

Templeogue Telegraph

NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

January, 1994

Price 30p

25TH ANNIVERSARY

This month the **TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH** is in its 25th year of publication. In fact, the first issue was dated 16th November 1969.

To mark the occasion Mr Frank Feely, the Dublin City Manager, a long-time resident in Templeogue and reader of our magazine, has been kind enough to write some words of comment and recollection which we publish within.

Mr Frank Feely
Dublin City Manager



We also make a start in the compilation of an index of the subjects covered in previous issues of the magazine. We hope that this, when finished, will provide a valuable source of reference for residents of Templeogue.

In a special article we look at what was "local news" in 1969/70 and compare it with the 1993 news.

The TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH can be contacted by ringing 909128.

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Retrospective

by Frank Feely
Dublin City Manager

When growing up in the area it seemed to me that the city stopped at the KCR. South of that there was just an odd large house. Wainsfort, Templeville, College, Orwell, Cypress, Greenlea and Ashfield were not even gleams in developers' eyes and large green fields traversed by the meandering Poddle, and occupied by horses and cows, awaited their future transformation.

A winding laneway, the Green Lanes, sometimes called Gypsy's Lane, connected Fortfield Road with Kimmage Road East (now Terenure Road West) roughly along the line of Greenlea Road. I remember the Green Lanes as notable for two things - a Sunday Pitch and Toss School at which large sums of money were alleged to change hands, and for a Soccer Team, "Reds United", which played in an adjoining field and whose matches provided more excitement in the fisticuffs which always ensued than in the quality of the football.

It was inevitable that the physical attractions of the area and its potential for development would be appreciated. When this commenced, in a relatively short time the housing spread over the green fields and they became part of built-up Dublin.

It is interesting to look back at the developments which shaped the integration of the people who came to live in these new houses into the communities which exist today. The Churches, the schools, the businesses, all played a role in this, as did the many associations and clubs which grew up, fostered and run by local people.

It was important that the knowledge of the various opportunities and activities be available to the residents and it was here that the Templeogue Telegraph, now starting its 25th year, played a significant role. It was comforting to know that there was a Templeogue Ladies' Club, a Parents' Association, a Solos and Friends Club, and various other residents' and social organisations, and to know what they were up to, even if one did not attend them. It was good to know of locals who had achieved distinctions of one sort or another, and to read profiles of the more eminent. Would the various sporting competitions or social occasions have been successful if the details were not disseminated? To the youngsters of the area the Heather Cup was as important as the World Cup.

Through the Telegraph we kept track of the various changes in Clergy, many of whom wrote for the Telegraph, and of some of the births, marriages and deaths. Father Michael Cleary who has just died wrote in an early edition.

Culture and arts were catered for and we know who our local public representatives were and to some extent what they were doing. Local controversies were covered. We learned of happenings such as the various productions of St Pius X Musical and Dramatic Society, Parish Parties and concerns of the time, as for example the closing of laneways, controversial developments proposed, the difficulties of introducing piped television, the lake restoration project at Terenure College, and so many other matters too numerous to mention.

When the history of the area comes to be written the back issues of the Templeogue Telegraph will be invaluable. It undoubtedly played a significant part in welding the people who came from so many different places to live in Templeogue into the communities which exist today.



NELLIE MILNER, R.I.P.

In our November 1993 issue, we carried a "Get Well" message for Nellie Milner of Templeville Drive. Sad to relate, Nellie did not make it to the end of the year, and in December joined her beloved husband, Harry, who had died early in 1993. To her daughter, Margaret, and son, Harry Jr. we offer sincere sympathy.

Nellie was an outstandingly good neighbour, and a committed citizen in the service of the community. Her special talent lay in cheerfully doing the small jobs that add so much to the smooth running of community activities - making the tea at school gatherings, collecting subscriptions for various clubs and associations which asked her for help, and doing other important "little" tasks sometimes lightly allotted to cheerful givers of their time - like Nellie - whose willingness to turn up for community events is taken almost for granted. Nellie continued to help loyally many associations even after she had ceased to have a direct interest, such as parents' association meetings and other school functions.

