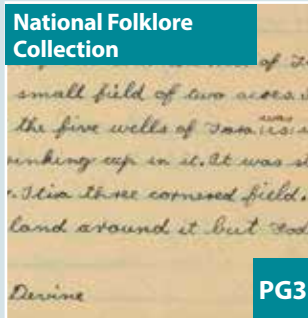




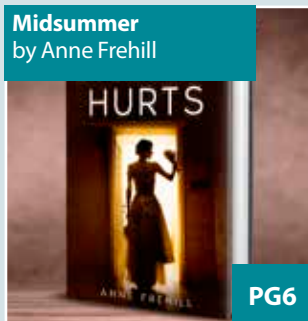
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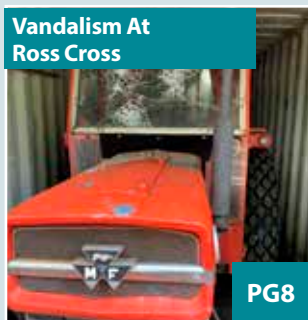
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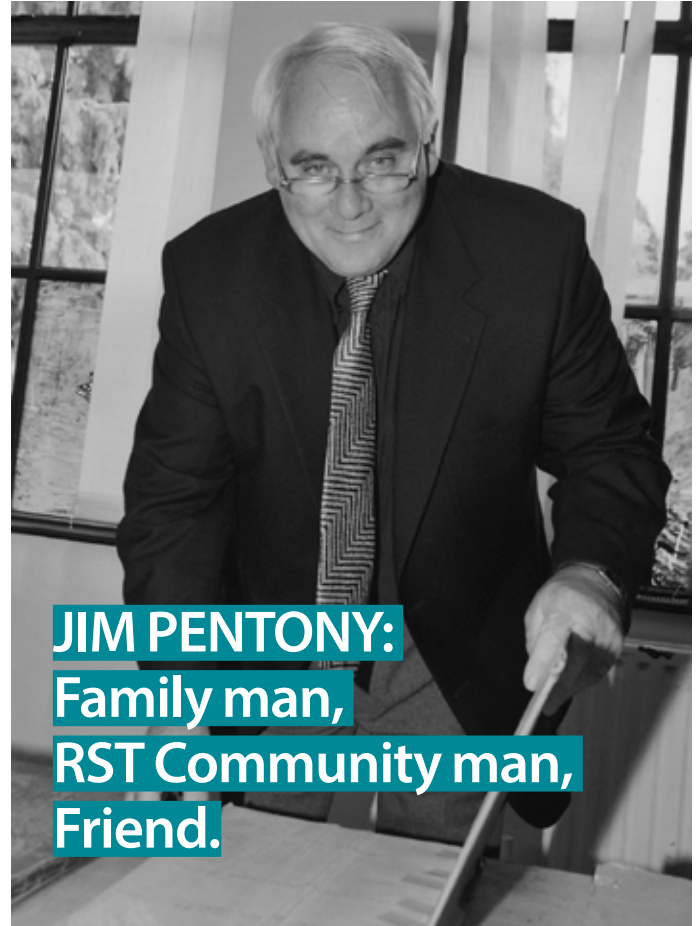
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PG10



PG18



## JIM PENTONY: Family man, RST Community man, Friend.

**The sudden death of Jim Pentony, on 19th May 2021 sent waves of sadness through the RST Community where he lived all his life. Jim was 76.**

Having attended Cushenstown National School and Warrenstown Agricultural College in Drumree, Jim started farming in Rathfeigh. He was a very dedicated and committed farmer, always appreciating his deep roots in the land. He was active in the IFA all his life and was a member of the Boyne Valley Lamb Producers Group.

**Continued on page 2**

**First and most importantly, Jim Pentony was a great family man. Family was priority. We are aware of the tense rivalry between Meath and neighbours Dublin on the playing field but when it came to romance, like many RST men before and since, Jim adopted a gentler approach, and was rewarded when he met and married Marie Boylan from Garristown, in 1967. Jim and Marie are blessed with four sons.**

Jim's involvement in the RST community merits a chapter on its own. The GAA was his great sporting love. He and Marie rarely missed a Meath match and travelled to the four provinces to support the Royal County. Even though he never lined out for Skryne GAA, he made a huge contribution to the club. He served on the committee for many years and was chairman of Skryne GAA in 1994. Though Jim didn't play, his sons made up for it as all four, James, Louis, Mark and Kenneth played at senior grade, with Louis captaining Skryne to victory in the senior championship final over Navan O'Mahonys in 1993.

Jim was deeply involved with Rathfeigh and District Historical Society from the beginning serving as its first chairman from its launch in November 1985. Being passionate about local and natural history, he "raised the profile of numerous important local historical sites and records." (Ref: Meath Chronicle). He and the society were instrumental in publishing

six editions of "The Window on the Past" series. He instigated a "Schools' Project" in 1990, to promote the importance of local history for the children by sponsoring an art competition along with a Photo and Slide exhibition of old photographs.

Jim loved Rathfeigh National School where his four sons and grandchildren were students. He was a member of the school Board of Management and The Parents' Association on several occasions where his day-to-day knowledge and practical experience were often called on.

Politics, both local and national was one of Jim's great interests. He always supported local candidates as his expert knowledge of the local community proved invaluable. He generally had something encouraging to say even when the outlook for a candidate or even a party, was bleak. A quotation from no less a man than former Taoiseach, John Bruton, is apt in the circumstances: "Jim was a true and reliable friend in good and less good times.

He will not be forgotten." (Ref: [www.rip.ie](http://www.rip.ie) condolences.)

Jim got great comfort from his strong faith. He was a Minister of the Eucharist and a bell ringer in Rathfeigh Church where his funeral Mass was said on 24th May. Jim is fondly remembered as a man with a deep sense of loyalty to his family, the RST community and the many friends he made along the road of life. He was greatly loved and is sadly missed by all who were lucky enough to have known him.

He was predeceased by his brother Michael and by his sisters, Olive, May and Enda. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Marie (nee Boylan); sons, James (Denver, Colorado), Louis, Mark and Kenneth, (Rathfeigh); grandchildren, Isabella, Sara, Cormac, Alannah, Lucy and Aidan; daughters-in-law, Leslie, Richella, Patricia and Carol; sisters, Imelda, Ann and Joan.

Jim Pentony's funeral Mass took place at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Rathfeigh to the adjoining cemetery. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

*Maurice Daly, 25th July 2021.*



## RATOATH MOTOR CENTRE

Robbie Gillett and his staff commenced their Ratoath Motor Centre business in October 2017 having taken over the goodwill and premises from the retiring Dessie Brady.

