

Templeogue Telegraph

Neighbourhood Community Magazine

Issue No. 1 of 1995

Price 30p



The Austin Clarke Bridge, Templeogue
(see Note inside cover)

Austin Clarke Bridge (Front Cover Picture)

Our Cover Picture shows the Austin Clarke Bridge, over the River Dodder at Templeogue. It was erected on the site of the former structure known as the Bridge of Templeogue.

In earlier centuries the River Dodder was in the main crossed by a series of fords. The river was noted for its violent floods which had been known to carry away its bridges frequently, and inundate large adjoining tracts of land. The last recorded major flood was in 1986, following Hurricane Charlie.

The original Bridge of Templeogue was erected in 1798, relieving those who wished to cross the river at Templeogue of the necessity to go upstream about a quarter of a mile to the nearest ford.

Older residents will recall the picturesque old bridge which was extremely narrow, and therefore led to great traffic congestion as soon as the areas around Knocklyon, Firhouse and Old Bawn came to be developed for housing. When proposals to replace it by a modern bridge were mooted, unsuccessful efforts were made by a delegation which went to the Dublin County Council to argue for an alternative approach, namely, the retention of the old bridge and the placing of a new one somewhere in the vicinity of Willington.

The removal of the old bridge was halted for a time by opposition from the renowned Dublin poet, Austin Clarke, who lived in a strategically placed house nearby. He dearly loved the area and in his writings had conjured up many idyllic visions of the scenes by the river, as for example the picture of the bright morning when "a blackbird sat on a sun-spot warming his wings".

But the new bridge duly arrived, and the old one was demolished. The new bridge has a wide central span and smaller ones for people

on both banks. Ironically, this new structure was named for Austin Clarke.

Austin Clarke did not live to pen a poem suitable for the monumental capitulation to the demands of the motor car. We rather imagine that words such as "monstrous" and "spiritual woes" would have appeared somewhere in any lines he might have written, for Austin grieved that the outward city sprawl was engulfing the rural character of Templeogue.

The artist who kindly prepared and sent us the sketch is Benvon Ward, long-time reader and contributor.

This is the first of 10 issues of the TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH planned for 1995. The next issue will be available late March/early April and will give the full results of Féile Bhríde.

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OUTLINE PLAN 1995

by The Manager



Take-Over Scare

A recent headline in the national press: "Black plans to make 'Telegraph' private", threw us into a state of shock. Who was this person Black who apparently had designs on our community magazine and was proceeding by stealth to take us over? No-body had said a word to us. When we finally got down through the financial technospeak and arrived at the statement that "The Telegraph's results to the end of December showed that pre-tax profits fell to £45 million sterling from £60.2 in 1993". Whew! ..we knew they could not be talking about our Telegraph.

Let's Fan the Flame!

We see letters in the national press from time to time from residents of Templeogue on topics of general interest, but we rarely get a letter for publication in the Telegraph. Maybe we would be considered too small for the weighty issues requiring to be dealt with! However, in fairness to our readers, we have to say that we did get quite a few telephone calls about the 25th anniversary issues in December and January. In lieu of a letters page, then, we give the gist of these telephone calls in a separate article. It may encourage others to fan whatever little flame that may have been engendered. We leave it to themselves whether they use the pen or the phone.

Two-Section Format

We are proposing in this issue - the first of ten planned for 1995 - to divide the Templeogue Telegraph into two sections. In the front we cover local news and interests, and at the back

we place what may be described as more general "magazine-type" items, some related to, and others not necessarily related to Templeogue. We will include such literary offerings as may come our way. It will be a thin enough dividing line, but let's try it! The divider between the two sections will be a coloured page, on which some of the advertisements will appear.

Advertisements

As to advertisements, with some exceptions we rely on local traders and entrepreneurs, whose patronage has helped us to keep the cost of the Telegraph steady at 30p for over two years now. Our policy has been to keep the advertising to not more than a quarter of our available space. If a product or service is provided locally, our policy furthermore is not to accept ads in the same line from outside the area. We hope that this will be an encouragement to our advertisers, and to our readers in turn to support them.

Local History Society

Over the years there has been a number of initiatives at the instance of the groups successively involved in publishing the Telegraph. These have produced worthwhile and enduring activities, for example, The Heather Cup Soccer Competition, Féile Bhríde and the Templeogue Horticultural Society. This month we are proposing the establishment of a Local History Group. The announcement (see elsewhere in the magazine) is made with the encouragement of a number of residents who would be interested in setting up such a body.

Templeogue No Name Club

Talking about new initiatives, news reaches us as we go to press of the formation of the Templeogue No Name Club, and we wish the organisers every success. We hope to have a full report on this new Club in our next issue.

Meanwhile, take care!

Paddy Heneghan

TEMPLEVILLE & FORTFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Report from Doris Walsh
Hon. Secretary

Late in 1994 the Association was in correspondence with the Garda Síochána about concern for the high level of crime in the area. The Gardai urged residents not to leave outside in gardens or in unlocked garages or sheds tools or other implements which would assist robbers to lever open windows and gain access to homes.

