



Due to the current restrictions on social interaction we are going to issue the RST in digital format only on an occasional basis. We are living through unprecedented times that are affecting different people in different ways and maybe we can be of some assistance by sharing our isolation experiences and showing solidarity with those who need our help. Staying connected with our local community may be pivotal in our ability to cope now and in the weeks ahead. Towards this end we are wondering would people like to contribute some articles on lessons learned, new skills acquired, local resources etc. Suggestions for topics are included further on.

COVID 19 Community Support Group and Club Together

As you are aware Skryne GFC joined forces with the Active First Responders a few weeks back to form the local COVID 19 Community Support volunteer group to help local people most in need however we can in these restricted times. Since then the GAA has partnered with SuperValu and Centra to help keep the most vulnerable of us to keep well stocked up with essentials to get through these difficult times. As part of this "Club Together" initiative Skryne GFC have partnered with Supervalu Johnstown who will contact the COVID 19 Community Support group to assist with the delivery of groceries to the more vulnerable in our

parish. This will be a drop and go service to ensure all physical distancing guidelines set out by the HSE will be adhered to all times.

I hope you will agree this could be a great help to the more isolated in the parish so please spread this message out to all your local contacts that may require the service or may know someone who does. The service will be up and running in the coming week with details advertised on all Skryne GFC social media platforms.

Thanks again and mind yourselves!

COVID 19 Community Support group

Cormac Grendon 0879409677

Ross Philips 0879798822

Des Manning 0860584116.

Stephen Naughton 0872225572;

Niall Muldoon 0852091801;

Sean O Regan 0868145169

Christy O Connor 086 2854057

Declan Smyth 087-2504983

A.F.R. (9 am - 6pm) 0868853713.

Please contact any of us for further information or assistance.

Message from Swans of Oberstown

Swans of Oberstown would like to inform our customers that we are doing our best to keep the shop open and are taking advice from the government and the HSE on how best to do so.

Customer safety is of paramount importance to us all and we kindly request the same in return for all our staff. Please maintain the new social distancing etiquette and follow all HSE guidelines.

The Swan family would like to thank all our customers for your continued support. Rest assured we will strive to keep the shelves well stocked with all the essentials, together with lots of goodies to help us through these challenging times. As well as offering somewhere safe to shop we are also doing deliveries where possible. At the moment we are open from 8am-8pm. Stay safe.

Skryne Community Alert

What strange times we are living through! The country has gone through massive changes since the last RST newsletter, with many now confined to our homes. Some are lucky enough to be able to work from home while others find themselves temporarily out of work due to the covid-19 restrictions. Hats off to the wonderful frontline workers who keep going, often at risk to themselves, to provide us all with necessary services and products. Let's remember this is only temporary. As a country we seem to be handling the situation very well. We know the situation will get worse before it gets better, but we are all in this together and we will come out the other side.

It is great to see our community spirit at work. Those that can leave are helping those that are

unable to leave their homes. But please continue to look out for each other as people's circumstances can change. Those than are doing the running around for messages now could find themselves housebound in the coming weeks. If you find yourself stuck for anything without family or neighbours to help, then please make use of the volunteer services offered by Skryne GFC or Active First Responders. See the separate post in this newsletter for contact details. The Gardai have also been helping where needed and can be contacted on 01 801 0600. There really is no reason for anybody to be without food, medicine or fuel during this crisis.

One good thing to come out of all this is that the crime rate has dropped. This is probably down to that fact that houses are mostly occupied now and there are more garda checkpoints in operation. Whatever the reason, we'll just be thankful!

Stay safe everyone and stay in touch with each other.

Condolences

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of two gracious ladies from our community in recent days. Monica O'Dowd and Joan Gallagher were well known and respected by everyone and our deepest sympathy goes out to their families.

Tribute to Martin O'Hara

Popular musician passes away.

Martin O' Hara, the popular and accomplished guitarist, who played with local musician Paul Lamb, and Matt Rogers in Foxe's pub in Skreen over the past three years, passed away on December 28th after a short-term illness. He was 56.

Martin's talents on the guitar were always received warmly by the people from the parish ranging across a range of musical genres from rock 'n roll, the blues, country, folk and jazz, all tinged by his Scottish and Irish heritage.

Martin was born in Winchburgh in Scotland, just west of Edinburgh and, in his early 20's, he returned to live in his father's birthplace of Keadue in Co Donegal where his musical talents and influences continued to develop. In his 30's, he married and moved to Roscommon and became a father to his son Martin jnr. There, he met with several fellow local musicians and became a much-loved figure in the community.

Martin was particularly known for his generosity of spirit and the sharing of his talents with all ages, from teaching guitar lessons to younger children to recording stories and local songs by senior members of the community, from his studio in Galey Bay.

He was a gregarious figure who loved and celebrated life through his music and always appreciated the gift of being able to share his talents with the public and fellow musicians and artists.

On behalf of Martin and Paul Lamb I would like to especially thank for inviting us to play in Foxes and for their generous hospitality. It was a great privilege and thoroughly enjoyable to play for all those who attended those great Sunday evenings in Skreen. We always enjoyed the great humored reception we received and the high spirits in which everyone joined in.

Martin will be greatly missed but would be of the sentiment that “the show must go on”. In that spirit, we look forward to seeing you all and enjoying your company again in Skreen again.

R.I.P.

The above tribute was submitted by Paul Lambe who asked if we could give a special mention to Declan & Irma Fox and also Christy Doyle from the “Yankees” who plied them with strong drink before and after their performances

Congratulations



Congratulations to Christo and Teresa Wall who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on the 7th of March.

Wildlife

During this time of isolation we have time to pause and take stock of the wildlife that is around us. Is there a resident hedgehog in your garden? Do you have bird feeders? What bird species are visiting your feeders? Both the swallow and the cuckoo are due back to these shores in the next week or so, who will be the first to spot their arrival. Any articles and photos would be greatly appreciated.

Baking / Cookery

Have you learned any new recipes? Would you like to share them with us and tell us about your whole baking experience?

Gardening

At long last you have the opportunity to devote as much time as you want to your garden. What is growing well for you? Have you any gardening tips you would like to share? Would you like to submit any photos of your garden?

The Heavens Above

After spending the days noticing the natural world around us do you find yourself gaining an appreciation of the wonders of the night sky? Perhaps you would like to share your passion with our readers and give us some pointers on what to look out for in the coming week or so

Entertainment

Do you have any good sources for movies? What movies would you recommend.

Do you listen to podcasts? What are your favourite podcasts and why?

Hobbies

What are you doing during this period of social isolation?

Do you have an interesting hobby or pastime? Would you like to tell us about it?

Other Stuff

Would you like to send in any articles and photos of family occasions occurring during these strange times?

Maybe you have written a few poems, and if so, would you like to send them in to us?

Would you like to send us in some photos of your dog, cat, goldfish etc?

What would you like to see in the RST?

Contacts

As we only have a small fraction of email addresses for all our potential readers could you please forward forward this to your neighbours and friends who might be interested in receiving and possibly contributing to the RST.

Perhaps you could send us their contact details and we will add them to our mailing list

Please send all articles to jimconroy747@gmail.com