

# RST Newsletter

Rathfeigh • Skryne • Tara



DIGITAL VERSION FOR DURATION OF CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC

SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2020

ISSUE NO. 21



*All good things come to those who wait!*

## Acknowledgement

I take this opportunity to thank my friends, neighbours and RST readers for their many kind messages of sympathy expressed to me on the death of my brother Felim. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Patricia Conroy

## Site Wanted

*Local person looking to buy a site with a view to building a residential property in the Skyrne/Rathfeigh area*

*Contact Details:*

*087-2725056*

## Places To Visit In Meath

*This striking photo of some of the megalithic stones in Loughcrew was taken by Karen Carty*



# Skryne Community Alert

Gardai are appealing for information in relation to a burglary at Ross on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September some time between 9am and 4pm. If you were in the area and saw anything suspicious, please contact Gardai on 01 801 0600.

There is also an appeal for dash cam footage of a silver Audi estate car which was involved in thefts from vans in the Dunshaughlin area on the evening Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Please contact the Detective Unit at Ashbourne Garda station with any information – 01 801 0600.



## What is it?

The purpose of the Seniors Alert Scheme is to enable older persons of limited means to continue to live securely in their own homes with confidence, independence and peace of mind by providing them with a free personal monitored alarm. It is administered locally by community and voluntary groups from your area. Skryne Community Alert Group administer the scheme in our area.

## How does it work?

Older people get a free personal alarm or pendant. The alarm can be worn as a pendant or around the wrist like a watch. When pressed it connects wirelessly to a base unit, usually attached to a phone. The base unit immediately initiates a call to a 24 hour monitored centre.

## Who is eligible to apply for an alarm?

A person will be eligible if he or she is:

- Aged 65 years or older;
- Of limited means or resources;
- Living alone, living with another person who meets the eligibility criteria;
- Resides within the geographical area of Skryne Community Alert;
- Able to benefit from the equipment supplied;
- Prepared to maintain contact with Skryne Community Alert Group.

## How much will it cost?

The equipment is funded through the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government. It will be installed free of charge.

In the case of a landline-connected alarm, the first year monitoring fee is also covered. You will be asked to pay the ongoing annual monitoring fee of €58 from year 2 onwards.

If you do not have a landline you can use a GSM base unit which uses a SIM card, like your mobile phone. The unit will be provided and installed free of charge, but there is an upfront charge of €50 for the SIM card. The first year monitoring is free, and there is an annual monitoring/SIM rental fee of €108 from year 2 onwards.

## How do you get an alarm?

Please contact Patricia Conway (086 838 8017), or any member of Skryne Community Alert Group. We will apply for the alarm on your behalf.

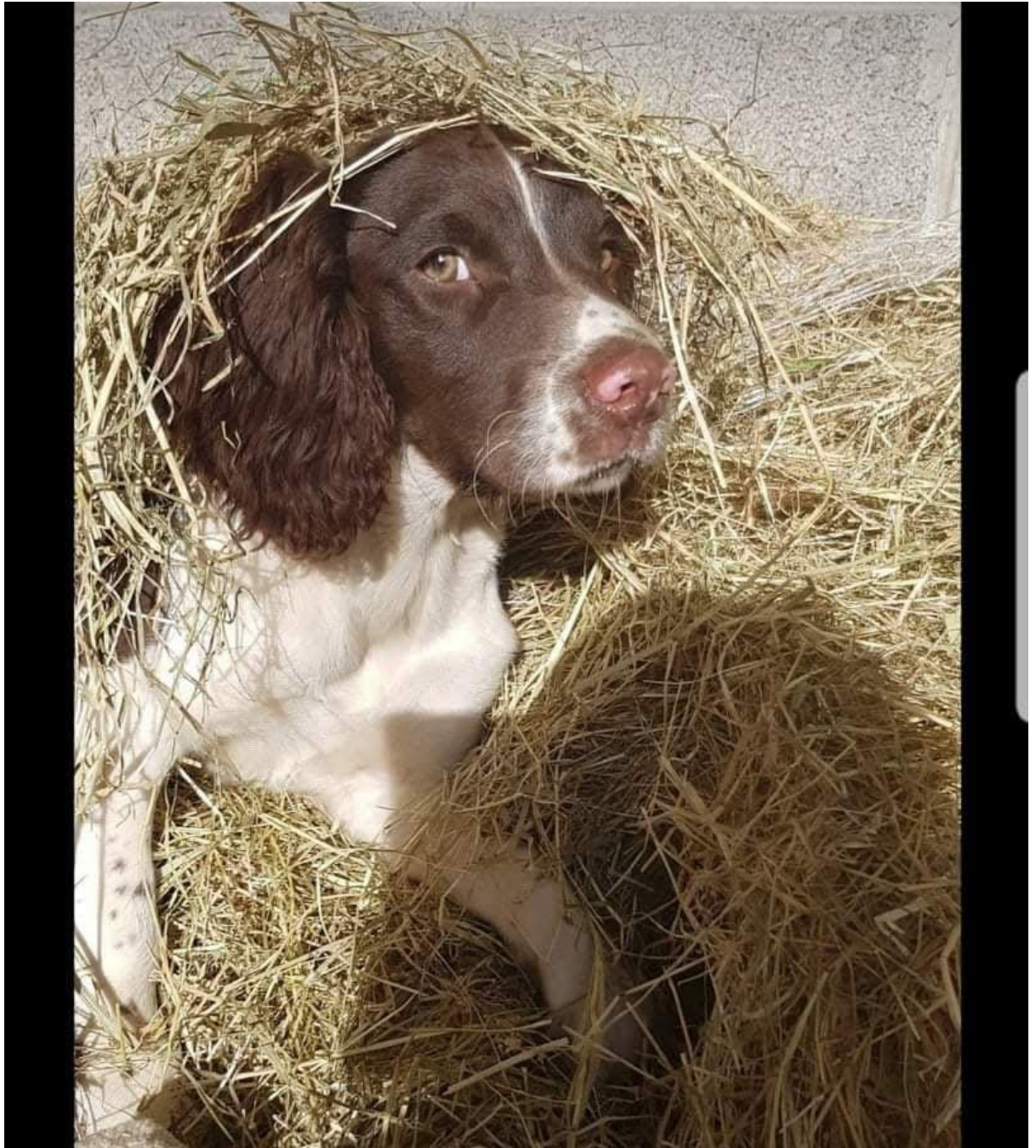
## Can I make an application on behalf of another person?

Yes. You can contact Skryne Community Alert on behalf of a loved one or neighbour. However, the application details must be in that person's name.

