



# editorial

So much seems to have happened since our last Archive Newsletter! We had a very successful Archive Night in the Spring delivered to us by Mick Merrigan. I suspect that even those who know Mick well were surprised by the depth of Mick's involvement, particularly since he ceased racing himself.

Also in March, we had our annual Double 20 Club lunch. As usual this was a well-attended affair, and as always, it was a delight to see old friends getting together. May saw our most ambitious Archive trip yet. This was to the start of the Mille Miglia in Brescia, and to the Mille Miglia Museum on the outskirts of the town. We also journeyed to the Tazio Nuvolari Museum in the delightful town of Mantua, and for several of our group this was the highlight of our trip.

May also saw the first of three motoring events with which we are involved. First of these was the RIAC Member's Run. This event increases in popularity every year and this year the route was set by Archive members Gerry Freeman and Dermott Quigley. The event is open to Archive members as well as RIAC members and is not to be missed. This year's event visited Avondale as well as many roads in County Wicklow that were new to those taking part – an achievement in itself!

After that, it was the big one, the RIAC Pioneer Run, with Chris McNally in the hot seat as Clerk of the Course for this unique event, which had a new HQ at Barberstown Castle this year. On Saturday the cars were on display at the RDS in Ballsbridge, and took time to parade through the surrounding streets. Sunday's Run began in the rain but this soon cleared up and the feedback from participants has been excellent. Finally, on Wednesday June 15th. We had the fifth 'Picnic in the Park' at Marley Park. Thankfully, unlike last year, the rain stayed away, and over 100 cars and their occupants enjoyed a relaxed evening picnicking and listening to the Mellowchords.

Finally, I must mention the passing of Archive member, Dermot Humphreys, who, with his wife Carmel, had been with us on our Italian trip only a few weeks ago. Dermot had an amazing knowledge of Motor Racing history, as well as many other interests, being very much a 'Renaissance man'. He enjoyed the D20 gatherings in particular, and will be much missed.



Motorsport Ireland Funding for the RIAC Archive

The Royal Irish Automobile Club Archive now receives 50% funding from Motorsport Ireland. This funding reflects the enormous amount of history relating to Irish Motorsport which is preserved in the Archive and which is the subject of a large proportion of the research queries handled by it.

## Dermot Humphreys: An appreciation



Dermot Humphreys passed away in his sleep on June 12th. Only a few short weeks ago he had, together with his wife Carmel, enjoyed participating in our Archive trip to the start of the Mille Miglia in Brescia.

A man of very many interests, Dermot was passionately interested in motoring and motorsport all his life. His knowledge of the sport and in particular, the more obscure road circuits of Europe, was immense.

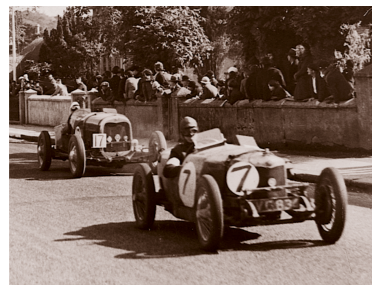
Indeed, during our recent visit to the start of the Mille Miglia at Brescia, time and time again, he would spot a signpost to some obscure village or town and regale his companions with the association between that place and the golden era of motor racing in the 1930s. Dermot was an Alfa Romeo devotee and a very active member of the Trials Drivers Club, and raced in the Phoenix Park as well as in the various hillclimbs throughout the country.

In latter years Dermot particularly enjoyed being a member of the Double 20 Club and participating in its events.

On a personal note, I shall particularly miss Dermot's enthusiasm for all things motoring and his insights into the more obscure aspects of motorsport history. BM.

## Autumn D20 Lunch and Outing

### And now for something different!



Our D20 Autumn Lunch and Outing will this year take place on Wednesday October 5th and will take the form of a Run down Memory Lane taking in the old Bray Round-the-Houses racing circuit together with visits to several of the old Hillclimb venues in the locality. The Run will be followed by Lunch at the Summerhill House Hotel, Enniskerry.

Full details and Booking Forms are included with this Newsletter but the idea is to assemble at 10.00 am at the Royal Hotel, Bray, where Robin McCullagh, author of the recent Dreoilin Album, 'The Bray Motor Races 1934-1935' will give a short talk over tea and coffee. The Run will include the Bray Circuit, the Long Hill, Ballinaslaught and Altidore. A signed copy of Robin's publication will be included for all participants, together with a short history of each of the hillclimb venues visited. Book early as this is sure to be a popular event.

## Cork GP photographs come to light



A collection of photographs of the 1938 Cork GP – the only race ever held in Ireland to current Formula 1 regulations – was recently presented to the Archive by Desmond Fleming, in memory of his late father, T A Fleming, who made the original collection. The photographs, ranging from snapshots to professionally taken shots, add considerably to the material the Archive holds on this event.



## Mille Miglia Trip



A group of twenty Archive members set out from Dublin Airport in mid-May on what was our most ambitious Archive tip to date. The plan was to fly to Milan and then travel by coach from there to our hotel on magnificent Lake Iseo. The following morning it was off to the impressive Mille Miglia Museum on the outskirts of Brescia. After several hours there – during which we also saw the new McLaren road car – we journeyed into the centre of Brescia – its streets and squares alive with the cars collecting for the Mille Miglia itself.



Come early evening we traveled the short distance to the Start Ramp for the Mille Miglia on the outskirts of Brescia before an enjoyable, if rushed, dinner in a restaurant overlooking the action. The following morning it was on to the ancient walled city of Mantua for an unforgettable visit to the Tazio Nuvolari Museum, before a leisurely lunch and coach journey back to the airport. Our Italian adventure seemed to be enjoyed immensely by all present and thoughts are already turning to 2012's trip!

