditional manner; butter from the slab, milk from the churn and flour from the sack. After the Emergency strict hygiene regulations required the separation of foodstuffs. As a result, May opened another shop, “The Dairy”, beside Derrickbawn, to sell food. This shop became a tobacconist run by Redmond & Sons and then by Desmond Meenan. It is now the “Wellwalk Clinic”. A chemist shop between “The Dairy” and Ballinteer Stores was run by B. Carolan from Mayfield Terrace and later by Mr. Bhagwan. It is now the “College Barber”. A butcher’s shop was opened on the site of the original Mayfield Stores in 1940 and was advertised as follows in the press:

*Butcher’s shop, nicely fitted, new building; working class area, Co. Dublin; no opposition; moderate rent; suit energetic young man. Apply O’Keeffe, Ballinteer Stores, Dundrum.*

It was operated first by John and Jim Connaghty, then by John Moore and later by Sean Keogh (noted in *Thom’s Directory* in 1960). Connaghty and Keogh also had shops in Dundrum. Mr. Bhagwan bought the butchers shop, rebuilt it and opened a new chemist shop which is still there.

In the 1960s the four shops and their occupiers were as follows; Sean Keogh, the butcher, on the corner of Mayfield Terrace, Margaret Newman in Ballinteer Stores, Mr. Bhagwan the chemist and Meenan the tobacconist.

The O’Keeffes lived at Ballinteer Stores initially where they cultivated a market garden which supplied the shop with fresh vegetables. Martin O’Keeffe, May’s husband, and principal of the National School in Sandyford, took a keen interest in horticulture. They built Derrickbawn, named in commemoration of a son who died in infancy, on Ballinteer Road, beside the shops where they later lived.

In 1948, Mary O’Keeffe, intending to retire, offered Ballinteer Stores for sale. The advertisement in the *Irish Press* gives interesting details of the premises:

Ballinteer Stores,
Ballinteer, Dundrum, Co. Dublin.

General Grocery, Tobacconist, Newsagency and Confectioner Stores.

(Per instructions from the vendor, Mrs. O’Keeffe, who is retiring).

These stores occupy a unique position and have a monopoly of one of the best suburban districts in south Dublin. The premises, which are splendidly constructed and in excellent condition throughout, have five spacious display windows, (frontage 64ft.), two well-appointed and spacious shops (fully fitted), with small office (telephone), large stores and garage at side measuring 25x12ft. The residential portion at rear has 2 reception rooms (dividing doors), 4 spacious bedrooms, bathroom with w.h.b., w.c. separate; immersion heater, hot press, breakfast room, kitchenette, large rock garden, outside w.c., tool house, turf house. The premises are fitted throughout with electric power and gas.

The purchaser will have the option of taking over the stock, fixtures and fittings at a valuation. The premises will be offered for sale by way of lease for 99 years, subject to £260 per annum.

The property was withdrawn from sale at £5,900. The store was again put up for auction in 1951 giving some additional information. The annual turnover of the cash business was approximately £13,000 and was offered for sale in fee-simple, free of rent. May was now selling ice-cream. This sale was also unsuccessful. Mary O’Keeffe, Derrickbawn, was still in possession in October 1952 when she gave notice of her intention to apply for a seven day off-licence to sell beer and spirits by retail at premises known as The Ballinteer Stores, Ballinteer Road. Ballinteer Stores passed to Patrick and Margaret Newman in the early 1960s. Margaret was still in possession in 1962. Later the Lawlor Brothers ran the shop.


Mary (May) O’Keeffe

Mary died at Derrickbawn on 14 January 1970, aged 75. The obituary was published in the *Irish Press* as follows: 30

*Mrs. Mary Josephine O’Keeffe (née O’Reilly), who has died at her residence, Derrickbawn, Ballinteer, Co. Dublin, aged 75, was well known in the Dublin business community as one of the founder members of R.G.D.A.T.A., She lived in Ballinteer for nearly 40 years. In her early days she was associated with an Infant Aid Society, when it was a voluntary organisation. During the First World War she served with the Red Cross and during the emergency she was a leading member of the Dundrum Parish Council. She also served with the St. John’s Ambulance Brigade. She was an active worker during the war of independence. The late Mrs. O’Keeffe is survived by her husband, Martin, who for nearly 50 years was principal teacher at St. Mary’s Boys’ National School, Sandyford; three sons and two daughters.*