## Concerning Dogs

### **Skryne Lost Pets**

We are looking for your assistance to find a 2yr old male Cocker Spaniel missing for over a week from his home in Oberstown. Ben ran into a field behind his house on the morning of Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September and has not been seen since. He is chipped and registered. Our Facebook post has been shared far and wide but there hasn't been one reported sighting. If you are a landowner can you please check your ditches and outbuildings in case he got trapped? If you have any information which can help, please contact Natalie on 087 9263681. We will update the post on [Facebook.com/SkryneLostPets](https://www.facebook.com/SkryneLostPets) if we get news on Ben.



***Dogs looking for new home***

This pair of Labradors are not local dogs, but we have been asked to assist in rehoming them. Unfortunately, their owner has taken ill, has been moved to a nursing home and is now looking for someone to adopt them. Both are female, named Ruby and Kim, and they are 8 years old. They have never been separated so need to be rehomed together. They are fully house trained and very friendly with lovely temperaments. If you can offer them a forever home, please contact Nick Palmer on 087 238 4708 for further information.



## GAA – Ladies Fixtures and Results

Well done to Skryne ladies B team who won their first round of the division 6 League against Kilbride. The girls started off strong with some brilliant points and the defence kept Kilbride very quiet with just 1 point at half time. The ladies continued popping over some amazing scores to result in a score 1.13 to 0.3 to Skryne. Congratulations to the ladies and management.

The ladies will play their second round of the league Monday the 5th October in Skryne against Donaghmoore Ashbourne B team. All support welcome.

## GAA – Juveniles Fixtures and Results

### *Skryne Boys U15's have a Final to look forward to.*

Skryne U15's have a final to look forward to on the success of a very good Championship display. The Management and Players got back training when all Covid restrictions were lifted. The lads have certainly put the work in and are playing the best Gaelic Football for some time and also have put in some super scores and the intensity and work rate has definitely moved up a few gears. Skryne U15s have played St Patricks of Stamullen in the Semi Final and although the score looked as if it was a comfortable win this was a great game by two good sides. Skryne came away with a 4-26 to 1-04 win and played really well. All that lies in the way of lifting the Paddy O'Brien Div 2 Cup is none other than Navan O Mahony's. This has been the only game that Skryne have lost in the Round Robin and a game upto the end that Skryne were in control of. Skryne lost out in the end 2-11 to 3-10. So far to date Skryne has scored 25-90 and only have conceded 8-43. The very best of luck to the management and players for the U15s in their final in Walterstown on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> of October with the time TBC.

U15s players and management is as follows

#### **Players:**

Robert Gallagher, Zach Larmer, Connor Mc Manus, Josh Grendon, Billy Smith, Ben Mooney, Kevin Cooney, Declan O Connor, Jack O Regan, James Reeves, Andrew Canavan, Stephen Corry, Ciaran Fox, Ciaran Quinn, Darragh O Dowd, Tom Lenihan, Cian Mc Carty, Cillian Manning, Ben Armstrong, Charlie Swan, Matthew Ryan Luke Hanly, Daire Govern,

**Management:** Johnny Quinn, Gordon Geraghty, Des Manning, Nigel Fox





***Skryne boy's U13's have a very bright future ahead of them.***

***Skryne U13s played their Div 2 final on a Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> at Father Mc Manus Park.*** Conditions were dry and a little cool at times. It's not the first time a final of the host club to be in it and St Colmcilles made the journey to Skryne with a 2.00pm throw in. Cilles had seen off the challenge of Dunderry in their Semi Final and a Dunderry side that had gone unbeaten in the League campaign. The referee was Robbie Barrett of Walterstown and is well known and respected by both clubs.

The first half got under way with Cilles winning the throw up and Skryne were playing against the breeze that blew across Father Mc Manus Park. It took some time for either team to register a score as credit to both defences stood firm. Skryne threw everything at Cilles and Cilles likewise. The seasiders registered the first score of the game and Skryne responded with a score of their own. Both sides were really testing the defence lines. Skryne are just short of two teams and with 11 subs and credit to the management everyone got game time. St Colmcilles have plenty of fast pace players and this caused the Skryne defence a few problems later on. The referee had very little to do as he let the game flow. Both teams had one thing on their mind and that was to play fair and contest for every ball. The determination on Skrynes players faces in the photos say it all as they also gave everything with an expedition in blocking and turn overs. Skryne got their scores and Cilles didn't make it easy.

This was a good Cilles side who was certainly "Up for the game". Some work that the Tara young guns put in they were unlucky and didn't get the rub of the green. What was interesting about the game is how much alot of the Skryne players have developed and also have gained alot of confidence both in themselves and how they play. This is all down to the fantastic coaching being put in. I don't think anyone could argue that Cilles were worthy winners of the Div 2 U13's League campaign. At the same time Skryne players have showed some potential and a bright future that lies ahead of them. They certainly represented themselves, Families and the club very well. With the current situation to get any Gaelic this year was a bonus to get to a final was a fantastic achievement to win is an added bonus. There was some fantastic goal keeping saves



pulled off with the defensive line really being tested. The Forward line has some great movement and throughout the campaign were great target players. These bunch of players work well as a group. When the referee sounded the final whistle the team met in the middle and both teams and supporters gave a rapture of applause. Cilles were worthy winners and there was a lot of respect for both teams and management and they met in the middle after the game. Trevor Giles was given the honours to present the plaque to Cilles. Trevor complimented his own team on how they played. He also mentioned the referee who had a fantastic game and the importance of referees also. Trevor mentioned the pitch at Father Mc Manus park that was in perfect condition and thanked the grounds people and volunteers within the club. He then went onto mention the St Colmcilles side who has set a bar at underage level and complimented them on their win and congratulated the team. For the Skryne U13's will now return back to practice. Well done to the players and management on a great league campaign and we will look forward to many more to come.

The panel of players in no particular order is as follows

Daire Govern, Gareth Fox, Luke Hanly, Max Corry, Conor Reuter, Conor Giles, Harris Conor, Jack Shorten, Martin Wall, Sean Smyth, Garbhan Mulvaney, Liam Fay, Freddy Geraghty, Johnny Swan, Ben Ward, DJ O' Reilly, James Murphy, Cormac Pentony, Morgan Cullen, Conor Canavan. Lucas Walsh, Nathaniel Cooney, James Donnelly, Philip O' Brian.

Management: Brian Smyth, Trevor Giles, Dessie O Reilly, Johnny Geraghty, Liam Hanly.





