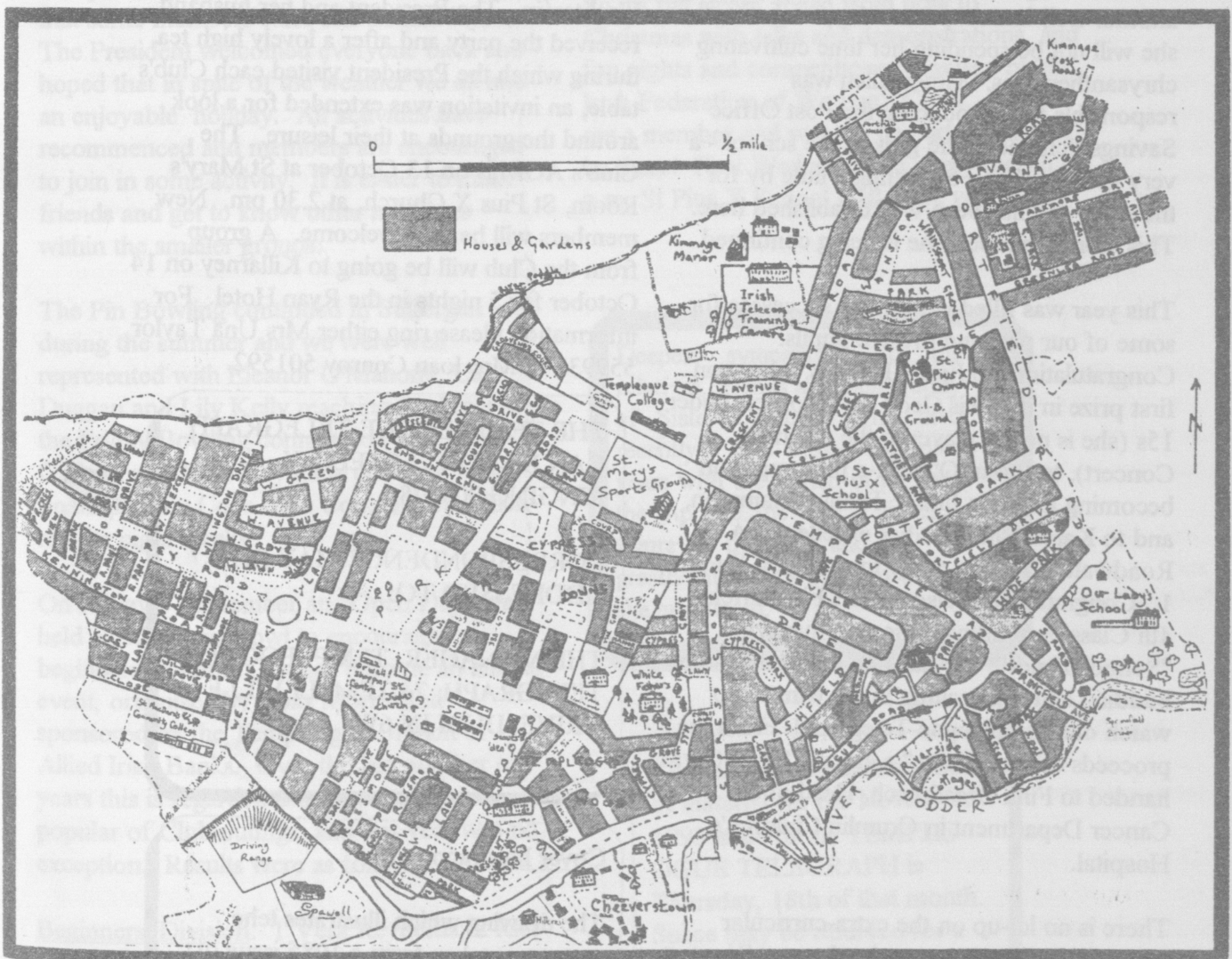


Templeogue Telegraph

NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

October, 1993

Price 30p



The above drawing shows the Templeogue district as it developed up to 1985. It lies between the Rivers Dodder and Poddle on a north-south axis, and between Fortfield Road and Willington Lane on an east-west axis. Distribution of the TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH is confined within the boundaries indicated above, and reports will be relevant to events and people in this area.

REPORT FROM ST. PIUS X GIRLS' NATIONAL SCHOOL

The sunshine of early September put everyone in good humour and the term has got off to a really good start. A very big welcome to all our Junior Infants and to our new pupils in other classes. We hope their time with us will be happy and successful. We also welcome new members of staff - Ms Moriarty, Ms Quinn and Ms Loane. Ms Quinn is not really new to our school, as she was a member of the staff some years ago. We take this opportunity to wish Mrs Brid Mullen a long and happy retirement. Like another well-known personality, we know that she will not be spending her time cultivating chrysanthemums. Mrs Mullen was responsible for introducing the Post Office Savings Scheme to the girls of the school - a very good tradition of putting a little by for the rainy day has been well established here. This worthwhile scheme is being continued.