As the centrepiece of a touching tribute, in the presence of her family and a large gathering of neighbours and friends, Father Colleran, Parish Priest of Templeogue, at Nellie's Requiem Mass chose to read an extract from the TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH of July 1976: a little poem written by Sheila Whittle on the eve of the great summer holiday exodus from Templeogue, when Nellie would temporarily

disappear from the community scene. We reprint here this tribute to Nellie.

NELLIE, THE QUEEN OF THE TEAS
by Sheila Whittle

There is a lady we all know called Nellie, who resides
In a semi-de in Templeville, the number's fifty five.
She's the greatest social worker this place has ever seen
And as far as I'm concerned, Nellie, of the tea cups you're
the queen.
Whenever there's a cake sale, or a sale of any kind,
Whenever there's a social function you can call to mind,
There's nothing to compare and there's no sight that is so
grand
As the sight of Nellie Milner with her teapot in her hand.
It isn't just the way that Nellie pours tea that's beguiling,
But no matter when and where we meet her, Nellie's always
smiling.
Sometimes I must confess that I feel absolutely rotten
Till Nellie pours my tea and then my cares are all forgotten.
As she hovers o'er the teacups with her hair all newly done,
She's the idol of the males around, of every mother's son.
And not alone is she presiding as our tea cups clink
But afterwards you find her swishing suds down any sink.
She is a dishcloth wringer with a squeeze beyond compare.
And as for wiping draining boards, well she is something
rare.
Well, anyone will say "Well, Nellie, what can you do more?"
But when the Club's in action Nellie comes to my front door
And there she smiles and really she need never say a word
For automatically I get my purse, it really sounds absurd.
But when we're cosily sitting in our homes or in a pub,
Poor Nellie walks the road collecting money for "The Club".
She is a perfect lady. As a neighbour she must be
The kind of neighbour every one of us would like to be.
We miss her in the Summer, but sometimes she can be seen
Sitting starry-eyed beside dear Harry in their limousine
Or maybe coming from the shops with goodies in her bag
And when I see her I enjoy a jolly old chin wag.
Now, Nellie, you may not like what I've written in this verse
But if I did not like you, sure I would have written worse.
I hope to see you soon behind the teas and cakes and
buns
Doing good for all us creatures, for the priests and for
the nuns.
And I know that the Man Above, the One that guides my
pen,
Will smile upon you, Nellie, when you pour the tea again.
And being who He is, you might think he'd say "Amen",
But I think He would say, "Dear Nellie, fill it up again".

TEMPLEOGUE LADIES' CLUB

Report by Geraldine Eaton

At the December 1993 meeting the Club broke with tradition and, instead of being served the usual mince pies, a sit-down supper was provided. Outside caterers were engaged for the meal. The hard-working Committee managed to transform the hall and, with tables laid in red and white and suitable floral arrangements, it was a really festive occasion.

The business of the meeting was briskly attended to and about 150 members settled down to enjoy the lovely meal. They were then entertained by some of the very talented members of the Club. The evening finished with everyone joining in the singing of Christmas carols and songs. From all the compliments bestowed on the President and Committee, it would appear that this will become an annual event.

Early in November a group of 50 attended RTE to participate in "Live at Three". The topic for

discussion was "Discrimination against Age - Fact or Fiction". A panel of speakers, including Rosa Morris and Eleanor O'Mahony, discussed the subject and the programme was hosted by Marty Whelan.

On Sunday 12th December the talent of the Club was put into action again to entertain at a Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner in Ballyroan and they were engaged to be called upon to help out at the Thursday Club's Christmas Party in St Mary's Room on 17th December.

The Club closed for a well-earned rest and is scheduled to re-open on Wednesday 12th January. Just a reminder to those who have put their names on the list for the Annual Dinner, scheduled for 25th January: subscriptions should have been given to Committee Members before Club night on the 12th January 1994 and any member who wishes to attend the dinner and who is not on the list should contact her Committee Member for details.