All residents are urged to try again for success in next year's garden competition. Their efforts will enhance the area, a reward in itself even for those who do not manage to gain a prize.

Committee meetings were held in February and March 1995.

A letter was received from South Dublin County Council regarding the subsidence of the road outside No. 32 Fortfield Park, to say that work to repair same would be undertaken before the end of January.

A letter from the Garda Síochána stated that Gardaí would be present at the Association's AGM to advise and counsel on crime prevention in the area.

The 1995 AGM will be held in Terenure College on 3rd April 1995 at 8 pm and the Association would like to see a big attendance at it, particularly as so many members have been the victims of the wave of violence experienced recently in the area.

Templeogue Horticultural Society

Report from Patricia Halpin

The Society met in January and the new Chairman, Roddy Kernan, welcomed some new members and wished all a Happy New Year.

Then Peter Cleary gave us a concise and definitive talk on "Care of Christmas Plants", a very topical subject and this writer took careful notes, in the hope that even if it's too late to save this year's Christmas gifts, next year will be better!

These are a few main guide-lines:

1) Don't overwater. More plants are killed by over-watering than under-watering.

2) Use tepid water (rainwater if available) as this is less of a shock to the plant.

3) Don't leave plants overnight behind a curtain on a windowsill in a cold trap. Either open the curtains a little or move the plant in.



I have made out a separate set of notes on the care of particular types of plant which, for the convenience of interested readers, will be found at the back of this issue of the Templeogue Telegraph.*

Now is the time to plant or transplant snowdrops - whilst in flower or immediately after flowering

Club meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m. in Our Lady's School, Templeogue Road.

* (House Plant Notes are on Page 13)

Rates & Rents & RPT

by Paddy Heneghan

Yes, we have finally gotten around to an up-date on what's happening in regard to the "Three Rs" which have been like three monkeys on the backs of home-owners for some years now - Water Rates, Ground Rents and Residential Property Tax.

Holding out on payments?

Some time ago, a reader asked me whether we were still advising "holding out" on paying water rates. I sadly had to tell her that I myself had already paid the 1994 water rates and that I saw no great advantage in holding out in hopes of being able to evade the crunch on this one. I was speaking from bitter personal experience rather than speculation, as I will later recount.

Different approaches for water rates and ground rents.

We are concerned that what we had said some time ago in an article on ground rents might mistakenly have been applied to water rates. Now, with ground rent one has the protections afforded by the various Ground Rent Acts, but I have a suspicion that somewhere in the statutes, if you look long and hard enough, you will find a clause or two about penalties for conspiring to withhold rates and taxes. A prosecution, which would be rare, nevertheless could result in a

criminal conviction. Be warned therefore that such a conviction could have serious consequences for future employment, securing visas and in other important areas. Our advice then is not to put yourself at risk in matters which have such serious implications.

Limited yielding of ground by Government

Water rates and residential property tax are two of the financial impositions affecting one's dwelling on which Central Government has to a limited extent now yielded ground. So let's have a look in detail at what the politicians have done lately and what the national papers have been saying.

Water Rates

This question of this charge has been festering since 1977. I can recall being in Cork on the eve of the general election of that year, when the citizens there rejoiced to hear that the man who has ever since been known (in Cork at least) as "The Real Taoiseach" offered if elected (which he was, naturally, by a handsome majority!) to remove car tax, ground rent and rates on private property. It seemed like all our Christmases had come together! VAT was to be adjusted to finance local government. Great!

It was only a matter of time, of course, until local authorities began to find themselves shortchanged, and had to look around for effective ways of hitting residents in order to

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make up lost revenue. Then, as now, local councils were spending a lot of money on such worthy services such as libraries, parks and other items which they could have cut back on. These are services which would not have anything like the same priority appeal with householders as does a regular supply of clean water. Water charges, with the penalty of being cut off for non-payment, were however a very soft option when it came to extracting the necessary extra cash.

It should be noted that over the last year or so, we in South Dublin got a much nastier deal than our county neighbours in Fingal and Rathdown/Dun Laoghaire. We found ourselves with a particularly aggressive county administration completely out of line with neighbouring administrations and seemingly intent on turning the screws (or the stop-cocks) on the unfortunate citizens in its bailiwick at the earliest opportunity. We are not talking here about our elected councillors, who have obviously been embarrassed by the forceful tactics adopted in South Dublin. I know, because I talked to some of them. One could say that the South Dublin County Council administration come across simply as not nice people.

One has to accept the councillors' proposition that they had no choice but to agree to the water charges, as otherwise a commissioner would be appointed to take over the duties of the elected councillors, and then we would automatically have water charges imposed without any local representatives at all. (There are those, of course, who say that if all the local councillors took a stand, that is, nationally, the Government would have had to yield.)

