



Skryne GFC Horsepower Draw

After 6 months of hard work and hard selling, Skryne GFC were delighted to announce that we exceeded our target of 7,000 ticket sales in our Horsepower Superdraw. The final total of tickets sold was an astonishing **9,339**. Well done to the committee, the sellers and all who contributed to such a successful draw. A huge thank you to all who bought tickets and supported the club.

The draw was held in Fox's pub on the Hill of Skryne. It was hosted by Stephen Naughton our MC and overseen by independent draw supervisor, Mary Campbell from Mary Campbell and Company Solicitors in Trim Co. Meath.

Club legend, All-Star, multi-All-Ireland winner and draw ambassador Trevor Giles and Leading Horse Racing Trainer and draw ambassador Gavin Cromwell were both invited onto the stage to draw the winning tickets.

Congratulations to all our winners!! The winning ticket for our John Deere 6120M tractor was sold by Ruth Moore at Brady's Service Station in Coolquay where we had spent several weekends showcasing the tractor.

Picture left is the winner of our first prize, the John Deere 6120M tractor supplied by Meath Farm Machinery or €100,000 in cash. (l-r) Christy O'Connor(Draw Chairperson), Joseph Fitzachary(Winner of the draw), Johnny Burke(Club Chairperson) and Ruth Moore(Seller of the winning ticket)



Skryne GFC will be donating €10,000 of the proceeds of the draw to our charity partners Laura Lynn, Jigsaw and the Irish Injured Jockey's Fund



Horsepower Superdraw Committee

(Standing L-R) Christy O'Connor (Draw Chairperson), Ciarán Lenehan, Pauline McManus, Gavin Cromwell(Draw Ambassador), Ross Phillips, Johnny Burke(Club Chairperson), Ruth Moore, Gina Doherty, Mike Foley, Simon Fay. (Seated L-R) Trevor Giles(Draw Ambassador), Stephen Naughton, Rowan Dardis. Missing from the photo Nicola O'Reilly and Kevin O'Rourke

Our Horsepower Superdraw prize winners were

1st Prize – John Deere 6120M Tractor or €100,000 - **Joseph Fitzachary, St. Margarets, Co. Dublin**

2nd Prize – Gavin Cromwell trained racehorse for 1 season or €10,000 - **Oliver Prunty, Convoy, Co. Donegal**

3rd Prize - Center Parcs Holiday Voucher to the value of €3,000 **Mary Byrne, Ardath, Co. Meath**

4th Prize - €1,000 - **Sé Pardy, Online ticket**

A big thank you to the following list of supporters of our Horsepower Superdraw

- Meath Farm Machinery
- Gavin Cromwell Racing
- A & J Print
- Eurofarm Foods
- Fox's Pub
- MG Audio
- Irish Distillers
- Club & County
- Kepak
- St. Kevin's GAA
- Farmers Journal
- Brady's Service Station, Coolquay
- LMFM
- Knightsbrook Hotel
- Finnegan's Farm
- Swans of Skryne
- Tayto Park
- Fairyhouse Racecourse
- Castlemartyr Resort
- O'Connells Pub
- Agriland
- Waikato

This issue is sponsored by **ANONYMOUS FAMILY IN OUR COMMUNITY**

The Schools Collection, 1937-1939

National Folklore Collection

"The lore of certain days"
It is said that Saturday is an unlucky day to go to service. It is said that Wednesday is the best day of all to get married. Friday is supposed to be unlucky to move to a new house. Mark borrowed three days from April to buy the old cow. The harvest of the geese is when the farmer brings in the corn. They are to be seen feeding on the grains of corn that are left.
Mark Collier

This month's Dúchas article was written by Mark Collier from Skryne School
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Safety Improvements at Oberstown

Update from Meath Co. Council

An update on the proposed Safety Improvement Works at the L1005/L1003 Junction at Oberstown/Skryne, please be advised that we met with our Contractor on-site this morning.

We anticipate that these works will commence sometime next week and will include:

Minor pavement (road) repairs

- Tree & Hedge-cutting work
- New Public Lighting Ducting
- New Public Lighting Columns and LED Lanterns
- New Kerbing
- New Bollards and maintenance on Existing Bollards
- New Ramp Signage
- ESB Energising the Public Lighting (please note that when the new Public Lighting has been certified, MCC will issue the RECI Certificate to the ESB and the actual date that the Public Lighting becomes energised is a scheduling matter for the ESB)
- Speed Ramps on approach to junction (please note that ramps cannot be installed until the Public Lighting has been energised)
- Renewal of Road Marking

I hope this has been of some assistance in updating you of the works, but if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Mel Cronin

On behalf of Meath County Council | Ashbourne Municipal District | Transportation - Operations

Skryne Community Alert

With the days getting shorter, many homes are now left in darkness until the owner returns in the early evening.



This makes it very easy for passing opportunistic burglars to spot which houses are occupied and which are not. You can purchase a low cost timer

switch in any hardware shop. Plug in a standard lamp into the timer switch and you can make your home appear occupied while you are away. Check that you are using a modern LED bulb to keep the running cost down. This is a simple step that can make all the difference in keeping your home safe.

