

**DIGITAL VERSION FOR DURATION OF CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC**  
**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

ISSUE NO. 19

## LEINSTER CHAMPIONS



**SKRYNE TARA ARE LEINSTER CHAMPIONS.**

**ASHBOURNE UNITED 0 SKRYNE TARA 1**

## Skryne Tara FC

What a weekend for sport in our Parish as all Skryne GAA teams won their matches in different competitions. The Senior team defeated Nobber to maintain their senior status for another year, the Premier Div 1 team beat Seneschalstown to reach the Championship Final and the Premier Div 5 side won their match against St. Colmcilles in Pilltown to also reach the Championship Final. Not to be outdone our Ladies adult team defeated Walterstown to also reach the Final of their Championship.

But pride of place must go to Skryne Tara who became Leinster Junior Shield Champions for the first time. This is the most prestigious competition in our grade of Junior soccer. Skryne Tara reached the semifinal stage last year only to be defeated 1-0 by the eventual winners Straffan Utd from Kildare. So from the outset the ambition was always to go one better this year.

Along the way there were difficult away matches in Wexford and home games at Ross Cross against Dublin teams. The fourth round tie at home to a very strong Dublin outfit - Wayside Celtic - proved to be the most difficult one with Skryne Tara scoring 2 goals late in the game to win 2-1.

On to the Final and ironically a clash against another Meath side, our near neighbours Ashbourne United, a Saturday team from the Leinster Senior League.

At the Press Conference in FAI Headquarters in Abbottstown Skryne Tara were drawn as the 'Home' team and allowed to wear their first colours (Yellow and Blue) with Ashbourne, who also play in Yellow, having to change to all Black. The match was originally fixed for early May in United Park Drogheda but because of 'Covid' had to be refixed. United Park became unavailable as Drogheda had an FAI Cup match themselves and our game was transferred to the excellent facilities of Tolka Rovers Frank Cooke Park in Dublin.

Unfortunately Skryne Tara had to field without two players who had played in every game in the competition right up to the Final. Allan Carty tore ankle ligaments in an AUL Shield match five days before the final and Conor O'Brien had not fully recovered from an old injury which has plagued him for a while. What a shame for them to miss the most important game in the club's history.

The game, like most important finals, proved to be a very tight affair with both sides having their share of chances. Skryne Tara started the game at 100 miles an hour and almost scored in the first minute when the Ashbourne goalkeeper made two great saves firstly from Paddy Carpenter and then the rebound from Jason Fox. Ashbourne had their chances also and in the

latter stages of the first half a shot from just outside the box thundered off the crossbar with Darragh Keegan stranded. Darren Fox shot narrowly over for Skryne Tara after good football from Ciaran Croke and Luke Thorpe.

Into the second half and again both sides went close. Jason Fox looped a ball over the Asbourne Keepers head and it looked as if he had to score but somehow it was scrambled to safety. Frank Carty had a good headed attempt which just went over and even though Mark Jordan was 'double man marked' throughout he still caused panic in the Ash defence every time he touched the ball. At the other end of the field David Lynch Stephen O'Brien and Timmy Lennon worked really hard but the star of our defence was Colin Doyle. The threat from the Asbourne wingers had been noted beforehand and they interchanged all through the game but Darren Fox and especially Doyler were excellent in stamping out the problems they caused.

There was one incident halfway through the second half which probably changed the outcome of the match. The ball was crossed into the Skryne Tara box and the big strong Ashbourne centre forward Matthew Devine rose highest and sent a bullet header towards the top corner of the net but somehow Darragh Keegan got a strong hand to it and put it out for corner which yielded nothing. How Keegan got there nobody knows, not even himself, but it was a save worthy of any International goalie. And with that save the game gradually edged towards the team in yellow.

Having said that when the fourth official held up the board indicating 5 minutes injury time we were preparing for 30 minutes extra time and possibly penalties. But this team doesn't give up and having already won their AUL League went for the jugular in that five precious minutes.

A corner from Jason Fox floated across the box and fell to Captain Mark Jordan who had been 'shackled' all day but he only needs one chance. He had to wait until 3 minutes into injury time for that chance. When it came he fooled the United defence who were convinced he was going to bring it to his stronger right foot. But he immediately hit a rasper with his weaker left and it flew past Daniel McShane and into the corner of the Asbourne net to an almighty roar from all the Skryne Tara people lucky enough to be there in these extraordinary times. What a way to win the title and spark off the celebrations that went on at safe distancing all through the weekend.

To put the Icing on the cake Jason Fox was named 'Man of the Match' and received his award from Leinster Football Association Official Gerry Gorman while Captain Mark Jordan received the Shield from Leinster Football Association Secretary Dick Redmond.

As a result of their double, winning the League and now the Leinster Junior Shield, Skryne Tara have been promoted to the top grade of football in the Athletic Union League and are

already competing in the Feehan Utilities Shield. They have kept up the good work with a good away win last night (Friday September 5th). They defeated Raheny United 1-0 under the bright floodlights of St. Anne's Park with a contender for goal of the season from Jason Fox.

Full panel - Darragh Keegan, Colin Doyle, Darren Fox, Allan Carty, David Lynch, Stephen O'Brien, Ciaran Croke, Dermot Brennan, Niall Cleary, Luke Thorpe, Timmy Lennon, Paddy Carpenter, Frank Carty, Conor O'Brien, Mark Jordan (captain), Jason Fox, Colm McLoughlin, Jack Conroy, Chris Matthews, Jamie Jordan, Brian Gallagher, Andrew McEntee,

Joint Managers - Robbie Thorpe and Cyril Carty.







## Condolences

Our sincere sympathy goes to

Derek & Susan McAuley, Proudstown on the death of their mother Peggy  
Patricia Conroy, Collierstown on the death of her brother Felim

The McDermott and McDonnell families on the death of Bertie

May they rest in peac

## A Winning Combination



This photo of a winning Skryne Pioneer Quiz team taken in 1974. From left : Peggy McAuley RIP, Colm O'Rourke, Padraig O'Rourke, Maurice Daly and Carmel Bowens nee McCann, RIP.

## GAA – Mens Fixtures and Results

### Fairyhouse Steel Senior Football Championship. Group C – Round 3. 30/8/2020

#### Skryne 4-13, Nobber 0-12

Skryne faced Intermediate champions Nobber in round 3 of the Fairyhouse Steel Senior Football Championship in Seneschalstown today knowing that a win would be enough to guarantee another year at Senior level. Nobber pulled off the surprise of the championship when beating Simonstown Gaels in the last round and with Jordan Morris and Séan Meade in flying form, Skryne were not taking the North Meath men for granted.

Skryne started off quickly and had 2 points on the board inside the first 2 minutes, with Mark Battersby converting a mark and Niall Finnerty pointing from the right hand side. Dangerman Jordan Morris got Nobber off the mark with a free before hoisting over a second to draw Nobber level for the one and only time in the game. Ian Davis was the main freetaker for Skryne today and when Niall Finnerty was pulled down, Davis stepped up to slot the free over. Indeed Ian Davis is relishing his new role as midfield partner to Harry Rooney and the big man had a fine performance today with his second point following quickly after the first, this time a strike with the outside of his boot from distance on the right hand side. Séan Meade hit his first score of the game in reply to narrow the deficit. A darting run from Darragh Campion was brought to an abrupt halt when he was fouled 30 yards from goal. Ian Davis stepped up again and swung over the free. Jordan Morris almost poached a goal for Nobber when he got on the end of a lofted pass into the Skryne box. His marker Robbie Clarke managed to smother the ball and scramble it away to safety just as it looked destined to hit the back of the Skryne net. The impressive Niall Finnerty who had his marker chasing shadows all day, hit his second point of the game just before the game broke for the first water break with Skryne leading by 0-06 to 0-03.

The game resumed with a Nobber kickout which was fielded superbly by Harry Rooney who raced forward and slotted the ball over the bar. Séan Meade kept Nobber in touch with another point from play. But 2 more pointed frees from Ian Davis saw Skryne open a gap. Another Ian Davis free resulted in the first Skryne goal. Davis had a long range kick from the right hand side. His kick was tailing off to the left of the posts when a Nobber defender jumped up and knocked it back down into play. Conor O'Brien pounced on the loose ball and slid a shot low to the left of the keeper into the net. Paddy Carpenter added a point as Skryne turned the screw. Skryne's second goal came when Niall Finnerty broke through on goal. His shot was parried by the Nobber goalkeeper. Paddy Carpenter followed up on the rebound which was also rebuffed by a Nobber defender on the goal-line. Darragh Campion was quickest to the react and sidefooted home to leave 12 points between the sides as half time approached. A Jordan Morris free on the stroke of half time was the last action of the half. Half-time score: Skryne 2-10 Nobber 0-05.

Nobber opened the scoring in the second half with Karl Casserly sending over a point inside the first minute. However any hopes of a comeback were well and truly snuffed out 5 minutes into the half when a brilliant Skryne move which started off with Conor O'Brien fetching a kickout from Ian Gillette. OB moved the ball to Shane Smyth and he centred to Ian Davis who



had made a run from midfield into the Nobber penalty area. Davis was dragged down as he was about to take a shot and referee Pdraig Coyle had little option but to award a penalty to Skryne. Niall Finnerty stepped up to take the penalty and sent the keeper the wrong way as he slid the ball into the left bottom corner of the net. Nobber's Alan Farrell and Séan Meade added points for Nobber who continued to fight on. But Niall Finnerty and Conor O'Brien with a point each ensured that Skryne kept the scoreboard ticking over before the second water break.