This year was filled with many successes for some of our past and present pupils. Congratulations to Emily Hughes, who won first prize in the Feis Ceoil for recorder, under 15s (she is now a player in the Capriol Concert), to Susan O'Neill, a past pupil, on becoming Leinster Junior Tennis Champion, and to Karen Chew on her excellent AA Roadwatch Bulletin every morning on Radio 1. Congratulations also to Mrs Fitzpatrick's 4th Class on printing their own magazine, "School Times". We have no doubt that some budding editor is waiting in the wings - so watch out Templeogue Telegraph! From the proceeds of the "Times" a cheque for £50 was handed to Finn Breathnach, Head of the Cancer Department in Crumlin Children's Hospital.

There is no let-up on the extra-curricular activities for the current school year. We start with a visit to the National Concert Hall in October for "Music in the Classroom", an event that is always popular. Parent/Teacher meetings will be held in October. Parents will be notified of this as soon as possible.

Finally, good luck to our outgoing 6th Class girls! They have by now settled into the Secondary Schools of their choice and are "missing us already".

SOLOS' & WIDOWS' CLUB

On 21st June the Club's outing took place by coach to Ashtown House. It was a very enjoyable day, and the weather could not have been better. On 24th June association members attended the highlight of the summer activities, a garden party at Aras an Uachtaráin. The President and her husband received the party and after a lovely high tea, during which the President visited each Club's table, an invitation was extended for a look around the grounds at their leisure. The Club's AGM is on 13 October at St Mary's Room, St Pius X Church, at 2.30 pm. New members will be very welcome. A group from the Club will be going to Killarney on 14 October for 5 nights in the Ryan Hotel. For information please ring either Mrs Una Taylor 559934 or Mrs Joan Conroy 501592.

THE TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH
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Cover Illustration:

The drawing which illustrates the cover was taken from a 1985 issue of the TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH and was the work of former Committee Member, Thaddeus Breen.



TEMPLEOGUE LADIES' CLUB

by Geraldine Eaton (Hon. Secretary)

The Ladies' Club got back to business on Wednesday 1st September. There was an exceptionally good attendance, considering that some members were still on holidays. The President welcomed everyone back and hoped that in spite of the weather we all had an enjoyable holiday. All activities have recommenced and members are encouraged to join in some activity. It is easier to make friends and get to know other members within the smaller groups.

The Pin Bowling continued in Stillorgan during the summer and we were well represented with Eleanor O'Mahony, Lilo Duggan and Lily Kelly reaching the Final in the Friday Bowling competition and June Gilligan and Nora Reynolds prize-winning finalists in the Coca Cola Competition which ran for eight weeks.

On Friday 3 September an "Open Day" was held at Stillorgan Bowl to encourage beginners to join. This has become an annual event, organised by Rosa Morris and sponsored by the Templeogue Branch of Allied Irish Banks. Over the last number of years this is regarded as one of the most popular of Club outings, and this year was no exception. Results were as follows:

Beginners' Division: 1 Vera Reynolds; 2 Rita Condon; 3 Eileen Carty. **Regulars' Division:** 1 Evelyn Sharkey; 2 Maura Heneghan; 3 Lily Kelly; 4 Marie Guerins; 5 Rita O'Looney; 6 Eleanor O'Mahony; 7 Nora Harbourne; 8 Betty Nolan; 9 June Gilligan.

Congratulations to all bowlers and many thanks to AIB for the generous sponsorship.

The Walking Group which took part in the mini-marathon in June raised £1,460 in sponsorship for Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross. They were congratulated and presented with their medals at the September meeting. Mary Banotti, MEP, was the September guest speaker. She told us about the European Parliament and how it operates and held an interesting and informative question-and-answer session. Everyone seemed well pleased with her visit.

So it's full steam ahead from now to Christmas with talks and demonstrations, and fun nights and competitions organised by the Irish Federation of Women's Clubs. If you are a member and want to be part of the fun - be there! First Wednesday of every month 8 p.m. St Pius X School Hall. See you then!

Deepest sympathy to the relatives, friends and Community of Sister Catherine who died recently. She worked for some years with the Parish of St Jude the Apostle. She was a familiar figure in the area and will be greatly missed by those to whom she ministered.

The deadline for submission of material for the November 1993 issue of the TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH is Thursday, 18th of that month. Space may be reserved for a short period thereafter, by prior arrangement only with the Manager.

ENTERPRISE CENTRE

We hear that the success of the Enterprise Centre at Terenure (which serves Templeogue among other districts) has led to non-stop visits from groups from all over the country who

want to start up similar projects. The Centre is now in its tenth year of operation and was the first to be set up in the country.

Since 1984 it has succeeded in creating numerous job opportunities. A total of 89 ventures have started up to date, and against the general trend for small businesses, which are prone to failure within the first three years, Terenure has been able to report a surprisingly high success rate (over 70% or 55 businesses still operating to-day).

