



A rare Acacia soaking up the sunshine last week near Royal Tara Golf Club taken by Norbert Coyle

Condolences

Our sincere sympathy goes to

Ann McManus, Colvinstown on the death of her sister Imelda

May she rest in peace

Active First Responders – Community Support

We are available for community support during the increased restrictions. We are happy to help out with light shopping, post collection or drops and medication collection. Please don't hesitate to contact our support number on 0868853713 from 9am to 5pm. Areas covered are Rathfeigh/Skryne/Tara, Dunshaughlin and Kiltale/Moynalvey.

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*

Hillview Nursing Home

All in Hillview would like to thank those in the local community for their continued support, phone calls, letters, dropping in treats for the residents and staff, we are all keeping well and working hard to keep everyone safe

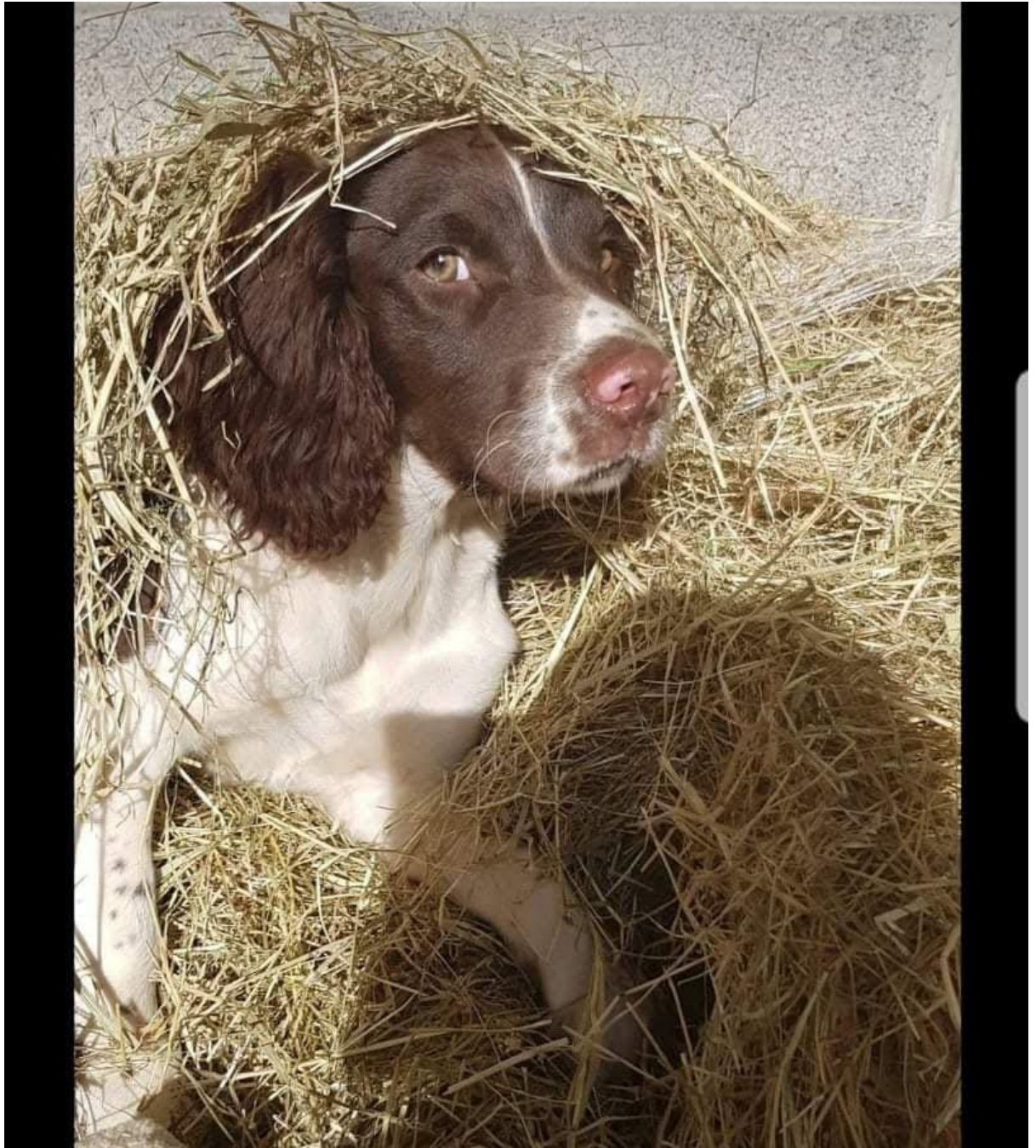
Tom, Joe, John and Eamon practicing their basketball skills in Hillview



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 24th 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 – Mens Fixtures and Results

Premier Football Championship. Division 5 Final 4/10/2020 **Syddan 2-13, Skryne 2-11.**

Skryne's third team never got going in yesterday's final in Pairc Tailteann as Syddan outgunned them for most of the game, only letting Skryne back into it in the final quarter.

Conditions were perfect in Pairc Tailteann with the pitch looking superb as always. The Covid restrictions were in place and so a crowd of 200 were able to attend hoping for an epic battle between the men from Syddan in their famous green and gold striped jerseys and Skryne in their equally famous royal blue strip.

Skryne started without midfielder Kevin Reilly (who did come in just before half-time) who had been struggling with an injury all week. His midfield partner Alex Grendon did start but he too was carrying a niggling back injury. Regular full-back Tomás McKeown lined out at midfield while corner back Conor Whelan took up the full-back role with Paul Clarke coming into the starting lineup at corner back.

With all the enforced switches, coupled with early nerves, Skryne struggled to get out of the blocks and with Gary Farrelly of Syddan in scintillating form, Syddan had racked up a 6 point lead when the referee blew for the first half water break with Syddan leading by 0-07 to 0-01, with Farrelly accounting for 5 of these points (3 frees). Shane Carpenter, who caused problems for the Skryne rearguard all day, hit a fine point from the left hand side near the sideline and Ben Blakemore tapped over after James Farrelly fielded a high ball in the Skryne penalty area before laying off to Blakemore who could have taken a shot at goal but settled for a point. Skryne's only point of the quarter came from a free from Felim O'Rourke on the 40 after Ciaran Finnerty was bundled over while trying to break forward.

Skryne had a bright opening in the second quarter with Felim O'Rourke hitting his second of the game, this time from play when he hoisted over a long range point from the right hand side. Skryne Manager David Harrington brought on one of his young guns, David Rathbourne and he was to make an immediate impact when he struck a fine low shot from the 21 yard line, that left the keeper with no chance as it rattled the back of the Syddan net. Skryne were back in the game with only 2 points now separating the sides. However, they didn't capitalise on this momentum and it was Syddan who struck next, first a point from Eoin Lynch Duff, before Shane Carpenter ran at the Skryne defence from the left hand side before unleashing an unstoppable shot to the roof of the Skryne net. Darren Smith added the final point of the half for Syddan with a tapover from inside the Skryne penalty area. Half-time score: Syddan 1-09, Skryne 1-02.

Shane Carpenter opened the second half scoring for Syddan with his second point of the game. Skryne hit back with Felim O'Rourke adding another free, before Seán Keogh burst forward and struck a fine point on the run. Skryne had an excellent goal chance saved by the Syddan keeper when David Rathbourne, Aidan Gill and Brian Smyth combined before Smyth's shot from the ground was parried away for a 45 by Ciarán Farrelly in the Syddan goal. Felim O'Rourke added another free for Skryne, but Eoin Lynch Duff added a brace of points as Syddan continued to keep Skryne at arms length. Another pointed free from Felim O'Rourke left a 6 point gap as the game paused for the second half water break.

The fourth quarter was Skryne's best as they fought hard to try and overhaul the Syddan men. Syddan opened the scoring with Shane Carpenter converting a free. Skryne then hit 3 points without a reply, Felim O'Rourke with a brace and Ciarán Finnerty adding another when he struck a fine effort from the left hand side. The deficit was down to 4 points but disaster struck as the game moved towards the half hour mark when a Syddan goal bound shot was blocked by the Skryne defence, but that man Shane Carpenter was on hand to finish the rebound to the net with a soccer style shot low to the bottom corner of the net. Skryne did reply with a goal of their own when Tomás Mc Keown palmed in from close range after Skryne had lofted a ball into the Syddan penalty area. Felim O'Rourke added 2 more

pointed frees as Skryne reduced the deficit to 2 points, but it was too little, too late as the Syddan men ran out deserved victors on a scoreline of 2-13 to 2-11.

Hard luck to the Skryne lads. However, both of Skryne's reserve teams made it to finals this year and that has got to be a positive sign, along with the fact that Skryne are able to field 3 adult teams who all played at a high level.

Hopefully next year we will be able to bag a trophy!

Well done to the lads from Syddan who were worthy winners on the day and were the first team to lift the trophy named after former Skryne and Meath legend Micheál O'Brien.

Skryne – Gary Browne; Paddy O'Leary, Conor Whelan, Paul Clarke; Paul McGoldrick, Ciarán Finnerty(0-1), Liam Gill; Tomás McKeown(1-0), Alex Grendon; Jack O' Donnell, Felim O'Rourke(0-9, 7 frees), Seán Cassidy; Aidan Gill, Brian Smyth, Martin Mulvany.

Subs used: David Rathbourne(1-0), Seán Keogh(0-1), Kevin Reilly, Niall Morland, Allan Carty

Syddan – Ciarán Farrelly; Anthony Smith, Tommy Meade, Cathal Duff; Peter Sheehy, Andrew White, Michael Sweeney; Robbie Farrelly, Gary McManus; Eoin Lynch Duff(0-3), Shane Carpenter (2-03, 1f), Jodi Donoghue; Ben Blakemore(0-1), James Farrelly, Gary Farrelly(0-5, 3fs).

Subs used: Darren Smith(0-1), Conor Meade, Dominic Carry

GAA – Ladies Fixtures and Results

U16 Girls Div 1 Champions

Congratulations to a brilliant group of girls who started the preparations last December for this competition with strength and conditioning training 2 nights a week in the gym and training on the Hill of Tara on a Sunday morning.

