



Panoramic Painstown in November

Photo taken by Maurice Daly

Condolences

Our sincere sympathy goes to

Maeve Bayly on the death of her sister in law Ann

To PJ & Hora family Painstown on the death of Marian

May they rest in peace

Christmas is Coming

RST would like to offer the opportunity to local business to advertise free in our forthcoming pre-Christmas RSTs. Particularly this year we should all support local so hopefully businesses will take this opportunity to help us to help them.

Email your add to jimconroy747@gmail.com or patriciaconroy1@hotmail.com

Blotto

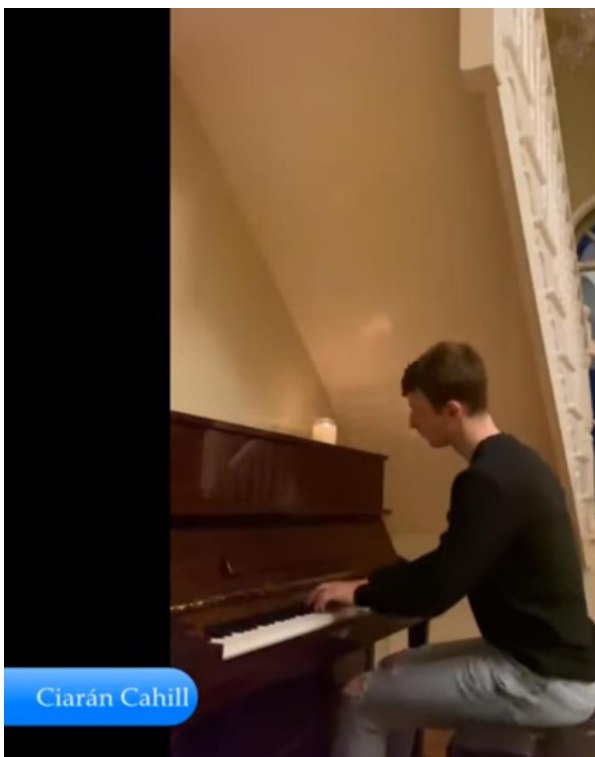
Date	Jackpot	Numbers Drawn				Lucky Dip Winners
25/10/2020	€10,000	07	15	17	28	Nigel Fox Ronan Mulvaney Betty O'Shaughnessy Kathleen Martin
18/10/2020	€9,900	08	18	19	28	Nigel Fox Ronan O'Rourke Colleen Jordan Tilly O'Brien
11/10/2020	€9,800	11	14	15	24	Darren Carty Lorraine Mangan Liam Kellegher George Rathbourne
04/10/2020	€9,700	06	11	14	15	Pat O'Brien Dom O'Brien Valerie Clarke Jack & Eva Gryson
27/09/2020	€9,600	03	10	18	22	Senan/Susan McGrath Richard Coyle Jim Hamill Kathleen Carty
20/09/2020	€9,500	03	16	21	26	Ronan Mulvany Padraig Finnerty The Rafter Family Eilish Jordan
13/09/2020	€9,400	06	10	20	27	Marie Felle Brady Linda Conway Jim Dardis Gerry Dempsey

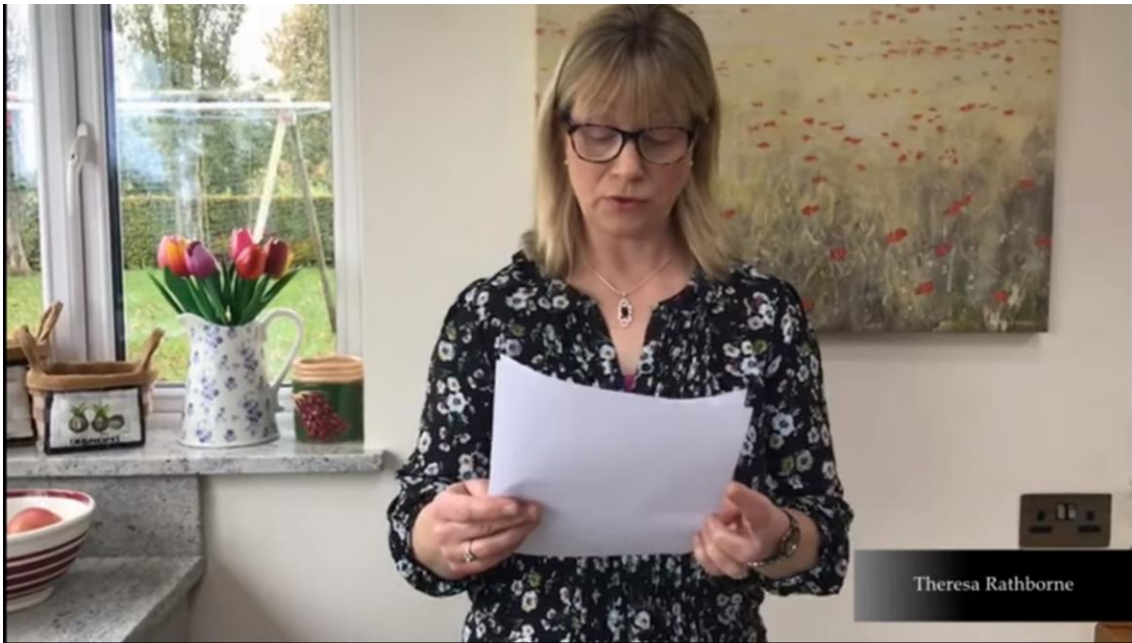
Weekly Liturgy

Carmel Reilly has recommenced her weekly liturgy of readings and music. The recital can be viewed by following this link:

<https://youtu.be/kZCfA93ywCY>

Some scenes from last week's liturgy:







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.

Bloody Sunday by Maurice Daly

The centenary of **Bloody Sunday 21 November 1920**, will be featured widely in the media and in GAA circles during this month. It has been described as “the darkest day in the history of the GAA and a pivotal day in the Irish War of Independence.” But what happened on Bloody Sunday?

Sunday 21 November 1920 was a day of violence in Dublin, where **three separate but connected incidents** occurred. The day saw **a total of 31 violent deaths** - 14 British Military Intelligence personnel, 14 civilians including three school boys shot when British forces opened fire in Croke Park and later on that day three men including two high ranking IRA officers and a civilian, who were held in Dublin Castle were shot dead “trying to escape.”

The Cairo Gang.

British Intelligence had a network of spies located in Dublin that were nicknamed the ‘**Cairo Gang**.’ They were given this name as they allegedly frequented the Cairo Café in Grafton St. as a meeting place and also for their activity in Egypt and Palestine during WW1. **Michael Collins**, the Irish Finance Minister since 1919 and the IRA Chief of Intelligence, had created a hit squad known as “**The Twelve Apostles**” to assassinate the British Intelligence Officers. On the morning of 21 November, Collins’ squad along with a number of volunteers, launched a series of co-ordinated attacks on British Intelligence Officers and policemen, mostly in their digs in the south inner city and two in the Gresham Hotel. 14 people were violently killed, about one third of Collins’ targets; a number were badly injured and others escaped.

Rumours spread about the numbers of British dead, suggesting maybe 50, and chaos and fear reigned in the city. Troops were packed into City Hall near the Castle, trains and trams were stopped and checkpoints were set up to search everyone leaving the city. Dublin was in lockdown – as it is today 100 years later for a very different reason!

General Macready, commander-in-chief of the British forces in Ireland, considered his options. He was aware that there was a football match between **Dublin and Tipperary** in Croke Park that afternoon and surmised that IRA sympathisers with knowledge of the morning’s activities would attend. Troops were summoned from Collinstown Aerodrome (now Dublin Airport) and a group of Auxiliaries, headed for Ashbourne, were instead marshalled into a force of RIC and Black and Tans, and ordered to head for Croke Park. Apparently their orders were simple: an officer would enter the field and stop the game with ten minutes left and the police would search all the men while the army would surround the ground and guard the exits.

