



RATHFEIGH / SKRYNE / TARA

26th March 2022 • Issue No. 12

## “Flooring Porter”

Many legends, from poets to Gaelic Footballers, have passed through the gates of Rathfeigh N.S. down through the years. We were delighted on Wednesday to be visited by a legend of the equine variety – “Flooring Porter”. His second consecutive victory in the Stayers’ Hurdle at the prestigious Cheltenham festival has put him on a pedestal not just in Rathfeigh and Skryne but amongst the racing fraternity throughout Ireland and Britain. If a third victory is achieved next year then surely a sculpture of “Flooring Porter” will be erected at Swan’s Cross similar to that of the great “Arkle” in Ashbourne!!



Wednesday was a day of great excitement for the children in Rathfeigh as “Flooring Porter” was paraded around the school yard to the delight and amazement of everyone in attendance. An event like this doesn’t happen regularly in schools! It was a real family occasion at the school as Gavin (trainer) was accompanied by Kiva and their three children Jake, Sophie and Camron as well

as the groom Caragh Monaghan. Jake was attired in the silks worn by Danny Mullins (jockey) at Cheltenham and maybe one day he’ll be riding horses professionally for his dad!

The smiles from everyone connected with the horse was a joy to see and we, in Rathfeigh N.S, were privileged to be present for this special occasion. We thank Gavin, any everyone connected with “Flooring Porter”, for giving of their time to visit the school. We wish Gavin the best of luck in his future endeavours with the horse and hopefully there will be more great days ahead.

*This issue is sponsored by*

**MAGUIRES OF TARA**

# Fergal Mooney - Appreciation



The family of Fergal Mooney would like to thank everyone for their endless support conveyed in a myriad of ways from kind words, cards, phone & text messages, flowers, food, parking, printing to prayers and beautiful funeral service but most of all for being there with us following Fergal's recent passing on the 1st March 2022.

Fergal was a unique character, authentic and true to himself who lived his life without regret or fear of other's opinions. Deeply rooted in the community of Skyrne, he loved its fields and farming life, the GAA where he served Skyrne GFC as an executive member and treasurer for a period and more recently in fundraising events. Most of all he loved its people. Fergal enjoyed the craic and the company wherever he went. A lifelong member of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association, a title he wore lightly but steadfastly, he never needed any aid to be himself but was always happy to ferry his fellow merry-makers' home safely after nights out. Razor sharp with a great ironic sense of humour, he thoroughly enjoyed conversing and maintained those characteristics to the end. Fiercely loyal and good in a crisis situation he would go to any lengths to help someone out, taking particular pleasure if that help required a bit of driving.

He was educated in St. Pats Classical School in Navan and later attended the Dundalk Institute of Technology. He very

much enjoyed the farming community that his work put him in touch with and they soon became part of his wide circle of friends. He was keenly interested and well-versed in current and local affairs and all things political and was actively involved in the IFA. As a skilled debater if you wanted to take Fergal on you had better be informed as many a local and national representative found to their cost!

He cut his teeth on billiards, snooker, pitch and putt and golf in Skyrne & Rathfeigh and for many years made annual pilgrimages to Cheltenham with the lads! In more recent times his garden and polytunnel, a passion he shared with his wife Sheila, provided a safe haven and he also enjoyed working on the restoration of his vintage tractor and had plans afoot for further restoration projects.

While he had a deep love for the local, he loved to travel and wholeheartedly embraced the culture, language and cuisine wherever he travelled. While his time with us was cut short, he certainly made the most of it and together with his wife and soulmate Sheila he enjoyed every minute of every day of his life.

Though our roads diverge for now Fergal and our lives are duller for your absence, we know our paths will reunite again.

*'Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h'anam dílis'*

A month's memory mass will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 11am in St. Colmcille's Church, Skyrne.

## Skyrne Golf Society

**Our season started with an outing to Sillogue Park golf course on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March. The weather was favourable and twenty one members enjoyed a great day out. The game was followed by dinner and our AGM in Swan's.**

New and returning members are welcome. Contact any member or committee member. Membership is €50 and every outing costs €60 which includes golf, the 2's competition and a meal afterwards. Outings are generally one per month from March to September/October with a turkey outing close to Christmas.

Among the confirmed outings for 2022 are Headfort in April, Mullingar in May and St Margaret's in July.

The committee includes Willie Rogan (Chair), Liz Rogan (Secretary), Noel Gallagher (Handicaps) and Luke Bowden (Treasurer).





# Meath Scór na nÓg

Fantastic representation for Skryne at the Meath Scór na nÓg competition today in Summerhill. Our youngest competitors Eve Clarke and Eve Geraghty gave a flawless performance in instrumental music category. Jay Jay Lynch performed beautifully in the Solo Singing category. Last but not least our older performers Aisling O'Connor, Caoimhe Giles, Ellie Kate McDonnell and Tommy Tobin performed to win the Instrumental Music Category and qualify for the Leinster competition in Westmeath on 26th March. Missing today was Darragh O'Dowd who will hopefully make a speedy recovery and rejoin the group for the Leinster competition. Well done to all the fantastic Skryne performers.

## Best of luck today



## Brian Whelan

Oberstown, Tara, & formerly Ashbourne.


**The family of the late Brian Whelan wishes to acknowledge the many expressions of Sympathy and gestures of kindness shown to us during our sad loss.**

*Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair,  
Perhaps you sent a floral display, if so, we saw it there,  
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words that anyone could say,  
Perhaps you were not there at all but thought of us on the day,  
Whatever you did to console our broken hearts,  
We thank you so much.*

## SPECIAL THANKS

to the Brazilian jiu jitsu club parnell street, Dublin who posthumously awarded Brian the black belt in the sport on his funeral day.

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## Local Fairs

There is a fair held at Skryne on the 12<sup>th</sup> October, but it is nothing like the fairs long ago. People nearly always go to the town to buy or sell because it is nearer to the station. There is a fair held in Ratoath on the 20<sup>th</sup> June and on the 20<sup>th</sup> Nov.

There is a market in Kavan every Monday fortnight. It is held on the Fair Green. When men are making a bargain some of them strike hands and others spit on them. When the cattle are sold some men clip their sides and others tear a piece out of the labels. There is a half-crown luck money given with every beast.

Annie Fitzsimons

Greenpark,

Dunshaughlin.

This month's Dúchas article is from Annie Fitzsimons, Rathfeigh School

Image and data © National Folklore Collection, UCD



# Auspicious April

Anne Frehill



## Is there any month more beautiful than April?

**On the ground Nature weaves a stunning carpet of cream, yellow and blue flowers. While on banks and roadsides, crowds of daffodils nod to passers-by. Not to be overlooked are the shrubs and trees that flower in clouds of white or subtle pink blossom.**

And who can resist the charms of magnolias, each one exquisite in their own way and then there are the splendid cherry trees which cannot be surpassed because they put on two spectacular shows: The first in early spring when branches are bedecked with startlingly white blossoms along with silvery-pink or copper-tinted leaves and the second breath taking display during - "the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" - Autumn.