The question surely arises as to why the administration of South Dublin in this day and age think it necessary to pursue the path of aggression by moving in to cut off a service essential for public health, rather than take their case to the Courts as they have done in the past. This is really an area where local councillors, if they are not prepared to make a stand on the imposition of the charge in the first place, could offer an explanation. How a local council pursues the collection of charges is a broad policy matter, which local government legislation decrees to be a matter reserved to the elected

members. It is the task of the Manager to run the business of the Council under the supervision of the elected members. If the Manager, as reported in the national press, decides to take the path of raw aggression instead of that provided by the Courts, then as matters stand, it is a fair assumption until they assure us otherwise that he has the backing of our elected members.

Some Early Experiences with Co. Dublin Water Rates Collection

"Aggro" over water rates in County Dublin goes back a long way. Former Dublin City dwellers who came out to live in Templeogue in the 1950s reacted with yelps of horror when they received their first water rates bills from the then Dublin County Council. Dublin Corporation residents (as many of them had been) had never paid water rates (they are still unique in this country in not paying water charges). Some of the new residents paid up and some didn't. The objectors in Templeogue of whom I was one, were heartened to learn in the early 60s that a group in Palmerstown had successfully challenged in the Supreme Court the Council's right to collect these charges. Many in Templeogue therefore ignored the demand notes which were sent out over a number of years...that is, until the threats to cut off the water began to arrive around 1963. Many panicked at that stage and paid up. A few of us living on what was then known as the Fortfield Estate, with the backing as we thought of the Residents' Association, stuck it out until the water was actually cut off at the stop-cocks outside the defaulting houses. Our group invested in a "key" and turned the water on again. This was followed by a long "cat-and-mouse" campaign involving County Council workers, who patrolled the area to catch the "offenders" turning the water on, whereupon they promptly moved in to turn it off again. Some of the Councillors (Cllrs. Connolly and Clinton) raised the matter at a Council Meeting with no success. Indeed, we were left completely in the dark as to our position!

Eventually a group of us went to visit the association in Palmertown to find out what exactly was happening out there. We found they were all paying their water rates! They explained

that the Supreme Court action was a test case taken by them in the name of one of their residents and in respect of one particular year only, when the Council had made a hash of the statutory procedures for fixing the water rates. In the course of our travels we met the man in whose name the case was taken by the local residents' association and he confessed he was not even partial to water as a drink!

Our beleaguered little group, without a bath for weeks, and with dirty nappies piled high in the kitchen, hastily sued for peace, through a firm of Solicitors who agreed to give us their services at a group discount. In the end, we had to pay the current water rates plus arrears of water rates plus solicitors' fees (which were as much again as the water rates). Life, they say, is a hard teacher - you get the experience first and then the lesson.

War broke out again a year or two prior to the division of the county into three new units, and again there was some doubt over the legality of the rates procedure. For some reason on this occasion the council decided to issue Civil Bills to the defaulters, of whom I have to confess I was one. We had no option on the issue of proceedings but to present ourselves at the Court Offices and pay the water rates, plus the cost of the proceedings. Imagine our chagrin when at the end of the year it turned out that the Council had again botched up the procedures, and that any rates still unpaid for that year were declared irrecoverable. Quite a few residents who had not yet paid were therefore "off the hook". To rub salt in the wounds we also established on good advice that payments made in the mistaken belief that they were legally due are also irrecoverable, so we couldn't get our money back. You can't win, can you?

When the demand arrived in 1994 for payment of water rates, I had no reason to believe that the South Dublin Council was not entitled to make the demand, and weary at the prospect of doing battle with them for the third time, I decided to pay and avail of their 10% discount.

There are many arguments, pro and con, about the imposition of service charges, such as those for water and refuse, on a piecemeal basis (many dwellers in small towns around the country have to pay for refuse collection as well). These

arguments have been amply aired in the national press over the past year.

In case readers may think we have been too hard on the South Dublin Co. administration and by way of giving balance to our coverage, we devote a later page of our magazine to bringing you back to what it was like in the early days of local authorities, and you can consider how much worse off we would be without a local authority to provide communal services like water.

Residential Property Tax

In our August/September 1994 issue, this subject was treated in some depth, courtesy of our tax correspondent Mr J A Moriarty. The scene has recently changed. The 1995 Budget reverses the market value threshold and income limits to reflect 1993 levels. These are now to be £94,000 for market value and £29,500 for income. This will take a substantial number of home owners out of the tax net again.

Politicians seem to be coming to a realisation that all the tinkering in the world will not improve the acceptability of this tax. It takes little account of individual ability to pay. Persons saddled with huge mortgage outgoings, for example, are treated in the same way as those who bought and paid for their homes in days when mortgage rates were ridiculously low and full tax relief on all borrowings was available. This tax also places on ordinary citizens the job of making a "Do-It-Yourself" valuation of their homes, with the obvious temptation to play down the valuation level, and the not-so-obvious penalty for doing it badly. If you get it wrong, the whole thing comes to roost later when you are selling your home. Aggravating delays and significant deductions for back tax and arrears of interest at punitive rates will then be a distinct possibility at a time when one can do without that kind of hassle. At least with the old rating system, you knew when you were buying a home what the valuation was, or was likely to be, and you had the assurance that you would be treated on a par with your neighbours who had similar property, regardless of fluctuations in market values, which can vary wildly as between similar houses in the same road or street, depending on the outcome of individual house sales!

