

Templeogue Telegraph

Neighbourhood COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

April, 1993

Price 30p



Charles Lever, novelist,
lived in Templeogue House
and rivalled Dickens.



Mary Beckett, modern-day
novelist, lives in
Templeogue.



A new face: Rector Rev.
Ted Woods whom we wish
well in his new ministry.



A Templeogue legend still
going strong: Maj. General
Sir Bertram Carruthers MBE.

COMMUNITY DIARY



Wed	Apr 7	Templeogue Ladies' Club meeting	St. Pius X School Hall 8 p.m.
Sun	Apr 11	Easter Day	
Wed	Apr 21	Templeogue Horticultural Society meeting	Our Lady's School 8 p.m. (starting promptly)
Thurs	Apr 29	Willington Community Council AGM	Bishop Galvin N.S. 8 p.m. (open to public)

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From the Manager's Desk

by Paddy Heneghan

"TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH" - EASTER CANVASS FOR ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIBERS

During the coming Easter holidays we will be calling on households which were missed out in the January canvass for subscribers. Despite claims by other publications to be "Your Local Newspaper", the TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH (circulation 1,000) is the only paper which can truly be said to report what is happening in the Templeogue area, thanks to our energetic local association secretaries and public representatives.

CIRCULATION LEVEL

The aim of the Easter canvass will be to restore the 1988 circulation level, which stood at 1,400 subscribers. Indeed we believe that working on the marvellous degree of enthusiasm and support encountered since January last it will be possible eventually to reach the 2,000 level.

CIRCULATION BOUNDARIES

The circulation boundaries of the TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH - and indeed the generally accepted "frontiers" of Templeogue - lie on the East-West axis between the River Dodder and the Willington-Orwell-Rushbrook-Kennington estates, and on a North-South axis between Terenure College and Spawell.

PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

For those who are unfamiliar

with our distribution approach, on the initial call a copy of the current magazine is supplied if requested. We later call back periodically for subscriptions - the price is 30p per copy. The options which most subscribers have been favouring is to pay £3 for a year's supply or three instalment of £1 each over the year (either option is quite acceptable). Subscribers may cancel at any time, with assurance of an appropriate refund.

OUR YOUNG DISTRIBUTORS

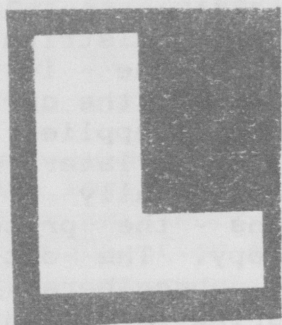
We now have an excellent body of young people who deliver the TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH to your door each month, generally during the first week of the month of issue, but quite often they manage to do so in the final days of the preceding month.

CONTENTS OF APRIL 1993 ISSUE OF THE "TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH"

The April issue contains reports from various associations operating in Templeogue. In addition to its Poetry Corner, it also contains articles on - among other subjects - Charles Lever (the renowned novelist who lived in Templeogue House), the current lifestyle of Sir B. Curruthers, MBE (our local centenarian), unemployment initiatives in the Templeogue area, and our clerical representative at the recent Cheltenham meeting (who this year seems to have turned around the "luck of the Irish" at that great sporting venue).

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[illegible]

Lever's career as a novelist

The works of Charles Lever suggest he was a person kind of heart, sunny in temper, of high spirit and pure feeling. Too rarely is the true temperament of authors revealed in what they write, but in the case of Charles

Lever the literary works seem to have been quite an accurate reflection of the man himself. He was described as a faithful husband, a devoted father, an affectionate friend and a passionate lover of his country and fellow-citizens. But he was also a singularly Celtic character, and lest we paint of him too idealised a picture, it is also recorded that there was shade as well as light in his make-up. His generosity often degenerated into recklessness and display, and, although he did produce an immense amount of work, his efforts were desultory and often careless. Lever is said to have kept open house at Templeogue after a style "more Irish and generous than prudent". Naturally he had visits from all the Irish and many of the English celebrities of his time. Isaac Butt was one of his most frequent guests, and Thackeray collected in Templeogue some of the materials for his "Irish Sketch Book".