Jordan Morris who didn't miss too many chances throughout, pointed a free for Nobber. Skryne then hit their fourth goal when 4 Skryne forwards found themselves advancing on 2 Nobber defenders. Shane Smyth centred to the unmarked Pdraig Finnerty who made no mistake when he fired past Dary Hutchinson. The game was well and truly up for Nobber. Jordan Morris did add a further three points for Nobber accounting for seven of Nobber's total haul, while Niall Finnerty added a pointed free to finish off Skryne's scoring.

Skryne's work ethic and team spirit ensured that they always looked in complete control of this game. They had 13 wides and against a stronger team may have rued those missed chances but they fully deserved to retain their senior status and with some of the younger players showing great potential, next year could be an exciting year for Skryne.

**Skryne:** Ian Gillett; Niall Lenehan, Robbie Clarke, Andrew Moore; Eoin Smyth, Ciarán Lenehan, Stephen O'Brien; Harry Rooney (0-1), Ian Davis (0-5, 4fs); Conor O'Brien (1-1), Darragh Campion (1-0), Paddy Carpenter (0-1); Niall Finnerty (1-4, 1p, 1f), Mark Battersby (0-1, 1m), Shane Smyth.

Subs used: James Hegarty, Pdraig Finnerty (1-0), Tommy Carpenter, Eoghan Greene

**Nobber:** Dary Hutchinson; Cathal Cassidy, Eanna Fagan, Brian Meade; Paul Meade, Barry Cassidy, Seamus Fagan; Thomas Murtagh, Alan Farrell(0-1); Ryan Hughes, Séan Meade (0-3, 1f), Niall Farrell; Karl Casserly (0-1), Jordan Morris (0-7, 4fs), Brendan Heffernan.

Subs used: Aidan Shields, Jack Condra, Dean Halpin, Dale Larkin, Barry Bradley

### **Premier Reserve Football Championship. Division 1, Group B – Round 3. Skryne vs Seneschalstown 30/8/2020**

#### **Skryne 3-16, Seneschalstown 1-11.**

Skryne and Seneschalstown played out an entertaining last group game in the Premier Football Championship this morning in sunny Skryne. It was a case of winner takes all in this game as both teams had won their opening 2 rounds. A rampant last quarter where Skryne outscored the visitors by 3-04 to a single point sealed the victory.

It was nip and tuck in the opening quarter. John Morley opened the scoring for Skryne with a pointed free. James Meade, Ryan O'Dowd and Robert Wogan all fired over for Seneschalstown before Niall Morley clipped over a lovely point with his left foot from the left hand side. Points from John Morley and Neil Burke saw Skryne lead by a point by the first water break.

Skryne stretched this lead in the second quarter with John Morley finding the target again despite pressure from the Seneschalstown defence. Neil Burke added two long distance points

in a row. Sean Commons and James Meade found the target for Seneschalstown. Jason Fox was put through on goal by Ronan McCabe but his shot was blocked away by David Gordon in the Seneschalstown goal. However, play was pulled back for an earlier foul on Ronan McCabe and John Morley dispatched the free. Niall McCabe pointed for Seneschalstown before Jayo Fox tapped over from the left hand side. Neil Burke hit his fourth point of the half to leave the half-time score: Skryne 0-10, Seneschalstown 0-06.

John Morley hit his fifth point of the game in the opening minute of the second half after David McGoldrick soloed through the heart of the Seneschalstown defence before laying off to Morley who made no mistake. A minute later James Meade appeared to scuff a shot at the Skryne goal. The ball got a slight deflection on the way through leaving Des McAvinney with no chance to keep it from making it's way to the back of the Skryne net. Meade and Sean Commons added two more points for Seneschalstown to level matters. Jayo Fox edged Skryne ahead once more with his second point of the game but two more points from Sean Commons saw Seneschalstown lead by a single point at the water break.

Whatever was in the water certainly seemed to work for Skryne as they hit a purple patch in the last quarter to overhaul their neighbours. Paddy Fox lofted a high ball into the Seneschalstown square to find the fist of Colm Doherty who thumped the ball to the back of the net. This was the lift that Skryne needed. With their tails now up, Skryne hit three points (Niall Morley, Neil Burke and Paddy Fox) without a reply before Niall Morley rounded his man and fired a shot at the Seneschalstown goal. David Gordon parried the shot but Craig Nolan was on hand to pick up the rebound and finish to the net. Skryne's third goal came with a minute of normal time remaining. Craig Nolan off loaded to Niall Morley who calmly slid the ball to the left of David Gordon. Kris Kinsella finished off the last quarter scoring with a fine point from the right hand side after receiving an excellent crossfield ball from Niall Morley. Seneschalstown's Sean Commons got his fifth point of the game just before the final whistle sounded. Final Score: Skryne 3-16, Seneschalstown 1-11.

Skryne now advance to a final against Donaghmore Ashbourne who were victorious in Group A.

SKRYNE – Des McAvinney. Timmy Lennon, Mark Harrington, Dermot Brennan. Frank Carty, Michael Doherty, Kris Kinsella(0-1). David McGoldrick, Colm Doherty(1-0). Ronan McCabe, Neil Burke (0-5), Niall Morley(1-2, 1 mark). Jason Fox(0-2), Aidan Tuite, John Morley(0-5, 2fs).

Subs used – Patrick Fox (0-1), Craig Nolan (1-0)

## Premier Football Championship - Division 1 Group B

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	<a href="#"><u>Skryne</u></a>	3	3	0	0	63	34	6
2	<a href="#"><u>Seneschalstown GFC</u></a>	3	2	1	0	48	51	4
3	<a href="#"><u>Gaeil Colmcille</u></a>	3	1	2	0	41	53	2
4	<a href="#"><u>Summerhill</u></a>	3	0	3	0	31	45	0

## **Premier Reserve Football Championship. Division 5, Group B – Round 3. 31/8/2020**

**St. Colmcilles 3-11, Skryne 4-09.**

### **Injury time penalty secures last gasp victory for Skryne**

In a dramatic finalé in Piltown an Aidan Gill penalty in injury time secured what was looking to be an unlikely victory for Skryne in Round 3 of the Premier Football Championship – Division 5.

St. Colmcilles opened the scoring with a quickfire point inside the opening minute of the half. Skryne advanced forward and Aidan Gill sent a high ball towards the Cilles goal. It looked to be tailing to the left and wide, but Felim O'Rourke managed to keep it in play and centred to Sean Cassidy who palmed the ball to the Cilles net for Skryne's opening goal. Brian Smyth tapped over another point for Skryne. After adding another point to their tally St. Colmcilles were next to register a goal when their corner forward found space on the left hand side and advanced on the Skryne goal before firing a rasper at the Skryne goal which was brilliantly parried away by Skryne keeper Gary Browne. However, another Cilles forward was quickest to react and he smashed the rebound into the back of the Skryne net. Another point a minute later saw Cilles lead by 1-3 to 1-1 at the first water break.

Almost immediately following the resumption the Cilles hit their second goal when despite the attention of the Skryne defenders a Cilles forward managed to square the ball in front of the Skryne goal and it was palmed to the net. Skryne were struggling to find the target at this stage and registered several wides before the Cilles extended their lead to 6 points with a well taken point. Aidan Gill lifted the Skryne spirits when he scored a superb long range point from near the left hand touchline. Colmcilles hit the final score of the half on the stroke of half-time to leave the half-time score: St. Colmcilles 2-05, Skryne 1-02.

The third quarter saw Skryne reel in the Cilles. An opening point from Felim O' Rourke was quickly followed by Skryne's second goal when Brian Smyth put Martin Mulvany through on goal and he slid the ball past the Cilles keeper. Aidan Gill added to his tally with another point but the Cilles responded with a point of their own. Felim O' Rourke had a glorious chance of a goal 11 minutes into the half after Brian Smyth sent him through on goal. However his powerful effort sailed over. It was O'Rourke again who managed to get the equalising score, a free after Sean Cassidy was fouled around 30 yards from goal, but protestations from the Cillesmen saw the ball moved forward and O'Rourke had an easy task of tapping over the free. It could be said that things were going a little too well for Skryne at this point, but the Cilles suddenly sprang to life again and scored a goal and two points without reply to open the gap to five points again. The goal coming from a high lofted mishit effort at a point which dropped short into the Skryne square. The Cilles forwards contested the ball with Skryne keeper Gary Browne who did well to get a fist to the ball which sent it back out the way it came. However, another Cilles forward collected the ball and sent it to the Skryne net for their third goal. All credit to Skryne, they attacked forward and just when it looked like the attack had been broken down, Alex Grendon was fed the ball to the right hand side of the Cilles goal. He was the right man in the right place and he sent a powerful shot to the back of

the Cilles net to draw Skryne back into the game just before the whistle sounded for the second water break.

The sides swapped scores upon the resumption with Martin Mulvany and Aidan Gill pointing for Skryne while Colmcilles also hit two points. The game entered injury time and Cilles looked to be home and hosed. However, Skryne had other ideas and the man of the match Aidan Gill collected the ball on the 21 yard line. He was surrounded by the Colmcilles defence who fouled him in their desperate attempts to keep Skryne at bay. Following protestations from the Cilles, referee Ciarán O' Floinn moved the ball forward and to the centre of the goal for a free on the 13 yard line. Skryne needed a goal and the Colmcilles men were eager to stop the quick potshot from Felim O'Rourke. Despite warnings from the referee to retreat the required distance to allow the free to be taken, a Colmcilles defender loitered in the vicinity of the free and when Felim went to unleash his shot, the Cilles defender stuck out his foot from less than a yard away and blocked the shot. Referee O'Floinn awarded a penalty to Skryne for the infraction. Aidan Gill stepped up and slotted the penalty into the left corner of the goal to send Skryne ahead by a single point with less than a minute remaining. Cilles did have time to mount another attack in search of the equaliser and looked to have secured the ideal opportunity when they won a 45. However, the Cilles man sent the 45 wide and with it any chance of stopping Skryne's march to the final. Final score: St. Colmcilles 3-11, Skryne 4-09.