The competition was due to start last March but was postponed due to Covid19. The first round was played away to Walterstown on a score line of Skryne 4:09 Walterstown 2:03. Next up was at home to Dunshauglin winning with a final score Skryne 7:15 Dunshauglin 2:08. They then faced Trim in the semi-final winning Skryne 4:15 Trim 2:01.

That left the girls in the final against their near neighbours Seneschalstown in Seneschalstown on Sunday 4th October at 5pm. Skryne got off to a flying start with a goal after 5 minutes. That helped settle some of the nerves. Seneschalstown enjoyed loads of possession up to the first water break. After that the Skryne defence really got to terms with the Seneschalstown attack and our forwards began to score. By half time Skryne lead 2:05 Seneschalstown 2:02.

The second half began with both defence being on top. Midway through the half Seneschalstown got a lucky goal to reduce the score difference to just 4 points. However, only 2 minutes later, after a super move up the field Skryne had the ball in the back of the Seneschalstown net. Skryne up by 7 again. They went on to win on a final score line Skryne 4:08 Seneschalstown 1:08. The two Ciaras lifted the cup.

This group of girls did their club and parish proud. It was a privilege to work and coach these girls over the last 5 years. From the management team of Terrie Cahill, Elizabeth Morland, Madonna Purcell, Brenda Govern, Ollie McLoughlin and Declan Smyth. Thanks for the memories girls.





Back Row: Grainne Hanley, Destiny Carty, Aoife Mcloughlin, Niamh Cahill, Aisling O'Connor, Samantha Clarke, Ava Purcell, Lisa Browne, Caoimhe Govern, Naoise Smyth
Front Row: Aine Moss, Laura Mangan, Emma Loftus, Steffi Finnegan, Caragh Conway, Ciara Cowley, Ciara Smyth, Ellie Murphy, Sasha Guirey, Rosin McManus

LADIES // UNDER 14

LGFA U14 Football Championship. Division 3 – Final. Skryne overcome St. Ultans to claim dramatic victory!!

Skryne 5-08 St. Ultans 4-09

The Covid 19 restrictions prevented many supporters from witnessing what will surely go down as one of the classic finals. The word 'surrender' clearly doesn't exist in the Skryne or St. Ultans U14 girl's vocabularies. Skryne lead by a 7 point margin at one point during the second half and all looked to be lost for the St. Ultan's girls, but they managed to reduce the deficit to four points as the game broke for the second half water break. A last quarter push saw the the Ultans hit 2-03 to 1-01 for Skryne to see them snatch the lead with a minute of normal time remaining. It was now Skryne's turn to display their battling qualities and this they did when they launched an attack in search of an equaliser. The ball was contested inside the St.Ultan's penalty area and an Ultan's girl who was was under pressure from the Skryne attackers, grabbed the ball while she was on the ground and the referee had no choice but to award a penalty to Skryne. Megan Cowley stepped up to take what was her second spot-kick of the game. Cool as a cucumber, Megan slammed the ball into the top right corner of the net to put Skryne 2 points ahead. The Ultans had no time to respond and the sound of the final whistle sparked wild celebrations among the Skryne girls and supporters alike who finally got their hands on the trophy they deserved.

Skryne had played the Ultans earlier in the Championship campaign in the last group game on a wet evening in Cortown and came away with a single point victory. The Ultans were determined to reverse this result in the final in Skryne. However, Skryne had extra firepower available to them in the final as player of the match Kate Gibbons made a welcome return to the Skryne team after returning from a leg break that looked set to have ruled her out for the

whole campaign. However, this girl cannot be kept down and even with a leg cast on, she would probably have attempted to play in this final. She gave her Dad James, who arrived at the match with a big blue and white flag in tow, seven reasons to wave the flag when she notched up a personal tally of 1-06, the goal a spectacular effort after she soloed around 30 metres from the right hand side before unleashing an unstoppable shot over the Ultans keeper into the far corner of the net.

Skryne showed some early nerves in this game and it was the Ultans who got off to the better start opening the scoring with 2 early points. Kate Gibbons hit her first score of the game when Shauna Hogan broke up an Ultans attack and sent the ball down to Sara Pentony who passed inside to Kate who made no mistake with a simple tapover. Ultans added another point to lead by 0-03 to 0-01 as the game paused for the first half water break.

Ultans stretched their lead with another point after the resumption. A Kate Gibbons free kept Skryne in touch. This was not a game for the faint hearted and Skryne were battling hard all over the pitch with Laura Mangan, Beth Shanley, Aisling O'Connor, Katie Purcell, Síne Smyth, Aoife McLoughlin and Shauna Hogan in the thick of things. Ultans added a fifth point with 20 minutes on the clock, but Skryne took over for the remainder of the half hitting 3 points on the trot (2 points from Kate Gibbons and one from Megan Cowley) before the half time whistle blew. Half-time: Skryne 0-05, St. Ultans 0-05.

The third quarter was somewhat of goalfest as the 2 teams hit five goals between them, Skryne with 3 while the Ultans had 2. Kate Gibbons got the scoreboard moving with an early pointed free. Áine Keogh hit the back of the net for Skryne a minute later as Skryne began to turn the screw. With only 4 minutes gone in the half Megan Cowley fetched a ball in the Ultans penalty area and was dragged down as she turned to take a shot. The referee blew the whistle to award a penalty and Cowley stepped up to strike the ball into the top corner of the net to put 7 points between the teams. Ultans reply was almost instantaneous as they launched an attack down the field. The Ultans forward ran across the edge of the penalty area before hitting a lovely shot into the bottom left corner of the net. Caoimhe Giles struck a point for Skryne as the game swung from end to end. Ultans hit another goal and a point and also forced a brilliant point blank save from Skryne keeper Katie Keane as they reduced the deficit to a single point. However, it was that girl Megan Cowley again who struck her second goal of the match just before the referee paused the game for the water break. Skryne 3-07, St. Ultans 2-06.

The last quarter as mentioned above was full of excitement. The full back line of captain Rebecca Clarke, Destiny Carty and Emily Kelly were put under severe pressure by the marauding Ultan's forward line, but they stood up to the test superbly. Carty plucked one ball out of the sky that John McDermott in his heyday would have been proud of, while Clarke and Kelly worked tirelessly throughout to snuff out attacks from the dangerous Ultans forward line. Final score: Skryne 5-08, St. Ultans 4-09.

Skryne had contested 6 finals since the return of football after the lockdown and this was the first victory. This was particularly sweet for this team who were on the receiving end of a defeat in last year's final in Dunganny. The win was also a welcome boost to the U14 Division 8 team who had been training with their Division 3 counterparts all year and after their earlier defeat in their final, it was nice to see them all smiling again. A special mention to Manager Teresa Mangan who couldn't contain her joy after this victory. Teresa has worked tirelessly with both U14 teams throughout the year and deserves huge credit for the improvement in both teams who have excelled under her tutelage.

Well done to all the girls on a fine victory!!!

Team: Katie Keane; Rebecca Clarke, Destiny Carty, Emily Kelly; Katie Purcell, Síne Smyth, Shauna Hogan; Beth Shanley, Aisling O'Connor; Laura Mangan, Aoife McLoughlin, Caoimhe Giles(0-1); Sara Pentony, Megan Cowley (3-01, 2 pens), Kate Gibbons (1-06, 2fs), Áine Keogh(1-00).



LGFA U14 Football Championship. Division 8 – Final. Skryne fall at the last hurdle!

Navan O'Mahonys 6-10 Skryne 1-02

Scorelines tend to give a fairly accurate picture of how a game pans out and who was the superior team on the day and it would be absolutely fair to say that O'Mahonys were the best team on the day in yesterday's Division 8 final and they deserved their victory. They were bigger and stronger than our girls and their strength was the difference between the teams.

However, this final was just the bookend for what was a fantastic year for this bunch of girls and while it would have been nice to bring home a piece of silverware, these girls had already won in the eyes of the Manager, Coaches and the parents who followed their journey throughout the season. With 6 under 12s on the team and most of the rest still 13, their achievements this year have been nothing short of spectacular in a championship where they faced teams mainly made up of 14 year old girls. The girls were drawn in a strong group with Navan sides O'Mahonys and Simonstown Gaels. An opening round win against today's opponents O'Mahonys was a huge boost of confidence to the girls who realised that day that they were capable of going toe to toe with the stronger Navan teams. The next group game against Simonstown saw the girls lose narrowly by a single point. Skryne had to play Simonstown again to decide who would advance to the semi-final as group winners. The girls produced a fantastic performance in Simonstown to reverse the result of the last group game in spectacular style with a 10 point victory over the North Navan side. The semi-final against neighbours Walterstown saw Skryne cruise into the final with another excellent display of fast free flowing football.

The final was on home turf for O'Mahonys and they were in a determined mood with the memory of the opening round defeat giving them an extra pep in their step as they sought to exact revenge on the Skryne girls. Right from the off they hit Skryne with everything they had. Skryne played with the wind and the hill in the opening half. O'Mahonys hit a goal on the 11th minute to open the scoring and followed this with a point. Megan O'Brien got a hand to a long range shot from Rachel O'Dowd to deflect the ball past the O'Mahonys keeper for Skryne's opening score. O'Mahonys added another point after the water break before Skryne hit 2 points in a row to level matters with Liz Fitzpatrick and Rachel O'Dowd both getting their names on the scoresheet. 2 more quickfire points from O'Mahonys just before half-time saw them lead by 2 at the break. Half-time score Navan O'Mahonys 1-04, Skryne 1-02.

The second half was all one way traffic with O'Mahonys making the most of the wind advantage as they powered to victory. The defence faced wave after wave of Navan attacks but Hannah Clarke, Ailbhe Lynch, Isabella Reuter, Róisín Reeves and Isabella Meharg put in a terrific shift to try and stem the flow, but as tiredness set in the O'Mahonys found it easier to get their scores. The Navan side had added 3-04 to their tally without a reply as the game broke for the second half water break.

The water break was an emotional one for Skryne as the team recognised that the game was slipping from their grasp. The despair shown by these girls during that water break was a testament to the team spirit and camaraderie that they have fostered in this group.