Local Customer Service is the main focus of Robbie and his staff as they continue to expand their business. Petrol sales and bike sales were discontinued to concentrate on four core business areas : (1) the sale of pre-owned cars under all makes and models (2) the servicing of cars and vans with a free collect and drop back service for local customers plus a wide stock of tyres and parts (3) the hiring of cars and vans and (4) new to Ratoath, a comprehensive valet service.

RMC also see themselves as car import specialists whilst Robbie has also in recent years built up his own personal contacts with all Irish main dealers. Financing arrangements are a key feature also and same day or next day approvals are the norm. Robbie's sales motto is that 'if we haven't already got it, we will find it for you quickly' once the potential customer lets their preferences be known.

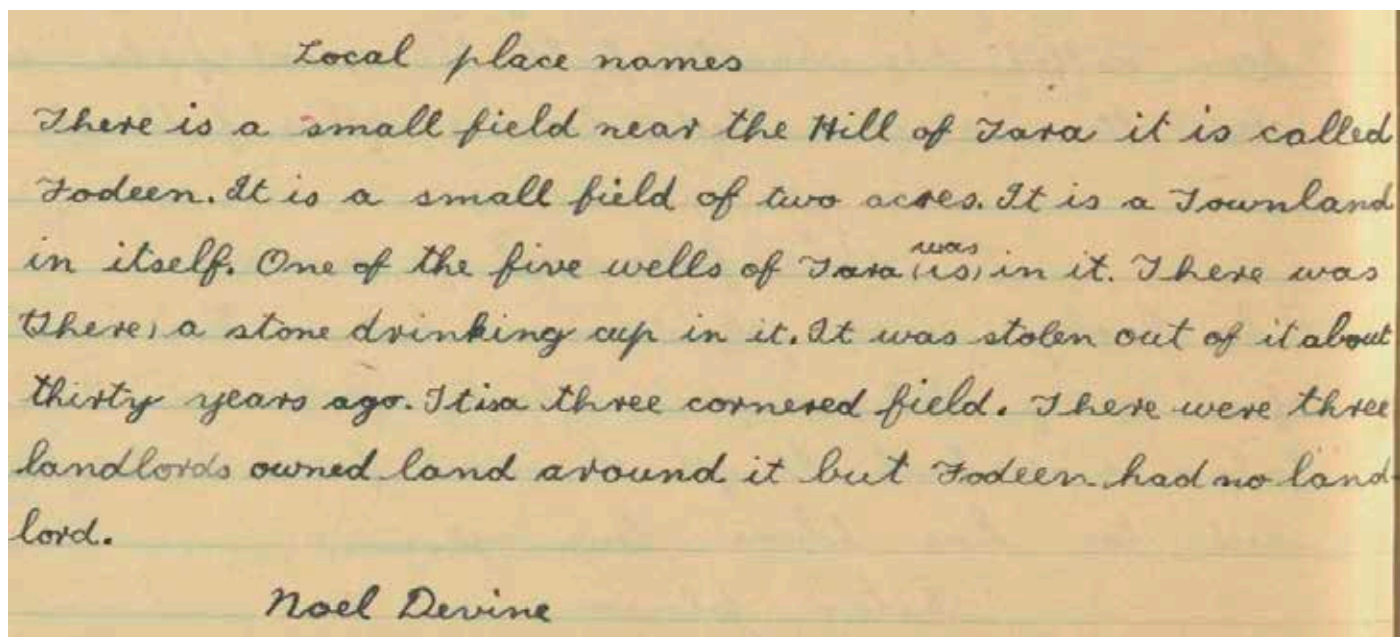
RMC has strong local connections in the RST area. His parents, Martin and Phyllis, live in Greenpark and the family have been active in Skryne community life and sport over the years. Robbie has had a strong interest in motor cars all his life and in his business he has surrounded himself with an experienced team of professionals. While the business faces stiff competition from larger garages in Ashbourne and Dunshaughlin, Ratoath Motor Centre continues to thrive in its prime location in Ratoath.



This issue is sponsored by Ratoath Motor Centre Robbie Gillette

# The Schools Collection, 1937-1939

National Folklore Collection



This month, we delve into the Dúchas Schools Collection from Skryne School, where Noel Devine wrote about the townland of Fodeen. Noel was born where Maguire's now live on the Hill of Tara, and still lives not too far from there. I explored Fodeen a few years ago. I'm pleased to say the well is still in place. No sign of the stolen cup though!

Image and data © National Folklore Collection, UCD



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Well done to the Skryne Ladies Team who have secured a spot in the Division 3 League semi final. The ladies defeated St.Ultans, Moylagh, Duleek-Bellewstown, Dunsany, and Summerhill in the path to the semi-final. Best of luck to the players and management in the semi final, details to be announced.

See the following links for all the recent matches that our senior teams have participated in since the last issue of the RST. I have also included links to the recent Golf Classic, Blotto results, Upcoming fixtures and all recent GAA results involving Skryne GFC

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## Golf Classic

Golf Classic: <http://www.skrynegfc.ie/skryne-gfc-24th-annual-golf-classic?>

---

## Premier Football Championship. Division 1 - Round 2.

Match report: <http://www.skrynegfc.ie/premier-football-championship-division-1-round-2-skryne-1-10-seneschalstown-4-14?>

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## Feis Cup

Round 4. St. Colmcilles v Skryne

<http://www.skrynegfc.ie/feis-cup-group-b-round-4-st-colmcilles-1-17-skryne-0-15?>

Round 5. Skryne v Wolfe Tones  
No Match Report

Round 6. Seneschalstown v Skryne

<http://www.skrynegfc.ie/feis-cup-group-b-round-6-seneschalstown-1-11-skryne-2-13?>

Round 7. Skryne v Ratoath

<http://www.skrynegfc.ie/feis-cup-group-b-round-7-skryne-2-10-ratoath-2-12?>

---

## Premier Football Championship – Division 1

Round 1. Trim v Skryne

<http://www.skrynegfc.ie/premier-football-championship-division-1-round-1-trim-4-12-skryne-2-09?>

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## Premier Football Championship – Division 5

Round 1. Ballinabrackey v Skryne

<http://www.skrynegfc.ie/premier-football-championship-division-5-round-1-ballinabrackey-1-24-skryne-2-02?>

Round 2. Skryne v St. Pauls

<http://www.skrynegfc.ie/premier-football-championship-division-5-round-2-skryne-0-13-st-pauls-1-07?>

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## All GAA Fixtures and Results

Meath GAA website link for Skryne results and fixtures

<https://meath.gaa.ie/fixtures-results/?clubID=1952>

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## BLOTTO

Latest Blotto Results can be found at the following link

<http://www.skrynegfc.ie/blotto>

# Trying To Get Back On Track

Joan Gallagher

In 1978, (two years after George died) on the same day that Anne (my Daughter) started her Nurse training in the Richmond Hospital, I started a course in “The Irish Farm Centre” on the Naas road, and when I finished that I got a job doing Farm Management Accounts, which entailed visiting each farmer on his farm every two months and recording everything that took place on the farm since my last visit.