On a different topic, given that Easter Sunday falls this year on 17<sup>th</sup> April I think it appropriate to share with you a story that I came across last year about Leonardo Da Vinci and Judas Iscariot. The former an Italian artist and scientist was born on April 15<sup>th</sup> in 1452, (and in the parlance of the day) the illegitimate son of a Florentine notary and a peasant woman. He studied art in Florence before he moved to Milan. It was in that city that he painted one of his best known works the *Last Supper*, on the wall in the

refectory of the convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie (where it remains to this day). It is said that it took him seven years to complete this painting and that the figures representing Christ and the twelve apostles were painted from real life models. Hundreds applied to act as models but for the figure of Christ he chose a young man of 19 years who had not only a calm and peaceful expression but exuded innocence. It took him six months to complete this and then another six years passed as he painted 11 out of the twelve apostles.

However, when it came to representing the final apostle, he searched and searched for someone with a face to match that of Judas who betrayed his Lord for thirty pieces of silver.

Hundreds of prospective models passed in front of him, but none matched what he sought. He was seeking the face of a hard, cold man who had deceit, avarice and hypocrisy etched in every line. Then

just as he was beginning to despair of ever finding the requirements that he sought he heard of a criminal who was awaiting execution in the dungeon of a filthy prison in Rome. When Da Vinci made the trip to Rome to see him, he knew instantly that it was exactly the face he had been seeking. The man had a vicious face reflecting a life of crime.

By special permission the prisoner was carried from Rome to Milan where Da Vinci painted him for many months, successfully portraying on canvas the features of this prisoner who sat silently in front of him week after week.

After Da Vinci had finished the guards were taking the prisoner away when the prisoner turned to the great painter and said: "Do you not know me?"

Da Vinci replied: "I have never seen you before until you were brought here out of the dungeon in Rome."

The prisoner turned his face to the painter and spoke.

"Leonardo Da Vinci, look at me carefully again. I am the same man you painted just seven years ago as the figure of Christ."

(The final part of this piece about the *Last Supper* is an extract from the Spanish magazine "Amigos de Fray Martin.")

Finally, given the great evil that has been thrust upon Ukraine one towering truth has I believe emerged from all the horrendous suffering of humans and animals. We have seen that every single one of us can take a stand against injustice in small ways, by simple acts of kindness.

From "Tintern Abbey" by William Wordsworth ( July 13<sup>th</sup> 1798) comes the following words which resonate through the centuries.

"His little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love."

The End

# Night Sky March 2022

by Tony Canavan

## Phases of the Moon:

**New Moon:** 1st April, **First Quarter:** 9th April, **Full Moon:** 16th April, **Last Quarter:** 23rd April

**New Moon** 30th April. **Sunrise** 06:56 **Sunset** 8 pm

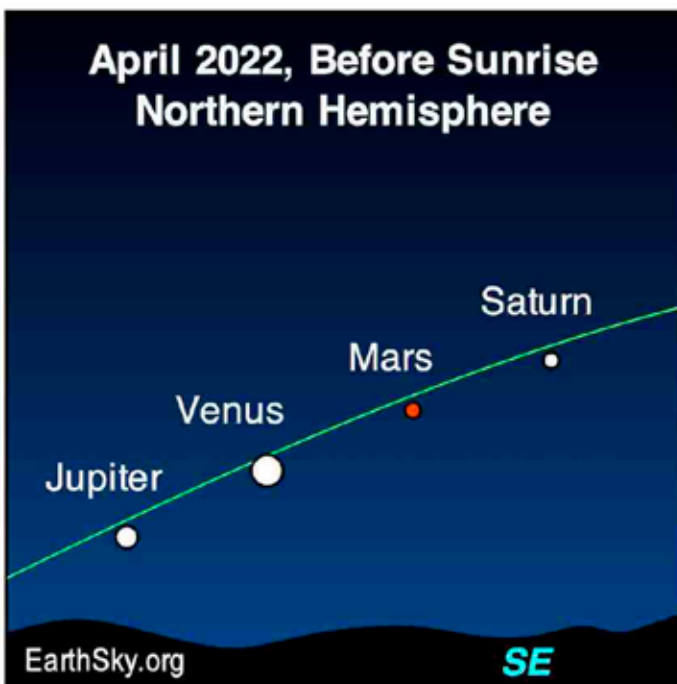
The full moon is known as 'The Pink Moon', so named for the pink blooms of the phlox flower found in America.

## 1st April:

New moon (no moon visible) with evenings in spring best time to see very thin crescent moon near the horizon after sunset.

## 4th/5th April

in the evening sky the crescent moon visits two famous star clusters located in the direction of the constellation Taurus the Bull i.e. the Hyades cluster shaped like a V, representing the horns of the bull and the Pleiades star cluster (the Seven Sisters).



## Mid-April:

Jupiter will join Saturn, Mars and Venus in the morning sky about one hour before sunrise.

## April 20th at about 8 pm:

In the eastern sky constellations of Leo and Virgo are rising, Pollux and Castor and Sirius are to the south, Orion is to the southwest, Betelgeuse and Pleiades and the planet Mercury are setting.

## April 24th/25th /26th:

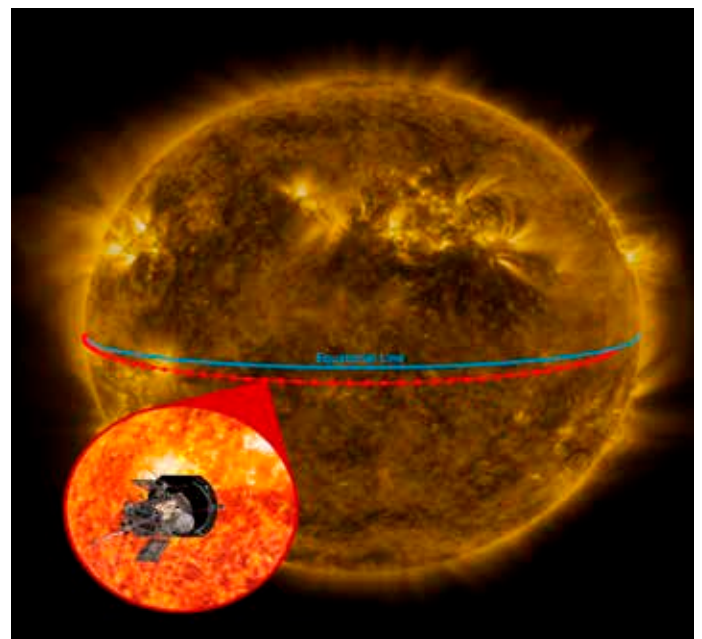
The waning crescent moon lies west of Saturn in the morning of the 24th and east of Saturn on 25th April. On 27th April, before sunrise, the thin crescent moon passes Mars and then hovers below Jupiter and Venus.

## Solar Storms and Sunspots:

The sun has an eleven-year cycle of sunspots, and you can see how active these sunspots are in the picture. The present cycle started in 2020 and each year it will climb to its peak of sunspots before returning to its lower activity towards the end of the eleven-year cycle. The Solar Cycle 25 will peak in 2025 but it is predicted to be one of the lowest intensity cycles since records began in 1755. However at this moment in time it is more active than predicted.