A key factor has been the provision of a creative and stimulating environment. There is a drop-in information bureau for the locality as well as meeting/conference facilities for community organisations.

Second and third-level students and teachers may be interested to learn that the Centre runs integrative employment experience programmes.

To contact the centre, which is at 17 Rathfarnham Road, Terenure, Dublin 6 telephone (01)903237 and ask for either Pauline Doyle or Breda O'Broin.

The Centre currently has a limited number of business, workshop and foodgrade units for immediate occupation.

The Enterprise Centre is housed in the building which many will remember as the former Classic Cinema site.

Má tá Gaeilge agat, labhair í!

Staid na Gaeilge sa Cheantar

Tá sé beagnach de cheangal ar nuachtán den chineál seo colún no dhó a chur isteach agus iad scríofa as Gaeilge. Uaireanta feictear mar bhéalghrá amháin an nós sin. Ní hamhlaidh atá an scéal mar sin maidir leis an TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH. Táimid sásta go bhfuil daoine ann i measc ár léitheoirí a bheadh toilteanach cabhrú linn colún mar seo a choimeád ar siúl agus a fhorbairt.

Bhíomar ag caint le déanaí le bean ana-dheas ar fad atá ina conaí i lár cheantar Thig Mealóg agus í báuil go leor le gluaiseacht na Gaeilge, ach dar léi tá an fód cailte againn maidir le haithbeochaint na teangan. An bhfuil an ceart aici?

Ar an sráid chéanna bhuaileamar le bean eile (is ag bailiú airgid a bhíomar, slán mar an n-insteair é), agus thug sí a hainm dúinn as Gaeilge. Agus nuair a leanamar ag caint le na chéile as Gaeilge, de réir deallraimh bhí togha na Gaeilge aici. Bhuaileamar le n-alán daoine eile sa cheantar a raibh an Ghaeilge go líofa acu, agus lán-toilteanach í a labhairt, ach an deis a fháil. Da bhri sin, is ceart agus is cóir go dtabharfaí cuireadh do dhaoine na háite ón nuachtán seo cúpla altanna as Gaeilge a sheóladh isteach chughainn ó am go ham - maidir le staid na Gaeilge, mar shampla, nó maidir le haon ábhar eile ba mhian leo, fiú chun a léiriú go bhfuil "an bheatha sa tsean-mhadra fós"! Ná bíodh imní ar aon duine mar gheall ar an ngramadach (ach má's duine óg tú, atá ag freastal fós ar scoil, na leig don mhúinteoir go bhfuil a leithéid sin de chomhairle á thabhairt amach againn)!

THE ENVIRONMENT

COMPLAINTS ABOUT LOCAL RAT-RUNS

On many Templeogue roads there have been complaints from residents about problems arising from the increased volume of traffic using minor local roads as short-cuts, and drains are being racked, and local representatives approached, about possible solutions. Wainsfort Crescent and Wainsfort Avenue are bearing the brunt of city-bound traffic wishing to avoid the Cypress-Templeville Roundabout, and Cypress Downs is being "favoured" by outbound motorists seeking to avoid the Glendown-Templeville traffic lights. The installation recently of traffic lights at the Templeville Road-Fortfield Park junction has increased traffic using Fortfield Park, except at school openings and closings, when the traffic there is so chaotic that no-body ventures near it. During the year we had to advise a reader who phoned the TT that there was very little we could do about the inconvenience caused to her by motorists parking across her driveway entrance here, but that is another story!

LITTER PROBLEMS AND TIDY ESTATE AWARD FOR W.O.R.K. AREA

We would like to hear further from the group who during the Summer organised the weekly clean-up at Templeogue Village. This was understood to be a token gesture but the group were hopeful that their action would encourage an awareness of the need to deal with the problem. Did any of them know that WHO (the World Health Organisation) initiated a global clean-up during September,

and Dublin was one of the world cities included in the campaign. That worthy organisation must have heard about that "Dear Old Dirty Dublin" tag that follows us around! There was little evidence however that the campaign reached Templeogue during that month. Perhaps we could get in on the County Council scheme to bring back road-sweepers for individual areas. Meanwhile congratulations to the residents of the Wellington/Osprey/Rushbrook/Kennington area who won one of the awards for tidy estates in Dublin.

"YOUTH GROUPS " CAUSING CONCERN TO ROAD USERS

This report comes under the heading of undesirable activities rather than any physical aggression. Various nooks and crannies in the Templeogue estates' network of roads and passages tend to be gathering places for groups of young people, mostly male but sometimes mixed. People, for instance, wishing to avail of the laneway between the bank and the garage in Templeogue Village now avoid doing so in the late evening or at night, because they feel intimidated by the groups which congregate at the ESB generator, out of sight from the village or from Templeville Drive. Apart from being obstructive and occasionally abusive, these young people are responsible for some of the litter seen about. Unacceptable behaviour by groups congregating in the large green space opposite the Orwell Shopping Centre is said to have moderated lately as a result of the removal of some of the trees, which lessened the available cover. In defence of young people generally, however, it has to be said that the bad intimidatory impression they give by hanging around in large groups is often in the minds of the observers, but a small few can give the majority a bad name, and the most unruly usually come from outside the

(which probably explains their lack of restraint).