It's up to ourselves to make our views known to our public representatives. We are at least entitled to a system that is fair and evenhanded.

Ground Rent

Readers may recall that we dealt with the subject of ground rents in an article in our March 1993 issue. We stated at the time that "Do nothing for the moment" seemed to be the general line which Templeogue residents under threat from landlords were taking. There is no evidence that any of the demands made at the time for arrears of ground rent going back many years had been pursued. As we pointed out, under the statutes passed to restrict ground rent collections, arrears of rent over 6 years are legally irrecoverable.

The whole system of ground rent creation is mediaeval in concept. Before the introduction of planning and building regulations, estate landlords selling building sites demanded the inclusion in long term building leases of many covenants restrictive of the design and uses of proposed buildings on their estates, and reserved ground rents which went some way towards covering the costs of administering their regulatory functions. For example, lessees were under covenant to seek permission to make structural improvements in the buildings they owned, even though these buildings were constructed and proposed to be improved at no expense to the ground landlord. These regulatory functions are now administered by local councils, to whom substantial fees must be paid for processing planning permissions. Owners of dwellings subject to ground rents are still obliged, however, to clear with their ground rent landlords as well as their local council proposed extensions and structural improvements, which obviously means a duplication of the work and extra expense for the lessee. Naturally, this will be an opportunity for the landlord to demand any ground rent unpaid.

The enormity of what was involved in the creation of ground rents may be gauged from the following calculation (a common enough example from the Templeogue area): An average 3-bedroom house could be purchased in the late 1950s for £2,000 approx. A ground rent settled

by the landlord at £15 per annum over a 900 year lease (a sum which a house purchaser had to accept on a take-it-or-leave-it basis) meant that, if the lessee and his/her successors faithfully paid up, the ground rent landlord would receive £13,500 over the term of the lease i.e. over six times the value of the dwelling which the lessee had already agreed to construct and pay for. Few original landlords, unless they were professional lawyers, have had the energy or interest in keeping up their ground rent collections, and in many cases legal firms have stepped in and purchased at fairly nominal sums the right to collect the rents. These firms can then wait until a lessee is selling a dwelling, or making an improvement, when the parties involved have to come to them for clearance of the transaction - normally a "rubber stamping" process. Proceedings can be held up until ground rent arrears are paid, and few lessees will wish to be subjected to delays in these circumstances, or to risk going ahead with improvement works until the formalities have been attended to.

Sometimes lessees purchasing or disposing of properties can land themselves into bizarre situations. Occasionally they can find themselves obliged to guarantee the continued payment of ground rents out of properties which they have ceased to have any interest in, or unwittingly find themselves the owners of ground rents which they have no wish to collect. The extreme complexity of the law in this area often makes it difficult without recourse to expensive legal advice to shake off these unwanted burdens.

Obviously there is a strong case for buying out ground rents, and acquiring the fee simple of the property of which your dwelling stands. This will still involve payment of a significant sum to the current owners of the ground rent, plus legal fees if you don't want to handle the transaction yourself direct with the Land Registry. It might be worth while in the long run for people to face up to this expense.

What seems fairly certain just now is that, with local authority service charges and residential property tax distracting the attention of legislators, the campaign for the final abolition and simplification of the ground rent system has been put on a back burner! ■

AROUND THE PARISHES

RATHFARNHAM PARISH (Church of Ireland)



This is the start of the Parish's Bi-Centenary Year, with much to be thankful for. The parish is in good heart, with a lot of positive feeling, continued growth in numbers, and excellent facilities.

The Parish was delighted to welcome the Archbishop's visit on 29th January to mark the Bi-Centenary Year.

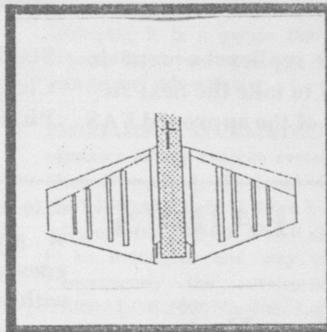
On 17th February a lovely night of music was given at the Church by DORDAN, the acclaimed traditional/classical trio, another event promoting the Bi-Centenary.

The Parish reminds those whose toddlers will not stay in the Crèche when they arrive in church that they may ask the Churchwardens for a "Happy Bag" before they go to a pew. The bags contain bits and pieces and toys etc. which should keep their "treasures" happy during the services.