May Peace and Happiness be with us through 1994.

THE TEMPLEOGUE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

by Patricia Halpin

Despite the cold weather and dark evenings, the Society continues to meet once a month, as the keen gardeners are ever willing to hear and learn more about their favourite hobby - or should I say passion.

However, the November meeting was not so well attended as usual, due to "The Match" (i.e. Ireland v. Northern Ireland) and also because there was a little confusion about the topic chosen by our speaker, Maria Prendiville: such a pity, as Maria gave us a stunning talk, one of the best we have had in a long time.

Maria's topic turned out to be "My Favourite Plants". She started by saying she found it a difficult subject, as she realised she had so many favourite plants. Her enthusiasm and

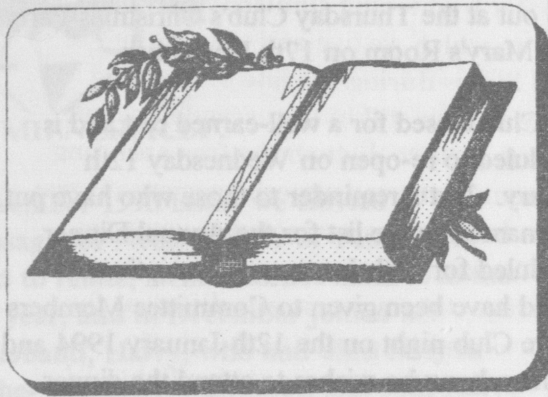
humour, as she took us through a wonderful selection of slides, kept us all entranced, and yet we were have blinded by science. There were beautiful slides of flowering shrubs for all season, herbaceous plants, annuals and bulbs. Maria admitted that she wasn't all that keen on non-flowering shrubs, just grown for their foliage, with the exception of the olaegnus whose yellow/green variegated leaves seem to light up the winter garden.

After a question-and-answers session, we reluctantly let Maria Prendiville go, making a mental note to invite this attractive speaker back again in the not-too-distant future.

The next meeting of the Templeogue Horticultural Society will be on Wednesday, 19th January, 1994 at 8 p.m. in Our Lady's School.

In the meantime we wish all our members, friends and sponsors the best for the New Year.

In the following article, a Parishioner of St Pius X Parish describes the workings of the Bible Reading Circle:



Yes, we had all read the Bible - the story of Creation, Cain and Abel, and Joseph and his coat of many colours, etc. We were quite familiar with the New Testament - didn't we read it every day at Mass and sure hadn't we learned long passages of it "off by heart" at school?

Some of us anyway soon realised that this was not so. We were reading our Bibles as one would read the newspaper, glancing quickly, skimming over the detail - the main events just barely registering in minds that were crowded with the events of the day.

It was in response to an invitation given by Fr Lee at a meeting for parents of the Confirmations Class in St Pius X Schools that we came together. That was back in March 1980. Perhaps we felt the need for a more adult approach to our religion. After all our formal religious training had ceased on leaving school and here we were, now mature citizens, but had our knowledge of our faith matured also, or were we still holding on to some

half-baked childish ideas? Maybe we all had a different reason, but we came together and after some discussion it was agreed we could study the Gospel of St Matthew.

Since then we have studied the Four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, several of St Paul's letters, the Psalms and parts of the Old ~Testament - books of Genesis, Exodus, etc. These we work through very slowly - reading, pondering and discussing the meaning of each passage - sometimes going into the detail of a particular word or phrase, all in an effort to get to know the person of Jesus - to put flesh and blood and life into the image of Him which we all carry in our minds. In the group we are not afraid to voice our thoughts and opinions and at times we find that the efforts of one of us will spark off a thought in another, which leads to a very interesting discussion. We are indeed fortunate in that we have in Fr Lee a very learned spiritual instructor - he has a profound knowledge of Christian doctrine on which he draws to explain the practices and thinking that existed 2,000 years ago in Israel. We then try to find what message the texts have for us to-day.

