

RST Newsletter

Rathfeigh • Skryne • Tara



DIGITAL VERSION FOR DURATION OF CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC

SATURDAY 4th July 2020

ISSUE NO. 15



Fox's, almost 50 yrs pulling pints on the hill of Skryne. In 1972 Sean and Ann bought the pub grocery and then hardware store Sean had been working in the business since 1959 which was then owned by Mrs. Halligan. The grocery closed in 1990. In 2006 they retired and handed over the business to Declan and Irma where it continues to be a family run business.

The pubs are a great part of our community in Skryne, a meeting place for friends and visitors, so we will be looking forward to opening up and welcoming our customers back in July

RST Frequency

Now that things are returning to relative normality we are scaling back the frequency of the newsletter from weekly to fortnightly.

The next issue will be out Saturday July 18th

Congratulations

Congratulations to Stuart Gray and his partner Claire on the birth of their son Elliott James

SKRYNE GAA Pavilion and RST Community Centre

Both of the above are pleased to announce that they are now getting back to business



SKRYNE GFC - 1984 – GAA CENTENARY YEAR

- **Mr. Jim Hayes** elected Chairperson of the club succeeding Mr. Sean Smyth (Skryne) while Mr. Tony Whyte replaced Mr. Ken Mooney as Secretary.
- **Liam Hayes is Senior Football team Captain**
- **Cyril Farrell** All Ireland Senior and Minor Hurling winning manager of Galway selected as Skryne Senior Football team manager. Cyril's advisors were: **Sean Smyth (Painstown), Michael Lynch, Eamon Giles and Brian Smyth (Skryne).**
- **Skryne reach the Finals of all three major competitions in Meath.**
 - (a) Walterstown defeat the Blues in the Senior Championship Final.
 - (b) Skryne beat Summerhill by double scores in a Replay of the Feis Cup Final.
 - (c) There was a major upset in the Senior League Final when Castletown beat the Holders Skryne by 2 points
- Skryne schoolgirl **Emer Carty** (Skryne NS) won the competition to design the cover of the programme for the Meath Centenary Championship Final. She received her award at half time of the Senior Final from Colm Cromwell, Vice-Chairman Meath Co. Board.
- Rathkenny defeat Skryne's second team in the Semi-Final of the Junior Championship
- Skryne defeat Yellow Furze (Seneschalstown) in the Final of the Under 12 Football Championship.
- Simonstown Gaels beat Skryne in the Quarter Final of the Under 14 Championship.
- A strong Skryne NS team hammer Culmullen NS in the Final of the Primary Schools Championship.
- **Meath defeat Monaghan in the Senior Football Centenary Cup Final.**

Skryne are represented on the team by **Colm O'Rourke, Liam Hayes, Padraig Finnerty and Willie Rogan.**
- Dublin once again beat Meath in the Leinster Final.
- **Liam Hayes** won **Personality of Month** for his displays during the month of May.
- **Colm O'Rourke** was chosen as the winner in the Gaelic Stars Yearbook annual awards for every County in Ireland as well as London and Australia.
- **Declan Smyth (Skryne and Gormanston College)** was the only Meath player chosen on the Leinster team for the Colleges Final in which they beat Connacht in Kilkenny by 3-12 to 2-6.
- Three Meath men played for Ireland versus Australia in the International series in Cork - Mick Lyons from Summerhill and the two Skryne men - **Liam Hayes and Colm O'Rourke.**
- **Lá na gClub 29 July 1984.** To celebrate Centenary year the GAA introduced the very first **La na gClub** in which every club in the Country was asked to feature some special celebrations for the occasion. Skryne included their Annual Sports day and a Gala Dinner in Skryne Hall that evening. The sports day included a novelty football match between Skryne Finalists 1971 versus Skryne Finalists 1981. No result of the match seems to have been recorded. Five players overlapped on both panels - Padraig and Aidan O'Rourke, Ken Mooney, Jimmy Finnerty and Dermot Carty. **On Lá na gClub** an oak sapling was planted at McManus Park, Skryne by the Chairman of the Club, Mr Jim Hayes along with the President, Mr Packy Mooney, in the presence of club officials. That oak has now grown into a huge tree, symbolising the growth of the club from "an acorn" to a giant tree.
- **Colm O'Rourke** became the **first Skryne player to receive an all-Star award in 1983** and was honoured for his achievement by the Skryne Club at a function in the Beechmount Hotel in Navan.
- **Skryne win the Centenary Quiz** beating Wolfe Tones in the Final by 94 points to 81 with Oldcastle 3rd on 78 points. The winning team was: **Tommy Callaghan, Paddy Cromwell, Maurice Daly and David Carty.** Mr Jimmy Magee of RTE fame was the Quiz Master.
- On a sad note **Very Rev Fr Michael McManus died in 1984** and was laid to rest in his native Multyfarnham Co. Westmeath on June 15th. McManus Park Skryne is named after Fr. Michael. He had received the Meath Hall of Fame award from Meath Co. Board in 1976.

Dermot Carty & Maurice Daly, July 2020.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: David Carty, A History of the GAA in Skryne – The Blue Kings of Tara



Lá na gClub 29 July 1984, an oak sapling was planted in McManus Park by **Jim Hayes**, Chairman Skryne GFC assisted by **Packy Mooney**, President Skryne GFC.

Skryne Club Officials present were, from left: Sean Smyth (Macetown) Senior Selector; Dermot Carty, treasurer & assistant secretary; Maurice Daly, Underage Secretary; Paddy Cromwell, PRO; Brian Smith (Dunboyne), Meath Co.Board Chairman; Tony Whyte, Secretary and Sean Russell, Junior Selector.



The oak tree today !

Skryne National School from Martin Kennedy

There definitely seems to be a greater sense of normality in our daily lives in the past week. Retail has almost fully reopened and you might even find a place to sit and enjoy a cup of coffee with your friends - socially distanced of course. Schools are "officially" closed now and the summer holidays can commence. Naturally the weather Gods decided to spoil that particular party as we have had some serious rainfall in the past week. At least the growers will be content. Fields were remarkably dry.

What it should make us appreciate is just how fortunate we have been during the school closure period. When we really needed good weather we got it. Kids had plenty of time on their hands and the weather facilitated them being outside, taking exercise and being creative. Thank God for small mercies! Can you imagine what it would have been like to have had to handle "Distance Learning" through November into February. Please God it will not be something we have to encounter come next winter.

