

DIGITAL VERSION FOR DURATION OF CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC

SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020  
ISSUE NO. 25



**WAYSIDE CROSS IN SKRYNE CHURCHYARD**



## Condolences

Our sincere sympathy goes to

Dympna and the Nixon family, Berrilstown, on the death of Christy

The Devine family, on the death of Agnes, Kilcarn Court and late of Dunsaney

May they rest in peace

## Hillview Nursing Home

we are all keeping well here in Hillview, many thanks to all the local schools and preschools for sending us some lovely letters and pictures. We are all looking forward to Christmas..

Rebecca



*John and Eamon busy making our Christmas wreaths*



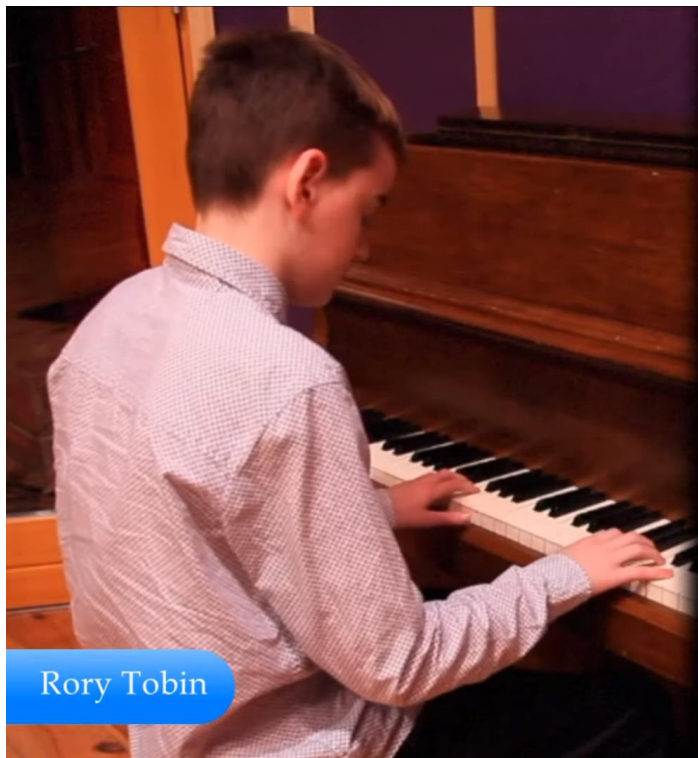
*The finished product*

## Weekly Liturgy

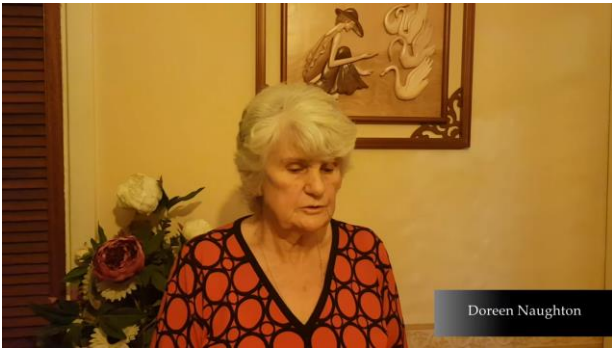
The weekly liturgy can be viewed by following this link:

<https://youtu.be/xmvwHQ7-tHw>

Some scenes from last week's liturgy:







## 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](mailto:jimconroy747@gmail.com) or [patriciaconroy1@hotmail.com](mailto:patriciaconroy1@hotmail.com)

We caught up with an exciting new local business , Finnegan Brothers Coffee, you can read the results of our chat in this issue of the RST

Also, as the next issue of the RST will be our Christmas edition we would welcome articles and photographs reflecting this special time of year

## Finnegan Brothers Coffee

### **Who are the Finegan Bros Where do you come from and where do you work**

We are a small Irish start-up company based in Skryne providing premium quality bespoke coffee that is sustainably sourced from around the world.

Finegan Brothers consists of two lads, both with a passionate love of coffee. Josh and Fiachra both represented Skryne in underage Gaelic football playing with some of the greats past and present.

Alongside the coffee we both work full time respectively - Fiachra 22 years old is currently working full time in Boston Scientific as a biomedical engineer and playing rugby with Navan RFC. Josh who is 25 years of age and is working in Research Insights with Qualtrics as a Senior Sales Development Representative in Dublin and plays soccer with Robinstown.

### **What is your business**

We're in the coffee business. Ground coffee, whole beans, and brew bags.

Our philosophy is good vibes, great coffee and this is empowered through our products. Our mission is to have great tasting coffee in every kitchen in Ireland.