APPREHENSION OVER DANGEROUS WATERCOURSE

Orwell residents are not too happy about either the condition of what remains visible overground of the old City Watercourse beside the Orwell Shopping Centre, or the danger represented by the water lodged in it - apart altogether about the possibility that a small child could venture into the culvert openings and be lost. In a recent reply to a question put by Councillor Pat Upton, the Co. Council sub-committee concerned said that a grid was being fabricated and would be installed at the outlet pipe in the near future.

PLANNING PERMISSION TO DEVELOP THE ESTATE AT KIMMAGE MANOR

Councillor Upton also raised this matter with the County Council, and learned that the Council's refusal to grant permission for this development was under appeal to An Bord Pleanála. Among the features applied for in the planning application were: 342 two-storey dwellings with an access point for 200 houses at Wainsfort Road (opp. College Drive) and for 132 houses at Whitehall Road, and an extension to a private cemetery. The proposal, Councillor Upton was informed, would be a material contravention of the 1983 County Development Plan. The Council considered the matter at a meeting in July 1993 and decided to defer consideration until September. As the applicants would not (as required) agree to a deferral of consideration, the Council decided to refuse the permission, hence the lodgment of the appeal.

TEMPLEOGUE HOUSE

The people of the district look forward to further progress on the development of this

house (situated near the Templeogue Wood and Rossmore estates), preferably for community purposes. There appear to have been no significant developments since the take-over by the County Council was reported some months ago in the TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH. It is obvious from consideration of its age and appearance that the structure will be extremely costly to bring back into usable condition, and the project may well have to await its place in the queue for Lottery Funds. Councillor Stanley Laing has been very active in pursuing this matter, and says that at the moment efforts are being concentrated on improving security at the premises, pending their development.

THE TWINNING OF TEMPLEOGUE

This is a concept that the TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH discussed casually with residents in a number of estates in the Templeogue area, and one which has been received with general interest. What we had in mind was that we might be able to establish bonds - let's call them neighbourly bonds if fraternal is no longer a politically correct term - with suburbs of like size in other cities, starting perhaps with one of the European capitals. We were told that Councillor Pat Upton has raised this matter formally with the local authority, and that there is in fact provision for twinning in the Local Government Act of 1991 (Sec.49). Dr Upton had in fact been active in pursuing this matter and learned earlier this year that while our County Council has at present no specific proposals to establish links with another area similar to its own, the matter is to be examined later so that policy can be formulated. It seems then that nothing is likely to happen in the immediate future. Dr Upton agreed in discussion with us however that there is nothing to prevent any group of citizens from proceeding on their own but of

course any attendant expenses would have to be met privately.

LOCAL HISTORY

Over the years since it started in 1969, a tremendous amount of local history has been researched by and written up in the **TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH**. Since we began to publish again in January last, after a short lapse, we are getting calls for reprints of articles from previous issues. We do our best to meet these requests, particularly where students are doing local projects and provided also that we can get some rough idea of when the article concerned was published. In time we hope to prepare a list of all subjects covered over the years, but just at the moment we do not have the resources to produce a comprehensive index of the contents of back numbers. We advise students meanwhile to widen the target of their searches for project material to include the local libraries, local authorities and if the query relates to private enterprise to the persons or firms concerned.

And of course if anyone does a worthwhile project relevant to Templeogue, we would be very glad, subject to the likely level of interest, to publish it for the benefit of the general community. To students we would say also that if you gather your information in rough form, always write it up neatly afterwards, and if you have an artistic streak illustrate it if possible with drawings.

Most people find local history a fascinating subject, and we have had more than one enquiry as to whether there is a historical society in Templeogue. So far as we know there is no such body, but if some persons or group were inclined to get one going, you can count on the help of the **TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH** to give you all appropriate help with publicity.

PEOPLE



TEMPLEOGUE PSYCHOLOGIST REWARDED FOR OUTSTANDING RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION.

Dr Peter W Halligan (pictured above) is to receive the Spearman Medal Award for 1993 for his outstanding research contribution to psychology. His work is in the field of neuropsychological disorders.

Dr Halligan is a Research Officer at the MRC Neuropsychology Unit and Junior Research Fellow in Oxford. The medal is awarded for an outstanding contribution to psychology in a psychologist's first ten years since becoming eligible for graduate membership.

