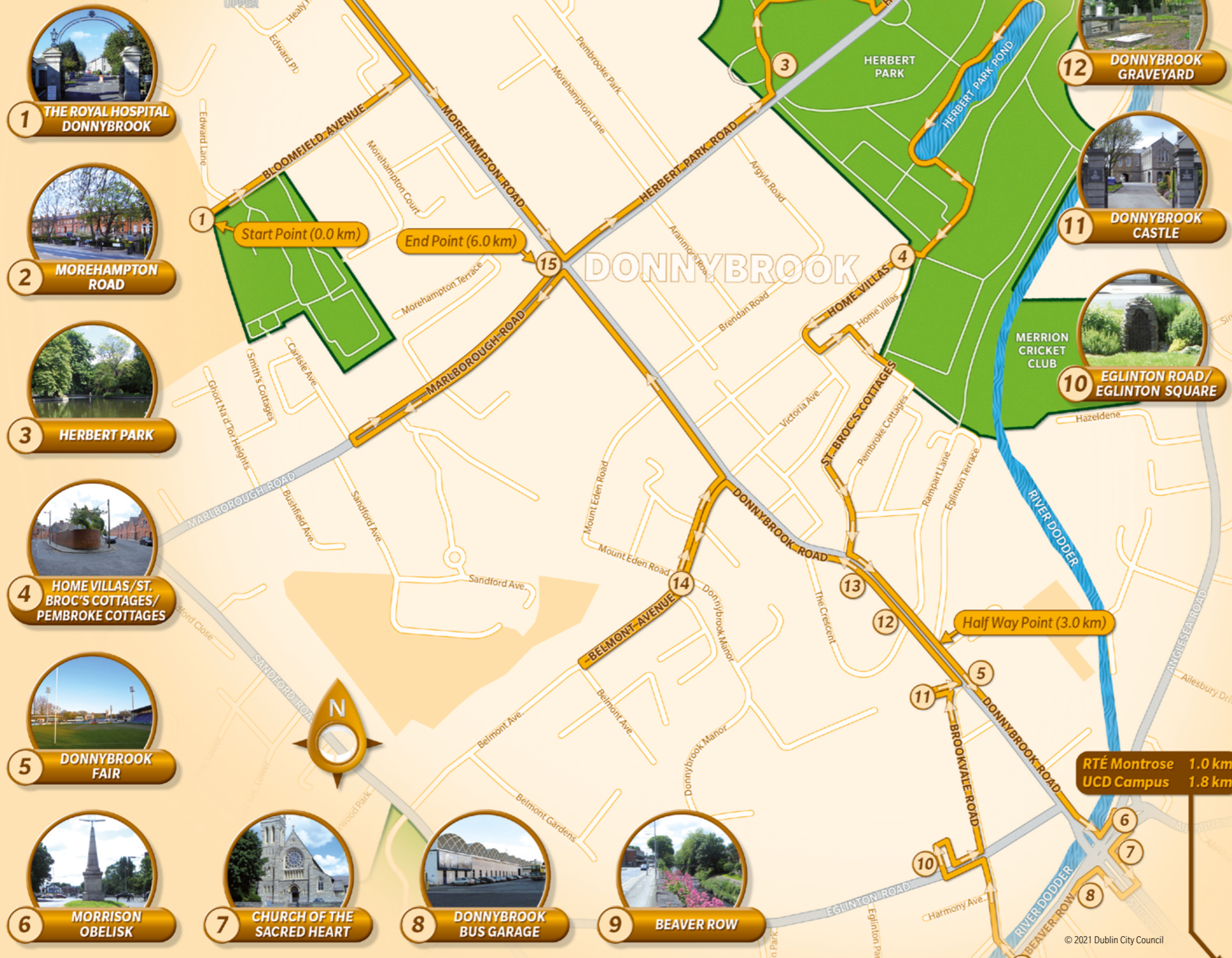


# Donnybrook Walking Trail

## Map & Guide



- 1 THE ROYAL HOSPITAL DONNYBROOK
- 2 MOREHAMPTON ROAD
- 3 HERBERT PARK
- 4 HOME VILLAS/ST. BROC'S COTTAGES/PEMBROKE COTTAGES
- 5 DONNYBROOK FAIR
- 6 MORRISON OBELISK
- 7 CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART
- 8 DONNYBROOK BUS GARAGE
- 9 BEAVER ROW
- 10 EGLINTON ROAD/EGLINTON SQUARE
- 11 DONNYBROOK CASTLE
- 12 DONNYBROOK GRAVEYARD
- 13 DONNYBROOK GARDA STATION
- 14 BELMONT AVENUE
- 15 MARLBOROUGH ROAD



RTÉ Montrose 1.0 km  
UCD Campus 1.8 km

© 2021 Dublin City Council

This Map & Guide was produced by Dublin City Council in partnership with the Ballsbridge, Donnybrook and Sandymount Historical Society.