Meanwhile, **Luke O'Toole, Sec. General of the GAA**, held a brief meeting of Central Council delegates who were in Dublin for another meeting. They expected reprisals and knew that Croke Park could be a target. Should the game be called off? "If the game was cancelled because of the killings in the city in the morning, the GAA would be acknowledging the impact of a violent political act. That was an arena the GAA didn't want to inhabit. They couldn't call off the match." (Michael Foley –"The Bloodied Field" 2020.) A crowd was milling outside the pitch. Ticket sellers were doing a brisk trade. Fruit sellers were strolling around with baskets of fruit. Hawkers were selling badges and colours!

The Massacre at Croke Park.

Although scheduled to start at 2.45 pm, the throw-in was 30 minutes late. Reports of numbers attending have varied between 7,000 and 10,000. The British forces began surrounding the stadium grounds and **at 3.25 pm the first shots were fired**. Seven were shot dead, five died later and two were trampled to death in the stampede. Up to 50 were injured. There were scenes of wild confusion and panic. The police kept shooting for 90 seconds and their commander Major Mills later admitted that his men were "excited and out of hand!"

One player was fatally wounded: **Michael Hogan** (aged 24) from Grange Mockler had lined out for Tipperary and was shot as he crawled towards the sideline. His name is the one name everybody knows as the Hogan Stand is named after him. Three school boys were among the victims: 11 year old William Robinson was watching the match from a tree when he was shot; 10 year old Jerome O'Leary was sitting on a high wall behind the goals when he was hit and fell about 20 feet; 14 year old John William Scott was the third young victim. Jane Boyle, aged 26, engaged to be married was the only woman killed on Bloody Sunday. She was buried on the day she was to be married.

That Evening in Dublin Castle.

Later that evening the killing continued in Dublin Castle. Two IRA officers, **Dick McKee** and **Peadar Clancy** (after whom two army barracks in Dublin are now named) and a civilian **Conor Clune** were beaten and shot dead "during an attempt to escape."

Aftermath.

The events of Bloody Sunday (Domhnach na Fola) are generally regarded as having marked a decisive emotional turning-point during the Irish War of Independence (Jan 1919 – July 2021). The killings made international headlines. It is generally agreed that Bloody Sunday damaged the cause of British Rule in Ireland and increased support for the IRA.

PS 1: The film "Michael Collins" shows an armoured car driving onto the pitch. This did not happen: that armoured car was outside the ground and seems to have fired into the air rather than at the crowd. The fatal shots were fired inside as eyewitnesses testified.

PS 2: A documentary on Bloody Sunday will be shown on RTE 1 on **Monday 16th November** at 9.35 pm.

REFERENCES:

1. **The Bloodied Field, Michael Foley, 2020,**
2. **The Irish Republic, Dorothy Macardle, 1968,**
3. **The Black and Tans, Richard Bennett, 1959.**
4. **Wikipedia Bloody Sunday (1920), 2020.**
5. **Bloody Sunday, A Day of Terror & Death in Dublin, Eamonn Duggan.**



1. Michael Hogan, the Tipperary Footballer who was shot on Bloody Sunday.
2. Bloody Sunday match poster.

MAURICE DALY, NOVEMBER 2020.

Skryne National School from Martin Kennedy

What a strange week this has been. Things started so well with the optimistic hope that there had been a breakthrough in relation to discovering a reliable vaccine. Suddenly the dark November evenings didn't seem so depressing any more. Deep down I think we all jumped a little inside with the prospect of light at the end of this Covid tunnel.

The optimism seems well placed however and there is still good reason to be happy. Nevertheless our joy was diminished more than just a little later in that same week. Government Ministers started to advise us that people should not be planning to travel overseas or receive friends and family home for Christmas. It was the sucker punch we feared, but still hard to take when it became a real prospect. The great Christian celebration of Christmas has become a really important part of our social calendar. We find time to catch up with friends and family we may have been too busy to share time with in our bustling lives. Work takes a backseat for a few days. We spend time with each other. For most of us it is great. Now we find it threatened as we struggle to stay the course in our fight against Covid. Our hearts go out to the many families who will be kept apart as a result of this. And of course we feel so deeply for the stores, traders, pubs and restaurants who will miss the busiest time of the year for most of them. Our struggle against Covid is certainly not a fair one. Some of us pay a bigger price than others.

It is vitally important that we remember why we are doing all this. We value and love those we are staying apart from. We want to keep them safe. We want to keep them healthy. We want the same for ourselves.

We need to be careful not to get caught up in conversations about all that we are missing. There is no future in it. Focus on the positives and make the most of them. We don't need endless days of shopping to buy things we never really needed anyway. Every house must have a press or two filled with gifts received that have never been used. There is no harm in cutting back. Let's be thankful for the people we have around us and make the most of the "precious time" we have with them. I almost broke into a great *Van Morrison* tune just now, but Van has become a persona non grata since his outburst against Covid restrictions. { Still a great tune though! }

"This world is cruel with its twists and its turns" .

Let's keep the thought that this too will turn foremost in our thinking. Make the most of the precious time you have with those close to you. There will be a time for the other celebrating to be done sometime in the future.

The children are still so very happy in school and it is important we do all we can to keep them there. Find joy and happiness in all that you can. Start the day with a smile and try to keep it there. Share the joy of their school experiences and congratulate them on their work. That is what we are doing here. Look at the joy on the faces of the children in these pictures. During "Science Week" we found fun with simple items like vinegar, baking soda, food colouring and balloons. No long queues at Smyth's for us!

If you are as good at art as Serena is you just might walk away with a big prize in the Credit Union Art Competition. Tara and District were generous to Serena who is sure to make the best use of her wonderful prize. Comhgairdeas Serena.

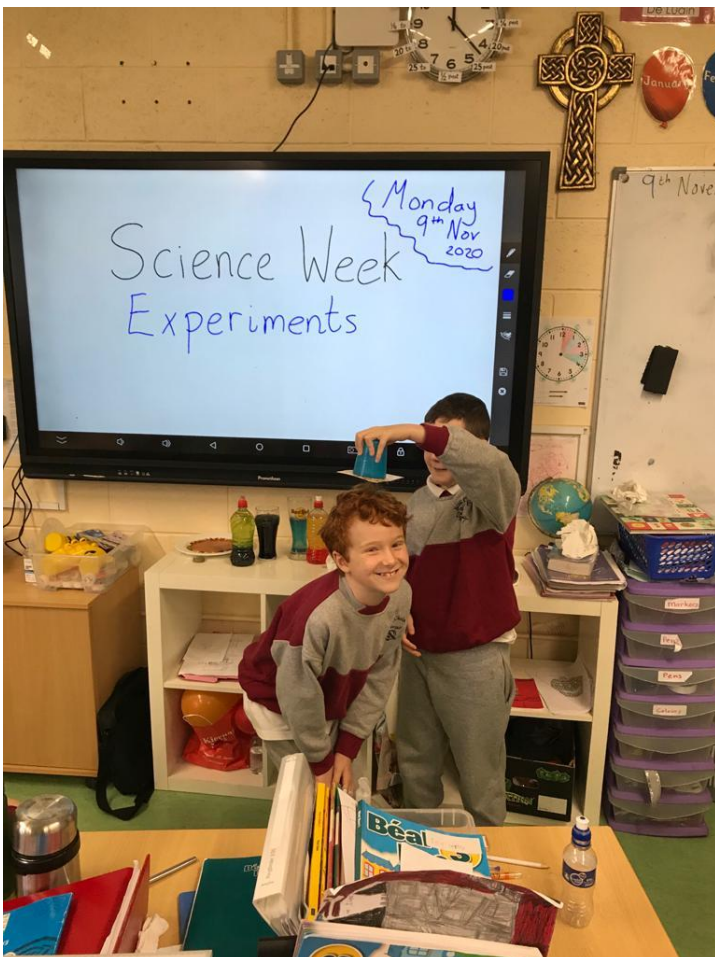
We also discovered some new "Word Millionaires". These avid readers have amassed an incredible word count of 1,000,000 words ! Some achievement. They are still going strong with some "Double" and "Triple" millionaires. Look closely at the picture of Ben who is sporting a pin to recognise his amazing total of 5,000,000 words. Silver "Word Millionaire" and on the way to Gold for 10,000,000 words. We hope there is enough space left in his head to accommodate all those words. Incredible achievement Ben.