Born in Dublin in 1959, Dr Halligan lived in Templeogue and was educated at Templeogue College. He studied psychology at UCD where he obtained his BA degree in 1979. Over the next three years he obtained qualifications in philosophy (MA) and Education (Higher Diploma). He gained clinical experience with the National Neurological Centre in Dublin and went on to produce a feature-length educational video on the neuropsychological effects of the split brain operation. In 1985 he moved to Oxford and, with others, helped to develop a Behavioural Inattention Test which is

currently used in many centres in North America, Europe and the UK.

Dr Halligan has published over 60 papers and book chapters, and material from his research has been used in several BBC science programmes. For example one of his studies described a stroke patient who thought he had three arms, and another who had visual hallucinations of a type known as the "Charles Bonnet Syndrome".

Dr Halligan's achievement represents a notable double for his family. His brother Dr Aidan Halligan (who was featured in the February 1993 issue of the TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH) earlier won an award for research work on the dietary requirements of pregnant women in the course of a study at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin.

LEISURE

Since returning from Lisheen where he was sampling the quality of life in the middle of nowhere (see TT of July 1993), John George has been busy doing his bit for the tourist industry. He tells here what happened.

THE VIKING'S RETURN by John George Foley

In late July I arrived one afternoon in a nice little town in the south-west where I was looking in on a holiday home. It was a fairly spartan affair, but I had to ensure that it was still actually there, with everything in working order for a family that was to invade it in August. As a bonus I had more or less carte blanche for myself and friends to use it for a few days. As I was leaving the bus station I saw an apparition making its way along the avenue in front of me. It was sporting a track suit in the county colours, and looked like someone making a tardy and unsteady return from a long-since-decided Munster Final. With a considerable midriff overhang and hair inclining to light orange, he looked like an aging version of Pieter Schmeichel. When he reached the station gates he turned and asked me in which direction he should go

to find a reasonably-priced b. and b. His English was perfect, with a slight Continental overtone. "Well, I'm not quite sure what the accommodation market is like here," I told him. "The tourist office is quite a distance away, but if you want a room for the night while you are looking around, I can offer you a choice. But I have to warn you, you must be out at seven to-morrow morning when I'm leaving". He paused for a moment for reflection. Then he joined me and we made our way to my destination. He told me he was taking a touring holiday, and had never been to Ireland before. The mighty deeds of the Irish in European football had created a curiosity about the land whose colours they so passionately wore. "I am a Viking," he said, his eyes twinkling. He had come on the Galway bus and, with his touring ticket, was planning to visit Cork the next day, and then go on to Clonmel, Waterford, Wexford, Arklow, Wicklow and finally Dublin. He had four days left! "We'd better have a cup of coffee and talk about this," I told him when we'd put our bags away. "What you plan is a tall order - even for a Viking."

In the course of quaffing a cup of coffee in nearby Charlie's Restaurant and a walk in the local park, he told me that he was on a re-training course in Copenhagen to become a garden centre manager. He was just over fifty. He descended with delight on every flowerbed and bush in the park, and gave me their names in English, Danish and Latin. He also spoke German and French fluently, and could understand, but did not speak, all of the other Scandinavian languages, which was useful since Denmark receives TV from Norway, Sweden and Finland. (Who was that I heard moaning about having to learn a bit of Irish?)

When we went back to the house to prepare an evening meal, Kurt - for that was his name - had a surprise in store for me. His previous job had been as a chef in a string of Sheraton Hotels, including those in Copenhagen where he had prepared meals for the Royal Family and in Baghdad where he had similarly ministered to the Shah. He sat me down and prepared a meal that was a gastronomic delight, and served it himself. Why did he give up cooking, I asked in surprise. Partly because, he explained, his family always expected him to do the cooking on the big occasions. Over the gas stove, he gave me a "Micheál O'Hehir" commentary on the performance of the eggs he was preparing, expounding expertly on their probable age, how well they were running, and how they were likely to respond to robust treatment.

As we were retiring after talking into the small hours, I handed him a set of keys for the house. "Look, Kurt, even though you are in Brian Boru country," I said, "I wouldn't have the heart to throw you out at seven in the morning. When you're ready to leave, just throw

the keys into the neighbour's house across the way. Give me a shout when you get back to Dublin."

Four days later, Kurt telephoned. "George," he said, "I'm still here. Your neighbours are so friendly and there are so many beautiful places to visit, I hope you don't mind that I stayed on". "No problem, Kurt," I replied.