Skryne will now face Group A winners Syddan in the final of Division 5, date to be decided.

Skryne: Gary Browne; Liam Gill, Tomás McKeown, Paddy O'Leary; Paul McGoldrick, Ciarán Finnerty, Conor Whelan; Kevin Reilly, Alex Grendon; Jack O'Donnell, Felim O'Rourke, Seán Cassidy; Aidan Gill, Brian Smyth, Martin Mulvany.

Subs used: David Rathbourne, Niall Morland, Bryan Clarke

## Premier Football Championship - Division 5 Group B

Pos.	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1	<a href="#">Skryne</a>	3	2	0	1	75	55	5
2	<a href="#">St. Colmcille's</a>	3	2	1	0	70	50	4
3	<a href="#">Moynalty GFC</a>	3	0	1	2	57	59	2
4	<a href="#">Simonstown</a>	3	0	2	1	41	79	1

## GAA – Ladies Fixtures and Results

### **Skryne Senior Ladies vs Walterstown September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Final Score:

Skryne 3-15

Walterstown 0-11

#### **Skryne Advance to Junior A Final**

Skryne produced an excellent team performance to beat neighbours Walterstown in the semi-final of the Kepak Junior 'A' Championship in Fr McManus Park on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

Playing with the aid of a slight breeze in the opening period Skryne took control of the game from the start and stayed in front throughout the game. Thanks to a goal from Ciara Smyth and several well worked points from a spread of scorers, Skryne held an eight-point advantage at the break.

The third quarter was when Skryne put the game to bed with two excellent team goals from Ciara Smyth and Megan O'Brien putting the hosts 14 points clear. A final quarter rally from Walterstown saw them score four points to Skryne's two as Skryne defended tenaciously to ensure no goals were conceded.

This was a very passionate display from the seventeen players used on the night and their strong work rate was rewarded with a comprehensive result that sees them advance to the Final in Ashbourne on September 13<sup>th</sup> where they will face Clann na Gael.

Team: Rachel Whelan, Lisa Browne, Ailish Lenehan, Megan O'Brien (1-0), Nicola Rogan, Alana Cooney, Emer O'Brien, Eimear Clarke, Ciara Smyth (2-4), Amy O'Dowd (0-3), Niamh O'Brien, Sophie Finnegan (0-2), Fiona O'Rourke (0-4) Catriona Keoghan, Roisin McManus (0-2).

Subs Used: Samantha Clarke & Steffi Finnegan

### **Skryne Senior Ladies vs Dunderry September 4<sup>th</sup>**

Final Score:

Skryne 6-16

Dunderry 2-2

Skryne qualified for the semi final of the Kepak Junior 'D' Championship Semi-final after defeating Dunderry in Skryne on a score line of 6-16 to 2-2.

The club's second team playing an attractive brand of attacking football advanced to the next stage which will be played on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September (fixture details to be confirmed).

Teams: Mary Bennett, Aisling O'Brien, Katie Manning, Emma Rathbourne, Eabha McLoughlin, Caragh Conway (0-1), Emma Fitzpatrick (0-1), Naoise Smyth (0-1), Sasha Guiry (0-2), Niamh Cowley (1-3), Ava Purcell, Emma Swan (0-1), Karen Russell, Sophie Ryan (3-1), Colleen Jordan (2-4).

Subs used: Ciara Cowley, Aisling Kelliher(0-1), Ellie Murphy (0-1).

## **Skryne Ladies Hoping to Take the Next Step**

Skryne ladies will hope to take the step up to the next level when they play Clan na Gael in the final of the Kepak Junior 'A' Championship on Sunday 13th September in Ashbourne.

In line with the national trend, the number of girls playing Gaelic Football in Skryne has grown to the point where membership within the club is now nearly 50% of overall membership.

In recent years the Club has competed at Division 1 level at underage in Meath with titles secured at U13, U14, U15 with a big drive this year to secure the U16 division 1 title having been beaten in the final last year. Our U14s have already reached the semi-finals of their league.

At nursery level, huge commitment has and is being put in from u8s right through to u10s and u12s.

This year the Club entered a second team in the Junior D championship and after a great victory over Dunderry are through to the semi-final.

The Junior A team comprises a blend of experienced players who were part of the squad that won the Junior B title in 2017 (as well as a few who played in the Junior A winning team of 2003!) plus the younger group who have been so successful at underage level over the past few years.

Teamwork is their real strength and anyone who has watched them this year will have seen that in both their attacking and defensive displays. We wish team and management well as we make that push for Intermediate status.

**Kepak Junior A Championship Final**

**Skryne vs Clann na Gael**

**Date: Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September**

**Venue: Ashbourne GFC**

**Time: TBC**

**LGFA Junior A Football Championship. Group B – Round 3. Skryne vs St. Pat's  
Stamullen 14/8/2020**

Skryne Ladies had their first match of the Kepak Junior A Championship last Friday. On a hot evening in Stamullen the St. Pats team started strongly and at the first water break were leading 4 points to nil. This tally could have been higher but for some strong defending by the Skryne defence. However, Skryne found their rhythm and after a goal from the indomitable Fiona O'Rourke and points from captain Catriona Keoghan Skryne led at half time by 2 points.

The third quarter was Skryne's dominant quarter where the side outscored St. Pat's 2-4 to 0-4 including a well taken penalty by Sophie Finnegan and a great team move finished by Amy O'Dowd. However, St. Pat's stormed back into the game with two goals and secured a draw with the last kick of the game.

Skryne will be looking to gain their place in the semi-final by beating Moylagh in their next game at home in Fr McManus Park on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August at 7.30pm.

The strong and vocal Skryne support at this away match was fantastic for this squad of over 30 players who have been training hard over the last couple of months.

Team: Rachel Whelan, Lisa Browne, Ailish Lenehan, Megan O'Brien, Nicola Rogan, Alana Cooney, Samantha Clarke (0-1), Fiona O'Rourke (1-0), Aisling Bowens, Ciara Smyth, Amy O'Dowd (1-1), Niamh O'Brien, Sophie Finnegan (2-1), Catriona Keoghan (0-4), Roisin McManus (0-1).

**LGFA Junior A Football Championship. Group B – Round 3. Skryne vs Moylagh  
23/8/2020**

**Skryne 1-15, Moylagh 0-4**

Skryne secured a semi-final place in the Kepak Junior A Junior Championship with an emphatic victory over Moylagh on Saturday night. Playing against a strong breeze in the first half they held Moylagh scoreless until half time with a score line of 8 points to nil. Moylagh did have their chances in this opening period including a missed penalty.

The second half saw conditions improve and playing with the aid of the breeze Skryne opened the scoring early and controlled the game despite Moylagh coming back with a number of scores. The game was put to bed in the last quarter by a Roisin McManus goal after a patient build-up and an excellent cross-field pass by Ciara Smyth. This was a great overall team performance from the ladies.

Having topped the group Skryne now advance to a home semi-final against neighbours Walterstown in Fr. McManus Park on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 7pm.

Team: Rachel Whelan, Lisa Browne, Ailish Lenehan, Megan O'Brien, Nicola Rogan, Alana Cooney, Samantha Clarke, Fiona O'Rourke (0-1), Aisling Bowens, Ciara Smyth (0-4), Amy O'Dowd (0-2), Niamh O'Brien (0-1), Sophie Finnegan (0-3), Catriona Keoghan (0-4), Roisin McManus (1-0)

Subs Used: Eimear Clarke & Steffi Finnegan



## GAA – Juveniles Fixtures and Results



### *Skryne GFC Underage Fixture & Results*

**Skryne U6s or Superstar heroes as know as** have resumed back to practice on a Saturday morning. Practice is on the Astro every Saturday morning at 10.00am and if your son or daughter is still thinking of playing gaelic and learning the basics please bring them down and our top skilled coaches will take it from there. It's all about enjoyment, fun and games. There is already a great group of kids that are really enjoying the fun element. We really encourage parents to bring their kids down and try it out. We can reassure you that you won't be disappointed and there are fantastic facilities and with our top of the range Astro pitch.

**The U7's & U9s are really progressing** well and as you can see from the photos are enjoying the fun element. There are three U9s teams and two U7s teams. The team photo of kids was captured in Ballivor at their first Go Games where everyone gets loads of game time and we always make sure that they get involved. Everyone is a winner and plenty of encouragement. The basics of bouncing a ball, soloing, point kicking is the key basics. The kids are always



encouraged and the smile on the faces says it all. For the U7's and U9s they will have Go Games with Clonard, Na Fianna, Seneschalstown, St Peters Dunboyne, St Ultans / Cortown Gaels & Walterstown every second week so no shortage of games for them all. It's not alone about the fun element but also the social aspect. The best of luck to the management and players for the rest of the year in the Go Games. It's never too late to join and again we encourage anyone at all age groups if they want to get involved please call down or make contact with us on Face book or any of our social media platforms. There is also contact details on our Skryne GFC website. The best of luck to the players and management for the remainder of the season.



Skryne GFC U7's



Skryne GFC U9's

**The U11's have had their** first of the Go Games. They have played Simonstown, Senechalstown, Summerhill. There is a great panel of player with over 30 kids. This is fantastic and with having three U11s teams they are all getting plenty of game time. The last game was against Simonstown in Skryne and the improvement is a credit to the management that have had the players since U6's. There was some fluent movement and passing. Not forgetting the kicking and hand passing with the weaker foot. Like the U7s & U9's this is not competitive and again all about the skills and basics. There is plenty of games for the U11s and they also have games every second week with practice on a Wednesday & Saturday. The best of luck to the players and management for the remainder of the season. We will also have photos of games on our social media platforms of the Games.