Skryne Community Alert manage applications to Pobal for monitored personal alarms in the RST area. If you or a family member are in need of an alarm, please get in touch with Patricia Conroy on 086 838 8017. Full details can be found on P.3 of an earlier newsletter at <https://bit.ly/RST0310>



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Scoil Cholmcille, Skryne

Tom Brennan

Who can believe Halloween is almost upon us! We are firmly back in the routines of school life, Covid restrictions have lifted and normal activities are returning. A special welcome to our new pupils especially our Junior Infants who are settling in really well. Wishing all our pupils, parents and staff a happy and safe Halloween break.

Maths Week

We celebrated Maths Week from October 17th – 21st. Maths Week is a fantastic initiative to help pupils explore and enjoy the creative and playful side of Maths.

In Scoil Cholmcille, we were busy with activities such as interactive games, Maths trails, card games, board games and much more. We also used digital technologies to participate in STEM based activities.

Check out the school blog for more information on what we got up to.

School Sport

It has already been an extremely busy year on the sporting front. Our boys and girls football teams have had stellar years with both groups reaching the semi-final stages of the Cumann na mBunscol competitions. Our boys fought hard but ultimately lost out narrowly against Rathcairn. Our girls team also put in a brave performance in defeat against Baconstown. Well done to both teams and to all our teachers who were involved in coaching them.

Our 5th and 6th Class pupils part took their first Leinster Schools Orienteering event of the year in Ardgillan Castle on October 5th. We had winners in each of the four sections while the remainder of the leaderboard was heavily populated by Scoil Cholmcille pupils also.



On the same day, our 4th Class pupils participated in the Brother Schools Cross Country in association with Clonliffe Harriers AC. Several of our boys and girls challenged at the top end of their races in what is a very competitive and well-attended event run over a grueling 1000m. Most importantly, all pupils set out with a goal of enjoying the experience, trying their best, and to finish the race no matter what - mission accomplished by all. Well done 4th Class, the whole school is really proud of your efforts.

A Special Visitor

Back in September the Brendan Martin Cup paid us a visit accompanied by five of the Meath double All-Ireland winning ladies footballers; Stacey Grimes, Aoibheann Leahy, Kelsey Nesbitt, Ciara Smyth and Amy O'Dowd. It was a particularly special visit as Amy and Ciara, who both attended, and played football for our school returned as All-Ireland champions.

A huge thank you from all of us to the girls. They are a great inspiration to our children and hopefully in the future some more of our boys and girls will return with the Brendan Martin Cup or even the Sam Maguire. Maith sibh cailíní. An Mhí abú!!!

Potato Pals

Back in September, our 6th Class completed the final phase of their Potato Pals project with Tayto Foods. The boys and girls first completed a field visit where they helped with the harvesting of the potatoes. Afterwards, they visited the factory where they learned about the journey of the humble spud to a tasty crisp. The children even got to taste a crisp without any flavour! They returned to school happy with full bellies and mucky feet!

Junior Infants learning through play



Skryne Ladies GFC: County Champions

There was great excitement in Scoil Cholmcille this week as our local heroes, the Skryne Ladies Footballers visited the school with the Meath Intermediate County Championship cup.

It is the first time ever for Skryne Ladies to be senior. There were mummies, sisters, former principals and past pupils all involved. Our own Ms Morland was also a member of the team.

Congratulations to them all and we hope their winning run in Leinster continues.



Green Committee

Our Coiste Glas are up and running for this year. So far, they have organized our regular Walk on Wednesday drive as well as competitions to promote environmentally friendly use of classroom bins.

They are also busy working on a new Green Code.

The committee also have some big plans for the second half of the term.

Watch this space!

Halloween Festivities

On Friday we will finish for midterm with our famous Isabel Cup Fancy Dress Halloween Parade. Each year the standard of costumes, particularly the homemade ones, blow us all away. 6th Class are busy preparing games for the day and in addition to the Isabel Cup, there are also many other prizes to be won. We are all looking forward to a day of spooky fun and frolics. Videos of the parade can be accessed on the school blogsite. Happy Halloween everyone!

Dates for your diary

November 7th

School reopens after midterm

November 22nd & 23rd

Parent/Teacher Meetings

December 5th

Book Fair

December 21st

School closes @ 12pm:

Christmas holidays

Skryne GFC Juvenile Club

The Girls And Boys of The Future



Skryne GFC Juvenile Club

Along with the great success of our Ladies Intermediate team and the Horsepower Superdraw, our juvenile club has been going from strength to strength in recent years. With nearly 330 young people practicing and playing with 14 underage teams on a weekly basis, the future is looking bright for the club. We've been lucky to recruit some enthusiastic new talent on the coaching bench from nursery right up to u11s (while the "old reliables" have been taking care of the u13s to u17s). We could not fulfil our mission of bringing our national sport into the lives of Skryne's youth if we did not have such dedicated coaches and mentors. Each one of them deserves our sincere gratitude for giving their time and focus to the children of the parish. To help these coaches develop, Nicky Hamill has been appointed Club Coaching Officer and already we are seeing the fruits of his labour with athletic development programmes available for all our teenage teams.



There are lots of positives for the year and it would take too long to give a round-up of results and progress of teams. Suffice to say, we are delighted to see the players develop and have fun in our club. We 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 blitz – a rare privilege! We can also give a shout out to our u16 girls, who having won 5 of 7 games in the past couple of months, have booked their place in the Division 2 final.