Sun's magnetic field lines start out on the cycle with the usual north south pattern. But the sun's polar cap rotates faster than the rest of the sun and the lines become tangled and crossed until the north pole becomes the south pole and vice versa after eleven years and the cycle starts again.

Solar storms can impact GPS systems. GPS radio signals pass from the satellite through the earth's ionosphere to the receiver. But when the ionosphere is disturbed by space weather the receivers are not able to accurately calculate a position. The earth's magnetic poles have also flipped over the last 20 million years, usually every 200,000 to 300,000 years but it is at least twice this time since it has happened.



# Credit NASA

These types of CME's usually take place from areas of the sun with localized stressed magnetic flux such as regions associated with sunspots. They are large expulsions of plasma and magnetic field from the Sun's corona.

They travel outward from the sun at speeds of up to 3000 kms per second and can reach our planet in as little as 18 hours. You can see in the picture the plasma following the magnetic lines up into the sun's corona from the sunspots.

The Parker Sol Probe is presently orbiting the sun at 8 million kilometres (see red line) because we still have much to learn, particularly about the sun's corona. In March 1989 a geomagnetic storm occurred and struck earth causing a 9 hour outage of electricity throughout the province of Quebec. This was in a very active part of solar cycle 22.



James Webb Telescope:

## Webb should be 100 times more powerful than Hubble and that target has been exceeded.

The James Webb telescope performance so far has been described by NASA as 'everything we dared hope for'. The telescope was pointed at star HD84406 'a boring star in our Milky Way'. Initially it showed 18 images of the same star with each of the 18 segments acting as a separate telescope. Although Webb was only focused on the star it did pick up other peripheral images which when enlarged they were all ancient galaxies with the image in the top right corner of two merging galaxies, as will happen with our own galaxy and Andromeda galaxy in a few billion years. Webb can see the infrared wavelength of the early universe. This is just a taster of what Webb is capable of.

**Artemis 1:** Launch date for Artemis 1 is April/May. The rocket has been moved out of its hanger for launch testing and I presume the launch date will depend on the test results. It will launch from Kennedy Space Center in Florida. It is unmanned and will be controlled from the ground. It will go into a lunar orbit and use lunar gravity to gain speed and the propel itself 70,000 kms beyond the moon and back. The next mission will have four astronauts onboard.

## 22 Irish Candidates for Astronaut Recruitment:

The European Space Agency (ESA) received 22,523 applications for its astronaut program. There were 22 successful candidates from Ireland and they will progress to the next stage.

This will involve a day of psychological performance testing. There are 13 men and 9 women. They also have a 'parastronaut' program to include people with disabilities as astronauts. There were 257 applications for these positions and 27 candidates have gone through to the next stage.

## Ripples of War:

Science has always tried to operate as a beacon of hope for collaboration in scientific endeavours. But Putin's terrible invasion of the Ukraine has all but eliminated neutrality in the scientific world.

The Russian and Americans have co-operated since 1975, even when relations were strained during 'Cold War' and the invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. Following western sanctions, Roscosmos, the Russian space Agency announced that it would cease operations as ESA's spaceport in French Guinea, from where many of the ESA space missions are launched from.

The joint operation for the ExoMars rover mission, the Rosalind Franklin, due to land a rover on Mars this autumn, is in doubt as is future mission and co-operation on the International Space Station.

The latter is due to cease operations in 2030 due to age. The United States has long depended on Russia for rocket engines, but this situation has begun to change in recent years.



# Scoil Cholmcille, Skryne

Tom Brennan

The weather has taken a noticeable turn for the better and outside the school the daffodils are in full bloom. Spring, it seems, has sprung and with school life returning to normal there is renewed optimism amongst our children as they mix together more freely and engage in various school activities which, up to now, had been postponed. See below for some of what has been happening in Scoil Cholmcille this month.

## Welcome

We have had the pleasure of welcoming three new children to our school this month. Daria, Damir and Artem come to us from Ukraine which, as we have all seen, is currently ravaged by war. Despite their tough circumstances, we hope they will be happy during their time here. Already they have settled in very well and are experiencing the famous Skryne welcome from teachers and pupils alike. I have no doubt that they will be a fabulous addition to our school. The wider Skryne community has displayed remarkable kindness and support in welcoming these children and their families to the area. Ní neart le chur le chéile!



Reminder to all that Walk on Wednesdays will recommence tomorrow-23rd of March.  
Walk or Cycle from Tara AC or Swan's car park.  
Many thanks,  
The Green Committee, Scoil Cholmcille

## Green Schools

With brighter mornings and evenings on the horizon, our Coiste Glas have relaunched Walk On Wednesdays (WOW). This initiative encourages our pupil to travel to school in environmentally sustainable ways. Each month we award a prize to the class who have most pupils walking to school. Please see the flyer below.

## Sport

The excitement was palpable last week, as after almost two years Cumann na mBunscol activities resumed in schools. Our boys and girls competed in the divisional rounds of the Mini Sevens competition. After some great performances, our girls were unlucky to lose out in the final of their competition. Our boys managed to go one better winning the final of their division and qualifying for the county finals to be held in Dunganny on March 29th.



Last week, as part of Women in Sport Week, Basketball Ireland hosted a 'HER WORLD, HER RULES' basketball event for girls in the National Basketball Arena, Tallaght. The 5th and 6th Class girls of Scoil Cholmcille attended this event. It comprised of different stations that included: fun games, basketball skills, 3v3, shoot outs etc. There were basketball stars in attendance demonstrating their skills and answering the girls' questions. T/Shirts and Goodie Bags were also received by our girls. This was an inclusive, fun event and a great way to celebrate Girls in Sport.



On the 6th April our 5th Class boys and girls will take part in their third orienteering event of the year. After strong performances so far this year, our pupils will be hoping for another successful day out when they travel to Marlay Park in Dublin for the event.





### Silver Cards

Just before the February midterm we awarded some of our coveted Silver Cards. These cards are extremely hard to come by and are awarded for exceptional behaviour. The winners, pictured below, were nominated by their teachers for qualities such as friendship, improved effort, diligence and a positive attitude. Well done all!



### First Penance

The boys and girls in Second Class will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) on Wednesday, March 30th at 7pm in Skryne Church. The pupils have been working very hard to prepare with Ms McDonagh. We hope they have an enjoyable evening.

### Tess Kennedy RIP

The Scoil Cholmille school community wish to express our sincerest condolences to the Kennedy family on the passing of Tess Kennedy whose death occurred on Sunday, February 27th.

*Tess was the beloved mother of our former principal, Mr. Martin Kennedy. Our thoughts are with him especially, at this sad time. Ar dheis*



**Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.**



Skryne GFC launched our new website in March.

 **Log onto**  
**[www.skrynegfc.ie](http://www.skrynegfc.ie)**  
for all of the latest news, match reports, fixtures and results.

