

# RST Newsletter

Rathfeigh • Skryne • Tara



DIGITAL VERSION FOR DURATION OF CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC

SATURDAY 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020

ISSUE NO. 20



*New look.*

*New times.*

*New normal.*

*Same local family business ready to welcome back our customers on Monday.*

## Remembering Peggy McAuley



Peggy was born in 1936 and grew up in Duleek, Co. Meath as an only child of Maggie Loughran. She worked for several years in Woolworth's in Drogheda, her favourite area being the cosmetics counter, and where she later met her husband-to-be Dermot, from Blackpool in

England. They moved to Skryne in 1963. Known as the glamorous 'Avon lady', she quickly got to know many of the local ladies and developed a great interest in the parish.

Peggy was a life-long member of the Pioneer Association and above all loved taking part in the quizzes and helping with the talent competitions. She was a founding member of Tara Athletic Club and spent many years fundraising and organizing events for the new all-weather track at Ross Cross. She took great interest in local history, especially the Hill of Tara and her native Duleek, and greatly enjoyed the Rathfeigh Historical Society outings.

Her love of animals, nature and the environment was reflected in her well-tended vegetable and flower gardens. Pesticides were banned from the mid-1960s and woe-betide any suggestion of a short-cut! A keen baker and great cook, many hours were spent teaching her beloved grandchildren about gardening, baking, general knowledge and playing board games.

Another great passion of hers was politics, being an avid member of the Fine Gael party in Skryne. Many hours were devoted to door-to-door canvassing in all weathers. Election days were dreaded by the rest of the family, because it usually meant overcooked beans on burnt toast!

Another memory which comes to mind is her love of gaelic football, especially the Skryne and Meath teams. After the Sunday dinner, she would insist on cleaning up whilst listening to the matches on the radio. If anyone remembers the matches involving multiple replays with Dublin, we may as well have been in the kitchen with her, the noise (and a few expletives) penetrated the whole house.

I think Peggy would like to be remembered for her glamorous style, her forward-thinking, her boundless energy and her years of dedication to various clubs and groups in the community.

We would especially like to thank Hillview Nursing Home in Rathfeigh for the wonderful care of our mother during the last 9 years of her life with Alzheimer disease.

May she rest in eternal peace

# GAA – Ladies Fixtures and Results

## Junior A Final

Skryne Ladies vs Clann na nGael

September 13th

Final Score:

Skryne 4-9

Clann na nGael 5-9

Skryne Ladies quest to play Intermediate Football in 2021 was thwarted by a more experienced Clann na nGael side last Sunday in Ashbourne. Playing with the aid of the breeze in the first half Skryne raced into an early lead with a goal within the opening minute. Clan na Gael defended well during this period preventing Skryne from playing with their usual rhythm. However, despite conceding two goals to their opponents Skryne took a five point lead into half time.

Skryne consolidated their position in the first quarter of the second half leading by six points at the second water break. However, unfortunately for the girls it was the last quarter when Clann na nGael were at their most dominant scoring three goals and three points.

The girls never gave up and worked hard to create a goal that left just three points between the sides at the full-time whistle. Bitter disappointment after a year of great progress but the future is bright for the years ahead.

Team: Rachel Whelan, Lisa Browne, Ailish Lenehan, Steffi Finnegan, Megan O'Brien, Alana Cooney, Samantha Clarke, Aisling Bownes, Fiona O'Rourke (0-3), Ciara Smyth (2-5), Amy O'Dowd, Niamh O'Brien, Sophie Finnegan (0-1), Catriona Keoghan, Roisin McManus (2-0).

Subs Used: Emer O'Brien & Eimear Clarke



## UNDER 14 GIRLS SEMI FINALS

*LGFA U14 Football Championship. Division 3 – Semi-final. Skryne 7-08 Clann na nGael 1-02*

**Rampant Skryne march on to Championship final !!**  
**Skryne 7-08 Clann na nGael 1-02**

Skryne were set to battle Clann na nGael twice this weekend with our Junior A ladies taking on the ladies from Athboy tomorrow in the Championship final while today the U14 girls from both clubs faced off against each other in the semi-final of the Championship. St. Ultans had already booked their place in the final courtesy of a convincing victory over Walterstown earlier today.

Skryne played against the wind in the first half and despite dominating possession, they didn't trouble the scoreboard until the eighth minute of the game, when Aoife McLoughlin opened the scoring with a point from play. Skryne had shown some early nerves building up a sizeable tally of wides. However, Clann na nGael were finding it exceptionally difficult to work the ball out of their own half as Skryne were winning the battles all over the pitch. Laura Mangan who was impressive throughout got the first of her two goals on the thirteenth minute as Skryne finally reaped the rewards that their efforts deserved. The score remained 1-01 to 0-0 as the game paused for the obligatory water break.

The second quarter was all about the goal scoring prowess of Caoimhe Giles. Aoife Mc Loughlin stepped up to take a 45. She sent the ball into the Clann na nGael area where it broke to Caoimhe Giles on the right hand side of the Clann na nGael goals. Caoimhe made no mistake when she shot to the roof of the net. It was Caoimhe again four minutes later from a similar position and the result was the same with her shot eluding the Clann's goalkeeper. Laura Mangan added a point for Skryne with two minutes remaining in the half. Clann na nGael hit their first point of the game on the stroke of half-time with a fine effort. Half-time score Skryne 3-02, Clann na nGael 0-01.