Skryne are crowned Intermediate Champions of Meath

Skryne 1-07, Na Fianna 0-09



Kepak Ladies Intermediate Football Championship – Final

The tenacious champions bounced back to win with a goal in injury time. Sunday the 9th of October is a day that will be forever remembered in the Skryne history books as Skryne Ladies won the Intermediate Championship and for the first time ever will be a Senior Team. Skryne supporters had to sweat through up until the 32nd minute of the second half when a last minute goal clinched the victory for the Skryne women.

The conditions invariably had a big role to play in this battle as the wind blew and the rain lashed it down. The Na Fianna girls played with the wind in the first half and made sure to capitalise on this advantage. With a strong wind blowing in their favour they racked up three points in quick succession in the first ten minutes. Skryne answered this brace of points, getting their first score with a well-taken free from Ellie Murphy. This score settled the Skryne girls who began to chip away at the Na Fianna defence and created three fantastic goal chances. One of the goal chances started with an interception from the midfield pairing of Alannah Cooney and Amy O'Dowd who worked relentlessly battling both the elements and their Na Fianna counterparts. This interception led to a well worked play, with Lizzy Morland giving the final pass into Catriona Keoghan who executed a shot on goal that the Na Fianna Keeper

just got a hand to and forced it wide. Na Fianna fought back strong and had a few goal chances of their own but nothing was getting past Skryne's keeper Rachel Whelan who saved two certain goal chances. Both teams battled hard for the rest of the first half, Na Fianna clocked up three more points before a brilliant point from Ciara Smyth kept Skryne in contention. In the dying minutes of the first half, a last attack by Na Fianna saw Skryne under pressure but the rock-solid full back line of Nicola O'Reilly, Alish Lenehan and Ciara Cowley snuffed out any further chance of a score- with O'Reilly saving the ball right off Skryne's goal line. Half-time score: Na Fianna 0-6 Skryne 0-2.

Although the wind had died down considerably in the second half, Skryne had this advantage and were quick to get off the mark with the first score. A brilliant sequence of play from Fiona

O'Rourke and Catriona Keoghan- who both covered a tremendous amount of ground on the day, resulted in a super point from Róisín Mc Manus. The half-back line of Niamh O'Brien, Lisa Browne and Samantha Clarke were superb and were well able to deal with the pressure put on by the Na Fianna forwards, thwarting any attacks and making scoring very difficult for the Enfield women. Another free converted by Ellie Murphy gave Skryne hope of a comeback but the Na Fianna girls had other ideas. They notched up two points with no reply and the Skryne girls were dealt a further blow when Ciara Cowley (a strong contender for player of the match) was sent to the line with a yellow card. Some teams may have collapsed at this point but not these Skryne women. They gritted their teeth, got to work and showed their true spirit and character. The Skryne comeback was on! As they gathered their momentum each player was focused on twinning the next ball. This was highlighted by Róisín McManus who, when the next ball came to her slotted it right over the bar. When the next ball came to Ciara Smyth she was heavily marked by three Na Fianna players, not a problem for a



player of Smyth's caliber- she expertly glided the ball over the bar narrowing the gap to two points. Just as Skryne were getting in their flow, disaster struck – a point for Na Fianna the score was now 0-9 to 0-6 with the time ticking away. But that would be the last score for the Na Fianna girls while the Skryne girls were just getting going. Ciara Cowley was back on the pitch and it was the boost Skryne needed to push on. With minutes to go Skryne won a free right in front of the goals, no problem for sharpshooter Ellie Murphy who sent it sailing over the bar. It was now 0-9 to 0-7, Skryne were down by two in the dying minutes of the game. For Skryne, it looked like the Intermediate Championship was slipping out of their reach but the girls never lost faith. Steffi Finnegan, who played a pivotal role when she came on, started the final attack for Skryne with a pinpoint pass to Lizzy Morland who was fouled and won a free in the Na Fianna half. Captain Nicola O'Reilly took the free giving it back to Morland who let it fly to Ciara Cowley. Cowley floated it straight into the danger zone in front of the Na Fianna goals. Maths teacher Catriona Keoghan knows the importance of numbers and on this day knew number one was key- one chance, one shot, one touch was what it would take to win. She got one touch- a hand to the ball and knocked it straight into the back of the Na Fianna net! Skryne were winning by ONE! That was how it would stay until the final whistle blew sparking huge celebrations



for Skryne. History was made as Skryne Ladies became Intermediate Champions of Meath! Final score: Skryne 1-07, Na Fianna 0-09.

Skryne: Rachel Whelan; Ciara Cowley, Ailish Lenehan, Nicola O'Reilly; Samantha Clarke, Lisa Browne, Niamh O'Brien; Ciara Smyth, Alannah Cooney; Ellie Murphy, Amy O'Dowd, Fiona O'Rourke; Lizzy Morland, Catriona Keoghan, Roisín McManus

Subs used: Steffi Finnegan

Skryne Panel: Aoife McLoughlin, Laura Mangan, Niamh Cowley, Caragh Conway, Ava Purcell, Miriam Hayden, Ruth Moore, Emma Loftus, Aisling O'Connor, Destiny Carty, Sophie Finnegan

Manager: Mick O'Dowd

Selectors: Gordon Geraghty, Kierán Kennedy, Martin Kennedy, Adrian Doyle

FLO: Coleen Jordan

Medic: Katie White

Na Fianna claim Ladies Junior D title but Skryne will be back

Kepak Ladies Junior D Football Championship

It was another fantastic year for Skryne ladies who again were 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 were very slow to start resulting in being 16 points 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.



