



RST Community Newsletter

RATHFEIGH/SKRYNE/TARA

17th December 2022 • Issue No. 19



O'CONNELL'S PUB SKRYNE

would like to wish all their customers a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

A Christmas tree has been erected on the grounds of St Cholmcille's Church, Skryne. Cards are available after Masses from Catherine Hanley. These cards are suitable to remember living and deceased. Cost per card is €5 and all monies go towards Palliative care in Co Meath.



Winter morning in Greenpark

Rathfeigh Church Choir
presents

An Outdoor Candlelight

CAROL SERVICE

at Rathfeigh Church
on
Sunday 18th
December, 2022
at 6.00pm

ALL WELCOME
Admission Free



Frosty morning on the Hill

This issue is sponsored by

O'CONNELL'S PUB



Skryne & Rathfeigh Parish

Light up a Life Christmas Cards



Send to family and friends to let them know you are thinking about them while supporting a local charity

Cards €5 each

All proceeds go to Meath Palliative Care

Put your donation in an envelope, mark it Christmas Cards and drop in the collection box or into the parochial house

SEDUM AND SAGE

LOCAL PLANT NURSERY



FREE DELIVERY ON ORDERS OVER €50 WITHIN 50KM OF SKRYNE

CATALOGUE AVAILABLE AT

click here

<https://skrynesaver.com/sedum/>

EMAIL TO ORDER: KIRSTENWALK@GMAIL.COM

RAPTOR PEST CONTROL



TEL: 087-121 6058

Rodents | Insects | Proofing | Flyscreens | Pest Birds
Grease Traps | Drain Repairs | Surveys

The Schools Collection, 1937-1939

National Folklore Collection

In Kilbsew there is an ice house in which it is said there is hidden treasure. It was supposed to be put there by Captain George owner of Kilbsew and Captain of the Yeomen. It is said that he still stands guard over his illgotten treasure. It is still said that he haunts the

This month's Dúchas article on Hidden Treasure was written by Eileen Johnson from Skryne School

the old forge at Cussagha where he was slain by the famous Paud O Donoghue.
Eileen Johnson.

Image and data © National Folklore Collection, UCD

Skryne Community Alert



**An Garda Síochána
Property App**

Store your property details in your pocket.
Easily report it stolen to An Garda Síochána



**Scan the QR Code
Select your App (IOS/Android)
Install the App
Record your Property**



Scan me

An Garda Síochána have created an app for your phone, making it easy for you to create an inventory of your property. This can be very helpful if you lose or have property stolen, as it helps you provide the details needed by the Gardai and insurance companies. You will find the app on the garda.ie website, or just scan the barcode below to take you straight there.



**An Garda Síochána
Property App**

Store your property details in your pocket.
Easily report it stolen to An Garda Síochána



**Scan the QR Code
Select your App (IOS/Android)
Install the App
Record your Property**



Scan me



www.garda.ie

Night Sky December 2022

by Tony Canavan

Phases of the Moon:

Full moon: 5th January, **Last Quarter:** 14th January, **New Moon:** 20th January, **First Quarter:** 27th January.

Best nights for observations 15th - 28th January 2023.

Sunrise: 0841 am

Sunset 417 pm

1st January 2023

Orion Splashdown:

Live streaming from Orion as it approached the Earth

Splashdown:

The Orion capsule successfully splashed down in the Pacific Ocean after a fiery re-entry into the Earth's Atmosphere on 11th December 2022. The view of the eleven parachutes being deployed to reduce speed to 30 kph before splashdown was sufficient evidence to know that the heat shield had done its job, completing a hugely successful mission to the Moon. At time of splashdown it was exactly, almost to the hour, 50 years since man had last stepped on the moon.



Bill Nelson from NASA Administration said, 'We are adventurers, we are explorers, we always have a frontier, and that frontier is for us to continue to explore the heavens.' The Artemis 1 Mission opens a new chapter in interplanetary travel.

Although December and January are bitterly cold nights, they are by far the best of the year for celestial observation. The recent spell of clear frosty weather has been so good for observations.

December 24th & 25th 10 pm: Christmas Eve:

In the SSE we have a beautiful sky with **Jupiter** and **Neptune** setting in the SW, **Mars** is bright to the SE, with the **Pleiades** just to right (beautiful through binoculars) and the constellation of **Orion** directly under Mars. **Sirius** is low in the SSE (151° with altitude 16°). **The Big Dipper (The Plough)** is in the NE, continuing to climb during the night being virtually overhead by 4 am. The two stars that mark the end of the 'pan' of the Big Dipper, point upwards towards the pole star **Polaris**. The latter does not move at all as it marks the **Celestial Pole**.

On Christmas morning,

appropriately, the star **Regulus ('Little King')** is rising in the East. It marks the end of the '**Sickle of Leo**' that outlines the head of the constellation Leo. It is only 80 light years away and is a rapidly rotating star at 317 kilometres per second, which distorts its shape to an oblate spheroid. Regulus is one of the brightest stars in the night sky and has four companion stars, one with an orbiting period of 125,000 years.

January 1st, 2023:

We start to lose **Jupiter** that has been so bright in our evening skies. By January it is starting to set. Close to Jupiter on the right is **Io**, **Ganymede**, **Europa** and further to right **Calisto**. **Saturn** sets at about 630 pm. **Andromeda** is high in the southern sky 185° and altitude of 77° in the constellation of Andromeda. There are three stars in a straight line, **Almach**, **Mirach** and **Andromeda Delta (♁)** just below the Andromeda galaxy (that is how I find it). The Eastern sky, of course, is alive with stars with Orion. A good pair of binoculars will let you see **The Orion Nebula** situated in the scabbard of Orion's Sword. It is one of the nearest stellar nurseries to Earth and one of the most active star formation regions of the Milky Way. It is home to tens of thousands of new stars formed within the last ten million years.

January 4th:

This marks mid-winter. Strangely in mid-winter the sun is closer to the earth than in the summer. This is because the orbit is elliptical not circular. The earth is about 5 million kilometres closer to the sun in January. This makes the sun 7% brighter currently.

January 6th: Full Moon.

This full moon was known by the early Native American tribes as the **Wolf Moon** because this was the time of year when hungry wolf packs howled.

January 23rd:

Constellation Auriga: In a similar position in the evening sky for much of the month i.e. Above Orion. It contains three galaxies in close proximity, M36, M37, and M38.

January 30th:

In the pre-dawn sky **Mercury** is at its greatest elongation of 25°. At 7 am Mercury will emerge in the east and reach 7° above the horizon before dawn. As Mercury is the planet closest to the sun it is very difficult to see at any time. But this is as good it gets.

ESA's Class of 2022:

ESA has chosen its 'class of 2022' for astronaut training. Among them are three men and two women including Rosemary Coogan from Northern Ireland. She holds two degrees from the University of Durham in Physics and Astronomy. She went on to complete a doctorate in Astronomy from the University of Sussex in 2019.

Also, British Paralympic sprinter John McFall who was chosen as the first disabled astronaut by ESA. He says that he hopes to inspire others and show that 'science is for everyone' and potentially that 'space is for everyone'. More than 22,000 people applied to join the ESA programme – two and a half times the previous interest when the competition was run in 2008.

Square Kilometre Array (SKA)

Construction of the **Square Kilometre Array (SKA)**, the world's largest radio telescope has begun. It will be built on two continents consisting of about 130,000 antennae in Australia and South Africa, with operating headquarters in the United Kingdom.

It will be sensitive enough to detect a mobile phone in an astronaut's pocket on Mars, which is 225 million kilometres away. It will finish construction at the end of the decade. It will allow astronomers to look back at the beginning, examine 'black holes', study gravity, dark matter and even discover life on other planets.

With **Artemis 1's** success we end 2022 on a high note. Space travel has also now entered a new age. Thanks also to the **JWST (James Webb Telescope)** we can look in and watch stars and planets forming and look back close to the beginning of this universe.

'The rung of a ladder was never meant to rest upon, but only to hold man's foot long enough to enable him to put the other somewhat higher' Thomas Huxley, Biologist, Anthropologist.



A Very Happy Christmas to all.

Scoil Cholmcille, Skryne

Tom Brennan

With the temperatures plunging it is beginning to feel a lot like Christmas here in Scoil Cholmcille. The sound of Christmas carols fill the hallways while within the classrooms magical tales about Santa Claus and naughty elves are on everybody's lips. From all the staff and pupils in Scoil Cholmcille, Nollaig Shona agus athbhliain faoi mháise do gach duine!

Accelerating into the history books

A huge congratulations to Serena in 5th Class who became the first pupil ever in our school to reach 10 million words on the Accelerated Reading programme. Serena received her special gold badge to commemorate this amazing achievement!



Science Week

In November we celebrated Science Week. The boys and girls had great fun exploring science in new and exciting ways. We saw everything from volcanoes and dancing raisins to potion making and raft building. Ann Gerety-Smith from Heritage Ireland also visited every class to teach us about biodiversity in and around our school.



Book Fair

Last week, just in time for Christmas, we had our annual book fair in Scoil Cholmcille.

The children had great fun discovering and rediscovering a range of books and authors. The book fair is always a wonderful way to enhance the already strong passion for books amongst our pupils.



Friendship Week

November also saw us celebrate Friendship week as part of our anti-bullying campaign. The boys and girls learned about treating one another with respect and the importance of kindness. Prizes were also awarded for acts of kindness. Luckily, we already enjoy happy, healthy relationships amongst all members of our school community. Friendship week was an excellent opportunity to showcase this.