## **Skryne U11's enjoy Go Games with Moynalvey and Dunsany.**

As day turned into night at Father Mc Manus Park Skryne U11's welcomed visitor's Dunsany and Moynalvey to Skryne. Skryne had a panel of 31 Players which is fantastic and at U9's there is 28 Players. The evening couldn't have been any better for the Go Games. James Mangan and Cillian Moss were the Go Games referees for the evening, there was some fantastic play by all teams and with no score being kept and plenty of encouragement on the side lines the young stars of the future were allowed to play and enjoy the games. There is no shortage of County players from all three clubs. As time went on the evening sun disappeared behind the Hill of Tara and it was time for the flood lights. This is the first game of the season this year that the Skryne players got to play under flood lights. There was some fantastic point taking and blocking from all teams. Well done to the Skryne players and management on the Go Games.

The future is looking very bright and a promising future ahead.

The panel in no Particular order,

Hugh Kelly, Niall Smyth, Killian O Dwyer, James Harrington, Harris Moffitt, Jack Foley, Patrick Purcell, Adam Fay. Brian Wall, Christian Rafter, Finn Naughton, Ulick Mc Donnell, Ben Mc Avinchey, Ronan Keeley, Pearse Donnelly, Alex Cullen, Ben Walsh, Rachel O Dowd, Oisin Giles, Charlie Reuter, Sean Clarke, Louis Crawley, Cathal Battersby, Cian Carty, Archie Copeland, Rhys Grendon, Ava Smyth, Cian Hamill, Oran Lynch, Patrick Muldoon, Fionn Durkan, Jimmy Shorten, Sena Mc Entaggart,

Management : Trevor Giles, Ciaran O Dwyer, Nicky Hamill, Mark Harrington, Dirk Reuter, Stephen Naughton



## GAA – Congratulations to Oisín Keogh

*The best of luck to Oisín Keogh with the Meath Minor Panel for 2020.*

Congratulations and well done to Oisín Keogh who has been selected for the Meath Minor panel this year.

Oisín played a part in beating Dublin in Last Year's U16's final against Dublin in Oldcastle on a score line of 2-11 to 2-10 in favour of Meath.

This is a fantastic achievement and the best of luck from all in Skryne GFC !!!!!



## Skryne GFC win Kellogg's Cul Camps Prize

What a day the 23rd September turned out to be for Skryne GFC! A photo shoot had been arranged for that morning to capture the presentation from Kelloggs of a Cul Camp 'Unpacked' prize. Word had come through the previous week that Skryne were one of 3 lucky winners but the size of the prize and other winners were being kept confidential until Wednesday morning. With a small number of representatives from across all sections of the club convened for the big reveal there was great excitement in the air. Given the year we have all had, the general consensus was that any of the three prizes would be a huge boost to the club. When David Byrne from Kellogg's revealed that we had captured the top prize of €25,000 the shouts of joy would have been heard up on the Hill of Tara.

Our inclusion in this draw came about after the very successful Cul Camp that was held in the first week of August and the dozens of families who nominated the club in the Kellogg's competition. While we have been hosting Cul Camps for a number of years this year's camp was extra special given it was held within a few weeks of restrictions easing. As usual our grounds were in top class shape due to the hard work of the grounds committee and this facilitated an excellent camp for the 240 children who attended.

Special thanks to Meath Coaching and Games and especially lead coach Damien Sheridan for their work with the Cul camp. Thanks to Kelloggs for the wonderful prize and to all the families who nominated Skryne. Thanks to everyone who has sent messages of congratulations and good wishes to the club following the announcement.

While plans will be formulated to ensure the funds will be put to the best possible use for our members and the community, we are happy to announce that we will be giving Scoil Cholmcille Skryne and Scoil Mhuire Naofa Rathfeigh €1,000 each from the prize to put towards sporting equipment and supplies for their schools.



## Skryne National School from Martin Kennedy

*Hey, what happened there? We blinked and suddenly September is gone. And to think that we were anxious about returning to school. Sometimes fear of the unknown is the only thing that we have to fear!*

*Now that we are back and operational we can be more relaxed about getting on with the real work of school. Protocols and procedures are in place and working well. Most people are cooperating as you would expect. Thank you all.*

*The latest tool in our arsenal of weapons arrived this week. We took delivery of a series of air purifiers and these will be fully operational in each room from Monday. The children seem to be enjoying the extra science class as we explain to them how this complicated filtration system works. There are learning opportunities in almost everything. The real benefit of these units will be seen as the winter months close in and we have to close doors and windows for heat and comfort. Clean purified air will then be available to the children in every classroom. You may check out the machines on an earlier posting here. Thanks to Rory from **Dentech** for the personal attention he has supplied over the past few weeks. It has been a pleasure to do business with such a vibrant and enthusiastic company.*

*In our last posting I mentioned the buzz of activity around the school and the sense of normality that brought to the place. This was further enhanced during the week when Aileen*

from Meath GAA Coaching & Development returned to our ranks and took the pupils for some rounders activity. She will be with us for the next few weeks.

It is just great to have this opportunity to broaden our offering for the pupils. In addition the ever energetic Elaine Battigan is dusting off the Tennis racquets and starting classes once more from Tuesday next. Elaine will have groups working over three days. Where does she get the energy?

All of these activities are run under strict Covid -19 protocols.

Jenny O'Dowd has also kindly offered some yoga activities for you to try at home. Her weekly classes were very popular and we look forward to being able to introduce these too again sometime in the future. You will find the link to the activities elsewhere on our website. Enjoy the activity and thanks to Jenny for her generosity in sharing.

We also welcomed back Tara and District Credit Union who bring their service to our school each week. Developing the saving habit early is very worthwhile . Anyway these days what would you be spending the money on? Application forms for new "sign-ups" available from school office on request.

**We have opened up acceptance of applications for entry to the Junior Infant Class of 2021/'22 this week.**

**Please do get your application in early to assist us with planning.**

**We would also ask you to spread the word to anyone who may be intending to start their child in Primary education next year.**

**Thanks for your cooperation.**

Now that the children have settled so well back into school life we are keen to maximise the learning time we have with them. In previous postings we referenced that we are losing a considerable amount of time during the assembly and dispersal periods. Staggering both of these has worked very well in terms of crowd control but there has been a knock on effect on class time. Therefore we are making a small change to both. Instead of three groups we are now splitting the school population in two with new arrival and departure times. ( No change in collection times for Infant classes who will continue to finish @ 13:30 ).

From Monday the new arrangement will be :

**Families from "A" to "K" are asked to arrive between 8:40 and 8:50**

**Collection time for this group will be 14:20 to 14:30.**

**Families from "L" to "W" are asked to arrive between 8:50 and 9:00.**

**Collection time for this group will be between 14:30 to 14:40.**

This arrangement will give teachers an extra 20 minutes tuition time each day with their pupils. A gentle reminder to maintain social distancing during these times. Please do not collect ahead of the allotted time as this causes disruption to the class and defeats the purpose of gaining this extra time for learning. Neither should you approach the classroom door or enter the building. It may seem a little harsh but we

are confident you will understand our motivation. Thank you all in advance for your cooperation.