From Monday last we were permitted by Government to hold outdoor gatherings of up to 200. This news came in perfect timing for our Rang 6 pupils. It allowed us to hold a proper Graduation ceremony for a wonderful bunch of pupils. Swift hands got to work and we transformed the school playground into a mini-theatre to accommodate the pupils and their parents. Unfortunately we had to limit numbers so that we could contain the group in the space we had but doing this permitted us to say a very special and poignant farewell to Rang 6.

Were we not so lucky to choose Tuesday night as the date to hold the ceremony? That's not quite true as we did check with our local smiling weatherman, Brian Cheshire, before agreeing on the night. Brian always knows the precise time that the clouds will release their nectar. In his line of work he has to. Weather forecast is delivered with conviction and a smile on his face. If you ask nicely he might even sing it for you. Rates are reasonable too.

I can't thank Brian enough for steering us away from Wednesday. On Wednesday it poured! We could have held an old style total immersion baptism - but not a Graduation. That man has a direct line. *Ár mbuíochoas.*

Thankfully all our pupils and their families were able to make it on the night and we were thrilled to see them all gathered together for one last time in their natural environment as a group, school. Formalities were kept to a minimum, it wasn't a night for that. We were celebrating simply being together again for one final occasion before departing Sc. Cholmcille and heading off for new horizons.

Mr. Kennedy welcomed everyone including many staff members both present and past. We were all thrilled to see Fionnuala and Fiona Gryson.

A special blessing from Fr. Thomas was relayed as was a message of positivity for the future from Chairperson of our BoM, Mr. Jimmy Gibbons. Definitely the most positive man in Ireland and we are delighted to see him back in residence at Ross Cross following a short hospital stay.

Mr. Kennedy reminded the pupils of just how lucky they were even in this broken year. They had celebrated their Confirmation, a ceremony denied to many other Rang 6 pupils this year.

They had been to all the Orienteering events they entered, even the Leinster Championships in the Hellfire Woods. They had played and won their Football Final in Páirc Tailteann with as comprehensive a display as had ever been witnessed there. They had participated in Olympic Handball competitions. They had a lot to be thankful for.

Mr. Kennedy thanked all the families for their support over the years and made special mention of the families who had come to the end of the line of their association with Skryne NS. For the Fitzpatrick's, for instance, it brought an end to 20 years of an association. Special times.

We also said "Slán" to the Devins, Fagan, Gargan, Grogan, Hayes, McNelis, O'Grady, Pettigrew, Quinn and Tobin families.

Hugh McNelis was mentioned in particular for his special contribution in capturing so many significant moments of school life. A generous sharing of a wonderful talent.

Pupils were presented with their Graduation Booklets, a Graduation Certificate and beautiful hoodie courtesy of our Parents Association and our Board of Management. Memories were shared and some secrets revealed - but it wouldn't be right for us to divulge them here.

We laughed at our happiest and most embarrassing moments and were amused by the polls on who was most likely to

be any one of a number of things.

Maya and James definitely had the nicest hair while Niamh and Luke were odds on to be a great duet.

Max was going to be a professional DJ and Ailbhe and Jack are on track to become professional athletes.

Lucas is most likely to become a professional ice-cream eater and Liam hopes to run a dairy herd of 300 cows!

We all agreed that Sarah had the best smile.

Everything was going along so well until Ms. Sheridan was handed the mike and she read a most touching and personal poem to the children. They were her own words and summed up nicely the tremendous bond that had grown between a wonderful teacher and an even more wonderful bunch of pupils. Tissues were used for more than simply drying off hand sanitizer after that we can tell you! It was a moving and heartfelt tribute.

Shirts were signed, pictures were taken and then it was time to go. Wonderful new horizons await this great group of pupils, They are blessed with many skills and talents. The test for them all is to now use them wisely and well in the years ahead. We have every confidence that that is precisely what they will do. Sail on

During the week the country has been put in the hands of a new Government. Their task is not an easy one. They inherit a country worried and nervous and still uncertain about what the future brings. Of most pressing concern to us is the reopening of schools in September. There will be much speculation, debate and argument about what is right in these circumstances. The DES has this week issued interim guidelines on what a return to school in September will look like. Media outlets will be full of chat, debate, argument and opinion over the coming weeks as everyone jostles to have their voice heard. There will no doubt be reasoned argument but equally also there will be idle speculation. Please stay clear of it all.

Give your head some space. The DES guidelines are as they state "interim". They cannot be otherwise in this ongoing situation.

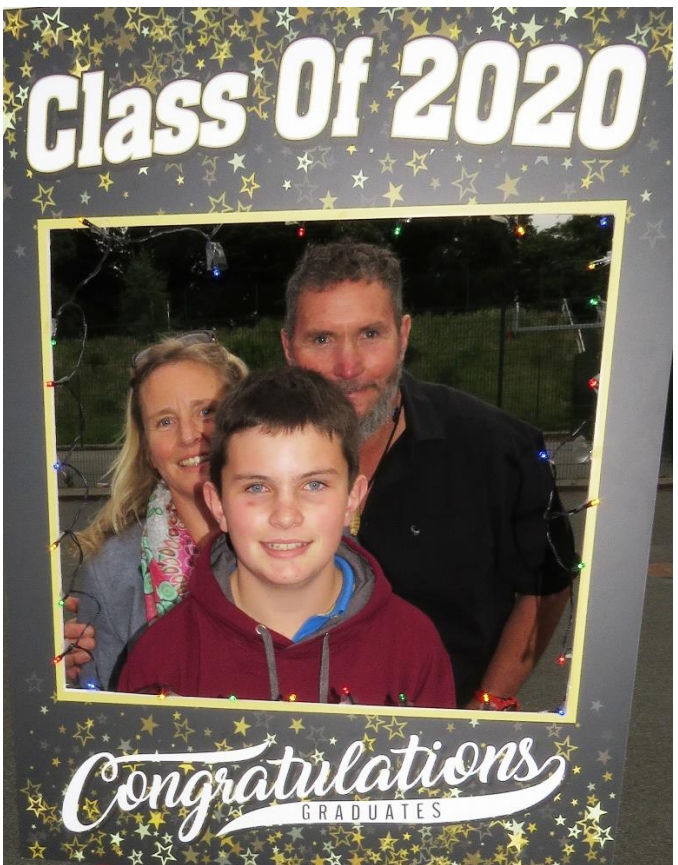
Rest assured that we all want the same outcome, a full return to school for all pupils and staff. But it must be safe for everyone. We will do what it takes to make this happen. By the end of the month the DES guidelines will most likely be refined. They will hopefully have told us by then what supports we can expect to be in place to make this a reality. Keep in touch with the school website where you will be apprised of any developments.