**The U13's is where the competitive** Gaelic starts. The U13's are currently in Div 2 and had a fantastic start in the League. Skryne U13's play Waltertown, Dunderry, Summerhill, Gael Colmcille and St Colmcille's and currently lie in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. They had a fantastic game against Summerhill that produced plenty of goals. After being 8 Points down at half time the lads pulled it right back to win by a narrow margin. This was great skill and determination to keep going and never give up attitude. The final score of the game was,

**Summerhill 2-16 (22 Points)**

**Skryne 5-08 (23 Points)**

Goals wins games and this is certainly the case. Skryne's next game was against St Colmcilles and another cracking game. Cilles were winners in this one and there report gave credit to Skryne's determination and they also praised there keeper who had to pull of some great saves to get a hard fought win. The team as a group are really playing well and should be proud of the practice and effort put in. They have a great attitude and well done to all the players and management. There is still plenty more games to be played. The best of luck in the remainder of the league.



Skryne GFC U13'S

**The U15's are also in Div 2 and** really are progressing well in the Championship for the Paddy O'Brien Cup. Currently sitting in second place and playing some of the best Gaelic as a team they are really developing as a very good team with a great style of Gaelic Football. The first game was not shot of entertaining. It was a real tough game. Navan O Mahonys and Skryne played at Father Mc Manus Park and both sides gave it everything. It was a tough game and fair. Skryne were unlucky not to be further ahead and had an Eight point lead. With the new rules Skryne received a black card in the latter part of the game and were down to 14 players for 10 mins and Navan O Mahonys made a comeback. Skryne lost their first game and were disappointed. The final score was,

***Skryne 2-11***

***Navan O Mahonys 3-10***

Skryne U15's next game was against Slane in Slane and did they pick themselves back up from the narrow defeat. Skryne didn't make the same mistake twice and from the first whistle controlled the game from start to finish with some fantastic battles outfield. This was a game Skryne were completely dominant in and didn't make the same mistake twice.

***Skryne 3-15***

***Slane 2-10***

The Third round against Round Towers was played in a wet and windy Father Mc Manus Park. Again Skryne controlled the game from start to finish with some fantastic turnovers and work rate. Skryne were completely dominant and again came away with another well worked win.

***Skryne 6-11***

***Roundtowers 1-08***

The fourth round was against Summerhill and a night that you would put a milk bottle out in. Pitches were being closed all over the county but Summerhill went ahead with the game. Storm Francis had come to join the party. It was a gale wind and credit to the lads they were blowing a gale of their own as they overcome Summerhill and really showed that they are contenders for the U15's Championship. Skryne had their third win in a row.

***Summerhill 0-5***

***Skryne 3-14.***

Skryne will play St Pats of Stamullen to decide who will have home advantage for the Semi Final. This game is being played in Skryne on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> in Father Mc Manus Park. The best of luck to the players and management.



Skryne GFC U15's

**Skryne Minors Div 1 LMFM Minor Championship.** Last year minors reached the semi final of the LMFM Minor Championship and were unlucky not to get to the final. The older players have moved onto the adult team and are playing really well with their teams. Some of the younger players are still playing Minors. This is a very young team and there are Five players who are involved and playing with the team. The minors prior to Covid had played three games in the Div 2 Spring League and were top of the table. Therefore Co Na Fi of the County board moved them to Div 1 in the Championship. This has been a tough campaign. There is no shortage of talented players but when you are playing town teams who in some cases like St Colmcilles have four minor teams. Skryne have played Dunshaughlin and Ratoath and with losses in both games they will now play in the shield. The group that they have been put into was a tough group as Dunshaughlin or St Colmcilles will be both contenders to win the Championship. On the other group they will more than likely play Duleek / Bellewstown in the Semi Final of the Shield. The best of luck to the players who really have put in some hard work training. The best of luck to the players and management in the Semi Final of the Shield.

**It's been busy and changing ways since we have come back to playing gaelic games.** With us coming back there has been an injury to a goalie that has a bright future ahead of him. During the U15's game against Navan O Mahonys Matthew Ryan pulled off a fantastic save for a goal. Matthew went down hard on the shoulder and those that know Matthew knows he never complains and gets on with things. Matthew attempted to get up holding the arm to make a second save. Matthew stayed down and was taken off immediately and cared for. He attended A & E and the outcome was that he needed surgery to the shoulder the next morning for dislocation of the shoulder. Everyone in Skryne wants to wish Matthew a speedy recovery and we certainly look forward to seeing you back on the pitch. Matthew will certainly be a name we will hear plenty about. He has a great attitude and a serious talent.

There s no shortage of great talent in the underage and we have no doubt there will be players who will win the Keegan cup for Skryne and plenty more silverware at Underage and Senior as they go through the ranks. Please keep an eye on our **Facebook Page / Twitter / Instagram & Website** for updates on games and reports. We have really adapted well to the new way of how things are done due to Covid and we must keep it going to win the battle.



Matthew Ryan

## Skryne National School from Martin Kennedy

What a week it was for all connected to Sc. Cholmcille. Sunday got us off to an amazing start with the celebration of the First Holy Communion ceremony - after a few false starts. Covid restrictions played havoc with planning but eventually it was agreed that the ceremony would take place outdoors. A proper gamble given how unpredictable an Irish summer can be. Prayers on this occasion were answered however and the sun shone brightly as the happiest group of families seen in Skryne for some time made their way to the designated pod area. Organisation was superb with all precautions taken to ensure that those present would be safe. Volunteers and organising committee had thought of everything to make this special day memorable for everyone. They succeeded beyond their expectations and I take my hat off to Brian, Deirdre and their team who did such a wonderful job. They have set a template for years to come. It is the way to go. Of course the children were magnificent. It was a joy to see such excitement and confidence as they participated so well in this most unique occasion. History was made by this group. We may repeat this format of ceremony but there can never be another "first". This was a First Communion like no other. It was a privilege to be present.

Monday was another big day for the school as we welcomed the newest recruits to our family. Deprived of the opportunity to hold the usual Induction Day by Covid closure, we opted to invite parents/guardians to take their children in to their class in groups of 7. In this fashion we were able to allow parents/guardians to share the milestone step of the first day in school. It felt good. No tears and lots of smiles. We were now ready for the even greater challenge of fully opening.

Tuesday saw the entire school population arriving back in a staged process. Three time slots had been allotted for both drop-off and collection at the school. It was a smooth operation and worked very well. This is down in the main part to the excellent cooperation of all involved. We were all keen to make it work.

There was certainly a fair mix of nerves and emotions as the children made their way back to the school. It was only to be expected. Before long however the rooms and corridors were echoing once more to the sound of chatter and laughter. It felt normal again. It felt good. For sure there are many differences. Children are grouped in "pods" of 4 or 5. Staff are wearing masks or visors. Hands are sanitised to such an extent that they are almost cleaner than a hospital operating theatre. But we are together again and that felt normal. Most children were beaming at seeing friends - and even teachers again. Many parents/guardians were also beaming at the prospect of a few "kid-free" hours and the certainty that distance learning could be parked. I think we are all glad to see the back of that. Nothing can replace the dynamism of the classroom. It is a new normal but a normal nonetheless. Children are remarkably resilient and adaptable and will soon adjust this new normality. We all will.

Thanks to all the people who assisted to make the safe reopening of school a reality. Book Rental and Track-Suit Committees had been active to make sure that the necessary items would be in place. A team of hardworking parents had been busy sweeping, weeding, moving and fixing to put a little gloss on our physical appearance. "Christy's Commandos" are a mighty lot who work in secret.

We may not be as open and accessible as we usually are but that's a small price to pay to ensure that we can continue to operate safely for everyone.

"Hold Firm", your cooperation is vital to help us remain in operation.

Here are a few pics of what is already happening in school. Normal fun and activity is up and running. It is the way it should be.





## Skryne Community Alert from Hugh McNelis

Unfortunately, crime seems to be on the rise around the county, and we have a number of local incidents to report.

At lunch time on 25<sup>th</sup> August, a silver colour 2013 Cavan reg Toyota Hilux pickup was stolen from the roadside at Edoxtown, near Rathfeigh school, while the owner was nearby. A white van was seen stopping at the time and is likely to have dropped a passenger off to carry out the theft.

At around 10am on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August, a man called to the home of an elderly gentleman in Painstown, claiming to have found two €50 notes outside. He asked the man to check his own cash to see if they might be his, suggesting the serial numbers on the notes might be similar. The elderly man went to check his own money and was robbed of a significant amount of money at this point. At least two men were involved in the theft.

Also in the past week a house in Cabragh was ransacked while the owner was out walking her dog.

If you were passing at the time of any of these incidents and may have information which could help the Gardai, please call 01 801 0600.

Similar crimes are happening across the county at the moment, so please be extra vigilant. If you see any suspicious activity in the area, you should call the Gardai straight away on 01 801 0600 or 999. If you have a house alarm, please use it. If your alarm needs servicing there are a number of trustworthy local alarm contractors that can assist.

Please warn vulnerable neighbours or relatives not to be taken in by conmen calling to their door, especially as they may not be reading this while the RST remains in digital format. They should never feel under pressure to answer the door to unsolicited callers and should ideally call a neighbour or the Gardai to assist if worried. They could also use their personal monitored alarm pendant to call for help if feeling in any way threatened.



# Stage School

WE ARE BACK!! 

Almost time to return to STAGE SCHOOL!!

We are Opening our brand new stage school in Skyrne - Meath  
Commencing Monday the 7th of September!

