This Map & Guide was produced by Dublin City Council in partnership with Michael O’Dea from Rathmines College of Further Education.

Thank you to the following for their contribution to the Rathmines Walking Trail:

Rathmines, Ranelagh and Rathgar Historical Society, The Rathmines Initiative, Dublin City Library & Archive, National Library of Ireland, Historical Picture Archive, Angela O’Connell and Michael Foley.

Photographs by Michael Foley, Benny Atkinson, Greg Young, Roisin McGlinchey, Mary Roberts, Maire O’Carroll, Andrew White and Ronan O’Donnell.

For further reading:

Four Roads to Dublin by Deirdre Kelly (The O’Brien Press) and Rathmines and the Rising: People and Places by The Rathmines Initiative.

For details on Dublin City Council’s programme of walking tours and weekly walking groups, log on to www.letswalkandtalk.ie.

Design & Production: Kaelleon Design (01 835 3881 / www.kaelleondesign.ie)

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Rathmines is an anglicisation of the Irish Ráth Mhóna, meaning the ‘fort of Moona’ and most likely derivs its name from the Nometan de Moones family who settled there in the late 13th century. In the 14th century this area was part of the ecclesiastical lands called Cualunn; there is evidence of a settlement existing here around 1350.

In 2010, the district of Rathmines and Rathgar became part of the City of Dublin, with its functions taken over by Dublin Corporation. Also around that time, many of the grand townhouses became divided into flats, providing accommodation for vast numbers of workers and students who came to Dublin; this gave rise to the area’s national reputation as ‘Flatland’. Today, Rathmines is a very cosmopolitan area with a choice of colourful shops, pubs and restaurants. Its many amenities include parks, sports grounds, shopping centre, cinema, library and leisure centre with a swimming pool, these along with a host of local clubs and societies give Rathmines a genuine community feel. All of this contributed to Rathmines being voted Ireland’s best suburb to live in by The Irish Times in 2012.

Over the years Rathmines has been home to a remarkable range of people including painter, Walter Osborne, Hollywood director, Rev. Ingram; writer, Lafaedha Hearn, revolutionary, Constable Markiewicz; politician and doctor, Kathleen Lynn; writer, James Joyce and playwright John Milington Synge. In fact, the list is endless as Rathmines has been home to college students from all over Ireland throughout most of the 20th century.

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Poet, Pearse Hutchinson, who lived most of his life on Rathgar Road would occasionally comment on the attractiveness of the view from Portobello Bridge down Rathmines Road. It is a view that has remained largely unchanged for over a hundred years. The Dublin Hills are a most attractive backdrop to the impressive green dome of Rathmines Parish Church, the distinctive Town Hall clock tower and the imposing Library building directly opposite it.

Rathmines is located south of Dublin city centre and the Grand Canal, between Harold’s Cross to the west and Ranelagh to the east. It is served by a number of Dublin Bus routes with Charlemont, Ranelagh and Beechwood LUAS stops all within walking distance. It is about a 20 minute walk from Grafton Street.