It turned out to be a very pleasant and interesting job, as I had about sixty farmers on my books, all specialising in different types of farming, such as dairying, beef, sheep, grain growing, and sometimes mixed farming (the smallest farm was 2 acres, he grew fruit and vegetables under glass, and the largest was 1150 acres and all sizes in between, so I was meeting a different client each day, so I never got bored as there was always a “story” to hear, unfortunately, none of which I can relate here on account of confidentiality.

This very comprehensive set of Farm Management Accounts, when completed at the end of the year, gave a very clear picture of how well the business was doing (or not), and it

was this set of accounts that the farmer armed himself with when going to see his Bank Manager to look for the loans and grants for all the huge farm improvement schemes that were going on at that time, such as Herringbone Milking Parlours fitted out with Automatic Milking machines, self-feeders, Bulk Tanks, cattle sheds with slatted units, and the devil knows all. Sure some of them just stopped short of wallpapering them !!!

Unfortunately, it was not very long after, that the Country hit a terrible slump, when interest rates went through the roof, as high as 22% and 23% I recorded in some cases. Now with those sorts of costs it was almost impossible to stay afloat, and indeed some farmers and small businesses did go under, never to recover.

I was doing this job for about three and a half years, and I was enjoying it when Fate took a hand in my life.

*an extract from Joan Gallagher's book  
“Milestones along the Journey of Life*

## Rathfeigh National School

Seamus Tansley

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable and relaxing summer holidays. The unseasonably dry and hot summer is well deserved after the tough 18 months we all have had to endure as a result of Covid-19. The children, more than most, deserve a great summer after two interrupted school years. They have shown great resilience during the months of remote learning but more importantly having to put up with restrictions while the school was open! They deserve great credit. HOPEFULLY, the school year that awaits us will be as close to normal as possible. However, teachers will still be wearing face masks and the pupils in 3rd to 6th will still have Perspex between their desks. Our Covid-19 Response Plan will still be in operation and Return to School Declaration Forms will still need to be filled out when children are absent ([rathfeighns.org](http://rathfeighns.org)). We hope to have after-school activities up and running again in the school hall and hopefully we will have football and rugby coaches visiting us regularly. These activities are badly needed for the physical and social development of the pupils but also for their well-being.

We will be returning to school on Thursday August 26th. We are all looking forward to seeing the children and the new Junior Infants in particular. It will be an exciting time for the children and their parents/guardians as they embark on their educational and social journey in Rathfeigh. A big thanks to Bridget for once again co-ordinating the Book Rental Scheme. When the children return on the 26th their books will be ready and labelled for them.

As a new class start their journey in Rathfeigh our Graduation Class of 2021 will be starting the next chapter in their lives as they start in various secondary schools. I wish them the very best of luck in secondary school and I'm sure they are all ready for the challenges that lie ahead of them. I look forward to seeing them all again when their Confirmation finally takes place hopefully before this year is out!

Remaining positive while the pandemic is with us isn't easy but a positive mind-set certainly makes things a little easier. We will continue to be positive and encouraging of the children and staff as we face into another year which will undoubtedly have “ups and downs” and “twists and turns”!

A few quotes I've come across over the course of the year may help us in keeping positivity central to what we do in Rathfeigh.

**“Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow”**  
(Helen Keller).

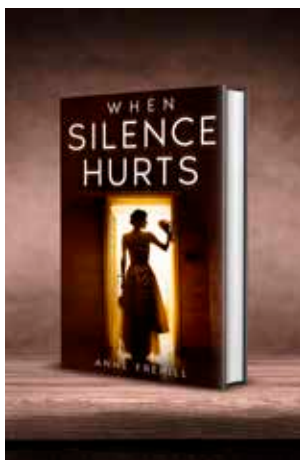
**“Every day may not be good..... but there's something good in every day”** (Alice Morse-Earle – American Historian).

Despite the Delta variant taking hold I am confident and positive about the year ahead. I look forward to another great year in our school and one which will have great memories and positive formative experiences for the children. Hoping to see you all fit and well on August 26th.

# Midsummer

Anne Frehill

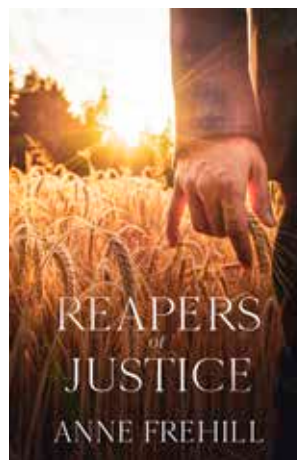
Two books of historical fiction written by local writer and author : Anne Frehill (nee Mc Carthy)



1

## Reapers of Justice

set in Meath during the War of independence, looks at a clandestine marriage between a so-called spinster schoolmistress and a leader of the IRA who is on the run for the murder of RIC officers.



2

## When Silence Hurts

set in Meath in the 1950`s, follows one woman's struggle to escape from an abusive relationship.

Anne has been interviewed about her books on a number of Radio Stations including Galway Bay FM, Midwest Radio, Liffey Radio which serves not only the Liffey valley but nine different Community Radio Stations around the country, and Limerick Radio. On July 27th, Gerry Kelly from LMFm Radio will be talking with Anne about her books. Her books were also featured recently in the Books Page of the Meath Chronicle.

The response to both books has been good including a 4 out of 4 stars review from a professional reviewer in the USA. Anne is selling the books at 12.99 euros each or at a special price to readers of RST Newsletter of just 21.00 euros for both books. Telephone 086-7707381. Also available through Swans of Oberstown.