Sport

The last number of weeks have also been busy on the sporting front. Our school cross-country team took part in the Cumann na mBunscol event at Fairyhouse racecourse recently. Our U11 girls claimed silver in their event while the boys took bronze in the same grade. Well done to all who took part.

We had our usual strong showing at the latest orienteering event held at Corkagh Park. Scoil Cholmcille navigators won 3 out of the 4 categories on what was a glorious sunny day at the west Dublin venue.



Enrolment

A reminder that Scoil Cholmcille is now accepting applications for Junior Infants for the 2023/24 school year. Application forms can be accessed at skryneschool.blogspot.com or by emailing the school at our new email address info@skrynenationalschool.ie

Skryne GFC Ladies

Skryne Ladies 2022

2022 was a fantastic year for Skryne Ladies from our U6 right up to our two Adult Ladies teams. I was great to see so many girls involved and showing pride in Royal blue and white jersey this year. If this year is anything to go by the future for Skryne Ladies is in safe hands.

U11 Girls

The U 11 girls had a great year packing in 32 training sessions that is almost one training session per player as there was 32 girls involved this year. They started trading on the 7th of February and finished on July 9th. They focused a big part of this on perfecting their skills along with a mobility program from Niall Ronan. They played many games and the highlight of the year was getting to the Community games Final. They finished out the year with a big Christmas party on December 4th and were presented with new Masita Top sponsored by LHK.

Coaches: Vinnie Naughton, Lisa Gibbons, Maria Hanley, Michelle Nolan, Seamus Toomey, Conor Corry, Ciaran Larmer.

U12 Girls

This year we had 22 U12 girls kitted out. They began training on July 9 and finished 4th of December. They had a tough group in Div 1 as most other teams were more experienced and had multiple of teams, however nearly all of our girls are eligible to play next year which will stand to them. They also focused a lot on their skills and strength and conditioning so we have no doubt next year they will be back with a bang. They finished out the year with a big Christmas party on December 4th and were presented with new Masita Top sponsored by LHK.

Coaches: Vinnie Naughton, Lisa Gibbons, Maria Hanley, Michelle Nolan, Seamus Toomey, Conor Corry, Ciaran Larmer and Emily Armstrong

U13 Girls

2022 was a great year for our u13 squad.

They started back training on 17th January and competed right up until 30th May, training Mondays and Saturdays.

We had two teams so everyone got plenty of games. The white team were in a very competitive division containing the second teams from some of the big towns but they competed well and gave everything.

The Blue team competed in Division 1 and reached the semifinal with some terrific team performances. They lost out to the eventual champions after extra time in a thrilling game in Skryne.

Rachel O'Dowd from the squad represented the club on the Meath u14 squad and they won the platinum Leinster final against Wexford.

A number of the squad also took part in the Meath development programme throughout the summer which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Highlights of the year for this group included the 40 training sessions, all the games home and away, two great trips to the beach and an end of season party in the RST. The future is bright for this crew!

Coaches: Aileen O'Connor, Jenny O'Dowd, Emily Armstrong, Mick O'Dowd, Ross Phillips, Ken Pentony.



Skryne U14 Girls

After taking a break for the month of June, training for our u14 squad began on 9th July and they are still going strong !

Again we had two teams so everyone got plenty of games but as numbers are a little tighter (22), as the league progressed most players got to play with the blue team.

The white team were very competitive in their games and had a couple of hard fought victories along the way where they showed great spirit and determination.

Having won the division 3 league in '21, the blue team competed in Division 2 and performed really well and reached the semifinals which was a huge achievement in itself. After a really competitive game they lost out to the eventual champions but as always they showed incredible

teamwork and never gave up.

Highlights for this group were their over 40 training sessions, competitive games, and of course the visit of Ciara Smyth and Amy O'Dowd with the Brendan Martin cup after Meaths All Ireland victory.

The girls have continued to train throughout the winter and are very lucky for the last few weeks to be receiving the coaching of current and former Skryne Senior players Nicola Rogan, Maria Lynch, Eimear Finnerty and Bronagh Sheridan. In addition they have commenced circuit training under the experienced care of Dervla Duffy.

With be long before many of these girls are joining our senior squad!

Special thanks to Kepak for the new set of jerseys for the squad.

Coaches: Aileen O'Connor, Jenny O'Dowd, Mick O'Dowd, Ross Phillips, Ken Pentony, Fergus Meharg.

Skryne U15 Girls

Skryne U 15 girls competed very well in Division 2 of their league in 2022. Having lost to St.Ultans and Walterstown in their opening two games, the girls got a draw in their third match with Trim before going on a four game winning spree with victories over Donaghmore Ashbourne, Blackhall Gaels, Duleek Bellewstown and a famous win away to O'Mahonys to clinch a semi-final against St.Ultans. This was a tough encounter and the girls were just unable to produce their best performance going down to the eventual winners of the competition. The girls played great football, scored lots of goals and were very committed during the season.

Panel for the year was: Megan O'Brien, Hannah Clarke, Sine Smyth, Roisin Reeves, Harriet Hayes, Emma Dardis, Emily Kelly, Isabella Meharg, Ellen Hogan, Claire Cassidy, Caoimhe Giles, Ellie Kate McDonnell, Lauren Meharg, Aine Keogh, Ailbhe Lynch, Cara Mahon, Jay Jay Lynch, Megan Crowley, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Rachel O'Dowd, Lucy Pentony.

U17 Div 1 (spring 2022)

We had a very successful U17 Spring campaign resulting in us finishing top of our group. Unfortunately we were narrowly beaten by a strong Navan O'Mahonys team at home in Skryne.

U16 Div 2 finalists

2022 was a Brilliant year for our U16 girls. We finished top of our group and beating a very strong Gael Collmkills in the semi final in Skryne. We then faced Royal Gaels in the final. Unfortunately they proved way to strong for us on the day. But our girls had many great games and days out along the way. Especially our trip to Cong Mayo to play The Neale girls. It was great to meet up with Claire Cunningham (former Skryne & Meath player) the girls had lots of activities and made friends for life. We look forward to the return trip from the Mayo girls in the Summer.

Junior D Ladies team

It was another fantastic year for Skryne ladies Who again where able to field two championship teams. This in itself is a fantastic achievement and shows that the future of ladies football is in safe hands.

The championship started in what can only be described as an interesting style against Ratoath - they where very slow to start resulting in being 16points down at half time but in true Skryne style they never gave up and turned the game around and won by 4.

They next faced Carnaross in which they again fought to the end and came out with a one point win . In round 3 they faced a strong Rathkenny side again coming out with a one point win which booked a spot in the semi final against Bective. It was a tight game that went down to the wire and the girls again came back and won by a point with the final kick of the ball.

Unfortunately, the girls fell at the final hurdle against an extremely experienced and strong Na Fianna team .

The girls will be back bigger and stronger next year. A big thank you to all of our management team and supporters.

Skryne Senior Ladies

Training for the 2022 season began on 4th February and 100 training sessions later the squad had secured Senior status for the first time in its history, reached the Leinster Intermediate Final and secured promotion to Division 2 in the league.

The first half of the year saw a number of players missing from the previous year due to travel, emigration, retirement and family. It meant preparation was difficult and sometimes small numbers at training but full credit to everyone who just put the head down and got on with it.

Once the inter county season ended momentum began to build and with a lot of hard work and preparation the team performances improved with every game.

The county final in Walterstown will be remembered by all in the Club for a very long time when the goal of becoming Senior became a reality.

The squad backed up their championship victory in Meath with some outstanding performances in Leinster. The first half performance in Skryne against Cooley was described by many supporters as the best football they had seen in Fr McManus Park in a long time.

Great memories were created along the way and the Club's supporters, young and old, really enjoyed the journey and got behind the team. The future is bright for years to come!

Coaches: Mick O'Dowd, Gordan Geraghty, Martin Kennedy, Kieran Kennedy, Adrian Doyle, Katie Whyte, Colleen Jordan.
Captain: Nicola O'Reilly.

Heartbreak for Skryne Ladies in Leinster Final

Skryne 3-06, Longford Slashers 3-10

Leinster Ladies Intermediate Football Championship – Final

After an excellent first-half where both teams battled and traded scores like two prize fighters, Skryne couldn't keep the momentum going in the second-half and the more experienced Longford Slashers took control of proceedings and did enough to see off a spirited challenge from the girls in blue and white.