The second half had only just gotten underway when Laura Mangan fetched the ball on the right hand side and made a beeline towards the Clann na nGael goal. The keeper advanced and Laura, coolness personified, lobbed the keeper to send home her second goal of the game. However, Clann na nGael enjoyed their best spell of the game in the third quarter and began to threaten the Skryne rearguard which had been solid as a rock throughout. The Clanns hit a goal with five minutes gone in the half. Their attack came from the right hand side and their forward hit an unstoppable effort past Katie Keane in the Skryne goal. Megan Cowley steadied the ship with a point on the eleventh minute. Caoimhe Giles added another before the second water break to leave the score 4-04 to 1-01.



The Clanns got their final point of the game after the resumption, but the last quarter saw Skryne hit the after-burners. Megan Cowley, Aoife McLoughlin and Laura Mangan hit three points in quick succession before Cowley who had moved out onto the 40 in the second half, fired home a superb goal. Aoife McLoughlin almost broke the crossbar a minute later as Skryne laid siege to the Clann na nGael goal. Aoife got the goal she deserved with four minutes remaining when she fired home after a nice run through the Clann's defence. Caoimhe Giles tapped over second point of the game with full-time approaching. Skryne hit the woodwork again, this time Megan Cowley was unlucky to see her shot rebound away. Skryne did have time for one last goal. Corner back Emily Kelly found space in front of the Clann's goal and slid the ball home to put the icing on the cake for Skryne in a fine win over a spirited Clann na nGael side.

There were superb performances all around the park for Skryne as they continued their quest for glory in this year's championship. Well done to all the girls.

Skryne's U14 Division 8 team will be hoping to emulate their compatriots tomorrow in their semi-final encounter with neighbours Walterstown at 11am in Skryne.

Skryne U14s team and Management would like to wish our Junior A ladies the very best of luck in tomorrow's championship final!!

Team: Katie Keane; Rebecca Clarke, Destiny Carty, Emily Kelly(1-00); Katie Purcell, Síne Smyth, Shauna Hogan; Aisling O'Connor, Beth Shanley; Laura Mangan (2-02), Aoife McLoughlin(1-02), Caoimhe Giles(2-02); Sara Pentony, Megan Cowley(1-02), Áine Keogh

## *LGFA U14 Football Championship. Division 8 – Semi-final. Skryne 3-09 Walterstown 0-06*

***Skryne U14 second team reach Division 8 final after fantastic victory over Walterstown***

***Skryne 3-09 Walterstown 0-06***

Skryne's U14 girls first team were victorious yesterday evening in their semi-final against Clann na nGael. It was the turn of the second team today who were hoping to emulate their achievement and make it two finals out of two for the U14s.

Sunshine greeted both teams onto the pitch, but there was a stiff breeze blowing diagonally across the pitch towards the clubhouse which favoured the team playing towards the scoreboard end. Walterstown had the aid of the breeze in the first half but despite this, Skryne had a terrific opening quarter racking up 1-04 to a single point by the first water break. Rachel O'Dowd, Liz Fitzpatrick, Lauren Meharg and Ellen Hogan all got their names on the scoresheet with some terrific points, but with the last play of the game before the water break, Ellen Hogan managed to get her fist to a high ball in the Walterstown square to send it to the back of the Walterstown net.

The second quarter saw a resurgence from the Walterstown girls who hit five points without a reply from Skryne and after such a good opening quarter, Skryne suddenly found themselves in a game. Half-time score: Skryne 1-04, Walterstown 0-06.



Skryne's defence had to reorganise to counter the dangerous Walterstown forward line and this they did superbly in the second half with Hannah Clarke dominating in the full back line and Roisín Reeves, Isabella Reuter, Isabella Meharg and Ailbhe Lynch all brilliantly repelling the Walterstown attacks and hoovering up any loose ball. Midfielders Ellie Kate Mc Donnell and Ellen Hogan also chipped in, tracking back time and time again to make sure all Walterstown personnel were accounted for and marked.

Meanwhile at the other end Rachel O'Dowd had plundered Skryne's second goal as the girls began to turn the screw. Further points from Rachel O'Dowd (2), Liz Fitzpatrick and Ellen Hogan left eight points between the sides as the game broke for the second water break.

Walterstown to their credit continued to fight on in the last quarter, but the Skryne defence were impenetrable. Skryne's net minder Meabh Lynch kept a dangerous effort out late on and her clearances and kickouts were excellent throughout the game. Lauren Meharg hit her second point of the game to add to Skryne's tally and then Liz Fitzpatrick put the result beyond any doubt when she fired home Skryne's third goal with a minute of normal time remaining.

This Skryne team has shown so much character since the beginning of the season with the players showing huge improvement throughout the year. Claire Cassidy, Megan O'Brien, Harriet Hayes, Emma Dardis, Grace Hollywood (Captain for the day) and Cara Mahon all had bright moments in this game and Skryne can now look forward to a well deserved place in their first ever final.

Team: Meabh Lynch; Claire Cassidy Hannah Clarke; Isabella Reuter, Roisín Reeves, Ailbhe Lynch; Megan O'Brien, Ellie Kate McDonnell; Lauren Meharg(0-02), Ellen Hogan(1-02), Rachel O'Dowd(1-03); Grace Hollywood, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick(1-02,2fs), Isabella Meharg, Emma Dardis, Cara Mahon, Harriet Hayes.



# GAA – Juveniles Fixtures and Results

## **Skryne U13's play St Colmcilles after their fantastic Semi Final win over Gael Colmcilles.**

It was a heart stopping Semi Final and this is a team that has gone from Strength to Strength and really developed into a great underage team thanks to the Coaches hard work. The lads have also put in a great work ethic themselves and are really enjoying it. With fun comes success and enjoyment and that's what this large panel has certainly been about. Skryne won their Semi Final at a score of 4-8 to 1-09 and now play St Colmcilles in Father Mc Manus Park on Saturday 19th @ 2,00pm.