Girls U14 Semi-final

Hard luck to our U14 girls who lost out in the semifinal to a very experienced Navan O'Mahonys. They had a great year of football and are already looking forward to next year.

Girls U16 Semi-final

Well done to our U16 girls who have booked themselves in the U16 Div2 final against Royal Gaels after a ferocious battle against Gael Colmcilles Final score 3-07 to 2-09. Details of final to follow.



Summerhill Snatch Victory with Injury Time Point

Skryne 0-12, Summerhill 1-10

Coolrite U20 Football Championship. Group B – Round 1

A pointed free from Summerhill talisman Eoghan Frayne almost 6 minutes into injury time at the end of this game broke Skryne hearts as Summerhill snatched a victory when a draw may have been a fair result in what was an exciting game of football in Skryne.

In a wet Fr. McManus Park, Skryne started the brightest with Niall Finnerty opening the scoring with a point after claiming a mark with less than a minute on the clock. Skryne then won the kick out and were immediately on the front foot with Shane Smyth sending a ball into Niall Finnerty who turned and shot for a point. His effort came off the post and Niall Morland was quickest to react and fired over Skryne's second point. Summerhill began to find their feet in the game and two points from play saw them draw level by the 6th minute. Niall Finnerty and Eoghan Frayne pointed a free each and the sides were level again with 3 points each at the midway point of the half. Skryne edged ahead with 25 minutes on the clock when Oisín Keogh chipped over from the 21-yard line. Summerhill leveled again when Eoghan Frayne managed to wriggle away from the close attention of the Skryne defence and fired over. In first-half injury time, Summerhill pushed forward and Jamie O'Shea saw them take the lead for the first time in the game with a point from play. Eoghan Frayne added another point from play. Summerhill had their tails up and Luke Moran found space on the right-hand side and advanced on the Skryne goal before blasting the ball to the back of the Skryne net to give Summerhill a flattering five-point lead at halftime. Skryne 0-4, Summerhill 1-06.

Skryne's management team kept the team talk short at half-time, but whatever was said had the required effect as Skryne came out fighting in the second half. Two early pointed frees from Niall Finnerty saw the deficit reduced to just three points. With seven minutes on the clock, Skryne continued to push forward with Niall Finnerty winning possession in the right-hand corner and despite a tight angle he managed to squeeze the ball in between the two uprights. It was

Finnerty again two minutes later who cut Summerhill's lead to just a single point when he wriggled past a number of Summerhill defenders before shooting over. Eoghan Frayne pointed a free for Summerhill midway through the half to stem the flow. Two pointed frees from Niall Finnerty saw Skryne draw level with just 6 minutes remaining. Substitute Andrew Canavan edged Skryne ahead again 2 minutes later when he pointed a tricky free from the left-hand side. Skryne continued to exert pressure on the Summerhill goal, but two counterattacks saw Summerhill win frees which the ever-dependable Eoghan Frayne converted to see them lead by a point with two minutes remaining. Niall Finnerty again evened things up with a point from play in the last minute of normal time. Skryne looked favorites to grab the winner and had their chances, but one last foray by Summerhill in the sixth minute of injury-time saw them draw a foul which left Eoghan Frayne with a chance to snatch victory with a free. Frayne despite the pressure hit the winner and referee Andrew Smith blew for full-time leaving Skryne deflated and ruing missed opportunities. Skryne 0-12, Summerhill 1-10

Skryne will be buoyed by a terrific second-half performance where they really should have earned the victory. A draw might have been a fair result as Summerhill probably edged the first half but a defeat was just cruel.

Skryne: Cian Donohoe; Jack Swan, Kristoffer Kinsella, Scott Armstrong; David Rathbourne, James Reeves, Conor Donohoe; Shane Smyth, Oisín Keogh(0-1); Ciarán Quinn, Niall Morland(0-1), Kian Reddy; Billy Reilly, Niall Finnerty(0-9, 5fs, 1m), John Finnerty.

Subs used: Andrew Canavan(0-1, 1f)

Blotto

16 Oct 22 **Jackpot: €3,900**

Numbers drawn: 05, 21, 22, 24

No Jackpot Winner.

Lucky Dip Winners:

Nuala Tobin Bernie Dardis Tilly O'Brien James Murphy

09 Oct 22 **Jackpot: €3,800**

Numbers drawn: 11, 17, 22, 23

No Jackpot Winner.

Lucky Dip Winners:

Tilly O'Brien Senan/Susan McGrath Gordon Reilly Eilish Jordan

02 Oct 22 **Jackpot: €3,700**

Numbers drawn: 01, 03, 15, 19

No Jackpot Winner.

Lucky Dip Winners:

Kathleen Kinsella Aine Smyth Eamon Giles Kieran O'Brien

KEEP THE RST AREA TIDY



Night Sky November 2022

by Tony Canavan

Phases of the Moon:

First Quarter: 1st November,

Full Moon: 8th November,

Last Quarter: 16th November,

New Moon: 23rd November

Sunrise: 7:23 am **Sunset** 5:52 pm 1st November

1st November Evening:

Saturn is close to the moon in the SW during the evening. This also happens on November 28/29th. You will have **Mars** in the East, **Jupiter** in the South and **Saturn** in the West.