3:30 Skyrne RST

3 years +

4:30

7 years +



We are now enrolling for September 2020



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<http://www.helenjordanstageschool.com/registration/>

Can't wait to see you all and meet all. Of our new students!!

Much love,

HJ & LG 

## Memories from Eoin Hickey

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

*We move along now at leisurely pace looking out over the hedges and immediately on our right we come to the Skryne Lawn Tennis Club. A vibrant club with two grass courts and a small pavilion where on some summer Saturday nights, from our top floor bedroom window, we can hear the music from the tennis hops wafting across the field. [The tennis club is now, sadly, long gone.]*

*We keep going at a slow trot, Margret (Smyth) and Jim Hayes's' newly built, two story house and well-kept gardens are on our left, we continue past the priest's House, to the Priest's Cross.*

I meet footballing legend Liam Hayes, Margaret and Jim's son, from time to time in Lucan where we both live now. We all watched with pride those great matches in the Eighties.

The Priests' Cross is close to the football field which is next door to the home of the late Colum and Paddy Cromwell both fondly remembered for their contributions to Skryne and County football. I'm slow to comment on the game that means so much to the people of Skryne because the subject has been so well written about by Paddy and Colum and by Liam Hayes and David Carty in their various publications.

*Going from Skryne, straight through the Priest's Cross, first is a neat farm house across a stream close to the road. Here Mrs Fogarty, our local mid-wife, lives. She drives a car but more often does her house calls by bicycle.*

Mrs Fogarty delivered my two younger sisters Netta and Caroline into the world. Caroline was born on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The day before, the cot was on the landing waiting for the new arrival and our mother was confined to bed when we three scheming boys came running in excitedly, shouting; *the new baby has arrived, the new baby has arrived*. Our mother knew otherwise; she wasn't to be April fooled. In fact, when the new baby did arrive the next day, we learned where new babies *really* come from – Dr Murnane brought her in his black leather bag!

At the Rathfeigh Road, first on the left, is Kelly's house. John Joe's first wife had died and he lived here with his second family. Stephen, the youngest boy, lived in this house up until recently. Mrs Kelly (*nee*. Allen) of the wedding team at Skryne Castle, came from Castletown at the foot of the Hill of Tara, she had worked in Dowdstown House, now Dalgan Park, in the early part of the century, with the Taylor family who came to settle at Dowdstown after The Battle of the Boyne. Dowdstown was very much an *Upstairs - Downstairs* house and Mrs Kelly, as a very young girl, was very much *Downstairs*. She related all her experiences to my mother in a tape-recording made in the Sixties.

John Joe was gassed in the trenches during the First World War and suffered terribly from a bad chest. A cobbler by trade he repaired most of the shoes and boots in the parish, collecting and delivering many of them at O'Connell's pub on a Sunday night.

He had previously lived in an *Old Soldier's house* (houses provided for veterans of the First World War) near Rathfeigh but managed to obtain a new house and some land when Corbalton lands were being divided. One of his ventures, in the Fifties, was to have a very long (it seemed so to me as a child) field ploughed, harrowed and put into trenches. He then let it out, drill by drill, for families to grow their own potatoes. My mother availed of this and I have, not so fond, memories of seeding, weeding and digging!

Stephen once told me how, as a youngster, he would bring the hen turkey in a box on the back of the bicycle, some ten miles, to Ashbourne to visit a pedigree turkey cock - at a cost of half a crown (10 cent). Only the best of produce in Skryne for Christmas!

When I went to work with McInerneys, then very big builders, in the early Sixties I met up with one of their head men – Jack Culliton who then would have worked on the then New Hogan Stand in Croke Park. Jack knew Skryne well for he was married to John Joe's daughter from his first marriage. They would come on Sunday evenings to O'Connell's pub to meet up with John Joe and throw rings – and perhaps to have their soles mended!

## Rathfeigh National School from Seamus Tansey

March 12<sup>th</sup> seems like a distant memory. When the schools were closed on that date I don't think anybody knew what was in store for us. Online learning platforms and 'Zoom' became the new norm. Most children engaged positively with this but there's no substitute really for the classroom. Children not only learn more in school but they develop socially, make friends and learn many important life skills.

All schools had a lot to deal with over the last few weeks and Rathfeigh was no different. The late publication of the Roadmap for re-opening schools definitely didn't help. We are fortunate in Rathfeigh to have a very supportive Staff, Board of Management and Parents' Association. The number of meetings over the last few weeks were too numerous to count but without all the collaboration, advice and help we may not have been able to open on Wednesday August 26<sup>th</sup>. The school looks a little different now with hand sanitiser dispensers, posters and Perspex dividing desks (3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>) Our library had to be transformed into an Isolation Room and we thank Mrs Vaughan for the amazing 'transformation' of the room.

On Wednesday our new Junior Infants started and they adapted to their new surroundings like a duck to water. It was a tonic seeing all the children return with smiles on their faces. The only people with bigger smiles were the parents/guardians. I've never seen parents as happy saying goodbye to their children!! The last few months have been very stressful for parents too as they tried to juggle home schooling with work. Hopefully, with fingers crossed, we won't have to return to a similar situation.

Although we're in a new 'normal' we approach the year with optimism and we wish everyone in the Rathfeigh and Skryne communities a happy, safe and enjoyable year. As we embark on a challenging year ahead we should have more smiling, less worrying, more compassion, less judgement, more blessed, less stressed, more love, less hate.

Below are pictures of some of the new changes in the school.





# The Irish Folklore Commission from Maurice Daly

## SKRYNE N.S. & RATHFEIGH N.S.

### THE IRISH FOLKLORE COMMISSION.

**The Irish Folklore Commission** was set up in 1935 by the Irish Government to study and collect information on the folklore traditions, music and songs of Ireland. Séamus Ó Duillearga was appointed honorary director of the commission and led the project.

**The Schools' Collection between 1937 and 1939** was one of the most important sections of the commission. Written interviews were conducted by more than 50,000 school children from all primary schools in the 26 counties. The children interviewed family members and neighbours about various topics which included: old cures, piseoga, nicknames, local tales (true or otherwise), weather signs, old marriage customs, names of fields, local place names, local monuments, the potato crop, travelling folk, herbs, fairy forts, old graveyards, thatching, old customs and beliefs and many more.

**Both Skryne and Rathfeigh Schools participated in the project** and the names of the children who took part, together with their hand written work is recorded on line in the website: [www.duchas.ie](http://www.duchas.ie) [More about this later in the article]

**Skryne School submitted about 80 stories. The following children are listed:**

Kathleen Bissett, Mairead O'Brien (Greenpark), Patrick O'Brien, James O'Brien, Alice Coffey (Macetown), Mark Collier, Margaret Crocock, Frances Crocock, Noel Devine, Annie Glynn, John Hanley, Bridget Johnson, Eileen Johnson (Greenpark), Anthony Lynch, Brian Smyth, Mary Smyth and Mary Tobin. **Skryne School**

**Principal, Brian MacGabhann (Brian Smyth)**, a proud North Meath man, submitted about 20 pages in his own beautiful handwriting, of folklore and Irish words widely in use in his native area at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Rathfeigh School submitted about 33 stories by the following pupils:** Angela Cromwell (Waterside), Annie Fitzsimons (Greenpark), Maureen Gaffney (Loughanstown), Nancy Laycock (Skerryhill), Peggy Lillicrapp (Rathfeigh), John Lynch (Dorea), Patty Mitchell (Waterside) and Rita Sheridan (Macetown). **Rathfeigh School Principal was Mrs Rose Madden.**

In total, 25 children are listed above. There is only one survivor as far as I know: Mr Noel Devine of Blundeltown, Tara who is still hale and hearty. Are you the child, grandchild or relative of any of them? Wouldn't it be an interesting study to do a

follow-up on what these pupils did when they left primary school? How many went on to post primary school which was very rare in the 1930s? How many emigrated and to where? How many stayed and lived in the RST area? How many married and whom did they marry? Who are their descendants, children, and grandchildren etc still living locally? How many migrated to other counties? Hopefully, this article will promote a bit of nostalgia and recall memories of native Skryne and Rathfeigh children who participated in a national project over 80 years ago, not realising for a moment that their humble but simple stories in their beautiful handwriting would come to life again through the miracle of modern IT technology.

As already mentioned the website which contains all the research conducted by The Irish Folklore Commission is [www.duchas.ie](http://www.duchas.ie) It has three main collections:

1. The Manuscript Collection,
2. The Schools' Collection,
3. The Photographic Collection.

**In the Schools' Collection in the Website, scroll to County Meath:**

**Skryne School** is in Volume 0686 Pages 306 – 388.

**Rathfeigh School** is also in Volume 0686, Pages 241 -304.

Maurice Daly, August 2020.

## This Time 100 Years Ago

At the Antwerp Olympics Irishmen won 3 gold medals and 2 silver medals

Paddy Ryan from Limerick won gold for the hammer and silver for the 56lb weight, part of the USA team

Pat McDonald from Clare won gold for the 56lb weight, part of the USA team

Noel Purcell from Dublin won gold for water polo, part of the GB team

Patrick Flynn from Cork won silver for the 3,000m steeplechase, part of the USA team

**THE IRISH INDEPENDENT. FRIDAY. AUGUST 20, 1920.**

### OLYMPIC GAMES.

## Pat Ryan Wins the Hammer Throw.

Antwerp, Thursday.

To-day has been the first on which the weather has not been perfect, and, as though to make up for lost time, it started raining in earnest soon after midnight last night, and it looks like continuing. There was a great deal of excellent racing. The 400 metres was the first race on the programme, and nine heats of this event were run off, the second round taking place in the afternoon.