The last quarter was much brighter from Skryne as they pushed forward in search of scores. Unfortunately, with the team pushing forward, Skryne were now getting caught by counter attacks from O'Mahonys who added another 2-02 before the final whistle blew and condemned the girls to a disappointing defeat.

The girls may have lost this battle, but they will return stronger than ever. Many of the girls will start training next Tuesday as the U13 season gets underway. No doubt these girls will be fighting for trophies again in the very near future.

Click [here](#) to view photos from the match courtesy of Carol Pentony.

Team: Meabh Lynch; Claire Cassidy Hannah Clarke; Isabella Reuter, Róisín Reeves, Ailbhe Lynch; Megan O'Brien(1-0), Ellie Kate McDonnell; Lauren Meharg, Ellen Hogan, Rachel O'Dowd(0-01); Grace Hollywood, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick(0-1). Isabella Meharg, Emma Dardis, Cara Mahon, Harriet Hayes.



Skryne National School from Martin Kennedy

If John Lennon was still alive he would have celebrated his 80th. birthday this past week. Couldn't let the occasion pass without drawing on a little wisdom of his from his short life. He once said " We,ve got to keep hope alive because without it we'll sink."

At the time of writing of this piece there is an air of uncertainty about what the next few weeks holds for all of us in relation to Government response to Covid-19. We might have just a little of that sinking feeling. Stories are being circulated about possible escalation to higher levels of restrictions than those currently in place. It is the uncertainty that causes confusion and anxiety. I have to admit that at school this afternoon (Fri.), I did consider sending home all the school books with the children - just in case we were suddenly moved to Level 5 and school closures. ("Sinking feeling") Ringing in the back of my mind were the words of Minister Foley this morning as she insisted that closing schools would be a last resort and not a step to be taken lightly. ("A lifebuoy") I do hope she is reading the mood of her Cabinet colleagues correctly. We all want the children to be in school. It is the best place for them. I have been commenting recently on how content and happy they are to be back in routine, structure and with their friends again. There is a natural rhythm to the school day and it is good for everyone. It also facilitates parents who may have to work from home that their children are occupied at school and not causing distraction during the working day. So I hope the Minister is correct in her view and that we see the children spilling through the doors again next week. Like I said, it is what we all want.

There is no doubt that the situation has escalated quite significantly in the week gone by. Last Monday I was posting a statement declaring that we had no confirmed case in the school population. How quickly that changed. There are a number of confirmed cases now and people have been extremely proactive in dealing with the issue and informing us at the school. This cooperation is essential if we are to keep pace with the virus and try to minimise the spread. There is no doubt that the HSE services are stretched to breaking point and struggling to deal with the volume of testing required. Contact tracing is a time consuming exercise and not always as speedy as we would wish for it to be. Therefore I am requesting that any confirmed case be notified directly to the school so that we may inform and isolate "pod" members in the most timely manner. All calls will be treated with confidentiality. It will be down to individuals then to decide what to do, wait for HSE advice or seek private testing. My previous posting outlined the HSE chain of action. Given the pressures they are currently experiencing, they may need our help in trying to suppress the virus and limit its spread.

"Suppress" is in itself an interesting word. I have read dictionary definitions which credit it with the powers to "crush", "stamp out" and "overcome". Softer definitions offer "subdue" and "restrain" as alternate meanings. While the harder definitions are the ones we would like to apply it seems that the softer ones are more true to life in the current state of play. If we really want the harder versions to become a reality then it will take a mighty effort on behalf of all of us to make it happen. The small sacrifices we are asked to make for the coming weeks will not be easy. Nothing ever worth fighting for was ever easy. But it will take everyone to play their part. We will all miss the company of family and friends but we must

remember why we are doing it. It is *FOR* those very friends and family members. We want to keep them safe. It is a big payback.

Let's be mindful of those who feel the isolation more than others. A phone call can be a real lifeline at times like this. Don't put it off. If you can give nothing else to a neighbour or a friend then give them your time. It is more valuable than you imagine. Mind yourselves - and each other.

A quick word of appreciation to all the considerate parents/guardians who have been keeping children out of school as a precautionary measure when they are showing signs of being unwell. It is the correct course of action and we thank you for it. Your caution will help to keep us all safe and well.

Should the plug be pulled on children coming to school then we will make arrangements for school books and materials to be collected from the classrooms. They are already in boxes and it should not be a major job to be able to distribute them. It would certainly make school work at home more manageable - but please God it won't come to that.

The week leading up to Halloween is always filled with excitement in the school as children prepare costumes ahead of the Isobel Cup Fancy Dress Parade. The school year just wouldn't be the same without it. We have witnessed some incredible creations over the years and the creativity involved is always remarkable.

However we cannot have the same format this year. Crowds gathering in the Fr. Gleeson Hall is a non runner for a start. We were in a bit of a pickle until one genius in Rang 3 came up with this brilliant idea. Mr. Wall suggested that we take each class to the hall in turn, video their parade and then relay the recording to the other classrooms over the interactive screens. He's a gem that lad! So that's the plan. Costumes will obviously have to be toned down considerably. No big constructions this year! The child must be able to come dressed in their costume and be able to sit at their table for the day. Not ideal, but better than no parade at all. We will make it work. We will also facilitate ALL children going home at the earlier times of 13:20 -13:30 and 13:30-13:40 respectively. No change for Infant Classes. Siblings may also be collected at this time.

Back to John Lennon before we finish. Let's swap the "Yellow" of Covid for the "Yellow Submarine."

"Everything will be OK in the end. If it's not OK then it's not the end".

Who Were The Molly Maguires? by Maurice Daly

*“Make way for the Molly Maguires,
They’re drinkers, they’re liars but they’re men,
Make way for the Molly Maguires,
You’ll never see the likes of them again.”*

These lines are taken from a well-known folk-song made famous by the Dubliners and others. **But who were the Molly Maguires?** The Mollies, as they were also known, had their origin in Ireland roughly between 1760 and 1850, where as a secret society, they and other groups like the Whiteboys and Ribbonmen, were engaged in agrarian violence against landlords and/or their agents with the control of land as the chief cause of conflict.

The Famine led to thousands fleeing Ireland and sailing to America. The Irish got a very bad reception in their new homeland and were often placed at the lowest level of society. They were often “welcomed” with such signs as: **“No Irish need apply!”** Thousands of Irish speaking, non-skilled and mostly illiterate Irish were attracted to Pennsylvania (PA) to work in the **anthracite coal mines**. Conditions in the mines were atrocious and the mine owners did little to improve things. Coal mining was dangerous and badly paid. In one mining district where there were 22,000 plus miners, 6,000 were children, some as young as 6 years! The owners of the mines were mostly Welsh, English or German and from the outset, were seen by the Irish as perpetrators of injustice, thus causing friction between miners and management.

The so called **“company store”** was another grievance among the miners as workers had to buy their food and supplies from a store owned by the mine at hugely inflated prices. Regularly the miners would end up owing the company store more than their wages as they had run up a tab and were not allowed to check the ledger. Another song **“16 Tons”** refers to this:

*“Some people say a man is made outta mud
A poor man's made outta muscle and blood
Muscle and blood and skin and bones
A mind that's a-weak and a back that's strong
You load sixteen tons, what do you get?
Another day older and deeper in debt
Saint Peter don't you call me 'cause I can't go
I owe my soul to the company store.”*

Though there were deep rooted ethnic and sectarian rivalries among the miners, especially between the mostly Methodist Welsh and the Catholic Irish, nevertheless the miners organised themselves into a union, the **Workmen’s Benevolent Association (WBA)**. All miners regardless of craft status, national origin or religious background were eligible to join the WBA. During a very bad economic depression in the US in 1873, the mine bosses attacked the wages and conditions of the miners by lowering the pay rates by up to 20%.

This led to a long **seven month strike** which ultimately failed and the miners returned to work on the new pay rates. The union badly suffered. **The families of the miners starved.** As the grievances increased so did the Molly Maguire retaliation when some Irish American miners turned to the tactics that had been used in Ireland against landlords and their agents. A number of mine officials were murdered, there were incidences of industrial sabotage and beatings and anonymous threats were carried out on people seen as hostile to the Irish. From this time Molly Maguire society became more prominent and notorious in Pennsylvania.

What was the origin of the name “Molly Maguire?” From folklore, we have a number of interesting versions. One is that an old woman called Molly Maguire had been evicted in Longford and local peasants had banded together to avenge her misfortune. Another version tells us that Molly Maguire was the owner of a “Shebeen” where the secret society met to plan activities. A third story is that Molly Maguire was a fierce young pistol carrying woman who led men through the country on their nocturnal raids. However the most plausible explanation of the name “Molly Maguire,” according to historian Kevin Kenny is that the men who engaged in violence disguised themselves as women. There is some speculation about the places of origin of the Molly Maguires and while it’s difficult to pinpoint location exactly without contemporary evidence, Counties Monaghan, Cavan, and Donegal in Ulster along with Leitrim, Mayo and Roscommon in Connacht are mentioned in “Letters on the Conditions of the People” by Thomas Campbell Foster, who toured Ireland in 1845. The Mollies as they were called were a thorn in the side of industrialist **Franklin B.Gowen**, the President of both the Philadelphia Railroad Company and the Philadelphia Coal Company. He regarded the Mollies as agitators and was determined to crush them. He summoned a meeting of mine owners from where it was decided that the Mollies would have to be infiltrated and intelligence gathered. An Irishman was required. **James McParlan**, a native of Armagh, volunteered. McParlan was a private detective working for Major Allan Pinkerton’s Detective Agency, originally from Scotland.