The life of the nineteenth-century magazine editor was not without its danger and drama. A violent attack by one of the contributors to the University Magazine brought Lever into collision with a well-known literateur, Mr C.S.Hall. An angry correspondence was followed by a challenge to a duel, but after all the preliminaries had been arranged a reconciliation on terms honourable to both parties was concluded.

Lever is said rarely to have left Templeogue during his residence there. However, after three years of sub-

urban life - reputedly he alternated nights of work in his book-lined "snuggery" with nights of dinner and whist parties - he felt once more the need for change. He moved briefly to rented accommodation in Oatlands, Stillorgan, and then left Dublin to become a wanderer in strange lands, never again to be in his beloved Ireland save as an occasional tourist.

During the next few years Lever spent most of his time in Florence, during which period he produced several novels, including "Roland Cashel" and "Sir Jasper Carew". His last work was "Lord Kilgobbin". It was received by the press of the day with unanimous praise, and was regarded more as the work of a writer in his full vigour than of an elderly man who had finished a prolonged literary career.

Charles Lever in 1858 became British vice-consul at Spezzia and in 1867 was promoted consul at Trieste. He paid his last visit to Ireland shortly before his death, and passed away painlessly in his sleep on 1st June 1872. He lies buried in the English Cemetery at Trieste.

Manager's note: We are grateful to Mrs. Sheila Whittle and her husband Colonel John Whittle for their help with this research.

For those who wish to follow up on Charles Lever, we will be giving a list of his works in a later issue of the TT.

THEY DON'T BLESS HORSES, DO THEY?

The rumours started shortly before St. Patrick's Day!

At the beginning of the week the story was that the parish priest of St. Pius X was out blessing horses in Cheltenham, and that the Irish would sweep all the trophies. In the following few days there was a tale about a horse that had fallen at the last fence and had got up to win the race. By the end of the week the same priest was reported to be out blessing the Irish rugby team and reading to them a passage from the First Book of Samuel (1 Sam.16). Later he was seen on a horse in full flight chasing a fox down the Templeogue Road. As the Irish successes at Cheltenham were confirmed, and on Saturday we watched Mick Galwey crossing the line "festooned with Saxons" (well, one Saxon anyway) for the Irish Rugby Team to complete its David-and-Goliath act on the ancient enemy, there was no alternative for the TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH but to get involved.

The party who had seen the fox said no, it was not on the Templeogue Road, it was on the Mobhi Road, and the priest was a northsider who had hunted with The Ward, and anyway it happened over fifty years ago when Mobhi Road was under construction. Then we got a useful lead: somebody had seen in the Daily Mail a story roughly along the lines reported above. Sure enough when we

managed to get hold of the Daily Mail - the issue of 15th March - there it was, under the headline - "The high priest of racing spreads his winning gospel", an article which informed us in its eleventh paragraph: "The parish priest of St. Pius X, in the middle-class suburb of Templeogue, south of the city, is regarded as something of a totem within the Dublin racing community."

It turned out that the totem in question was none other than St. Pius X's Father Seán Breen, C.C. Stripped of all the standard and highly irrelevant Paddy-whackery about Guinness and pint-drinking in Mulligan's of Poolbeg Street and stout flowing down the multitudes of throats and the historically "bloodied field of conflict between his countrymen and their English counterparts", the article painted a picture of a Dublin curate who has elevated a true love of horses into a specialised apostolate which reaches its apogee in Cheltenham week. This of course may not be the picture intended to come across to the average reader of the Daily Mail, but his friends on the home front will recognise the same Father Breen who looks after the kids on their Summer Project and his other parish assignments just as enthusiastically as he ministers to the fraternity at Cheltenham.

What came across also is that most racehorse trainers

don't go about telling people that their horses will win. "But they won't lie to you either," according to Father Breen. "You get to know their shorthand."

No, it was not reported that Father Breen blesses horses. There was a story about a racehorse owner who asked Father Breen for a blessing for himself, his wife and his horse before a certain race. Father Breen obliged. "The horse hit the last fence a ferocious wallop," the story goes, "but somehow stood up and went on to win." When they asked the jockey later how he managed to hold on, he pointed to Father Breen and said: "Thank that man, he blessed the horse this morning." Father Breen naturally wishes the horses well - particularly if there are a few modest each-way bets riding on them - but he is careful to avoid any impression that there is ritual involved, to reduce

it to magic or superstition.