Skryne supporters were out in force in the well-appointed Kinnegad venue. The weather was almost perfect apart from a strong breeze which favoured Longford Slashers in the opening half. The Slashers didn't hang around and were straight out of the traps with three points in the first three minutes with Kyana Lee, Kate Shannon and Jessica Barry (a free) all finding the target. Skryne responded with two quick-fire goals, the first from Ciara Smyth whose pointed effort dropped in under the crossbar to level matters before Amy O'Dowd won the kick out from the first goal and soloed past a number of Longford Slashers defenders before dispatching the ball to the left of the keeper to put Skryne ahead with just 5 minutes on the clock. Longford Slashers response was immediate after they won their kick out and attacked up the field. Kyana Lee found space in front of the Skryne goal and shot low past the advancing Rachel Whelan to level the game. Kara Shannon edged the Slashers ahead with a fine point from the right-hand side. Skryne added a third goal when Amy O'Dowd picked up the ball on the right-hand side. She hit a pass over the top of the Slashers defence to Ciara Smyth. Smyth had to battle for the possession, but came away with the ball and slalomed past a number of Slashers defenders before hitting a low shot into the far left corner of the net. Skryne added a point after Liz Morland won the ball back superbly in midfield before working it forward to Amy O'Dowd who soloed forward before stroking the ball over the crossbar. Two pointed frees from Jessica Barry reduced the deficit to a single point midway through the half. Fiona O'Rourke who covered every blade of grass in the first-half sent a sweet pass to Ciara Smyth in the 17th minute. Smyth rounded her opponent before tapping over. A minute later Grace Shannon, who had a fine game for the Slashers, made a run deep into the Skryne defence before laying off to Jessica Barry who had found space in front of the Skryne goal. Barry hit a low shot to the back of the Skryne net to wrestle back the lead from Skryne. Ellie Murphy leveled matters again with a pointed free after Ciara Smyth was fouled on the 21-metre line. Kate Shannon bagged her second point of the game when a Jessica Barry free dropped short into the Skryne penalty area. Aisling Cosgrove won possession and laid it off to Kate Shannon who popped it over with her left boot. Skryne replied with a fine point from Caitriona Keogan after Fiona O'Rourke sent a nice pass into Roisín McManus who rounded her marker before passing to Caitriona who lofted a monster kick over the bar clearing the nets behind the goal leaving the sides level for the third time in the half. Longford Slashers edged ahead again with a minute remaining in the half when Jessica Barry added her fourth free of the half. The referee blew the half-time whistle in a half that nobody wanted to see end, such was the quality of the football from both sides. Half-time: Skryne 3-04, Longford Slashers 2-08.

Skryne had the wind advantage in the second half, but despite this, it was Longford Slashers who took control of the game, pinning Skryne back for most of the third quarter. After showcasing excellent free-taking skills in the first-half Jessica Barry was guilty of missing two early frees as Slashers looked to capitalise on their early pressure. Kate Shannon finally opened the scoring 7 minutes

in when she stroked over a free. Skryne too spurned some chances in the third quarter and then lost Ciara Smyth to a soft yellow card 16 minutes into the half at a crucial point in the game. The Slashers made the most of the extra player scoring a goal and a point during the period with Jessica Barry pointing a free before she got on the end of another Slashers attack after player of the match Orla Nevin passed a ball over the Skryne defence to Barry who despite a number of Skryne challenges, managed to get a shot away which found its way into the Skryne net. This put six points between the sides with 9 minutes remaining. Skryne began to up the ante and pushed forward in search of scores to reel the Slashers in. Roisín McManus pointed a free before second-half substitute Ruth Moore hit a lovely point from the left-hand side with just 3 minutes remaining after good work from Roisín McManus and Niamh O'Brien. Unfortunately for Skryne, the clock was against them and the Slashers dug in and repelled the remaining Skryne attacks to prevail on a scoreline of Longford Slashers 3-10, Skryne 3-06.

Skryne will be very happy with their season after securing the Intermediate Championship in Meath and putting in some excellent performances in the Leinster Club Championship. Ultimately, they came up against a strong Longford Slashers team who were runners-up in the Leinster Championship last year and had a big point to prove in today's final after last year's disappointment. With a team full of young blood, this is just the beginning for Skryne who can look forward to playing Senior Championship Football next year.

Well done to all of the girls and to Mick O'Dowd and the Management team who have provided the Skryne fans with lots of highs over the last few years. Finally, congratulations to Longford Slashers. We wish them the very best of luck in the All-Ireland Club Championship semi-final.

Skryne: Rachel Whelan; Ciara Cowley, Steffi Finnegan, Alana Cooney; Nicola O'Reilly, Lisa Browne, Niamh O'Brien; Caitriona Keogan(0-1), Elizabeth Morland; Samantha Clarke, Amy O'Dowd(1-1), Fiona O'Rourke; Ellie Murphy(0-1, 1f), Ciara Smyth(2-1), Roisín McManus (0-1, 1f)

Subs used: Sophie Finnegan, Ruth Moore (0-1), Laura Mangan

Skryne panel: Aoife McLoughlin, Niamh Cowley, Caragh Conway, Ava Purcell, Miriam Hayden, Emma Loftus, Aisling O'Connor, Destiny Carty.

Longford Slashers: – Emer Casey; Laura Kenny, Emily Reilly, Grace Kenny; Orla Nevin, Eimear O'Brien, Clare Farrell; Aoife O'Brien, Aisling Cosgrove; Lisa Nolan, Grace Shannon, Kyana Lee (1-1); Kate Shannon (0-3, 1f), Jessica Barry (2-5, 5fs), Kara Shannon (0-1)

Longford Slashers panel: Oyinda Sotunbo, Adrienne Mulligan, Jill Glennon, Grace O'Donnell, Shauna Reilly, Lara O'Connor, Isabelle Sweeney, Ciara Smith, Caoilainn Morgan, Rachel Briody, Aileen Briody, Kate O'Connell, Maya O'Toole, Maggie Maguire



U13 Girls



U16 Girls trip to Mayo





U16A Girls



U16B Girls



U16 Girls v Royal Gaels



Intermediate Ladies



Junior D Girls



Girls In Blue!

U8 to U10 2022

The future is looking bright when it comes to our 7 to 10 year old girls in the club. In the past few years, we've been lucky enough to field 18 u8 girls Autumn season which is a credit to our nursery system. The u8 girls had their first all-girl match up against Dunsany and it was heartening to see them step up to the challenge and show off their teamwork and skills. With this new group, we've recruited some new coaching talent with more female coaches than any previous squad. This is something we want to promote in the club as representation and diversity is important to our club culture goals. They finished the 5 fixture Autumn campaign with a battle against the elements as well as the opposition in our home pitch in mid-October.

Our u9 girls have some amazing talent in their ranks with many of the girls representing the parish in all-Ireland athletics. 29 girls togged out over the season, and we gained more players as the campaign progressed. Again, our coaching squad was a 50/50 gender balance which is important to our future. The girls played 7 go-game blitz's over the first half of the year and competed well in all.

Our u10 girls got underway in the early Summer when Skryne hosted an u10 girls tournament in June with 8 teams from around the county playing their hearts out. Our efforts meant that our u10 girls got to play in Croke Park in August for a country-wide u10 blitz. The Autumn league pitted our 24 blue queens against teams from O'Mahonys, Sencchalstown, Slane, St Pats and Curragha. In all games the girls demonstrated why the future of Skryne ladies football is going to be great.

A special thank you must go out to all our go-games referees that togged out and enabled us to host games. Our teenagers have stepped up and shown great leadership by on the field. We now have 23 qualified go-games referees with 58 matches refed between them in 2022 – Bualadh bos!



U9 girls against Blackhall Gaels



U9 girls against Summerhill



U10 girls in Croke Park



U8 girls first match against Dunsany

Family History Part 2

Maurice Daly

As mentioned in Part 1 of Family History in the November 2022 newsletter, family research is a step-by-step process. Information from one record will lead to research in another and you may find yourself working in a number of different archives and libraries. **The following are useful repositories when doing family history.**

1. National Archives, Bishop St. Dublin 8. Tel: 01-4072300 www.nationalarchives.ie
2. General Register Office, Werburgh St., Dublin 2. Tel: 353-906632900 www.gov.ie/gro
3. Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, 2 Titanic Boulevard, BT3 9HQ. www.nidirect.goc.uk/proni/
4. Registry of Deeds, Henrietta St, Dublin 1. Tel: 076-1001610. www.prai.ie/registry-of-deeds-services
5. National Library of Ireland, 7-8 Kildare St., Dublin 2. Tel: 01-6030200 www.nli.ie
6. Meath Co. Library, Railway St, Navan. Tel: 046-9021134 www.meath.ie/council-services/libraries

Genealogy Websites

Nowadays there are hundreds of genealogy websites, some free but mostly we are talking about subscription sites. The top three FREE genealogy sites for me are as follows:

1. www.irishgenealogy.ie This free site is published by the Dept of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and is a must for researching Irish Family History.
2. www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie This free site is invaluable for Irish genealogy research. Log in to see the sources it contains.
3. www.familysearch.org This a free site. Family Search is an international organisation to help people discover their family history. The Mormon Church provide it.

Next, we come to **subscription sites** that are not free and some are quite expensive. The following are the genealogy sites that I recommend.

1. www.rootsireland.ie This excellent site has the most extensive and searchable site of Catholic Church records. You can search county by county. The

annual subscription is €168. I highly recommend it.

2. www.findmypast.ie It's quite expensive at €23 per month but I also highly recommend it.

3. www.myheritage.com This is an extremely popular and versatile heritage site. I have my Family Tree published on this site. Again, it's not cheap and costs about €170 per annum.

As mentioned at the outset there are many sites and it's quite easy to get lost and confused hopping between them all. The **12** I have mentioned are more than enough to get on with – the old cliché “Practice makes perfect” definitely applies here.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me at either 087-9543222 or email to mauricedaly29@gmail.com. Remember, I'm not a qualified genealogist but will help any way I can.

Le gach dea-ghuÍ I gcomhair na Nollag agus na hAthbhliana.

Maurice Daly, 18 December 2022.

Points to Ponder



Are you dreading some Christmas presents?