The best of luck to the players and management for the final. The future of Skryne is in safe hands and as the longest serving Senior club in Meath will certainly continue.

We will have updates on Twitter and Facebook and we also want to wish the Seniors the very best of luck Saturday in their Div 1 final in Pairc Tailteann.

### **Date and venue for the final.**

📍 Skryne

📅 Saturday 19th

🕒 2.00pm





## **SKRYNE MINORS**

**Skryne went into the Div 1 Shield Semi Final with some confidence after playing a challenge match against Ballymun Kickhams on a good display.** The only down side was that of injuries to players with James Mangan still out and John Finnerty who had picked up an injury in the early part of the Ratoath game. John wasn't fit to start but had the ankle strapped and was ready to come on if needed. Josh Grendon was also out. Like all teams in Skryne you really need all players fit as numbers are always very tight to add to this there is Fie U15 players also.

Going on that Skryne had made the journey to Duleek who right upto the last game had looked to be heading to the Championship Semi Final and for the last results not to go their way ended up in the Shield Semi Final against Skryne. Playing conditions were ideal and with the evenings cutting back the floodlights would be required. A welcome addition to Duleek was the scoreboard and timer which kept the small crowd updated on the score. The referee got proceedings underway with the 8.00pm throw in as the night drew in and the red sky hovered over Duleek. Duleek registered the first point of the game and this was end to end. Kian Reddy registered first for Skryne. Skryne had control of the first 15 mins and really done with the simple things with a long ball into the Skryne Forwards and caused Duleek / Bellewstown all sort of Problems. Andrew caused DB all sorts of problems while Mark Swan was playing well and laying off the ball and also taking his points at every opportunity.

Skryne's defence stood really firm and with the back line of Billy Reilly, Scott Armstrong and Ciaran Quinn kept the forward line very quiet throughout the first half. Skryne were dominant all over the field and John O Regan and Oisin Keogh enjoyed plucking the O Neils ball from the night sky. Skryne went into the first water break with a well earned lead.

### **DB....0-2**

### **Skryne 0-5**

After the water break it was a battle all over the field as Alex Currans kick outs were on point and got great distance. Alex only back from injury after sometime out was really at his best again. DB raised it a couple of gears to claw back the deficit and went on the rally. They score two points and Skryne were yet to score. Skryne still kept the ball going route one with Robert Gallagher charging forward he laid a ball off to Reddy only for it to go over the end line and looked like a goal chance was on. Skryne kept the ball moving and the half forward line were dropping deeper into DB half as they were on the attack to Skryne's goals. Daniel O' Kane, Robert Gallagher and Sean Mc Carthy worked really hard and there was some fantastic turnovers. Skryne registered two more points with Keogh and Nolan adding to the scoreline. DB just before half time went on the attack to register the first goal to give them a lift just before half time.

### **Halftime Score**

**Duleek / Bellewstown 1-04**

**Skryne 0-7**





## The Start of the Journey! Under 8 Girls Team Skryne.

The Under 8 girls continues this year with the coaching team of Conor Corry, Sinead Maguire, Laura Hamill and David Rogan. There is a big focus on skills building and getting used to the ball at this non-competitive phase. The main emphasis of course is fun and the girls' enjoyment. Keeping girls in sport as they get older is a big challenge and Skryne GFC is happy to promote the 20x20 campaign and have signed up to their charter. The aims of the 20x20 campaign are;

- 20% more media coverage of women in sport
- 20% more female participation at player, coach, referee & administrative level
- 20% more attendance at women's games and events.

Their strapline is 'If she can't see it, she can't be it' which is so true for these little gaelic footballers who hopefully watched our Senior Ladies through their campaign to the Championship final last week and took inspiration.



## Skryne National School from Martin Kennedy

*It's hard to believe that we are already through 3 weeks of the school year. For so long it seemed just an aspiration that we could have full classes back engaging again with full time education in the best of places for this work - their classroom. Despite the understandable anxieties of many, for most it has been a happy return to the school set up. Of course it is different, but so much is still as it was. This week I took time to listen to the hum of work that echoed around the corridors of Sc. Cholmcille. Music, singing, prayers and laughter. It felt so normal. It felt good.*

*Your children are more resilient than we sometimes give them credit for. I have said it before but it is worth repeating. We will need that resilience over the coming months as the Covid -19 virus will have its inevitable peaks and lulls. Very noticeably for this time of year there are more children absent for a day or two of the school week. We would normally have full attendance after the summer holidays. But times are not normal now and people are sensibly and wisely holding out on sending children to school who present with symptoms. It is the correct course of action. We rely on each other to make the right choices just now. As I write this piece we learn of tightening of restrictions in the Dublin area due to rising case numbers. There is a need for vigilance. We live in a community and depend on community action to protect us. We must all play a part in keeping each other safe. "Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na ndaoine" says the old Irish seanfhocail. There was wisdom in so much of what they pronounced. That wisdom is needed by all of us at this time. " Ní neart go cur le chéile."*

*Let's hope that the happiness in the school referred to earlier is maintained as a little bit of homework begins to filter home in the coming weeks. Teachers have been impressed by the level of work being produced by most children since we returned. So much so that they have collectively decided to introduce a little bit of homework for the children. Nothing too taxing just yet, just enough to keep the cogs oiled and motoring as we ease our way gradually into a fuller schedule. Parents/Guardians should contact their class teacher if they find a child is struggling with either time or content relating to homework. The class emails should be used for this purpose. Check the website for details.*