November 4th Evening:

Jupiter will be blazing above a near full moon in the southern evening sky. Closest approach of Moon and Jupiter at 10 pm is 2.5°.

6th November Evening:

The **Summer Triangle of Vega, Altair and Deneb** is now low in the West. **Saturn** is setting in the SW followed by the very bright planet **Jupiter**, altitude 47° and close to **Neptune**. A nearly **Full Moon** is in the South. The constellation **Orion** is now clear of the eastern horizon with **Betelgeuse** altitude 19°, bearing 95°, and **Rigel** altitude 16°, bearing 115°. Above **Orion** is the constellation of **Taurus** with the • (the 'v' shape) marking the position of **Betelgeuse** (very noticeable as a red coloured star) and the **Hyades Star Cluster**. There are great views of this star cluster through binoculars or a telescope. **Mars** has an altitude of 32°, bearing 83°. **Pollux and Castor** rising in the ENE.

11th November:

At 19:30 **Mars and Moon** will rise together in the East. They are only 3.5° apart and Mars is at its closest to the earth. They rise between **Gemini** and **Taurus**.

14th November Evening:

Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, rises in the East at about 10 pm and gains an altitude of 30° by 2 am. If you want to view the **Orion Nebula** then viewing nearer midnight is best, with altitude 35°, bearing 136°. Situated in the scabbard of **Orion's Sword**, just south of **Orion's Belt**, it is one of the closest stellar nurseries to earth called **The Orion Nebula** and one of the most active star-forming regions of the **Milky Way**. It is 1,340 light years away.



Artemis 1:

The powerful storm **Ian** recently forced NASA to roll back the spaceship and its booster into the **Vehicle Assembly Building** for protection. No damage was sustained during the storm.

NASA has now planned the launch of Artemis 1 for the 14th November.



Starship:

SpaceX Starship is scheduled to launch as part of the Orbital Flight Test Mission in November 2022 from SpaceX launch facility at Boca Chica, Texas. You can view this live on the internet. The booster will separate 170 seconds into the flight and return to earth about 32 km off the shore of the Gulf of Mexico. No firm date has been issued.



The Pillars of Creation:

Courtesy NASA: JWST

This is one of the latest images from the James Webb Space Telescope, **The Pillars of Creation** are filled with semi-transparent gas and dust. This is a region where young stars are forming or have barely burst from their dusty cocoons as they continue to form. JWST will give us a much closer look at star and planet formation. This is one of the great astronomical images of our time.

Nobel Prize for Physics:

Alan Aspect, John Clauser and **Anton Zeilinger** jointly received the Nobel Prize for Physics recently for their work on the subject of Entanglement, where two particles behave like a single unit even when they are separated. What happens to one particle in the entangled pair determines what happens to the other no matter how far apart they are. If these particles are at either end of the universe, then any change in one particle instantaneously changes the other. There is no time difference for communication between them. WOW!!

Einstein believed that the particles were 'programmed' to act in the same way, and there it remained until the Irish Physicist **John Bell** by 1980 showed that Einstein was wrong and that there could be weird and spooky quantum connections between things over here and things over there. Quantum mechanics (the tiny, tiny world) has huge implications for the complete theory of the 'Big Bang' and the 'Theory of Everything'.

An everyday application of entanglement is quantum computers and quantum encrypted communications, i.e., computer systems that cannot be hacked.

Nasa spacecraft crashes into asteroid's moon



Source: Nasa, Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory

The DART mission achieved a direct hit on the asteroid **Dimorphos**, destroying the probe in the process, in order to try and change its trajectory as per the diagram. The investigating team has confirmed that the spacecraft's impact has altered Dimorphos' orbit by 32 minutes.

Missions like DART will help protect the earth in the future. ESA plans to launch the **Hera Spacecraft** in 2024 to study the impact crater on Dimorphos and the new orbit of the binary system.

Clocks:

Clocks will go back one hour at 2 am on the 30th October 2022.

Ireland will be on G.M.T. (Greenwich Mean Time) for the winter period.

Samhain

Anne Frehill



At this time of the year as the evenings grow shorter and I look out at the countryside shrouded in an impenetrable cloak of blackness, from the mists of time the words:

“Be home before dark,” echo through the labyrinth passages of my memory. A line which I am sure will resonate with many readers of my vintage. One or other of my parents invariably uttered these words as I left the house to play with my friend who lived nearby.

On these shores, the 31st of October is called Samhain or Halloween. The former meaning (Summer’s End) was one of four major festivals in the Celtic calendar, celebrating the transition of the sun and the changing seasons. While the latter name “Halloween” literally meant “hallowed evening” with hallow meaning “holy person; saint and the” een” part of the word a contraction of “eve” or evening before.

The earliest evidence relating to the celebration of Samhain can be traced to our own county to approximately 200 AD. At Hill of Ward (Tlachtga) near Athboy, a great Fire Festival began on the eve of Samhain which lasted for at least 5-7 days and focused on the God Lugh (flashing light). Tlachtga was the daughter of the Druid Mug Ruith, sadly she is said to have died at the site giving birth to triplets and so it is named after her. This place is just 12 miles from the Hill of Tara and was a forerunner to the Samhain Festival at Tara.