## BLOTTO RESULTS

**20 Mar 22**

**Jackpot: €8,700**

Numbers drawn: 13, 20, 26, 27

No Jackpot Winner. Lucky Dip Winners: James Murphy, Eamon Giles, Saoirse Carty, Niamh Finnerty

**13 Mar 22**

**Jackpot: €8,600**

Numbers drawn: 10, 12, 15 22

No Jackpot Winner. Lucky Dip Winners: Aaron Jordan, Deirdre McAleer, Michael Looby, Gerard Clarke

**06 Mar 22**

**Jackpot: €8,500**

Numbers drawn: 11, 14, 21, 28

No Jackpot Winner. Lucky Dip Winners: Des Manning, Jenny Banks, Ollie Tobin, Cormac Keogh

# Rathfeigh National School

Seamus Tansley

## Admissions for the 2022/23 School Year

We thank everyone who sent in Enrolment Forms for their children starting school in September. We have written to all these parents/guardians offering their children a place in Junior Infants. Parents/guardians have until April 2nd to confirm written acceptance of a place. If you didn't receive a letter from the school please contact the school as soon as possible. If you would like to find out more information about the school please log onto the school website [rathfeighns.org](http://rathfeighns.org) or e-mail the school [rathfeighns@outlook.com](mailto:rathfeighns@outlook.com)

## St.Patrick's Céilí

After a two year absence we were delighted to celebrate our céilí in the school hall on March 16th. The children looked splendid in their Irish colours. All classes did a great variety of dances and all their hard work practising over the previous few weeks paid off as there wasn't a step out of place! Not only was the dancing of the highest quality but the children's vocal chords were in perfect working order as they belted out the songs "Ireland's Call", "Fields of Athenry" and "Amhrán na bhFiann".

A special thanks to all the children who performed songs, played musical instruments and Irish dancing. They were all fantastic and they should all be very proud of themselves. Thanks to Mrs Vaughan for all her work teaching the dances to the children in all classes.



## World Book Day

The school was a buzz of excitement on World Book Day as the children arrived to school dressed as their favourite characters from a book. The variety of characters on display were too many to mention. We had an assembly at which the children spoke very eloquently about their favourite books. Over the course of the week the children were engaged in a variety of interesting class activities associated with World Book Day and were given book vouchers. Reading really is a gift and as the comedian Groucho Marx once said "Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read" (Groucho Marx).

## Orienteering

With the lifting of restrictions the children in Rathfeigh can finally go on field trips again. The children in 5th/6th and 3rd/4th went orienteering for the first time in Balrath Woods on the 10th and 11th of March respectively. To say they were excited was an understatement as they "took on" the course with gusto and determination. They were all very determined to complete the course in the quickest time as the course organiser, Kathryn Walley, had a prize for the first finishers. Well done to Luke and Ruadhán (6th) and Stevie and Lucy (4th) who completed the course in the quickest times. We hope to return to Balrath before the school year ends!

## Congratulations!

We congratulate Camron, Sophie and Jake as their Dad Gavin trained the winner of the Long Distance hurdle in Cheltenham. This was an unbelievable achievement as the quality of horses in the race was sky high. Well done to all involved.

## Gaelic Football

The 7-a-side Gaelic Football blitzes took place in mid-March. Our boys' team lost both of their matches narrowly but we were very proud of their efforts as they had only two sixth class pupils on the team. Our girls' team were victorious in their blitz after defeating Skryne in the final. This was a tremendous victory for our girls and we wish them well in the finals. Thanks to Ms Reynolds and Teresa for all their work with the team.

## Pancake Tuesday

We definitely have a few budding chefs in Rathfeigh if Pancake Tuesday is anything to go by! Our 6th class pupils took on the onerous task of making pancakes for all the pupils in the school. The pancakes were of the highest quality and many pupils were seen licking their plates! The pupils were ably assisted by Greg, Caroline and Hazel for which we thank them.

## First Confession

The children in second class received their second sacrament (First Confession) in Rathfeigh church a few weeks ago. Thanks to Ms O'Donoghue for preparing the children and to Fr Thomas for the lovely ceremony.





## International Women's Day 2022

International Women's Day 2022 took place on the 8th March. The theme for this year's event was 'Break the Bias' It focused on the need to tackle bias, stereotypes and discrimination, seeking to create a world that is diverse, equitable and inclusive. We celebrated the event over the course of the week and did lessons on the topic in school and for homework e.g. famous female leaders, female superhero comics, inspirational women in our lives etc. We have great women leaders and inspirational women throughout the world and some of their quotes may inspire us and the children to live our lives in an equitable manner.

*"A girl should be two things – who and what she wants" (Coco Chanel).*

*"Women are leaders everywhere we look from the CEO who runs a Fortune 500 Company to the housewife who raises here children and leads her household – Our country was built by strong women, and we will continue to break down walls and defy stereotypes" (Nancy Pelosi)*

*"In the future there will be no female leaders. There will be just leaders" (Sheryl Sandberg)*

*A strong woman knows she has the strength enough for the journey, but a woman of strength knows it is in the journey where she will become strong." (Unknown)*



# Skryne Girls pick up first ever Minor Title

by Ruth Moore

On a dry but cold Sunday morning at the end of February Skryne's Minor girls team travelled to Dunganny to face old foes Seneschalstown in a Division One final encounter.

Familiarity they say breeds contempt but not for Skryne who were very much up for the latest instalment/battle against the Safron and blue of Seneschalstown.

The game started in dramatic fashion with Seneschalstown winning the throw in and a quickly taken free over the top of the Skryne defence should have produced a goal but for a very smart save from Skryne keeper Aoife McLoughlin. The Skryne girls won the resultant "45" burst forward and Ciara Smyth finished to the net with a well taken goal.

Seneschalstown aided by a strong breeze began to pressurize the Skryne defense

but some resolute defending from Lisa Browne, Samantha Clarke, Caragh Conway, Destiny Carty, Ciara Cowley and Steffi Finnegan ensured the Skryne girls were well on top.

Going forward Skryne Midfielders Sasha Guirey and Ava Purcell ensured ample supply of ball was presented to the six Skryne forwards.

Another well worked move from Skryne involving Ellie Murphy, Laura Mangan Amy O'Dowd and Ciara Smyth yielded a second goal for Skryne leaving the half time score Skryne 2-5 Seneschalstown 0-5.

The second half was no more than 3 minutes old when Skryne had the ball in the back of the net through some hard running from Aisling O'Connor and Kate Gibbons and some fine passing from

Roisin McManus resulted in another goal for the Skryne Girls.

It now looked ominous for Seneschalstown but to their credit they kept battling and scored two penalties within five minutes of each other.

A couple of Skryne substitutions Caoimhe Govern and Emma Loftus assisted in keeping the score board ticking over as the Skryne Girls recorded a first ever Minor Title and a first for the Club at Division 1 since 1973/74.

The final Score in Dunganny was Skryne 4-11 Seneschalstown 2-5

A great day for the club was rounded off when Captain Amy O'Dowd accepted the Cup from LGFA Chairperson Colm McManus.



The Panel was as follows:

Aoife McLoughlin, Ciara Cowley, Destiny Carty, Steffi Finnegan, Samantha Clarke, Lisa Browne, Caragh Conway, Sasha Guirey, Ava Purcell, Ciara Smyth, Amy O'Dowd, Aisling O'Connor, Ellie Murphy, Roisin McManus, Laura Mangan, Kate Gibbons, Caoimhe Govern, Emma Loftus, Shauna Hogan, Rebecca Clarke, Katie Purcell, Sarah Pentony, Beth Shanley, Grainne Hanley. Bainisteoir: Ollie McLoughlin.