*A major "Thank You" to all of you who are making the drop-off and collection routine so effective. There is a calmness and a good feeling of security around the place as almost all are adhering to the revised times. We thank you also for maintaining the social distancing around classrooms. It is strange - but necessary.*

*Thank you as well for keeping us informed of children who have been for Covid testing. Thankfully all have been returned negative so far but it is vitally important that we are kept informed so that contact tracing can be facilitated should a positive case emerge. It is one of the biggest weapons we have in the fight against Covid. Please continue to emphasise to wash, sanitize, sneeze and cough etiquette with your children. It greatly supports the work we do at school. Setting a good example is the best way to do this.*

Although we are only just back at school it is important to plan for the future as well. In that regard we are opening up for applications for enrolment for the school year 2021/2022 from the 1st October. Please take note and spread the word to anybody who may wish to enrol a child with us for the next school year. Application forms are available on request by sending an email to ["skryne.n.s@gmail.com"](mailto:skryne.n.s@gmail.com)

Reading is a great way to pass the time as well as being a real mind stretcher. We have had some outstanding readers in the school in recent times, particularly since we introduced the Accelerated Reader scheme. One of the measures we use for tracking pupil progress is by maintaining a word count of words read by each pupil. Some have been outstanding. Last week we paid special recognition to these avid readers by awarding them a specially commissioned and highly prized "Word Millionaire" badge. We were thrilled to discover that we had 13 word millionaires in our ranks - and a few more who are very close to becoming millionaires. This is a great achievement and we take pleasure in sharing some pictures of wonderful Word Millionaires we have in Sc. Cholmcille. Look out also for some kids who are just jumping for joy to be back at school!

Fan slán,



Rachel Skip



*Nathan and Róisín – Double Millionaires*



# Rathfeigh National School from Seamus Tansley

## **Football and Rugby Coaching**

We were delighted during the week to be contacted by our visiting Gaelic coach (Damien Sheridan) and our rugby coach Kevin (Ashbourne Rugby Club). They will be returning to the school this week to train the children in all classes the skills of gaelic football and rugby. There will be strict guidelines in place. All activities will take place outdoors. The coaches will wear masks. The children and coaches will sanitise their hands regularly during the sessions. Equipment will be sanitised thoroughly after each session. Activities will be adapted to ensure as much physical distancing as possible.

It is important that schools return to “normal” as quickly as possible but obviously taking into account safety protocols. Children need to look forward to interesting activities and I believe these activities will not only improve the children’s fitness but improve their well-being.

## **First Communion**

With schools closing on March 12th many important school events were cancelled. One of these was the First Communion and I’m sure the children were very disappointed at the time.

All the disappointment was forgotten last Saturday when the children made their First Communion at Rathfeigh Church. It was a historic occasion as it was the first time that the First Communion and Confession were held in unison and also the first time the ceremony was held outdoors.

A huge community effort resulted in a very special and memorable ceremony. Ms Reynolds is highly commended for preparing the children so well in difficult circumstances as there were no practices at the church beforehand. The children were very mature in saying their prayers and they seemed to really enjoy the ceremony. We also thank Mrs Vaughan and Mrs Campbell for all their work preparing displays for the Communion. Helen put in numerous hours putting the Mass Booklet together which is a difficult task particularly with the phone ringing very five minutes! Lisa’s piano playing really added to the ceremony and we thank her for giving her time last Saturday.

Our Parents’ Association and Amanda did a great job liaising with the school and getting the church grounds ready for the ceremony. We knew a lot of work was being put in to decorate the church grounds but everyone arriving at the church on Saturday was blown away with the finished product. The grounds looked fabulous. Celebrity weddings would be less spectacular! We are indebted to everybody who played their part in making this Communion a truly memorable and special occasion. I thanked so many people after the Communion on Saturday for their huge efforts and if I forgot to thank someone please accept my apologies. It was great to see Ms. Ward (now teaching in Ratoath) in attendance for the children’s big day and they did her proud also. All the children represented themselves their families and the school really well and we hope they enjoyed their celebrations with their family and relations afterwards. Finally, a big thank you to Fr. Thomas for celebrating the Communion in an enjoyable and relaxed manner.

Our Second class pupils will, hopefully, be receiving their First Communion in May 2021 but regardless of Covid 19 I think the option of holding these ceremonies outdoors should definitely be up for discussion in the future – weather permitting of course!

(We look forward to seeing the aerial drone pictures which Cormac Grendon took of the ceremony also. Thanks Cormac).

Below are some pictures of Saturday's First Communion.







## THE SKRYNE AND RATHFEIGH M3 PARISH WALK

The Skryne and Rathfeigh Parish Walk was held on the M3 Motorway on Sat 22nd May 2010.

The fund raiser was in aid of Skryne GFC Underage / Skryne GFC ladies / Rathfeigh N.S. & Skryne N.S.

On a beautiful sunny afternoon 300-400 people turned out to take part in this unique parish event where all the family members got involved and took the opportunity to walk on the Motorway before it was officially opened.

Refreshments on the day were provided to the thirsty walkers and entertainment was provided by C&C DJs.

Photos from the walk are up on the Skryne GFC website [www.skrynegaa.com](http://www.skrynegaa.com). A number of people brought their cameras to record the event so if you have photos taken on the please email them to [news@skrynegaa.com](mailto:news@skrynegaa.com) and we will add them to the photo page.