Have we all the answers now after all these years? No...no way! We are only scratching at the surface and we are aware of this now. God is infinite but we are trying to find our way to Him through His Son, Jesus, who came into the world to show us the way to the Father. And it is in studying the Bible - the Word of God - that we hope to do this. So we will continue our way along the road. Why not join us? We are now in a New Year and you may be thinking of making some new resolutions. We will be resuming our meetings after the Christmas break on Tuesday January 18th, 1994. Perhaps you will be among us. We meet in St Patrick's Room (the room beside the sacristy in St Pius X Church) every second Tuesday from October to May inclusive, from 8 - 9.30 p.m. So perhaps you would give this some consideration - you may find it the most valuable invitation you have ever received.

In the course of discussing with Fintan Tallon his book, "Getting Down to Work" (referred to briefly in the December 1993 issue of the TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH), we put it to him that he seemed to deal with a problem very remote indeed from Templeogue. He strongly disagreed with this view and we invited him to explain his case.

WORK: THE CHALLENGE WE FACE TO-DAY

by Fintan Tallon

Coming out of church recently, a neighbour congratulated me on the favourable publicity which my recently-published book "Getting Down to Work" had received. "Of course", the neighbour added, "the book has no real relevance to the communities of Templeogue; poverty and employment are not problems here."

Regrettably, my neighbour is wrong. The cancer of unemployment spreads its secondary effects through every living fibre of the society in which we live. No community is untouched by its direct or indirect effects. In my counselling work on the Action Tallaght programme, I have met eight people who lost their homes in our communities because of business failure and/or the loss of a job. One such unemployed man had, for nearly a year, gone out each morning for an early bus so that the neighbours would not be aware of his "failure".

Far too many of our children and grandchildren are finding that the days when

education and training guaranteed a permanent, secure job are gone. The illusion of the State as the great provider nurturing its people from the cradle to the grave is a disappearing myth. If we are to have a future as a community and people, we must create that future for ourselves. Involuntary emigration has affected hundred of families within the communities of Templeogue.

There is a frightening similarity between the society in which we live and that in the United States during the late 1950s. The dollar was then still in the ascendancy and there was little to disturb the free-spending enjoyment of the consumerist society. It was good to be American - provided you were white, free and part of the general prosperity. Of course, it was different for the blacks and hispanics of the ghetto but few were concerned about their plight. "Let the bums find work" was a constant catchphrase even among many who professed a religious belief. Few would concede that the seeds of societal destruction were already in place, growing like a living cancer. None expected the explosion of hate, fear and savagery which followed in the 1960s. This is why the racial riots caused such a widespread sense of outrage, alarm and disbelief.

Here is Ireland to-day there is a similar distancing from the alarming growth in poverty and unemployment. Despite excellent reports by social and religious groups, there exists an almost naive belief that, if we ignore the problems, they will go away without affecting our personal lives. The Archbishop of Dublin, Dr Desmond Connell, recently referred to the "subversive" levels of unemployment within the archdiocese. His words need to be taken seriously since high levels of unemployment will subvert the norms of social life and yield a growing harvest of crime, civil unrest, drug addiction, broken marriages and suicide.

All realistic current predictions demonstrate that over the next decade we face a combination of huge emigration and/or a growth in unemployment to the unsustainable level of 390,000 of the adult population. Unless we reverse sharply the current growth in involuntary unemployment and get to a point where its reduction can be realistically visualised, violence becomes a real, horrifying prospect.

We can avoid this drift towards anarchy if, both individually and collectively, we move swiftly to restore control over our own destiny. This demands concerted action, firstly at community level incorporating employed and unemployed alike, developing into genuine community empowerment and a sustained national partnership between communities and government. That is the challenge facing each and every community, including our own communities in Templeogue.

Some limited action was taken with the establishment of the Community Enterprise Society Ltd. in Terenure. However, that programme did not incorporate a community audit, skills survey and local needs analysis which are essential ingredients to meet the problems we face to-day. The details of the steps required are central to my book - "Getting Down to Work - Creating Jobs in your Community". The challenge presented by the book is a relevant to Templeogue as to

Fintan Tallon

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any other community whether we care to admit it or not.