Mentors: Declan Smyth, Nicola Rogan, Elizabeth Morland, Madonna Purcell, Brenda Griffin, Eabha McLoughlin.

The div 3 girls also won their first league match v Moylagh on Sunday last week





# Hillview Nursing Home

Tom Brennan



Hillview Nursing Home celebrated St Patrick's day in style recently, with an afternoon of music and dancing.



## Notices

### Skryne Community Alert

There have been burglaries in the RST area since the last newsletter. Please remain vigilant and report all suspicious activity to gardai, before a crime is committed. You can contact Ashbourne Gardai on 01 801 0600. If urgent call 999.

### Ukraine Crisis

A number of families fleeing the war in Ukraine have been welcomed into homes in the RST area in recent weeks. If you would like to pledge assistance, please register at <https://registerofpledges.redcross.ie/#/>

### 3 bedroom house for rent in Rathfeigh.

Contact Ken on (086)8032436.

## Tracing Our Ancestors

Joan Gallagher

Another thing I always wanted to do was to try to trace our ancestors, so now that I had the time, my brother Patsy, his wife Mary and myself went off on the "hunt" and after searching long and hard in numerous cemeteries, Births, Marriages and Deaths Office, the National Archives etc. etc., we were able to go back to the early 1800's and found two more generations of our family, that makes a total of six generations that we can account for. This is very rewarding, but I must warn you it takes a lot of time, and patience.

As a direct result of all this searching and researching, we found the names and dates we needed to erect a Headstone over our Grandparents and Aunt, (who are buried in Skryne Cemetery), something we had talked about doing for a long time. These relations all died long before any of us were born, and I have to say we all had a "nice feeling" when the job was complete. Whenever I have doubts about the hereafter, (and which of us don't) at times like these the doubts are dispelled, as I felt very close to these people whom I had never met.

It was around this time that I started scribbling poetry (Oh all right, my version of poetry then). My Granddaughter, Hazel, (who lived next door), from the age of seven or eight used to run down across the garden every day after school, and say "right, put on the kettle, we'll have a cup of coffee and you can tell me more about the olden days".

Now the olden days to me mean a few hundred years ago, but to Hazel the olden days she wanted to hear about were my childhood and schooldays etc. etc. This went on for so long that I was running out of things to tell her which prompted the following poem.

### Grandchildren

*Those kids will be the death of me they have me in a daze,  
They keep on asking questions like, how was it in the olden days.  
How did you get to school before the bus or Mummy's car,  
What did you do when you came home and had your homework done,  
With no computers, videos or TV. what did you do for fun.  
Well, we had loads of trees to climb, and lambs to watch at play,  
We had mushrooms to collect and help build cocks of hay.  
We had lots of plums and apples to find, not always with permission,  
Sure how on earth would we have time to watch a television.  
We had the roads to ourselves to cycle on, no cars to knock us down  
And we had absolute riches if we had half a crown.  
Our parents never worried about things like kidnappin'  
It never even crossed their minds such things could ever happen.*

Latest Snippet from Joan Gallagher's book "Milestones along the Journey of Life"

# Skryne GFC - March Match Reports

Rowan Dardis

## 04th March 2022

### Castletown too strong for Skryne

Castletown 3-13 Skryne 0-06  
A League Division 3a – Round 1

Skryne's reserve team made the trip to Castletown for Round 1 of their A League campaign. The lads battled hard throughout but faced a strong Castletown team who secured a comfortable victory over the boys in blue.

Skryne were missing several players who would normally line out for the reserves and had only 16 players to choose from on the night. Castletown had three points on the board before Oisín Keogh got Skryne off the mark in the 7th minute. Castletown hit the back of the net 5 minutes later. A Gary Browne kickout was fetched superbly by the Castletown midfielder who immediately shot a high lofted effort towards the Skryne goal while Gary was retreating back towards the goal. The ball dipped just underneath the crossbar and into the Skryne net. The home team added a further two points before they plundered

another goal with 10 minutes remaining in the half. Skryne lost possession on their own 45 metre line. Castletown worked the ball into Kevin Ross who squared the ball across the Skryne goal where it was finished to the back of the net. Skryne finished the half strongly bagging three points (John Morley (0-2), Kian Reddy) in the last 5 minutes of the half. However, Castletown had a healthy nine point lead at half time. Castletown 2-07, Skryne 0-04.

Things didn't get any better for Skryne in the second half. Castletown added three more points to their tally and should have scored a goal when two Castletown forwards raced towards the Skryne goal faced with only one defender. Kevin Ross looked certain to hit the back of the net but his shot slithered past the outside of the post and wide leaving Skryne breathing a sigh of relief. Kian Reddy struck his second

point of the match to open the scoring for Skryne in the second half. Castletown hit another two points before their midfielder slammed a volleyed effort off the Skryne crossbar. John Morley pointed a free for Skryne, but Castletown got their third goal on the 20th minute of the half when one of their substitutes won possession in front of the Skryne goal before dispatching the ball low into the bottom left corner of the Skryne goal. As mentioned at the beginning Skryne didn't lack in effort in this game, but Castletown just proved too strong. Full-time: Castletown 3-13, Skryne 0-06.

Skryne – Gary Browne; Jack Dardis, Scott Armstrong, Kristoffer Kinsella; Jack Swan, Ronan McCabe, Kian Reddy (0-2); Niall Morland, Mark Harrington; Mark Swan, Jason Reddy, Craig Nolan; Seán Cassidy, John Morley (0-3, 1f), Oisín Keogh (0-1).  
Subs used – Andrew Nolan

## 05th March 2022

### Finnerty points the way to victory

Gaeil Colmcille 1-10 Skryne 1-11  
A League Division 1a – Round 1

An injury time winner from Niall Finnerty gave Skryne a deserved victory in sunny Grangegodden.

Conditions were perfect in Grangegodden for yesterday's welcome return of the All County A League, a competition which was absent in 2021 due to the Covid pandemic. The match didn't disappoint as both sides served up some terrific football throughout.