The final of the hammer throwing, as was expected, went to the Irishman, Patrick Ryan, though his throw of 52 metres 87½ cm. was not very near the record. He was followed by two Swedes. H. E. Worthington-Eyre, of Dublin University, finished 2nd in his heat in the 400 metres. Results:—



## OLYMPIC GAMES.

### Irishmen First and Second In Weight Throw.

*Antwerp, Saturday.*

To-day promised very poorly in the morning, but the weather improved as the day advanced, and a big programme was got through in the afternoon. America accounted for the 400 metres relay, the 3,000 metres team race, and the 56 lbs. weight throw. The last-named event was won by the world's champion, Pat M'Donald, who beat another Irishman in Pat Ryan, world's record holder for the 16 lbs. shot. Results:—

**400 Metres Relay—Final—**America, 1; France, 2; Sweden, 3; England, 4. Time—43 1-5 secs. A world's record.

**3,000 Metres Team Race—Final—**America (H. B. Brown, J. O. Drosser, A. A. Scharat, M. Devany, and L. M. Shields), 1; England, 2; Sweden, 3; France, 4; Italy, 5.

**Lawn Tennis—Gent's Singles (Semi-final)—**L. Raymond (S. Africa) beat O. G. M. Turnbull (England) —2-6, 1-6, 6-2, 6-2, 6-1; Kumagao (Japan) beat O. L. Winslow (S. Africa)—6-2, 6-2, 6-3.

**Throwing the Discus—Final—**Nicklander (Finland), 44 met. 68½ cm.; 1; Taipala (Finland), 2; [?], (America), 3.

**Throwing 56 lbs.—**P. J. M'Donald (America), 11m. 26½ cm.; 1; P. Ryan (America), 2.

**3,000 Metres Walk—Final—**Frigerio (Italy), 1; Parker (S. Africa), 2; Renner (America), 3; M'Master (S. Africa), 4; T. Moroney (America), 5. Time, 13m. 14 1-5 secs.



## Councillor Jim makes history!



*Our photo shows Jim on the night of his election with Rathfeigh ladies, Theresa Dillon, Catherine Ginty, Jackie Morley and Ita Phelan.*

**W**e congratulate Councillor Jim Mangan, Rathfeigh, who has taken over as chairman of Meath County Council. Jim, who will be chairman for one year, has bridged a gap in the history of Skryne/Rathfeigh. The last chairman of Meath Co. Co. to come from this area was Thomas Halligan, Skryne. The system of election was different then and Thomas held the position from 1908 to 1919. It is amazing that we've had to wait eight three years.

Jim, who came from mayo with his family in the late fifties, (must have been in nappies!!) has been involved in local politics for many years. This is his second term as a count councillor and he is also a member of the North Eastern Health Board, in fact, he is vice-chairman of that organisation too. He certainly has a busy year ahead.

Congratulations, Jim. We hope you enjoy your term in office and that you chair many productive meetings. now, any chance of pushing that M3 plan under the carpet somewhere?

## Birthday Boys



*Our photo shows the Olympic Handball team from Skryne School in 1992.*

All these young and innocent boys will celebrate their 21st birthdays this year, so we thought we'd remind everybody of what they looked like before the earrings, studs, long locks, shaved heads and highlights! Happy birthday, lads. Just remember to invite us all to the parties!!

*Back Row: (l to r) James Conroy, Denis Farrell, Edward Snowdon, Kevin Moran, Barry Harrington (standing in for big brother Mark).*

*Front Row: (l to r) Eddie Dunne, Austin O'Curadaoin, Cormac Gray, Darren McGoey, Conor Hoey.*

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

#### *The Gardai*

The Gardai were people we had a very high "regard" for in those days, I don't really know why, as I don't remember them being any more wicked than they are today, although I do remember an incident that happened at home a long time ago. We were out playing on the road, (you could then,) when we saw Guard Lyons from Dunshaughlin, coming down our road on his bike, and we ran in to tell my mother, who, I noticed, went quite pale, you see, we had, at that time this adorable tiny little black and tan terrier, called, of all names, "Jumbo". That dog took his place as an equal member of our family.

Anyway, Guard Lyons parked his bike at our gate and came strolling up the path to my mother who was standing at the door, as it happened, all he wanted was directions to some neighbour or other down the road, (who probably was late renewing his gun licence or some such "crime"). So, as the Guard turned and was half way down the path, with Jumbo jumping up and down and barking his very heart out, he uttered the dreaded words that was the cause of my mother's afore mentioned pallor, "is that dog licensed"?, so, with visions of the shame of her name being in the paper, my mother admitted guilt, but Guard Lyons, (who wasn't the worst of them as they say), said "well, you better get a license for him then", and so he "let her off".

My mother was so relieved that she sent him off with a huge bag of rhubarb strapped to the carrier of his bike, and I remember I was sent that very evening to the Post Office for a dog licence.

Didn't the Gardai have a busy and dangerous time of it back then.

# The Night Sky by Tony Canavan

## Night Sky

**September:** Mars continues to grow brighter this month.

Jupiter and Saturn continue to get closer as they approach conjunction (two celestial objects very close together). They will be less than 10 degrees apart this month, the closest they have been for 20 years.

Venus shines brightly in the predawn sky.

The full moon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September is known as the **'Full Corn Moon'** as the corn is ready to be harvested. The full moon on 1<sup>st</sup> October is known as the **'Harvest Moon'**. It is the full moon that occurs closest to our autumn equinox. After the first 10 days of September the moon will leave the evening sky allowing for better observations. The new moon (or no moon) is on the 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**September 6<sup>th</sup>:** Mars is particularly bright at the moment with a magnitude of -2 similar to Jupiter. On 5<sup>th</sup> September the Moon and Mars are very close together while rising in the East and they track each other across the sky into the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup> September when at 4 am Mars is virtually eclipsed by the moon. This should be a spectacular sight.

**September 9<sup>th</sup>** at 1 am in the East we have Mars, (follow a line up to the Andromeda galaxy), Pleiades (altitude 31°, azimuth 92°) and Hyades star cluster directly under it with the star Aldebaran marking the end of the bulls horn in Taurus, the Moon is close by, with Capella altitude 35°, azimuth 58° to the east. All of the above are clearly visible to the naked eye. You can view these any night around this time of month.

### Orion Constellation:

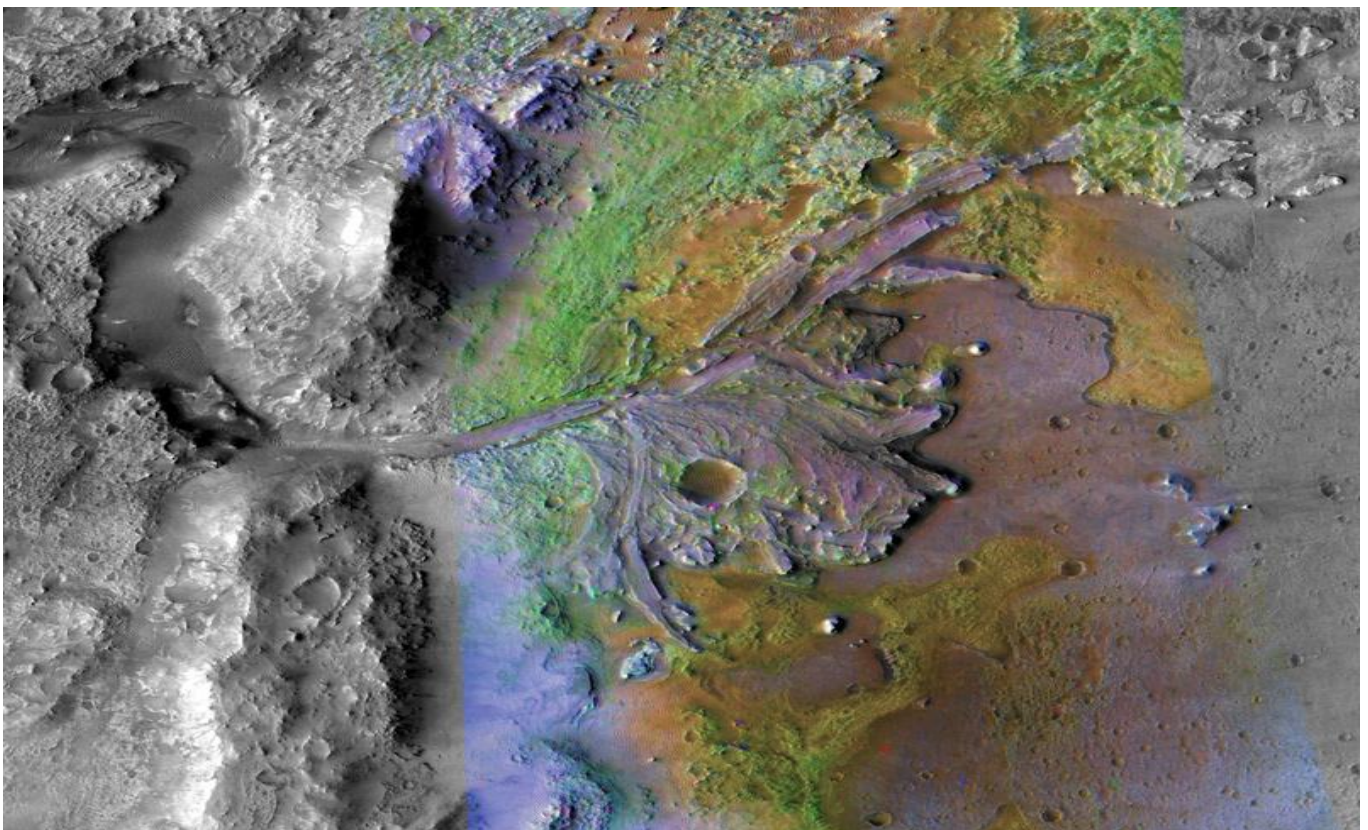


**Orion** will start to dominate our skies over the winter months arriving into the night sky at 0300 hrs during September and rising in the evening sky as the winter approaches. You can clearly see the three stars of '**Orion's Belt**' and the stars of the '**Orion's Swords**'. There are four prominent stars surrounding the belt, Betelgeuse (could go supernova at any time), Bellatrix, Rigel and Saiph. Over to the left you can see the '**Heavenly Twins**' Castor and Pollux just above the trees. Centred at the top of the picture is a 'V' shape, sideways. This marks the horns of Taurus the Bull and the bright star is Aldebaran, this is also the site of the Hyades star cluster.