In her youth Mary O’Reilly worked in the G.P.O. in Sackville Street, now O’Connell Street. She married Martin O’Keeffe, a national school teacher, on 8th July 1918 in the Sacred Heart Church, Donnybrook. She is buried in Dean’s Grange. 31

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31. Information courtesy of Eda Donnelly, daughter of May O’Keeffe.
The Bungalows

In July 1947 May O’Keefe leased to Thomas McDonnell, 8 Dolphin’s Barn, builder, another part of the remaining plot of land from the original 4 acres, containing 1a. 1r. 20p. on the corner of Ballinteer Road and Ballinteer Avenue and in Mayfield Terrace, for a term of 999 years at an annual rent of £130. The lease contained a covenant by McDonnell to erect

not less than 10 dwelling houses on the site.\textsuperscript{33} However, a dispute arose between O’Keeffe and McDonnell concerning trespass on land belonging to O’Keeffe, on which a house had been built by Richard Bohan, builder, of Duncairn Avenue, Bray, resulting in a judgement in the High Court for £313 4s. 11d. against McDonnell.\textsuperscript{34} The interest in the lease was transferred to Bohan and the land in dispute was conveyed to Bohan by O’Keeffe.\textsuperscript{35}

One detached and six semi-detached bungalows were built on Ballinteer Avenue, Nos. 1-7. They were occupied in the early 1950s by the following families: John O’Neill, Mr. Fitzpatrick, followed by Joseph Goulding (Golden), Martin Corless, Ronald Godwin, Joseph Doyle, Mr. Kinane, then Noel McGlade, and A. R. Watt, some of whom are still in occupation.\textsuperscript{36} The bungalows, except No.1, had access to a back lane off Mayfield Terrace, where most built garages. They were named in \textit{Thom’s Directory} as O’Keeffe Terrace in 1963.

There were also 4 semi-detached bungalows built on the left hand side of Mayfield Terrace occupied by the Cranwells in “St. Joseph’s”, Keatings in “St. Cecilia’s”, O’Connors in “Ingleside” and McMenamins in “St. Margaret’s”. Mrs. Cranwell, known as Miss Carolan, was a pharmacist who had a chemist shop where the hairdresser now is, before Mr. Bhagwan came.

Junction Ballinteer Road and Avenue with Tracys’ house in background. (Courtesy of Mgt. Smith)

\textsuperscript{33} RD 1947 32 246.
\textsuperscript{34} RD 1949 9 258.
\textsuperscript{35} RD 1951 1 20.
\textsuperscript{36} Communication from Margaret Smith, née O’Neill.
The Rural Community

The rural community which surrounded Old Ballinteer consisted in the named houses and the lands attached to them: Gortmore, later Gort Muire, Hilton also called Curraghbaha, Woodlawn, Ballintyre Hall, Fitzackery’s farm (Ballinteer Cottage), Poyer Park, Ballinteer Villa, Ballinteer Lodge, Meadowbrook and Marlay.

Moving in

Many of the families who were to occupy the new Council houses lived on the grounds of the big named houses in the area before the new houses were built. Gortmore, occupied by the LeFroy family, was a large house on the Ballinteer Road which employed and housed a number of families. There were three labourers’ cottages beside the large walled garden and orchard in Gortmore occupied by the Kinch, Mason and Dwyer families. Edward Mason, known affectionately as “Da Da” to the children, was the gardener. Joseph Kinch was the chauffeur who worked in the city. He was chauffeur for Pim but lost his job during the 1913 lockout. Mr. Dwyer worked on the Gortmore estate. He made hurling sticks which he sold to the local children for 6d. He later lived in the gate lodge to the property with his wife Phillis, nee Byrne. Pat Byrne, and before him his parents Jim and Mary Byrne, lived on a small farm near the gate lodge. The Moore, Lucas and Lawford families lived on the small farm in adjoining accommodation. People living in the cottages in Gortmore were not allowed to use the main entrance which led to the big house. They took a left turn on the avenue from the gate lodge, along by the stile field, to their cottages near the walled garden. The Mason, Kinch, Lucas and Moore families were rehoused in Ballinteer Park in 1940.