Skryne opened the scoring with their first attack when Harry Rooney won the ball in midfield and ran at the Gaeils defence before laying off to Darragh Campion. Campo fed the ball to full forward Neil Burke who slotted over. Skryne were still calibrating their radar and while dominant in the opening 10 minutes, they were guilty of missing a number of good chances to extend their lead. A pointed free from Seamus Mattimoe

drew the Kellsmen level. Skryne were forced to make an early substitution when Pdraig Finnerty limped off with a foot injury to be replaced by brother Niall. He was to bag Skryne's next score, a point from the left hand side. Darragh Campion added a third after he took a short sideline ball on the left hand side to Conor O'Brien. OB played the ball back to Campion who moved inside and struck the ball over the bar. Gaeil Colmcille won a penalty on the 13th minute when their full forward was pulled down inside the square. Brian O'Hanlon stepped up and hit a low shot to the left hand side of the Skryne goal to put the Kellsmen ahead for the first time in the game. Skryne almost hit a goal themselves 2 minutes later when Niall Finnerty collected the ball in the left corner forward position. He drilled a lovely pass to Mark Battersby in front of the Gaeil Colmcille goal. Batts turned and

fired a bullet of a shot which rebounded off the underneath of the crossbar and back out before the Kellsmen cleared their lines and launched a counter attack which almost finished with a goal for them when the ball was squared across the goal to an incoming forward who punched the ball towards the Skryne net only to see the ball kept out on the goal line and cleared by the Skryne defence. Gaeil Colmcille added another point from play to extend their lead to two points. However, guided by the superb Darragh Campion who caused the Kells defence all sorts of problems in the first half, Skryne dominated the remaining 10 minutes scoring 1-05 to a single point, the goal coming from Niall Finnerty. Campion had made a brilliant run through the Gaeil Colmcille defence, side stepping defenders along the way. A last gasp tackle from a Kells defender dispossessed Campion, but



Niall Finnerty was on hand to pounce on the loose ball and he drove it off the ground into the back of the Gaeil Colmcille net. Half-time score: Gaeil Colmcille 1-03, Skryne 1-08.

Skryne were met with a stiffer challenge from the Kellsmen in the second half. Two early points saw the gap reduced to just three points. On the 8th minute Niall Finnerty got Skryne's opening score of the half after swapping passes with brother John. Three more points without a reply saw the Kellsmen reduce the deficit to just one point midway through the half. Skryne had two goal chances in the same move 17 minutes into the half. The first from Niall Finnerty who's shot was parried out to the wing by the keeper. The ball was centred again

to Frank Carty who's shot was saved this time by a Kells defender. Mark Battersby put Skryne two ahead on 21st minute but Kells replied with a pointed free three minutes later. Skryne held a one point lead at the end of normal time, but Gaeil Colmcille won a free in the 32nd minute. They converted the free to level matters. However, Skryne showed excellent fighting spirit and with 4 minutes of injury time elapsed Conor O'Brien picked the ball up in the right corner. He sent a high ball in towards the Kells goal. Mark Battersby won the possession and he centred the ball to Niall Finnerty who fired over the winning point much to the delight of the Skryne crowd. Skryne had to soak up pressure in the remaining injury time which totalled almost 8 minutes, but

hold on they did and were deserving winners in an excellent game.

Skryne will take a lot of heart from this game. This was a tremendous team effort. While the forwards tend to get all the kudos, the defensive effort was excellent throughout. Skryne will be satisfied that they stood toe to toe with one of the strongest teams in the county and came away with the 2 points.

Skryne – Ian Gillett; Robbie Clarke, Ciarán Lenehan, David Carroll; John O'Regan, David McGoldrick, Frank Carty; Harry Rooney, Stephen O'Brien; Conor O'Brien, Darragh Campion(0-2), John Finnerty; Padraig Finnerty, Neil Burke(0-1), Mark Battersby(0-5,3fs).  
Subs used – Niall Finnerty(1-3), Jarlath Jordan, Oisín Keogh

## 20th March 2022

### Skryne overcome strong Trim challenge

Skryne 2-12 Trim 1-11  
A League Division 3a – Round 2

After a disappointing opening round defeat against Castletown, Skryne produced a much better performance to overcome a stubborn Trim team who made Skryne work hard for their victory.

Trim had the benefit of a strong breeze blowing straight down the field from the scoreboard end in the first half and they were first to get off the mark when their corner back Eoin Sweeney made a good run up the pitch before passing to Sean Foley who pointed from the right hand side. Trim added a second from Paul Munnally before Tommy Carpenter made a foray forward and sent a low pass to Jason Reddy who swung the ball over for Skryne's opening score. Neil Burke bagged Skryne's second point from a free after Oisín Keogh was fouled in front of goal. Trim's Patrick Quigley was unlucky not to goal for Trim when he broke free on the right hand side of the Skryne penalty area. He raced across the small parallelogram and hit a low shot which was just deflected out for a 45. He took the 45 himself and fired over Trim's third point. Tom Carmody added a fourth for Trim followed swiftly by another for Neil Heffernan to leave three between the sides with 12 minutes on the clock. Heffernan almost hit a goal on the sixteenth minute when he fired a shot from the ground that rebounded off the foot of the post. The rebound was gathered by Sean Foley who shot wide.

Skryne put in a superb performance in the second quarter. Craig Nolan set about reducing the deficit with a lovely point from his trusty left foot. Skryne added another after some great work from the Skryne forwards who won the ball back on the 45 yard line. Jason Reddy capitalised and slotted over Skryne's fourth point. Mark Swan put Oisín Keogh in for the equalising point. Tom Carmody hit a point for Trim, but Skryne continued to dominate the quarter with Jason Reddy hitting his third of a personal tally of five points(all from play) in the game. Neil Burke got Skryne's first goal when he broke free of his marker on the right hand side. He soloed towards the goal before unleashing a powerful shot to the roof of the net. Trim pointed twice before half time to leave just the minimum between the sides. Half-time score: Skryne 1-06, Trim 0-08.

Skryne extended their lead with a trio of points, all from play, inside the first five minutes of the second half, with Oisín Keogh, Jason Reddy and Craig Nolan all hitting the target. Just as Skryne began to open a gap, Trim hit a goal when Tom Carmody found space on the right hand side of the Skryne penalty area. His shot on goal was kept out by Skryne keeper Cian Donohoe. However, Seán Foley was in the right place at the right time. He picked up the loose ball and had an easy tap in to bring Trim

back within a point of their hosts. Jason Reddy replied immediately with a point from play on the 7th minute. The game hit a barren spell for 10 minutes with both sides guilty of missing some gilt edge chances. Skryne substitute Jack O'Donnell made an immediate impact upon his introduction when he floated over a beautiful point. However, a minute later, he received a harsh black card which saw Skryne reduced to 14 men for the next 10 minutes. Skryne had to soak up a lot of Trim pressure during this period but the defensive unit which included the impressive Jack Swan and Kristoffer Kinsella proved a hard nut to crack, keeping the Trim men at bay for the entire 10 minutes. In fact it was Skryne who hit a score during this period when Frank Carty stole in from the left hand side and blasted a shot past Trim keeper Peter Brennan on the 23rd minute to put Skryne six points ahead. Trim fought bravely to reduce the deficit hitting three points in a row, but Skryne held on with Neil Burke putting the icing on the cake with an injury time point for Skryne. Full time: Skryne 2-12, Trim 1-11.

Skryne – Cian Donohoe; Jack Swan, Scott Armstrong, Kristoffer Kinsella; Tommy Carpenter, Andrew Moore, Jarlath Jordan; Niall Morland, Oisín Keogh(0-2); Craig Nolan(0-2), Neil Burke (1-2, 1f), Mark Swan; Kian Reddy, Seán Cassidy, Jason Reddy(0-5).  
Subs used – Jack O'Donnell(0-1), Frank Carty(1-0), Timmy Lennon, Jack Dardis.

# Scór na nÓg

## Skryne GFC scoop first place in the Ceól Uirlise at Scór na nÓg

As the covid restrictions have now been lifted Counties are permitted by Croke Park to hold their respective Scór na nÓg competitions. Meath held ours in Summerhill Community Centre on 12 March. Despite the event clashing with a number of underage fixtures and with Covid still preventing some from taking part, the organisers stuck to their task and produced a very good show on the day.