We are proud of our website and the work of the pupils we get to display there. We crossed a significant "Hits" mark of a quarter of a million hits during school closure earlier this year. We rewarded James, the lucky pupil who "hit" that magic number, with a novelty jersey. Since then we have moved on significantly and this week we moved on to "Hit" number 300,000 ! Paddy burnt his fingers to catch the magic number and so he too earns a special jersey. Wear it well Paddy. Next target we have is the easy to remember 333,333. Maybe by Christmas?

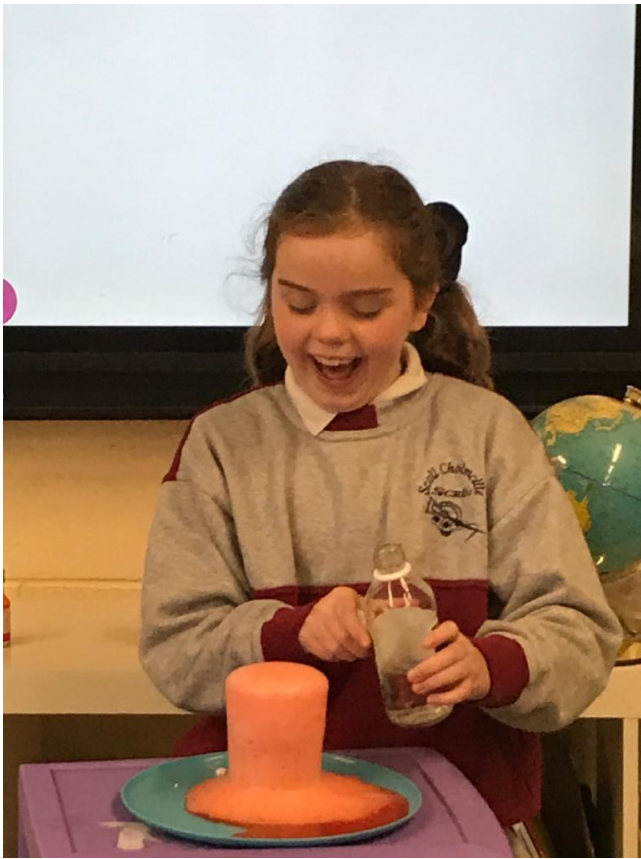
Because of Covid restrictions we cannot hold this year's Parent/Teacher meetings in the usual manner. Staff have decided to hold these meetings by phonecall this year and will be arranging the schedules presently. Check the website for details early next week. Meetings will be held from Mon.23rd. to Thurs.26th. for Classes from Rang 1 to Rang 6. Infants will have a separate schedule. Details again on website.

Fan slán gach éinne.

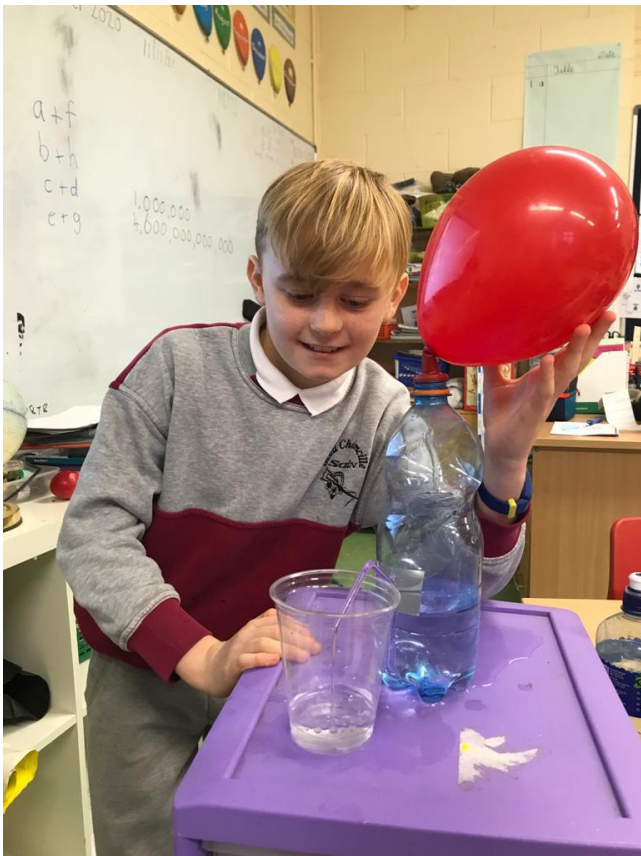




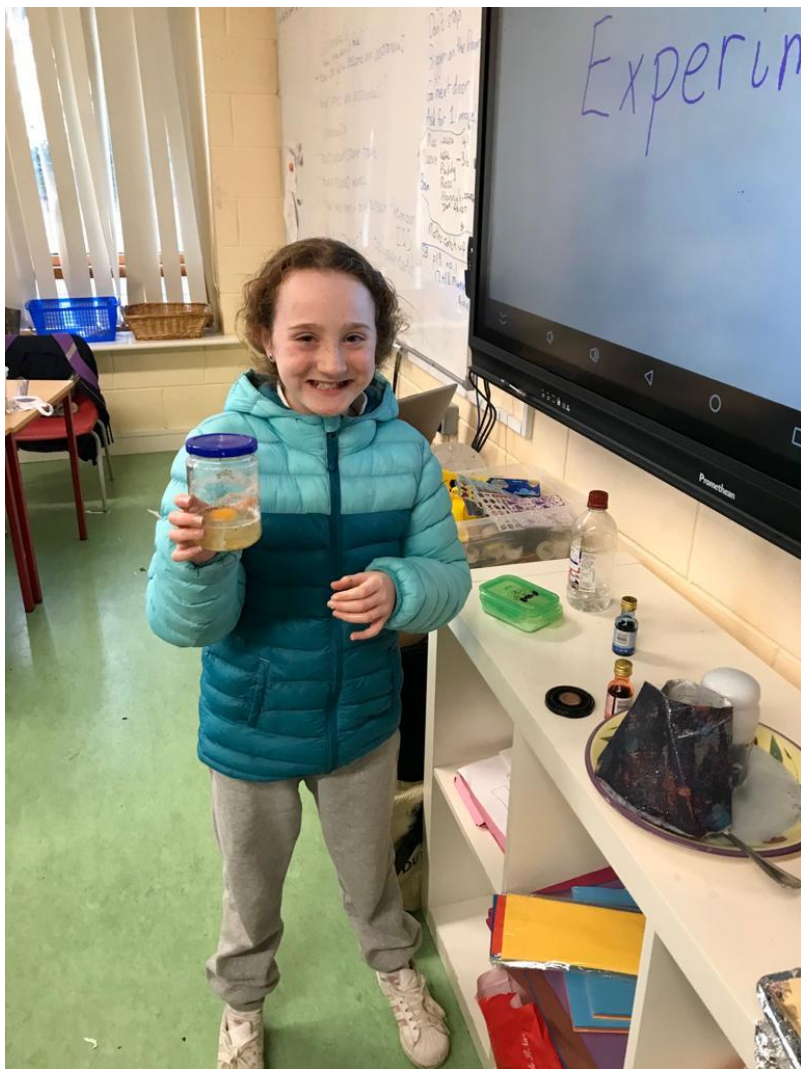
Paddy puts his faith in Science!