If, however, your own good sense and the promptings of your own heart when you consider the uncertain future faced by your children, grandchildren, neighbours and friends, do not influence you to seek solutions, then no words of mine will alter your perspective. Remember we will be judged not by our own achievements but by the value our community puts on human dignity and human conscience. As the English poet, John Donne wrote: "No man is an island, entire of itself. Every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main".

St. Mac Dara's Community College Templeogue, Dublin 6W

FAR FROM FOREIGN FIELDS: St Mac Dara's hosted a Dutch Delegation of Principals, Vice-Principals and Teachers recently. The school also welcomed Andrea Shuffstall and Kevin Deemer, two U.S. Teachers from Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. who are training here for six weeks, also Detlef Rech, who is spending a year as an Assistant German Teacher in St. Mac Dara's.

CHURCH UNITY WEEK - JANUARY 1994: St. Mac Dara's has always had a sizeable group of Protestant pupils who have made a marvellous contribution to the life of the College. Each year the College holds its Annual Church of Ireland Evensong. This year during Church Unity Week there's an Ecumenical Service in St. Mac dara's Oratory with the Rt.Rev.David Kingston, Rector of St Maelruain's, Tallaght (also Protestant Chaplain to the College) and Rev.Fr. James McElroy S.M. Catholic Chaplain of St. Mac Dara's. Members of the Public are very welcome.

GAELIC FOOTBALL

Templeogue is, as we discovered on our travels, home to a remarkable number of people (or should we say a number of remarkable people) who have had the honour to pull on the Dublin County Football jersey, and for our next issue we will be inviting their views about the prospects for 1994. Those who read on will find that we have tried to help them by a careful examination of the omens.

THE BIG QUESTION: Will 1994 be the Year of the Dubs?

Our local prophet advises that, if you have any money to spare, you should put it on Dublin for this year's All-Ireland Football title. According to his calculations, Dublin have a 50-50 chance of taking the title this year. He puts forward a very convincing argument. He points out that 1994 is the

Year of the Dog (the Dog Sign dominates every twelfth year in the Chinese calendar). Fortune will favour those who possess the "virtues" of that faithful animal, that is, those who are alert, watchful and defensive, with good organisational skills. The current Dublin team, surely...!

History indeed confirms that the Year of the Dog has been good for Dublin teams.

INTERNATIONAL CAP HELPS DUBS IN 1898

In 1898 Dublin came to the field as reigning All-Ireland champions and retained their title, beating Waterford 2-8 to 0-4 in the final. Dublin player Jack Ledwidge scored the two goals, later playing for Shelbourne and going on to win two Irish caps.

KILKENNY TOPS IN LEINSTER FOOTBALL

The year 1910 saw the Dubs lose out in Leinster to arch-rivals Meath. Meath lost the Leinster Final to (believe it or not!) Kilkenny. This was the Cats' third and last Leinster Football title.

THE WINNING TRAIL AGAIN: THE DUBS WHITEWASH MONAGHAN

But in 1922 the Dubs were back on the winning trail. Because of "The Troubles" Leinster's was the only championship finished in time. Kilkenny made their last appearance in a Leinster final to lose to Dublin 1-7 to 0-2. In the All-Ireland Semi-Final Monaghan failed to get a single score against Dublin, who notched up 2-5 without reply. In the final Dublin came from behind to beat Galway 0-6 to 0-4.

A NEAR MISS

The year 1934 saw Dublin again in the All-Ireland final. They had accomplished a remarkable feat by beating Kerry in Tralee in the semi-final, only to fail by two points, after a bad start, to Galway in the final. The score was 3-5 to 1-9. A near miss! The Dublin team of the day was described by one journalist as a hard, tough mixture of natives and blow-ins.

DISASTER IN 1946

Disaster hit Dublin in 1946. In Leinster they bowed out early by 1-3 to 0-5 to Laois, whose famous Tommy Murphy eventually brought the Leinster title to the midlanders.