So until then, forget school booklists, equipment lists and all other such stuff. You have worked hard for the past three months in particular. You have done your best. Take a rest. It is well deserved.

If I can make one small request it is this. Check the dictionary definition of "suppressed". When you have done so then please modify your summer behaviour in both travel and interactions so that it is in balance with what you have read and understood. We have come such a long way, let's not throw away the hard won ground by being reckless over the summer months. All lives matter.







Line Dancing

**Line Dance Skyrne
Commencing
Wednesday 8th July
7:30pm**

Ph: 0830063653



**Under strict covid
guidelines - full
hygiene practices at
- Skyrne RST**

Rathfeigh National School from Seamus Tansley

With restrictions being lifted by the government we were delighted to be able to announce last Friday that we would be able to have our sixth class graduation in the school on Wednesday July 1st. Numbers attending would have to be restricted but everyone was very supportive and understanding of the situation. A huge amount of preparation went into organising the graduation. Many “zoom” meetings were held with the teachers to try and organise the event and to make it as special as possible. All teachers, staff and the Parents’ Association played a vital role in the organisation of the event for which I sincerely thank them. We always felt that having a graduation in the school building was important for the children as the school was where they spent the last eight years. We were happy that we didn’t have to do a “zoom” ceremony as the children deserved more.

The children started arriving for their socially distanced graduation at 7pm on Wednesday. On arriving there was a mixture of excitement, nervousness and anticipation. Some children on arriving felt a little awkward as they hadn’t seen their classmates for over three months. Within a few minutes it was like they were never apart and they were laughing and joking with each other as they would have done in school. The ceremony was very emotional with the children reading their memories of their time in Rathfeigh. The “memories” summed up their time perfectly in our school – making friends, playing games, going on school tours, rainbow runs, pancake Tuesday, jumble sales, fancy dress, talent shows etc etc etc. They also presented their symbols of Rathfeigh – football jersey, school bell, class photographs (Junior Infants, Communion and sixth class), football, trophies, candles and Bible. Katherine (parent) spoke about her thirteen continuous years having children in Rathfeigh. Listening to her reminded me that graduation night is not just emotional for the children!!

The graduation finished with the presentation of certificates to the children. They were all surprised and astonished to also receive a beautiful individualised piece of artwork from Ms Reynolds. It was a lovely gesture from Stephanie and will be treasured by the children for many many years to come. Thanks Stephanie.

The night got even better for the children when our fantastic Parents’ Association surprised the children with pizzas and drinks afterwards. The children were now in their element. They were overcome with excitement and their smiles were as wide as the Grand Canyon. If I had to put words on their smiles it would have been – “It’s such a perfect day, I’m glad I spent it with you”.

It was a perfect end to the perfect day. We all wish the children safety and happiness as they embark on the next chapter of their lives. There will be ups and downs but I am extremely confident that they will all achieve their goals in life. I know they had a great eight years in Rathfeigh. Now is the time to look forward to new beginnings.

“Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened” (Dr Seuss).

Best of luck. - Áine, Cara, Conor, Madison, James, Chloe, Cormac, Róisín, Bryn, Amy, Adam, Gracie, Pádraig, Hannah, Alisha, Danny, Nini, Robyn, Emily. You all made the school a better place. Thanks.









Memories from Eoin Hickey

This extract is taken from Eoin's memoir titled 'Growing Up In Skryne'

As children we picked the snowdrops and daffodils by the thousands, tied them with raffia in bunches of ten with a few leaves, cut the bottoms evenly, placed them in boxes of five dozen and off they went to market in Dublin – that was our spring harvest!

The perfectly level tennis court springs out on the front lawns. As youngster if we wanted to play tennis – as we did very often, we had to cut the grass. In the early days this was undertaken with a push cylinder mower with one child on the handle and two pulling with ropes out front – no problem, we got through it quite quickly!

Because we had so much grass my mother had the idea that we should keep a goat, so; she joined the British Goat Society (BGS), obtained all the information on different breeds of pedigree goat and eventually opted for a British Saanen, a pure white, hornless breed and great milkers. The kid goat duly arrived from England on the CIE lorry to Halligan's shop caged in a wooden crate. The kid cost five pounds and the transport another fiver.

All went well and it came that the goat had to be serviced. The BGS listed Mrs Besson's farm at Castleknock, now the Georgian Village, as having a British Saanen herd. Contact was made and off we went with the goat in the back of the car – a Fiat 500 beech-wagon estate, bought from Mr Madden's garage in Dunshaughlin and previously owned by Lady Fingall. The smell of the billygoat was to be had in the car for weeks after. Mrs Besson kept the goats for milk to feed to her Jersey calves and the Jersey milk she sent to her husband's two hotels, then the best hotels in Ireland; The Hotel Russell on St. Stephen's Green and The Royal Hibernian Hotel on Dawson Street. My mother, never one to lose an opportunity, later organised with the Bessons to have my twin brothers, Robin and Peter, taken on as commis waiter and commis chef respectively. They got on well and within a year they both won a hotel competition, with a prize of a trip to Rome – where they even had an audience with the Pope!



Elizabeth Hickey, Siobhan the British Saanen goat and Eoin Hickey at Skryne Castle c. 1959.

Skryne Youth Club - sometime in the early 80's

This bast from the past was sent in by Ann Reilly



Irish Independent

Vol. 79. No. 158

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 1970 8d.

British Army imposes curfew in Belfast

SIX DIE IN BATTLE OF THE FALLS

AT LEAST five civilians were dead, and more than 50 injured in Belfast early today, after an all-night gun battle with British troops in the Catholic Falls Road area of the city. And with firing still going on this morning, as 1,500 troops, backed by heavy armour, fought their way through the barricaded streets, the final casualty toll was expected to be much higher.