Do you expect to like all the presents you will receive this year? Not if last year was anything to go by! In fact, it seems that more than two-thirds of us expect that we will unwrap at least one item that we do not like this Christmas. What do you do with those weird gifts? One in four of us admit to dumping them – straight into the bin. Yet we are very polite about it - two in five of us pretend delight so that we do not hurt anyone's feelings. Only one in ten of us is ruthlessly honest and express our disappointment. A better way of getting rid of unwanted presents is to donate them to charity. Charity shops will welcome almost any kind of unwanted Christmas present.

**


How long should you sleep when you are over 50?

The amount of sleep you get each night can have a huge impact on your health. A recent study has found that middleaged people need at least seven hours a night. This reduces their risk of developing various serious health conditions including cancer, diabetes, and arthritis. This contrasts with the effect of having only five hours of sleep a night. People over 50 who slept for five hours were found to be 30 per cent more likely to have chronic diseases, including depression, liver disease, stroke, heart disease, diabetes, cancer, and Parkinson's.

**

Christmas and the New Year

Anne Frehill



**A little child
A shining star,
A stable rude,
The door ajar.
Yet in that place,
So crude, forlorn,
The hope of all
The world was born.**

Anonymous

It is December once again! The New Year is just a couple of weeks away!

When I was a schoolgirl time seemed so simple, just a measure of things that happen. Then, as I matured, I came to the realization that even the greatest thinkers, including philosophers, scientists and physicists, while grappling with the fundamental nature of time, never fully fathomed it. However, I believe that there are two points about time that will resonate with most people. In my teens, I heard adults make remarks about how time appears to pass quickly as one grows older. And Parkinson's law is the statement that "work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion." It seems to me that as each decade passes the spool of time is uncoiling more rapidly!

I like the idea of Old Father Time which is the personification of time. Historians have traced his roots back to ancient Greek and Roman mythology. By the 18th century he was depicted as an elderly man, wearing a sombre cloak and carrying an hourglass or scythe.

Here are some great quotes about time:

"Time is the most valuable thing a man can spend." Theophrastus- Greek philosopher.

"It's not that we have a short time to live, but that we waste much of it." Seneca (Roman philosopher).

"We must use time as a tool, not as a couch." John F. Kennedy.

When all is said and done, time is precious. It is vital that we really make the most of our time. Perhaps, given the frenetic pace of our 21st century lives, we need to be mindful of how we spend each hour. Who can deny that hours can slip by just browsing the net or watching some fatuous show on TV.

In the 1970's Gloria Smyth topped the Irish charts for 90 weeks with her single: One day at a Time. Good advice that has stood the test of time.

Now, those mince pies won't make themselves!
I wish you a peaceful and joyous Christmas, and the best of
good health and happiness in 2023.
And from Patrick Kavanagh's beautiful poem:

A Christmas Childhood (the last verse):

*"My father played the melodeon,
My mother milked the cows,
And I had a prayer like a white rose pinned
On the Virgin Mary's blouse."*

Rathfeigh National School

Seamus Tansley

As we enter one of the busiest periods of the school year the anticipation and excitement amongst the children is reaching fever pitch. Christmas is a really magical and special time for the children and we hope they will all have an enjoyable and loving Christmas with their families, relations and friends. We have a busy few days ahead as we get prepare for our Christmas Carol Service, Parents' Association Christmas Raffle as well as the Student Council Raffle. I'm sure the children and the staff are looking forward to a well-earned rest for which they deserve. It's been a great year in our school and I'd like to wish everyone in the Rathfeigh School Community a safe, enjoyable and spiritual Christmas. For those of us not of primary school-going age the following quote from Edwin Osgood Grover is apt.

"Santa Claus is anyone who loves another and seeks to make them happy; who gives himself by thought or deed in every gift that he bestows".

Hillview Nursing Home Visit

On Wednesday December 7th our 5th/6th class visited Hillview Nursing Home for a musical performance for the residents. This was a truly special occasion for us in Rathfeigh but more importantly for the Hillview residents. It was an honour and a privilege for us in Rathfeigh to perform at Hillview and great credit must be given to our pupils for the many, many rehearsals over the previous few weeks. A big thanks to Ms O' Donoghue for preparing the songs for the children and to Mrs Vaughan for all her hard work teaching the children the tin whistle for the performance. A special thanks to Ailbhe Bannon from Hillview Nursing Home for liaising with us over the last few weeks. We hope this is the start of a growing relationship between Rathfeigh NS and Hillview. We wish everyone in Hillview an enjoyable, healthy and spiritual Christmas.

"Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most" (Ruth Carter Stapleton).

Christmas Carol Service

We are thrilled to invite parents/guardians to the school this Wednesday December 21st at 11am for our Christmas Carol Service in the school hall. Due to Covid-19 we were unable to have parents/guardians in attendance for the last two years so the children are particularly excited this year to be performing in front of a packed audience. We ask everyone who will be in attendance to be seated in the hall at 10.50am.

Parents' Association Christmas Raffle

Our Parents' Association Christmas Raffle will take place on Wednesday December 21st after the Carol Service. Thanks to everyone on the Association for organising this year's event. The prizes this year are the best ever with the top prize of a £350 voucher!! There are numerous prizes to be won but if you're not in you can't win!! The proceeds from the sale of tickets will go towards the construction of a **Sensory Garden** at the rear of the school in 2023.

Student Council Christmas Raffle

Our Student Council members – Cathal, Leila, Hayley, Donncha – have done a great job organising the Christmas raffle. The raffle will take place after the Carol service on Wednesday. Tickets are still on sale. There will be one hamper for Juniors

to Second class and another hamper for Third to Sixth class. A sincere thanks to everyone who donated prizes this year.

Kris Kindle

Kris Kindle which has its roots in early Christian traditions has always been very popular in Rathfeigh NS down through the years. The children in 3rd-6th class were super excited on Friday morning as they opened their presents which they received from fellow classmates. Smiles were the order of the day on receipt of the presents and school work wasn't a priority for them for the rest of the day not surprisingly!!





BOC Gases

The children in 3rd-6th class had a surprise treat last week with the visit of BOC Online to the school to teach the children about the secret world of gases. This was BOC's first visit to a primary school in the Republic of Ireland. The children had a great time learning about atmospheric gases and all their uses, contraction, expansion, changes of state and the fire triangle. The children were blown away by the amazing experiments carried out by Kieran Hennessy. We thank Kieran for giving the children a memorable day and we hope to see Kieran back in the school next year.



2022 was another great year in our school. My job, as principal, is made a lot easier with the great support and collaboration from all the teachers and staff – Mrs Vaughan, Mrs Campbell, Ms O'Donoghue, Ms Reynolds, Ms Brothwood, Ms Mc Golderick, Nicola (SNA), Helen (Secretary), Ingrid (caretaker), Damien (Handyman) and all the substitute teachers. We also thank all the parents/guardians and the Parents' Association for their continued support during the year. We also thank Colm for all his help and expertise with IT, Kieran Hennessy for the school website and Clare for updating the Facebook page. We also thank everyone who had curricular and extra- curricular activities in the school. Our Board of Management continue to work tirelessly for the benefit of the school for which we thank them. The children, as usual, are excellent and it's always a pleasure teaching them.

Wishing everyone a great Christmas.

"It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air".

Skryne GFC

by Rowan Dardis

Skryne GFC Horsepower Draw

Skryne GFC were delighted to fulfil our commitment to make a donation to our 3 charity partners Laura Lynn Childrens Hospice Foundation, the Irish Injured Jockeys Fund and Jigsaw Meath following our recent Horsepower Superdraw. Each charity received a donation of €3,500.



Tweet from the Irish Injured Jockey Fund thanking Skryne GFC



Trevor Giles presenting a cheque for €3,500 to Derek and Megan from Jigsaw Meath



Receipt and Letter of thanks from Liz Quinn and Cathy White of Laura Lynn

The Year in Review

Senior A League

Skryne Seniors kicked off their season on 05th March with a narrow one-point victory over Gaeil Colmcille in Grangegodden. Their second round game against Ratoath was cancelled and would not be played until July. The third round in Simonstown was a night to forget. Skryne came back from a 5-point half time deficit to lead by 4 points in the second half. However a disastrous last quarter saw Simonstown hit 2 goals and as many points to secure a flattering 5 point victory. A superb fourth round win over Championship runners-up Summerhill followed by a draw against Na Fianna in Enfield saw Skryne move up the table. Skryne continued their good form with victories over Ballinabrackey and St. Peter's Dunboyne to leave them second in the table behind St. Colmcilles. Skryne hit a blip in Ashbourne in Round 8 when they met a lively Donaghmore/Ashbourne outfit who proved too hot to handle as Skryne slipped to only their second defeat of the League campaign. It was back to winning ways in June when a depleted Skryne team battled to a four-point victory over Navan O'Mahonys with Niall Finnerty hitting 9 of Skryne's 15 point tally. Skryne travelled to Gibbstown for Round 10 where they produced the display of the year with a scintillating performance of aggressive attacking football against Wolfe Tones, securing a 6 point victory over the defending County Champions. Skryne finally faced off against Ratoath in Skryne on 06th July. It was a match that was certainly worth waiting for with both sides producing some excellent football and quality scores in what was a high-scoring encounter. Ratoath prevailed on the night and this proved a setback for Skryne who dropped back to fourth place in the League table and now needed a victory in their remaining League game against St. Colmcilles to secure a place in the final. Colmcilles had been top of the League table for most of the campaign and it was a case of winner takes all in the last League game as whoever grabbed victory was guaranteed a place in the League final. Skryne found James Conlon in superb form on the night and it was his goal in the last quarter that steered the Cilles towards victory in a tight match. Alas Skryne didn't make the final but overall they showed some real positives throughout the League and looked to be in a good place heading into the Championship.