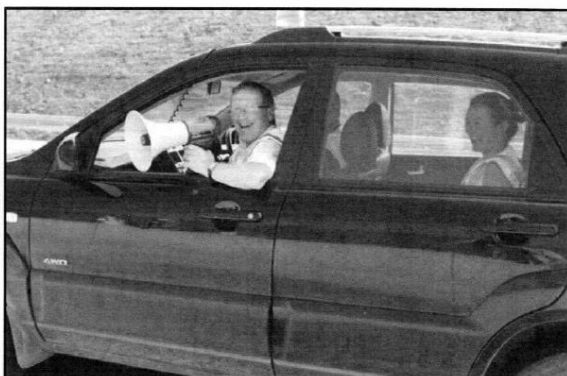
Skryne GFC would like to take the opportunity to thank the NRA, the organising committee, the stewards and helpers on the day and the large crowd that turned up and sponsored this event.



*They're off!*



*Road Runners*



*Dermot Carty getting the crowd organised*



*Killinaskully Walking Group*



**SKRYNE RATHFEIGH COMMUNITY GAMES  
U12 GIRLS SOCCER TEAM WHO WON A  
SILVER MEDAL IN THE MEATH FINAL  
LOSING AGAINST SUMMERHILL.**

*BACK ROW: Left to Right - Emma Powderly, Mairead Canavan, Tara Leonard, Jade Halpin, Suzy O'Rourke, Sophie Finegan, Evie Murphy. FRONT ROW: Left to Right - Aimee Devins, Ava Swan, Heather Monaghan, Niamh Fox, Emma McLoughlin, Molly O'Connor*



*Kathleen Carty with Frank and Effie*

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

### ***Borrowaddy***

Talking about our road, it was, and still is, known as the Borrowaddy road, so called for hundreds of years, on account of a ghost in the form of a huge black dog (Bothar na Mhadra?) There were legions of stories about how horses wouldn't pass certain places on the road at night because of the BIG BLACK DOG.

It is sometimes thought that Borrowaddy means road to the sea, as this road is believed to be one of the five ancient roads from Tara, but, the Borrowaddy road starts at the five roads and ends at Edoxtown Cross, (one and three quarter miles).

When I was going to school and for many years after, there were eleven houses on the Borrowaddy road from Edoxtown cross to the five roads, and in nine out of the eleven, the same families lived in them for several generations.

The first house on the road was Gaffney's, (now, my house) it was built in 1894 by Meath Co. Council for £80.

The couple of fields opposite Gaffney's house were always known as "Harbour" I have no idea why, (it is at least eighteen miles to the sea) and those fields were covered with blackthorn bushes, so of course the Fairies always lived where there were blackthorns !!. didn't they?.

Next was the Lone House, long since demolished, it stood at the entrance to Seamus and Kathleen Battersby's new house. Of course it too had a ghost.!!

Ned and Magso Bennett and their four children had the next house on the left, and then came Ginnie Barns's gate (where the pylon is), and on the right Halligan's gate.

Down the lane also on the right, was the lovely old farmhouse of Jem Logan and his wife Nanny, their niece Dot Dillon and Dickie who was a great playmate of ours, as we were around the same age, and on the left, Jem's brother and sister, Bill and Kate Logan lived with their nieces, Cathy and Rita. Then next on the left, were Polion's fields,

obviously people who lived there long before my time, as there wasn't even the sign of a house there when I was a child.

Next was probably the most important house on the road, The Forge, owned by Dick and Mona Walshe, this was a buzzing place in those days, as all the farmers had horses, and the Blacksmith was kept busy putting shoes on them. The shoeing of a horse took quite a while, as the Blacksmith had to make the shoes from flat pieces of iron reddened in a huge fire, in the Forge and hammered into shape on the anvil until he was happy that each shoe fitted properly before it was nailed on.

We lived next door and so we spent a lot of time in and around the Forge, and as I think about that now, I can plainly hear the ringing of the anvil in my ears, and get the pungent smell of the hot iron as it was plunged into the big stone trough of water kept for that purpose. That water was also supposed to be the cure of chilblains!!.

Because the shoeing of a horse took some time, the Forge in those days was always a great place for yarns and stories and the exchange of local news.

Opposite Walsh's lived Phil (The Dollie) Martin and his wife Maggie, two "characters" who liked their drop whenever they had a few bob, but no matter how much they had to drink they would nearly always remember to buy a few sweets to hand in to us as they were passing (they lived next door).

I only barely remember when Maggie Martin died suddenly, and four or five of the neighbours, including my Mother went to lay her out, and when my Mother came home, she explained to me and my Brother that Mrs. Martin had died, and that maybe we should go down to the house to say a little prayer for her, while she (my Mother) was getting the tea, and although a little apprehensive, off we went hand-in-hand. Just as we were at the door and about to go in, Ned took fright, took to his heels, and I couldn't see him for dust as he sped out the gate and up the road home, and I was left to go in on my own.

Next house was Keelan's, (my home, where I was born and reared)

this house was in my family since 1910, until it was sold after my Mother died in 1991.

The Clarke family still live in the next house, and have been there for three generations.

Then comes Reilly's cross, so named after the Reilly family who still live there as have many generations of Reillys before them, and is one of the places the **BIG BLACK DOG** was regularly seen in days gone by.

Just up the road was Joe Murray's gate, then Tommy (Skipper) Donnelly and his wife Sellie and her niece Imelda, and the last house on the road in those days was owned by Jack and Mrs. Drum and their Daughters Myra and Olive. Olive and her husband Packie and their family still live there.

There are now thirty-four houses on the Borrowaddy road, and a large mushroom production factory.



## The Night Sky by Tony Canavan

The recent good weather has been excellent for astronomy with clear skies, no moon and a host of celestial bodies to marvel over including The Milky Way clearly visible overhead on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> September at 3 am. It was warm with clear skies.