**September 14<sup>th</sup>**: A 15% moon and a very bright Venus are close together and sandwiched in between is the **Beehive Cluster**. Should see all three through binoculars and they will make a spectacular sight through a telescope.

**Beehive Cluster**: The cluster contains about 1000 stars and it was first observed by Galileo in 1609 who saw 40 stars, with his 'new to the world' small telescope. It is about 600 light years away from us. Most of the stars are smaller, dimmer and cooler than our sun, but 30% are similar to our sun. This cluster becomes a feature in our morning skies in September. Can be viewed well through binoculars.

**Jezero Crater on Mars** the landing site for Perseverance Rover, arrival February 2021 Image: NASA



To the centre/right of the picture is the crater which is believed to have been a lake, in the centre is the delta where clay minerals were carried over the wall of the crater into the lake. A delta feature is only created by flowing water. The examination of lake beds such as these (and Mars is full of such examples) could show evidence of microbial life. It is believed that water was on Mars for hundreds of millions of years and that the planet finally shut down about 3 billion years ago.

**ISS**: You can view the International Space Station on 7<sup>th</sup> September 4:33 am for 3 mins and the 8<sup>th</sup> September 3:47 am for 1 min and 5:20 for 5 mins. Check websites for further viewings.

## Season of Mists by Anne Frehill

The Summer of 2020 is slowly coming to an end, ebbing away to allow Autumn exhibit, its ostentatious colours. 20/20 in the modern psyche is associated with “perfect” vision and so it is ironic that this Summer has been the direct opposite. Full of doubts and questions, we have witnessed how Covid-19 has turned our lives upside down like some badly written dystopian novel. Now we live in a world where social distancing, masks, gloves, face visors, and frequent/meticulous hand washing are the norm. The months have been troubling for many as we sought to find joy once again in the small, so called simple things in life. While experts in Healthcare, Immunology and Biochemistry (to name but a few) have worked tirelessly, endeavouring to help us steer a safe route through the fog of misinformation and fear, surrounding this pandemic.

And so, each year September slips in with its stealthy footsteps like a thief in the night. It’s name is derived from the Latin *septem*, meaning seven because in the Roman calendar it was the seventh month. Yet, there is much to enjoy about September, our ninth month of the year. The nights may be cool and crisp but there are often bursts of glorious sunshine during the day, followed by warm breezes and some spectacular harvest moons. In art and literature, the moon has been portrayed as a beguiling female, because of her power to turn tides and the mystery which surrounds her as part of our solar system.

In September, the earth yields a bounteous harvest and we see the fruit of our labours. In the farming world, harvest time is the highest point of the year. In our times, thanks to modern farming methods and complex machines, the drudgery has gone. The grain harvest often starts in early August if it was sown in Winter, or later if it was sown in Spring. Indeed, subject to the vagaries of the weather it may still carry on into September.

Regardless of when the final act of finishing the grain harvest occurs, each year when I see the giant combine harvester depart, like some prehistoric monster from the age of the dinosaurs, I always experience a sense of poignancy. The 21<sup>st</sup> century combine harvester is a versatile machine combining three separate harvesting operations, reaping, threshing, and winnowing and so, I think of my late father and grandfather, as well as countless others who worked these fields in the light of other days. It reminds me too of The Great Famine when ship loads of grain (mostly winter wheat) left our shores while people died at the side of roads. A contemporaneous report from Mayo detailed how people found corpses by the side of the road with grass in their mouths that they had been eating to try to fill their empty stomachs. At the height of the famine in 1847 the Irish politician Charles Duffy wrote “Ships continue to leave the country loaded with grain and meat.”

Down through the centuries, the actual survival of a community depended on a good harvest and many different rituals evolved to celebrate the end of the harvest, including Harvest Fairs, Harvest Festivals, Harvest Thanksgivings, and Harvest Dances.

Of course, the harvest is both a powerful and beautiful symbol in the Bible, where it still resonates with us by showing the providence of God and the ordinariness of the world into which Christ, the son of God, was born.

September is synonymous with an abundance of apples and blackberries.

I can recall as a child, hoping for strong winds in early September because they invariably led to a glut of windfalls in the orchards of Dunsany Castle. We had young apple trees at home but the apples never ripened until the end of the month and did not have the same appeal to my childish mind as those apples with the exotic names which grew in the revered gardens of the Dunsany estate. After a stormy night, my mother along with one or two neighbours would cycle the short distance to the castle and for a paltry sum of money, return with a canvas bag of apples on each of the handlebars of her bike as well as a box of

apples on the carrier. For weeks afterwards, thanks to her culinary skills, we enjoyed not only apple pies but baked apples, apple fritters, apple Charlotte, and the ultimate favourite of children, toffee apples.

Again, when the first blackberries appeared, we filled our mouths and tin cans with those plump, juicy fruits. And we enjoyed blackberry pies, blackberry crumble and the sweetest of all, blackberry jam. The following lines from the poem "Blackberry- Picking" by Seamus Heaney encapsulate the joy of foraging in the hedgerows.

You ate that first one and it`s flesh was sweet

Like thickened wine: summer`s blood was in it

Leaving stains upon the tongue and lust for

Picking.

Folklore dictated that we did not pick blackberries after the 29<sup>th</sup> of September (the feast day of St. Michael the Archangel) as they were believed to be poisonous. It was said that on this day Michael cast the devil out of Heaven, but the evil one landed out of the skies onto a blackberry bush, First, cursing the fruit, followed by stamping on them and finally, spitting on them. Certainly, a legend so bizarre as to strike fear into the heart of any child who even thought about touching one!

September too calls to several species of birds who depart from our shores for the winter months, including swallows. The sheds and haybarns are suddenly bereft of their twittering and aerial displays. It is always chastening to see young and not so young birds lining up on the wires for a couple of days as they depart for warmer climes.

Looking back over the centuries, many terrible events took place during the month of September. Below, I have named just a few.

2<sup>nd</sup> of September 1666 the Great Fire of London commenced. The fire started in a bakery



on Pudding Lane but there was no Fire Brigade at that time so Londoners along with local soldiers had to fight the fire. Two thirds of London burned down including 87 parish churches and several public buildings. St Pauls Cathedral lay in ruins along with the Guildhall. While 70,000 homes were destroyed it is astonishing that the death toll was low, six deaths were verified. One further fact which is of interest to us concerns the Great Plague. London had only been freed from it for a few months when the Great Fire (which lasted almost five days) began. The Plague had killed more than 75,000 people in the two preceding years.

3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939. Neville Chamberlain, the Prime Minister of the UK made his famous announcement on radio that they were at war with Germany, following an ultimatum issued to Hitler, demanding that he withdraw his troops from Poland. Just two days earlier, Germany had invaded Poland, a country that both UK and France had pledged to support.

Chamberlain`s radio broadcast marked the beginning of World War 11.

I can recall a relative of mine telling me with tears in his eyes how that broadcast had a profound impact on his life and on the lives of other Irishmen who were working in England at that time. In the weeks which followed Chamberlain`s announcement, rumours and counter rumours abounded which indicated that young Irishmen who were living in Britain for a period of two years or more would be conscripted into the British Army. This had been a vexed question between British and Irish Governments as early as March 1936. Consequently, my relative along with his wife and young child, left his good job (with a free house) in the heart of England and returned to Ireland, which although neutral, was plagued with emigration and poverty and could not offer the same employment opportunities. Mercifully, things turned out well for him and he remained in Ireland, but it was not the same for some of his friends who were forced to emigrate again after WW11 ended.

5<sup>th</sup> September 1977. Mother Teresa died on this day. She was born in 1910 of Albanian parents. In 1928 she went to India and joined an Irish order of nuns. However, in 1948 she left the comforts of her convent and teaching career and risked her own life to help the sick and outcast of India die peacefully. Two years later, she founded a new religious order, The Missionaries of Charity. Then in 1952 she set up a House for the Dying, because she had found a woman close to death who had been literally discarded by her family in a dustbin.

This small, bent woman, considered a saint for our day, graced our world during her extraordinary lifetime.

11<sup>th</sup> of September 2001. Lest we forget, terrorist attacks on the USA, by the Islamic militant group Al-Qaeda, killed in the region of 3,000 people. The gates of hell surely opened on that day when two hijacked planes were flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Centre in New York with cataclysmic consequences. A third plane was flown into the Pentagon in Washington DC, while a fourth crashed into a field near Pittsburgh, again with horrific results. In 2008, I met an American man at a course in Dublin, who was on the ground floor of the World Trade Centre when the first plane struck the building. While he had not sustained any lasting physical injuries, he had suffered heart-wrenching psychological trauma (from what he had seen and heard) which he could not put to rest despite years of professional help. Eager to escape from his demons he had decided to seek solace in Ireland, by taking a career break.

29<sup>th</sup> September Michaelmas (Which I already mentioned) is worth a second look. In many areas people watched the weather closely on Michaelmas Day as it was held that good weather on that day augured a fine Christmas. While in some parts of Ireland and Britain, eating goose on this day was thought to guarantee prosperity in the year to follow. The unfortunate geese chosen for the table were always plump as they were permitted to eat fallen grain in the stubble fields after the harvest.