There was once a horse called "The Breener" after him, and it won seven races, the first time at 14-1. Unfortunately, it broke its neck at Newbury!

The last sentence of the article is quite intriguing, and will remain an enigma until we can meet Father Breen. It read: "His eyes are illuminated by the prospect." He had been explaining for the benefit of the Daily Mail: "We are in the middle of a novena - that's nine days of prayer - which means a lot of work before I can start to think about what to back next week."

We feel sure that Father Breen will confirm that the illumination arose from the prospect of a successful Novena of Grace, for as we all know here his heart is set firmly in the right place!

TEMPLEOGUE LADIES' CLUB...Report from Geraldine Eaton, Hon.Secretary

The AGM of the Club took place as scheduled on 3rd March. There was a very good attendance. Great praise and thanks were expressed to the outgoing President Phyl Heron for a very successful year, and a special word of thanks to the outgoing secretary for all her hard work over a two-year term. President-elect Josie Sheerin was duly presented with her chain of office and Hilary McGrae is now President-elect. Because of the business of the AGM

there was no guest speaker and it is now over to the new committee to organise speakers and outings for the next club year. Congratulations to one of the teams taking part in the final of the Federation Table Quiz. They were narrowly beaten into second place. Five names have been proposed and seconded as members of the Club and we look forward to meeting them at our next meeting on Wednesday 7th April at 8 p.m. in St. Pius X School Hall.

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE CENTRE (C.E.S.L.) TERENCE...by Edith Wynne (Director)

One of the suggestions in the February issue of the TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH was that local people could help tackle "the huge unemployment problem facing our young people". The Community Enterprise Centre in Terenure would like to help in extending a welcome to entrepreneurs from the area who have an idea for setting up a small business, especially those with the potential to employ a number of people.

The Centre was established in 1984 when the people of Terenure, Templeogue and Rathfarnham decided - at a public meeting in Terenure College attended by 700 people - to take their own initiative to address the growing problem of unemployment. C.E.S.L. was formally opened by the President, Dr. Patrick J. Hillery, in March 1987.

Since its foundation, eighty small businesses have started in the Centre, resulting in the creation of almost 200 jobs. Over half

of those businesses have moved to their own premises and are now trading successfully.

The Centre also provides an informal job placement service, and its success has been remarkable - about 300 job placements have been achieved to date. A number of other schemes are also in place to help people seeking employment.

Funding has been, and continues to be, difficult. Over the years since 1984, the Centre has been grateful for the financial support it received from FÁS, the IDA, local financial institutions, local businesses and the local community. Fund-raising is an on-going necessity.

At the present time there are some work units available for renting in the Centre. So anyone who has an idea for setting up a small business, and providing employment, can take the first step by contacting Pauline Doyle at 903237 for further details.



TEMPLEOGUE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
by Patricia Halpin (Hon. Secretary)

At the February meeting our Chairman Peter Cleary suggested that we all make a big effort to arrive promptly at 8 p.m. so as to give time each month for a

Questions and Answers session. This suggestion was greeted warmly by the members present, as we all have problems and questions about our gardens and

plants, and would welcome advice.

Our talk in February was given by the inestimable John Newell, who can always be relied on to give a well-prepared lecture, with excellent slides. His talk was entitled "Jobs to do in the Spring Garden". We were shown exactly how to take cuttings of our geraniums and fuchsias. We were advised when and how to plant seeds, starting on a window sill, then thinning out, hardening off outside in a home-made cold frame and finally planting out in May. We were told how to lift and store bulbs after

they have finished flowering. The next topic was lawns and John urged us to give the grass a good feed of fertilizer early in April and then, two or three weeks later, to apply a selective weedkiller. He recommended using a "dribble-bar" to make the job easier.

The evening ended with the usual raffle of plants and, on this occasion, lawn fertilizer.

The next meeting will be held in Our Lady's School on 21st April, starting promptly at 8 p.m. New members are always welcome.