**Maeve
discovers
Shocking
Science**



**Cael
experiments
Nov 20**



**Laura does
Science**

The Hill of Tara

Continuing our serialisation of 'The Hill of Tara' which was written by Kenneth MacGowan in 1979.

RATH OF THE SYNODS

This rath or fort exists basically in name as there is now little to indicate the site it occupied. Its location is partly occupied by the churchyard and it consisted of a triple earth mound. For centuries it remained undisturbed but at the end of the last century an attempt was made to plough the area.

Then at the turn of this century it was ravaged further by British Israelites who thought they would find the Ark of the Covenant buried within the rath. Their task proved fruitless and revealed only the remains of some rock cuttings which may have formed the walls of houses dating from the 3rd century A.D. The origin of these was never fully investigated.

Because of these earlier mutilations of the rath any new attempt at proper excavation was made all the more difficult. Even so, in 1952-3 Professor Sean O'Riordan carried out a considerable amount of work on the site of the rath. The first sod was turned by Eamon DeValera and a number of distinguished guests were present for the occasion.

One conclusion reached was that the rath consisted of a central area surrounded by three concentric circular banks and three fosses. A flat topped mound just inside the outer bank was known locally as the 'King's Chair', according to the antiquarian Dr. George Petrie.

Attempts to establish a definite date for this rath failed, partly due to the damage caused earlier. It seems, however, the site had undergone four different phases of construction, each of which added to its size. There was evidence of wooden uprights and post holes and to the

west of the main area five skeletons were found.

While there was no evidence of an archaeological nature as to the time of the origin of the rath it was quite clear that the site was inhabited for domestic purposes and there is a suggestion that iron smelting and enamelling may have been carried out there. It is also thought from some features that it was used for ritual purposes.

The Rath of the Synods, which marked the highest spot on the hill, is the only one at Tara to hold Christian associations. It was here that the pagan gods' followers rallied in their last stand against the Cross of Christianity. Three great synods were held here by St. Patrick, St. Ruadhan and St. Adamnan between the 5th and 7th centuries.

The first synod was convened by Patrick in order to bring together ecclesiastics and jurists for the purpose of revising and amending the pagan laws which had been in force throughout the country. It was, in effect, a form of Constitution and was incorporated in a book called the *Seanchus Mor*.

The second synod was brought about by Ruadhan in the 6th century and summoned ecclesiastics for the purpose of cursing the high king, Diarmuid, for violation of the law of sanctuary and the killing of a robber who had claimed church protection. The breaking of this right of Sanctuary was regarded as a very serious crime of desecration and Ruadhan was not prepared to tolerate such action, even from the high king.

The real purpose for the holding of St. Adamnan's synod in the 7th century is uncertain. Some historians say it was to renew laws which dispensed women and ecclesiastics from military service. Other opinions claim

that such matters were dealt with elsewhere and one suggests the purpose of the synod was to denounce a certain Irgalach for un-Christian practices.

This Fort seems to have been about 100 ft. in diameter. To the west of it was a smaller circular enclosure some 33 ft. in diameter which was surrounded by two ramparts. The entire complex appears to have been enclosed by an oval shaped rampart about 220 ft. in diameter.

Ruadhan is said to have told Diarmuid "May thy dynasty come to naught and may neither son nor grandson of thine reign in Tara forever. May Tara be desolate to all eternity". A lengthy account of the abandonment of Tara is recorded in the Annals of Clonmacnois in the year 563. The following lines also tell of the end of the era—

“From the reign of Dermot the brown-haired
Son of Fergus, son of Conall,
From the judgement of Ruadhan on his house,
There was no king at Teamair”.

MARISEO'S HOUSE

The only reference to this building, known to the author, states "This was a fort to the south of the Church and near a mound called the Sidh. From it spread the houses of the town of Tara down the eastern slope of the hill. Mariseo was a lady of great beauty who lived in the time of King Cormac".

Memories from Eoin Hickey

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

The Road to Tara, by Baronstown and Maher's Cross.

We set off now on the last of the five roads from Skryne. This one leads us to Baronstown, Maher's Cross and on up to Tara.

We start downhill with O'Connell's on our left and the graveyard to our right. Immediately below the graveyard are several ruins but two two-story houses are standing. These are home to the Alder and Donnelly families. Obviously this was a thriving 'street' at the time of the horse fairs in Skryne.

Next there's high stone wall with a freshwater spring-well at the side of the road – always welcome by travelling animals. As we stop, to give the pony a drink, from our high seat in the trap we can see into Mrs Reilly's cottage garden.

Mrs Reilly, a native of Skryne, was married to Jack Reilly from Prosperous. They kept, what to me as a child was, a magical garden, terraced because of the hill, facing south, and filled with scented flowers and lush vegetables. The Reillys had no children, Jack worked on the farm at Skryne Castle and Mrs Reilly occasionally helped my mother in the house. Before we had an electric pump, Jack came in in the evenings to pump up water by hand, turning a big iron wheel with a weight and handle until the tank on the roof overflowed. After Jack died, Mrs Reilly kept the garden as best she could and eventually retired to St Joseph's home in Trim, formerly the County Home – then recently refurbished and a wonderful place. My mother regularly visited her there, often bringing her out to Skryne Castle to stay for weekends. After Mrs Reilly died in the 1980s, Jack's relatives came from Dublin and sold the cottage.

The castle lawn field runs all the way down on our left, and on the right are Monaghan's and Murphy's farmhouses. Then comes Duignan's and on the corner is Mrs Fleming's cottage. Mrs Fleming is part of the wedding team at Skryne Castle and sadly her young husband, Jimmy, has died recently from T.B.

At the top of the Quarry Hill, immediately on the left, are several badger sets. This is the road we would have walked up and down many times to take the bus to Dublin or Navan, so F1

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we got to know the badgers quite well. Next on the left is Jim Duignan and his wife Josie's modern bungalow which Jim built in the early 1970s. One morning, when Jim was marking out the foundations for his new house, my mother was passing and suggested to him that he might frighten the badgers – no problem, said Jim, and moved the foundations further along

the road. Great to say that I met Jim lately and he assured me that both he and the badgers are in good order and living in harmony.

Ahead and on a slight slope is Jock and Mary Wilkinson's home, Baronstown. Jock's father, also Jock, was a distinguished old man with a very long white beard; he always kept a brood mare or two in the field beside the river and had one or two yearlings for the sales each year. Jock grew vegetable marrows in the field beside the road and, like us, they had a tennis court on the front lawn. Young Jock played like a champion and could well beat us all.

Rathfeigh National School from Seamus Tansley

Book Fair

Our annual Book Fair took place this week under different circumstances than any previous year. Although we didn't have the usual rush to view and buy books in the school hall each morning we, nevertheless, had the usual enthusiasm of the children getting lost in their books in class which is always great to see. This year the children viewed the Book Fair catalogue online and books were purchased using an automated phone line. The children received their books promptly the next day from the Book Fair in the hall. For many children the last few months probably saw an increase in their screen time so I think they were all delighted to read a little bit more than usual again. With very little written homework over the week the children all said they enjoyed their reading at home and it was lovely to hear them talk about their books in class. We received 60% commission on books sold so we look forward to getting our heads together to see how we can spend the "commission" to improve the quality and quantity of books in our school. We thank all the parents/guardians who bought books and we thank Mrs Campbell for co-ordinating the Book Fair. Well done, also, to all the children who won prizes of books in the various competitions that took place in school during the week.

"There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all" (Jacqueline Kennedy).