Thank you to the following for their contribution to the Donnybrook Walking Trail: Beatrice Doran, John Holohan, Kurt Kullmann, Angela O'Connell, Michael Fegum, Gill Wolfe, Maire Kennedy and Dublin City Library and Archive.

Further reading on Donnybrook: 'Donnybrook: A History' by Beatrice Doran (Dublin: The History Press, 2013).

For details on the Ballsbridge, Donnybrook and Sandymount Historical Society, log on to [www.bdshts.org](http://www.bdshts.org).

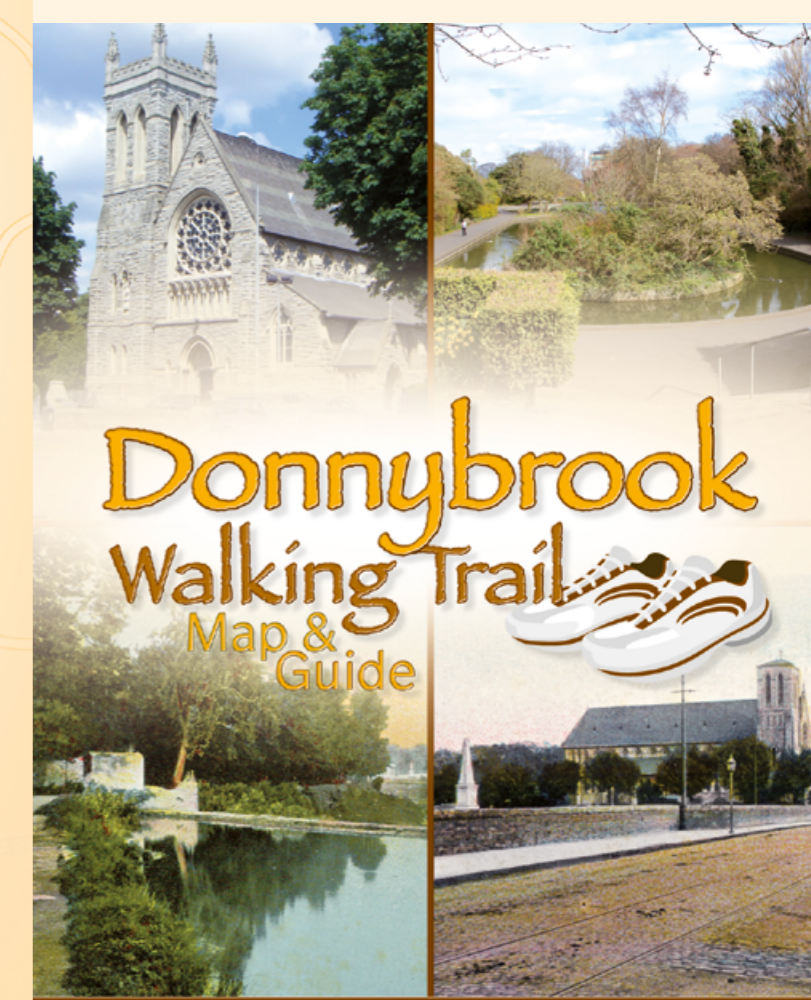
For details on Dublin City Council's programme of walking tours and weekly walking groups, log on to [www.letswalkandtalk.ie](http://www.letswalkandtalk.ie).

Design & Production: Kaelion Design (01 835 3881 / [www.kaelion.ie](http://www.kaelion.ie))



# Donnybrook Walking Trail

## Map & Guide



# Donnybrook Walking Trail

## Map & Guide



From pre-Celtic times Donnybrook has featured in the annals of history. It is the site of an ancient settlement located along by the River Dodder and close to one of the five roads that radiated from Tara to different parts of the country. This road, known as the Slighe Cualann, crossed a hurdle ford over the Dodder in this area before leading on to the coast towards Bray and Wicklow. According to legend, a house of hospitality also stood here, offering southbound travellers a much welcomed stop for refreshments and rest. A Gaelic tale relates that King Conaire, who is said to have reigned midway through the century before the birth of Christ, was warned by his Druids not to return this way following a visit to Thomond but when he did, he was killed by rouge chieftain, Ingcel and his cohorts. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Samuel Ferguson wrote a poem based on this Bardic tale.