Edward Mason came to work in Gortmore as a gardener about 1926. He had previously lived in St. Helens, Stillorgan and Roebuck House and worked there on the farm or as a gardener. Edward and his wife Mary had a family of 3 daughters, Margaret, Angela and Ita, and a son, Patrick (Paddy). All went to Dundrum N.S. The family moved to No. 63 Ballinteer Park in 1940. Edward had probably retired at this time. Mary died in 1948 in Ballinteer Park after a long illness. In 1943 Ita went to England to train as a nurse and settled there. She died there recently at the age of 88. Angela also went to England and joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service and worked in the pay-corps in Germany, married Edward Crofton and later lived in Kilteman and Dundrum. Margaret married John Leslie in 1950 and they lived in No. 63 with Edward, who died there in 1961 at the great age of 86. Patrick (Paddy) emigrated to Australia in 1951.

37. Information courtesy of Ann O’Connor.
The O’Brien family lived at Hollypark, the gate lodge into St. Columba’s College on the College Road. Michael O’Brien senior worked for the County Council. He had a horse and operated a carrier business. They also moved to Ballinteer Park, No.70, in 1940. Two families, the O’Reillys and the Martins, lived in cottages on Fitzackery’s farm, Ballinteer Cottage, on Ballinteer Avenue, now the location of St. John the Evangelist Church. These cottages were in poor condition. There was no running water despite the fact that there was a deep well on the property which was discovered when the foundations of the church were laid. They went to Ballintyre Hall with buckets for water. They cooked on open fires in the cottages. The Martins moved to Mulvey Park. The O’Reilly family were accommodated in Ballinteer Park. The farm was later used by the O’Brien family to rear pigs and as stables for horses and ponies. There were four families in cottages at the end of Meadowbrook Lane who were also rehoused.

On Ballinteer Avenue there was a high granite wall on the south side of the road cutting off the view of Hilton and Woodlawn estate and the Dublin mountains. For residents living on Ballinteer Avenue the sight of this high blank wall was oppressive. There was a wide raised grass verge at the base of the wall where children played and which they called “The Bank”.

Woodlawn

Leonard Murphy and his wife, known as Lady Murphy, née Griffith, who lived on the Woodlawn estate, were not pleased when Ballinteer Park was built opposite the entrance to their house. The lovely big wrought-iron gates supported by two white stone pillars, which had been the main entrance to Woodlawn, were removed and transferred to another entrance from the Ballinteer Road (Ticknock Road) near Clonlea. High wooden gates were erected instead. There was a gate lodge inside the gate occupied by Tommy and Molly Barnes and their son David. Tommy was a gardener in the vegetable garden and orchard on the property. A small wicket gate allowed local people who worked on the estate to come and go. There was a big hay barn along by the wall. There was also a big granite barn, now incorporated into the Coach House pub, beside the entrance and a deep well beside the barn. The well had steps descending down to the water and was surrounded by railings. There are iron girders in the wall of the barn which now forms part of the Coach House pub. These girders facilitated a mechanism for drawing water from the well, it is thought.

Even though Lady Murphy was against the development, she and her family were good neighbours to the new residents. They had an adopted daughter, Joan, who played with the children from the Ballinteer Park. They had garden parties for the children and there was a

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38. Information courtesy of Ml. O’Brien and his sisters, Kathleen McDonnell and Anne Lane.
large number of staff in Woodlawn which provided employment for locals. Lady Murphy would visit sick members of the community and bring food for them. She was a kind and benevolent neighbour. Woodlawn was one of the locations where the well-to-do played tennis, croquet and bowls.

Woodlawn was the residence of the Netherlands Charge d’Affaires and Madame Van Tets where they held a reception for the Dutch community in Dublin on the occasion of the birthday of Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands in August 1946.39

**Hilton**

Hilton was advertised for sale in February 1939 as follows;

“Hilton”, Ballinteer, Dundrum, on 4 acres.

Excellent family residence. Big road frontage.

Easily run, substantial detached, double-fronted residence, with 2 walled in fruit and vegetable gardens. Extensive out-houses. Stabling. Fowl accommodation. Garage. Gate lodge (let at 9/- weekly). Hilton contains drawing-room, diningroom, 5 bedrooms (3 with running water), bathroom, h. and c., maid’s room, tiled kitchen, etc. E.L. The property is situated on the corner of Ballinteer and Ticknock roads and has extensive frontage. Bus at door. A high and healthy position. Panoramic mountain scenery. Ground rent £29 2s. 0d. Pembroke lease.40

This description is in stark contrast with the modest conditions of their new neighbours.