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## CONGRATULATIONS

to Jim & Helena Gibbons who are celebrating their golden wedding anniversary this week

# Movie Review

Darragh O'Dowd

There's nothing more thrilling than being right up close with the destruction of combat, so this time we're going to look at the war genre. Here is my top three, must-see war movies;



## Apocalypse Now (1979)

In 1979, America was still reeling from the Vietnam War. Though *The Deer Hunter* came out the year before, that film still largely sympathised with the American soldiers. No audience was ready for *Apocalypse Now*. Not only showing the brutality of war but the mental deterioration of the soldier's minds, this film portrayed crazed generals committing genocide and brainwashed soldiers blindly following their orders. Starring cinema legends like Marlon Brando, Robert Duvall and Martin Sheen, *Apocalypse Now* crackles with scene after scene of masterfully executed death and destruction. An epic in every sense of the word, Francis Ford Coppola's masterpiece is the greatest war movie ever made.

## Saving Private Ryan (1998)

The D-Day Landings and other military victories had been shown in films before with trumpet-y fanfare common with the genre during the 50s and 60s. *Saving Private Ryan* told everyone it wasn't going to be that movie and they sure as hell believed it, as the film starts with the visceral, harrowing and altogether iconic Omaha Beach Landings scene. The scene captures the tone and feel of the film and showed the audience the stuff they hadn't read about in the history books, the brutal reality of the countless lives lost in the name of victory. Although, since the film is helmed by Steven Spielberg, the director does what he did with his Best Picture-winning *Schindler's List* and balances the grim realism with a sense of optimism. Masterfully directed by Spielberg and featuring a cast of brilliant actors led by Tom Hanks, *Saving Private Ryan* is an unflinching masterpiece that is unlike anything you've ever seen.



## Lawrence of Arabia (1962)

*Lawrence of Arabia's* enormous runtime would be enough to turn anyone off, as the film clocks in at nearly four hours. However director David Lean uses this time to tell the story of T.E. Lawrence and his experiences in the Ottoman Empire's provinces in Hejaz and Greater Syria during World War I. Lean uses his signature wide lens to give us magnificent shots of the Arabian deserts and their inhabitants, all the while still focusing on Lawrence's emotional struggles with his own identity and his divided allegiance between his native Britain with its army and his new-found comrades within the Arabian desert tribes. The epic of all epics, *Lawrence of Arabia* cements director David Lean's status in the filmmaking pantheon with nearly four hours of grand scope, brilliant performances by Peter O'Toole, Alec Guinness and Omar Sharif, and beautiful cinematography.



If you're looking for more war movies, check out *Inglourious Basterds*, *Jojo Rabbit*, *Platoon*, *The Deer Hunter*, *Dunkirk*, *The Bridge on the River Kwai* and *Good Morning Vietnam*.

## Vandalism At Ross Cross



### Sadly once again we have to report vandalism at Tara Athletic Club Grounds at Ross Cross.

Both Skryne Tara AFC and Tara AC are trying, at great expense, to provide proper facilities for the youth of our Parish but unfortunately some idiots have decided to cause trouble and damage to property at the grounds. This is not the first time we have had to report such acts of vandalism (we can think of other words to describe it) and it causes volunteers to wonder why such vendettas are aimed at our club. (See picture).

Both clubs are requesting their members and also the general public to be vigilant and please report any unwelcome 'visitors' to the Track.

If anybody is aware of people just loitering at Tara Athletic Grounds for no good reason they can call any Committee member of either club or the Gardai in Ashbourne on 01 8010600 or any Garda Station.



## Dublin Horse Show

**Kevin O'Reilly of Old Ross Road, Tara, has qualified at Ravensdale, Dundalk for the final 8 available places in the RDS Amateur event at the Dublin Horse Show in August.**

This is Kevins first year competing and came first with the fastest 3 clear rounds out of nearly 100 competitors.

He won on Furore S with a final clear round in 34.59. The Dutch bred 11 year old gelding is by Lupicor out of the Jackson sired Sulana T. Best of luck Kevin in the RDS

◆ DUBLIN ◆  
HORSE SHOW







Charles, Ros and Raymond Coyle, Tara, at the Indeed.ie mural of Natalya in Temple Bar.  
Wishing Natalya the best of luck in her upcoming Olympics Modern Pentathlon event in Tokyo beginning 5th August

# Night Sky July 2021

by Tony Canavan

Sunrise: 5 45 am

Sunset: 10 30 pm

## Moon:

August 8th – New Moon (no moon visible)

August 22nd – Full Moon

August 15th – First Quarter (half-moon visible)

August 30th – Last Quarter (half-moon visible)

During August the nights are longer and darker and astronomical viewing improves.

This month is excellent for viewing Jupiter and Saturn as they appear in the night sky after 11 pm. They are in opposition i.e. brightest and closest to the earth. As the month progresses Saturn and Jupiter come into the evening sky.

## 4th August:

Saturn rises at 9 pm and at 11 pm has an azimuth of  $147^\circ$  and altitude of  $11^\circ$ . Jupiter rises at 9 45 pm and at 11 pm it has an azimuth of  $128^\circ$  and altitude of  $10^\circ$ . The moon does not rise until 2 am and is a small crescent shape.



View through a 6 inch telescope:

This is the image you should see through an average small telescope looking at Jupiter (moons not necessarily in this order). The bright lights either side are the moons of Jupiter. The moons will be in different positions as they rotate around Jupiter. Some of these moons were first seen by Galileo in 1690 and recognized by him as satellites of Jupiter. Galileo discovered four moons, Io, Europa, Callisto, Ganymede, known as the **Galilean Moons**, all 79 moons of Jupiter are known collectively as the **Jovian Moons**. They were the first objects found to orbit a planet other than the earth. The earth centred universe of the world for 2000 years was gone confirming the Copernican revolution. Lenses had already been invented in Holland for spectacles etc. but Galileo used them in a tube to view the night sky. He was very careful to restrict access to his telescope until his own place in history had been assured. (See images on YouTube of Juno and Cassini spacecraft missions to Jupiter and Saturn.) You can monitor the moon positions over the month as Galileo did. On the evening of the 4th August, close in on Jupiter, are the moons Europa, Ganymede and Io and further out to the right is Callisto.

Saturn moons of Lapetus, Titan, Rhea, Hyperion are further out from the planet, and closer to Saturn are the moons Dione, Enceladus, Tethys and Mimas. At this time Titan and Enceladus are prime targets for life forms with missions planned to both. Saturn and Jupiter will continue to stay bright during the month. Remember Saturn is the most distant of the five planets that are easily visible to the naked eye, and is therefore fainter than Jupiter. It rotates rapidly, about every 11 hours, and takes about 30 earth years to orbit the sun. It has 60 known moons.