The entrance passage to the Mound of the Hostages at Tara is aligned with the rising sun around the days of Samhain/ Fire Festival. However, more recently academics have pointed out that the Mound of the Hostages is 2, 500 to 5,000 years old, which begs the question was Samhain celebrated long before the first Celts arrived in Ireland around 2,500 years ago.

Fire is seen as the earthly counterpart of the sun. The apparent decline in the strength of the sun at this time of year would have been a source of great anxiety to early man and the lightning of the Winter Fires were symbols of man’s attempt to assist the sun on its way across the upper regions. The Celts believed that the boundaries between this world and the Otherworld were relaxed at the time of Samhain and they left offerings in fields and near villages for Sidhs or fairy type beings. They also thought that ancestors could cross over at this time and they dressed as animals or as

other grotesque figures so that fairy type entities were not interested in kidnapping them. During the Middle Ages, smaller Samhain fires became popular near farms to ward off fairies and witches from families. (Jack-o-Lanterns) or carved turnips, attached to sticks by string and lit by coal also appeared. With the arrival of Christianity, the church was eager to superimpose Christian celebrations on the pagan festival. In the 9th century, Pope Gregory IV moved the “Feast of all Martyrs” (which over time included all saints) from May 13th to November 1st, some scholars argue that this was a deliberate attempt to reframe what they saw as a pagan feast.

It is interesting to note that in the 19th century and especially around the time of the Great Famine, Irish immigrants brought many of the traditions associated with Samhain to America. The best known is “trick-or -treat”, but in the ancient celebrations, tricks were blamed on fairies and not on mischievous children. And carving the turnips which was still popular in some parts of Ireland well into the 20th century, morphed into carving pumpkins on the other side of the Atlantic.

I had two favourite games, in the first “dunking game”, a dish of water was placed on the floor and a threepenny- coin thrown in, as well as apples which were set floating on the water. Each child with their hands behind their backs tried to take up an apple with their teeth or the coin with their lips. The child who succeeded was permitted to keep his catch.

In the second “Snap-Apple” game, an apple was attached to the ceiling with a string and the children, again with their hands behind their backs, tried to grasp it in their mouths.

I relished my mother`s barm brack which included not only the traditional ring, but a whole list of tiny items wrapped in greaseproof paper, as a light-hearted means of telling the future. The ring signified early or imminent marriage, a coin represented wealth, a thimble spinsterhood, a button meant bachelorhood, a rag for poverty and finally a tiny piece of stick meant that the unfortunate finder would be beaten by their husband. Thank goodness, most skeletons in the cupboard including wife beating have long since been exposed but it is a sobering thought that the issue of “domestic abuse” was included in Halloween games/ food, which were handed down through the generations.

Folklore tells us that people were very superstitious about the in-between time i.e. when one season was reaching an end, and another had not yet started. They believed that the supernatural world was closest to our world at Halloween as the dead were just in another “realm”. People left out food to make the dead feel welcome in case they were still in limbo and wandering aimlessly around hoping to find their old home. A motley array of spirits including ghosts, fairies, banshees, and vampires or half dead creatures (not the Hollywood version) were thought to career around the countryside on that night. Pranks of all sorts were played by

groups of teenagers with blackened faces or in some form of disguise, resembling “spirits”, on unsuspecting farmers, cranky or eccentric individuals and the much maligned spinsters and bachelors, who were seen as not doing their part to keep the village alive by entering into a marriage and producing offspring.

People also believed in witches (again not the Hollywood ones) and unfortunately these beliefs had serious and lasting effects on the culture and society in Ireland, resulting in some horrific cases from history involving the treatment of so-called witches. Witches were believed to be at their most prolific around Halloween, riding a broomstick to the nocturnal Sabbath. It was held that they had sold their souls to the Devil, who in return gifted them with many tokens of his favour, and evil spirits to carry out their dastardly behests.

After Halloween, November brings darker days and longer nights, but it is also the time when we celebrate the precious memories of those who live forever in our hearts: those who gave us the gift of life or journeyed alongside us through various stages of our life. And of course, others who just crossed our paths for a short time yet left an indelible impression and enriched our experience of living. Being Christians, we remember too those who perhaps did us some injustice along with all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

And for those who dread the darker days of winter, remember that underneath all those fallen leaves -deep below the earth -the cycle of nature is still at work -and soon very soon the first snowdrops will appear, and we shall enjoy the warmer days of spring once again.

Given that the witching hour is fast approaching,
I give you:

Song of the Witches:

“Double, Double toil and trouble”

By William Shakespeare (*from Macbeth*)

*Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.
Fillet of a fenny snake.
In the cauldron boil and bake;
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
Adder`s fork and blind-worm`s sting,
Lizard`s leg and howlet`s wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.*

*Double double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.
Cool it with a baboon`s blood,
Then the charm is firm and good.*

Rathfeigh National School

Seamus Tansley

Meta (Facebook) Grant

Back in March we found out that we were successful in our Meta (Facebook) Grant application. We thank Meta for looking favourably on our application. With the grant we have purchased Promethean interactive whiteboards for all the classrooms, 25 chromebooks, laptops for the teachers and an i-pad for use in the Learning Support room. This will undoubtedly benefit the children in Rathfeigh for many, many years to come. Below are pictures of the children enjoying the new technology in school.