A neighbour, who lived in Hilton from the summer of 1939, then called Curraghbaha, on the corner of Ballinteer Road and Avenue, was a Seamus (James Aloysius) Burke, B.L. Burke was an American citizen, born near Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, in 1893. His parents, Tobias and Bridget Agnes, née Quinlan, emigrated to America in 1905. They returned in 1908 and settled in Rockforest, Roscrea. Seamus was involved in founding the Irish Volunteers in the Rotunda in 1913. He was elected as Sinn Fein T. D. in the election of 1918. He travelled to America to raise funds for the Dail Loan. He took part in the war of Independence. He was elected Cumann na nGael T. D. for Tipperary and was minister for local government and public health in the Free State Government and initiated many reforms in that area including a start to the abolition of the workhouses, and the building of roads. Later he was responsible for the OPW where he was responsible for the passing of the National Monuments Act in 1930.

He married Zenaide Bashkiroff in 1929. She had an exotic Russian background of which the locals in Ballinteer only had a hint. When she was young she moved in Tsarist court


circles. Her mother’s cousin Prince Felix Youssoupooff, who killed Rasputin, was married to Princess Irena. The family lived in Nijny from where Zenaida witnessed the excesses of the Russian Revolution. After the Revolution, with her sister, she came to Dublin to join their Irish governess and stayed with Dr. Monica Lea Wilson who looked after them.

Burke was a strong supporter of the Blueshirts and fascist movements in Europe. He lost his Dail seat in 1938. They moved to Ballinteer at the end of 1939. His Russian wife demanded the attention appropriate to her standing in the neighbourhood and in the shops, much to the disdain of the locals. They had a daughter, Nathasha, who had Irish Wolfhounds which frightened the children. They moved to Tunbridge Wells, Kent, in 1952. In England Zenaide became a ceramic artist of some note. Seamus died in England in 1967.

In 1947 Geoffrey Taylor, a poet and writer, said to have been related to the Loves of Marlay, lived at Curraghbaha. He was born Geoffrey Basil Phibbs in 1900 into the gentry in Norfolk, England. His father inherited the family home in Lisheen, Co. Sligo where he spent some time. He worked with the writer Frank O’Connor as an organiser was a Carnegie Library. He married Norah McGuinness, the painter, in 1924. He led a bohemian life in England where he married Mary Dillwyn in 1935, with whom he had two children. He was a conscientious objector during the war and came to Ireland and was poetry editor of “The Bell” under Frank O’Connor. He changed his name by deed-poll to Taylor, his mother’s maiden name, because of a family dispute. He knew many of the literary figures of the early 20th century: Robert Graves, Frank O’Connor, Richard Murphy, and John Betjeman. He published three volumes of poetry under the pseudonym “R. Fitzurse”. He died of heart failure in 1956 and is buried in Whitechurch, Church of Ireland graveyard. His neighbours in Ballinteer were probably not aware of his colourful lifestyle. However, they noticed he always wore plus-fours, which made him stand out. Mary Taylor was living in Hilton in 1960, according to Thom’s Directory.

The Downs family lived in the gate lodge at Curraghbaha, formerly Hilton. Mrs. Downes related how she had to repeatedly ask a uniformed driver of a big car taking foreign visitors to the house during the war to stop sitting on her window sill and blocking the light from her window. Across the road in Ludford Park, now part of Wesley College, the Hally family lived in the gate lodge.

**Ballintyre Hall**

Ballintyre Hall was the home of the Mr. Desmond Beatty. Beatty owned the Raleigh Bicycle factory in Dublin city and drove himself to work every day in a big car. The Beattys had four children, Kathleen, Walter, John and Adrian. Mr. and Mrs. Morgan lived in the gate
lodge of Ballintyre Hall Mr. Morgan was chief gardener on the estate, assisted by Tom O’Brien from Ballinteer Park and John Harding from Taney Park. Morgan experimented to produce a new vegetable, Celtus, a cross between celery and lettuce. There were extensive gardens on the working farm. Their daughter Beatrice Morgan married Ian Priestly Mitchell of Radio Eireann fame. May Doyle was the cook in charge of the kitchens in Ballintyre Hall. Molly Siney was a servant who had two half-days off during the week, Wednesday and Sunday afternoons. Later the Breen family lived in the lodge of Ballintyre Hall.