To finish on a high note we would like to congratulate all the volunteers at Skryne GAA Club who are this week basking in the glory of a major win. The bonus of a €25K gift from Kelloggs caused a minor tremor in Skryne - some say that it was only Christy O'Connor jumping for joy! And rightly so. Skryne underage has gone from strength to strength in recent times with great volunteers offering excellent coaching to a growing number of exuberant children, both girls and boys. It is great to see. The windfall is a justifiable reward for the efforts that go on behind the scenes to make it all happen. { Didn't Oisín look well clearing the monster cheque in the papers ? }The major tremor this week was Mr. K falling off his chair when he got the news, courtesy of Senan McGrath, that the school was to benefit from a €1000 share of this prize to be used for games development at the school. We are very grateful for this benevolence and will be sure to use it to good effect.

*As Damien Dempsey might say " All good....."*

*Martin Kennedy,  
Scoil Cholmcille.*

## Skryne Golf Society

Once again Liz Rogan organised the weather and a great outing to Killeen Castle on Sunday last. Fortified with a lovely breakfast bap, 22 hardy souls teed off in glorious sunshine.

The winners on the day were Gerry Browne in category 1 and Brian Gaynor in category 2. Runners up were Willie Rogan in category 1 and Luke Bowden in category 2. Gerry Browne also took the money in the 2s competition.

Next outing is to Hollywood Lakes in October.



## Guess Who?

*Natural love and affection, taken sixty years ago this month. Can you identify this eminent personage?*



## Memories from Eoin Hickey

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

The road straight through at George's Cross leads an area known as The Riggins. The valley at The Riggins is where we went tobogganing as children - when we had the snow. The valley is a continuation of the hill down and up at the Corbalton road. We had one proper toboggan and an assortment of wooden trays and sacks. A minor problem was the river at the bottom of the slope! So we always had to have two children on duty to catch and stop the speeding sledge. It wasn't quite Switzerland but it did provide huge recreation for us and any visiting students we had staying at Skryne. The slopes were part of the lands of Belvin Hall, a fine gentleman's residence and home to James Comyn, who kindly gave us permission to toboggan. James, then only in his thirties, and single, while a member of a well-known County Clare legal family had been brought up in Dublin. His uncle Michael had endeavoured to defend Erskine Childers Senior prior to his execution. Once a junior journalist with The Irish Times James went on to do law and later became President of the Oxford Union. In 1978 he was made an English High Court Judge. Belvin Hall was burned by the IRA in 1981 and immediately rebuilt. In 1991 James, by now Sir James, published his memoir *In Summing It Up, memoirs of Irishman at Law in England*. I last met James when my mother brought him and his wife Anne for lunch with my wife, Nora, and I to Finnstown House Hotel at Lucan which we then owned and ran. He died in Navan in 1997.

A short distance along this road by The Riggins would bring us to Cushinstown, one time home to a young Peter McDermott, the great Meath footballer, *the man in the cap*. Peter once recalled giving a young two year old, Cathal (Haughey), lifts on the handlebars of his bike. Peter went on to be a champion of Meath football in the Forties and Fifties and Cathal went on to be; one C. J. Haughey. Cathal, the story goes, rode his pony to school however Peter McDermott remembers Cathal as having a long way to go to school and taking a donkey which he left all day at the house next door to the school. One woman who would have known was the teacher – Mrs Annie Lynch (Wall) who lived with her husband Pat in the Toll House at Kilmoon. Pat and Annie are laid to rest on the slope at sunny side of the Steeple on Skryne.

*From George's Cross we drive the short distance, by Farrell's, to Oberstown Cross Roads where on our left is Mr Leo Charles's home also home to our pony - and he knows it! So we'll leave him and the trap here for the night and walk across the road to Halligan's other shop and bar and wait to be picked up.*

# Rathfeigh National School from Seamus Tansley

## Positivity

Positivity is essential in day-to-day living and no more so than in the current pandemic. We always encourage positivity in school as it usually helps in children achieving more academically. So far the children in our school have been very resilient and positive in their outlook but of course the children are concerned about whether certain important school events will take place this year. This is particularly the case for our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils. The sixth class children love their final year in school as they have a large number of school events to look forward to e.g. Halloween Fancy Dress, pumpkin competitions, Christmas Carol service, making pancakes, jumble sales, sports day, tours, swimming, football, rounders, orienteering, fun run, field trips (just to mention a few). We discussed as a class this week that it was very easy to cancel events but more difficult to run events. Our motto for the year going forward will be **“If there is no way create one”**. We’re not going to cancel events just because of the coronavirus but instead we’re going to think of ways that we can go ahead with things even if it’s in a slightly different manner than previously. Our 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> class pupils came up with some very good positivity quotes during the week and we will put these up around the school to remind us of the importance of positivity while in school.

**“Look for something positive in each day, even if some days you have to look a little harder”.**

## Credit Union Art Competition

This year’s Credit Union Art Competition 2020 theme is “Imagine More”. It encourages entrants to think past the current situation and imagine. During the current pandemic art has helped to connect people from all walks of life. This year’s theme “Imagine More” encourages participants to express this connectivity on paper. The children will complete this activity at home. It must be their own work! The closing date is October 23rd. Good luck to all pupils. We will have prizes for the children in each class also.

## Gaelic/Rugby Coaching

We had very positive feedback from the children who participated in Gaelic and rugby coaching last week. Our coaches are very professional, enthusiastic and always encourage positive participation from the children. We are delighted to be able to provide this for the children particularly in the present circumstances. We thank Damien Sheridan (Gaelic football) and Kevin (rugby) for running the coaching classes in an enjoyable and safe manner. Below are pictures of the smiling children during rugby!

## Admissions Policy/Admissions Statement

Our ‘Admissions’ Policy is now on the school website to view ([rathfeighns.org](http://rathfeighns.org)). A hard copy is available from the office on request. Parents/guardians who have children starting in Rathfeigh N.S. in September 2021 should be aware of the content of this policy. The following dates should be noted.

- The school will commence accepting applications on October 1st 2020
- The school will cease accepting applications on March 1st 2021
- Applicants will be notified of the decision on their application March 20th 2021
- Applicants must confirm acceptance of offer by April 2nd 2021

If you know parents/guardians who have children starting school in September 2021 please make them aware of these dates. Please contact the school and make an appointment with the principal if you would like to find out more information about the school. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Green Flag

We achieved our first Green Flag for the school last year. Due to the pandemic the flag was only delivered recently. The children were really excited to see the flag after all their hard work in reducing litter and waste. To coincide with National Tree Day last Thursday the children were presented with the Green Flag. We planted a Scots Pine tree and a selection of spring bulbs to enhance the school's diversity. A big thanks to Mary Mc Carron and Mrs Campbell for organising Tree Day. We also thank all the pupils, teachers, parents/guardians and the Green School Committee for achieving the Green Flag. We're not going to rest on our laurels but are going to work even harder than ever to ensure that Rathfeigh National School continues to be a Green School. Below are some pictures from Tree Day.