Finally, it seems appropriate to finish with a few evocative lines from Patrick Kavanagh.

On an apple-ripe September morning

Through the mist -chill fields I went

With a pitchfork on my shoulder

Less for use than for devilment.

(Threshing Morning)

## My Brother's Scribblings by Norbert Coyle

Ambling along the Atlantic 200416

Dear hearts and gentle people.....

Some 98.64 % of cruisers belong to the 65- 95 age group according to the latest statistics. Observing these folk at close quarters is most interesting. Most have reached the stage where the spoken word is superfluous and a nod and a wink will suffice. They have reached the stage in their relationship where each has long since departed to their own particular cocoon and whilst living together actual exist in totally separate bubbles. This trait ,perfected over aeons,serves both well.

Suddenly both are flung together on a cruise and the territory is quite foreign to each.

They feel obliged to talk in order not to appear as they do at home....."Silent oh Moyle be the roar of thy water"

Generally the female of the species will initiate the conversation and the semi doped male will glance up from his over filled platter with a look that says..."Now what's this all about?".

We sometimes observe that the female will commence conversation and issue a series of statements in continuous free flow and rabbit on ad nauseum.

All that is required of the male in these circumstances is an occasional nod and a muted mutter.

" I love the way they do the eggs benedict here ...not like mine at home....they must have some knack or is it all the foreign chefs they have....or are they cooks ? What's the difference I said to Shirl once and she couldn't tell me and she was in the Dorchester....not the kitchen mind you ...bedrooms more like ...a lot of the staff here are all from out foreign....better suited for the type of work....why do some people fill their plates and then not finish their food....starving folk in Africa I say...no I couldn't eat the rest of that curry.....should have come with a health warning ....or a fire extinguisher...I say....for a black he's not really a black colour now is he?..though some are almost blue....more like milk chocolate him...look at the little bottom on him...all the exercise I say....do they get the same food as us or is it just left overs....you just sit there saying nothing...I ask you when did we last have a decent conversation...what do I know about golf...nor will I ever want to know....is the tea a bit weak or is it me...and of course they never boil the water....."hot water" it says on the thing....should be changed to read "lukewarm"... I think I might as well be talking to myself.....will I bring you some pudding or will you pick one yourself...I always seem to pick the wrong one".

These are the things we see and are not meant to be taken as a form of criticism or indeed correction....merely occasional observations.

Remember the lines from the song...."Busted flat in Baton Rouge...waiting for a train"

Try out the little number below for size and if it doesn't fit we can take it in a bit...or maybe let it out....ah that's grand....fits you to a tee.

Taking it home to Jerome by David Kirby

In Baton Rouge, there was a DJ on the soul station who was  
always urging his listeners to "take it on home to Jerome."

No one knew who Jerome was. And nobody cared. So it  
didn't matter. I was, what, ten, twelve? I didn't have anything  
to take home to anyone. Parents and teachers told us that all  
we needed to do in this world were three things: be happy,  
do good, and find work that fulfills you. But I also wanted  
to learn that trick where you grab your left ankle in your  
right hand and then jump through with your other leg.  
Everything else was to come, everything about love:  
the sadness of it, knowing it can't last, that all lives must end  
All hearts are broken. Sometimes when I'm writing a poem,  
I feel as though I'm operating that crusher that turns  
a full-size car into a metal cube the size of a suitcase.

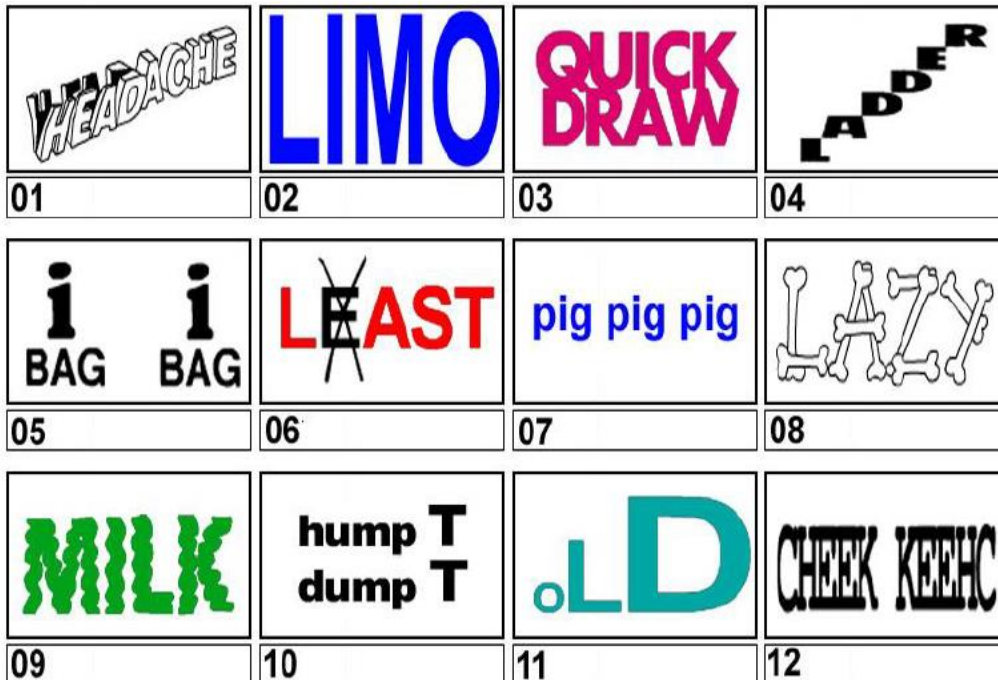
At other times, I'm just a secretary: the world has so much  
to say, and I'm writing it down. This great tenderness.

Be nice to each other and remember to fit your own life jacket first before you attend to others....sound a bit  
contrary to your upbringing but that's what the man says...

## Dingbats

Can you solve this Dingbats puzzle?

Answers will appear in the next issue of the newsletter



Last weeks answers

1 Bits and Bobs, 2 On Second Thought, 3 Far Out, 4 Not Bad, 5 No Excuse For It, 6 Split Pea Soup, 7 Split Second Timing, 8 Space Program, 9 The After Effects, 10 The Intruder, 11 Repair, 12 Two In The Afternoon

### *Smile On By Brian Smyth*

#### Smile On

(I)

Smile on, too many sad and weary pine  
Tasting of life the sorrow  
Fight on, thy face unto the steep incline  
That leads on to the morrow  
Dark tho' the clouds that shroud the upward way  
Lighter they will not be when we our gloom display

(II)

Smile on, tho' trials many hard our path doth haunt  
And beat us in their might  
Fight on, tho' Nemesis her darkest flag doth flaunt  
To quench our guiding light  
Somewhere a teny little speck remains alive  
Awaiting us our feeble faltering spirit to revive

(III)

Smile on, and when we reach the close of peaceful day  
It matters small what sort the garb we wear  
Wear we the conqueror's crown or humbled beaten down weapons lay  
Equal will be our share  
For him who's fought a brave and honest fight  
A day is sure to dawn, A day of blessed light.

*This is from Brian's 'Collected Poems'*

## Cattle

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



7A





## 7B

### ***Last week's breeds:***

#### ***Breed 6A***

The Jersey is a British breed of small dairy cattle from Jersey, in the British Channel Islands.

Holstein Friesians are a breed of dairy cattle originating from the Dutch provinces of North Holland and Friesland, and Schleswig-Holstein in Northern Germany. They are known as the world's highest-production dairy animals

#### ***Breed 6B***

The Montbéliarde is a breed of red pied dairy cattle from the area of Montbéliard, in the département of Doubs, in the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region of eastern France. It is used mainly for dairying and particularly for cheesemaking

## 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**



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

**Ph: 0830063653**

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

The image shows a group of line dancers in a studio. They are wearing black shirts and pants, and some are wearing straw hats. They are in a line, performing a dance move. The background is a red curtain.

**Skryne Lady available to mind one or two**  
**children Monday to Friday**

**Phone: 0868434820**

*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

LOCAL PLANT NURSERY



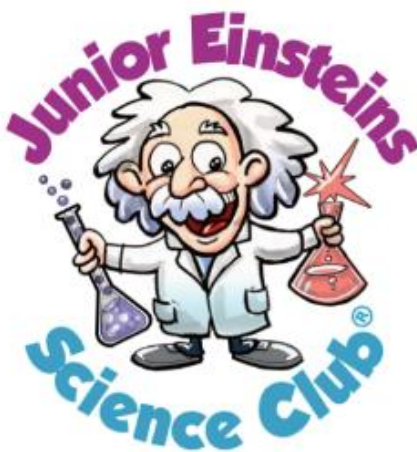
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## Saturday Science Club

at RST Community Centre Skryne



Space Science, Purple Power pH,  
Walking on Water, Wild Wind, Mad Magnets,  
Somewhere Over the Rainbow, Volcanoes,  
Buoyancy, Classification of Life  
& LOTS more!

26th Sept, 3rd Oct, 10th Oct & 17th Oct

9:30am – 11:30am

€80 per child

Further info/to book: [www.junioreinsteinscienceclub.com](http://www.junioreinsteinscienceclub.com)



0857555635



[junioreinsteinsmeath@gmail.com](mailto:junioreinsteinsmeath@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*

Do you have family or friends living abroad or elsewhere in Ireland who would like to receive the RST?

Do you have neighbours or friends who do not have email?

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

Our next newsletter will be due out Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September

Please send all articles to [jimconroy747@gmail.com](mailto:jimconroy747@gmail.com) or to [patriciaconroy1@hotmail.com](mailto:patriciaconroy1@hotmail.com)