Within a short time, McParlan successfully ingratiated himself with the Molly Maguires and even became secretary of a local Ancient Order of Hibernian (AOH) lodge and sent back reports to the Detective Agency. McParlan “posed as a dandy” called James McKenna and claimed to have killed a man in Buffalo, New York. This impressed the Mollies who were taken in by their new “friend.” He was also **a natural entertainer** and was soon a member of the AOH, which in PA meant also being a member of the Molly Maguires. He socialised in saloons and sang Molly Maguire songs with the people he was about to betray. The following verse refers to a Mr Bell, a magistrate and justice of the peace in Cavan who was murdered in 1845:

*“Said Mollie to her darling sons, What tyrant shall we tumble?
That filthy tribe, we can’t abide, they rob both meek and humble,
There is one Bell, a child of hell, an’ a magistrate in station,
Let lots be drew an’ see which of you will tumble him to damnation!”*

McParlan met “the King of the Mollies”, **John Kehoe** from Wicklow and James “Powder Keg” Kerrigan. Kerrigan had participated in a number of Molly Maguire murders but when arrested squealed and saved himself from the hangman.

McParlan could read and write – unlike the majority of Molly Maguires– and as their secretary, he held a position that facilitated taking notes without arousing suspicion. Violence continued and the frequency of murders stirred anti-Irish sentiment among the British miners. McParlan kept passing information to his superiors and to the Coal & Iron Police (A private police force). Vigilantes were also tapping into the information he was passing on and a number of innocent people were murdered. With this, the Mollies began to suspect that there was an informer in their ranks. How right they were!

The Coal & Iron Police took action and arrested 20 Molly Maguires including John Kehoe. The trials began in 1876, and the star witness for the prosecution was James McParlan, with Franklin Gowen as the chief prosecutor. The trials were described as “not glorious events in the history of the US judicial system.” **No Catholics were permitted to sit on the jury but a number of Germans who had little or no English were allowed.** During the trial, McParlan revealed who he really was much to the chagrin and devastation of his friends who trusted him. The Molly Maguires were badly exposed during the trials as a result of which, support for them fell away, labour leaders shunned them and they were denounced from the pulpits.

Twenty men were convicted and hanged, many on the basis of “very dubious evidence,” having been arrested by a private police force and prosecuted by private attorneys.

To some Irish-Americans, the Molly Maguires epitomised a bigoted system that was prejudiced against immigrants and Catholics, especially Irish; to others, the Mollies represented a legacy of “the old country” they wanted to escape from. Two different worlds overlapped – impoverished rural Ireland and industrialised Pennsylvania. Since their execution and in more recent times, opinion has changed somewhat due to revised thinking on how to judge the Molly Maguires and **in 1979, a posthumous pardon was granted to John Kehoe**, “reflecting the judgement of many historians that the trials and executions were part of a repression against the fledgling mineworkers’ union of that historic period.” Kenny 1998.

Conditions for miners were slow to improve and it was not until the United Mine Workers of America was founded in 1890 that an eight hour shift was introduced; children under 14 could no longer work in the mines and workers no longer had to buy from the company store.

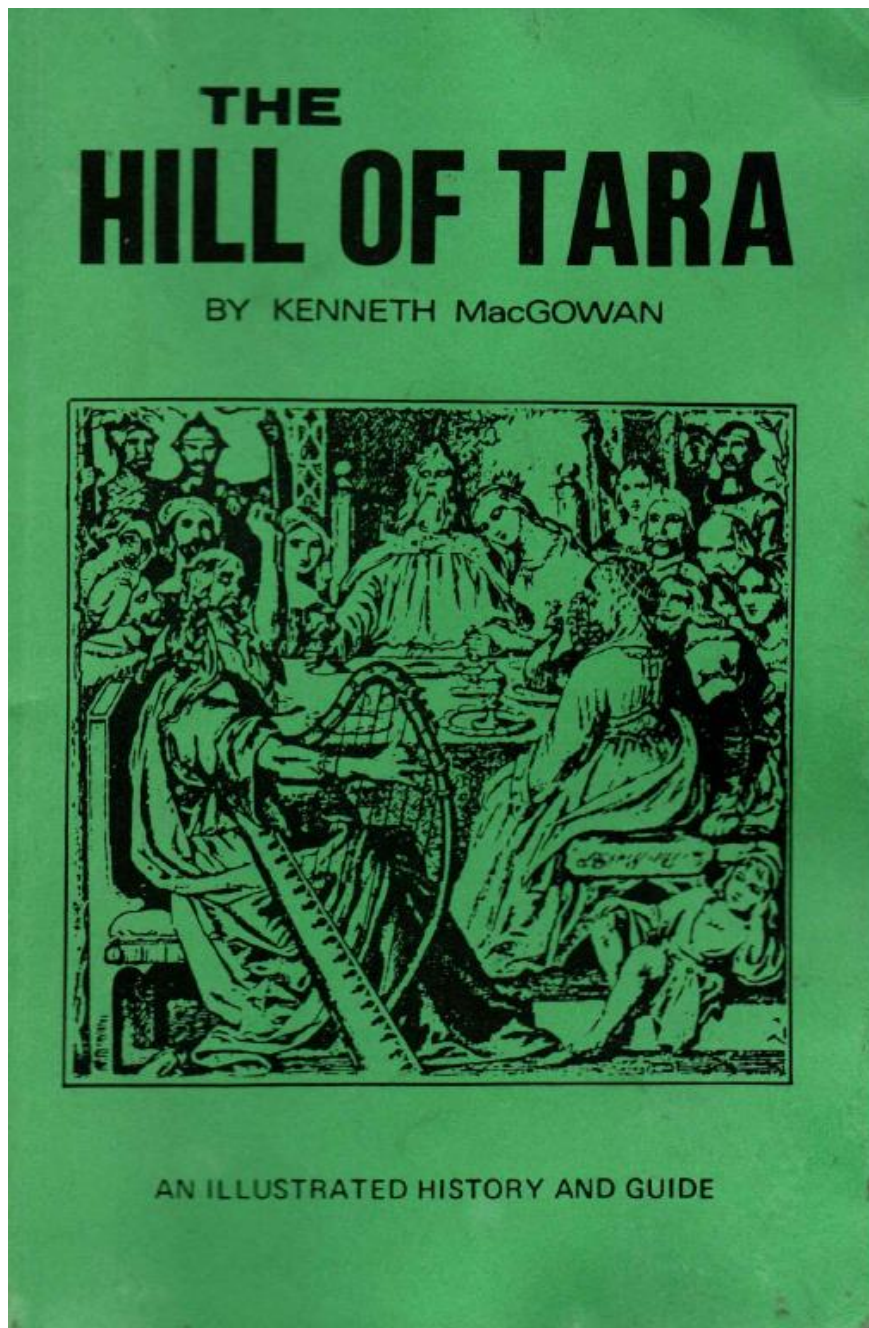
P.S. In 1970 a movie called “The Molly Maguires” was made starring Sean Connery who plays John Kehoe and Richard Harris plays undercover detective James McParlan.

Maurice Daly

The Hill of Tara

How much do we all know about this icon of Irish history that sits on our doorstep?

As a starting point we are going to serialise 'The Hill of Tara' which was written by Kenneth MacGowan in 1979. Each issue will have an article on either the Banqueting Hall or The Rath of the Synods or The Lia Fail etc. We would welcome any additional information that people might be willing to share with us that would contribute to our communal understanding of this historic landmark.



THE HILL OF TARA

By

KENNETH MacGOWAN

There are few royal residences with a history like that which made Tara famous throughout Europe and once brought it recognition as the cultural and political capital of Ireland. Its supreme attraction lies in its antiquity which dates back thousands of years.

While the actual time of its foundation has never been determined various dates have been mentioned by different historians. One ventures to suggest that it may have been established as long ago as 3,500 B.C. but the general concensus of opinion indicates it to be of more recent era, probably the Bronze Age.

It is generally accepted that Tara was founded by Tea, wife of Eremon, King of Spain. The name Tara is derived from her name or rather her burial place. She wished to have her own tomb and so when she died she was laid to rest in a spot close to the Rath of the Kings. Her tomb was named Tea-Mur or the House of Tara. Gradually it became known as Temair which in turn was modified to Tara.

Some idea of the importance of Tara can be derived from the fact that 42 kings reigned here and long before the first Roman camped on the banks of the Tiber or building commenced on the bare rock of the Athenian Acropolis a civilisation flourished and prospered at Tara.

The scene from the summit is indeed wonderful and from a height of some 500 feet above the rich pasture lands of Co. Meath, commands an overall view of the surrounding countryside including eleven important landmarks throughout the neighbouring counties.

In no other spot on European soil do records stretch back into the twilight of bygone years as to compare with those of Tara. Yet when one gazes on the grassy mounds scattered about the hill it is hard to believe that such a place fulfilled the palatial role recorded in these pages.

Ancient poets referred to Tara as "the fair, radiant, City of the Western World". Once it was truly a city, the home of thousands of people; but a thousand years ago a Gaelic poet felt justified in writing of it:

"World of perishable beauty!
Tara today, though a wilderness,
Was once the great meeting place of heroes.
Great was the host to which it was an inheritance,
Though today green grassy land."

Descriptions of Tara outlined in ancient Gaelic writings have been confirmed in a most remarkable manner during research by archaeologists and historians. Dr. Petrie, one of the most learned scientific researchers of antiquities compiled his great work entitled *The Antiquities of Tara Hill*.

In conjunction with the great Gaelic scholar John O'Donovan, Petrie translated every known piece of verse or prose in old Irish manuscripts and compared every reference they could find with the existing remains on the hill. Their conclusions tallied about the splendour and extent of Tara in pre-Christian times.

Many writers have endeavoured to evaluate Tara at the

peak of its glory. One called it the 'Hill of Supremacy' for in those days he who ruled Tara also ruled Ireland. Yet, like many another stronghold of power Tara was destined to last for a limited time.

The birth of Christ brought the dawn of Christianity. Providence had decreed that in a matter of time this new and everlasting religion would spread throughout the world. For Tara the years of glory and triumph were numbered but few could have foretold its doom some five centuries later.

The coming of Christianity to Europe began a new era for the western world. It was only a matter of time until missionaries would come to convert Ireland to Christianity. During this period, an important part in the development of Tara was played by Cormac MacArt who reigned in the third century, A.D. In the course of his forty years kingship he established schools of literature, metal-work and military training.

However, his work came to an abrupt end when he received face wounds during a skirmish. Lest he should become the victim of a spell, which forbade anyone physically blemished from ruling, he retired and gave control to his son Cairbre.