Enrolment for 2023/24

We started accepting applications for the 2023/24 school year on October 1st. Our Admissions Statement is on the school website. We will be ceasing accepting applications on March 1st 2023. If you would like to visit the school to see our excellent facilities please make an appointment by phone or e-mail (041-9825156 or rathfeighns@outlook.com). Please check out the school website rathfeighns.org.

Swimming

The children in 1st-4th class have just finished six weeks of swimming lessons in Navan Swimming Pool. We thank all the staff at the pool for their dedication in ensuring that the children progressed well. The children's progress has been exceptional despite the lessons only lasting for six weeks. We thank the staff for allowing the children use the slides on their final visit and we look forward to returning there for lessons next year.

Mindfulness

The children in all classes have really enjoyed the Wednesday Mindfulness lessons in the school with Una Curran. They really look forward each week to the lessons as it gives them extra time to relax and be more in tune with their bodies. Parents/guardians can find out more about the benefits of mindfulness for themselves and their children by checking out Una's website "Finding your Wings".

Computer Classes

We had adult computer classes in the school as part of our Meta application and we hope to have more of these classes at a future date. The following is the positive feedback from one of the participants. ***"What an amazing few weeks! I started the course with no knowledge whatsoever of the computer/laptop world. In the four weeks I learned a variety of skills like printing, desktop management, calendar schedule and lots more! I felt very at ease and my "fear" of computers has faded. Colm made me feel very relaxed and reminded me that "there is no such thing as a silly question!". I'd like to thank Colm, Mr Tansley and Rathfeigh National School on giving me the opportunity to making my leap into the computer universe. I will look forward to another venture of computer classes"***

The children also had four weeks of computer classes with Colm. We thank Colm for his great work with the adult and children computer classes, for sourcing the chromebooks

and for all his expertise in solving our IT issues when they arise from time to time.

Tin Whistle

Covid-19 put a temporary halt to our school's tradition of teaching tin whistle. The children in First to Sixth class are delighted to be back playing the instrument and are enthusiastic practising at home. We thank Mrs Vaughan for teaching the tin whistle to the pupils and we hope to have a "performance" for parents/guardians towards the end of the year.

Halloween Fancy Dress/Pumpkin Competition

On Friday the 28th of October the children came to school dressed up in their Halloween costumes. We had an assembly in the school hall where the children talked about their costumes which was very entertaining. The children also brought in their pumpkins which they designed at home. The standard was sky high and we had the almost impossible task of picking the top three pumpkins from each class. Well done to all the winners.

Halloween Disco

A big thanks to the Rathfeigh and Skryne Parents' Associations for organising the Halloween Disco in Skryne School Hall on Friday night. The talk all week amongst the children was about going to the disco. So, hopefully, everyone had great fun last night. Thanks to Tom and the Skryne Board of Management for hosting the event in their school.

Gaelic Football

Our Girls' Football team lost out narrowly on a semi-final spot after losing by just a goal to a very good Ballinacree team. The performances this year from all the girls was exceptional and we hope they'll get over the disappointment soon. Thanks to Ms Reynolds for training the girls this year.

At the time of writing this article our Boys' Football Team are due to play Castlejordan in the Quarter Finals also and we wish them luck.

A big congratulations to the Skryne Ladies Football team on winning their Intermediate Final recently. We look forward to them visiting the school with the cup and I am confident that some of the girls presently in Rathfeigh will be playing for the Skryne Ladies' Teams in years to come.

Meath Book Festival

As part of the excellently organised Meath Book Festival our classes went to local libraries and theatres where they met a variety of Irish authors. First and Second class went to Dunboyne library where they had words of wisdom from author Alan Nolan. Third to Sixth class visited the Solstice in Navan for a very entertaining and lively performance from authors Dave Rudden and Graham Tugwell. The children left both performances with smiles on their faces after being thoroughly entertained by the various authors. Hopefully it will

encourage a few pupils with creative writing skills to follow their dreams of becoming budding authors in a few years.

Rathfeigh Nursing Home

We have been liaising with Rathfeigh Nursing Home with the hope that we can work closely with them over the course of the year. We hope the children in Rathfeigh can help the residents in a small way by creating videos that can be sent to the residents that may bring a smile to their faces e.g. singing performances, tin whistle, welcome messages etc etc. Hopefully, Covid permitting, the children may be able to visit the Nursing Home before the year is out to perform for the residents.

Recount Writing

Over the last few weeks we have been focusing on Recount Writing as part of the writing genres in the English Curriculum. The children in 5th and 6th class wrote about their favourite "Myths and Legends". Their written work and drawings were of a very high standard and they enjoyed reading their stories to the children in other classes. It was lovely to hear these "Myths and Legends" which we, as teachers, learned when

we were in Primary School many, many years ago e.g. The Salmon of Knowledge, The Children of Lir, Cú Chulainn etc.