**Venus:** Venus puts on its best performance this month in the pre-dawn sky in the East. To the right of Venus you can see Orion the Hunter and as the earth continues on its journey around our sun, Orion will more and more come to dominate our evening skies.

Astronomers were very excited this week by the discovery of the gas 'Phosphine' in the light spectrum of Venus. This gas is found on earth where certain bacteria live in oxygen free environments. Phosphine can occur naturally on Venus but not in the quantities detected. It is now thought that microbial life circulates in the Venus atmosphere (suggested by Carl Sagan in 1967). Venus is highly acidic and hot, enough to melt a spacecraft, but in its atmosphere, at a height of 50 kilometres, temperatures are a pleasant 20/30 degree but still acidic. Future robotic missions to Venus will try to answer all the questions.

**Mars:** Mars is above the eastern horizon now by 10 pm shining brightly with its distinctive red colour. It continues to draw close to the earth and by the 8<sup>th</sup> of October it will be 39 million miles from earth and its nearest approach until 2035. Mars is only about half the size of the earth but its surface should be visible through a small telescope because it has no clouds unlike Jupiter, Saturn and Venus. In larger telescopes it should be possible to see its southern ice cap. Mars has two small moons Phobos and Deimos.

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>:** The autumnal equinox is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September and marks the start of autumn in the northern Hemisphere. It is the time when the sun crosses the celestial equator on its journey south. If you were to view the sun on this day, at the equator, it will rise exactly in the East and set exactly in the West. The name equinox is from the latin 'aequus' which means equal i.e. equal amounts of day and night. It is associated with the harvest and harvest festivals around the world. It also marked the pagan festival of 'Mahon' when animals were slaughtered and preserved for the winter.

**September 24<sup>th</sup>:** In the evening the moon will be 60% sunlit with Jupiter close by and Saturn just 8° to the left (less than a fist). The Moon and Jupiter are the two brightest objects in the sky at this time.

**To the End of September:** The most interesting night sky until the end of the month is in the East, around 3/4 am on a clear night. You will see Venus rising and above it to the right Pollux and Castor. Further to the right is Orion and above it Aldebaran and the Hyades Cluster. Slightly further to the right is Pleiades Star Cluster. Then in the South a very bright Mars with Andromeda about 20° (two fist widths) above it. The Milky Way will run from WNW to ESE through the 'W' of Cassiopeia.

**Orion Nebula: The middle 'star' of Orion's sword (the three stars located south of Orion's Belt):** The Orion Nebula is one of the most important nebulas in our sky as it is one of the most active stellar nurseries in our galaxy. Over a relatively short period of time, in astronomical terms, ten million years, tens of thousands of stars have formed. It is located at a distance of 1,600 light years away and much of our understanding of star formation is based on this nebula. The Hubble Telescope was able to spot 3000 stars approximately and young 'brown dwarfs' or failed stars. Astronomers can see into the heart of the nursery because the few massive stars (the Trapezium) have blown away the stellar dust and gas.

The goal has been to measure masses, ages, sizes and temperatures of stars and to try and map the star formation in this region.



**It has the appearance of a bird with the top left as the eye and the centre its heart.**

The Mayan culture referred to the Orion Nebula as the 'cosmic fire of creation'. They may not have realised how accurate that description was.

**The Orion Nebula also contains one of the most famous pillars of gas and dust called the 'Horse Head Nebula'**



Bright spots in the Horsehead Nebula's base are young stars just in the process of forming. Light takes about 1,500 years to reach us from the Horsehead Nebula. This image was taken with the large 3.6-m Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope in Hawaii, USA.

## Water, Water, Everywhere by Anne Frehill

The above title is taken from *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834).

Many readers will remember it from their schooldays and recall that in this lengthy poem the verse was as follows:

Water, water, everywhere,

And all the boards did shrink;

Water, water everywhere,

Nor any drop to drink.

I have chosen it because the moral of this poem is to appreciate all types of life. While water is not a living thing it is vital for all living things. Water is a precious resource, but it is limited. Therefore, the last two lines resonate with me because it can be viewed in the light of today's world as a prescient warning about the need for careful management of this vital gift from nature. Not only to ensure that we have enough for the needs of every single person on the planet but also for protection of our environment and future generations. Given that we are in the middle of a global pandemic and battling with an invisible enemy there is the real possibility that we may forget about climate change and its fallout. Yet, we have only to look at the United States and particularly California. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, The Washington Post newspaper called the fires which are raging across a number of states "unprecedented" and declared it to be an event fuelled by climate change. While local fires can be seen almost every year in the United States experts say the link between climate change and bigger fires is inextricable.

The Pope's Intention for this month: "We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner," is a timely one. Pope Francis is adamant that access to clean, safe water is a basic and universal human right and believes that privatisation of this natural resource is morally wrong. Only last year, I read an article which suggested that millions of litres of water were still being wasted every day in Ireland, through the selfishness and thoughtlessness of some individuals and a combination of old and leaking pipes. Growing up on a farm, (even though we had our own water supply) I learned about the importance of water from an early age and its pivotal position in our ecosystem.

Folklore too shows us that long before the advent of "running water" to Irish rural homes in the 1950's, our ancestors treated this natural resource with respect. It is difficult now for us to imagine the sheer drudgery involved in carrying home water daily, for the needs of the family, a task which seemed to fall mainly on women's shoulders. Water had to be fetched from springs, wells, rivers and by the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century from the nearest community pump, thanks to local government schemes.