Cormac died at the age of ninety, the victim of a druid's evil wish. He was choked by a salmon bone because he had reasoned that there was a God and was bold enough to proclaim that soon Ireland would come to know of His existence.

Little more than a century passed before his claim became a reality. For, in 433, St. Patrick's historic meeting with the High King, Laoghaire, took place. The Paschal fire spread quickly throughout the land and the glory of Tara began to diminish.

Royal Tara, once the seat of the High Kings of Ireland, still conceals many of its great secrets. Yet it was within a few miles of this hill that St. Patrick began his task of converting Ireland to Christianity and thus brought about the decline of Tara and the many festivities for which it had become famous.

Christianity spread and with the death of Diarmuid Mac Cearbhall in the mid-sixth century the Tara Feis came to an end. Gradually the hill became abandoned and the buildings began to crumble into ruin.

The title, King of Tara, would no longer be given to Kings throughout the land and a monk's prophecy "The city of Tara shall first be inhabited many hundred years, and thereafter remain without a dweller" came true.

There is a legend that Tara became deserted because its King had been cursed for slaying an outlaw who had been refused sanctuary. Its doom is said to have been foretold by St. Ruadhan, a sixth century Abbot and Bishop whose anger was aroused because the High King, Diarmuid, had violated the law of sanctuary and put to death a robber who claimed protection.

In the ninth century the famous ecclesiastic Cormac MacCullenan, Archbishop of Cashel, referred to Tara as "a place which commands a prospect". The plain surrounding it became known in Irish literature as Mag Breg — the Plain of Hills.

Today Tara is much of a mystery and there is little visible evidence to denote the buildings which made it so famous. Only the contours of ground remain to enable experts to decide the positions of the different structures.

Memories from Eoin Hickey

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

The Road by Oberstown through Corbalton to Trevet and Ratoath

This morning we've gathered again at Halligan's. As we wait for the pony to be tackled up it's an opportunity for me to tell you a little about Mr Charles.

Mr Charles lived alone but had a housekeeper, Bridge Hynes, a lovely woman – I don't know how she put up with him! I remember as a very small boy visiting with my mother and sitting in the very old kitchen in front of a wide, black range. He sent me across the road for a message; he gave me a ten shilling note, my eyes just reached above the counter as I asked for a Baby Powder. "A Baby Powder?" Mr Monaghan, the barman, said. "Who's it for?" he asked. "For Mr Charles", I replied – he handed me a small golden bottle, a Baby Power (Powers' Whiskey).

In autumn, when perhaps fifty children were coming by Oberstown from school, they would stand outside Mr Charles's gate, chanting: "A few apples please, Mr Charles!" Mr Charles had a good orchard to the side of the house. Eventually he would appear out onto the road, unshaven, with a collarless shirt outside his braced trousers, to address the children. "Who made the world?" he would shout. "God made the world, Mr Charles," came the reply. "No! Who made the world?". "God made the world, Mr Charles," even louder. "No, who told you that?" "The teacher, Mr Charles." "No, you tell the teacher that Mr Charles made the world." "Yes, Mr Charles, a few apples please, Mr Charles."

Next was the ritual of "show us your tae-pot". "A few apples please Mr Charles." "Show us your tae-pot." Eventually some brave boy would step forward, lift the leg of his short pants, and show Mr Charles his *tae-pot*. That done, Mr Charles, whom I do believe was harmless, would invite three boys in to pick the apples, sometime later they would reappear with three buckets full, which he spilled out onto the road, to the delight of all the children.

Mr Charles knew his ponies; During the War he could go with a fast pony and trap from Oberstown to Dublin, via Ratoath and Cappagh in one hour. I think it takes the bus one hour today! Mr Monaghan, the barman in Halligans, was the bachelor brother of Eugene Monaghan, who farmed at Skryne, also coming with the Land Commission, originally from north Meath.

The weather is beautiful, no breeze and the sun is high in the sky. I've brought a pair of parasols which my Aunt Bryda recently brought from Japan. We leave Oberstown with both the pony and ourselves in high spirits, down to the bottom of the valley and a long pull up the

other side. At the top of the hill on the right stands a two-storey brick house. This was home to the Malin family, Mr and Mrs Malin, the former teachers at Skryne School and their two daughters, also teachers, as we've mentioned earlier.

Opposite is the farm gate to Corbalton Hall. Locals come here to buy vegetables from Mr Gormley, the head gardener. Next along the road are the main gates to Corbalton Hall, with white railings and a long avenue leading up to the house.

Rathfeigh National School from Seamus Tansley

€1000 Prize

We were delighted to hear that Skryne Gaelic Football Club had won €25,000 as part of a Kellogg's Cúl Camps Prize. We were even more delighted when Senan McGrath announced that Rathfeigh N.S. will be receiving €1000 from Skryne GFC to put towards sporting equipment and supplies. This will be invaluable for our school and we thank Skryne GFC for this generous gift. We look forward to hearing great ideas from the children, parents/guardians and teachers on how to best use this money. We have a proud tradition of sports in Rathfeigh for many, many years with the boys and girls always proud to wear the Green and White jerseys of Rathfeigh. The last few years have been very memorable for our teams and we'll always remember 2017 when the elusive double of winning the football and rounders' competitions was achieved by the boys. We always encourage participation in sports in Rathfeigh. The benefits of participating in sports is well documented but even more so in the current pandemic. Gaelic and rugby coaching continues during school on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Admissions Policy

Our Admissions Policy and Enrolment Form is on the school website. If you have a child starting school in September 2021 please download the form from our school website (rathfeighns.org) or contact Helen in the office. If you are undecided where to send your child please fill out the Enrolment Form anyway and send it in to the school. You can make a final decision before March 1st 2021. If you would like to find out more information about our school please contact the school at any time. We look forward to hearing from you.

Commitment and Co-operation

We came back after the summer holidays on August 26th. The time since then has surprisingly flown by. It has, however, been tough going at times. I must thank all our hard working staff for putting their shoulders to the wheel and getting on with the job in hand in very difficult circumstances. Our teachers, SNA, secretary, caretaker and cleaner have been working flat out to keep the show on the road and their dedication to their jobs in these difficult times has to be truly admired. Parents/guardians have been very supportive too and are taking all the necessary precautions to keep their children safe. We thank them for taking HSE advice and not sending their children to school if they are experiencing symptoms of Covid-19. The children deserve the most credit as they are adapting very well to the new normal and their resilience has to be admired. We wish everyone in the Rathfeigh and Skryne school communities a safe and happy school year.

Halloween Fancy Dress

Our annual Halloween Fancy Dress takes place this Friday October 23rd. Please encourage your child to come to school dressed up in the Halloween theme. The children always love this event and God knows they need the distraction at the present time. We will have a little treat for everyone who dresses up! It promises to be a spook-tacular day in school! Healthy lunches are optional. All children will be going home at 12 Noon for the mid-term break.

Pumpkin Competition

Our Pumpkin competition will be slightly different this year. The children will be designing their pumpkins at home as usual but will not be bringing them to school. So this year please upload a picture of your child with their pumpkin to the relevant class Edmodo by Thursday October 22nd. We will have the unenviable task of choosing a 1,2, 3 in each class. Best of luck everyone.

Credit Union Art Competition

The theme for this year's competition is "Imagine More". The children in 1st-6th class have been given the entry forms and A3 paper to take part in the competition. Please return the picture with the completed form by this Tuesday as we will be picking a 1,2,3 in each class before we send away all entries to the Credit Union on Friday 23rd October. We are really looking forward to a high standard of entries. The children in Juniors and Seniors will be taking part in a Halloween colouring competition. Good luck to all entrants.

Football/Rugby Coaching

Football and rugby coaching has been a real tonic for the children over the last few weeks and we'll be very disappointed that Damien and Kevin will be finishing up this week. They have always endeavored to have the sessions enjoyable and the children have responded very well to the coaches' enthusiasm. We look forward to seeing them back in Rathfeigh before the end of the school year.

Green Flag

We received our first Green Flag a number of weeks ago. This was achieved through a school community effort of collaboration and hard work last year. Everyone played their part in making our school greener. Our Green School committee in conjunction with all the children and parents/guardians worked extremely well in achieving the Green Flag. On Thursday we put up the flag on the flagpole. A big thanks to Caroline Collins for making the necessary adjustments to the flag to enable us to hang up the flag. Despite covid-19 we will be re-doubling our efforts to ensure our school will be greener than ever! Below are a few pictures of the children putting up the flag.

Laughter is the best medicine

The old saying "Laughter is the best medicine" is definitely true in the current crisis. We are confronted on a daily basis with Covid-19 statistics which can be overwhelming at times. Children make us smile on a daily basis and we really do need to smile and laugh more. So hopefully the next few lines might give you a smile (or not!).

I hate scrabble so much I can't put it into words!!!

If you're being chased by a group of taxidermists, don't play dead.



My Brother's Scribblings by Norbert Coyle

Subject: Re: Spanish scribbles in the searing sunshine....sigh....111016

"Will ya take a look at the eyelashes?" says my bride and guide and I eye the Ryanair hostess and sure enough....a gal not terribly tormented by nature's gifts but those lashes were something else....her eyelids go to the gym regularly in order to support those lil ole pixies....big ole pixies....they reminded me of those vast feathery thingies you see gals use in the Follies....when they're at the "now you see me now you don't" trickies.

The 3 seats in front are occupied by 3 folk from Poland...the young gal is at the window and the two guys...well you've worked that out already....

Both lads have closely cropped hair...you know the clip that shows every head scar they've ever had since childhood.

These lads must be mercenaries or in the French Foreign Legion or something as their pates have more scars than a war vet has medals.

The gal has long black hair and flicks it back "Miss Piggy" style more often than Prince Philip catches his cuffs on state occasions.

She's clearly romantically involved with the guy in the middle....I was going to saythe guy in Pole position ...but you've enough to put up with as it is.

