



Cherishing Heritage Preserving Community

Celebrating 50 years of the
Upper Leeson Street Area Residents' Association

Edited by
FIONA SLEVIN

Picture editor
TERRY REID

Photography by
ANDY SHERIDAN



Leeson Street storm troopers



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Contributors

David Byrne, director of Lisney

Philip Crowe, postdoctoral research fellow at UCD

Connie Dowling, researcher and writer on Russian cultural history

Eve McAulay, Ph.D. and archivist at the Irish Architectural Archive

Frank McDonald, author, journalist and former Environment Editor of *The Irish Times*

Michael McDowell SC, served as Attorney General, Minister for Justice and Tánaiste

Fergal McGirl, RIAI accredited conservation architect

Ruth McManus, Associate Professor of Geography at DCU and author of *Dublin 1910-1940*

Paul Murray, retired diplomat and author of biographies on Bram Stoker and Lafcadio Hearn

Carmen Neary, Chairman Ulsara

James O'Reilly SC, practising barrister and member of Raglan Road Residents' Planning Group

Terry Reid, former teacher, mediator and community organiser

Alistair Rowan, professor and author of Irish architectural history

Dermot Scott, formerly of European Parliament and Institute of Public Administration

Andy Sheridan, architect and photographer

Fiona Slevin, strategy consultant and chartered director, researcher and author of Irish social history

Michael Wall, architect and barrister, served on An Bord Pleanála, on board of NAMA



50 years ago, Dublin was under attack from uncontrolled development and indiscriminate destruction of its architectural heritage. In south Dublin, a group of residents mobilised to resist the rezoning of their area for office use. Since 1968, the Upper Leeson Street Area Residents' Association (Ulsara) has fought a successful campaign to preserve the residential character of its neighbourhood.

As Ulsara celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, it is marking this milestone with a limited-edition book telling the history of the association and the area.

With a foreword by Michael McDowell, SC, *Cherishing Heritage Preserving Community* features essays from recognised experts including Frank McDonald, Alistair Rowan and Ruth McManus, and is beautifully illustrated with photographs by Andy Sheridan.

Cherishing Heritage Preserving Community

Five Decades of Campaigning draws on minute books, newspaper articles, personal memories and other documents to recall past battles with people like Seán MacEntee, P.V. Doyle and Sam Stephenson, as well as more recent campaigns around Dartmouth Square and the Ballsbridge Triangle.

Evolution of a Neighbourhood focuses on the social history of the Upper Leeson Street area and highlights some of the residents who have made the area their home over the years.

The Built Environment describes the physical development of the area, including how residential terraces, churches and public spaces emerged and provides insight into the people who were involved as land agents, architects and builders. It shows how modern architecture has developed alongside the largely 19th century buildings and illustrates the detailed design elements that characterise houses and buildings in the area, from doorways to windows and fire-grates.

The final section, **Perspectives**, provides new insights into the challenges for the future, with informed perspectives from a range of contributors on architecture, environment, conservation and urban planning.

The Ulsara story has resonance and relevance beyond its location, and shows how vision, active citizenship and perseverance can be harnessed to achieve lasting benefits.

*‘Things would be better
if the public would learn
not to be so defeatist,
and to stop saying:*

‘What’s the use?’”

Carmencita Hederman,
founding member of
Ulsara, quoted in the
The Irish Times, May 1969.



@ulsaradublin | www.ulsara.ie