We provide a premium washed and natural blend of ground coffee sourced from Kenya, Brazil and Sumatra, we also provide whole beans of the same blend. Recently, we have launched our brand new product 'brew bags' & corresponding new blend 'Arabicas of the world' which features a new bean from

Colombia which have been a massive hit. We have received a lot of great feedback from our customers so far.

### **How did you get the idea**

Starting a business together is something we had always wanted to do and we originally started talking about last year. During lockdown we weren't able to play sports or meet friends, and we had a lot of time to think. We were trying top brand coffees for as long as we can remember, and coffee is something that we are both incredibly passionate about. One day at the kitchen table while sitting down chatting over a fresh brew we had the epiphany moment; We wanted to create our own blend which gives you a real authentic premium at-home experience. So we took it into our own hands and started our own coffee company. Six months later, here we are! The lockdown helped, we put in every minute we had to spare and it was in this environment that innovation flourished. We saw an opportunity to take our dream to market which gave us the extra bit of motivation we needed to get going.

We both showed a passionate love for coffee and had been experimenting for the past 6 to 8 months with various brands from around the world. We noticed that there is a huge growing interest in artisan coffee in Ireland, and we wanted to make our mark on it. We also found that many people settle for instant coffee over ground and whole beans and we wanted to change their perspectives on how good coffee can taste. Quite frankly, we believed that we could create a blend of coffee with a truly unique taste and profile, that matches & surpasses the standard café style coffee – something that we felt was missing from the market

### **What is your target audience**

Our target audience is everyone the enjoys a good cup of coffee or has yet to be converted!

### **How did it start**

We spent many long weekends and late nights contacting suppliers, tasting different brands and getting beans in from different parts of the world. We then conducted our own cupping sessions here in the house. When we found the right supplier, bean types, and roast we knew we were onto a winner and began the process of trying to figure out how to set up our business.

Covid-19 was an opportunity that we used to fully understand the fundamental processes involved in formulating a unique blend, sorting out supply chains, designing websites, and organising packaging.

### **When did you set it up**

We set up the business mid lockdown and have been in operation for just coming up to 6 months. We were about three months into lockdown when we fully committed to the idea, but we had been planning to launch for a considerable amount of time beforehand. The opportunity cost of the lockdown was that we were able to invest more time into the business than we would've been able to previously. We launched our social media pages in July – and the rest is history.

### **How are you delivering your products**

We are stocking a couple of stores around Meath and Dublin. For anybody that lives locally in Skryne we are available in Swans pub and grocery store, and in Sweet Planet home bakery in Dunshaughlin. You can

also find our coffee available in the Muttonhead Butchery in Slane and will be in ODE Navan in the coming weeks. For any of those that are travelling a little bit, we are available in Naul, Dublin from Clonanny farm foods, and Sage and Stone in Duleek. We also have a domestic delivery service available through our courier partners Fastway and we do local dropouts within Meath.

### **How are you going to grow your business**

The million-dollar question! At the moment our main priority is developing our brand locally, and to try to maintain the support that has been so rewarding and fantastic to us. We want to start small and make sure that we grow our roots successfully before casting our net out too far. We've been very successful so far in that the three batches of freshly roasted coffee we have ordered, which have all completely sold out. This is fantastic on one hand but it certainly puts us under pressure to get stock in at times! All a learning curve.

Our Next step is to revisit our packaging in January and develop a more sustainable and economic packaging solution. We are hopeful that we will be able to order in higher volumes of coffee due to the demand we have generated.

Once we have well-established roots in place we plan to get in contact with more local stores and cafés and hopefully hit the shelves by the end of 2021 start of 22.

### **What is the reaction on social media**

The support we have received on social media has been phenomenal. We couldn't have asked for better local support. We were nervous when we were starting as we weren't sure if people would be interested in our idea, but the reaction has been awesome. Everyone we spoke to has been so supportive of the idea. We would especially like to thank Swans Pub for being so supportive and being the first shop to support us in selling our product. We've had to drop into Paula and Alan with boxes of stock because the support from the community has been superb.

We have developed a large social media following over a small space of time we average about 7000 interactions a week which is phenomenal and have built up over 3000 followers across all platforms not bad for six months work.

### **What products do you have**

At the moment we have three products listed on our website. We have our signature blend which is ground coffee perfect for French presses. We have the same blend in whole bean also. We have recently released our flagship product brew bags, which is 10g of our 'Arabicas of the world' blend in a bio-web bag ready to brew in three minutes. In theory, it's just like a teabag, and we get a good laugh when people constantly remind us of that. In fact, it's full of beautiful ground coffee and it's helping us change the coffee game one bag at a time.