Dundrum House was situated to the north of Meadowbrook House, overlooking Dundrum village. Meadowbrook Lane separated the two houses. Joe Daly had his sports club at the entrance to what was Meadowbrook Lane. Dundrum House was the location of the Ballinteer Lawn Tennis Club. There were four labourers’ cottages at the end of Meadowbrook Lane where there was a dairy farm.

Not to be overshadowed by the Irish National Garden Guild garden competition in Ballinteer Gardens, the upper classes in the big houses had the Ballinteer and Dundrum Horticultural Society which held its own competition. The first annual show was held on Saturday 4th September 1949 at Woodlawn. Not surprisingly The Lenehans, Beattys, Murphys, and Overends were prominent among the prize winners.42

Gort Muire

In 1944 Gortmore with about 50 acres of land was bought by the Carmelite Order from St George LeFroy for £12,000. Fr. O’Shea, the Provincial, changed the name of the house to Gort Muire (Maryfield). Fr. D.C. Kiely was appointed first Prior. The Carmelites undertook a building programme and the conversion of the property for their own purposes. A chapel was built by Walsh & Co. to the design of architects, Robinson, Keeffe and Devane, and was followed by large accommodation blocks for clerical students. The integrity of the original house, which dates back to the 1870s, was respected and maintained. They continued to farm and work the land. The students were isolated from the local community, however, because of their strict rules. When out walking in the area, always in pairs or more, in strict silence, they were forbidden to talk to people they met on the road. This often led to some embarrassment on their part and puzzlement for the locals. A large number of students cycled in convoy to the city to attend classes at the University.

A great place in which to grow up

Many members of the current community in Ballinteer, who were children when the
new development took place, speak very warmly of their childhood. They lived in a happy,
safe, healthy environment. They played in the open fields all day long without any fear or
danger. Traffic was practically non-existent. Despite the class differences between families
living in the Council scheme and the residents of the big houses, they got on well. The new
estates were surrounded by fields. It was a wonderful place in which to grow up. Blackberries
could be picked all along McDonald’s Lane, now gone, which was situated at the side of the
National School and wild flowers grew in abundance. Motor cars were scarce. The children
could skip safely on a rope drawn across the road. Picnics were enjoyed at Ticknock and at
the Druid’s Chair in Glensouthwell, which were considered part of the neighbourhood.
Children were so happy they “hardly remember a rainy day”. They didn’t take much notice of
the weather. There were no weather forecasts to worry them. They took things in their stride.

Crafts and Trades

There was an existing tinker presence in Ballinteer and the surrounding area when the
new community in Old Ballinteer was established in the 1930s. The tinkers had two halting
sites, one on Ballinteer Avenue by the stream near the Grange Road, the other on Ballinteer
Road (Ticknock Road) near Delbrook House. They were good neighbours and were accepted
as part of the local community. Their children mixed and played together. They worked at
tinkering, repairing and making tin vessels and containers. They would stop near the cottages
and from a sheet of tin and a tinker’s dam, make or repair cups, pots and pans. They were well
thought of by the local shopkeepers because they paid on the spot for everything they bought.
One family was of blond complexion. The girls were very good-looking. The families lived in
a wagon pulled by a horse and in tents. They smoked clay pipes and used plants for cures and
medicines. They were eventually settled.

There were two forges in Dundrum. Bob Doyle, a blacksmith, shod horses in his
forge on Ballinteer Road behind Campbells shoe repair shop. O’Reilly, who operated a coach
service from Moore Farm at the top of Ballinteer Road (Ticknock Road), had his horses
looked after at Doyle’s forge. Tom Nolan had a forge near the railway bridge and specialised
in fabrication.