The guy has only to lean in a few degrees and she's there gob extended like a scaldie hoping for a fresh worm....she does all the kissy bit and yer man more is more or less what might be known in business circles as a "sleeping partner"puts in no effort but is "Flicky" put off??.....she merely redoubles the effort.

What's yer man's secret??....if I knew I'd tell you.

I look up now and what's she at.....he has some kind of itchy thing behind his ear and even though he could easily indulge in some personalised scratching...she's scratching it for him with those long white nail extensions beloved of some "mudels".

You know those monkeys who indulge in grooming each other...that's it except that this is a one way street.

The minute we started to taxi and Begona.....no...not the flower....began to read out the vital safety announcements...."Flickie" decided she wanted to "go toilee" as the kids say.

A fairly big hostess gently ordered her back to her seat....she put on a lookFlickie...that would sour milk and used a bold word as she reseated herself.

Have you ever seen this heading in a newspaper.....?

" Boy was I glad I listened attentively to that safety drill announcement....I wouldn't be here today if I'd ignored it".

Because we're seated in the emergency rows the hostess is obliged to inform one of one's duties and tasks associated with occupying these comfy seats .

She looked long and purposefully at both of us and determined that we were both ...young ,fit and likely to tog out for the Juniors next Sunday.

She then said to my bride and guide....." shatamby vour luksquot ein verbin wooshaby ant crunchibits"

My bride retorted....."Roger....understood "and gave one of those halfhearted salutes one sees generals in John Wayne movies giving to lower minions.

We're now fully trained for all eventualities....

A gal was interviewed recently after a fairly vicious office fire....and what did you do Miss when you became aware of the flames said the reporter....well she said ...I could have stayed

behindread the safety notices and then worked out which extinguisher was for which type of fire..and proceed to douse the wall high flames licking around the place or I could have run like hell....seeing that you're now interviewing me I bet you can guess which was my preferred option.

Now the good news isI have not been hanging around getting and spending and laying waste my powers....I've been looking high and sometimes low and found a treasure trove of great poems for you.....most you will not have heard before.
Now cease drooling.....more later.

I know there are those who glance at these ramblings and you paid back to parents...and are still paying....yes you...and all too often to children....in soup spoons and soap and talcum powder and much much more in the gentle word and the quiet caress and odd hug and the hot towel on the damp head and the cleanly wiped bum and the fluffed pillow.
You who deal with incontinence and doubles doses of same and some from the other end as well will know that this poem says a little bit about a lot.
You'll notice no fake heroics...no vocational call...just someone in the wrong place at the wrong time or the right place at the right time....some feel caught outothers privileged.
Brendan Kennelly was on the radio the other morning....he's now 80 and he once wrote an excellent poem on Kavanagh....he finished it with this amazing line.....it is so appropriate for those in the caring profession....and I do include in that lot the guys and gals in the Aldi and Lidl cash desks who are semi comatose with boredom and whose lively eyes light up when you say their name or distinguish them from the automation all around...

Kennelly said....."There is no other chivalry"

Choices we make when we are too young to make them.
By Lois Parker Edstrom.

*Evenings at the table with my father
stewing over algebraic equations,
chemical reactions, my young life
sloped toward science and healing.
He didn't recognize, nor did I,
how I fingered letters
the way the devout touch
prayer beads, that I held them
up to my ear to hear the music
they made when strung together,
a child rearranging alphabet blocks,
balancing them into a fragile
tower that spelled out something
I was too young to understand.
I can't say how we know
we please, without hearing the exact
words, but I knew. His pride in me
slipped into my hands with soup spoons
and Yardley's soap as I fed and bathed him
during the last months of his life.
I often wonder if he is surprised,
living as he does, in the spaces
between words, there among
the pages of my books.*

Ah....willya c'mup now.....



Skryne Ladies reach Leinster Final



The Skryne ladies who were on duty for the Leinster JFC semi-final last Sunday were: back (l-r): Nicola Rogan, Emily Davis, Eimear Finnerty, Louise Maguire, Niamh Connell, Naomi Connell, Laura Bowens, Michelle Maxwell, Elaine Kellegher, Aisling Bowens, Brid O'Kane, Sinead O'Kane, Emma Dawson. Front (l-r): Alice Davis, Susie Togher, Orla Tobin, Karen Kellegher, Sinead Daly, Mary Bennett, Colleen Jordan, Elaine Maxwell, Claire Morley, Sinead Carty, Laura Caffrey, Suzanne Whyte

Skryne 4-9 • Sarsfields (Kildare) 3-9

Skryne faced Sarsfields of Kildare in their Leinster Junior A semi final match which was played in Skryne last Sunday. Having already disposed of Laois team Timahoe and Louth team St. Feicans in their bid to reach the Leinster final, Skryne went into this match confident but knowing this would be their toughest test so far.

Sarsfields started off strong and were first to get on the score board, hitting over a point. Skryne were quick to respond and an excellent passing move between Nicola Rogan and Colleen Jordan resulted in a sensational Jordan goal. Sarsfields hit back hard and some excellent defending from Niamh Connell, Eimear Finnerty and Louise Maguire kept the Kildare team at bay. Skryne further increased their lead with points from Nicola Rogan and Colleen Jordan. With ten minutes left in the first half Skryne were winning by a goal. Star centre half back Louise Maguire was injured and was forced to retire early from the game. Here loss was a great blow to Skryne and the Skryne back line was unsettled. Sarsfields took full advantage of this and scored 1-1 before the half time whistle. Sarsfields led 1-5 to 1-4 at half time. Skryne came out with all guns blazing in the second half after an inspirational half time speech from Willie Rogan. Karen Kellegher and Sinead Daly were outstanding in midfield and won the majority of possession in this area. Free taker Nicola Rogan was on target and early in the second half she hit the mark with two frees to score 1-1. This brought Skryne back into the lead but a rare defensive lapse allowed Sarsfields to fire to the net. Skryne responded with two superb goals from Aisling Bowens who was very impressive for Skryne. She was supplied with some great passes from forwards Orla Tobin and Alice Davis. Further points from Nicola Rogan and Colleen Jordan increased Skryne's lead. Sarsfields fought back hard and with ten minutes to go were within two points of Skryne. Some excellent defending from Susie Togher, Mary Bennett and Emily Davis ensured Sarsfields did not get any more scores. A counter attack from Skryne resulted in the match clinching score from Alice Davis. In the final stages Skryne were equal to the best efforts of the Kildare side to try to retrieve the situation.

Team: Naomi Connell, Mary Bennett, Eimear Finnerty, Susie

Togher, Louise Maguire, Emily Davis, Sinead Daly, Karen Kellegher, Colleen Jordan (1-4), Alice David (0-1), Elaine Maxwell, Aisling Bowens (2-0), Nicola Rogan (1-4), Orla Tobin. Subs: Michelle Maxwell for Louise Maguire, Claire Morley, Sinead O'Kane, Brid O'Kane, Laura Bowens, Elaine Kellegher, Sue Whyte, Sinead Carty, Emma Dawson, Laura Caffrey.

Well done girls!

LEINSTER FINAL: Skryne ladies now face Dublin team Fingallians in the Leinster final. It will be played on Sunday 27th October at 2.45 p.m. in Leixlip.

PLEASE SUPPORT.

Congratulations to Laura Caffrey (right) who is travelling to Malta on Saturday to represent Meath in Olympic Handball.



Congratulations to Jason McAuley and Sharon Kinsella who were married recently in Kildare.

The Joan Gallagher Archive

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

Corbalton Gardens

During our summer holidays, lots of us local teenagers worked at picking potatoes and thinning turnips, but we also picked fruit in Corbalton.

Corbalton was owned by Colonel Stourton at that time, but the big walled gardens were leased to people called Normoyle (from Limerick I think.)

Pat Normoyle bought a van as he needed it to bring the fruit to the Dublin market, but he didn't know how to drive, so he learned by going up and down the paths in the gardens, and I believe there was great crunching and grinding of gears, but thankfully he waited until we fruit pickers were gone home before having his "driving lesson".

It was mostly raspberries, black currants, and goose-berries but sometimes we picked strawberries, logan-berries etc. etc.

We used to go in to Corbalton by the first entrance, which at that time was opposite the Red Lodge (now Dawson's house).

The avenue was lined with huge beech trees that seemed to reach the sky, and the thing I remember most was the number of rabbits that would scuttle everywhere when the rattles of our bikes disturbed them from their grazing. (There are no trees or no Avenue there now, just a big green field).

I also remember this gorgeous Italian called Romano, who used to come down to the gardens in the afternoons, (I think he was a chef in the "Big House") (how exotic was that in those days). We girls all secretly fancied him, but I'm afraid none of us "got" him as he didn't stay very long in Corbalton.



*Picking fruit in Corbalton in 1952.
L to r: Joan Keelan (Gallagher), Allie Clarke (Curran), Ted Kelly.
Allie and Ted, two very good friends of mine, died far too young.*

The Night Sky by Tony Canavan

Full Moon: We had the full moon on the 1st October 2020 (The Harvest Moon) and we will have another on 31st October (The Hunter's Moon). The name dates back to the First nations of North America when the deer had fattened themselves over the course of the summer and hunters tracked them down and stockpiled food for the winter. The latter is also known as the 'Blue Moon' and falls on a Saturday 31st October giving us a very 'spooky' Halloween atmosphere.

Sunrise is 0730 am and **Sunset** is 6 pm approximately this month.

October 18th: Between 7-8 pm Jupiter's moon 'Io' will transit over the **great red spot** of Jupiter with Jupiter's other moons Ganymede, Europa and Callisto all to the west of Jupiter. Jupiter's altitude is only 12° as it sets in the west. By 11 pm Jupiter and Saturn have set, and Mars is high to the South East altitude 40° with azimuth 150°. Orion, Gemini, Taurus are rising in the easterly sky.

Mars can be viewed with its moons Phobos and Deimos close by.

October 22nd: From 6 pm onwards you can view Saturn and Jupiter setting close to the crescent moon. Sunset is around 620 pm. If you have a telescope there is so much to see from all three celestial objects. Good through binoculars and a good photo shot. No cloud please.