A holy woman named Broc, one of seven daughters of a follower of the 7<sup>th</sup> century Christian movement called Céile Dé, set up a place of worship on land where Donnybrook Graveyard can be found today - the name Donnybrook is derived from the Irish name, "Dómhnach Broc" which translates as the church of Broc.



After the era of Henry II and the Norman settlements, the lands of Donnybrook lay in the possession of Walter de Riddlesford. The Charter of King John in 1204 granted the city of Dublin to hold a fair and so the Donnybrook Fair was established, lasting until 1855. Lands and village later passed through the hands of the Smoothe, Ussher and Fitzwilliam families until it became part of the Pembroke Township in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, Donnybrook was a tranquil village to which people would come to enjoy peaceful sojourns. Also around this time, industries developed with many landowners seeing the potential to develop a suburb south of the city. Roads were laid out and plots of land were leased for house-building and so we saw the transformation of a rural village into a suburban arcadia.

Today, Donnybrook is a vibrant village with a host of shops, bars, restaurants and businesses. It is also noted for its wonderful community spirit and in 2020, Donnybrook Tidy Towns were winners in the Urban Neighbourhoods/Villages category of the all-island IPB Pride of Place competition which recognises the work of communities in creating civic pride in their area.

Notable residents of Donnybrook over the years have included statesmen Michael Collins, Éamon de Valera and Garret Fitzgerald, explorer Ernest Shackleton, artists Cecil Ffrench Salkeld and Estella Solomons, writers Anthony Trollope, Benedict Kiely and Pamela Lyndon Travers, author of Mary Poppins.

Donnybrook is located south of Dublin city centre and the Grand Canal, between Ballsbridge to the east and Ranelagh/Clonskeagh to the west. It is served by several Dublin Bus routes and is about a 20 minute walk from the city centre.

Welcome to Donnybrook! This trail starts from one of the oldest institutions in Donnybrook and takes you through Herbert Park, across the River Dodder, along leafy roads and past many places of historical interest. Walking at a leisurely pace, the trail should take you under 90 minutes to complete. So let's walk and talk as we explore one of Dublin's most charming villages!

### 1 THE ROYAL HOSPITAL DONNYBROOK

The Royal Hospital Donnybrook was founded in 1743 on Townsend Street as a Hospital for Incurables. In 1792 it relocated to Buckingham House on Bloomfield Avenue. Today, it is an independent voluntary charity with a reputation for excellent rehabilitation and respite care. Bloomfield Avenue takes its name from Bloomfield House which together with Swanbrook House was run by the Society of Friends (Quakers) from 1810 to 2005, catering for the elderly and those suffering from mental health problems. Across the road is Avila (formerly Gayfield), a retreat and conference centre under the direction of the Discalced Carmelite Fathers.

### 2 MOREHAMPTON ROAD

Morehampton Road and its extension Leeson Street Upper feature many redbrick houses built from 1860 onwards. Patrick Lafcadio Hearn (known as Koizumi Yakumo in Japan where he became a famous writer) spent some childhood years with his great-aunt at 73 Upper Leeson Street whilst 69 Upper Leeson Street was once the house of Helen Lyndon Goff who under the name Pamela Lyndon Travers wrote Mary Poppins. 'The Grove', on the corner of Wellington Place and Morehampton Road is a bird sanctuary bequeathed to An Taisce by Miss Kathleen Goodfellow who lived at 4 Morehampton Road. Others who have lived on Morehampton Road include the artist Estella Solomons and her husband, the writer Seumas O'Sullivan (2 Morehampton Road), Cecil Ffrench Salkeld, artist and father-in-law to Brendan Behan (45 Morehampton Road) and writer, Benedict Kiely (119 Morehampton Road). Former President of Ireland and Taoiseach Éamon De Valera lived at nearby 33 Morehampton Terrace.

### 3 HERBERT PARK

Herbert Park was donated to Pembroke Urban District Council by the Earl of Pembroke in 1903 to commemorate the coming of age of his son, Lord Herbert. The land was first used for the Irish International Exhibition 1907 which was attended by more than 2.7 million visitors. It was a showcase for Irish and foreign industry and included entertainments of all kinds. Bram Stoker, author of Dracula called it 'The Great White Fair'. Herbert Park opened as a public park in 1911.