## Cleaning

A big thanks to our caretaker, Jackie, and our part-time cleaner, Ingrid, for having the school in immaculate condition on a daily basis. It's great having reliable and hard-working staff ensuring that the school is cleaned to a very high standard particularly in the current environment. Thanks.







## My Brother's Scribblings by Norbert Coyle

Friends, Romans and countrymen....

Well, friends and countrymen...

You know how every day....sometimes every hour...throws up a nugget or two that gladdens the heart....makes you want to be around for more of the same.

Well....today was no different....

I got an email from a lad who knew we were on the high seas and with a few deft calculations and some trick photography, could tell us our location right down to the very coordinates....and what's more knew where we were heading and more besides.

Then I got an email which commenced with this phrase.....

"You're a terror for the travelling"

It took me back to my youth on a border county....Cavan/Meath ...where what folk said was generally multifaceted.

The simple phrase above could mean any of the following...or maybe not...

"You're always on the go...have you no home to go to?"

"I see you're away again...did you win the lotto or what?"

"There'll come a time when you'll settle down...go mad when you can"

"Isn't it well for you...youse that has the times"

"Your father paid less for a farm....if he knew what you were up to he'd turn in his grave....have you no cuttin' in ya at all"

"Honest to God wouldn't they sicken ya"

Phrases like the aforementioned have a great capacity for self interpretation...make of them what you like...

Another great example of a phrase with a complexity of connotations is the answer I got when I asked a local lassie if a neighbour was still a practising alcoholic....

"Ah don't be talkin' " .. she said....saying everything and nothing at the same time....a master class in communication without commitment.

Some say we developed this trait as a result of colonisation where one never gave a straight answer for fear of dire consequences.

Anyway I can hear you say...I only read this rubbish to get to the poem....

And here's today's rendering.....

For a moment by Ron Padgett

It's funny how

if you just let go

of things they

will come to

you. That is to say

sometimes. So what

good is such a

generalization?

Ah, it makes you

feel good to say

such things from

time to time,

as if you actually


and really and truly  
Now because that one was short and sweet....here's another...  
For no good reason by Twyla Hansen  
As if you needed one,  
as if you could help it,  
for no good reason  
a tune out of nowhere  
pops into your head  
when you least expect,  
riffs effortlessly in the  
folds of your cerebrum—  
your own private jukebox,  
your personal music device  
on random minus the earbuds—  
drumming itself up to keep  
you company: here, a little  
Janis Joplin while you vacuum  
cat hair; there, a John Denver line  
as you peel potatoes at the sink.  
How can others not hear it,  
this frequent odd gift?  
Sometimes you forget  
and blurt the words to the chorus,  
which, after all, is all you can remember,  
those take me home, country roads,  
that feelin' good was good enough  
for me, even conjuring  
the gas station in Colorado  
back where you, wearing  
those bell bottoms and that  
paisley, were about to fill a tank  
of freedom into the blue VW Bug  
when Carole King belted out  
and it's too late baby, now it's too late  
though we really did try to make it  
and you couldn't move, couldn't  
quit sobbing to the steering wheel  
that would not console those blues  
or say what you had left to lose,  
wouldn't question why in hell  
you were going down that road  
where for no good reason  
you seemed to be heading.  
Stay happy...v



**RST** Newsletter   
Rathfeigh • Skryne • Tara  11 OCTOBER 1997 • Issue No. 8



*Rathfeigh Pitch and Putt members, winners of the Meath League.  
Back row from left: Joan Caffrey, Kathleen Dunican, Kathleen Grendon, Dee Mills, Josie Deens.  
Front row from left: Kathleen Geraghty, Mary Lynch, Maisie Reilly and Kathy McGrane*

**INDOOR BOWLS** 

***Congratulations to Sean Faulkner on finishing runner-up in the Meath Championship Singles Final. The club is currently negotiating an alternative venue for club nights while hall renovations continue. The Meath zone League will be re-commencing at the end of October.***

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

### ***School's Out***

We finished in Primary school at fourteen. (Remember most of us were nearly six starting and also we had a seventh class in Primary school then). For very many children that was the end of their education. Some were lucky enough to go further. Quite a few from Skryne and Rathfeigh went to Navan Technical School, and most of us cycled the eight or nine miles to and from Navan.

There were a few who went to boarding school , but very few, and as for University , well that was way out of reach for all but the very privileged .

Emigration was rife in the '40s and '50s, because there was almost no work here, very few factories, no tourist industry, only agricultural work which was scarce and poorly paid.

The problem with emigration in those days was, that it was nearly always the lovely young people who had to go, which was a great heartbreak to their parents and a great loss to the Country. Another problem for young emigrants then, was the fact that they had little education and so could get only the menial jobs. Some done well, sadly, others did not.

Now, when young people go away, it is because they want to, not because they have to, and it is generally to gain experience in whatever they have chosen as their life's career.