The Emergency

During the war the community suffered. Work was hard to find. Many men and
women went to England to work or join the British Army. Women worked in the Manor
Laundry in Dundrum and in the Hughes Brothers’ factory in Churchtown. There was some
poverty. Some local ladies of means, Lady Murphy, Mrs. Plunkett Dillon from Ludford
House, Miss Scallan from Swiss Cottage, and Mrs. Miller from Delbrook, set up a soup
kitchen outside the entrance to Woodlawn once a week which local people could avail of. Food was supplied by the local shops. There was a local Air Raid Precaution (A. R. P.) unit on Ballinteer Avenue whose members met in a garage beside the Coach House. They issued gas masks to everyone in the area and carried out fire drills. A public notice from the A. R. P Department of Dublin County Council requested those residents in Dundrum, Ballinteer, Churchtown and Windy Arbour who had not yet received anti-gas respirators to attend for fitting at the Courthouse, Dundrum, on Tuesday and Wednesday the 9th and 10th December, 1941, from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. At night people scanned the skies looking for aircraft flying over and caught by the searchlights. One morning many people witnessed two RAF fighters in pursuit of a German bomber over Dublin. The bomber was shot down out at sea beyond Dun Laoghaire. Corporal William (Billy) Shannon, 14 Mayfield Terrace, was killed in an accidental bomb explosion in the Glen of Imaal on 16 Sept., 1941. In early May 1942 great concern was expressed in the Dundrum area following a German bomber raid on Norwich, where a number of people from the area worked. Among the people killed in the raid were Daniel Geoghegan, son of Joseph Geoghegan, Ballinteer Villa and James Clarke, fishmonger, Main Street, Dundrum.

William Cleary, Ballinteer, Dundrum, was one of seven men arrested and charged following the raid on the Magazine Fort, Phoenix Park, on 23 December 1939. He was acquitted and released in the Dublin District Court following the failure of a sentry to identify him in court.

Dick O’Keeffe from Ballinteer joined the Irish Army in 1939. He was one of three N.C.O’s who became trainee pilots in the Air Corps during the Emergency. Previously, the Air Corps only took officers into their ranks. After the war Dick worked in Shannon as a flight dispatcher for TWA. In 1951 he joined Aer Lingus and underwent a three month training course to fly the DC3 Dakota, which was the standard airliner of the day. His brother Edmond, (Ed), also joined the army but was deemed too small to be a pilot and was trained as an engineer. He was selected with six other engineers from the army to go to Seattle in the USA to train as flight engineers for aircraft on the trans-Atlantic route. The trans-Atlantic route was not developed as a result of a change of Government. The aircraft and its crew were sold to BOAC.

43. _Irish Press_, 6 December 1941
44. _Irish Press_, 17 September 1941.
45. _Irish Press_, 4 May 1942.
46. _Irish Press_, 24 January 1940.
Joe Daly

Joe was born Joe Tansey on 9 April 1920 and arrived in Dundrum in 1921 as a 12 month old infant to be brought up by his Aunt Eileen Daly in No. 3, Pembroke Cottages on the Ballinteer Road. In appreciation he adopted the surname Daly. The family was very poor. His aunt worked for the Lesters in Laurel Lodge for 3 shillings a day. Joe worked in Mellons garage after leaving school on all things mechanical – cars, motor bikes and bicycles. With 17 years’ experience at Mellons he set out on his own and in October 1951 opened a bicycle shop under the railway bridge in Dundrum. He moved to Dundrum Road the following year.

Joe was always interested in sports. As well as cycling, he was involved with the Dundrum table tennis club on Ballinteer Road and was its secretary for 40 years. He was a much loved and highly respected man, who made a major contribution to the community.

Dances

When the first group of children who were reared in Old Ballinteer became teenagers and young adults, they attended dances in Joe Daly’s sports club on the Ballinteer Road. Joe held three dances a week, on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday nights, 1/- or 2/- in. Christy Nutty’s band played at the dances and was very popular. Young people from far and wide came to the dances at the “Hop on the Hill”. Many a match was made at the dances. When a match was made, the burning question among the girls after a few weeks going together was “Did he kiss you yet?” There was no alcohol served and there was no trouble. An innocent time! Another source of entertainment for all was the crossroad dance at Ticknock Cross on a Sunday afternoon during the summer. Boards were put down on the road as a dancing platform. It was a very popular event. People came from near and far by every means of transport - charabancs, ponies and traps, horses and carts and bicycles.

The Astor Dance-hall in Dundrum on the corner of Taney Road was another popular venue run by Eddie Downey. The Melody Aces and Dickie Rock played there. There was a ceili every Saturday night at which the McCoy Ceili Band from Beaumont Avenue played.

Young people also went further afield to Bray to dance. They got the train in Dundrum and the girls stood for the journey in case they might crease their dresses. The Arcadia and the Top Hat in Dun Laoghaire were very popular. Two dance hall on the Enniskerry Road were also frequented by young people from Ballinteer. Butler’s Tea Rooms and Dance Hall at the Scalp and Noel Roe’s Dance Hall in Enniskerry village were popular. The 44 bus went to Enniskerry and passed Butler’s Dance Hall or people cycled. Getting home meant catching the last bus or train. There were no lights on the road after midnight.