Science Week

It was apt that we had Science Week in the week that there was very positive news in relation to a vaccine for Covid-19. Of course we have to wait a couple of weeks to see if the claims that Pfizer have made in relation to their vaccine holds up under scrutiny from scientists and data analysts. I, personally, am very hopeful that this is the start of a light at the end of a dark tunnel and that over the coming 6/7 months we will slowly but surely get back to something resembling normality.

We definitely have some future scientists in our midst if the quality of science experiments conducted by the children is anything to go by. The children conducted their own experiments at home and uploaded the videos of their experiments to Edmodo. Some children brought in their experiments to show to the class. The quality of the experiments on show was very high and their confidence in explaining the science behind their experiments was great to see. Please encourage your child to be inquisitive about science and they are welcome any time to bring their experiments into school and do a presentation for the class. I won't be surprised if some of our children in Rathfeigh match the exploits of Luke O'Neill in future years! (Below are pictures of the children doing their science experiments).

"I shall devote only a few lines to the expression of my belief in the importance of science. It is by the daily striving after knowledge that man has raised himself to the unique position he occupies on Earth, and that his power and well-being have automatically increased" (Marie Curie).

Amber Flag

Last year we achieved an Amber Flag for the promotion of mental health in our school. The mental health of our children must be central to what we do in schools particularly in light of the difficulties that many children have experienced during Covid-19. We will be placing an increased emphasis this year on the mental health of the children. It will play an important part of the Social, Personal and Health Education curriculum and will be co-ordinated by Mrs Campbell with input from all teachers. We look forward to input and ideas from parents/guardians also. (Below is a picture of Stevie and Seán with the Amber Flag).

Student Council

Our Student Council is up and running again. We are delighted to have Faye, Rhys, Isobel and Lucy on the council until Christmas. They have come up with some great ideas already and we look forward to them liaising with their classmates about ways we can work together to improve the school. The council will meet every Friday. Parents/guardians' suggestions are always welcome too.

Admissions Policy

Our Admissions Policy is available to view on the school website (rathfeighns.org). If you have a child of school-going age starting school in September 2021 please log on to the website where you can download an Enrolment Form. If you have already applied to another school please send in an Enrolment form to Rathfeigh NS anyway and you can make a final decision before March 1st 2021. We look forward to hearing from you. If you would like to contact the school to get more information please don't hesitate to contact us (041-9825156 or rathfeighns@outlook.com).

Gaelic Football

Damien Sheridan returned this week to coach the children in all classes the skills of Gaelic football. The children are always delighted to see Damien on Monday as it is a very welcome distraction in the current restrictions.

We were delighted a few weeks ago to gratefully accept the generous donation of £1000 from Skryne GFC for the purchase of PE equipment. We have invested some of this money for the purchase of GAA footballs in anticipation and optimism that we will be playing other schools in the Boys' and Girls' Cumann na mBunscol Gaelic football competitions before the school year is finished. It would be an awful shame if this doesn't come to pass due to Covid-19. We have boys and girls chomping at the bit to play in the Green and White of Rathfeigh and we hope this comes to pass.

RST

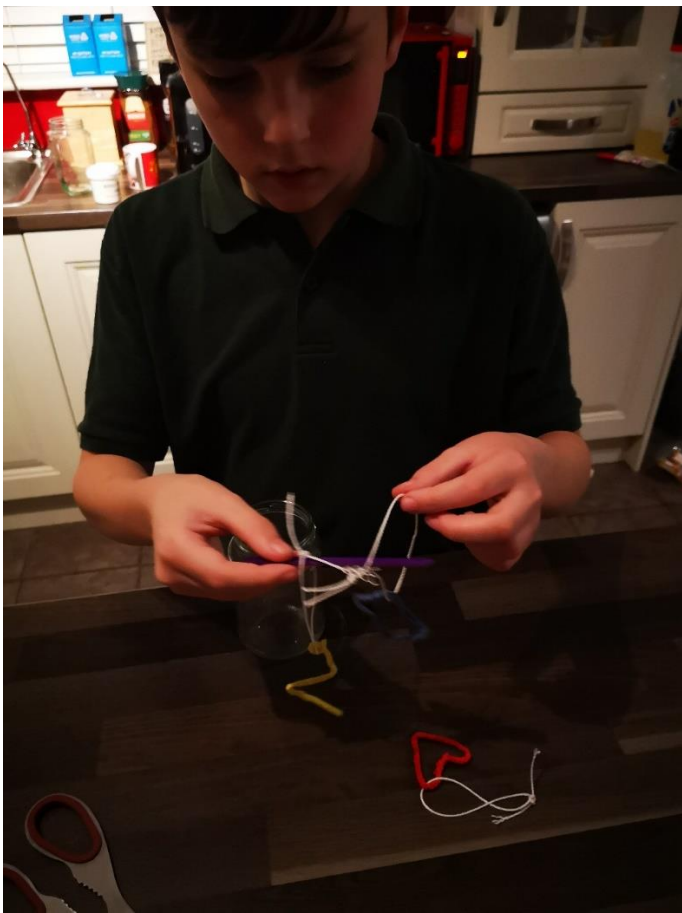
I would like to thank Jim for all his great work in producing the RST each week/fortnight in digital form for the last six months. Primary schools are central to any community and we are always delighted to showcase what is happening in Rathfeigh NS. Thanks Jim.

World Kindness Day

We celebrated World Kindness Day yesterday. Now more than ever we need kindness all around us.

Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give.







My Brother's Scribblings by Norbert Coyle

Ambling around ancient Athens Sunday 210517

We arrived into Athens ...or more correctly Piraeus just down the road from Athens proper, at 0600 just a mere 10 minutes before sunrise.

This I give you from the daily handie outie because as you well may guess we were deeply ensconced in the arms of Morpheus at this ungodly hour.

Athens has been hanging around here for about 4,000 years give or take a week or so as our ex Taoiseach might say.

As you know it's famous for the wonderful Acropolis and the Parthenon therein.

I watched a NG programme once about the Parthenon...

How they got the massive pillars up....all pointing slightly inwards for a proper perspective from the ground...the middle lot being slightly shorter than the others and for the same reason...the very conscious effort to have the diameter of the pillars proportional to their height and if I remember correctly the square root of 5 was something these lads held dear but is beyond me.

The horses on the "Elgin" marbles lined up in a manner they used in battle in real life where their positioning gave the impression of greater numbers.

Phidias was the main lad who did the sculpting and more about that anon.

A great man to call in to sculpt a door lintel or an odd pillar....they say he got very dear as he began to get popular....can I call you back on that one was his catchphrase.

Stephen Fry thinks they ...the marbles...should be handed back with interest and numerous apologies.

The druids or monks used dole out holy water here and found it a bit of a chore and one bright spark suckin' on a "lite latte" one day invented the hydraulic pump and then holy water could be dispensed by a coin operated machine whilst he went for a light lie down.

After brekky we headed off to find the church of St. Paul and Mass....a fast chariot took us there for a token €4:50 in the 26C temp. or 79F for those of you like my bride and guide who deal in old money.

It was First Communion day and the kids and the Mommas were out in all their finery...

Boys and girls all in white and the gals with lovely ribbons and garlands in their hair like those pictures of fairies and wood nymphs we used see so much of in our youth.

They received under both species and had their hands joined in the reverent way we used to long ago.

It was summer Sunday hot in the church but not a fan in sight....if it was this temp in Spain the fans would be out and fluttering frantically.

The guys and gals here have a Spanish trait in as much as they all constantly suck on a ciggie and rabid coarse youths are frequently spotted furtively offering packets for sale to the sleeping men on the sidewalk cafes.

Naturally there was an old teacher nunnie theresickle shaped and I'd say her Momma was around for the grand opening of the Parthenon....I'm back to the Mass now....I do tend to divert...The Beloved One finds this trait a bit frustrating but puts it down to the ravages of time and the knowledge that it isn't for an exam.