Skryne reign victorious in the Kilmacud 7s

A high point of 2022 was Skryne's march to victory in the All-Ireland Kilmacud 7s, the first Meath club to win the prestigious competition in its 50 year history.

Skryne were drawn in Group 5 where they secured victories over Ballinteer St. Johns (Dublin), Steelstown Brian Ogs (Derry) and hosts Kilmacud Crokes (Dublin).

Skryne were drawn to play Fermanagh's Erne Gaels in the quarter final and racked up an impressive 5-12 as they strolled into a semi-final against Blessington (Wicklow).



Triumphant Skryne Players receive their Trophy and Medals from the Kilmacud Representative. L to R. Darragh Campion (Captain), Stephen O'Brien (partly hidden), Eoin Smyth, Harry Rooney, John Finnerty, Conor O'Brien (with Cup), Shane Smyth, John O'Regan (hidden) Ciaran Lenehan and Paddy Fox.

The semi-final looked comfortable for Skryne as they raced into a 10 point lead midway through the second half (Each half is 10 minutes in length). Skryne looked home and dry, but then Wicklow champions Blessington hit 3 goals without a reply from Skryne to move within a single point of the Taramen. Skryne held their nerve and managed to secure the single point victory to advance to the final.

Skryne met Galway champions Mountbellew Moylough in the final and they proved to be much stiffer opposition. The Galway men racked up point after point in the opening half and led by 4 points at the midway point of the half. Ciarán Lenehan struck a goal for Skryne to drag them back into the game but the Galway men continued to pick off points and led by 3 points at half-time on a scoreline of 0-8 to 1-2. Skryne put in a battling performance in the second half that saw them chip away at the Mountbellew Moylough lead and draw level as the game entered the final minute. However, Mountbellew Moylough hit a point in the final minute and it looked like they had done enough to claim the victory. However, Skryne had other ideas and the Smyth brothers, Eoin and Shane combined brilliantly as Skryne launched a final last gasp attack which ended with Shane Smyth hitting a low shot to the left bottom corner of the Mountbellew Moylough net to snatch victory for a jubilant Skryne.

Championship

Skryne were drawn in Group A, a tough group which included defending County Champions Wolfe Tones, League Finalists St. Colmcilles and neighbours Seneschalstown.

Skryne faced Wolfe Tones in the opening round in Pairc Tailteann and were forced to line out without talisman Darragh Campion. Goals win games and Tones managed to find the net 3 times in this match, the second at a crucial time in the game in the third quarter when Skryne had cut the Tones 5 point half time lead to just a single point. A third goal followed quickly after and this killed off Skryne's challenge.

Skryne travelled to Walterstown for Round 2 against Seneschalstown and after a low-scoring first-half, Skryne moved up a gear in the second half and produced a dominant performance to easily defeat the Yellow Furze men who had pulled off a shock victory over St. Colmcilles in the opening round.

The final group game saw Skryne face St. Colmcilles in Stamullen with a win guaranteeing Skryne safe passage to the quarter-finals. Cilles had lead for most of the game but Skryne rallied in the final quarter hitting five points without a reply to take the lead. They extended the lead to 2 points 4 minutes into injury time and looked odds on to claim the victory. However Cilles had other ideas and David Bell hit Skryne with a sucker punch when he half-vollied a crossfield ball to the back of the Skryne net to edge the Cilles ahead. Remarkably the sides still had time to score another point each, but Cilles held out for the narrowest of victories. Despite the loss, Skryne had done enough to in the earlier rounds to progress to the quarter finals on score difference.

Skryne faced losing finalists Summerhill in the quarter final in Pairc Tailteann. It was a day to forget for Skryne who had a bad day at the office and struggled to get a foothold in the game. Summerhill were in flying form and ran out easy victors on the day.

Overall Skryne made a lot of progress through the year and had a good outing in the League, finished in the top 8 in the championship and claimed a fantastic historic victory in the All-Ireland Kilmacud 7s. Skryne can look forward with a lot of positivity to 2023.

Junior Premier Cup

Skryne played two of out their three games in the Premier Cup. The first round was an away game against Donaghmore/Ashbourne who produced an excellent first half performance and looked like they would run out easy winners, but Skryne had other ideas and a fantastic second half in which Skryne hit 8 points without reply saw them take the lead as the game approached full-time. However a late goal from Donaghmore/Ashbourne earned them a draw in an entertaining game.

Round 2 saw Skryne face Ratoath minus seven players that featured in the opening round against Donaghmore/Ashbourne. Ratoath were too strong for Skryne and prevailed on a scoreline of 2-08 to 0-06. Round 3 was cancelled due to Storm Eunice.

A League - Division 3A

Skryne played 7 games in the league winning 3 against St. Colmcilles, Trim and St. Ultans, drawing 1 against Carnaross and losing the remaining 3 against Ratoath, Gaeil Colmcille and Castletown. Overall, considering the small squad, Skryne had a decent campaign.

Premier Championship - Division 1

Skryne were drawn in Group B of the Premier Football Championship. Their opponents in the group were Gaeil Colmcille, Donaghmore/Ashbourne and Dunshaughlin. Skryne found the going tough in this group and shipped 3 defeats leaving them facing a relegation playoff against Wolfe Tones. Thankfully Skryne's fighting spirit saw them reign victorious in the playoff, defeating the Tones by 0-11 to 2-03.

Third Team

Skryne also managed to field a third team in 2022. Again Skryne struggled with numbers. This was magnified when

Skryne travelled to Piltown to face St. Colmcilles. The Cilles had a big enough squad to field 3 teams while Skryne managed just the bare 15. Despite this, Skryne battled hard throughout the year and ensured that all of our adult players got valuable game time which will benefit the younger players in the squad and also quenches the thirst of the older players who continue to play for the enjoyment and camaraderie.

U20s

Skryne played in the top division in the U20 Championship and were drawn in Group B where they faced Summerhill, St. Colmcilles and Dunshaughlin. Skryne showed that they were worthy of their place in the top tier. Their opening round against Summerhill was a tight affair that Skryne should have won. The sides level in injury time and Skryne were doing most of the attacking. However, Summerhill snatched victory when Eoghan Frayne pointed a free with the last kick of the game.

Round 2 against St. Colmcilles was expected to be a tough evening for Skryne, with the Cilles lining out with a plethora of county players. However, Skryne showed superb battling qualities and the game was in the balance right up until the end. However, a late rally from the Cilles saw them edge Skryne out.

Skryne faced Dunshaughlin in the final round with both teams effectively out of the championship. Skryne got the victory they deserved and will be happy with the quality and attitude shown throughout the campaign. The future looks bright with some excellent talent emerging from the underage structure.

Skryne GFC Juvenile Boys Review

The juvenile section of the Skryne GFC has really become a focal point for our young people in the past number of years. With COVID hopefully behind us, normal service resumed with full training and match fixtures in 2022.

Nearly 330 young people participate with our underage teams on a weekly basis led by the 50 or so volunteer coaches that give their time willingly. 2022 also brought the appointment of Nicky Hamill to the Club Coaching Officer role and already we are seeing the fruits of his labour with athletic development programmes available for all our teams.

While our teams had mixed success on the field with some teams chasing elusive wins, we have a lot to be thankful for. Our minor boys challenged themselves with a tough task in division 1A which showed their character and willingness to compete with the best. Our u15 boys focused on development with a massive 83 training sessions throughout the year. Our u13 Roinn A squad contested the Spring league division 2 final and were promoted to division 1 while our Roinn H squad contested a semi-final.

Our u11s had a great year of go-games before they move one to competition level next year. A highlight for this group of players was a team trip to Croke Park where they got to lift the Sam Maguire on the Hogan stand (ok, it wasn't the real one, but still).

Our u9s were so dedicated to the club that they trained on the morning of their communion! This squad have some great talents coming through and they looked well in the new jerseys as they contested some lively go games throughout 2022. The u7s and Nursery ages have great numbers coming up through the ranks



2022 was a special year for Skryne football club with our Intermediate ladies tremendous success at county level, our senior men's victory in the Kilmacud Crokes 7's tournament and our hugely successful Horsepower Superdraw. Join us on the 21st of January for a night of celebration and thanksgiving as we toast our successes.

and their parents are getting involved too. It's great to see the club getting such support from the community through our Horsepower draw. Each underage team contributed squads of sellers that outdid themselves in what they sold. They showed great commitment to the club.

A special thank you must go out to all our go-games referees that togged out and enabled us to host games. Our teenagers have stepped up and shown great leadership by on the field. We now have 23 qualified go-games referees with 58 matches reffed between them in 2022 – Bualadh bos!

Development Planning Progress to Date

A development committee has been established to look at prioritisation, price and programming of works.

A full survey of the grounds including levels has been carried out so that such critical elements as drainage and ducting works for lighting upgrades can be properly designed.

Among the works being assessed are Car Park surfacing, upgrade of walking path and provision of LED lighting, new scoreboard, improvements to Subs accommodation, LED lighting for Main Pitch.