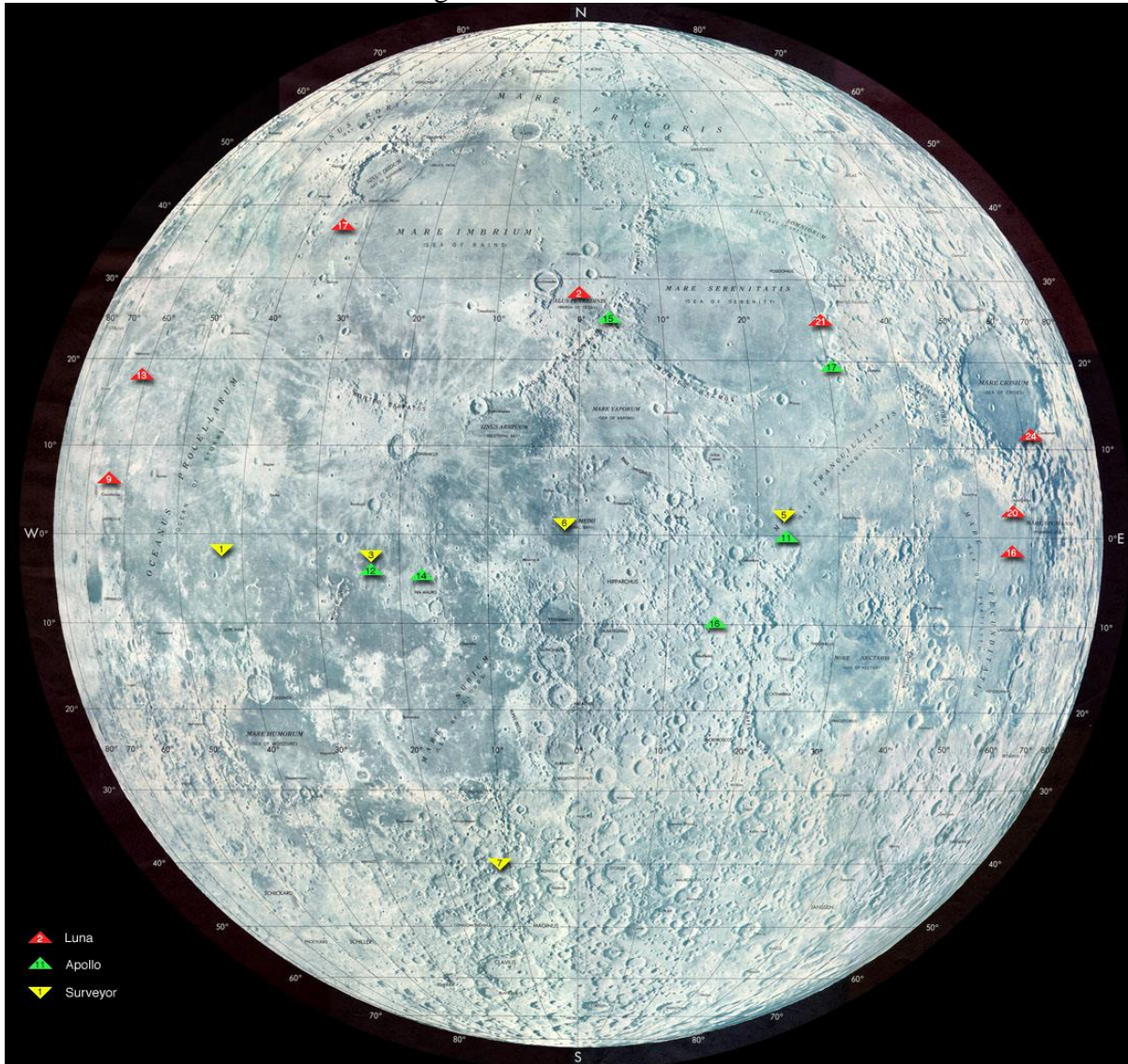
As I think about that now, I am so pleased that my Grandchildren can do almost whatever they want in life. Even if today's students don't get the results they expected in their exams, there is absolutely nothing to stop them repeating , and if they don't feel like doing that they can do all kinds of other courses and night classes whereby they can eventually reach their goal.

# The Night Sky by Tony Canavan

## Night Sky

Full Moon (Harvest Moon) was on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> of October (and will appear full until Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October) and for the moon to be fully illuminated it must be on the opposite side of the earth to the sun. It is not a good time to view the moon through a telescope because it has no shadows cast by mountains or craters. It is best viewed when it is crescent, quarter or gibbous. At these times it is extraordinary viewed through a telescope.

Below is some of the sites of landings on the moon.



This shows the locations of many of the spacecraft landings on the moon. Green triangles are Apollo missions, yellow are NASA Surveyor missions and red Russian Luna spacecraft.

You can see center right, Green triangle 11, at Mare Tranquillitatis (Sea of Tranquillity) the site of the Apollo 11 landing on July 20<sup>th</sup> 1969. The landing module was nicknamed 'Eagle' and Armstrong's report to NASA that 'the Eagle has landed'. The **mare** material that gives the moon the dark bluish colour is basalt from ancient volcanic activity. The moon is tidally locked to the earth so always shows the same face towards us. The NASA Artemis Program goal is 'to land a woman and a man' on the moon somewhere near the Lunar South Pole by 2024.

**October 3<sup>rd</sup>:** From 2am onwards we have Mars almost eclipsed by the full moon again. Mars is closest to the earth on October 6<sup>th</sup> so it is very bright. It is possible to see the southern ice-cap reflection through a 6 inch telescope. Enjoy it, it will not be this bright again until 2035.

**October 6<sup>th</sup>:** 10 pm the moon is edge on with the Hyades star cluster and south of the Pleiades and above Aldebaran. Should be quite spectacular with binoculars.

**October 13<sup>th</sup>:** 6 am on 13<sup>th</sup> October the crescent moon is rising with Venus in the East. Pollux and Castor altitude 57.5° azimuth 131°. The full Orion constellation is visible with Sirius to South. There is the Hyades star cluster with Aldebaran in Taurus altitude 48° azimuth 214°. Mars is setting in the West. Pleiades has an altitude of 52° azimuth 234°

**Sirius:** Sirius is now visible in the morning sky before sunrise. Just look south from Orion and you will see the brightest star in the sky. It has a magnitude of -1.47. it is in the constellation of Canis Major (The Great Dog) and Sirius is known as the ‘Dog Star’. It seems to cross the sky in pursuit of the hare (constellation ‘Lepus’). It forms part of the winter triangle together with Procyon and Betelgeuse. It is 26 times more luminous than our sun and is only 8.6 light years away. It is a Binary System i.e. there are two stars. Although its companion Sirius B is much smaller it is hotter and they orbit each other every 50 years.

**ISS (International Space Station):** The ISS has been blazing a trail across our skies over the last week and will continue over the next week. You can sign up for alerts and you can check web sites for times.

<https://spotthestation.nasa.gov/signup.cfm>

**Meteor shower:** *The Draconids meteor shower reaches its peak on 8-9 October. You should expect to see 6 meteors per hour. Its source is close to Cassiopeia, altitude 52°, azimuth 62°. However let your eyes wander as meteors will be seen streaking across many parts of the sky. It happens when the earth crosses the path of the Comet 21P/Giacobini Zinner. Debris left behind by the comet collides with earth’s upper atmosphere to burn up as Draconid meteors.*

### **Astrology & Astronomy:**

Astrology in Western Europe can trace its roots back to 19<sup>th</sup> century BC Mesopotamia. Astrology and Astronomy arose from the wonders of the night sky as humans reasoned that there should be a meaning in celestial motions. Astrology was practiced by Indians, Chinese, Maya, Greeks, Romans etc. The Roman emperors used it to find a successor while others used it to find a challenger, and have him killed. Today with see it as our horoscopes.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the adoption of the ‘scientific method’ astrology lost it’s academic standing. One of the main problems with astrology today is that due to the precession of the equinoxes i.e. the gravitational pull of the sun and the moon causing the equinoxes to precess (move westward) along the ecliptic completing a full circle (elipse) in 26000 years. Therefore the background stars are slowly changing. The constellations have changed over thousands of years but astrology has not.