**August 2nd & 3rd:** if you can get out of bed for 3 am (if the skies are clear) rising from the East will be a beautiful crescent moon, above it the beautiful star cluster of the Pleiades, and just under the moon a **V shape**, that is sideways, representing the horns of the bull in Taurus with the star Aldebaran the bright star at the end of the V shape. It is the Arabic name for 'Follower' as it seems to follow the Pleiades. Above all this is the constellation of Perseus (see August 12th)

**August 10th:** In the western sky the sun is setting followed by Mercury and Mars, and slightly further back is a crescent moon followed by Venus. These are all visible to the naked eye, they are low in the west, best viewed with a binoculars.

**August 12th** is the next peak of the Perseids meteor showers (best of the year) with about 110 meteors per hour. It is in the constellation of Perseus close under Cassiopeia (the **W shape** in the sky), azimuth  $30^\circ$  and altitude  $30^\circ$ , and have a look for the Andromeda Galaxy to the right (azimuth  $58^\circ$  and altitude  $30^\circ$ ) all in North to North-East.

**August 20th** about 11 pm Saturn is directly above a full moon with Jupiter, Neptune and Uranus trailing behind.

**August 22nd** Full Blue Moon on the night of August 21st, also known as The Sturgeon Moon because the giant sturgeon of the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain were most readily caught during this part of the summer. Also, at 230 am on 22nd, Jupiter makes a close approach in the sky to the Blue Moon.

## Rare black hole and neutron star collisions:

Scientists have detected recently two separate collisions between a black hole and a neutron star.



### Artists impression of a collision between a neutron star and a black hole.

A neutron star is created when a massive star collapses and protons and neutrons are crushed together leaving behind one of nature's amazing creations, a neutron star. It is the size of a large city containing about 1.5 to 2.5 solar masses. It's so dense that a teaspoon of the material can weigh more than 2 billion tons. Such a huge collision between two astronomical giants sends ripples through the fabric of space and this is

picked up by laser interferometers on earth. These are known as gravitational waves and they travel at the speed of light and this was the last theory of General Relativity by Einstein to be confirmed. They were detected by the LIGO detector in the United States and the Virgo detector in Italy. The merger took place 900 million light years away. These ripples, by the time they reach us, are less than the width of an atom. The gravitational wave detectors are among the most sensitive instruments ever constructed. This discovery has implications for planet and galaxy formation.

## European Astronauts:

**A total of 22,589 individuals filled out the online form of which 5419 were women.**

**This is nearly three times the number from a similar competitive process in 2008.**

**Appointments will be made in 2022. These applications can lead to other rolls within the agency (ESA). 270 Irish candidates applied. Good luck to all of them.**

**UFO's: Are we Alone?** A report was recently released this month by the American Government regarding unidentified flying objects. Many of the reports were of unusual objects with movement patterns or flight characteristics showing advanced, unknown technological capabilities. In some cases military aircraft processed some radio frequency energy associated with these sightings. No clear conclusions were reached.

The real search for extra-terrestrial life is by the SETI Institute (Search for extra-terrestrial Intelligence). It has more than 100 scientists investigating the nature of the universe and the prevalence of life beyond Earth. The only real signal received has been the **Wow! Signal** in 1977. The signal appeared to come from the direction of Sagittarius and bore all the hallmarks of an extra-terrestrial origin. It lasted for 72 seconds but it has never been detected since. Scientists are now using a large number of small radio dishes carrying out wide-sky surveys and targeted searches. Scientists generally discount UFO sightings in favour of the work of SETI. Although life in many forms may be plentiful in the universe, complex life may be far less so. We do not know, yet.

### Branson:

Sir Richard Branson successfully reached the edge of space on board his Virgin Galactic rocket plane. The height reached was 53 miles. He was accompanied on the mission by two pilots and three Galactic employees. They were presented with commercial astronaut wings. He expects to start to begin

selling space tourism seats to customers next year.

### Jeff Bezos:

Jeff Bezos (Amazon), Mark Bezos (his brother), Wally Funk (82 years old, oldest astronaut in space) and Oliver Daemen (18 years old, youngest astronaut in space). The space-ship New Shepard reached a height of 62 mls or 100 kms (the **Karmin Line**) and by so became the first commercial vehicle under a suborbital reusable launch vehicle to fly paying customers, both payloads and astronauts, to space and back.

### Comet Bernardinelli-Bernstein

which is about 200 kms in diameter, i.e. about 10 times the diameter of previous comets, and it will make its closest approach to the sun in 2031. The comet originated in the **Oort Cloud**, beyond our planetary system, comprising ejected material from the early history of the Solar System. First seen in 2014 it has an orbit perpendicular to the plane of the Solar System. Its closest point of approach will be 11 AU (Astronomical Units, distance from earth to the Sun). So it will require large telescopes to monitor its trajectory). It will be studied intensively to understand the nature of objects in the Oort Cloud.

# Last Call

By Matthew Byrne

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**With a flick of his wrist, the book closed over. “Another case closed. Literally. I would say I’ll take the weekend off, but after ’25 I don’t bother”, thought Sam as he sat back in his chair and took in his office.**

It wasn't a bad office after only three years of being a private detective. Sam wasn't a man for clutter, so he only had two chairs: big and small. The large cushioned, red chair was for any potential clients (cannot have a first impression that I skimp on the money). The diminutive chair was the one thing that remained from Sam's very first case and it hadn't left the office since. It was not much to look at, all wooden with very little cushioning, but over the years Sam had worn it down to just the way he liked it. Interposed between these two chairs was 'The Desk'. This was where Sam had gone all out: solid dark mahogany construction with more hidden compartments than visible ones. Sam had always been a sucker for the decor in the movies, especially that of his namesake.

Another thing that Sam would have sold the world for was his record collection. Ever since he was seven, he had been captivated by classical composers. He loved Mozart and Haydn but had a sweet spot for Beethoven. This explained why he had all of Beethoven's piano sonatas alongside symphonies and this explains why the last movement of Beethoven's 4th Symphony was currently spinning on the gramophone. Sam wished someone had invented an automatic way of flipping the record as he strolled leisurely towards it. The mahogany-cased gramophone was situated to the left of the chairs, not the right, so that any right-handed 'displeased' clients would have to turn to shoot. Above this arrangement sat an adorned mirror with remarkably similar furnishings to the client chair. "I did well out of that shop closing", crossed Sam's mind as he smiled cheerfully at himself in the mirror.