October 29th: Mars is just above the full moon with both rising from 6 pm and staying close until sunrise. We have longer nights now so more time for viewing. The best time for viewing the night sky in October is around 3 am with spectacular views of Orion, Sirius, Pleiades, Pollux and Castor, Aldebaran, Capella, Mars and the Milky Way running from the NW to SE.

The Nobel Prize for Physics:

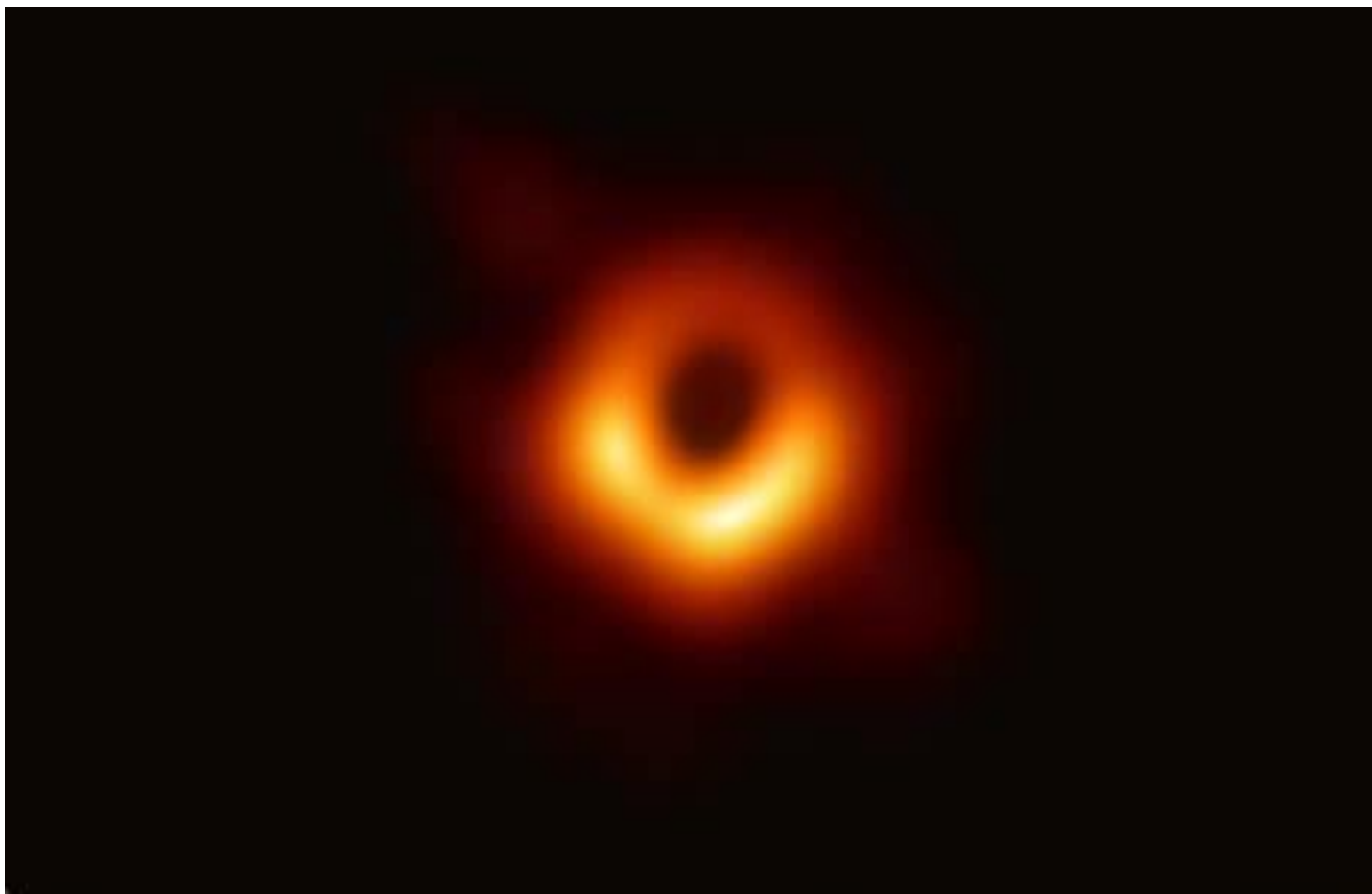
The second year in a row for astronomers.

The Nobel Prize for physics was awarded last week to **Sir Roger Penrose (Oxford), Prof. Andrea Ghez (UCLA) and Prof. Reinhard Genzel (Max Planck Institute)** on 6th October for their research into 'Black Holes'. This is where the mass is so great that not even light can escape.

Sir Roger Penrose worked with Stephen Hawking in the 1960/70's on the mathematics of black holes based on Einstein's General Theory of Relativity. They effectively did the mathematics that showed that 'black holes' should exist. The technology to observe took longer. A vast array of radio telescopes were used to observe the motion of stars around the black hole at the center of our galaxy. Professor Ghez looked for stars as close to the center as possible and watched how the black hole influenced the stars. She measured how long it took these stars to orbit the black hole and also the size of their orbits. From this she calculated the mass of the black hole.

It requires very large stars to create stellar black holes where nuclear fusion continues through from helium all the way to iron (we are of the stars). Iron builds up in the core and the balance between gravity and fusion is broken and the star collapses feeding more mass into the core. The result is a supernova explosion where the outer layer of the star is blown off and the core collapses to form either a 'neutron star' or a 'black hole'. If the earth collapsed to the size of a sugar-cube then it would be a black hole. If the sun collapsed to the size of the G.P.O. building then it would become a black hole.

Because of its mass and therefore force of gravity nothing can escape from the black hole, not even light. The only thing you see is the event horizon (the rim). Astronomers know that the black hole is there from the movement of stars close to the black hole. Space, time and the laws of physics no longer apply. As you approach a black hole, time slows down and as you enter a black hole time would stop for you and you would slowly fade from view.



Messier 87: This is one of the most epic photographs in space science. **It is the first picture of a black hole taken in April 2019.** M87 is in the constellation Virgo about 54 million light years away. (light travelling at 300,000 kms a second for 55 million years) and a photograph has been taken (the wonder of science). This supermassive black hole has a mass 6.5 billion times more massive than our sun

A Woman of Notoriety by Anne Frehill

This is the true story of Elizabeth Sugrue (c. 1740/1750-1807) known commonly as Lady Betty. However, the facts of her life are so bizarre that it illustrates Mark Twain`s quote:

“Truth is stranger than fiction.” I am certain that in today`s competitive world of creative writing, any editor worth his salt would dismiss a short story containing similar events to those which occurred in her life as contrived. Yet, this woman was a breathing, real person.

There is scant information about her early years, she was the daughter of a tenant farmer in county Kerry, but her date of birth is unclear. However, she was married young to another tenant farmer called Michael Sugrue, and they lived near Killarney. Given the social conditions of the time, their lifestyle could be described as comfortable and they even had two servant boys as well as several books in the house.

Unusually, Michael could read and after a long day toiling in the fields he taught his wife how to read while she was expecting their first child. She was a fast learner and loved the world which it revealed. The next two years were busy as two more children arrived, but they were all healthy and their landlord was a reasonable old man, who did not demand an exorbitant rent. Unfortunately, he died a short time later and his arrogant son appointed a ruthless Scotsman as his new agent. The rent went from £10 to £30, unable to cobble together this astronomical amount they had to leave but they found a smaller farm with poorer land.

The following Spring just when they were starting to rebuild their lives the rent was doubled again however they could not manage to pay it. They felt that their only hope was to travel to America, but they could not possibly raise the money for their passage there. Then their youngest child died from a deadly flu which swept through the land, it appears that Michael succumbed to depression and lay, defeated in his straw bed.

Within two weeks he followed his child to the grave and the agent evicted Betty along with her two remaining children.

She took to the roads and they made their pathetic journey through Limerick, Clare and up into Galway. It is not known how they even managed to survive as these were dark, hungry times for so many people, but they

made it to Loughrea where the second child died from starvation, on a bitter April night. For the next few weeks, they seem to have tramped blindly onwards until they reached Roscommon town, which was already teeming with other beggars. Eventually, they sought shelter in an abandoned hovel and over several weeks her remaining son rebuilt the roof and patched it up with rushes.

She shunned neighbours and any attempts made by locals to befriend her. It is interesting that she complained bitterly about the lack of any form of printed word to pass the long nights, and her son became the sole focus of her life.

As the years went by, he proved to be a smart, hard-working young man and he got a job at the local coach-inn as a yard-boy. After a year of saving odd farthings he bought her an old and tattered book, and she was overjoyed. Then she set about teaching him to read by the faint glimmer of a tallow rush-light.

Soon he realized that the power of words gave him knowledge and he came to accept that he must emigrate to America, like thousands of others, to escape from the cycle of grinding poverty. Against his mother's wishes and following many quarrels with her he left one night while she slept and headed off with his friend along the road to Dublin. His goal was to reach England and find work, where he hoped to save enough to cover his passage to America. Betty was distraught as she believed that she would never see him again, yet during their many rows about his plans to leave he had consistently promised that he would return some day, a rich man. Her eccentricities became more pronounced than ever and her life resembled a nocturnal animal. People wondered how she managed to exist but her son's former boss and landlord of the coach-inn, supplied her with food on condition that she told no one.

A year passed and she believed that he was dead, then one day a letter arrived from him from America along with a banknote. Over the next year or so four more letters arrived, all with bank notes. Then they ceased and four more years passed, she managed to eke out an existence by taking in weary travellers and lodgers for a few pennies a night. One stormy evening in the depths of November a traveller knocked on the door, looking for lodgings. He had a fine black horse and was so well dressed that she tried to persuade him that he would be more comfortable at one of the inns in the town rather than in her poor cabin. However, he was adamant that he wanted to stay with her and so she took him in. During the long night she reasoned that a golden opportunity had been presented to her because it was obvious that he was rich and so while he

slept, she examined the contents of his pocket. She found a purse full of gold and it seems that she decided to kill the man so that she could steal his money and go to America, to be reunited with her son.

She coldly stabbed him to death but as dawn arrived after she had counted out his money and declared herself to be rich, it dawned on her that she had just killed some mother`s son.