WILLINGTON PARISH (St Jude's)

A vicar once dreamed that he was on the way to heaven. Before him there stretched a long flight of stairs. As he started to go up, he was given a piece of chalk and told he must put a mark on each of the steps for each sin he had committed. He began the slow toil upwards. When he was about half-way up he met the bishop coming down. When the vicar enquired why his Lordship was returning, the bishop answered, "I'm just going back to get some more chalk" (From Rathfarnham Parish "News for You" Feb. 1995)

On 17th February Very Rev. Denis Ryan's induction by Most Rev. Dermot O'Mahony, Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin, took place in the Parish Church. A large number of parishioners from St Jude's and the adjoining parishes attended, and afterwards enjoyed Fr Ryan's



hospitality in the adjacent school hall and the opportunity to congratulate and exchange a few words with the new pastor. Fr Ryan has kindly promised to give the Telegraph an interview before our next issue.

TEMPLEOGUE PARISH (St Pius X)

Work on the Sanctuary to bring it into line with the liturgical changes that flowed from the 2nd



Vatican Council is about to commence, with a certain amount of inconvenience. The original altar is being re-located to a point slightly forward of the present temporary altar. A Special Fund has been set up to pay for the

TEMPLEOGUE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

By now all the houses in our area (4,000 houses) will have received a Brochure and covering letter with a questionnaire attached.

It is most important that the replies be sent in immediately as we must proceed to take the next step to commence work with the help of the approved FAS scheme.

It is essential we have a feed-back from the community so that we can finalise our plans. After all, this is your facility.

I would appeal to all our residents to return the questionnaire to your nearest Residents' Association, Councillor or to me.

Many thanks.

Stanley Laing
Chairman/Co-ordinator
Ph. 4905571

TEMPLEOGUE LADIES' CLUB

Report by Geraldine Eaton

Hon. Secretary

Breaking completely with tradition, the December meeting was held on 30th November (the last Wednesday of the previous month instead of the usual 1st Wednesday). This was to facilitate on our caterers who had prior bookings for December. It was the Club's Christmas Party night and the guests were Raheny Ladies' Club. The whole gathering enjoyed a lovely meal in at the beautifully decorated School Hall. Entertainment was provided by our truly talented members and the equally talented members of the Raheny Ladies' Club.

Many activities continued through December. For example, some members entertained Senior Citizens at a party organised by the Ballyroan Community Care Group.

Congratulations to Peggy Quigley of our Effective Speaking Group, who came second in her section at the IFWC's Impromptu Speaking Competition.

The bowlers also enjoyed successes. Congratulations to Lilo Duggan, Sadie O'Keefe, Liz Payne, Betty Nolan and Josie Sheeran who were prizewinners in recent events.

Our February 1995 meeting was held on the first day of the month, exactly thirty years to the day and

date from the first meeting in 1965. We had a night of great celebration when many distinguished guests, including the Lord Mayor of Dublin, joined with us to mark the occasion. Founder members, some of whom are still members of the Club, were there, as was the "Man" who inaugurated the first meeting - Mr Eddie Malone. Tributes were paid to all and sundry, and a celebration cake was cut by the first President of the club, Mrs Claire O'Regan.



To join in the celebration, ten members of the Mother's Union from the diocese of Down and Dromore had arrived in Dublin on 31st January, at the invitation of the President and members of the Club. They stayed with members who had offered accommodation and were taken on a tour of Dublin Castle and, after lunch at the home of our President, Mrs Hilary McCrae, went for a drive around the Blessington Lakes, then back to join our members for a cheese

and wine reception (courtesy of Quinnsworth) and an exhibition of all the Club activities. It was a very successful evening and a suitable marking of 30 years of growth, not only in numbers but also in the personal development of all who have had the privilege of belonging to such a prestigious Group.

Now that we have completed 30 years and to mark the special milestone, we would like to extend an invitation to any lapsed members to renew their membership. If you were a member at any stage and would like to resume, just contact any member after 1st March (the date of the AGM) and you can be assured of a very warm welcome to the Meeting in April.

VERDALOE 2017

This Pure, Cold-Stabilized Aloe Juice may be used internally or externally, depending on the need. Here are listed just some of the many ailments for which it has been found to be effective.

INTERNALLY: Take 30mls. of VERDALOE 2017 Juice three times a day for 21 days and thereafter 30mls. once a day on an on-going basis. This will act as a general tonic. It is good in case of constipation, dysentery, colitis, kidney infection and inflammation of the digestive tract. Dentists recently discovered that, used as a mouthwash, it is particularly effective in preventing plaque in teeth and contributes to having healthy gums.

EXTERNALLY: Hair & Scalp Care. Rub VERDALOE 2017 Juice well into scalp after shampooing. Can be used as a conditioner and washed out before drying the hair or can be left in, and will also act as a very effective setting lotion.

ACNE: Acne is caused by deep infection in oil clogged pores. It occurs mainly in adolescence because the skin is going through a changing process. Skin should be well washed night and morning, preferably using the VERDALOE 2014 Soap. Ordinary cleaning creams should be avoided because they contain oil, and an excess of oil is one of the basic problems. VERDALOE 2017 Juice should be dabbed on at night and in the morning, it does an effective job of counteracting infection, stimulating the tissues and assisting in the healing, when used in conjunction with the VERDALOE 2006 All Purpose Regenerating Cream, there is little or no scarring.