His age had started to catch up with him over the last three years, but he still looked well for a thirty-five-year-old. His cheek bones had become more prominent along with some scars gained on his forehead. "You should have seen the other guy", Sam laughed to himself. The most worrying change that was reflected: his hair was getting greyer. As skinny as ever, he still stood at an impressive six feet tall. Sam noticed that people seemed to be bothered by his perpetual stare, but he couldn't see anything unnerving with it in the mirror. On that thought, he flipped the record and started Symphony No. 5.

Sam had always enjoyed the fortissimo opening and let it roll over him as he stood beside the mirror. He switched out the needle for a quieter one, another hidden compartment in the set of drawers upon which his antique phonograph sat and then walked back to his reliable chair.

At this point, and being as meticulous as Sam was, he noticed that the ornate brown and white falcon paperweight had fallen to the floor. This had been gifted to him by a grateful client, Mr. Thursby, after an investigation was concluded

successfully. He picked it up with his left hand, one can never be too sure about these things, and set it back down quietly in its rightful place in the middle of the desk. He sunk back into his seat and immediately jumped back up again with a sudden fright: the client chair now had an occupant.

"Sorry Sir. I didn't hear you come in. What may I do for you?" Sam asked with as much composure as he could muster. Not a sound at all emanated from the stranger. The heavyset man just stared and stared blankly. Sam had seen many clients in his time, but this was by far one of the strangest. This was going to be a long one, so Sam began rearranging the papers on his desk when this morning's *Times* headline caught his eye:

## **Mayor missing under suspicious circumstances**

It was accompanied by a less than flattering photo from a recent event hosted by the Federal Bureau of Prohibition. Sam cautiously took the paper and held it up at the same level as the client's face: same white moustache, same appearance that looks like it went through a lot in the war and same cigar-shaped scar on the left chin. There was no doubt in Sam's mind as to whom the person opposite him was. "What can I do for you Mr. Mayor?" asked Sam, now with much more confidence.

The Mayor, however, continued to stare at the wall behind Sam, who at that point realised the sounds of the city outside were louder than usual. Straining his neck around to see what had the Mayor's undying attention, he saw nothing but the very lifelike painting of the night sky.

"Nothing to worry about Mr. Mayor, it's a painting that just jumps out at you." said Sam reassuringly. "Painting? I don't own any paintings." Sam muttered these words to himself as he turned around once more and saw the full picture: a corpulent body-sized hole in the wall.

Sam joined the Mayor in his engrossing activity: staring at what was once his off-cream office wall until the sudden, strong, cold breeze aroused him from his shock. "I know they called you the greatest mayor but landing in that chair proves it." It was all Sam could think of saying, at that moment, to the dead, pale, lifeless body in front of him.

If Sam had been any normal person, he would have phoned the police immediately and left it at that. Sam, however, was the proverbial cat and was drawing close to the last of his nine lives.

After closing the Mayor's eyes, Sam started searching for clues. Nothing in his wallet bar crisp new notes amounting to fifty dollars and membership cards to various high-class societies. His breast pocket solely contained his signature silk handkerchief. A well-used silver snuff box and pack of playing cards were the only contents of his trouser pockets. Sam had all but given up when he noticed a perfectly white piece of paper sticking out of the side of the Mayor's right shoe. "An odd place to hide something." thought Sam as he picked it up with child-like delight. In his profession, clues had a tendency to appear in the most unlikely of places. Headed mayoral paper, he unfolded it and read:

## 24 Capone Dock

Sam liked everything to be useful at least once, so he used his new human-made 'doorway' and set out on the nocturnal hunt through the dark, foggy streets. He had left a brief note for the inevitable arrival of the police.

After walking and smoking through seven cigarettes, Sam reached the ominously named *Capone Dock*. Unfortunately, he ended up coming at it from the wrong end and was forced to start at number forty-seven. He stared longingly at the solitary cigarette remaining in his pack.

Number twenty-four was in much the same state of disrepair as the rest of the buildings Sam had passed. Wooden construction consisting of semi-rotted planks which had lost their original colour a long time ago. The dirt-covered windows could only be identified from the horizontal planks below and above them. As Sam looked at this dilapidated building, he wondered was there ever a time when one could actually see through the windows. "If I was crooked, I know I'd come here", passed by Sam's mind as he approached the door.

The door was made of wood, not surprisingly, but looked like it had at least been visited by a varnish-soaked brush this decade. Sam gave the handle a push and door completely fell off its hinges. The sign next to it read "Pu\_\_". Sam decided the silent approach was gone out the window (more like in the door) and pulled out his six-cylinder revolver.

Inside, the place was completely devoid of all light, except for a hole in the roof allowing dappled moonlight to shine on and around an obviously newly built 12' x 12' wood crate positioned in the middle of the dock house. Sam neared it cautiously and noted two things on the floor beside it. The first, a still glowing cigarette butt. Its owner was probably scared by the door. "I would've been" said Sam aloud and the building echoed his words back to him. On the other side of the crate was cigar ash. "Too expensive for a thug, probably the Mayors" the building repeated back to Sam.

Since its latches were open, Sam decided to take a look inside. Once opened, the moonlight illuminated a list of contents:

Whiskey  
Beer  
Rum  
Stout

.....

The list continued on with various alcohol types along with corresponding quantities. But what really caught Sam's eye was a symbol in red ink which stood out in the moonlight. Sam instantly recognised the symbol and "Sub terra" was a complete giveaway to the smugglers' location. Sam considered himself to be healthy, but all this walking was getting to him, especially since his next destination was another 4 blocks away.

Sam always kept a spare packet of cigarettes in his trench coat's inner pocket, but even that had run out long before he reached the underground speakeasy. After traversing a flight of extremely slippery stairs downward, Sam was greeted by a metal door with two eyes unblinkingly staring out at him.

"I'm here to see the boss". Sam said in the most thug like manner he could muster.

"Password." was the only word he got back.

Sam had never been good with wordplay nor had much luck with guessing, but he gave it a go anyway:

**"Password?"**

The door flung open with a speed Sam didn't think was possible for such a heavy door. "The first time that I am actually lucky is when I'm heading into a speakeasy" ominously passed through Sam's brain. As soon as he entered, the door shut again behind him.

The room into which Sam entered must have been the main attraction. Along the left-hand wall was a bar stocked with enough alcohol to burn down the building itself. Sam never thought he would see the likes of it during prohibition. The right-hand side of the room was a blanketed in a turbid fog of smoke. After counting six tables, it became too dense to continue. Directly ahead of the entrance was another closed door with two of what looked like ex-soldiers guarding it. Sam walked up to them, and surprisingly they immediately opened the doors for him. "Definitely not the cleverest around", thought Sam.