Four of the civilians were shot dead, two, whom the troops claimed were snipers, were killed by army marksmen. The fifth man died after being knocked down by an armoured truck. By 3.30 a.m. the number of casualties on the official list had risen to 57, many of them with gunshot wounds. Army casualties were 15, ten from gunshots and five injured by grenade shrapnel.

'Dublin will burn' says the UVF

A statement which claims to have come from Capt. William Johnston of the Ulster Volunteer Force was handed into a Belfast newspaper office last night.

It claims that a people's militia with sixty battalions, was being set up in the Six Counties and that Dublin would burn in reprisal for the deaths of two loyal Ulstermen at the weekend.

The statement said the new militia would clear the Six Counties of republicanism, and "retribution would be swift, effective and bloody".

THE IRISH PRESS, SATURDAY, JULY 4, 1970

Fish on Friday law abolished

Irish Bishops' statement

THE Irish Hierarchy has decided to end the obligation of Friday abstinence as from today, and a statement in explanation was issued last night from the Catholic Communications Institute of Ireland. This change in traditional Catholic discipline was exclusively forecast in our issue of June 24 by T. P. O'Mahony.

QUESTION TIME

- 1—With what game do you associate the term "capot"?
- 2—What is "Ohm's Law"?
- 3—What does "rustication" mean in architecture?
- 4—What is the Dutch for John?

ANSWER TIME

(Questions on opposite page)

- 1—Piquet: when one player takes all the tricks. 2—The law establishing the relationship between voltage and electrical current, called after the German physicist Georg Ohm. 3—The roughening of blocks of masonry, to give a "countrified" effect to the surface. 4—Jan.

Irish Sweeps Derby
TOM MacGINTY
REPORTS

BRILLIANT NIJINSKY SLAMS FIELD TO LAND BIG DOUBLE

SEIZING probably the last opportunity to see Nijinsky perform in this country, the Irish public came in their thousands to the Curragh yesterday. And Mr. Charles Engelhard's great horse, ridden with superb confidence and skill by Liam Ward, did not let them down.

Sweeping through with a majestic run from the rear of the field Nijinsky only once left the inside rails to round Illa Laudo for the lead, and having put his head in front a furlong out, sprinted for the line.

All the power and grace that has made Nijinsky a superbly named racehorse, were present in that wonderful final furlong as he dismissed the challenge of Lester Piggott's mount Meadowville and won by three lengths to tremendous cheering.

The French colt Master Guy came from a long way behind and was the same distance away third, Nor was fourth and Illa Laudo fifth.

Second to do double

Thus Nijinsky remains undefeated after nine races including three classics. He becomes only the second horse to complete the Derby double—emulating Santa Claus—and boosted his stakes winnings to the threshold of Sir Ivor's record of £169,956.

At the same time Nijinsky brought to an end the loosing Sweeps Derby run of the Ballydoyle genius Vincent O'Brien and maintained the fabulous Curragh luck of Mr. Engelhard whose Sweeps Derby record for the past four years now reads three wins and one second.

Happily Mr. Engelhard was present yesterday, the first occasion he has seen his colours carried successfully in the big Irish classic.

Bought on O'Brien's advice

The American millionaire very bravely and cheerfully spoke to the press standing in the rain. "I'd stand here willingly every day," he cracked. He said he bought Nijinsky on the advice of Vincent O'Brien from Canadian breeder Mr. E. P. Taylor.

"He is the most expensive horse I ever bought and I would still have had him had the price gone higher. I don't think I'm brave enough to keep him in training next year. I'd like to retire him unbeaten; he has done all he has been asked, but where or when he will go to stud I cannot say," said Mr. Engelhard.

HOW THEY FINISHED

3.0—IRISH SWEEPS DERBY with £30,000 added. One mile, four furlongs.

- Mr. C. W. Engelhard's NIJINSKY, by Northern Dancer—Flaming Page, 9-0 L Ward (£57,012-10-0) 1
 - Mr. David Robinson's Meadowville, by Charlottesville—Meadow Pipit, 9-0 L Piggott (£11,572-10-0) 2
 - Mrs. A. Manning's Master Guy, by Relko—Musical, 9-0 J. Taillard (£7,715) 3
 - Mr. R. W. Hall-Dare's Nor, by Tiger—Lucky Day, 9-0 A. Simpson (£3,757-10-0) 4
- Also—Illa Laudo, 9-0 (G. McGrath), 5; Dubrava, 9-0 (J. Miller), 6; Approval, 9-0 (G. Starkey), 7; Noble Life, 9-0 (M. Kennedy), 8; Ringsend, 9-0 (R. F. Parnell), 9; Honest Crook, 9-0 (T. P. Burns), 10; Nip and Tuck, 9-0 (J. D. Coleman), 11; Double Dick, 9-0 (J. Roe), 12; Oh Brother, 9-0 (L. Johnson), last. 13 ran. 31; M. V. O'Brien.

13 ran. 31, 31. M. V. O'Brien.
Betting—4/1 NIJINSKY, 10/1 Meadowville, Approval, 100/7 Master Guy, 33/1 Ringsend, 66/1 Nor, Illa Laudo, 100/1 Nip And Tuck, 200/1 Dubrava, 300/1 Honest Crook, 500/1 others. Tote—3/6; 3/4, 4/5, 5/6.

JOHN NEWCOMBE, the last amateur champion in 1967 and runner-up to Rod Laver last year, is the Wimbledon champion again. In the first five-set final since 1949, when Frank Schroeder beat Jaroslav Drobny 3-6, 6-0, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, he beat 35-year-old Ken Rosewall 5-7, 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 in what was probably the best final since the war.

Mrs. Court beats Mrs. King in marathon

WIMBLEDON had one of its greatest days yesterday. For two and a half wondrous hours the centre court, packed to its 16,000 capacity, was gripped in spine-tingling excitement and tension as Margaret Court (Australia) won her third Wimbledon title with the record score of 14-12, 11-9 against her arch-rival, Billie Jean King (U.S.A.).

This Week 100 Years Ago

THE IRISH INDEPENDENT, TUESDAY, JULY 6, 1920.

A CHICAGO TRIBUTE.

The "Chicago Herald-Examiner," in a short review of Mr. De Valera's U. S. tours, declares that when the Irish people elected him they "chose a very modest man, a very learned man, and a statesman of the highest type." British agents who have been watching him "might as well have stayed at home."