When I looked at these little angels and thought of them having to go to confession...I thought was this the first form of child abuse perpetrated on these innocent souls.

Then I thought ...here I am jumping on a populist bandwagon and blaming the church for all our woes....no better that a Trump follower or a Brexit simpleton.

Then again I thought....no...it should be said....

Lots of well meaning folk will say....yes it is a good thing.....sending ones kids off at 4 to a boarding school was a great idea....have them violated young and it helps to build character...they can then

perform with ruthless lack of compassion on the battle field and we'll stick a medal in an envelope and tell their parents that they were such brave jolly good types.

Alan Bennet reckons that Maggie T. didn't have a caring bone in her body and should have been buried at the dead of night....like the cruel kings of old.

We left the church and headed for a roadside cafe....Sweetness and Light was the sole female on a string of sidewalk cafes...all peopled by old geezers flinging their worry beads around their bony knuckles.

Another fast chariot whisked us back to the mother ship and through ship security again....my personal friskier asked me to lift one foot showing the sole of my shoe which he rubbed a magic wand across....he then said sir please to lift the other foot and he gave it the cursory wand wave and then he said now sir the two feet up together.

He used this joke to crack open his boring day and allow a little light relief in.

Being a former frisker myself we did resort to all kinds of boredom killers.

But for the Parthenon and old Phidias....you might never have this delight below.

Do enjoy....must be read ...two easy lines at a time and slowly.

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 eyes the Spirit unsealed,
Plough-horses in a quiet field.

The above sparse and spare lines were written by a young lad who left formal education at 13 but never abandoned his quest for knowledge.

He took the mundane and with consummate skill lifted it from the barren valleys to the hills where the gods commingle.

He did this for no reason other than that he could do it and wanted to share it with you and hoped that your day might also be uplifted beyond the common round and see with "unsealed " eyes the innate beauty of the ordinary....the common place....the bits and pieces of everyday...the mark of a hoof in a guttery gap.

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

The Teenage Years

Although, as I said, we could not go to dances until we were eighteen, we could go to "Socials", these were dances run by the Clubs our parents might be members of, such as the I.C.A., the Football club, the Cycling club etc. etc. and they were usually annual affairs to raise funds for the club. I seem to remember the biggest and best of these by far, was the Pioneer Annual Social. People came from miles away, and the Matt Talbot Hall in Skryne would be packed to capacity. Admission was five shillings. That was twelve and a half pence, after we converted to decimalisation in 1971, (cents?, work it out for yourself).

Supper was included in the admission fee, all the sandwiches, fancy buns and sweet cake you could eat. It was at these Socials that we learned to dance, our initiation, if you like, for when we reached eighteen and could go to the Big dances, where we done ballroom dancing to all the big Showbands that were around then, oh!, the joy of it.

Kilmoon Ballroom, (owned and run by Paddy Dillon, aided by the late Joe McDermott, who was the "Chucker-out") was the most local one to Skryne and very popular it was, and as we cycled up that main road on a summer's evening we would hear the music long before we reached the ballroom, and do you know the butterflies would be doing summersaults in our tummies. We just couldn't wait to get in and get our coats off and get out on that floor.

Dancing started at 9 o'clock and went on till 2 am. Other dance halls we went to were the Whitworth in Drogheda, Abbeylands in Duleek, Beechmount and the Young Mens' in Navan, and many others and then the Carnivals would be in different Towns and Villages throughout the Summer.

There was the odd BIG dance in our local hall in Skryne, when one of the clubs that was brave enough took a chance and hired one of the Show Bands, and then Father Fox would parade the car park with a torch to make sure there were no courting couples in any of the cars, but he never allowed for the ingenuity of the fellow from Tara who thought of the one place that Father Fox would never think of looking,

I would say that ninety, or maybe ninety five per cent of people of my age met their life's partner in the dance hall. I'm delighted to say, there has been a great revival of ballroom dancing in Parish Halls everywhere in recent years.

Oh, the Dance Bands nowadays are nothing like the big Showbands that were around then but they are all very good musicians, who have been playing music most of their life, simply because they love it, and they are great to listen to and great to dance to, and apart from being a lovely social get-together, Ballroom dancing is wonderful exercise, and long may it continue.

The Night Sky by Tony Canavan

Sunrise: 741 am

Sunset: 435 pm

New Moon: 15th November

Full Moon: 30th November (Penumbral Eclipse)

November 18/19th: 5 pm

A **crescent moon joins Jupiter and Saturn** in the South-West after sunset. All three will be in the process of setting, but on a clear evening this should be a great naked-eye sight.

Through a binocular or telescope you will see Jupiter's tiny star like moons, as well as Saturn's beautiful ring system. The sun sets around 430 pm and there is only one hour to moonset.

Jupiter and Saturn continue to get closer and closer until they make a **Great Conjunction** in December. They will be almost touching (in line of sight) and it will be the closest conjunction since 1623 at the time of **Johannes Kepler**, mathematician, astronomer and astrologer and a key player in the scientific revolution.

In the early morning sky 0730 am you can see **Venus and Mercury rising**. Venus will be clear but try and spot mercury, about 10° below Venus. Because they are inner planets they are both always close to the sun. There is only a small window before sunrise.

Leonid meteor shower: November 17th 2 am

The earth crosses the path of the Comet Tempel-Tuttle every year and the debris from the comet burns up in the atmosphere. The Leonid meteors come from the direction of Leo close to the star Regulus, altitude 22° and azimuth 100°. Rising in the East from midnight the meteors are expected to fall most abundantly before dawn. Expect to see about 10 – 15 per hour. The next big storm of meteors from this comet is in 2031.

November 25th: As winter progresses Orion becomes very prominent in the evening sky and by the end of the month Orion and all his 'close friends' are visible in the evening sky accompanied by a full moon. Mars will be prominent in the South-West, altitude 34°, azimuth 225° but not quite as bright as it was in October.

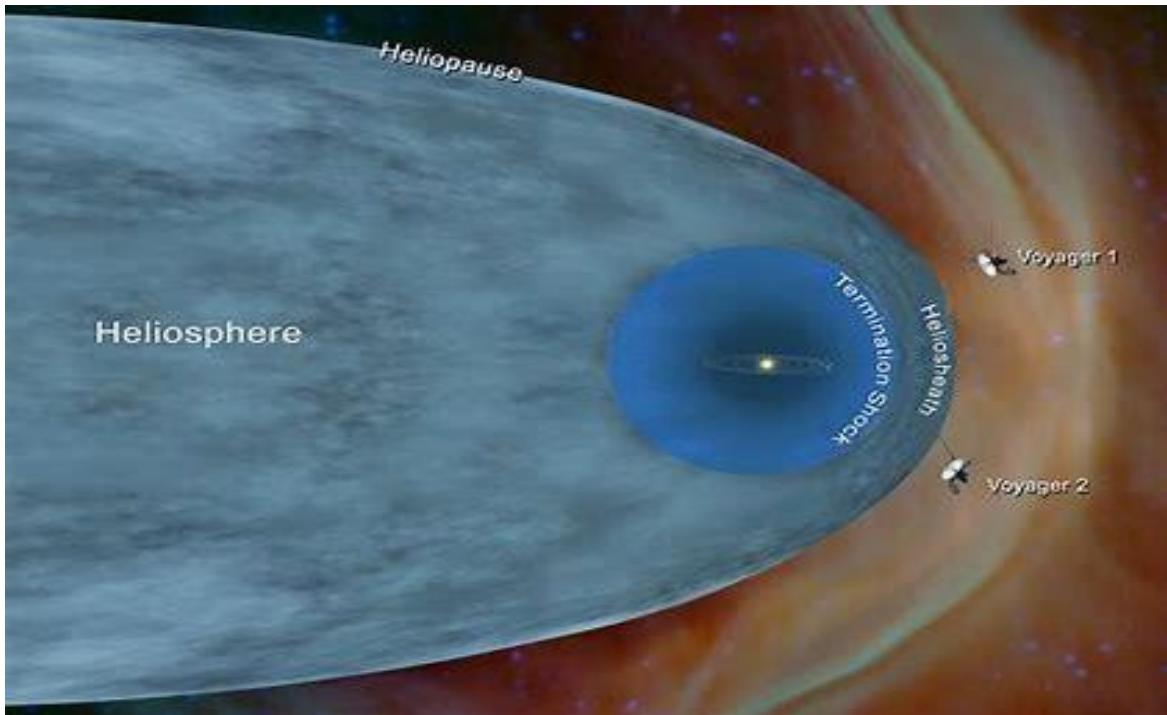
Voyager 1 & 2

The car sized **Voyager 1 & 2** spacecraft exploited a rare alignment of the planets to reach out to worlds like Uranus and Neptune for the first time.