We will be looking at accessing all available Grants and this may influence commencement of some of the projects.

Where feasible it is planned to commence most of these improvements in Quarter 1 of 2023, particularly the Car Par surfacing which is a priority for those using the RST Centre and GAA facilities generally.

Winter Walking

Lighting will be provided at Skryne GFC Pitch from 5.30 pm to 9.30 pm, Monday to Friday, to facilitate walkers and users of Gym and All Weather pitches.

Thank-you message from the RST First Responder group

The community cardiac first responder group from RST, would like to thank all those who contributed so generously to the churchgate collection in November. It is 8 years since we started this first responder group but we were stood down by the ambulance service due to covid, in March 2020.

We were chosen by the NAS as the first group to return to responding to cardiac calls as the national pilot site. After a successful return, the rest of the groups in the country restarted. Since the summer, our group has successfully resuscitated a man in cardiac arrest. This is a great achievement and makes it all worth while.

We will be going back to Syryne and Rathfeigh national school teaching the kids basic, age appropriate, resuscitation.

Any group in the area are welcome to basic training, as the more people who have knowledge of resuscitation the better the chance the patient has of survival.

There are 3 public access defibrillators that our group has installed in the local area. Locals should know where they are and have an idea how to use them.

Anyone interested in more information for group training, becoming a volunteer or would like to contribute to this local responder group, please contact me.

Margaret Hanahoe 0862077276. Remember to call an ambulance if you suffer persistant chest, arms, neck or jaw pain.

Wishing the community a safe and happy Christmas.

Blotto

04 Dec 22

Jackpot: €4,600

Numbers drawn: 17, 21, 22, 28

No Jackpot Winner. Lucky Dip Winners: Margaret Reddy, Ross Phillips, Stephen Martin and Sean Russell

27 Nov 22

Jackpot: €4,500

Numbers drawn: 06, 09, 20, 22

No Jackpot Winner. Lucky Dip Winners: Stephen Martin, A, A, S & L Geraghty, Eamon Giles and Turlough & Margaret McKeown

20 Nov 22

Jackpot: €4,400

Numbers drawn: 13, 18, 22, 23

No Jackpot Winner. Lucky Dip Winners: Eric & Bernie Dobbs, Christy O'Connor, Emer Monaghan and the Synnott Family

13 Nov 22

Jackpot: €4,300

Numbers drawn: 03, 17, 21, 28

No Jackpot Winner. Lucky Dip Winners: Kieran O'Brien, Jenny Banks, Pat Brett and Fred & Helen Gilsenan

06 Nov 22

Jackpot: €4,200

Numbers drawn: 04, 23, 25, 28

No Jackpot Winner. Lucky Dip Winners: Dinah McQuaid, Patricia Gaynor, Johnny Burke and John Reilly

30 Oct 22

Jackpot: €4,100

Numbers drawn: 10, 13, 20, 22

No Jackpot Winner. Lucky Dip Winners: Judith Giles, Brenda Govern, Mary Byrne and Miriam O'Rourke

23 Oct 22

Jackpot: €4,000

Numbers drawn: 07, 11, 12, 17

No Jackpot Winner. Lucky Dip Winners: Alicia Dardis, Amanda Reeves, Pat McGoldrick and Elodie Mulvaney

Skryne Tara AFC

Skryne Spoil Party in Stroll Over Saints at Ballymastone

AUL Premier Div: St. Ita's 1-5 Skryne Tara

It was supposed to be a night of celebration down Ballymastone way as Airtricity League legend Dinny Corcoran made his debut for his hometown club St. Ita's. The opposition - Skryne Tara - had other ideas it seems.



Ita's bossed possession for the opening eight minutes before the visitors sprang to life. In the 8th minute Eric Martin did well to push away a Cathal Finnegan effort and from the resultant corner on the right the same man nipped in at the near stick to meet Conor O'Brien's low delivery and Martin came up with an even better stop. Finnegan though had better luck on 15 when he wriggled into space and his shot was deflected to the net albeit it may have found the target without the deflection and Skryne were one up. Ita's searched for the leveller and the Corcoran brothers, Ben and Dinny linked up well on a couple of occasions but were met with a strong Skryne rearguard. Two goals in three minutes meant the points were headed for County Meath however.

The excellent Jason Fox played Finnegan in and he bagged his second bending it low past Martin and on 41 Tom McKeown rose highest at the far stick to head home another O'Brien corner from the right. The second half began and you felt Ita's needed a goal and quickly.

In minute 53 there was a goal, but it was the visitors who scored it, to make it 4-0. Fox again playing in O'Brien who slotted home despite the attention of three defenders.

Two later Fox came up with the goal that his performance on the night merited when he fired an unstoppable effort to the top corner from 20 yards. Dave Butler cleared the bench and Ita's came into it for the final quarter, albeit the bird had well and truly flown.

On a good note for the hosts Dinny Corcoran came up with a goal on his debut when he headed home a Dylan Knight cross from the right on 66. The only cheering from the sideline however was centred around a mobile phone streaming the Argentina-Netherlands World Cup game.

Eric Martin and John Scott were probably the only two Ita's men to emerge with credit on a dismal night for the club. Excuses?

Well sometimes the weight of expectancy lays too heavy on the shoulders it seems.

I've seen them play a lot, lot better.

That being said Skryne were superb on the night and Fox, O'Brien and Finnegan

caused mayhem. Ita's have the Christmas period to the dust themselves down.

They are a lot better than what we witnessed tonight.

Well done to Jason Fox, Man of the Match.

St. Ita's: Eric Martin, Louis Murphy, Luke Maher, John Scott, Jamie Mullins, Sean Kelly, Daniel Corcoran, Ciaran Lyons, Eric Harrold, Ben Corcoran, Adam Greene.

Subs: Kenny Byrne, David O'Mahony, Dylan Knight, Nicholas O'Mahony, Thomas Keaney, Bobby Kelly, Jordan Brady. Skryne Tara: Darragh Keegan, Luke Thorpe, Darren Fox, Bryan Davis, Stephen O'Brien, Dermot Brennan, Conor O'Brien, Timmy Lennon, Cathal Finnegan, Thomas McKeown, Jason Fox.

Subs: Alan Carty, Mark Jordan, Matthew Synott, Liam Gill, Niall Cleary, Eoghan Greene, Jason Reddy.

Referee: John Thornton.

Assistants:

Brian O'Connor, Paul Shelley.



Referee John Thornton presents Man of the Match awards to Jason Fox.

Green Christmas

Matthew Byrne

Santa looked forward to this time of year; it was one of the few times he left the North Pole and went travelling. He like to think he was the most travelled person in the world, for he had indeed travelled it more times than he could count.



These thoughts ran through Santa's head as he stood on his balcony. It was one of the few places in the North Pole not covered in snow, for it had a roof overhanging it. Santa and Mrs. Claus did not use the balcony very much, due to the freezing temperatures and frequent snow storms. But, for whatever reason, the sky was always clear on Christmas Eve night, which allowed Santa to overlook the landing pad.

For three-hundred and sixty four nights a year, the landing pad was the most desolate place on earth. The elves had no need to go there, and it was too near the village for the animals comfort. However, tonight it was a hub of activity. You could not see the metal floor with the number of elves: elves packing presents into his bag, elves checking on the elves putting presents in the bag, elves checking the sleigh and elves looking after the reindeer. Despite all the elves, nothing bad ever happened on a Christmas Eve Night in a long time, or at least as long as Santa could remember. Santa marvelled at his bag of presents. He still did not fully grasp how the elvish scientists had created it. They blabbered on about quantum this and entanglement that, but Santa was just pleased it worked. An elf gave him the ready signal and so he turned and started

down the wooden staircase at the side of the balcony. On his journey downward, he was afforded a magnificent view of the snowy landscape. Santa admired the snow and he like to think he blended in, with his white beard and all.

When he was at the bottom of the stairs, Santa saw Mrs. Claus coming towards him. She was smiling from ear to ear. Santa could not remember a time when he had seen her so happy. It was actually quite strange, since she was always gloomy and worried before he left. It was as if, because she didn't worry the rest of the year, she condensed that worry into this one night. He was happy for her, but that twinkle in her eyes showed he might not be happy for himself in a bit. "Come dear, I have something to show you," was all she said. Very ominous words, Santa didn't like to remember the last time he had heard them, it had taken him years to adjust to wearing red. Nevertheless, he followed Mrs. Claus to the sleigh. "Well," she began again, "what do you think? It's better, isn't it?" Santa looked at this sleigh, he stared at it and yet could not discern anything different with it. The confusion must have showed on his face, for Mrs. Claus promptly clarified: "It's now green and renewable. It was very old-fashioned before, using the reindeer constantly.

Now it runs under its own power, so the reindeer won't be overworked." Santa had to say something at that point: "Over work the reindeer? They get three-hundred and sixty four days holidays a year. They're the least overworked animals in the world!"

"That's not really the important part dear, it's more important that we're trying our best to help the planet. Come over here, I got the elves to make some adjustments. See, we replaced those antiquated dials and knobs with a modern digital dashboard. It will be much easier to use dear, and much more responsive." Santa had always been more old-fashioned than Mrs. Claus and he definitely felt it at that moment. He had actually liked the 'dials and knobs' and just saw a bunch of strange symbols on a screen in front of him now. However, he held his tongue and let Mrs. Claus continue.