In the evening of the next day, he arrived in Dublin, en route for Copenhagen. Needless to say, he'd had to miss out on Cork and all parts east. To compensate I decided to offer him a whistle-stop tour of Dublin, a prospect which delighted him. We surveyed what we could see of the Viking Village at Wood Quay, and then saw the adjacent cathedral where Dean Swift had laboured. Taking in the birthplaces of Oscar Wilde and George Bernard Shaw, we went to Templeogue and looked at the former Shaw Estate in Templeogue, where the great GBS would come on visits in days gone by, as the "poor relation". Kurt's gardener's eye appraised the restoration work at the Terenure College lakes. At Templeogue House I told him the story of Charles Lever, and we wept over the sad remnants of Templeogue Wood. Finally, we took a visit up to the Hellfire Club. It seems that the most elevated point in Denmark is little higher than an anthill, which, for Kurt, made the task of climbing Montpelier rather akin to our tackling Mount Everest, especially as he was carrying an old "Gazza-type" knee injury from his footballing days. He agreed, despite urgent signals from the bad knee, that the view of the City lights at 10.45 pm on a clear summer's night was worth it all!

At the airport the following day, Kurt vowed he'd be back next year with a large army of relatives. "Not to retake Clontarf, Kurt, I hope," said I. "No," he replied, "We'll be aiming for Templeogue". You've all been warned, then. The Vikings are coming!

John George Foley

We would invite any readers who have good holiday stories to tell to write in and let us all share their experiences.

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS



SAINTS by Paddy Heneghan

Are saints going out of fashion? The few young people whom we were able to question at the time of writing, while they had not given way to outright cynicism, certainly had no great devotion to particular saints. But maybe one cannot regard a few casual enquiries as what statisticians would call a "valid sample" for present purposes.

A saint is the biblical term for a holy person - one who was specially dedicated to the service of God. With the development of the Christian Church, those who had endured persecution for their faith were held in high esteem. Martyrdom was regarded as a baptism in a person's own blood, which procured pardon for all sins, and was believed to be a direct passport to heaven. The days of the martyrs' deaths were regarded as their birthdays, and were celebrated by families and churches.

Even the most casual perusal of the national and local press will turn up dozens of references to saints, both well-known and obscure. Homes, churches and schools bear saints' names in rich variety - locally we have schools called after Saint Macdara and Saint Pius X, and not too far afield after Saint Santain and Saint Clare. Who decreed that these persons should become saints?

The early martyrs were firmly believed by the faithful to be already in heaven. Others persons who did not achieve the "martyr's crown", but were known for their exemplary Christian lives, were venerated through the general acceptance by the ordinary people of their essential holiness -

they were saints by a process which we may call "vox populi" or the "voice of the people".

The majority of Irish saints achieved their status by "vox populi". Ireland has only three canonized saints - Saints Fergal, Laurence O'Toole and Oliver Plunkett. Canonization is the official declaration by the Roman Catholic Church that an individual is already in heaven and worthy of public veneration and imitation. The first formal canonization for the universal Church was that of St Ulrich by Pope John the Fifteenth in 993. The canonization process has been reserved to Rome since 1171. The process is usually a lengthy one although some cases have been concluded in short periods. It may seem irreverent to talk about the matter in sporting terms, but for the books, so to speak, St Anthony of Padua (the saint invoked by many people when they are looking for lost property) holds the speed record - he died on 13 June 1231 and was canonized on 30 May 1232 (352 days). Pope St Leo the Third died in 816 and was canonized in 1673 (857 years later) - a record at the other end of the scale.

Canonization is preceded by beatification, which involves an investigation into the "candidate's" alleged heroic virtues, writings, reputation for holiness and miracles ascribed to the person's intercession since death. The candidate if acceptable is then known by the title "blessed". Miracles, incidentally, are not required for martyrs. The Pope may dispense with some of the canonization procedures. The formal declaration of sainthood in modern times is also reserved to the Pope.

Both the Church and the people may adopt individual saints as patrons. Some of the well-known patrons are St Joseph (carpenters), St Nicholas (children) and St Jude (desperate causes). Among Irish patrons are St Brigid (dairy workers) and St Dymphna (the medically ill). Followers of the TV series *St Elsewhere* may be interested to know that St Eligius (for whom the hospital concerned is named) is the patron saint of jewellers. One of the most remarkable patrons is that of the missions - St Therese of Lisieux - who was a Carmelite nun and never even saw the mission lands. She entered her convent at age 15, died at 24 and did nothing but pray. Her

autobiography (*The Story of a Soul*) exerted an unparalleled influence throughout the world by the example of her life. The most important of the Christian saints is St Mary, the Blessed Virgin, the model of the totally virtuous person, with whose feasts the Church calendar is crowded.

Saints are not always human - as a glance at the September church calendar reveals. The feasts of the angels, Saints Micheal, Gabriel and Raphael, are celebrated on the 24th of that month. Christians believe angels to be an order of beings intermediate between God and humans and the three angels referred to are the only ones to which the scriptures assigned names. The Christian concept of the angel is so well known that the term has become almost a colloquialism for someone kind and loving. Some intriguing incidents connected with angels have been recorded, one of the most famous being the angels seen by British soldiers in the First World War to be hovering over German lines at Mons. This seems to run counter to the belief that angels are purely spiritual beings, but it is hard to dismiss the accounts of the numerous British soldiers who described the incident. Christians believe that God has assigned an angel to watch over each person. How many even give this idea a second thought to-day - or remember the prayer "Angel of God, my guardian dear" that many were taught to say as children?