"Welcome, welcome. I believe you are interested in buying some of the merchandise", a slightly overweight, bald man boomed as Sam entered the lavishly decorated and adorned room.

"Why yes, I am", replied Sam, assuming, as best as possible, the persona and mannerisms of a potential buyer.

"Brilliant. We have the finest stock on the market".

"I am concerned about any interference, if you know what I mean. The Mayor has taken a stiff stance in the last few weeks"

"Don't worry about that." The ringleader replied. "We have information, let's say, the Mayor will no longer be a problem. Take a look at our samples and when you have decided, come back here and we'll make a deal. I presume, I don't have to tell to keep this sub rosa."

"Not at all. I look forward to doing business with you", Sam said while shaking the man's hand.

He was escorted out of the room, back to the bar and given a drink “on the house”. Sam stayed while pretending to scrutinise the merchandise. As he left, a plan had already come into being in his mind.

The following morning, personnel from Federal Bureau of Prohibition (FBP) hauled out the unlucky clientele and workers from the speakeasy in an impromptu raid. Sam was there to see the end of the current case. The boss was the last fish to be fried, so to speak.

When the boss appeared at the top of the exterior stairs, he glared at Sam in a way that expressed the “I’m going to get you for this” sentiment. Sam’s facial expression and raise of his shoulders replied, “I don’t have a clue what you are talking about”. As the FBP agent, swivelled the boss around into his transport, the criminal’s eyes fell on a young boy, toying with a ten dollar note in his hands.

With the Bureau prison transport pulling away, Sam took a crumpled old photo from an equally crumpled pocket. “I promised you Mam, I always look after family”.

## Granparents by 7 yr olds

Written by a class of 7-year-olds

You’ll love it...

- 👴 Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of their own.
- 👴 They like other people’s children.
- 👴 A grandfather is a man, and a grandmother is a lady!
- 👴 Grandparents don’t have to do anything except be there when we come to see them.
- 👴 They are so old they shouldn’t play hard or run.
- 👴 It is good if they drive us to the shops and give us money.
- 👴 When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars.
- 👴 They show us and talk to us about the colors of the flowers and also why we shouldn’t step on ‘cracks.’
- 👴 They don’t say, ‘Hurry up.’
- 👴 Usually they are fat but not too fat to tie your shoes.
- 👴 They wear glasses and funny underwear.
- 👴 They can take their teeth and gums out.
- 👴 Grandparents don’t have to be smart.
- 👴 They have to answer questions like ‘Why isn’t God married?’ and ‘How come dogs chase cats?’
- 👴 When they read to us, they don’t skip.



- 👴 They don’t mind if we ask for the same story over again.
- 👴 Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don’t have television because they are the only grownups who like to spend time with us...
- 👴 They know we should have snack time before bed time.
- 👴 They say prayers with us and kiss us even when we’ve acted bad.
- 👴 Grandpa is the smartest man on earth!
- 👴 He teaches me good things, but I don’t get to see him enough to get as smart as he is.

With Global Warming we might well have a heat wave in July.



NOT LIVER AND BEEF AGAIN.

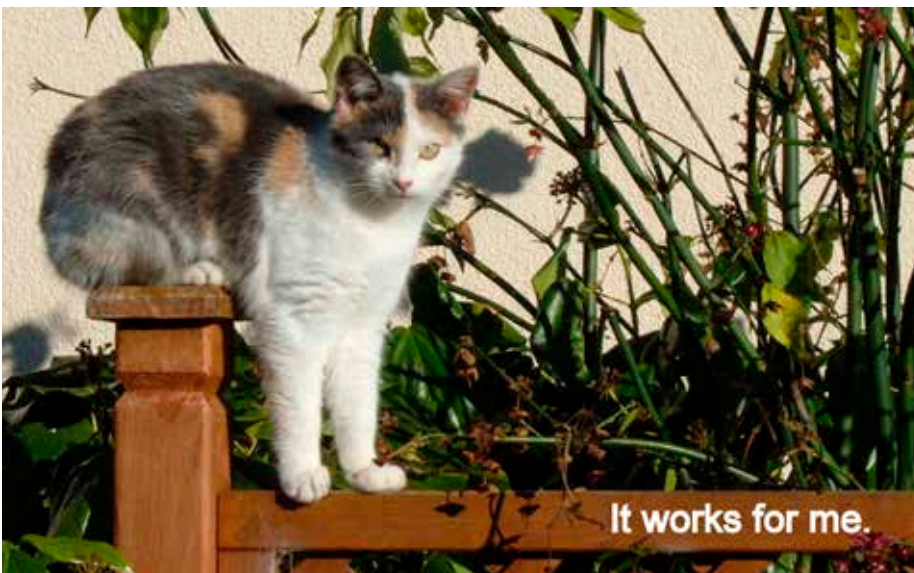
## HILLVIEW NURSING HOME

### CARE ASSISTANT REQUIRED FOR

Hillview Nursing Home, Rathfeigh.

Experience not essential as full training will be provided.

Please contact Rebecca on 041 9825698 or email [rebeccacarolan@hillviewcare.ie](mailto:rebeccacarolan@hillviewcare.ie) for further details.



It works for me.



The Knights of St Columbanus, Ashbourne CK147

### will bring the Relics of **St Oliver Plunkett**

to Skryne Church on Sunday 22nd August

for veneration at end of 11am Mass.

# An Garda Síochána

## Crime Prevention Information Sheet



# Personal Safety Holiday Security



### Introduction

This leaflet addresses three key areas relating to your holiday security as follows -

- Preparation plans and securing your property
- Safety when travelling
- Protecting your children



Holiday scene—playing Boules in France

### Preparation Plans and Securing your property

Before you go:

- Find out about the place you are visiting. Is it safe for visitors? Are there any local laws or customs, which are different to home, that you should be aware of?
- Be familiar with security measures at airports and/or seaports. Many common household items cannot be carried as hand luggage on planes.
- Inform a trusted neighbour or relative as to your travel arrangements, intended destination and contact details. Do not unwittingly advertise your travel arrangements to others.
- Invite neighbours to make use of your driveway for car parking.
- Arrange to have your lawn mowed, particularly when absent for long periods in summer.

- Cancel your milk, paper deliveries etc.
- Arrange for a neighbour or relative to collect your mail or use Mailminder from An Post.
- Make full use of light timing devices and do not have curtains drawn during the day time. Your neighbour may oblige with this duty.
- If you have a domestic alarm – inform your monitoring centre of your absence and ensure any nominated key holders will attend promptly to any activation.
- Be aware of any insurance limitations on vacant premises.
- Notify your local Gardaí of your absence from home.
- Invest in a quality safe for any valuables left in your home.
- Carry out a “housekeeping” exercise around the grounds of your home and remove and secure any unsecured items.