"But that's not all. We put in a rechargeable battery, much longer lifespan than that horrid, oil monstrosity that you had before. We all have to do our part to help the planet. As I said previously, it will help give the reindeer a break. However, contrary to my wishes, I was told that the sleigh could not run entirely on the battery, so it now is a hybrid: battery and reindeer power.

Something else dear, if you press this button, out pops the solar panel, so it can charge while you're working."

Santa couldn't help himself, it just came straight out "I work nights." The expression on Mrs. Claus' face was one of bewilderment, as if that simple fact hadn't even crossed her mind. "Well dear, we can leave it out to charge during the day. Oh, and there's one more thing. In keeping with the spirit of these changes, you can't be giving out any coal anymore. They just get nothing now. It's better for the environment that way." The first thing that came into Santa's head was what they were now going to do with the rooms full of coal they had. He supposed that was tomorrow's worry.

"That's all the major changes, there were a few other minor ones, but nothing that affects anything. Good luck dear, happy flying." With that, Mrs. Claus went off as happy with herself as Santa had ever seen her. Santa got into the sleigh and called for the reindeer to take off, he only trusted the difficult parts of flying to what he knew worked.

Halfway around the world already! Santa believed it was the quickest yet. Or maybe he was just getting better. Despite his reluctance, he had to admit the 'overworked' reindeer did indeed seem happier with this hybrid sleigh contraption. Maybe he shouldn't have doubted Mrs. Claus as quickly as he did.

Santa gazed about at the scenery below him. He had read that Ireland was famous for its forty shades of green. But, seeing as though he only ever saw it at night, he believed it had forty different shades of grey, and very different shades of grey at that. Santa had become very good at telling greys apart, he liked to think he was the world's foremost expert on greys.

Then something happened he wasn't expecting. A beep-beep sound began. At first Santa was scared out of his wits, he had been so heavily concentrated on the greys. But then he realised it must be one of the toys accidentally activated in his bag. He presently began rummaging through the numerous Teddy Bears, Dolls, books, calendars and all the other assorted toys to find the one that had turned on. Yet after checking each and every one, the incessant 'beep-beep' still droned on and on. Finally, he saw

a set of flashing words on the new modern, and extremely difficult to use, dashboard, which read:

LOW BATTERY

Santa scratched his head, this technology stuff was new to him. From the beeping and flashing red letters he got the distinct impression that it was bad. As this train of thought was going through his head, the flashing letters stopped and were replaced by another phrase:

NO BATTERY

This appeared to be worse than before. To be on the safe side, he pressed the button to switch back to reindeer power only to get the following response:

THIS FUNCTION REQUIRES BATTERY - PLEASE TRY AGAIN LATER

Now Santa knew something was definitely amiss. He looked ahead of him to check on the reindeer and had to look upwards to find them. Now that he came to think about it, he could swear that the reindeer were flying upwards. They were certainly getting further away from him. He looked down to see if they were avoiding anything obstructions and it seemed like the land was rising to meet him. Then it dawned on him, ' ' meant no flying in technology speak.

Santa had prepared for a situation like this. He reached under his seat for the ejection lever but all his hand grasped was a piece of paper. He pulled it out and found the following note in Mrs Claus' handwriting:

"Dear, we had to remove the ejection system to make room for the new battery. You don't need the system anymore anyway, the new hybrid sleigh will last the night no problem."

"If only she knew," was the only thing that went through Santa's mind. He searched around for the crash cage lever and sincerely hoped that it hadn't been removed for the solar panel. To his extreme relief, it was still there. He pulled it after strapping himself in and the crash cage came up surrounding him and his precious cargo, blotting out the outside world.

By this time the sleigh had built up enough speed that Santa could hear the sound created by his descent. He waited and waited and waited and

then waited a bit longer. The elves had spoken of how time was all relative, but he had not fully appreciated it until now. Eventually he hit something, and then another something and something else. To Santa it seemed he spent as much time bouncing off things as actually falling. Then the sleigh came to a halt.

Santa pulled the retract lever for the crash cage and light again found its way to his eyes. Not that there was very much light, as it was still Christmas Eve night, so Santa took out his torch and tried to turn it on. All it displayed were what were now Santa's least favourite words in the world " ". After calming down, Santa could have sworn he only put in a new pair of batteries before leaving the North Pole. Feeling around the end of the torch he felt something odd. A Solar Panel! He was not in the humour for any more 'greenness' this night and so vehemently unscrewed the end only to find one large battery. He presumed that had something to do with the solar panel and without hesitation flung it out into the night. After spending an hour searching through his bag of toys, Santa found a suitable replacement battery. Mrs Claus was always reminding him to bring extra batteries for the children.

What the light revealed confused Santa very much. It appeared to be a circular white metal tower. Not white like the snow in the North Pole, but an off-white. He pointed the torch upwards and upwards until the beam reached the top (it was a very strong torch). It seemed a sort of modern windmill with only three short pointy metal sails. Clearly visible on the metal trunk of the contraption was a sleigh-shaped dint. Santa swung the torch around and found that he was surrounded by the things, there much have been about twenty of the giants. Each and every one had either a similar dint, a hole in one of the sails or, worse still, a section taken out of the trunk. Now Santa recognised what they were, wind turbines! Brilliant! Something else added to the list that the new fancy sleigh had ruined.

Santa now ran frantically around the wind farm, desperately trying to find a single turbine undamaged from his descent. After only five minutes of running, he was out of breath. It had been a very long time since he had run like this and he was a lot younger back then. He looked around him and

realised he had reached the boundary of the herd of giants. It was hopeless, he had destroyed the very things that would help him get back.

Just then the scythe-shaped moon appeared from behind the turbid clouds and illuminated the country side around him. Santa had never seen the greys up close and he marvelled at their complexity. Then what he saw in the distance made him jump for joy: a smaller working turbine beside a typical Irish cottage. Except there was one major problem; it was a good distance away due to Santa being grounded. Then, from the back of his mind, he remembered that the elves had said something about making the sleigh lighter. Now that he came to think about it, a single elf had pushed the sleigh out of the storage bay before he left. If a single elf could do it, he thought, then he could certainly do it. After returning to the sleigh Santa gave it a push. It moved and very easily at that. Brilliant, Santa thought, I'll be at the turbine in no time.

An hour and a half later he eventually reached it, panting and sweating, he did not realise quite how many hills were between him and the turbine. Assuming that this smaller wind turbine provided electricity to the house, Santa approached the door to ask if he could charge the sleigh. Firstly however he cleaned himself off a bit, for he wasn't the most respectable looking at that moment, and proceeded to ring the doorbell.

Just when he thought no one was home, a black shape move behind the frosted glass of the door, which presently opened. "How can I help —" the half-awake pencil-thin lady that opened the door stopped mid-sentence and her mouth dropped. All she saw was this old man dressed in a dirty, creased Santa costume complete with beard which, in her current state, she couldn't quite make out whether it was real or not "-you?" Santa noticed the lettering on her pyjamas which read " ". Even the pyjamas were mocking him!

"Well, my vehicle over there", he pointed to the sleigh, "ran out of battery, to make a long story short. See, I'm very new to this electric business and didn't really know the range of it, I saw that you have a wind turbine, and I was wondering if I could charge it up a bit?"

"Paddy, stop messing. This is very good now Paddy, very realistic. But it's too late Paddy", exclaimed the astonished lady.

"I'm afraid you have me confused with someone else. My name is not Paddy. I'm just looking for a bit of help to get me going again, it's Christmas after all."

The expression on the lady's face changed when she realised her mistake. "I'm so sorry. We have a local character that does this sort of thing. Of course, of course. The charging point is in the shed.: She put on her ankle-length red and green coat and led Santa to the shed, pressed a button and a large part of the wall raised smoothly upwards and receded into the roof. Santa was impressed by the level of technology for such a rural dwelling. He pushed the sleigh into the shed. "Now, here's the charging point, it might take a while, we don't have fast charging," the lady said." How long does a charge usually take?" inquired Santa. "Oh, about six hours," came the reply. Now it was Santa's turn to have his mouth drop. Fortunately, in the relative darkness of the shed the kind lady did not notice, bid him good night and returned to her dimly lit house.

Six hours! It would be Christmas Day over most of the world at that point. He would have to go faster, but the elves warned him about that, something about relativity. After calming himself down, Santa decided that the sooner he plugged the sleigh in the sooner it would be fully charged. Sure enough as soon he connected it, the screen read

LOW BATTERY. TIME TO CHARGE: 6 HOURS

The countdown started and then suddenly the machine went ding and the timer was at zero. Santa rubbed his eyes, looked at it and rubbed them again. He couldn't believe it, he will never doubt the elvish scientists again. Santa returned to the sleigh and turned the key. It started! Santa jumped for joy and unceremoniously hit his head off the low ceiling of the shed. After a few minutes recovering, he silently manoeuvred the sleigh out of the shed.

He alighted from the now levitating sleigh and closed the extra-large shed door. He was still taken aback with the automatic door. We could use one of

those in the North Pole. Santa reached into his bag and took out the one special toy that the boy in the house had been waiting for all year and left a note detailing his thanks for the woman's generosity. Remembering the time, he hurriedly returned to the now powered sleigh and lifted off.

Wondering where the reindeer had gotten off to during his escapade, Santa decided to start the search where he last left them. He reckoned that he fell mostly downwards, so he headed in the direction of the herd of giant wind turbines. Lo and behold, the reindeer were precisely where he left them: still floating in the air oblivious to all that had occurred. Reconnecting their harness was a painless procedure, now that the sleigh had been charged.