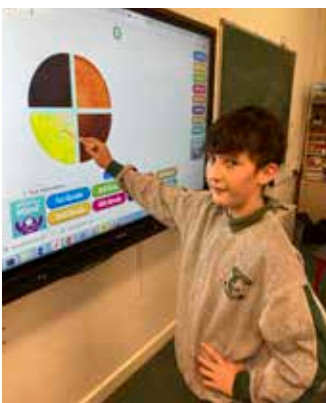
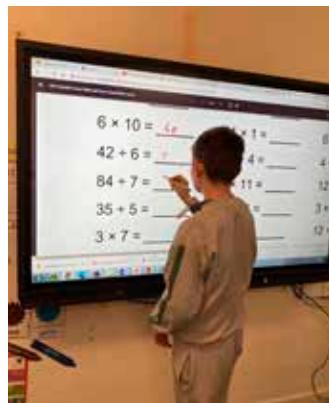
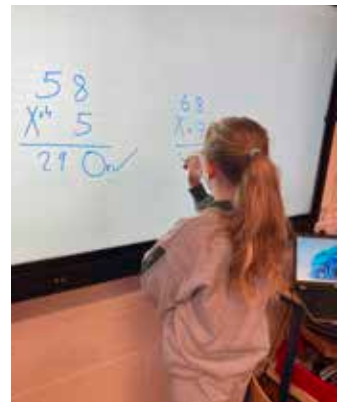
The children in 3rd/4th class wrote about their favourite fables e.g. The Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood, Goldilocks and The Three Bears etc. They, also, enjoyed reading these stories particularly to the Junior and Senior Infants.

Well done to all the children for their excellent stories over the last few weeks.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Our Parent/Teacher meetings will take place on the 24th/25th of November. At these meetings we will be giving feedback to parents/guardians on the academic and social development of the children.

We wish everyone in the Rathfeigh School community an enjoyable and safe Halloween. School re-opens after the Halloween break on Monday November 7th.





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.

Hillview Nursing Home have a vacancy for

a full time housekeeper and a care assistant. Flexible hours available, experience not essential as full training will be provided. Please contact Rebecca on 041 9825698 or email info@hillviewcare for further details.



Tuesday Club Christmas Lunch

After an absence of 3 years, the Skryne Tuesday Club is holding a Christmas Lunch in the Royal Tara Golf Club on Thursday 1st December @ 2pm. If you plan to attend, please contact Michael @ 087-2525586 or Dermot @ 086-8760336 or Maurice @ 087-9543222. Let's make it an enjoyable social occasion for the RST area.

Forgive the wasps - and learn to understand them

Chances are that you were irritated by wasps this summer – there were a lot of them about. But did you know what they were really looking for? According to Prof Seirian Sumner, a behavioural ecologist and entomologist at University College London, we should try to “understand what wasps want, and what they’re doing at certain times of the year.” In early and mid-summer “they’re not that interested in sugar, they want meat. The adults are vegetarian, but they hunt prey to feed to the larvae, who give them a sugary reward,” she says. “Then, when the larvae pupate [in late summer and early autumn], there’s fewer that need feeding, and they don’t need to hunt, so wasps are sort of furloughed. And then they go in search of sugar, usually in flowers. But your prosecco, or beer, or jam sandwich is just as appealing.” Her advice, then, is to distract wasps from yourself by offering them meat in early to mid-summer, and a saucer of cider or some jam on a lid in late summer and early autumn. Sumner stresses that the world would be much worse off without wasps: they are excellent at pest control and are also fine pollinators.

More on wasps in her book:
Endless Forms: The Secret World of Wasps
(HarperCollins)



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

www.quizmasters.biz DINGBATS 33 www.quizmasters.biz

DEA	SEXMARRIAGE	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0	MAINEVADA
01	02	03	04
ACTIO	THAT•THAT		
05	06	07	08
	BOB		ABOSWANUT
09	10	11	12

Answers to Dingbats challenge

1 No Idea, 2 Sex Before Marriage, 3 Room For One At The Top, 4 United States Of America, 5 Missing In Action, 6 That's Beside The Point, 7 Man In The Middle, 8 Merry Go Round, 9 Rush Hour, 10 Bob Up And Down, 11 Seal Of Approval, 12 Swanning About



AWFUL JOKES

Henry Ford's secret

When the late Mr and Mrs Henry Ford celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, a reporter asked them: "To what do you attribute your fifty years of successful married life?"

"The formula," said Ford, "is the same formula I have always used in making cars - just stick to one model."

Dead cow

A farmer was trying hard to fill out an extensive and complicated railway company claim sheet for a cow that had been killed on the track.

Finally, he came down to the very last item: 'Disposition of the carcass.'

After puzzling over the question for some time, he wrote: 'Kind and gentle.'

Sunday school lesson

Very lively little Dora had returned from Sunday school, where she had been for the first time. "And what did my little girl learn this morning?" asked her father indulgently. "That I am a child of the devil," was the beaming reply.



Find the 8 differences hidden in these two seemingly identical pictures



RATHFEIGH PITCH AND PUTT CLUB

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Music by The Hoot'nannys

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From the Archives: Meath Chronicle, October 27th 1973. Were you there?



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Condolences

We offer our condolences to the following:

- Donal O'Brien, Scalestown on the death of his sister Carmel
- Marie McGoldrick, Macetown on the death of her mother Joan
- Liz Hanley, Greenpark Lane on the death of her mother Maureen
- Maurice Kearney, Proudstown on the death of his sister
- Nola Burke, Frankstown on the death of her father Edward
- Anne O'Connell, Hill of Skryne on the death of her sister Teresa

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.

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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 26th November

Submissions on or before
Sunday 20th November

Contact:

Jim: (086) 383 7436

Patricia: (086) 838 8017

Email: therstnewsletter@gmail.com