Skryne were represented by two Ceól Uirlise groups and also Jay Jay Lynch who sang beautifully in the Solo Singing category. A big congratulations to the team of Tommy Tobin, Caoimhe Giles, Aisling O'Connor and Ellie Kate McDonnell who won first prize in the Ceól Uirlise competition. The group were missing Darragh O'Dowd who is hoping to return in time for the Leinster competition. They were presented with their medals by Meath ladies All Ireland winner Mary Kate Lynch.

Also, a special mention to Eve Geraghty and Eve Clarke who gave a flawless performance in the instrumental category of the Ceól Uirlise competition.

The complete list of winners were:

- Tráth na gCeist – Oldcastle GFC
- Ceilí Dancing – Oldcastle GFC
- Solo Singing – Sara Ní Chonaill, Clann na nGael GFC
- Recitation – Rian Mulvanny, Oldcastle GFC
- Ballad – Trim GFC
- Nuachleas – Oldcastle GFC
- Ceol Uirlise – Skryne GFC

These winners now go forward to represent Meath in the North Leinster competition in the Downs on 26 March.

Skryne GFC want to wish their Ceól Uirlise group and their tutor Áine Kerr the very best in that competition.



The team from Skryne GFC who won first prize in the Ceól Uirlise competition. L-r: Tommy Tobin, Aisling O'Connor, Caoimhe Giles, Ellie-Kate McDonnell, Mary-Kate Lynch (Meath Ladies All-Ireland winner).



### Go Nina!!

Skryne GFC would like to wish Nina Carberry and partner Pasquale La Rocca the very best of luck in the final of Dancing with the Stars !!

Nina has shown that she is not only an expert at navigating her way around a racecourse. She can also glide gracefully around a dancefloor! Make sure to vote for Nina in tomorrow's final!

**TEXT NINA to 53125**

P.S. Keep an eye out on [www.skrynegfc.ie](http://www.skrynegfc.ie) to see what Nina's next exciting venture is, in association with Skryne GFC 😊





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## THINGS YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T NEED TO KNOW

- ➔ A 'jiffy' is an actual unit of time; 1/100th of a second.
- ➔ A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
- ➔ A snail can sleep for three years.
- ➔ An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- ➔ February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.
- ➔ In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.
- ➔ If the population of China walked past you, 8 abreast, the line would never end
- ➔ because of the rate of reproduction.
- ➔ Leonardo Do Vinci invented the scissors.

# Who were the Molly Maguires?

Maurice Daly

*"Make way for the Molly Maguires,  
They're drinkers, they're liars but they're men,  
Make way for the Molly Maguires,  
You'll never see the likes of them again."*

These lines are taken from a well-known folk-song made famous by the Dubliners and others. **But who were the Molly Maguires?** The Mollies, as they were also known, had their origin in Ireland roughly between 1760 and 1850, where as a secret society, they and other groups like the Whiteboys and Ribbonmen, were engaged in agrarian violence against landlords and/or their agents with the control of land as the chief cause of conflict.

The Famine led to thousands fleeing Ireland and sailing to America. The Irish got a very bad reception in their new homeland and were often placed at the lowest level of society. They were often "welcomed" with such signs as: **"No Irish need apply!"** Thousands of Irish speaking, non-skilled and mostly illiterate Irish were attracted to Pennsylvania (PA) to work in the **anthracite coal mines**. Conditions in the mines were atrocious and the mine owners did little to improve things. Coal mining was dangerous and badly paid. In one mining district where there were 22,000 plus miners, 6,000 were children, some as young as 6 years! The owners of the mines were mostly Welsh, English or German and from the outset, were seen by the Irish as perpetrators of injustice, thus causing friction between miners and management.

The so called **"company store"** was another grievance among the miners as workers had to buy their food and supplies from a store owned by the mine at hugely inflated prices. Regularly the miners would end up owing the company store more than their wages as they had run up a tab and were not allowed to check the ledger. Another song **"16 Tons"** refers to this:

*"Some people say a man is made outta mud  
A poor man's made outta muscle and blood  
Muscle and blood and skin and bones  
A mind that's a-weak and a back that's strong  
You load sixteen tons, what do you get?  
Another day older and deeper in debt  
Saint Peter don't you call me 'cause I can't go  
I owe my soul to the company store."*

Though there were deep rooted ethnic and sectarian rivalries among the miners, especially between the mostly Methodist Welsh and the Catholic Irish, nevertheless the miners organised themselves into a union, the **Workmen's Benevolent Association (WBA)**. All miners regardless of craft status, national origin or religious background were eligible to join the WBA. During a very bad economic depression in the US in 1873, the mine bosses attacked the wages and conditions of the miners by lowering the pay rates by up to 20%. This led to a long **seven month strike** which ultimately failed and the miners returned to work on the new pay rates. The union badly suffered. **The families of the miners starved.**

As the grievances increased so did the Molly Maguire retaliation when some Irish American miners turned to the tactics that had been used in Ireland against landlords and their agents. A number of mine officials were murdered, there were incidences of industrial sabotage and beatings and anonymous threats were carried out on people seen as hostile to the Irish. From this time Molly Maguire society became more prominent and notorious in Pennsylvania.

**What was the origin of the name "Molly Maguire?"** From folklore, we have a number of interesting versions. One is that an old woman called Molly Maguire had been evicted in Longford and local peasants had banded together to avenge her misfortune. Another version tells us that Molly Maguire was the owner of a "Shebeen" where the secret society met to plan activities. A third story is that Molly Maguire was a fierce young pistol carrying woman who led men through the country on their nocturnal raids. However the most plausible explanation of the name "Molly Maguire," according to historian Kevin Kenny is that the men who engaged in violence disguised themselves as women. There is some speculation about the places of origin of the Molly Maguires and while it's difficult to pinpoint location exactly without contemporary evidence, Counties Monaghan, Cavan, and Donegal in Ulster along with Leitrim, Mayo and Roscommon in Connacht are mentioned in "Letters on the Conditions of the People" by Thomas Campbell Foster, who toured Ireland in 1845.

The Mollies as they were called were a thorn in the side of industrialist **Franklin B. Gowen**, the President of both the Philadelphia Railroad Company and the Philadelphia Coal Company. He regarded the Mollies as agitators and was determined to crush them. He summoned a meeting of mine owners from where it was decided that the Mollies would have to be infiltrated and intelligence gathered. An Irishman was required. **James McParlan**, a native of Armagh, volunteered. McParlan was a private detective working for Major Allan Pinkerton's Detective Agency, originally from Scotland.