The late Kevin Danaher, a prominent Irish folklorist (UCD) recorded how in every rural home, people washed their feet before going to bed. Many people, especially children and younger people, went barefoot much of the time. Indeed, ordinary footwear, known as "low shoes", offered only limited protection, as people worked in farmyards, bogs, tillage fields and walked long, muddy roads. There were no high waterproof/rubber boots, a godsend which we take for granted. Some men did not even wear stockings, so their feet were covered in mud and dust at the end of the day. Many houses had a special wooden tub for feet-washing while the poorer houses used the clothes washing tub and even the three-legged pot to wash their feet. Afterwards, the dirty water had to be taken outside and emptied with care into the channel. It was regarded as unlucky to either fling it through the open door or keep it inside overnight. Stories abounded about the machinations of fairies, who were said to have power over feet-water and so were able to gain entry to a house through dirty water left inside overnight.

An old Irish custom dictated that fresh warm water for washing and bathing the feet or indeed the whole body should be provided for every visitor. Failure to do so was regarded as a breach of good manners. And

any guest who found a vessel of dirty water left behind from a previous traveller took umbrage. The ancient tale of the wandering scholar. Mac Con Glinne illustrates this. He visited a monastery guesthouse in Cork and was greatly insulted, listing several grievances. It appears that the bedclothes were unaired and verminous, there was dirty water in the bathtub, no food and drink prepared, and to cap it all, nobody available to scrub his dirty feet!

Spare a thought too for houses where water was scarce, if two people had to wash their hands or feet in the same water, the first user dropped in a little glowing coal and cleansed the water for the next user. Long before the modern bath, washing and bathing vessels were of wood. In fine weather adults bathed in a stream or river, while during Winter the adults bathed in a barrel. Children were washed in a small wooden tub near the kitchen fire.

Soap was made at home, ferns and some thistles were cut, saved like hay, and then burned to ashes. The ashes were mixed with animal fat, preferably goose grease, and water. Then chemical changes took place which produced soap, and this in turn was placed in small moulds to solidify. Actual fern ash was also used to wash both the body and clothes.

Myths abound about the benefits of washing the face or body in dew, especially on May Morning. Long before the days of Chanel, and the other famous cosmetic houses, young girls hurried outside to wash their faces in dew, to obtain a lovely complexion.

I can recall a beautiful story told by the afore mentioned Kevin Danaher, when I was a young student, about Mary and the infant Jesus.

During the flight into Egypt of the Holy Family, they asked for shelter at a lonely cave one night where there was also a woman with a young child. She gave them food and drink, soon afterwards, a group of rough men arrived who knew her, they too ate supper in the cave and paid no attention to the Holy Family. Mary and Joseph realized that poor people like themselves had nothing to fear from these so-called desert robbers. Then the woman heated water for her own baby but insisted that the baby Jesus must be washed

in the water first because her own child had leprosy. Later, when this unnamed woman put her child into the water used to wash baby Jesus, the leprosy vanished, and her son was cured. It was said that the little child grew to manhood and became like his father a robber. However, in the most curious twist of all, on Calvary he turned out to be the Penitent Thief.

There is another well-known story about a man who was going home late one night from the village, when he saw the figure of a woman standing by the side of a house. He was terrified when he realized that she was a woman who had been dead for over ten years. Somehow, he managed to find the courage to approach her.

She explained that her purgatory was to stand outside the door of that house from nightfall to dusk, to be soaked and scalded with dirty water, hot water, and the dregs of the teapot.

While she was alive, she had had a wicked tongue and said bad things about the woman of the house. She begged the man to tell the housewife to say something before flinging out her waste, to give her time to escape the hot water and the slops. The man relayed the message and ever afterwards, the housewife shouted out “chughaibh an t-uisce!”

Water is not only necessary to sustaining life on Earth, but it also offers many other gifts.

Our rivers, lakes, seas, and oceans provide us with fish and enable us to travel from one land mass to another, from island to island and internally. I can recall, Dr Linda Doran (UCD) who gave a series of lectures last year on Viking Ireland, saying that the Vikings used our rivers like we would use motorways.

Consider too all the hours of enjoyment associated with water sports for example swimming and surfing. Then, there are the therapeutic effects of water, which can appeal to both eye and ear. Is there anything more soothing after a hectic day than to linger by a river or a babbling brook? To gaze at a waterfall or walk by the sea and wonder at the waves and the tide is also special. Down through the centuries, artists, poets, and writers have cherished water in all its forms, going right back to Ancient Greece and Rome.

Most of the human body is water, with an average of 60%, as the amount of water in a body changes with age, sex, and hydration levels.

Finally, in our Christian background there is the tradition of Holy Water. It seems to me that to be blessed with Holy Water is to be enfolded in the power and energy of the Holy Spirit. It is used not only in the sacraments but also at other times e.g. before the coffin is lowered into the ground, the grave itself is blessed. A sprinkling of Holy Water was said to protect against accidents when travelling by land, air, and sea. It was also sprinkled at night for the souls in purgatory or around a house where a family member had recently died. In short, old Irish customs show us that Holy Water was intricately woven into the tapestry of daily life, and was believed to ward off evil from people, livestock, and crops.

We would do well to remember two exquisite lines from the poem "In Praise of Water."

Blessed be water,

Our first mother.












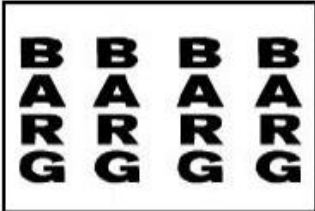
(John O`Donohue (1956-2008))

Poet, writer, priest, and philosopher.