BACK WITH A VENGEANCE

Then back with a vengeance. Memories of the Dog Year 1958 may inspire Dublin to a special effort in the coming season. In 1958 they won a heart-stopping semi-final against Galway 2-7 to 1-9, thanks to a splendid last-second Ollie Freecy point. With the teams level, Ollie had been warned by the ref that his free was to be the last kick in the game. He duly obliged. Derry took the field against Dublin in the final, to the most thunderous reception anyone could remember. With twenty minutes to go, the teams were level. Owen Gribben then shocked Dublin with a goal, but the Dubs were equal to the task. Paddy Farnan and Johnny Joyce replied with goals to give Dublin the title.

THE DUBS IN THE DOLDRUMS

By 1970 the new plastic-coated ball had replaced the old leather one, virtually unplayable in wet weather, and even small clubs were engaging team coaches. An extra

twenty minutes was added to the playing time of provincial finals. With the pace of change, it all seemed too much for the Dubs. The heroes of 1958 were but a dim memory and even lowly Longford had managed to dispose of the Dubs two years earlier. Dublin did not even get to the Leinster Football Final in 1970, won by Meath against Offaly in the first 80-minute Leinster Final. Meath, dubbed "The Gormanston Professors", went on to contest the All-Ireland Final (losing to Kerry).

TWO FOLK HEROES

The year 1982 opened auspiciously for Dublin. It was marked by the return of the fabulous Brian Mullins after he had smashed his leg two years earlier in a car accident. But the glory went elsewhere. Another folk-hero returned to thwart the Dubs in the Leinster Final. A goal by Seamus Darby, a recalled veteran from 1972, was one of the vital scores for Offaly in their 1-16 to 1-7 win. It was probably small consolation to the Dubs that Darby and Offaly went on to score in the Final the goal that finished the Kerry "five-in-a-row" pipedream.

THE RECORD TO DATE

So, in the eight Dog Years since the start of the championship, the Dubs have been in four All-Ireland Finals, winning three. They were also in one Leinster Final which they lost to the eventual champions. In only three of these years did they fail to make an impression. Will the scales tip further in the Dubs' favour in 1994?

Watch this column
for further comment!

25 YEARS - A BACKWARD GLANCE.

WHAT WAS THE NEWS IN THOSE DAYS?

Looking back over the 1969/70 issues of the TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH (as revealed in the index we have just compiled), and comparing the contents with the coverage in the ten issues of 1993, a number of things immediately strike one.

Naturally the activities centred more on what are now the older Templeogue estates and one must marvel at how enduring some of the original local "institutions" are. Eleven entries covered the 1969/70 activities of the Templeogue Ladies' Club. The Ladies are still going strong with 10 reports in 1993 (one in each monthly edition). As for the Heather Cup 1970, how many remember "Templeogue 70" which rivalled "Mexico 70" (which was in simultaneous progress) in intensity. The climax was a memorable penalty shoot-out which took place in the grounds of Terenure College. The Heather Cup was still hot news in 1993.

The Templeogue Parents' Association in 1969/70 provided 18 items, and the St Pius X National Schools Parents' Association 10. These associations reflected parallel movements. The former, which by 1993 had totally disappeared, was a community organisation catering for the whole spectrum of parental concerns (health, education, leisure activities and so on). The schools' parents' association in 1993 sent in the report on the Heather Cup which had come under their auspices. Apart from this, parents' associations kept a low profile in 1993, reflecting perhaps the fact that they are now fully integrated as a force in the educational establishment, which was far from the case in 1969 when they were fighting for recognition

as parties who should have a voice in the system concerned with the education of their children.

The "Parish Parties" figure extensively in the magazine of 25 years ago (9 news items). These were the invention of Father Diffney, then one of the curates in St Pius X Parish, and a wonderful pianist. They came across as having been hugely enjoyable social occasions, although Fr Diffney bewailed the level of the attendances (a perfectionist, he failed to be satisfied with anything less than a 100% turn-out on the part of the particular group of residents for whom a social evening was organised).