On August 7<sup>th</sup> you are said to be in Leo but the sun is actually in Cancer. If you were born on March 21<sup>st</sup> 1988 you are an ‘Aries’ but the sun was in Pisces. This difference will continue to be exaggerated over the next thousands of years.

## Nature's Masterpiece by Anne Frehill

It is hard to believe that this year, one never to be forgotten, has trundled into the final quarter. This season can be for many a poignant reminder of the passing of time. At different points in our lives we all experience health problems, or fears relating to employment, money, family, friends, and global issues. And 2020 has certainly thrown the book at us. A few years ago, I came across a sublime reading from scripture (The Letters of Paul) which I think is particularly apt for moments when we feel overwhelmed by the whole new reality of COVID-19.

“The Spirit too comes to help us in our weakness, so when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words.” (Romans 8:26). This I believe (broadly speaking) is poetry and resonates with me in times of difficulties.

While October, is the tenth month of our year, it was the eighth month of the Roman calendar and is derived from the Latin word *octo*, eight. It seems as if nature, like an expectant mother has spent the previous nine months nurturing her riveting colour palette. Then, in October she dresses her foliage with myriad hues of gold, orange, yellow, plum, bronze, crimson, and in keeping with Halloween, reds ranging from the colour of blood to the fiery red of bonfires. The Irish name for this month is Deireadh Fomhair (end of Autumn) and it acknowledges the changing of the seasons. The harvest is over, safely gathered in, and it is time to prepare the land once again for next year's crops. The most primitive plough was a single -handled ox-drawn one called, the ard. Evidence from archaeological sites link the first iron ploughs to Egypt and Assyria c. 2300 BC while in Europe the earliest wooden ard dates from 2000 BC. I love to watch a field being ploughed, no matter if there are 3-4 highly efficient tractors traversing the land, or a team of horses controlled by a ploughman. On such days, it is a joy to behold a blue toned sky and seagulls following the plough (to catch insects disturbed by the machinery) as part of a scene which has unfolded for centuries. The ripeness of Summer is long gone and so is the heat but a spell of warm, dry, calm weather at this time is called an Indian summer, a name that originally came from the USA.

Is there anything more life-affirming in this month than a stroll in the countryside, as the leaves crackle underfoot and the deciduous trees compete to catch the attention of walkers. If we look at the awe-inspiring autumnal landscape, we may catch intimations of the mystery of life. The earth it seems to me can teach us much about life and death. Undoubtedly, for some people this season is tinged with bitter-sweet feelings, they are sensitive to the fact that all around us there appears to be nothing but decay and that the dead of winter is approaching. For others still, it may herald the onset of depression as they are haunted by thoughts of mortality. Yet, if we could dig below the surface, we would find a whole other world where seeds and bulbs are just dormant, awaiting the day when they can emerge into the sunlight and new life. Is this not what we believe, that death is merely the limit of our horizon and obscures our new life or new way of being?

Aside from Halloween, which I shall cover anon, I have picked out some notable dates from history relating to October.

2<sup>nd</sup> October 1869. Mahatma Gandhi was born on this day in India. He endeavoured to create a more equal and less materialistic society primarily in his native land but as he was always ready to practise what he preached, soon the wider world began to take notice of him. Following World War 1 he became involved in India's Home Rule movement. He believed in non-violent campaigns of civil disobedience, but he was arrested and imprisoned many times. Eventually, in 1947, thanks to his unstinting hard work, India was granted independence from the UK, while the state of Pakistan was set up for the Muslim minority.

However, despite his lifelong advocacy of religious tolerance, strife between Muslims and Hindus continued. And he was assassinated by a Hindu extremist on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1948. This dhoti-clad man, who studied law in London and subsequently worked in South Africa for over 20 years before returning to India, was of huge importance to the world. His non-violent methods inspired Martin Luther King Junior during the 1960's civil rights movement and Tibet's Dalai Lama.

4<sup>th</sup> October 1181. St Francis of Assisi was born. He was the founder of the Franciscan order of mendicant friars and in 1224 he is said to have received the stigmata. Francis was the son of a wealthy merchant but in his mid-twenties he abandoned his extravagant lifestyle to embrace a life of poverty and religious devotion, he died in 1226. This saint, who is probably one of the best known of all saints is also remembered for his

affinity with the natural world. As a child, he appealed to me because he was depicted in prayer cards as preaching to birds and animals. It is no surprise then that in 1980 he was proclaimed patron saint of ecologists, and he remains an inspiring figure for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

6<sup>th</sup> October 1891. Charles Stewart Parnell died on this day. Like Daniel O Connell, he was regarded by some as Our Uncrowned King and needs no introduction to readers. President of the Irish National Land League, chairman of the Irish Parliamentary Party, and an ardent advocate of Home Rule for Ireland, he was a towering presence in Irish politics in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, he fell out of favour in 1890 when it emerged that he was a correspondent in the divorce of Captain William O`Shea from his wife Catherine (Kitty). He later married her just 5 months before his own death. Yet, he has remained a national hero in the hearts of many.

Usually, in the first week of October the Ballinasloe Horse Fair takes place but like the National Ploughing Championships (in late September) and a myriad of other sporting events it has been cancelled this year due to COVID -19. It is said to be Europe`s oldest and largest horse fair and goes back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Stories abound about famous horses bought there but the most famous concerns Napoleon, it is alleged that he bought a horse and rode it during the Battle of Austerlitz in 1805.

Lastly, given the quasi- dystopian world we find ourselves in, I think it is worth mentioning the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 1938, because of a bizarre occurrence in New York/ New Jersey. Orson Welles`s (1915-1985) infamous adaptation of H G Well`s (1866-1946) science fiction novel *The War of the Worlds* was broadcast on this night. The story tells of a Martian invasion of Earth, but the play was scripted in the form of a simulated news broadcast. A wave of mass hysteria led listeners to believe that the broadcast was true. Convinced that aliens had already landed in New Jersey, on a mission to destroy the USA, many citizens panicked. Some wrapped wet towels around their heads to protect themselves from poison gas while others hid in cellars or called police stations or media offices.

An excerpt from *The New York Times* paints a vivid picture. “The broadcast disrupted households, interrupted religious services, created traffic jams and clogged communication systems.”

In the following days, as the country returned to normal, people were outraged, with calls for government regulation of broadcasting to prevent a similar occurrence. Others saw it as a valuable learning curve,

demonstrating both the power and danger of mass communications, as a means of influencing and manipulating public opinion/ behaviour, respectively. A lesson not unfamiliar to us as it has cropped up again and again in the last 82 years.

