



# Cherishing Heritage Preserving Community

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

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Leeson Street storm troopers





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## Contributors

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*'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.

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.



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