ARTHRITIS: For effective relief VERDALOE 2017 Juice should be taken orally on a daily basis, the affected areas should be massaged with the VERDALOE 2008 Massage Lotion where it will bring quick temporary relief. The massage treatment should be repeated regularly in order to get the best results. The daily intake of the juice will also act as an overall tonic.

EYE & EAR DROPS: A few drops of the VERDALOE 2017 Juice in an aching ear will give relief. Mixed half and half with tepid water it is an excellent eye wash.

ASTHMA: Put VERDALOE 2017 Juice in an atomiser, it has the advantage of allowing the breathing of cold mist since many asthmatics cannot handle steam mist very well.

SINUS: Get a nasal spray unit from your Pharmacist. Fill it about two thirds full with stabilised VERDALOE 2017 Juice in about one third distilled or boiled water (allowed to cool first). Since it is not a powerful decongestant it is most effective when used at the very onset of the attack.

SORE THROAT: VERDALOE 2017 Juice is not a strong antiseptic, it is a gargle that can be swallowed to get deeper penetration down the throat. Can be repeated as often as desired without any side-effects.

PSORIASIS & ECZEMATOUS RASHES: These are difficult to eliminate totally but can certainly be controlled and the pain and discomfort greatly alleviated. The most effective method is to use the VERDALOE 2017 Juice both internally and externally. When using externally in this case it should be remembered that Aloe juice is an astringent and may cause the skin to dry somewhat. Consequently the treatment might be accompanied with VERDALOE 2008 Massage Lotion or 2006 All Purposes Cream.

BURNS & SCALDS: VERDALOE 2017 Juice is an excellent first aid treatment. It stops pain and reduces the risk of infection while greatly enhancing the healing process. In addition since Aloe Vera is quickly absorbed it does not interfere with any subsequent medical treatment that may be required.

By keeping the burn wet with VERDALOE 2017 Juice for the first 48 hours marvellous recoveries have been reported. Serious burns will always need medical treatment, but Aloe Vera is an efficient first aid. VERDALOE 2019 Jelly is extremely effective in the treatment of sunburn.

Medical reports stress the absence of infection in wounds which have been treated with Aloe Vera. It is a proven pain inhibitor and reduces the problem of itching. It is also very effective in dealing with insect bites and stings, jellyfish stings and nettle stings.

"sláinte agus saol"

VERDALOE 2017
Aloe Vera Juice

THE PURE TRUE ALOE VERA
(GROWN & PRODUCED TO E.U. STANDARDS)

Verdaloe

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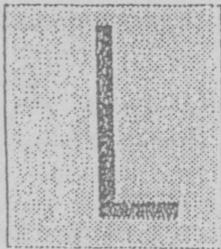
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Care of House Plants

The following notes on the care of your house plants have kindly been provided by Patricia Halpin, Hon. Secretary of the Templeogue Horticultural Society:

Flowering plants

Poinsettias: Don't buy plants left outside by the retailer. They have been reared indoors and don't like the shock of cold air. Water sparingly every 7-10 days. Keep in a coolish room, away from draughts. They can be cut back March/April and planted out of doors. Bring indoors September/October. They will develop as foliage plants. It is possible to obtain the coloured bracts again, but this is very difficult - every single day for 4-6 weeks you must cover the plant with a black plastic bag for 10 hours, then give it 14 hours of daylight. So, good luck!

Hyacinths: Short-lived but with a lovely scent. Water once a week. Dry them off in March, plant out in the garden September/October, grouped together in a sheltered spot. They are not suitable to force indoors again.

Chrysanthemums: "Pot Mums" are easy to manage. Don't over-water or leave standing in water. When buying choose a plant with lots of buds and it will last for 6-7 weeks. Not too much heat. They can be planted out in the garden but will grow very tall and are a little disappointing.

Cyclamen: They like a cool room, without fluctuating temperatures and they must be watered from the bottom. Choose plants with very strong, firm leaves. If they flop almost immediately at home, it's not your fault - they have been badly reared! After flowering, if the corm hasn't rotted, let it die back and put the pot on its side. In the Spring, put it out in the garden, still on its side, in a sheltered spot. It will start to produce new growth in late Summer and can

be brought back into the house, ready to flower again in a while.

Azaleas: These are the most expensive plants, but very beautiful and can last for up to 15 years or more. They should always be kept in clay pots, not too large, as restricting the roots encourages flowering. Buy in bud and keep as cool as possible (hall, porch, conservatory, even bathroom) and they will flower for 2-3 months. Azaleas are unusual in that they like lots of tepid water regularly. Never let a flowering azalea dry out. You can occasionally stand the pot in water for half an hour, draining afterwards.

When the flowers are finished at the end of March, leave the azalea plant in the pot and let it almost dry out for 3-4 weeks. Then sink the pot in a semi-shaded spot in the garden. It will need constant watering all summer. Then in July start feeding once a fortnight with Phostrogen (or tomato fertilizer or liquid sea-weed fertilizer) until September/October. Bring back into a cool room, not in direct sunshine. Dappled shade is what azaleas like. For the first year, you could buy some special compost suitable for azaleas (i.e. lime free) and pot on, if necessary, e.g. 3in. pot up to 5 in. pot.