Given my reference to horses above and my fascination with those magnificent, “gentle giants” or plough-horses we normally see at the National Ploughing Championships, I am including a poem by Patrick Kavanagh.

#### Plough- Horses

Their glossy flanks and manes outshone

The flying splinters of the sun.

The tranquil rhythm of that team

Was as slow- flowing meadow stream.

And I saw Phidias` chisel there-

An ocean stallion, mountain mare,

Seeing with the Spirit unsealed

Plough- horses in a quiet field.



# SACKING OF ANOTHER IRISH TOWN.

## WILD OUTBREAK IN TRIM.

### TWO BOYS WOUNDED

### EMPHATIC PROTEST BY THE BISHOP.

### CLERGY CONDEMN RAID

Yet another has to be added to the long list of Irish towns which have suffered reprisals. There was a terrible outbreak of rifle firing, explosions, burnings, and wreckage of property in Trim yesterday morning.

Following the capture of the police barracks on Sunday, in which Head Constable White was dangerously wounded, a young man named Jas. Kelly and a lad named Geo. Griffin were wounded by armed men arriving in lorries.

A deputation of local clergy and residents interviewed the officer in charge of the troops, giving a guarantee of peace, and that night the military and police were withdrawn.

In the early morning, however, a large body of uniformed men entered the town, wrecking and burning business premises and dwellings. Several buildings were utterly destroyed. Yesterday half the population fled the town. The damage is estimated at £150,000.

The Bishop and priests of Meath issued a statement yesterday in which, while condemning the attack on the barracks, they emphatically protested against the sacking of the town after the regular military and police force had withdrawn, satisfied with the guarantee given by the priests.

## AFTER BARRACK RAID.

### YOUNG MAN AND BOY SHOT

Following the capture and destruction of the R.I.C. barracks and the wounding of Head-Const. White on Sunday morning, a night of terror, ruin and desolation was experienced in Trim. When an "Irish Independent" representative visited the scene yesterday all was quiet.

Of the population of over 2,000, more than half had left, particularly women and children, rich and poor. During the morning pitiable scenes were witnessed as whole families took leave of their homes and fled to the country. Many took their furniture with them in carts. Women, on foot and pushing perambulators, made long journeys.

### THE WOUNDED.

The workhouse was sought by many of the poorer classes as a place of safety, and the Master made provision for the accommodation of 200 persons. Three wounded men now lie in the local workhouse hospital:

Head-Const. White—Shot through the right side, the bullet coming out through the chest.

Jas. Kelly (25), Fostertown—Bullet through back of right thigh, still embedded in tissues.

Geo. Griffin (16½), farmer's son, Caherstown—Bullet through left thigh.

Head-Const. White is obliged to lie in an almost sitting position, supported by pillows. He is in a most depressed state, and while his condition is critical his recovery is expected, as he is a very strong man. Interviewed by our representative, he stated he was after coming out of the District Inspector's office upstairs when he heard noise and great commotion in the barrack. There was a rush on the stairs behind him, and before he saw anybody he heard the report of a shot, and at once a stinging pain in his back. He fell.



"I knew I was hit," he continued, "and I asked men who appeared over me to get me a priest and doctor. An hour passed before I received attention, and I lost a lot of blood. He felt very weak, and was suffering much pain. He added he was only 6 weeks in the station, and was deeply anxious for his wife and family, who up to last night had not arrived in Trim."



## Dingbats

Can you solve this Dingbats puzzle?

Answers will appear in the next issue of the newsletter

<p>TOFEE TOFFE TOPHY TOFFIE</p>	<p>PEEP</p>		<p>DAISY TULIP PANSY DAFFODIL</p>
01	02	03	04
<p>BOB</p>	<p>FUN FUN FUN FUN</p>	<p>BEST S T</p>	<p>IN IN</p>
05	06	07	08
<p>AGE A G E AGE</p>	<p>RUE</p>	<p>GO 4 RIDE</p>	<p> EMOTION</p>
09	10	11	12

Last weeks answers

1 Short Sighted, 2 Rock Star, 3 Pat On The Back, 4 Ants In Your Pants, 5 Forty Winks, 6 Balancing Act, 7 Head In The Sand, 8 Head On Collision, 9 Welcome Back, 10 United States, 11 A Drop In The Ocean, 12 Up For Grabs

## Poetry Corner

### *The Shining Moon by Brian Smyth*

(I)

When a little boy on my Mother's knee  
Just a tiny little tot.

I wanted each gaudy thing I'd see  
And pined for quite a lot.

And once I asked in my childish croon  
Give me, give me the shining moon.

(II)

Well days flew past and I grew in years  
With wisdom by my side.

And I put away my childish tears  
And felt a full man's pride.

But ah; I learned for all too soon  
That I oft sigh for a shining moon.

(III)

Sometimes my dreams seemed near fulfilled  
And I felt success at hand.

And foretasted joy my young heart filled  
But hopes are like shifting sand.

Then my Mother's voice came back. Aroon  
You cannot have that shining moon.

(IV)

But these reverses wisdom taught  
Tho' the lesson oft; proved hard.

For I learned along with deeds was bought  
Life's humble small reward.

So henceforth from luck I'll ask no boon  
And I'll cease to cry for a shining moon.

*This is from Brian's 'Collected Poems*

# Cattle

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



9A



9B

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

#### ***Breed 8A***

The Normande is a breed of dairy cattle from the Normandy region of north-west France. It is raised principally for its milk, which is high in fat and suitable for making butter and cheese, but also for its meat, which is marbled and good-flavoured

#### ***Breed 8B***

The Parthenaise is a French cattle breed. It is named for the town of Parthenay in the département of Deux-Sèvres, in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region of western France. It was formerly a triple-purpose breed, raised for milk, meat and draught work, but is now raised mainly for beef.

## Flora and Fauna

*This evocative autumnal image was captured by Karen Carty*



## Royal Tara Golf Club

This eminent golf club was founded in 1906 and started life as Navan Golf Club, changing to it's current name at the time of it's expansion from 9 to 18 holes in the nineteen sixty's. If anyone has any old photos or tall tales concerning the club we would love to publish them in this newsletter

In the meantime, can anyone identify the people in this group of photos?



Spooky Halloween  
SCIENCE CAMPS



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# Skryne Toddler & Baby Group



Each Wednesday from 9.30 - 11.30am  
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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'



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Every Saturday at the RST Centre from 12-3pm

All ages catered for

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For further information please contact Caren on 0879081381  
or Kate on 0872937913





# 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  
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3:30 Skyrne RST

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Much love,



HJ & LG



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**Services include, but are not limited to the following;**

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## **Local Handy Man Available**

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**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*

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## 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 17th October 2020

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