"Perhaps," Santa thought to himself "this new green-stuff isn't all that bad. Wind power in Ireland did just save Christmas after all." Nevertheless, he would still have to have a talk with Mrs Claus about some things before this time next year.

With that thought and bidding farewell to this welcoming, green land, Santa, plus the reindeer, returned to their once-yearly duties and happily went on their merry way.

The end and a Happy Christmas to all.

Notices:

New 'Chair Pilates'

class commencing in November. This is gentle class using a chair to carry out strengthening & mobility exercises.

Friday morning 10.45am in the RST. Register your interest with Nicola on 087 6975207.

Regular mat based Pilates continues Thursday mornings 10am.





Skryne Therapy Clinic

**HOLISTIC MASSAGE
SPORTS MASSAGE
INDIAN HEAD MASSAGE**

Reopened and taking bookings now
for Day and Evening appointments.

Call Ruth (086) 891 2083



For further information call:
Tracy 087 972 996
Maolise 085 1979717

Phoenix Suites

100% Irish Handmade



30 years experience in the furniture industry

- Suites Made to Order
- Full Reupholstery Service
- Wide Range of Fabrics to choose from
- Top Class Service at Competitive Prices

Visit "Phoenix Suites" on Facebook

Call Joan 086 601 2315

Tara Lodge, Tara, Co. Meath.

Can you solve this Dingbats challenge?

Answers to the wingdings are directly below the quiz

MEDIUM DINGBATS 35 MEDIUM

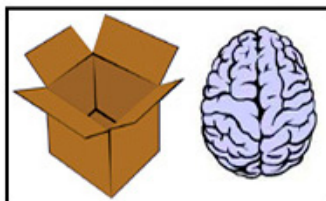
www.quizmasters.biz www.quizmasters.biz



01



02



03



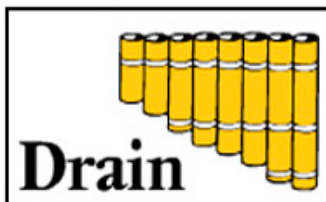
04



05



06



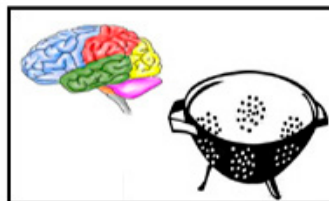
07



08



09



10



11



12

Answers to Dingbats challenge

1 Foghorn, 2 Fish Tank, 3 Box Clever, 4 Stop The Pidgeon, 5 Doctor Zeus, 6 Hourglass Figure,
7 Drain Pipes, 8 Parcel Force, 9 Hat Trick, 10 Brain Strain, 11 Playing The Fool, 12 Not Bad



Find the 8 differences hidden in these two seemingly identical pictures



THE CLUB FOR BUSY PEOPLE

Change the way you live and get in the shape of your life.

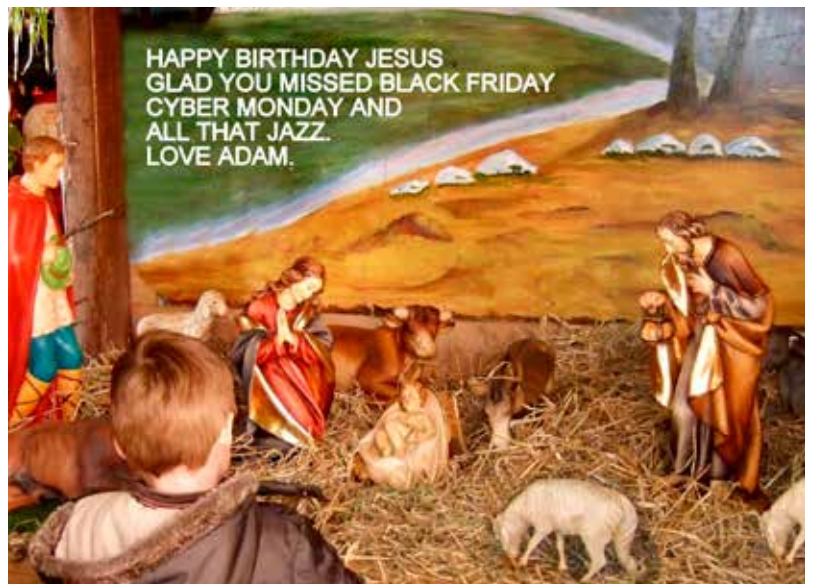
Men's and women's classes catering to all levels are available now at Skryne GFC Gym.

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
7am & 9.15am
Saturday 9am

€5 for members €8 non-members

TEXT 0863380429 to book today

DERVLA DUFFY PT AT SKRYNE GFC





Kindness Elves

The road between Ross Cross and St Cholmcille’s Church has been honoured by the mysterious visits from the Kindness Elves. During Covid lockdown we opened our doors to delicious treats from these kind hearted elves & last spring each home found on their doorstep little pots of seedlings which when transplanted gave our gardens an injection of colour for the summer. This week we again were the recipients of seasonal cup cakes. The nearest we have come to identifying these little elves was the encounter Mary O’Growney had at her window (as in photo). Mary tells us in the blink of an eye the elves disappeared. Our keen photographer captured them on camera departing another house bus likewise in a flash they were gone. We were all heartened by these lovely gestures which gives us great hope for the future & the next generation. *The residents.*



If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind!



THE END of 2022 comes to mind.

Go mbeirimid beo ar an am seo aris.



AWFUL JOKES

Santa

I am terrified of the Santa at the shopping centre where I work. Our HR lady talked it over with me, and has discovered I am Claustrophobic
**

The Holy Family

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, “What was Jesus’ mother’s name?”

One child answered, “Mary.”

The teacher then asked, “Who knows what Jesus’ father’s name was?”

Another child ventured: “Verge?”

Confused, the teacher asked, “Where did you get that?”

He replied hesitantly: “Well, you know they are always talking about Verge n’ Mary.”

**

Visiting Father Christmas

A mother took her young daughter to visit Father Christmas in his grotto at the garden centre. He greeted the youngster merrily and asked: “And what would you like for Christmas?”

The little girl stared at him, openmouthed with horror. “Didn’t you get my email?!”

**



Candlehill Growers



BEDDING PLANTS, BASKETS & POTS
Basket & Pot Refill



A wide range of festive planters available which can make the perfect gift this Christmas. Also ideal for graves.

Contact Willie at 087 130 9060

Candlehill, Oberstown, Tara, Co. Meath, C15 RK54.




MERRY

Christmas

- AND -

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

info@ajprint.ie | www.ajprint.ie | find us on  facebook
Greenpark, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath. A85 N230

 01 825 6402

Condolences

We offer our condolences to the following:

- Finnegan family Jordanstown, Garlow Cross on the death of Anne.
- To the family of Gus (James) Hogarty, Dublin and formerly of Skryne.

Our sympathy to all our readers who have lost loved ones during 2022.

If you have suffered a bereavement recently and we have missed the opportunity to convey our condolences please accept our apology and be assured of our sympathy. RST Committee.



KEEP THE RST AREA TIDY

Local Handy Man Available

SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Carpentry / Wooden Floors / Cabinet Making
- Radiator covers made to measure
- Shelving for Hot Presses
- Side Gates made to measure
- Under Stairs storage units
- Garden Maintenance including Hedge Cutting
- Power-washing Paths & Patios
- PVC Window & Door Maintenance
- repair of Hinges & Locks
- Supply and Fitting of Fireplaces & Stoves

NO JOB TOO SMALL!

Contact: Pauric

T: 046 9034846

M: 085 1597105

SPONSORSHIP OF THE RST NEWSLETTER

BECOME A SPONSOR

We require sponsors for future editions of RST Newsletter.

The cost of sponsorship is €100 which will include a half page advertisement. Interested sponsors please contact Therstnewsletter@gmail.com or telephone Patricia 086 838 8017.

Same contact details apply for advertisements and cost

€25 per half page or €20 for regular repeated half page advertisement.

Smaller advertisements cost €10.

All money raised from this source will be spent to the benefit of the community. Our initial project is to help the RST Community Centre update and further develop their website.

We take this opportunity to thank those who continue to support us through their sponsorship and advertising.

Editorial Notice

The Rathfeigh, Skryne and Tara newsletter (RST) is published by the RST committee supported by submissions from the local community.

It provides a community news and information service to the people and organisations in the area as well as people from further afield.

The RST is provided digitally, free of charge, to anyone who provides their e-mail to the RST committee. E-mails are not shared with anyone outside the committee. Anyone or any company who would like to sponsor the RST are welcome to make a request to the committee.

Anyone who wishes to advertise anything in the RST are asked to make a small contribution to have their advert published.

The RST committee reserves the right to alter, abridge, or omit material, including advertisements submitted, if in its opinion such submissions are seen to affect the Newsletter's function to the community as a whole.

The RST is open to all Articles, letters or other submissions from contributors and are always welcome. However, such published contributions do not necessarily reflect the views of the RST committee. The RST committee are committed to trying to ensure only accurate and legal articles are published.



Next Issue Saturday 28th January

Submissions on or before
Sunday 22nd January 2023

Contact:

Jim: (086) 383 7436

Patricia: (086) 838 8017

Email: therstnewsletter@gmail.com