Foliage Plants:

Rubber Plant: Doesn't like draughts or fluctuating temperatures. Give it a cool shady area in the house, with almost no water in winter - only a cup-full every few weeks. No feeding at all.

Castor Oil Plant: As for Rubber Plant. A nice plant but it goes rampant and is not really suitable in a small house, as it doesn't look well when cut back. The roots protrude from the soil.

Hedera: All the plants of the Ivy family are terrific house plants. They need a fair amount of water and are happy in the shaded part of a room. Variegated varieties need more light. Pot on in March/April if necessary.

Fern: A great range is available and ferns last well. They love damp conditions and thrive very well if grouped together, standing on a bed of wet pebbles or gravel.

INTERESTS OTHER THAN NAPPY WASHING...

by May O'Neill

I first heard of the TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH when my youngest offspring was just 3 years old, and I was beginning to wish for interests other than nappy washing. My offer of typing service was not needed. In fact, it seemed all systems were "go" for our local magazine. It was avidly read then in our house, but the

memory of its delivery too late with the information you wanted lingers and eventually it came under the umbrella of the newly formed Community Council some nine years later.

The magazine was re-vamped for issue on a monthly basis and flourished with a staff headed by Roddy Kernan and Niall Purcell. This was a very interesting time. 1979 saw the inauguration of the Feile Bhríde, the Horticultural Society, Youth Club, Basketball League and continuance of the Heather Cup and possibly more short-term summer activities.

(contd. next page)

The indefatigable May O'Neill, Director of Féile Bhríde, was at one time a member of the team which produced the Templeogue Telegraph. She tells us all about it here. We congratulate May on the successful completion in 1995 of yet another Féile. In our next issue we will be reporting in detail on the Féile.

From 1980, a very successful distribution system meant the "Telegraph" was delivered on time to some 1,000 households. Meetings of the "Staff" were never chores, but good times with friends, some now of happy memory - Dorothy Colclough, Clare Carty, Betty O'Brien - and nothing was too much trouble. Thumbing through copies now, I am reminded how, at times, it was difficult to get your "copy" to Imelda or Mary in time for printing and I find that references to the state of the weather - never mentioned nowadays - still gives happy reflections on those issues. I remember "The History of Templeogue" and the meaning of the name by Thaddeus; Damage to your Health by Cigarettes (news to me); and the "hoax" by Michael Sheehan on "the last bastion of Imperialism" living within our community, including a photo of the said gentlemen (this "hoax" continued for a couple of issues). It was light-weight parochial reading, perhaps, but informative.



Then in 1985 Roddy Kernan and Niall Purcell packed it in, weary trying to maintain deliveries and from consideration of their families whose toleration was wearing thin, no doubt. I had been laid low and was out of action anyway.

Then along came another founder-member. Terry, who restyled our Telegraph into a glossy magazine, yet included the same informative and parochial news. Somehow difficulties of deliveries and lateness of printing took its toll and once again the "Staff" bade farewell to the delightful hospitality of Terry and Imelda at meetings, and the Telegraph eventually ceased.

Some people never learn, especially those who like to communicate. So when Paddy retired what could occupy his time? His beloved Telegraph!

Now, happily, we have our TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH, not at the beginning but rather at the end of each month, so make sure you don't miss your date.

I thank you, Paddy, for arousing the urge in me to put pen to paper after quite a lapse of time. But then that is exactly what you are about and I succumbed! Praying you will continue. Bail ó Dhia ar an obair!

FATHER LYNCH'S SECRET GARDEN (PART TWO)

by Thomasina Harmon*

In the last issue I covered Fr Lynch's colour preferences which were gold and blue with a liberal use of green and white.

The characteristics of someone choosing these colours are those of a person of wisdom devoted to a higher nature, while plenty of green and white signify a well-adjusted person, able to survive in the "Real World".

This time I want to concentrate on his choice of plants from the Bible. I think Fr Lynch liked reading the prophet Isaiah's teachings from the Bible, as I myself do from time to time.

Several of his plants are chosen from this book. Daffodils, flowering at the moment, are mentioned as Jonquil (Is. 35.2) The "plants of the field" and "wild flowers" mentioned in Chs. 37 and 40 are believed to be Cornflower, Daisy, Iris and Poppy.

Lilies are also in this group and are mentioned by name in the New Testament. Fr Lynch had a large collection of Lilies ranging from the blue African Lily to the huge Madonna varieties.

With the exception of the Poppy, which is also mentioned as "gall" in Matthew, and one pink lily, all flowers mentioned so far were yellow, blue or white.

The Acacia Tree with its yellow flowers is from the Book of Exodus.

Fr Lynch, though, would have had a much higher motive than mine for choosing plants from the Book of Isaiah. He would have known that Isaiah was a man of lofty vision, while I, on the other hand, was first attracted to this book of the Bible because of the many references to plants.