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WILLINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Council has received an invitation to its members to visit the Mansion House for a tour and refreshments on 1st April. We are delighted to receive this invitation from the Lord Mayor Ald. Gay Mitchell.

Many people are familiar with the Round Room in the Mansion House through

attendance at Féiles, Trade Fairs, etc. So it will be nice to see the house itself and we are looking forward to it.

Our A.G.M. will be held on 29th April at 8 p.m. in the Bishop Galvin National School. This meeting is open to the public.

TEMPLEOGUE HOUSE TAKEOVER

A meeting of representatives of Residents' Associations, Clubs and Churches in the Willington, Templeogue, area was held on 11th March in The Templeogue Inn. The

meeting was chaired by Councillor Stanley Laing. Also present were Deputy Pat Upton, and Councillors Cáit Keane and Seán Ardagh.

Mr Pat Moloney, Chief Executive of St. Michael's House, gave the meeting an idea of the size and condition of the house. There are two ceilings worthy of preservation. Some parts of the house are structurally unsound and are closed off. The cost of restoring the building could be in the region of £0.5 million.

The outcome of the meeting was to set up a co-ordinating committee, made

up of a member of each association or club present. This committee could liaise with Dublin County Council and refer back to their respective organisations. When the committee is in place, an open day could be organised so that interested parties could view the building.

Councillor Cáit Keane thanked Mr Moloney and the Board on behalf of the people in this area for their generous gift to our community.

A TEMPLEOGUE LEGEND STILL GOING STRONG

Eleven years ago to the month, our interviewer reported on the remarkable career of that Templeogue legend, Major-General Sir Bertram (Bertie) Carruthers, pictured on our cover. Sir Bertram was then ninety, and one of his modest wishes (if such a word as modest could be used in connection with "The General", as his staff called him) was to live to be a hundred and to die on his birthday. He is now about to complete his 101st year! Another modest wish was to become Chairman of the Community Council but he reluctantly admits that this could now be quite beyond him, as he rarely leaves the house. He was devastated when his beloved Templeogue residence "Sandringham" which stood near the Cemetery became structurally unsound with rot following the installation of heating, and he had to move into a small modern Georgian residence nearby on what he refers to as "one of the schemes". He still hasn't come to terms with the modern world, and his recent

visit to London to receive his MBE, which he adds to his MC and DSO (with bar), was, he admits, almost a "cultural shock". He recalls nostalgically, as we reported in April 1982, his services to the Empire, but he is also proud of the decoration which he received from the Irish Government arising out of his command of British troops here in 1919, when (as he freely admits) he made a fortune selling guns to the Irish "Rebels". It was, he recalls, a very sporting campaign, quite unlike the grim operations of his modern counterparts. He once employed around his Templeogue residence on his retirement twelve staff, including a secretary, a butler and a chauffeur, all but one of whom were fanatically devoted to him. He wished to correct in one particular the account which in 1982 we gave of him, namely, the reference to his having horsewhipped a Trade Union official who tried to organise his household staff. It was in fact his

chauffeur (the fellow who invited the Trade Unionist in) whom he so dealt with; and to his chagrin the fellow later got a highly remunerated job as chauffeur to a supermarket chief executive (who was never known to employ union labour).

The General still looks

every inch a country squire and lord of the manor. His last word to us was that he still wanted to die on his birthday but having now passed the hundred he feels like having a shot at going on to the third millennium in seven years' time. One cannot but wish this remarkable warrior "ad multos, multos annos"!

AROUND THE PARISHES

We are happy to convey the following communication from the newly appointed Rector of Rathfarnham Parish:

Just being new to the area, he has written us, I appreciate this opportunity to say "Hello" and to wish all readers a very Happy Easter. I moved to Rathfarnham in the middle of January to succeed Canon Allen Wilson, and Evelyn and I would like to thank everyone for their kind welcome and for helping us to settle in. We're still getting to know the area - and the people. Easter is a

time of new beginnings too as we remember and celebrate Christ's Resurrection. It's a time of hope that even when things appear dark and everything seems to be falling apart, yet Christ and His love remain constant. He never lets us down, and in the end His ways will be victorious. I do wish all a Hopeful and Happy Easter, and look forward to meeting many of you in the future.