The Youth Club, the publishers of the magazine in 1969, naturally provided an ample serving of news about their own varied activities. The then Editor, one of their members, was also a keen reporter who did not pull punches. His commentaries on the proceedings - and disagreements - of certain residents' associations were colourful in the extreme, indeed on occasion barely short of libellous (maybe that is why so few reports are received in recent times from local residents' associations).

The contents of the 1993 issues of T.T. are probably too fresh in readers' memories to warrant listing in detail. The present number contains news reports from a variety of correspondents who have become old friends, and if any regulars are missing this month you can be sure they will send in something within the next few issues.

Correspondents may sometimes be tempted to think that their trouble in writing news updates is a matter of wasting their sweetness on the desert air. I can only paraphrase what the Dublin City Manager has written elsewhere in these pages. You may never attend a meeting from one end of the year to the other, but people like, in the most friendly way of course, to learn what you're up to, and indeed to have the comfort of knowing that you are around if they need you.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NEW COUNTY COUNCIL COMES INTO BEING

Most residents of Templeogue will by now know that our new County of South Dublin came into being officially at the beginning of January 1994, and the first meeting of the Council on 5th January was an occasion for much ceremony and speechifying. However, it does deserve mention, although in truth the Council has been administratively operative for a considerable time. To test how up-to-date your household is on the matter try these questions: Where will the Headquarters of the new council be? Who is the Chairperson? Who is the Vice-Chairperson? Who is the County Manager? Which party/parties control the Council?

One riddle we could not immediately resolve is: Will new registration marks be created for cars registered in one of the three new county council areas? For example, Tipperary has two administrative areas which are distinguished by TN (Tipperary

North) and TS (Tipperary South). If any reader resolves this question, give us a shout for our next issue.

Meanwhile, we give a selection of points from the many reports which our councillors sent to us, and we thank them for their continued efforts to keep us informed:

TEMPLEOGUE HOUSE

Cllr. Laing hopes to arrange a meeting in the near future for all those interested in Templeogue House. The nearby open space is in charge of the Parks Department who maintain it, Cllr. Upton was recently informed. Adjacent land is in the hands of St Michael's House and discussions are in progress with St Michael's with a view to rationalising the grasscutting

NOTE: Cllr Laing sent us a memorandum of considerable length concerning the history of Templeogue House. We hope to make a precis of the information for inclusion in a future issue of the TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH.

SERVICE CHARGES

Cllr. Sean Ardagh in a recent statement stated that the Rainbow Coalition that controls Dublin South Council can no longer dither about on the service charge issue. He reminded the Coalition that it was Fianna Fail who abolished water charges for the county of Dublin in 1986. Is Cllr. Ardagh for or against the charges? He says that the Fianna Fail councillors will assess the proposals, if and when they appear.

ORDER OF PRIORITIES FOR SCHOOL HALLS QUERIED.

GONE WITH THE MARBLES!

by JG Foley

When I was a young lad, every year we started January by making New Year's Resolutions. We made them known to all and sundry. Some were serious, some were comical. I volunteered to give up eating stew. That went down with my mother like a lead balloon. But we made them. Because they were public, we had to endure the barrage of jeers from the "I-told-you-so" brigade when we fell flat on our faces (end of January, about).

Many things that were regarded as fads in their time, like mini-skirts and platforms, came, went and eventually reappeared. Some things that gave us great pleasure as kids, such as playing marbles, rolling hoops and whipping tops on the footpath, never came back. Announcing New Year's Resolutions seems to be joining the marbles, etc.

So I'm going to propose that each reader give some consideration on a personal basis to bringing back the practice of the New Year Resolution. Remember the person who expressed the wish to go about doing good without anyone knowing about it. God granted the wish. Then God decided that it worked out so well, the same wish could be granted to all human beings. So when you make your New Year's Resolution, don't tell anyone. Just do it!

Since many may be starting from scratch I think they should go for the "back to the basics" approach and have a new look at some set of standards that have stood the test of time, like the Ten Commandments.