### Safety when travelling –

- Use your work address on items of luggage.
- Record separately details of the following items:
  - Your passport and driving licence.
  - All credit and bank cards.
  - Travel documents.
  - Emergency contact numbers for each of these services. If you have a mobile phone, these contact numbers should be saved on the phone using international access prefixes.
- Have your vehicle fully serviced prior to departure and ensure you have replacement bulbs, emergency equipment etc.
- If you are using a roof rack for luggage, park only in secure car parks and remove it when not necessary.
- Know where you are going and, if you need to stop, use only established service station areas. Be cautious of stopping for strangers or “persons in trouble” – call the Gardaí or local police.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS OR OTHER CRIME PREVENTION ISSUES,  
PLEASE CONTACT  
your local GARDA CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER  
or  
visit the Garda website at [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)**



- Remove all valuables, maps etc. inside your car and place them in the boot.
- Carry a mobile phone and know how to contact the emergency services in the area you are visiting. Know where you are if they need to locate you.
- At your destination hotel, camp-site etc. - be very conscious that you are easily identifiable by criminal elements as a visitor/tourist. It is important that you lock and secure your room and valuables and never leave keys on display.
- Never carry all your cash/valuables with you. Use the hotel safe where possible.
- Don't flaunt or advertise your wealth - thieves will be watching for this.



Holiday Street Scene

### Protecting your children

- Teach your children your full address and contact telephone numbers including how to call the Gardaí or local police in the event of an emergency.
- If your child gets lost – teach them how to report to a security person, store manager, the Gardaí or local police.
- Advise them on the tactics that are used by abductors to approach them e.g. to go looking for a lost pet, offering gifts etc. Tell them they should never to go with strangers, into houses or cars regardless of what explanation or inducement is being offered.
- Tell your children to inform you immediately if a stranger has approached them. Never dress your children with their name conspicuously on their clothing, as a stranger may use their name to get their attention. Tell them to run, scream and where to go if a person tries to touch or grab them.
- Parents or guardians should accompany children to toilets in public places.
- Survey the recreation places your child uses – point out the likely danger areas - alleyways, concealed places, recesses etc.

Finally, never delay in reporting a missing child. Ensure you have an up-to-date photo with you.

### Holiday Scams

Scammers and fraudsters operate the world over and you are no more immune from their activities when on holiday than when you are at home. Indeed in many locations, persons on holiday are frequently targeted by fraudsters and scammers.

Typical scams to be on the look-out for include -

- The bogus exclusive holiday club - which promises a lot but generally fails to deliver
- The phoney '2 for 1' voucher - often relating to restaurant meals which, when attempting to redeem, is found to be 'out of date' or 'no longer valid'
- The bogus taxi driver - "Beat the queue, sir, come with me", except you often end up taking the scenic route and paying far more than necessary
- Unofficial currency exchange scams - great rates offered but often found to contain counterfeit notes or blank paper in the middle of the bundle of notes handed back to you.

The old sayings "if it sounds too good to be true, it usually is" and "caveat emptor (buyer beware)" must always be considered.

***The advice contained in this information sheet is not intended to be exhaustive or absolute.***

***Nothing contained in this publication should be interpreted as mandatory, obligatory or designed to conflict with any statutory regulations.***

### Useful Contacts and Links

**The Garda National Crime Prevention Unit,**  
Garda H.Q., Harcourt Square, Dublin 2.  
Tel: (01) 6663362, Fax: (01) 6663314  
Email: [crime\\_prevention@garda.ie](mailto:crime_prevention@garda.ie)

**An Garda Síochána**  
[www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

**The Department of Foreign Affairs**  
[www.foreignaffairs.gov.ie](http://www.foreignaffairs.gov.ie)



**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

COTAXME	K K C C U U T T S S WORDS WORDS WORDS WORDS	INSULT + INJURY	NO WAYS IT WAYS
01	02	03	04
R Y S	LOV	GESG SEG GEGS GGES	NNNNNNN AAAAAAA CCCCCCC
05	06	07	08
D E A T H	EEEEEEEEEEEC	YOU CONTROLR	D O S D
09	10	11	12

**Answers to Dingbats challenge**  
 1 Income Tax, 2 Too Stuck Up For Words, 3 Adding Insult To Injury, 4 No Two Ways About It, 5 Syrup, 6 Endless Love, 7 Scrambled Eggs, 8 7Up Cans, 9 Death Valley, 10 Tennessee, 11 You Are Out Of Control, 12 Upside Down



**Some Awful Jokes**

A teacher's third grader was wearing a Fitbit watch, which prompted her to ask, "Are you tracking your steps?"

"No," said the little girl. "I wear this for Mummy so she can show Daddy when he gets home."



Why do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds on the drive and put our junk in the garage?



Why can a pizza get to your house faster than an Ambulance?

**KEEP  
THE  
RST  
AREA  
TIDY**



# Candlehill Growers

BEDDING PLANTS,  
BASKETS & POTS  
Basket & Pot Refill



Our glasshouse is full with a variety of summer bedding plants ready for the season ahead.  
Local delivery can be arranged or you can visit us at Candlehill Growers  
to browse & choose what you like.

Contact Willie at 087 130 9060

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



## PARTY BANNERS

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[info@ajprint.ie](mailto:info@ajprint.ie)  
01 825 6402

## Condolences

We express our sympathy to the following:

- To the Moss family on the death of Jimmy Herts, England and formally of Riverstown, Rathfeigh.
- To Katherine Long, Rathfeigh on the death of her mother Nellie, Balbriggan.
- To Julie & the Whyte family on the passing of Austin, Greenpark
- To the Crowcock family on the passing of Frances, Woodlands nursing home and formerly of Skryne and Raheny

## NEW DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ARTICLES

In order to allow newsletter formatting to take place in a timely fashion

**we have had to revise our final date for acceptance**

**to midnight on the Sunday** preceding each issue.

### 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.



## THANK YOU!

A big thank you for the anonymous donation made to the Skryne Senior Ladies.

It is very much appreciated.

Go raibh míle maith agat.



### Next Issue

**Saturday 28th August**

Submissions on or before  
**Sunday 22nd August**

Contact:

**Jim: 086 383 7436**

**Patricia: 086 838 8017**

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