"When," the article continues, "British espionage" failed to "catch" Mr. De Valera "in either foolish deed or foolish word a new line of attack was formulated. It was whispered that Mr. De Valera was going beyond the limits of good taste in asking official recognition of the Irish Republic; that he was butting into our politics; that he ought to let Americans attend to American affairs, and so on, and so on. The object of this insidious attack was clear.

"UNPARALLELED."

NO JURY AT ASSIZES.

In all his experience this state of affairs was without parallel in the history of Ireland, England or Scotland.

That was the remark of Mr. Justice Gibson at the Waterford City Assizes when only 9 Grand Jurors and 9 Petty Jurors answered their names out of 78 on the list.

He had, in consequence, to adjourn the criminal business of the City Assizes, but he fined the Grand Jurors £100 each.

He attributed the absence of jurors to the threatening notices they received, the terms of which we published yesterday. "Grand jurors, as brave Irishmen, should have no fear," added his lordship. "What is the use of life if we are to live as slaves?"

HOW TO BECOME PLUMP, POPULAR AND ATTRACTIVE.

New Discovery Works Wonders in Building up Run-Down Men and Women.

Increases Weight, Strength and Powers of Endurance. Try it.

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POLO CIGARETTES

"The elect of good sports."

All Tobacconists can supply you—you'll know you're right when you see the Polo Player on the Packet.

HURRAY, BONS, & CO., Ltd. (Est. 1810).
Dublin, Glasgow, Belfast.

W.S. For Ad.

This extract is from 'A Window On The Past' which was published by Rathfeigh Historical Society 1991

SKRYNE CHURCH

The parish of Skryne as present constituted dates from July 1823 when Trevet, which had hitherto formed part of Curraha, was annexed. A thatched chapel stood near the pre-reformation church of Trevet but no trace of it exists, nor is it marked on the maps of 1812 or 1837.

Rev. Fr. Michael Berry became parish priest in 1818 and at the time Skryne chapel was a mud-walled thatched house situated on the west of a large field known as the "Chapel field", which lay between the village and the Castle of Skryne. Fr. Berry laid the foundation stone of the present church of St. Columcille - the medieval patron of Skryne - in 1827. The site had been given on a lease of 999 years the previous year by a generous and tolerant Protestant, Mr. Samuel Dopping. The building was erected by subscription, the principal contributors being E. Corbally and T. Maher. The church was completed about five years later.

In 1704 the parochial house was at Oberstown; in 1782 at Lismullin, and fifty years later it was at Trevet. In 1836, Fr. Berry was succeeded by Fr.

Patrick O'Connor who was the first parish priest to live in the present parochial house, which was given to the parish by Mr. Corbally.

In 1858 Fr. John Kelly succeeded Fr. O'Connor and in 1863 he had erected the high altar and stained glass windows in the church, the windows being the gift of Mr. Corbally. The new altar was consecrated on the 8th November, 1868, by Dr. Nulty, Bishop of Meath. Mass was celebrated by Dean Cogan and the preacher on the occasion was Fr. Harbisson, CSSR.

Fr. Kelly died in 1882 and was succeeded by Fr. Michael Callary who died in 1901. Both pastors are buried in Skryne cemetery. Fr. Bernard Guinan was the next pastor and during his term he improved the lighting of the sanctuary by adding two windows. He was



The Church of St. Coluniciule, Skryne

transferred to Dunshaughlin in 1908, being succeeded by Fr. William Egan who was compelled by failing health to retire from active care of his parish. Fr. Christopher O'Farrell was appointed Administrator of Skryne in 1911 and succeeded as parish priest on the death of Fr. Egan in 1917. Fr. O'Farrell was succeeded by Fr. Cooney (1939-

1976), and Fr. John Healy, who was followed by the present pastor, Fr. Joseph Gleeson.

In 1987, under the guidance of Fr. John Healy, who was parish priest of Skryne from 1976 until his retirement in 1987, the church was completely refurbished and a new marble altar, ambo and baptismal font installed.

Some more extracts from Joan's Milestones along the journey of life

Schooldays

School was no piece of cake either, as we here on the Borrowaddy road had to walk two and a half miles to Skryne school, and indeed I remember others who had to walk much further, three or three and a half miles. Gosh, it was an awful drag too, do you know, we would be so hungry when we got home, we would devour platefuls of food.

Most of us were six or nearly six when we started school owing to the long distances we had to walk.

I have to say we never minded walking to school, as everyone had to walk, there was no other way!! (A few people had bikes, but not till they were old enough to be trusted on them). Also, we had great fun coming home, watching lambs playing, picking mushrooms and blackberries, looking for birds nests, and of course there was always the odd orchard to be robbed.

I suppose, now when I think about it, the coming home was the best bit really, as school itself was no picnic, teachers mostly were very hard and strict on both schoolwork and discipline, and of course there was plenty of use made of the cane. You not only had to have your homework done, it had to be correct, or you could get the cane, and God help you if your intelligence was even slightly below average, because then you were caned everyday. Some kids were terrorised and their lives were made a hell. That cane could be used as much and as often as they pleased, and there were many kids who absolutely hated school with a passion in those days, so you can imagine how much they learned.

Whenever we did get home from school, and had our dinner eaten, and the homework done we then had to carry water from the well, and gather sticks for the fire and maybe we would be sent to look for a hen that was "laying out".

We still had plenty of time to play, and we made our own fun, as there were no televisions or computers or video games. We played skipping, hopscotch, rounders, queenie, and sometimes we girls were even

commandeered to make up a football team, or worse, to stand in goals.

Another game that my Father had us playing was cricket, (now wasn't that posh for the Borrowaddy road in those days), and to this day I remember all or most of the rules of the game.

He spent a lot of time one winter sculpting a piece of timber till he turned it into a lovely cricket bat which we had for years.

My Father was just great for playing with us in the summer evenings. I often think, he would have made a great child Psychologist, and he probably didn't know the meaning of the word. He knew exactly how to get the best out of us (his kids), and also, whenever a "serious conflict" was about to break out between us, he was always able to calm the situation through "talks" and "negotiations".

My Mother just ran after us swinging the tea towel when we annoyed her, did you ever get a whack of a wet tea towel across the legs? Yikes!!

The Night Sky by Tony Canavan

To view the night-sky we need some clear skies. Recently they have been few and far between. The best opportunity this week is on the night of the 5th July into the 6th July.