Many devotees of individual saints received quite a shock to their systems in 1969 when a revision of the church calendar resulted in their favourite saints dropping out of sight. Among those who passed into obscurity were St Philomena (the devotion of St Philomena's Cord was very widespread at the time) and St Valentine (the lovers' saint, whose remains are said to be in the Carmelite Church in Dublin's Aungier St.). The explanation seems to have been that a revision of the balance of worship was called for, as also a trimming down of a very crowded church calendar. However, many of the saints in question were allowed to remain associated with churches, orders, patronages and the like which had earlier adopted them.

The Catholic Church encourages its members to recollect and commune with the many holy

people whose good deeds went unofficially unrecorded and unsung - perhaps friends or family members who were remembered for having lived exemplary Christian lives. Two days in November are set aside by the Church for this particular recollection - November 1st (All Saints' Day) and November 2nd (All Souls' Day). November 6th is designated as the feastday of all the saints of Ireland.

A SAINT FOR OUR TIME by MJD

Who was Matt Talbot?
 June 7th 1993 marked the seventy-seventh anniversary of the death of the Venerable Matt Talbot. Fanatic or sainted genius, the world asked in 1925 when it first heard the story of the man in chains. To-day his story has circled the world.

Matt Talbot was born at 13 Aldboro Court, Dublin on 2nd May 1856. His parents were Charles Talbot and Elizabeth Talbot neé Bagnal. They had twelve children, eight boys and four girls. All of the boys died at an early age except for John the eldest and Matt. John died when he was sixty. Three of the girls survived Matt.

As far as his neighbours were concerned, Matt was a habitual drunkard. As a young man in his twenties, he

spent all his wages in O'Meara's Tavern. To-day, with the understanding of the illness of alcoholism, there is little doubt but that he was an alcoholic. The pattern of his drinking speaks for itself. He began drinking at the age of 12, taking the dregs of porter and stout from the bottom of bottles in the bottling store where he got his first job. Within two years he graduated to whiskey and by the time he was sixteen he came home drunk regularly.

When he was twenty-eight and Matt Talbot was well on his way to self-destruction, a traumatic incident changed his life. On a Saturday morning in 1884 he waited outside O'Meara's Tavern without a penny in his pocket. When he had money he shared it generously with his drinking friends, so he expected that they would not reject him in his need. But they did. One by one they passed him. Matt was stunned and shocked. Years later he said he was "cut to the heart". However it was to be a moment of grace. He thought about his lifestyle and he realised that he was totally enslaved to drink. Fourteen years of drunken degeneracy flickered before his mental gaze and filled him with shame and self-disgust. He turned on that fateful day and trudged home, his face set and grim as a revolutionary idea gradually took hold of him. He would tear himself away from his black past and take the pledge to abstain from alcohol for three months. That afternoon he told his mother that he was going to take the pledge. "Go, in God's name," she said, "but don't take it unless you are going to keep it". He answered: "I'll go, in the name of God!"

These three months were sheer hell. To-day we understand something of the withdrawal symptoms of addiction, but in 1884 Matt Talbot had no-one to share his sufferings - the hallucinations, the terrible depression, the nausea. But he had an iron will, a rocklike stubbornness which had stood him well down through the years.

Matt was neither fit nor religious-minded. He grew tired quickly and since he could not rest in a pub or sit down in a public street, a church provided the haven he sought. Gradually he began to pray to God to help him. Matt's faith convinced him that he could share his sufferings with Jesus in the Blessed Eucharist. He now turned all his efforts to increasing his union with God and developing his life of prayer. He joined the Third Order of St Francis, and The Working Man's Sodality in Gardiner Street. The strict ascetical life of the early Irish monks attracted him. Their love of

prayer with emphasis on humility, penance and manual labour dedicated to God appealed to him. In Matt's time there was no Rehabilitation Centre, no Alcoholics Anonymous. In a church, before the Blessed Sacrament, he was out of the way of the bar and in the way of the help of God. He began to haunt the churches of Dublin. If Matt was speaking to-day he would truly say: "Turn your eyes to Jesus, because he is the one who can really help you". Matt had asked for the gift of prayer and had got it in abundance. From now on prayer figures in his life not as conquering drink, but as conquering him. (To be continued)

POETRY CORNER

THOUGHTS IN GRAFTON STREET

When I was young I worked all day,
In Grafton Street for little pay.
High o'er the street I once looked down
On people walking up and down.
I longed to be without a care.
Like all those people walking there,
With cash for things that gave them pleasure
And many hours for fun and leisure.
I longed for freedom then instead
Of working for my daily bread.

The years have passed and youth has fled
No longer must I earn my bread.
Now in that street I often gaze
At where I spent my youthful days.
I look up at that window wide,
At someone working there inside,
And wonder if the face I see
Is someone longing to be me.
The scene is not what once it seemed
And nothing is as once I dreamed.