I am setting out my version of the Ten Commandments for those who (a) may have

forgotten them, (b) may never have learnt them or (c) can't be bothered one way or the other. This inspiration came to me lately as I was moving away from the filling station after inadvertently topping up with the new Unleaded. The old banger started gleeping and glooping, cutting out at crossings and belching going uphill. Just like us if we are fed with highly-condensed advice on how to perform. What you are getting now is not intended to be watered-down merchandise. It can be watered-up when you're ready for full lead-free product.

First, don't be too cocksure that God is dead. Have a look at a tiny baby's finger-nails. Ask yourself who puts the speckles on the brown trout? Or what would happen us if the roots went up and the stems went down? Sure as eggs you couldn't do anything about it. So think again. If you're still not sure, hedge your bets. Say please, God, if you are there, give us a hand to work things out.

Second, be nice when you talk about what others hold dear or sacred. Say you're sorry when you hurt someone.

Third, put aside a day every week to think about the finer things of life. Or an hour of the day. Balance up your lifestyle. Get it out of your head that money is everything.

Fourth, be nice to your Mammy and Daddy while you have them. Even if you think they make Queen Victoria look like a swinger, honour them. Your turn will come.

Fifth, be kind and give generously. Don't hit people. Don't stamp. Don't show your studs in the tackle. Don't lead with the elbow.

Sixth, don't cheat on your spouse.

Continued over

Cllr. Cait Keane raised this matter presumably in the context of the failure of St Mac Dara's Community College to secure a grant for such a facility.

SECURITY FENCE AROUND TEMPEOGUE HOUSE

The Council informed Cllr. Keane that the protection of the building with a suitable railing is a first priority in any programme of works. There may be a provision for this in the 1994 Draft Estimates.

WAINSFORT DEPUTATIONS (RAT-RUNNING AND SPEEDING TRAFFIC)

Cllr Keane learnt that the Co. Co. Traffic Section considered that turning Wainsfort Avenue/Crescent into a cul-de-sac would create a traffic hazard as there is inadequate room to provide a turning circle at the end to be closed. Vehicles of a certain size would have to reverse out and this would create a hazard. The Council would have no objection to prohibition right hand turns from Wainsfort Road: this however could severely restrict locals, as no exception could be made.

REMOVAL OF GRAFFITI

Lack of resources prevent the removal of graffiti, according to information given to Cllr Keane. Osprey Park was mentioned as one of the areas in need of attention.

ORCHARD ESTATE

Cllr. Pat Upton continues to keep the pressure on the relevant area committee of the Council to force the developer to complete outstanding works with a view to the Council taking the estate in charge. The Council has arrangements in hands to have a costing prepared with a view to sequestration of the security retained for the completion of the development.

FLOODING AT GLENDOWN CRESCENT

Cllr Laing has sent us a copy of a letter which he received from the County Council, indicating that flooding at Glendown Crescent in May and June last was due to extremely heavy rain at the time - particularly in June when it was equivalent to a "1 in 100 year storm". The Council considered these to be freak weather conditions and they consider it would be uneconomic to design bridges and culverts for such events. (No joy, then, for the Glendown Crescent residents.)

Gone with the Marbles (contd.)

Seventh, don't take things that aren't yours. Put things back where you found them. If you make a mess, clean it up. Always flush. After you make your cuppa, refill the kettle for the next person.

Eighth, tell the truth.

Ninth - and it's worth repeating - don't cheat on your spouse. Don't even think about it!

Tenth, don't be a begrudger. Congratulate the brother, sister or neighbour who make it.

They won't be too put out then when you make it yourself some day.

Finally, if you want a summary, this is it:

Despite the foregoing, life is not a set of rules. It is people. Cease to think of yourself as the centre of the universe. Remember the sun don't shine for everyone! When you give, make sure it hurts.

Happy New Year!

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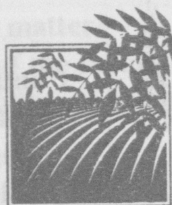
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