Voyager 2 has been in the news recently because the only radio antenna that can communicate with the 43 year old spacecraft is in Canberra, Australia and has been offline for

repairs since March 2020 but is now back online. On October 29th 2020 a series of commands were sent to Voyager 2 which the spacecraft carried out. It is 18 billion kilometres (11 billion miles) away now from its launch in 1973 and it took 17 hours for the communication to reach its target at the speed of light.

Much of its equipment is shut down to preserve its power but it continues to measure the cosmic rays in the interstellar medium.



NASA

In the blue circle above the sun sends out a flow of charged particles called the **solar wind** which covers all our solar system. Because of the sun's twisted magnetic field it constantly shoots particles into space with varying degrees of intensity. This forms a giant bubble around the sun and the planets.

The earth in turn has its own bubble created by its own magnetic field which shields us from the solar wind. Its weak spot is at the poles where the solar wind can enter our atmosphere hence the Northern Lights. The poles are our vulnerable spots.

The sun and its planets rotate through the galaxy at **828,000 kilometres per hour** and this is what creates the bow wave, much as a ship will create a bow wave as it travels through the water.

Voyager 1 & 2 are at the termination point and are now entering **interstellar space** and each continues their unique journey through the universe. Both have sufficient energy until 2025 when they will fall silent. They will continue on their journey in interstellar space. Each space probe carries a **golden disc** from earth with speeches, animal sounds, music etc. This may be the only evidence of our existence in the future

Witch, Poisoner or Femme Fatale? by Anne Frehill

The year 2020 will be remembered as an “annus horribilis” by most people. Yet, amidst all the doom and gloom, there were moments of great joy. COVID-19 forced us to take a break from our frenetic lifestyles and appreciate what we had literally taken for granted. Our families, friends, neighbours, the breath-taking beauty of nature, and fascinating places far and near on the island of Ireland. Each year many of us could hardly wait to rush off to exotic destinations believing that Ireland was fine for shorter breaks but not for our main summer holidays. So, this year it seemed prudent to stay in Ireland and revisit places we thought we knew. And then we discovered that there were still many surprises, and treasures from history to be explored as well as wonderful old and new hotels and restaurants to be enjoyed.

One such place is the magnificent city of Kilkenny, once the medieval capital of Ireland.

Kyteler`s Inn, (St. Kieran`s St, Gardens,) Kilkenny, was established in the 13th Century by Dame Alice de Kyteler, regarded by many as a sorceress or witch.

The Cambridge Dictionary defines witch as “a woman who is believed to have magical powers and who uses them to harm or help other people.” The evil ones have been popularly depicted as wearing a voluminous black cloak, pointed hat, and flying on a broomstick. The most abiding caricature of a witch as an old woman of hideous physiognomy can hardly have applied to Alice Kyteler as she led four men up the aisle to tie the knot with her. Or maybe as some would say, it proves that she was a sorceress and that she simply bewitched all four men!

Alice Kyteler was of Anglo-Norman descent the family having settled in Kilkenny in the twelfth century. Her father was a banker and she discovered from a young age that money brought power, comfort, and status. At the tender age of 16, her first husband, William Outlawe of Kilkenny, a banker, was chosen for her by her father. It is said that he showed more interest in Alice`s fortune than in her person, however he did not have much time to spend it as he died just 6 months later from some malady. Three more husbands followed in quick succession, her second husband was Adam le Blund of Callan ; her third, Richard de Valle

and finally, in 1324 her fourth was , Sir John le Poer. She was still only in her forties at the time of her last marriage and people began to remark that she not only married well but often and more to the point - that she was widowed suspiciously often. Only one child, was born despite the four marriages, William Outlawe Junior. She adored him and devoted all her time and attention to him, to such an extent that she failed to look after her aging parents. This fact was noted by the concerned (or prying) townspeople. She lived in a prominent mansion in the middle of Kilkenny and her apparent knack for financial gain and ever- increasing prosperity made her a person to be envied.

In 1324, Dame Alice`s stepchildren, turned on her, their anger which had been simmering for a long time (because she financially favoured her own son) boiled over. They claimed that she had bewitched and then poisoned her first three husbands. They also alleged that her current husband, Sir John, was being slowly poisoned and attested that this was true because (it appears) he was gradually losing his hair and nails. Soon, whispers abounded in the narrow laneways and dark alleyways that Alice Kyteler was dabbling in witchcraft. There were several denizens of the town who were not shy in coming forward to give supposed eye-witness accounts of Alice Kyteler performing various rituals only practised by witches. Many even claimed that young William, her son, had no earthly father and that she was in league with the Devil himself, who visited her frequently. The rumour mill went into overdrive and accusations against her followed, thick, and fast. Her neighbours said that she sacrificed animals, spoke incantations, and mixed strange potions, all in the dead of night.

Into this toxic atmosphere of jealousy, ignorance and suspicion, stepped one English zealot, Richard de Landrede, Franciscan bishop of Ossory. Dame Alice, her loyal servant Petronilla of Meath, plus other alleged female followers were arrested and charged with sorcery. He focused on Dame Alice, accusing her not only of witchcraft but of leading a coven of witches. Was he convinced (albeit erroneously) of her guilt or did he want to send a clear message to the minor nobility like Alice and her supporters, that despite their growing wealth they could not challenge the all -encompassing authority of the church.

A group pf Kilkenny`s most influential citizens met with the bishop and spoke on Dame Alice`s behalf. However, he refused to drop the charges, so they seized him and for the next 17 days he was imprisoned in

Kilkenny jail. When he was released, he was more determined than ever to convict Alice and reported them to the archbishop of Dublin.

The head of the citizens group (Sir Arnold) was summoned to Dublin by the archbishop along with Bishop de Landrede. When the archbishop heard of the earlier imprisonment of de Landrede he was incandescent with rage and it was decided that a faction of the Dublin court would go to Kilkenny and try Dame Alice and her whole coven for witchcraft.

Subsequently, she was found guilty as charged and handed over to the authorities. Her sentence was that she be whipped through the streets of Kilkenny and then burned to death in the centre of the town. However she had one more trick up her sleeve or perhaps a spell, on the night before her execution, with the help of friends from among the Anglo-Norman families, she made her escape from jail and fled not only Kilkenny but these shores, to live for the rest of her days in England.

The bishop who was furious, excommunicated Alice *in absentia*, then confiscated all her property and burnt a large cloth bag which allegedly was found in her house and contained all the objects associated with the Black Art. He then turned his attention to her servant Petronilla, her daughter Sarah and nine other women. He focused all his rage on poor Petronilla who was penniless, vulnerable, and middle-aged. She was imprisoned and tortured every day for a week, until she confessed to witchcraft. According to the sadistic, power-hungry bishop, he was determined to extract a confession from her on the grounds that she could go to her death “with a clear conscience.”