After going through his belongings, she found papers in the name of “Patrick Sugrue”, and after checking other items on his person she found the dead man`s handwriting which was exactly the same as the handwriting in the letters which she had received from America. Horrified, she then understood that she had just killed her own son because after long years she had failed to recognise him. Slowly, it all began to make sense to her, he had planned to stay with her for the night under the guise of a weary traveller and then spring the surprise on her in the morning. Shortly afterwards, when the neighbours saw her trying to stray the beautiful black horse, they guessed that she had murdered her lodger and taken his horse.

She was charged, tried, and found guilty of murder. A public hanging by the neck until she was dead was to be her fate. However, Betty had one more trick up her sleeve.

In the final decades of the 18th century political prisoners i.e. members of the United Irishmen and the Whiteboys, were hanged in groups alongside common criminals such as pickpockets, counterfeiters, cattle-maimers and others like Betty.

And so, the day arrived when Betty had to mount the scaffold to be executed (among others), but bizarrely there was no hangman to be found to carry out the macabre job. It is believed that out of respect and loyalty to local rebels who were due to be hanged the usual hangman (as well as potential candidates for the bloody role) had suddenly disappeared.

Unbelievably, the cold-hearted Betty quick to save her own skin volunteered to be that day`s executioner. She not only killed several rebels on that day under the eagle eye of the authorities but continued with her “terrible work” for several years, in an official capacity. She was given lodgings and a tiny garden inside the prison grounds for her own safety as she was loathed by all the neighbours from far and near. It was not until 1802 that she received an official pardon for the murder of her son. And she lived on until 1807 when she is said to have died peacefully. Her burial took place secretly at night inside the grounds of Roscommon Jail, but no marker was allowed on her final resting-place.

In the bloody and convoluted history of Ireland, “hard times breed hard people” is a saying which has been used time and again. When one considers her personal story against the backdrop of social injustice, grinding poverty, failed rebellions, disease, fear/total ignorance of mental health issues, and the appalling place of women in society, perhaps we should not be too quick to pass judgement on her.

The many questions still surrounding the tragic and pathetic figure of Lady Betty, demonised, reviled and despised by her contemporaries, far outweigh the answers given for her bloody and bizarre behaviour. At this stage all we can do is accept that the full truth has been lost in the mists of time.

Finally, in the middle of a pandemic, (with non -stop news coverage assailing us from all over the globe) It may help to start the new day by embracing the beautiful words of John O`Donohue.

On Waking

By John O`Donohue (1958-2008)

I give thanks for arriving
Safely in a new dawn,
For the gift of eyes
To see the world,
The gift of mind
To feel at home
In my life,
The waves of possibility
Breaking on the shore of dawn,
The harvest of the past
That awaits my hunger,
And all the furtherings
This new day wil

100 Years Ago

Death of Terence MacSwiney, Lord Mayor of Cork

THE WORLD'S NEWS. THE IRISH INDEPENDENT, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1920.

LORD MAYOR MAKES THE SUPREME SACRIFICE

END TO HEROIC
STRUGGLE.
RELATIVES' ORDEAL
INHUMAN ACTION OF
THE AUTHORITIES.
LYING-IN-STATE IN SAINT
GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL.

The Lord Mayor of Cork made the supreme sacrifice for his country in Brixton Jail, at 5.40 a.m., yesterday, without having regained consciousness.

Father Dominic, O.S.F.C., and Mr. Sean MacSwiney were present when the death occurred, and the former states that the end, which came while he was reading the Prayers for the Dead, was very calm.

In December 1918, MacSwiney is elected MP for Mid-Cork. Like other Sinn Féin members, he refuses to take his seat at Westminster, determined to serve in Dáil Éireann instead.

At home and abroad, he raises funds for an independent Ireland and establishes the Dáil Éireann courts — “the end of English authority in Ireland”.

On August 12, 1920, City Hall is raided and he is charged with possessing “documents likely to cause disaffection to his Majesty”, and a cipher used by the RIC to encrypt messages.

His court-martial in Dublin — which MacSwiney declares illegal — takes only 15 minutes to find him guilty of sedition, and imposes a two-year sentence. “I shall be free, alive or dead, within a month,” he tells the court. At 3am the next morning, he is taken to Brixton Prison, south London, where he refuses to eat. “I am confident that my death will do more to smash the British Empire than my release,” he states.

Suddenly MacSwiney becomes an international figure, triggering mass demonstrations from Buenos Aires to Boston. Riots break out on the streets of Barcelona, workers down tools in New York

Old Photos – Who Are They?

In the last issue we asked if anyone could identify any of the people in these photos taken in Royal Tara golf club many years ago



Sean Brennan, current captain of the golf club provided the following insight:

The well dressed man in the Top Coat is Dermot Fleming, the Head Greenkeeper for many years and a Skryne man. The other two are vaguely considered to be Skryne People






Natural love and affection, taken sixty years ago this month

Did anyone guess that this mystery person is none other than the shy and retiring Norbert Coyle!

Dingbats

Can you solve this Dingbats puzzle?

Answers will appear in the next issue of the newsletter

BUNG		X MASCARA	T N T DE O A E
01	02	03	04
	XIST N G	THE ----- TAKER	P U
05	06	07	08
PPP E ERMINT	SSAGE	WET EAR EAR	
09	10	11	12

Last weeks answers

1 Can't Spell For Toffee, 2 Look Both Ways, 3 Slice Of Life, 4 Bunch Of Flowers, 5 Bob Up And Down, 6 Just For Fun, 7 Honesty Is The Best Policy, 8 In Black And White, 9 Middle Age Spread, 10 Are You Ready, 11 Go Along For The Ride, 12 Feeling Under The Weather

Poetry Corner

An Irish Mother's Welcome by Brian Smyth

(I)

Machushia. Dear you're welcome
Welcome home to me astore
Long have been the days and irksome
Since you left my cabin floor
But Alannah sure I knew it
God would send you back to me
But my buchail I did rue it
When your face I couldn't see.

(II)

Sure the ould spot's just the same
As you left it years ago.
Not a change has ever came
Just the same ould home you know.
There's the stone outside the door
Where I nursed you as a boy
And dreamed fond dreams for you galore
My only son your mother's joy.

(III)

May be I have oulder grown.
Do I look quite ould and grey
Tell me am I failed mavrone,
Sure I too have had me day.
Wish I could be young again
Now I have you by my side
Sure I'm only wishing vain
Ah, how quickly years will glide.

(IV)

But you're back to stay with me
To never leave the ould spot more.
Sure young again I'm sure to be
Bright and young as days of yore
And you'll sare my life at eve
As happy eavenings long age
Till comes the call that bids me leave
My boy the only joy I know.



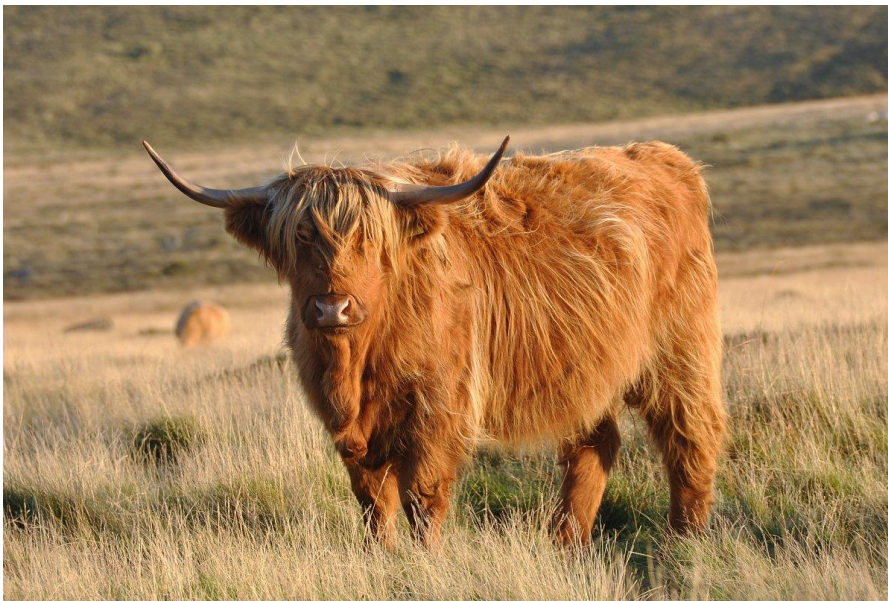
This is from Brian's 'Collected Poems'

Cattle

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



10A



10B

Last week's breeds:

Breed 9A

The Meuse-Rhine-Issel or Meuse-Rhine-Yssel is a breed of cattle that originated in the Netherlands and Germany. It gets its name from the region in which it was bred - where the three rivers Meuse, Rhine and Issel meet. The breed is known as MRI or MRIJ for short

Breed 9B

The Salers is a breed of cattle which originated in Cantal in the Massif Central of France. They are a large breed, with the female weighing between 700 and 750 kg and standing 1.40 m tall. They have a thick, mahogany red or black coat, and long, lyre-shaped, light-coloured horn

Some Awful Jokes

How to make your wife more efficient

An efficiency expert was delivering a seminar on time management for a company's junior executives. He concluded the session with a disclaimer: "But whatever you do, do NOT attempt these task-organising tips at home," he said.

When he was asked why not, he explained: "Well, I did a study of my wife's routine of fixing breakfast. I noticed she made a lot of trips between the refrigerator and the stove, the table and the cabinets, each time carrying only one item. So, I told her: 'Darling you are making too many trips back and forth carrying one item at a time. If you would only try carrying several things at once you would be much more efficient.'" He paused.

"Did that save time?" one of the executives asked.

"Actually, yes," the expert answered, "It used to take her 15 minutes to fix my breakfast. Now I get my own in seven minutes."

Meow

"What is your kitty's name, James?" asked the visitor.

"Ben Hur," said James.

"That's a funny name for a cat. Why did you name it that?"

"Well, we just called him Ben - until he had kittens."

Spooky Halloween
SCIENCE CAMPS



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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 31st October 2020

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