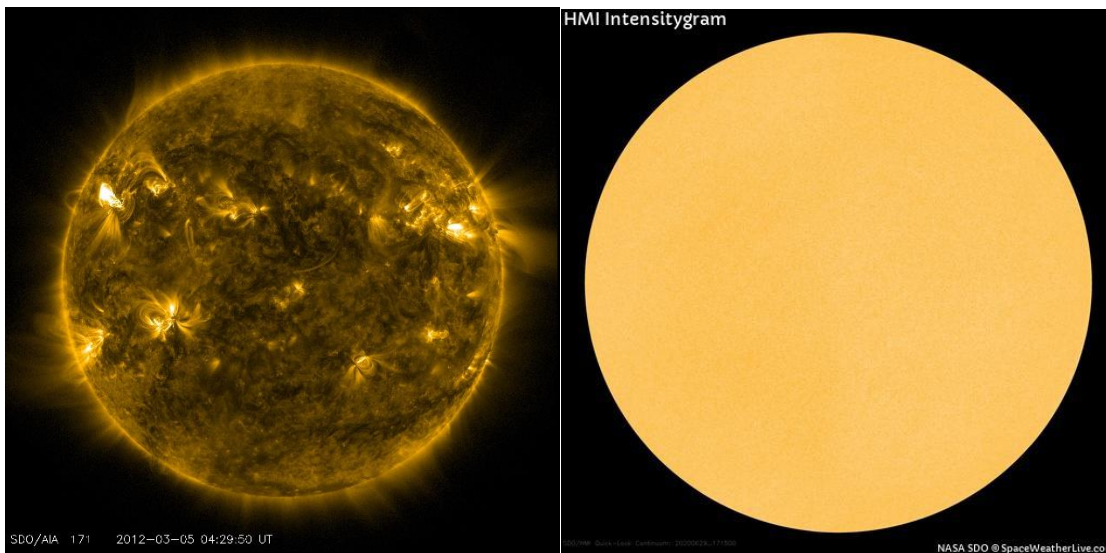
July 5th: We have, after 11 pm, **full moon** rising with **Jupiter** directly 2.5° above it and **Saturn** is just 6° away to the left. They are in the constellation of Sagittarius. To the right is the centre of the Milky Way. Low in the south is **Antares**, just to the right of the Milky Way. Antares is a brilliant jewel set in the heart of the constellation Scorpius. It has a colour similar to Mars and as it is on the same path it often confused with Mars. This confusion is contained within its name 'Ant- Ares' which means like Mars. Mars was the Greek God of War.

By following the 'handle' of the Plough down through Arcturus we arrive at the star **Spica**. At a distance of 250 light years it is 1900 times more luminous than our sun. It is actually two stars that orbit each other in only 4 days (compared to our orbit of the sun in 365 days). It is also a Cepheid variable star which, because of its changing luminosity, allows astronomers to calculate distance. In the autumn the sun passes Spica, making the star a harvest symbol as its name suggests, 'Ear of Wheat'.

Sun:

When we talk about trillions of stars in astronomy there is only one that we can study with any proficiency and that of course is our own sun. The **Parker Solar Probe** was launched on 11th August 2018 on a mission to the sun. It will help us understand the solar winds that effect the earth and other planets. The robotic probe orbits between Venus and the sun using the gravitational pull of Venus to slingshot itself on a Sun/Venus orbit. On the 9th June 2020 the spacecraft completed its fifth close pass of the sun flying within 11.6 million miles of the surface. It will spend seven years making 24 orbits of the sun in that time using Venus to gravity assist. It will eventually view the sun from a distance of 3.7 million miles unlocking many of its mysteries.

The sun is entering its **25th Cycle** of recorded sunspots.



The picture on the left is typical of sunspot activity on the sun.

The picture on the right is solar activity on 29th June 2020. Nothing visible.

The recording of sunspot activity has continued since 1775. The picture on the left is typical of sunspot activity on the sun. It is caused by the sun's magnetic field which, during an 11 year cycle, becomes twisted because the sun rotates faster at its equator than at its poles. The tangled magnetic field lines burst through the surface forming sunspots. After each 11 year cycle the north magnetic pole becomes the south magnetic pole and the cycle starts again, reversing again 11 years later. These solar sunspots cause the Aurora and can impact communications systems. Extreme eruptions can affect electricity grids.

During sunspot minimums we lose some of our shielding from dangerous cosmic rays (caused by supernova explosions and other cosmic events). Astronauts would be particularly at risk.

We are now at the solar minimum (in this case no visible activity). **Cycle 24** has been completed and we await the start of **Cycle 25** during next few months.

However, there are other cycles overlapping the 11-year cycle. The sun has experienced long periods in the past of sunspot inactivity e.g. **Sporer Minimum** (1420-1500) and the **Maunder Minimum** (1645-1715).

These periods corresponded with particularly cold weather, alpine glaciers expanded, the river Thames and canals of Venice regularly froze over. Although we are in a period of very low sunspot activity which could lead to similar cold periods as above we must now take into account the high concentrations of carbon dioxide and methane that are now at unprecedented levels in our air, vastly exceeding those at any time in the last 420,000 years.

Sweet Summer-Time by Anne Frehill

July, reminiscent of long, warm days and balmy evenings, is named after Julius Caesar, who was born on July 12th. It heralds the second half of the year but it's very name conjures up beautiful images of the countryside ablaze with colour. Fields of wheat, oats, barley, and rye along with more modern crops of rape seed and beans are ripening slowly in line with the rhythm of nature as they turn from green to gold. Of all these crops there is nothing more graceful than a field of green bearded barley undulating and dancing in the breeze. It is no surprise then that poets, script writers and songwriters have eulogised this magnificent cereal grain which is believed to be one of the first cultivated grains. In the past too, July was the month of haymaking when golden cocks of hay adorned a spectacular patchwork of fields all over Ireland. There is nothing so evocative as a certain scent or smell, as our sense of smell is linked directly to the brain through highly specialized sensory cells. Whenever I come across small fields where there is freshly mown hay drying in the sunshine I am immediately transported back to blissful, carefree days in the late 1960's. Of course, the garden is at its most beguiling in this month with sweet peas, sweet William, marigolds, hydrangeas, delphiniums and roses, roses everywhere from cultivated ones to no less beautiful wild ones in the hedgerows. And all types of delicious soft fruits from blackcurrants to strawberries, raspberries and redcurrants ripen at this time, provided they survive attacks from birds and other pests. When I was a child, one of my favourite activities in July was the annual trip to "pick your own" fruit farms, where we not only filled our baskets and bowls with strawberries and raspberries but our stomachs as well. Then home to help my mother with jam-making which could last a whole day. To my unsophisticated palate there was nothing like that first taste of newly made jam when a wooden spoonful of it was poured onto a plate to test that it was not still a runny mess.