Centre of Activity

The road in front of the shops on Ballinteer Road was the centre of many activities in the area. During election time, the various candidates would set up stalls explaining their policies, distributing leaflets and looking for votes. Many an argument resulted. When the 48A bus was extended from Dundrum up Ballinteer Road the terminus was at Ballinteer Stores. A day out to Ticknock was popular for families in the city at this time. After spending a day in the mountains or with a possible stop at Lamb Doyle’s, people congregated at the bus stop, and while waiting for the bus, sing and dance on the road to the great entertainment and amusement of the locals. They were dressed up for the day out. One woman wore an elaborate bird’s nest hat.
Dundrum Gymkhana and Sports
At BALLINTEER VILLA
RIDING SCHOOL/GROUNDS
GYMKHANA & TROTTING EVENTS
Saturday, 16th September
ATHLETIC AND CYCLING SPORTS
(Under N.A.C.A. Laws)
SUNDAY 17th SEPTEMBER
Each commencing at 2.30 p.m.
VALUABLE CUPS AND PRIZES
Refreshments, Side-Shows, Bands
Admission—Saturday, 1/-; Sunday, 6d.
Make it the "End of a Perfect Day"
by attending the
CARNIVAL DANCE (from 8 p.m.)
at the Carnegie Library, on Sunday

Irish Press, 15 Sept. 1938

WANTED
HUNDREDS OF SPECTATORS
FOR THE ANNUAL
"MARLAY"
GYMKHANA
SATURDAY, JULY 26th, 2.30 p.m.
AT
MARLAY, GRANGE ROAD,
RATHFARNHAM.
Entries Last Year Totalled 164.
See the cream of Ireland's Jumpers
competing for the Marlay Perpetual
Challenge Cup Value £75.
Teas: Ices: Country Produce.
ADMISSION:
Cars 2/6, Adults 1/-, Children 6d.
Hon. Sec.: D. W. PHIBBS.
Elm Park, Rathfarnham 05714

Publication: Irish Independent 1905-current*; Date: Jul 19, 1947
Horses and cattle

Every second Saturday during the season the hunt would pass through Ballinteer to the great excitement of the children. They would collect the horse-dung for their gardens in which they took great pride. Breeding and keeping horses was a common practice in Ballinteer and the surrounding area. The Loves of Marlay and Geoghegans of Ballinteer Villa had stables where some locals worked. They also held gymkhanas every summer for the local community which were looked forward to and enjoyed. Mr. Love erected a big tent and refreshments were served. There were horse-jumping competitions. Mr. Love had a large area of land under glass where he grew tomatoes and other vegetables. He was a good employer to the local people.

The residents got their milk every day from local farmers who had dairies. Mollie Moody lived in the gate lodge of what was Poyer Farm on Ballinteer Avenue. Cosgrave, the butcher from Dundrum and Rathfarnham, grazed his cattle on the land. Fresh milk was supplied by Mollie, among others, to the community in Ballinteer.

As well as the interest in horses in the area, it was also a cattle grazing area. Lenehan at Kincora on the Ballinteer Avenue and Cosgrave at Poyer farm grazed cattle. Early on a spring morning cattle from various farms in the area were gathered together and driven through the city to Phoenix Park where they grazed for the summer. Later they were brought to the cattle market on the North Circular Road.

J. Nolan, *Changing Faces*
Sport

Ballinteer Rangers Athletic Football Club was founded in 1933 by Messrs McGuinness, Lacey, Joyce and Turnbull at a meeting in Val Dillon’s shop in Rosemount. A small club house was originally located near McGrane’s dairy on the Sandyford Road. A larger building was purchased in Malahide and conveyed in Tom Cash’s lorry to Ballinteer Road where it still stands today. There were two pitches in the fields on Meadowbrook Lane. With the development of the area the club declined. However the building was taken over by Joe Daly and Stephen Riney. There was a table tennis club on the site. A local football team, Celtic Boys, had access to the facilities. Liam Cosgrave, former Taoiseach, opened the club. Orwell Wheelers Cycling Club was based at Joe Daly’s club. Ballinteer Rovers was another soccer club that was established in the 1950s which was highly regarded and played in the A.U.L.