Whenever a letter from St Paul, who I think is anti-women, is the reading of the day, I tend to flick over to Isaiah. This is called "Consumer Catholicism" very much frowned upon, but you know I could do worse than read about war, arrogance, peace and justice.

Fr Lynch's garden was an inspiration to me and my one regret is that I never met him. He had passed away before I was asked to identify some of his plants. Even so, I feel I know him through his flowers.

*Mrs Harmon is a professional Garden Designer, and lives in the Rushbrook area.

**PROPOSAL FOR
LOCAL HISTORY
SOCIETY**

arrange further meetings in whatever format and with whatever

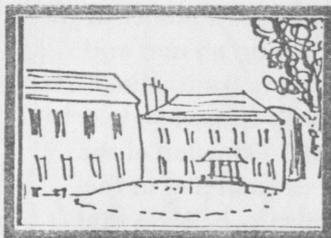


degree of frequency the group may decide.

Provision of Publicity

The Templeogue Telegraph will be happy to provide the required publicity for the ongoing proceedings of the group, and indeed hopes to profit by the results of their researches by publishing articles of interest which the group may produce.

Arising from our suggestions over several issues that there was place



for an active History Society in Templeogue, we

now invite interested parties to make contract with us (Tel. 4909128) to set the machinery in motion.



Thaddeus Breen

Former Templeogue History Group

the column-heading "Templeogue Local History Group". The Group seems to have been inaugurated in March 1981 in

For the record, issues of the Templeogue Telegraph of about 14 years ago carried several articles under

Templeogue College with a talk entitled THE STORY OF



TEMPLEOGUE given by Thaddeus C. Breen. We know that Mr Breen, who

made a huge contribution to the articles and art-work published in the Telegraph about this time, went to work in Continental Europe and in recent times we have been unable to make any direct contact with him. If there are any members of the 1980s group still carrying on the tradition and work of that body, we would be very happy to hear from them and hope they would help with the latest venture.

Invitation to Meeting



What we have in mind is to invite interested parties to a local meeting on Tuesday 11th April 1995, commencing at 8.30 p.m. to discuss the proposal. Because of limitations of space, it will be necessary to keep the group fairly small at this stage. A meeting place will be provided by the Templeogue Telegraph for the first eight callers. Light refreshments will be provided to create the atmosphere for opening up and tossing around the various ideas that the meeting may come up with, and at the end of the evening we would hope to have a "steering committee" who could

We look forward to developments!

The Manager
Templeogue Telegraph

STAMP DUTY: DEPRESSING EFFECT ON MANY ASPECTS OF HOUSING.

Stamp duty is one of the nastier items which have to be considered by those concerned with buying and/or selling older house properties for whatever reason - whether it be moving to a new job, seeking a larger home or retiring to a smaller home. It is a factor which has to be built into calculations, and very often proves a major stumbling block to plans which might initially have looked very rosy.

Transactions where the consideration is in excess of £60,000 attract stamp duty at a penal rate of 6%, and even in a price range in excess of £50,000 but not exceeding £60,000 the duty is only slightly lower at 5%. Stamp duty impositions here are significantly above UK rates, and have a depressing effect on the housing market. The only limited relief available arises where sales and purchases involve transactions between family members.

At the end of the day many people considering moving home may have to decide to stay with their present jobs, or stay on in homes which are too small or too large for their needs, simply

because due to present stamp duty rates they either can't sell their homes or find enough money to buy new ones.

We have been in touch with the Revenue Commissioners' Offices and have been told that there are no immediate proposals to change the stamp duty rates.

Because, for many, experience with stamp duty impositions occur only very occasionally, the stamp duty rates are suffered in silence. The "victims" are unlikely to get together to press for change.

One of those who is campaigning for relief in this area is Senator Michael Mulcahy, who tells us that he feels strongly about the matter and has written to the Minister for Finance urging a flat-rate stamp duty of 2% on all new and existing residential property transactions over £20,000. He urged on the Minister to take into consideration the present distortion of the housing market and of the mobility of the workforce. Senator Mulcahy believes that reform could in all likelihood mean an increase in revenue to the Exchequer and would certainly assist people in moving to houses which meet their needs and circumstances.

Readers who feel strongly about this matter may contact Senator Mulcahy at 6789911 Extension 3081.

Kitchen Sink Blues

by Sheila Whittle

Where does a woman spend most of her life

Once she has become somebody's wife?

From the truth let nobody shrink
She spends it at the kitchen sink.

Hour after dreary hour she stands
Spoiling what once were pretty hands.
Hands that wore diamonds, arms that wore mink
Are now just buried in the sink.

Whether her home be poor or grand,

On one small patch she takes her stand.

Whether she's happy or "on the brink"

She'll stand there working at the sink.

Even if she's a working mum

When she comes home, work must be done

And where will it be done? Just think..
'Twill be done at the kitchen sink.

Young girls to this now pay attention:
Kitchen sinks were man's invention.
Romantic dreams change in a wink
And you will end up at the sink.

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LONG GRASS...



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