However, July, for all its beauty, is full of surprises because in many respects it is paradoxical. Amidst the surpassing loveliness of roses there are thorns, amidst the glorious crops there are weeds, and amidst the stately rows of cabbage, kale, broccoli and lettuce, there are disgusting holes which signal decay, left by

slugs, caterpillars, moths, green fly and other aphids. It is a subtle reminder that the year is moving on and time is passing including our sojourn on this earth. In the words of the famous poet Geoffrey Chaucer (1343-1400) "Time and tide wait for no man."

Since records began, July has been one of the hottest months of the year but due to global warming in recent years, July has often brought very dry periods followed by heavy and persistent rain for some days. In the past great importance was attached to St. Swithin`s Day which falls on 15th of July. This tradition holds that a wet St. Swithin`s Day will be followed by 40 days of rain or by 40 days of fair weather if the weather is clement on that day.

St. Swithin was an English monk who was made Bishop of Winchester in 852. When he died some ten years later, going against the practise of burying princes of the Church in crypts below the cathedral, he requested to be buried outside in the churchyard , where his grave would be trodden by passers-by and watered by rain. However on July 15th 971, his remains were exhumed and reburied inside the cathedral, apparently this operation was disrupted by extremely heavy rain , which continued for a further 40 days!

In historical terms there are many important dates to be recalled during July.

In the United States July 4th is Independence Day, which commemorates the formal adoption by the Continental Congress of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th 1776. This document proclaimed the secession of the 13 North American colonies from Great Britain. In short, it is regarded as the birth of the United States as an independent nation. Yet, 244 years later racial polarization and social fragmentation is still at the heart of that great but troubled country!

Back on this island the 12th of July or Orangemen`s day in Northern Ireland, is marked by members of the Orange Order marching with banners and regalia to celebrate the Battle of the Boyne , when the Catholic King James II of England was defeated by William III, also known as William of Orange. James, a Catholic convert, had been ousted by William and came to Ireland to reclaim his throne. When it became clear that he would lose the Battle of the Boyne, he fled to Dublin and then to France, leaving his army to continue

fighting until their total defeat at Aughrim. Unfortunately, ever since that battle, these parades have caused strife and in the 1960s at the beginning of the so called “Troubles”, they became flashpoints for scenes of bitter and violent sectarian unrest.

In July 1916, the Battle of the Somme (World War 1) began when the British launched an offensive against the Germans in north-western Europe. It is believed to have been the bloodiest battle in world history, which resulted in over 1 million casualties in just four months.

During the second World War, on 16th July 1945 the first atomic bomb was detonated in a desert in New Mexico, close to the Los Alamos laboratory where it was built. Just three weeks later on August 6th 1945, in the final days of the war, a similar bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan by the Americans. Hell, truly opened on that fateful day, 80,000 thousand people died instantly while tens of thousands more died in the days, months and years following from radiation exposure. Yet worse was to follow when just three days later, a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, again with devastating consequences. On 15th August in that same year, the Emperor of Japan (Hirohito) announced his country`s unconditional surrender in a radio address. Back in 1673 Samuel von Pufendorf wrote, “More inhumanity has been done by man himself than any other of nature`s causes.” Later still it is said that the poet Robert Burns reworded it to “Man`s inhumanity to man.” If we look around us at the world stage, little has changed!

On July 20th 1969, the lunar module Eagle touched down on the moon, the first manned spacecraft to land on it. On board were Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, their colleague Michael Collins remained on board in the command module Columbia. Who could ever forget those famous words which have been replayed countless times since, uttered as Armstrong stepped out of the spacecraft onto the surface of the moon.

“That`s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

Long before the arrival of St. Patrick to these shores, it is believed that “Black Crom`s Sunday” was celebrated by pilgrims climbing hills and mountains on the last Sunday in July to honour an ancient Celtic God called Chrom. Later, in or about 441 St. Patrick spent 40 days fasting on a mountain in Mayo, (Croagh

Patrick) and so over time the above festival was Christianized and climbing Croagh Patrick became a well-known pilgrimage. Reek Sunday as it is known today has survived down through the centuries and has seen increasing numbers climbing the reek on this day, every year.

Finally, I cannot ignore the fact that many of us traditionally took our annual holidays in July as we jetted off to more exotic countries. Alas, not this year, even trips to our neighbours in the United Kingdom or to the well-worn routes of Spain, Portugal and France seem daunting with the spectre of Covid 19 still lurking around every corner. However, Ireland is a beautiful country, rich in history and with magnificent scenery, which offers something for everyone from the sports enthusiast to the history buff and “culture vulture.” One has only to think of the wild, ferocious beauty of the Atlantic Ocean, the tranquillity of our lakes or the majesty of our mountains to know that we are fortunate. By the end of this decade as climate change impacts more and more on our lives, I suspect that we will come to really value our small Island at the edge of western Europe. So, this summer as we holiday at home, we may find new places to explore both in other counties and within our own, or better still rediscover places which we thought we knew right on our doorstep.

One song about Summer, which has surely stood the test of time is Summer Breeze by Dash Crofts and Seals, from the 1970`s. It`s chorus encapsulates the glorious days of Summer.

Summer breeze, makes me fine,

Blowing through the jasmine in my mind

Summer breeze, makes me feel fine,

Blowing through the jasmine in my mind.

My Brother's Scribblings by Norbert Coyle

Here's one for ya

Today is the fourth of June and the birthday of my favourite sister. I'm in a cafe tucking into a delicious sandwich...home cured ham....tasty cheese..tomato..and Ballymaloe relish...on brown bread and a generous pot of tea.

The "fixins" are those peppery lettuce leaves which ...try as you may...will never fit into ones gaping gob....best eaten alone where one can wipe and dib and dab...some nice chick peas....yes I know..."Far from".

The packed cafe is about 97.3 % female.

I've included cross dressers and the folk I mentioned in a recent missive....in the 97.3 %. Two gals across the way....one in pink and a great listener....she'd need to be ...moon face opposite talks incessantly and can eat and talk together...a multi tasker if ever there was one.