### 4 HOME VILLAS/ST. BROC'S & PEMBROKE COTTAGES

Home Villas, St. Broc's Cottages and Pembroke Cottages were built during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century as artisan dwellings. Home Villas was the first of this type of dwelling in Dublin to have an inside bathroom.

### 5 DONNYBROOK FAIR

Donnybrook Fair dates from a charter of King John in 1204 and was held annually until 1866. It began as a fair for livestock and agricultural produce but later declined, growing into more of a carnival and fun fair. Drunkenness and fighting became common place and the people of Donnybrook were anxious that it should cease. After a good deal of fund raising, the patent was bought by a group of prominent residents and clergy, bringing about its demise. The Fair took place on lands now occupied by Donnybrook Rugby Ground and the Ever Ready Garage. The word Donnybrook has since entered the English language to describe a rowdy brawl.

### 6 THE MORRISON OBELISK

The Morrison Obelisk is a monument to Alderman Arthur Morrison, Lord Mayor of Dublin (1835-1836) and member of the Grand Jury of the County of Dublin, in which capacity he helped improve the infrastructure of Donnybrook. This included the building of Anglesey Bridge over the River Dodder in 1832. Anthony Trollope, the well known author of the Barchester Chronicles lived nearby at 6 Seaview Terrace. A Viking burial was found at Seaview Terrace in 1879.

### 7 THE CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

The Church of the Sacred Heart was designed by Ashlin & Pugin and built by Michael Meade who also built nineteen houses on nearby Ailesbury Road. The Church opened

A tramway once operated through Donnybrook and the old Tram Depot is still in use as the No.2 Bus Garage. Nearby Simmons Court Terrace was built to house the tram workers. Donnybrook Bus Garage was also the location for a European boxing title fight between Billy Kelly and Ray Famechon in 1955.

### 9 BEAVER ROW

The cottages on Beaver Row were built in 1811 for those who worked at a Beaver Hat Factory which was located on the opposite side of the River Dodder. A wooden footbridge was built across the river for the employees (later to be replaced by the present iron bridge) as was the now disused Wesleyan Methodist Chapel which can be found behind one of the cottages. At the entrance to Beech Hill estate is a monument to the 1<sup>st</sup> All Ireland Football Final which took place there in 1888 between Limerick Commercial and Dundalk Young Irelands.

### 10 EGLINTON ROAD & SQUARE

Eglinton Road contains a number of fine Victorian and Edwardian houses. Former Taoiseach, Dr. Garret Fitzgerald lived at 75 Eglinton Road. Eglinton Square was formerly occupied by an old house called Ballingule and is the reputed site of the holy well of St. Broc.

### 11 DONNYBROOK CASTLE

The site of Donnybrook Castle is now occupied by the Religious Sisters of Charity. The original castle was an Elizabethan mansion and residence of the Ussher family. It was replaced by the existing Georgian house in 1795.

### 12 DONNYBROOK GRAVEYARD

Donnybrook Graveyard dates back to the 8<sup>th</sup> century and was once the location of an old Celtic place of worship founded by St. Broc. It was also the site of Catholic and Protestant churches, both called St. Mary's. Those buried here include Dr. Bartholomew Mosse, the founder of the Rotunda Hospital, Sir Edward Lovett Pearce, architect of the Irish Parliament on College Green and Dr. Richard Madden, biographer of the United Irishmen. The wall on the south side of the cemetery is arguably the oldest man made structure still existing in Donnybrook. The brick chimney behind Donnybrook Cemetery was built on the site of a former marble works and later served a Magdalene Laundry.