Within a short time, McParlan successfully ingratiated himself with the Molly Maguires and even became secretary of a local Ancient Order of Hibernian (AOH) lodge and sent back reports to the Detective Agency. McParlan "posed as a dandy" called James McKenna and claimed to have killed a man in Buffalo, New York. This impressed the Mollies who were taken in by their new "friend." He was also **a natural entertainer** and was soon a member of the AOH, which in PA meant also being a member of the Molly Maguires. He socialised in saloons and sang Molly Maguire songs with the people he was about to betray. The following verse refers to a Mr Bell, a magistrate and justice of the peace in Cavan who was murdered in 1845:

*"Said Mollie to her darling sons, 'What tyrant shall we tumble?  
That filthy tribe, we can't abide, they rob both meek and humble,  
There is one Bell, a child of hell, an' a magistrate in station,  
Let lots be drew an' see which of you will tumble him to  
damnation!"*



McParlan met “the King of the Mollies”, **John Kehoe** from Wicklow and James “Powder Keg” Kerrigan. Kerrigan had participated in a number of Molly Maguire murders but when arrested squealed and saved himself from the hangman.

McParlan could read and write – unlike the majority of Molly Maguires– and as their secretary, he held a position that facilitated taking notes without arousing suspicion. Violence continued and the frequency of murders stirred anti-Irish sentiment among the British miners. McParlan kept passing information to his superiors and to the Coal & Iron Police (A private police force). Vigilantes were also tapping into the information he was passing on and a number of innocent people were murdered. With this, the Mollies began to suspect that there was an informer in their ranks. How right they were!

The Coal & Iron Police took action and arrested 20 Molly Maguires including John Kehoe. The trials began in 1876, and the star witness for the prosecution was James McParlan, with Franklin Gowen as the chief prosecutor. The trials were described as “not glorious events in the history of the US judicial system.” **No Catholics were permitted to sit on the jury but a number of Germans who had little or no English were allowed.** During the trial, McParlan revealed who he really was much to the chagrin and devastation of his friends who trusted him. The Molly Maguires were badly exposed during the trials as a result of which, support for them fell away, labour leaders shunned them and they were denounced from the pulpits.

**Twenty men were convicted and hanged, many on the basis of “very dubious evidence,” having been arrested by a private police force and prosecuted by private attorneys.**

To some Irish-Americans, the Molly Maguires epitomised a bigoted system that was prejudiced against immigrants and Catholics, especially Irish; to others, the Mollies represented a legacy of “the old country” they wanted to escape from. Two different worlds overlapped – impoverished rural Ireland and industrialised Pennsylvania. Since their execution and in more recent times, opinion has changed somewhat due to revised thinking on how to judge the Molly Maguires and **in 1979, a posthumous pardon was granted to John Kehoe**, “reflecting the judgement of many historians that the trials and executions were part of a repression against the fledgling mineworkers’ union of that historic period.” Kenny 1998.

**Conditions for miners were slow to improve** and it was not until the United Mine Workers of America was founded in 1890 that an eight hour shift was introduced; children under 14 could no longer work in the mines and workers no longer had to buy from the company store.

**P.S. In 1970 a movie called “The Molly Maguires” was made** starring Sean Connery who plays John Kehoe and Richard Harris plays undercover detective James McParlan.

## Birds as manure producers

**The Value of Birds to Man is the title of a paper contributed by Mr James Buckland, in the Report of the Smithsonian Institution, in which he refers to the value of pelagic birds as guano producers. Undoubtedly, the present enormous trade in fertilisers owes its origins to birds, for the fertilising properties of the phosphoric acid and nitrogen contained in fish was not recognised until guano - which is the excrement of sea birds mixed with fish - became a stimulus to intensive agriculture.**

The value of guano as a fertiliser was known to the people of Peru in the time of the ancient Incas. though the 19th century had dawned before the information was brought to Europe by Humboldt Under the rule of the monarch of Peru, the birds were rigorously guarded.

Three centuries later the protective measures materialised in a source of revenue to the country. Generation after generation of sea birds had placed on their breeding grounds deposits of guano which, in 1853, were estimated by the Peruvian authorities to be worth £125,000,000.

In 1913 the present Peruvian Government, which, like the ancient Incas, lays claim to the guano islands, extracted a total of 40,000 tons therefrom. Owing to the demand threatening to exhaust the supply, certain islands are closed by order of the Government until the deposit shall be deemed of workable dimensions.





## AWFUL JOKES

### Mystery at the Beach

A middle-aged couple lived near the ocean and used to walk the beach a lot. One summer they noticed a girl who was at the beach almost every day. She wasn't unusual nor was the travel bag she carried, except for one thing; she would approach people who were sitting on the beach, glance around, and then speak to them.

Generally, the people would respond negatively and she would wander off. Occasionally, someone would nod and there would be a quick exchange of money for something that she carried in her bag.

The couple assumed that she was selling drugs and debated whether to call the cops. Since they didn't know for sure, they decided to just continue watching her.

After a couple of weeks the wife said, "Honey, have you ever noticed that she only goes up to people with boom boxes and other electronic devices?" He hadn't and said so.

Then she said, "Tomorrow, I want you to get a towel and our big radio and go lie out on the beach. Then we can find out what she's really doing." The plan went off without a hitch. The wife was almost hopping up and down with anticipation when she saw the girl talk to her husband and then leave. The man then walked up the beach and met his wife at the road.

"Well, is she selling drugs?" she asked excitedly. "No, she's not," he said, enjoying this probably more than he should have. "Well, what is it then? What does she do?" his wife nearly shrieked. The man grinned and said, "She's a battery salesperson."

"Batteries?" cried the wife. "Yes!" he replied, "She sells C cells by the seashore!"



Find the 8 differences hidden in these two seemingly identical pictures



Can you solve this Dingbats challenge? Answers to the wingdings are directly below the quiz

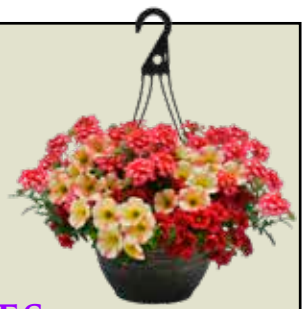
01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08
09	10	11	12

### Answers to Dingbats challenge

1 Short Sighted, 2 Rock Star, 3 Pat On The Back, 4 Ants In Your Pants, 5 Forty Winks, 6 Balancing Act, 7 Head In The Sand, 8 Head On Collision, 9 Welcome Back, 10 United States, 11 A Drop In The Ocean, 12 Up For Grabs



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indantly blessed, and not  
of them be lost because  
my neglect on my part.  
me to overcome, every  
temporal weakness, and  
highen in me whatever  
enable me to bring joy  
e lives of those I serve.  
no grace, for the sake of  
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She asks nothing in return.*

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## Condolences

We extend our sympathy to the

- Dinah & the McQuaid family on the death of Harry, Ross
- Sheila and the Mooney family on the death of Fergal's
- Colin and the McKee family on the death of Pauline
- Breda and the O'Reilly family on the death of Rosemary, Collierstown
- Sarah and the Argue family on the death of Ray, Dunshaughlin and formerly Old Ross Road
- Martin Kennedy (former principal of Skryne N.S.) on the death of his mother Tess, Waterford

### Local mother available for After School Care

in own home  
or children's home.

Contact  
087 632 7197

## 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

### 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](mailto: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 30th April

Submissions on or before  
**Sunday 24th April**

Contact:

Jim: (086) 383 7436

Patricia: (086) 838 8017

Email: [therstnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:therstnewsletter@gmail.com)