Two guys on the other side....the listener guy enhances his listening pose by cocking the head sideways and slightly closing his right eye....

The pair of gals on my immediate right are chatting away to beat the band...blonde has a very pretty face ...4 swallows tattooed on her inside lower right arm...and a set of thighs that would kick start a jumbo.

There are two sets of Momma and daughter at different tables.the Mommas are elderly and have that fragility one associates with their ilk....oops I take that back...one Momma has just taken possession of a plateful of goodies that my Da would balk at...and a big bowl of soup.

Momma tries the crust on the brown bread and the gnashers resist....undaunted she dips the lot in the soup and sucks away....

Young Momma with the spray on jeans walks out with the two kids...lil ole pixies...they had a grand time.

Blonde ponytail is lashing into a salad sandwich and munching ultra carefully as the flotsam and jetsam from the sambo dribbles down despite using both paws.

The sambo is like one of those big Big Macs ...imagine if your jaw locked and you had to tell your pals that you got the locked jaw from trying to fit a double Big Mac into your gaping maw of a gob.

55 yr old well dressed son ...chinos ...pink sleeveless jumper and pink striped shirt...bits of grey around the ears has taken Poppa out for a soup and sambo.

Ah the ratten git has the glasses on the head....a gobdaw.

Poppa is that standard Dub Daddio....blue long sleeved jumper....tiny little fella...shirt and tie....and a set of false teeth like a few stray sheep that just won't join the herd...they have a mind of their own....every time he half corrals them they change position and flop all around his mouth....if they suddenly settled down he'd miss the craic....trying to control them is a little private game that comes in useful when one lives on ones own....he has those rheumy eyes which stare into the distance as if he's just spotted a red admiral with green lesser spotted shoulders settle onto a distant window sill.

A gal at another table has a short tight haircut....glasses on the hair...and one of those calf length cardigans which can't make up its mind whether it's a coat or a cardie.

As I look across at Poppa of the travelling teeth ...I swear he's actually got smaller...maybe he's just slid forward on his seat.

Modern Miss has a blue denim jacket and one of those oversize red flimsy scarfs which can be turned into a small tent in emergencies.

Her partner has the shaven grey head and the perfectly trimmed designer beard and the grey horizontally striped tee shirt...outside the trouidies..This mod tee takes years off me....you don't fool me buddy....outsie scarfie has just got up to pay.

Momma of the big plateful has just got a doggie bag.....eyes bigger than appetite...you're old enough now Momma to know better.

I've a grand ole poem for you now...those of you with kids will associate with it no end and the rest of us bereft lot can use our imagination...

I spoke one time to an 83 yr old Momma...a "wida woman"...."I feel better now than I did when I was 40" she told me. Anyway the poem.....

The Hundred Names of Love

The children have gone to bed.

We are so tired we could fold ourselves neatly
behind our eyes and sleep mid-word, sleep standing
warm among the creatures in the barn, lean together
and sleep, forgetting each other completely in the velvet,
the forgiveness of that sleep.

Then the one small cry: one strike of the match-head of sound:
one child's voice: and the hundred names of love are lit
as we rise and walk down the hall.

One hundred nights we wake like this,wake out of our nowhere
to kneel by small beds in darkness.

One hundred flowers open in our hands,
a name for love written in each one.






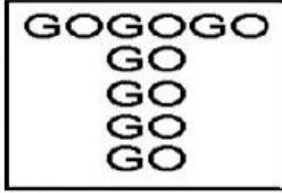




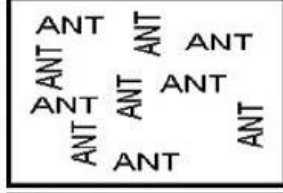

Annie Lighthart.

Now is that a good one or is that a good one.....I'm outa here ...can't be hanging around
cafes eating sambos and drinking tea...you know yourself.

Dingbats

Can you solve this Dingbats puzzle?

Answers will appear in the next issue of the newsletter

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

Last weeks answers

1, Bulldozer, 2 Condescending, 3 Defeat, 4 Making ends meet, 5 Sailing on the seven seas, 6 I before E except after C
7 Singing in the rain, 8 Captain hook, 9 Paradox, 10 Feeling under the weather, 11 Side salad, 12 Paradise

Poetry Corner

An Honest Man by Brian Smyth

(I)

I met him at the close of day.
As home from work he took his way.
Though roughly clad his honest mien.
Lost nothing of its glossy sheen.
His work was mongst the clay.

(II)

His honest kindly open face.
Was free from brooding passion's trace.
No mean comparisons I'll draw.
Not yet declaim the social law.
That gives to him a lowly place.

(III)

The social scale is oft unfair.
Too many times it doth compare.
Not men's worth but what they're worth.
The goods they owe upon this earth.
Their hungry worldly share.

(IV)

But give to me the honest man.
The rich or lowly artisan.
Naught else with me will ever count.
I scorn to judge by goods amount.
An honest man's my man.

This is from Brian's 'Collected Poems'

Cattle

Can you name these two breeds of cattle? Answers in next week's RST



3A



3B

Last week's breeds:

Breed 2A:

The Blonde d'Aquitaine is a modern French breed of large domestic beef cattle. It was created in 1962 by merging three blonde draught breeds of south-western France

Breed 2B:

The Hereford is a British breed of beef cattle that originated in the county of Herefordshire, in the West Midlands of England.

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

Notices

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
- Supply and Fitting of Fireplaces & Stoves

NO JOB TOO SMALL!

Contact: Pauric

T: 046 9034846

M: 085 1597105

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.

I would be willing to offer any advice to readers regarding their vehicles. With garages closed readers may have queries regarding issues that they are worried about.

Ron Chawke

Ron Chawke Motors

086-1717159

ronchawkemotors@gmail.com

A&J Print are open for business, this may be of particular interest to students who need to have their projects printed up

SEDUM AND SAGE

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EMAIL TO ORDER: [KIRSTENWALK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:kirstenwalk@gmail.com)

Contacts

Apologies to all whose submissions have been omitted due to time/ space constraints or perhaps as a result of gross negligence by the compiler. Hopefully we will be able to include those items in future issues

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

Please send all articles to jimconroy747@gmail.com or to patriciaconroy1@hotmail.com