Glenmore Celtic Football Club was founded in 1946 by Paddy & Christy Nolan. They worked in White’s Nurseries in Tibradden. The staff of the nursery formed the nucleus of the club in the beginning. They first met at Glenmore Cross (Ticknock Cross) and hence the name of the club. Tommy Carroll, secretary of club in 1957, organised a match in Dalymount between a Glenmore Celtic selection and Bournemouth.

Ballinteer Lawn Tennis Club was formed in the late 1920s. Their club house was opened by Rev. Fr. Larkin, C.C., and Rev. Fr. Farrington, P.P., Dundrum, in May 1928. The courts were located at Dundrum House, occupied by the O’Brien family, at the end of the present Barton Road. On a Whit Sunday visitors from Dublin were encouraged to use the courts which could be hired for 9d. per hour per person. Teas and refreshments were available. A dance in the Carnegie Library in 1931 was attended by the following members of the club: Tommy O’Keefe, Sid Daly, Sean Hayes, Kitty Delaney, Paddy Brennan, Rosie Gallagher, Johnny Rooney, Nellie Mellon, Millie Delaney, Lousha Murtagh and Gerry Ryan. On the 21 April 1933 they held their annual meeting where the following officers were elected:

President Rev. Canon F. Farrington, P.P.
Chairman P.J. Brennan
Hon. Treasurer M. O’Grady
Hon Secretary G.P. Murphy, Dundrum House
Ladies’ Captain C. Ni Dhuibhir
Gents’ Captain R.S. Duff.


The tennis courts were open on Sunday 30 April 1933. They held their annual “at home” on 21 July 1935 when the various championship finals were played. A disastrous fire destroyed the club house in the 1930’s and the club declined after that. However, in 1941 Miss Kitty Delaney was organising a marquee dance at the Ballinteer Tennis Club. She was a member of old Cumann na mBan and secretary of the Red Cross and of the Parish Council at Dundrum.

The field behind the Poyer Farm gate lodge where Mollie Moody lived was owned by Mr. Redser Byrne of Ballinteer Road. He organised an annual sports day for the children. Three-legged races, egg and spoon races, etc., were enjoyed by all. There was a football pitch at the end of the field where the local team, Ballinteer Rovers, played. Johnny Allen and other local men were involved in the team.

Mollie looked after a spring well in the field, which locals referred to as a holy spring. This was later culverted.

J. Nolan, *Changing Faces*

**Transport**

The Dublin United Tramway Co. operated the 48 bus to Dundrum and the 48A to Ballinteer, from the city centre. The 48A terminus was outside The Ballinteer Stores. During


51. *Irish Press*, 22 July 1935

52. *Irish Press*, 22 July 1935

the Emergency, because of the restrictions on fuel, there was disruption to the services. The
single decked 47B bus to Grange Road started in 1946 (see photo). Trains also operated from
Harcourt Street to Bray through Dundrum. The community in Ballinteer was therefore easily
accessed by many colourful characters from Dublin. A singer came every Saturday. Her
favourite was a sad song about a dying soldier called “It was only a bunch of violets, a bunch
of violets blue”. Children would go from door to door collecting money for her. She was a
great favourite. Johnny Forty Coats was a regular visitor. He described himself as the “odd
man out”. Fishmongers from Dublin with their noisy steel-rimmed three-wheeled carts also
visited on Friday. They would stand in the middle of the road and cry at the top of their voices
“Dublin Bay Herrings”. Collectors from Mount Argus and the Hospice in Harold’s Cross
came looking for donations.

First 47B bus on Grange Road (1946). Marlay Park is directly ahead, Taylor’s sweet shop is
on the left and on the right, a cottage with a big side garden where the Little family lived.
(Photo courtesy of Nick Ryan)

The Dept. of Post and Telegraphs extended a telegraphic line from the existing line on
Ballinteer Avenue to a point at No. 1 Ballinteer Cottages in October 1947. 54

Census Returns for Ballinteer

From the Census of Ireland returns we have figures for the number of people and
houses in the townland of Ballinteer, which shows the increase that followed with each
development.

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>77 (30m, 47f)</td>
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<td>1063 (503m, 550f)</td>
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<td>1083</td>
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By the late 1950s the small peaceful community of Old Ballinteer was beginning to be over-run by new housing developments. The owners of Ballinteer Lodge sold a strip of land along Ballinteer Road on which seven detached houses were built. This was followed by Simpson’s Hospital, in Wyckham, selling land for house-building, resulting in the Wyckham housing estate. Many others followed, but that’s another chapter of the story.