On November 3rd 1324, she was burnt alive in front of the said bishop, while it is reported that a large crowd stood by to watch her horrific suffering and death.

And in a sickening display of how power and position were everything, Alice`s son William Outlawe Junior, got off lightly. His “penance” was to attend three masses a day for a year, feed a certain number of paupers and pay for a lead roof towards the roof of St. Marys.

What of the other accused? It seems that they too got off relatively lightly as there is no surviving evidence of any more executions.

It is difficult now for us who live in the 21st Century to feel much empathy for Dame Alice. There are so many unanswered questions and a paucity of reliable sources.

Was she just a wily, opportunistic female who knew how to play on the heartstrings of men who found her charms irresistible?

Was she perhaps a woman who knew how to amass wealth and power better than any man of her day? The flames of envy/hatred which this would ignite, would be enough to start vicious rumours about her in a world where women were very much under the thumb of their menfolk.

Or was she a female killer? Down through the centuries there has been a popular myth which surfaces now and again i.e. that a woman prefers poison as a weapon. So, this may have been an easy accusation to throw at her, but one must acknowledge the possibility that she was simply “a poisoner.”

However, all my sympathy lies with “Petronilla of Meath”, to name her as the scapegoat for her mistress seems a gross understatement, given all she endured. Questions abound about Petronilla.

Was she married/ widowed or perhaps unwed? We know that she had one daughter.

If unwed and deemed to be “a fallen woman” she would have been cast on the lowest rung of the societal ladder.

Given her name, (Petronilla of Meath) how did she have the misfortune to end up as a servant for a noble woman in Kilkenny? Due to her connection with Meath I was eager to pursue even the smallest crumb of information about her, after attending a recent lecture on the general topic of Dame Alice Kyteler. However, the lecturer told me that despite painstaking work by many researchers it has been impossible to unearth any further information about Petronilla.

It is worth noting that the appointment of Bishop de Landrede to the See of Ossory occurred around the same time as John XXII was elevated to the Papacy.

In Irish Witchcraft and Demonology (St. John De Seymour), I found some interesting information. It appears that John XXII believed that he was surrounded by enemies who were making attempts on his life through various practises of the Black Art including wax effigies. And in several Papal Bulls, “he gave ecclesiastical authorisation to the reality of the belief in magical forces.” Both heresy and sorcery, were identified and the same punishment to be meted out for either transgression i.e. burning at the stake and confiscation of property. This may offer some insight into Bishop de Landrede`s mindset but it does not excuse his merciless pursuit of poor Petronilla. It seems to add insult to injury that she was considered by her

contemporaries to be “a nobody” who barely warranted a footnote in history, despite the fact that she “took the rap” i.e. torture and death through burning for one (Dame) Alice Kyteler and her misdemeanours.

A quote from Ancient Greece reverberates through the centuries.

“The measure of a man is what he does with power.”

Plato (Athenian philosopher).

TRAGIC WEEK-END IN DUBLIN—27 DEATHS.

ELEVEN OFFICERS OF CROWN KILLED.

SIMULTANEOUS RAID IN MANY STREETS.

Yesterday the most tragic of the events which have recently happened in Ireland took place in Dublin, and resulted in the deaths of 27 persons, while a great many were wounded.

The great tragedy commenced about 9 a.m., when civilian raiders entered a great many houses in various parts of the city, but particularly in the *Lr. Mount St., Baggot St., Earlsfort Tce.* districts, in which army officers and ex-officers resided, and, inquiring for them by names, demanded to be conveyed to their rooms, and 14 were shot dead and 5 wounded.

CROKE PARK SHOOTINGS.

Terrifying scenes were witnessed yesterday at Croke Park when, during the progress of a challenge football match between teams representing Dublin and Tipperary, military, R.I.C., and auxiliary police made their appearance.

Volleys of rifle fire were heard, and 15,000 spectators fled in a desperate attempt to escape. The casualties total **12 KILLED, 11 SERIOUSLY WOUNDED, AND 54 OTHERS INJURED.**

An official account states the Crown forces went to seek persons concerned in the shootings yesterday morning, and alleges that pickets raised an alarm and fired on the approaching forces, the fire being returned.

There were most painful scenes subsequently when the dead, who include one of the Tipperary players, and wounded were picked up and removed to hospital.

DISAPPOINTING CHALLENGE BY NAVAN O'MAHONYS

KILBRIDE RETAIN KEEGAN CUP

Kilbride's domination of Meath club football continued uninterrupted at Pairc Tailteann, Navan, on Sunday when they experienced not too much difficulty in sweeping aside a disappointing challenge by Navan O'Mahonys whom they defeated by 0-9 to 0-7 to win this year's senior football championship and take home the coveted Keegan Cup for a fourth time.



RAMON GILES (O'Mahonys' capt.)















JACK QUINN, Kilbride

Dingbats

Can you solve this Dingbats puzzle?

Answers will appear in the next issue of the newsletter

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

Last weeks answers

1 Three Wise Men, 2 Money Is The Root Of All Evil, 3 Hunch Back, 4 Box Clever, 5 Good For Nothing, 6 Bottomless Pit, 7 Bald Eagle, 8 Throw In The Towel, 9 Second Time Around, 10 Listen To Me, 11 Laminate, 12 Get Your Kicks On Route 66

Poetry Corner

A Friend by Brian Smyth

(I)

Give me a friend who is honest and true
A friend in my hour of need
One of the kindly sort and few
Who will stand or fall along with you
And claims but your friendship's mead.

(II)

For a friend can help you along the way
And lighten a weary load
And a kindly word of comfort say
As you plod along through a scorching day
On your steep and lonely road.

(III)

Sure life is a lonely fight most time
And our needs seem often sore
And for some there's scarce one pleasing chime
As uphill many they try to climb
In their search for contentment's door.

(IV)

So I hail as a gift from God a friend
A gift I should proudly prize
And all estranging thoughts I rend
And bless this gift which God doth send
And cling to my friendships ties.

This is from Brian's 'Collected Poems

Some Seasonal Photos from Norbert Coyle

Heaven on earth , this week , Belper road in all its autumnal glory !



Cattle

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



12A



12B

Last week's breeds:

Breed 11A

Dexter cattle are a breed of cattle originating in Ireland. The smallest of the European cattle breeds, they are about half the size of a traditional Hereford and about one-third the size of a Holstein Friesian milking cow.

Breed 11B

The Irish Moiled is a rare cattle breed from Ireland. It is a dual-purpose breed, reared for both beef and milk. It originated in County Leitrim, County Sligo, County Down and County Donegal, but the breed is now found throughout Ireland

Some Awful Jokes

A guy spots a sign outside a house that reads "Talking Dog for Sale." Intrigued, he walks in. "So what have you done with your life?" he asks the dog. "I've led a very full life," says the dog. "I lived in the Alps rescuing avalanche victims. Then I served my country in Iraq. And now I spend my days reading to the residents of a retirement home." The guy is flabbergasted. He asks the dog's owner, "Why on earth would you want to get rid of an incredible dog like that?" The owner says, "Because he's a liar! He never did any of that!"

My dog used to chase people on a bike a lot. It got so bad, finally I had to take his bike away.

Two fish are in a tank. One says to the other fish, do you know how to drive this thing?



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€5,000	€36.22	36	€613.45	€5,613.45
€10,000	€46.57	60	€2095.92	€12,095.92
€15,000	€70.06	60	€3,144.17	€18,144.17
€20,000	€71.67	84	€6,011.19	€26,011.19
€30,000	€107.50	84	€9017.39	€39,017.39
€40,000	€111.34	120	€17,782.53	€57,782.53

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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 28th November 2020

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