# 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 Splitting Headache, 2 Stretched Limo, 3 Quick On The Draw, 4 Step Ladder, 5 Bags Under The Eyes, 6 Last But Not Least, 7 Three Little Pigs, 8 Lazy Bones, 9 Milk Shake, 10 Humpty Dumpty, 11 Growing Old, 12 Cheek To Cheek



## Poetry Corner

### *Love's Magnet* By Brian Smyth

(I)

A little bird on a branch once sang  
A merry roundelay  
And the cheering echoes sweetly rang  
To the mate on his homeward way.

(II)

The mate with his little heart aglow  
Sped fast at the welcome song  
But when near his love his course got slow  
For he sense a cruel wrong.

(III)

On a branch o'er head sate rival bold  
Who love to his mate did squeak  
And this other bird was worn and old  
But a worm was in his beak.

(IV)

With a quaking heart he approached the two  
Flaunting his plumage fair  
But the old sly bird already knew  
His worm would love ensnare.

(V)

And the poor young bird with a sorrowing eye  
Saw his mate now flit away  
With the worn old rival who so sly  
With his worm had won the day.

(VI)

And so it is and so 'twill be  
Through the course of life a long  
Too often to love we find the key  
As 'twas found in this little song.



*This is from Brian's 'Collected Poems*

# Cattle

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



8A



8B

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

#### ***Breed 7A***

Kerry cattle (Irish: Bó Chiarraí or Buinín) are a rare breed of dairy cattle, native to Ireland. They are believed to be one of the oldest breeds in Europe, probably derived from small black cattle brought to Ireland by Neolithic man.

#### ***Breed 7B***

The Limousin, French: Limousine, is a French breed of beef cattle from the Limousin and Marche regions of France. It was formerly used mainly as a draught animal, but in modern times is reared for beef.

## Condolences

Our sincere sympathy goes to

The Synnott family, The Reask, on the death of Charlie.

The Dunne family on the death of Monsignor Ted.

May they rest in peace

# Notices

RST Community Centre

Tel. 087-1306985

## Class Schedule for Autumn 2020

DAY	TIME	CLASS	CONTACT
Monday	3.30 – 5.30 pm	Stage School (from 3 yrs)	Linda Guthrie 083 - 0063653
	8 – 9 pm	Private Group	
Tuesday	3.15 – 4.45	Grúpa Ceoil Classes	Áine Kerr 086 – 852 5339
	7 – 8 pm	Private Group	
Wednesday	9.30 – 11.30 am	Toddler & Baby Group	<a href="mailto:skrynetoddlergroup@gmail.com">skrynetoddlergroup@gmail.com</a> FB 'Skrynetoddlergroup'
	10 –12 am	Pilates – Mixed Ability (2 classes)	Nicola Hayden 087 – 6975207
	7.30 – 8.30 pm	Line Dancing	Linda 083-0063653
Thursday	11am–12.30 pm	Craft & Coffee	Patricia Conroy 086 – 8388017
	4 – 6 pm	Irish Dancing (2 classes)	Audrey Carr 086 - 0712175
Saturday	9.30-11.30	Science Saturday (Sept 26 <sup>th</sup> )	James Murtagh 085 - 7555635
	8 – 9 pm	Private Group	

We also take bookings for meetings, birthday parties, talks, seminars, presentations, funeral catering.

The centre is wheelchair friendly, has a lift, nappy-changing facilities, fibre broadband and a fully equipped kitchen.



# *Junior Trad Classes*

**Áine Kerr Grúpa Ceoil Classes**

**RST Centre, Skryne**

**Tuesdays 3.15 – 4.45pm**

**Learn to Read, Write and Play Music**

**On your instrument of choice**



**All queries to Áine on 086-8525339**

# 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



Ph: 0830063653

Creating a platform for a professional career in stage & screen, with the emphasis being fun, a social outlet and confidence building being our primary ethos.

Check out our web site for more info & testimonials

Running successfully for 30 years

\* Agents for TV \* STAGE \* SCREEN

Believe you can! Dream BIG ☆

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

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

Much love,

HJ & LG 

# Skryne Toddler & Baby Group



Each Wednesday from 9.30 - 11.30am  
in the RST Centre (GAA)

Suitable for children from 0-5 years

**Everyone welcome Cost: €3**

For further information please contact:

[Skrynetoddlergroup@gmail.com](mailto:Skrynetoddlergroup@gmail.com)

Or find us on Facebook 'Skrynetoddlergroup'

## 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: Paoric**

**T: 046 9034846**

**M: 085 1597105**

Kitchen assistant required for Hillview Nursing Home – 2-3 evenings per week 4pm to 8pm. Please contact Rebecca on 041 9825698

General labourer required for vegetable farm work

Immediate start. Contact:

Dessie on 0879886622 or  
Padraig on 0872987704



*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



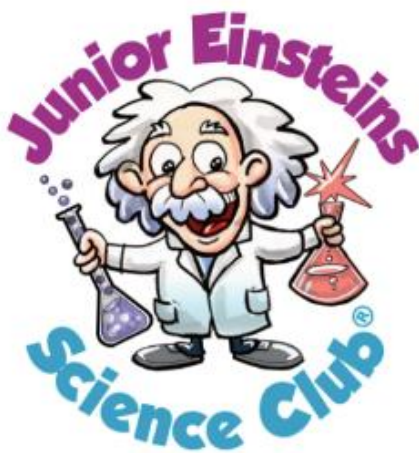
FREE DELIVERY ON ORDERS OVER €50  
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CATALOGUE AVAILABLE AT:  
[HTTP://SKRYNESAVER.COM/SEDUM/](http://skrynesaver.com/sedum/)

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

## Saturday Science Club

at RST Community Centre Skryne



€80 per child

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

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



0857555635



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

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

**Ph: 0830063653**



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

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

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