Sheila Whittle (Copyright)

THE TEMPLEOGUE THEATRE GROUP

We have been asked by the above
Group to say that they will soon read

for their Autumn production. Persons interested in joining them can contact Ella at 965111 or 906646.

Around the Parishes

There was an "early warning signal" during the summer about the impending departure of Fr Martin Noone from the Parish of St Jude, to take up new duties as Director of Crosscare (the name by which the Catholic Social Services Conference is now known). Fr Noone made a significant contribution to the parish by introducing about a year ago a very comprehensive weekly parish bulletin. Fr Noone was kind enough on several occasions to give the TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH a favourable mention, which we were very grateful for when we were trying to re-establish ourselves. We wish him every success in his new post. We also wish a warm welcome to Fr Hilliard who has arrived to take his place and who has already been taking steps to resume publication of the bulletin which was missed in recent weeks.

The parish of St.Pius X also produces a weekly parish bulletin. Of late we have been following up the series on the seven deadly sins appearing over the name of "Deborah". The treatment of this ordinarily bleak subject has been very interesting. Our curiosity as to the identity of "Deborah" remains unsatisfied. Lips are sealed in the inner sanctum. Carry on, Deborah, with your good work!

ANYONE FOR CHINA?

There has been a great up-surge of interest lately in China, where a more open policy on the international front has opened up the real possibility of visiting that vast country. On the athletics front, the spectacle of three Chinese women leading the cream of world distance runners to take three international championship medals was followed by the exciting wait to see whether China would scoop the Olympic Games in seven years' time. But it was not to be!

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A far greater impact seems to have been made by the writings of a Chinese author, Jung Chang, who wrote "Wild Swans" - her account of three generations of Chinese women whose lives spanned the period from the warlords to Mao Tse Tung and beyond. A book not to be missed!

Of what relevance is this to Templeogue? The TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH has had a recent enquiry as to whether it knew of any Irish people who might be interested in a challenging career break teaching English in China! The "target group" are those with recognised teaching qualifications and/or a TESL Certificate, an appreciation of the culture of the Chinese and an openness to learn from them, and a sensitive awareness of the complex political and religious situation in China to-day. A number of Chinese Universities are prepared to engage (and of course pay) such teachers, usually for a year. The group sponsoring this cultural exchange are the Hong Kong based Association for International Technological, Economic and Cultural Exchange, founded by a Christian group in 1988. This group has many cultural links with Ireland. Aid is available from the Department of Foreign Affairs through APSO (Agency for Personal Services Overseas).

Further information can be made available from literature supplied to the TEMPLEOGUE TELEGRAPH, to persons interested in following up on this.

MONKEY BUSINESS

Pádraig's old uncle who had been an explorer kept two monkeys as pets. When the uncle died, Pádraig arranged with the Dublin Zoo to have the monkeys taken in. Unfortunately the day he was transporting the animals, his car broke down on the road and he was obliged to flag down a neighbour in order to get help. As luck would have it the neighbour was also driving to Dublin and said he'd be delighted to bring the monkeys to the zoo. Off he went with the monkeys but Pádraig's car was soon repaired, and he set off for the Zoo with all possible speed. He failed to catch up with the neighbour, and worse still on arrival at the Zoo office, he was told that no-body had turned in the monkeys.

So Pádraig set off down the city to see whether he could solve the mystery. As luck would have it, didn't he spot the neighbour in O'Connell Street, walking along with a monkey clutching his hand on either side. "Thank goodness I found you," said Pádraig. "Where are you going at all, after promising me to take the two monkeys to the zoo?" "Of course I brought them to the Zoo," said the neighbour, "But as it's early yet, I thought I'd go down town and take the pair of them to the pictures!"

CREATIVE KEYBOARD SCHOOL

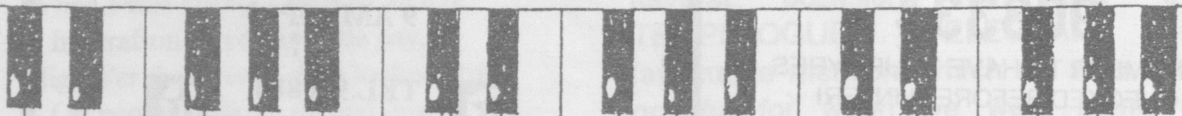
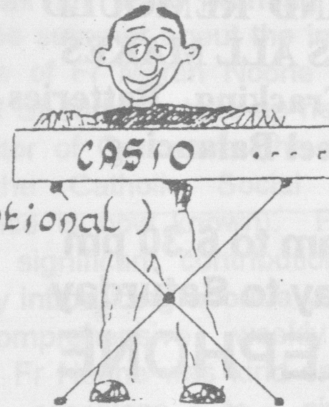
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