### 13 DONNYBROOK GARDA STATION

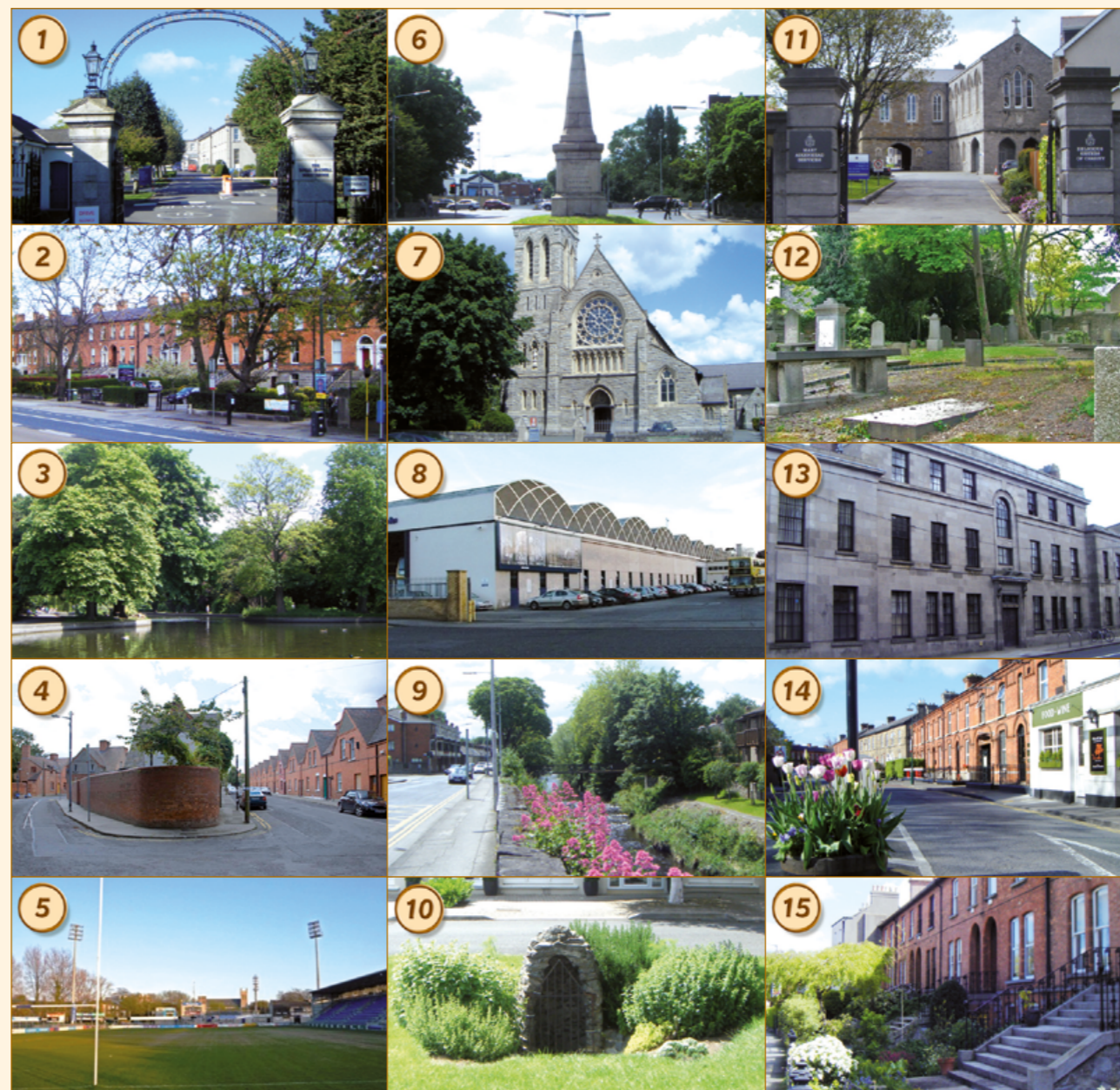
Donnybrook Garda Station occupies the site of the former Glebe House of the Protestant Church of St. Mary's. The Rose Tavern, a public house which thrived during the times of Donnybrook Fair also once stood on this site.

### 14 BELMONT AVENUE

Belmont Avenue was formerly called Coldblow Lane after an estate at the top of the avenue which was owned by a Colonel Coldblow.

### 15 MARLBOROUGH ROAD

Many houses on Marlborough Road were built by the Plunkett and Cranny families. Patrick Cranny built Muckcross Park as his family home. It is now a secondary school for girls. His daughter Josephine married Count Plunkett and their son Joseph Mary Plunkett was executed as one of the leaders of the Easter Rising. Antarctic explorer, Ernest Shackleton lived for nine years at 35 Marlborough Road.



in 1866. The tower dates from 1912 and the extension was completed by 1931. The Church contains stained glass windows by Harry Clarke and Michael Healy. Further along the Stillorgan Road is Montrose House, the former home of James Jameson of the Jameson Whiskey distillers. The national television and radio centre, Raidió Teilifís Éireann (RTÉ) is now located there. The main campus of University College Dublin can be found close to RTÉ, at Belfield.

### 8 DONNYBROOK BUS GARAGE

Donnybrook Bus Garage occupies the site of an old quarry. The stone from this quarry was used to build the Dublin to Kingstown railway. The garage was designed by the distinguished architect Michael Scott in association with Ove Arup, a Danish engineer. It was completed in 1952 and was "the first building in the world to have a concrete shell roof lit by natural light from one end to the other".