(For the benefit of his parishioners, details of Holy Week Services are given under).

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Evening Series "The Hands of Holy Week"
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Good Friday: "An Hour by the Cross" - Readings, Hymns
and Meditation 2.00 - 3.00 p.m.
"The Pierced Hands of Jesus" 8.00 p.m.

Easter Day: Holy Communion 8.00 a.m.
" " 10.30 a.m.
Evening Service 5.00 p.m. including Baptism

POETRY CORNER

SISTER...by Angela McGarry

Flying paper
Over inky flow of sea
We touch
By distant line

Your visit home
Short stay, pity
A greeting hug
Encapsules warm
Penned thoughts live

Expressions kiss words
Closeness envelopes
Happy with presence
Missed until
Too soon
A solitary wave
I'll post
A smile

FORGOTTEN WOMEN...by Sheila Whittle

'Twas easy for George Bernard Shaw to go out
And sift through old libraries, and then to shout
About "Rights of Women to get better pay",
For he was dependent on Mummy that way.
If Mummy got paid well for work she had done
It gave G.B.S. time to write and have fun.
He couldn't earn money and he had to eat -
He only ate veggies and never ate meat -
So o'er to Mummy went George, so content
That she'd earn the money to pay up his rent
Until in his forties, a craggy old crank,
He married a woman with cash in the bank.
Past child-bearing years then was George's new bride.
The George Bernard Shaws wouldn't really have tried,
For George only wanted a home and good food,
So he could relax and write when "in the mood".
But when he was not "in the mood" heaven knows,
He sat and he brooded and played Dominoes.
To live with G.B. must have really been weird
He was anti just everything, so it appeared.
When nobody listened to things he would say
He transferred his ideas into a play.
And many and great were the plays that he wrote.
He then became famous, a man of great note.
"How English is spoken" - the Pygmalion theme
Became "My Fair Lady" upon the big screen.
Oh George Bernard Shaw, oh so cunning and shrewd
Your career, without women, could not be pursued.

(Copyright)

Nos. 2 & 3 in the series "Forgotten Women" coming up later.



Charlie O'Neill, Chairperson, Dodder Valley Br. of Irish Wildbird Conservancy asks readers to be the "eyes" of IWC by reporting sightings of migratory birds (where and when). You can enquire further of him at 903000 or you can ring information to Flightline 1500-111-308 (usual charges).

Parents please note: Language in this play
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LAST ROUNDUP

Lack of space has prevented us from including many of the items which readers so kindly sent us, and we apologise for this. Apologies also for some typographical and other errors in our March issue. We lopped the last "T" off Mary Beckett's name in our coverage of Féile Bhríde and to compensate we did try for a better photograph of her (see cover of this issue - you will agree that she is far better looking than old Charles Lever, whose tradition of novelist she continues in Templeogue). May O'Neill is, of course, the Director of the Féile. We did not get very many calls as yet about the idea of a "Templeogue Market" but we are hopeful that the "mental enzymes" are still at work out there on that idea. We thank Ms Edith Wynne for her timely article reminding us that "Cecil" still operates and still seeks our entrepreneurs. Litter was the theme of many calls and we understand that concerned traders and residents in the Templeogue Village area are, as we go to press, meeting to discuss the problem. Readers complained that teenage school children gather in certain laneways and "street alcoves" during lunchtime, and drop litter with apparently no idea that this is illegal apart from being highly inconsiderate of other street users and very bad example to younger children.

Full marks to Sarah and friends who have organized a "Dodder Clean-up" and seek in return donations for Trócaire. The TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH would be glad to pass donations on to Sarah, but you can phone her yourself on 909125! We will try to cover in May the many interesting Memory Lane items we received for which there was no space. Councillor Stanley Laing asks whether anyone is interested in an Outdoor Bowling Green for the area - if so please write to him. We have to hold over his report on the meeting in connection with a proposed Templeogue Development Committee. Dos na Gaelgeoiri ná déan dearmad ar Oilithreach na nGael go dtí Cnoc Mhuire 25 Aibreán (le fáil ó Knock Shrine Bureau/Teach Veritas). Prospective Pioneers may

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