## **Innovations of the future**

We hope to eventually get a little coffee truck on the road or perhaps attend a few farmer's markets. It's a little hard to put a realistic strategy into place at the moment due to COVID-19, and the uncertainty of conditions but we will definitely be making waves in the coming weeks and months. We are also constantly looking out for ways to become a more sustainable business - as we feel it's very important to be constantly innovating ways to reduce waste and our footprint. We have already implemented a few strategies to promote sustainability - our coffee bags and labels are fully recyclable, and our brew bags are fully compostable.

## **Advice to any young entrepreneurs in skryne that want to start their own business**

If any young people in Skryne are looking to set up a business we would be delighted to have a chat at any time over a brew. We are local lads who are pretty down to earth, and we would be really happy to share any knowledge we can.

The one piece of advice we do have is to just do it!! The last six months have been an amazing time for us, and an utter rollercoaster. We have learned so much already, and have only really started.

If it doesn't work out and it fails that's probably one of the most important life lessons you'll ever learn, and if it starts to be successful then you just keep building on the little blocks you have put in place. Think of it like a jigsaw, the project can only start to form a beautiful image once you figure out where the small parts fit in.

## **What's the best thing about starting a business?**

It has to be the whole process of starting with nothing but an idea at the kitchen table over a cup of coffee and then spending hours and hours developing concepts, chasing leads, and trying to figure out what works and what doesn't. Making loads of mistakes along the way getting valuable feedback, getting compliments, and then being criticised somewhere along the line when things go wrong (Which they do!!). It's the whole learning curve that we've enjoyed, we built the website from scratch, we designed the products and packaging. We are still developing a brand and we had to learn quickly about how to do SEO and online marketing. We feel that we learned a lot of life lessons in the last six months. We love the support we get locally and from friends, colleagues, family, and everybody in between. Starting a business



while being back home has also been a blast. When it comes to a startup business, it truly is all hands on deck and it definitely brought us closer together as a family which is an awesome bonus.

### Anything you'd like to add?

A big part of our brand is the motto 'brew your coffee not your problems'.

Recently, we fundraised for the Movember Foundation, raising over €2000 for men's mental health. Josh bleached his hair blonde because he can't grow a mustache and ran 20k each Saturday through wind or rain. Fiachra grew the best whiskers that Skryne has ever seen and completed weekly fitness challenges.

We have a wonderful gift a brew service on our website, if there is someone you miss and cannot see, give them the gift of coffee. Add a note and we'll wrap it up and deliver it. Make sure to stay in touch with friends, family, and anyone you haven't seen in a while.

We'll see you at Swans, Foxes, and Mrs. O's when this is all over.

Josh & Fiachra.

[www.fineganbrother@gmail.com](mailto:www.fineganbrother@gmail.com)

Facebook - @fineganbrothers | Instagram – finegan\_brothers\_co



## Blotto

Date	Jackpot	Numbers Drawn				Lucky Dip Winners
22/11/2020	€10,000	12	13	22	26	Chris Carty Des Manning Keelan Swan Jack Dardis
15/11/2020	€10,000	10	11	14	17	Gordon Reilly Tommy Colman Brian Smyth Emma Harrington
08/11/2020	€10,000	07	20	24	28	Brian McNally Maeve Bayley Ken Mooney Dom O'Brien
01/11/2020	€10,000	14	19	23	25	Cormac Grendon Aidan Tuite Martin McQuillan Lorraine Mangan

## GAA Underage

### Boys end of year meeting

Our annual end of year meeting for the boys underage section will take place at 8.30pm on Friday 4th December via TEAMS - all welcome. To register to attend the meeting please send an email to [skryneunderage@gmail.com](mailto:skryneunderage@gmail.com) before 2nd of December.

We're always looking for new faces to become involved in the club and especially welcome interest in positions in the underage section - chair, vice chair, secretary, assistant secretary, PRO, child protection officers. We would also welcome interest from anyone who wants to become involved in coaching any of our teams - again please send a message via the email above by 2nd December. Many thanks.



## 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.

## Skryne Community Alert

There have been a number of attempted burglaries and some thefts in recent weeks. It is important not to let our guard down in the run up to Christmas. This is the time of year where we often see an increase in crime.

Most burglars are opportunists and will select the easiest target that they can find. Don't offer them assistance by:

- Leaving any window open. Some people do this for ventilation forgetting that burglars will take advantage of the smallest opening
- Leaving external doors unlocked
- Leaving a key on a string, under a doormat, or in some other 'good hiding place' outside
- Failing to secure side doors, allowing entry to the back of the premises, which is more vulnerable to attack
- Failing to keep garages and sheds locked. Not only do they contain valuable property, but also tools which may help the burglar gain access to your home.

Car theft is also on the increase around the county in recent weeks. If your car has keyless entry, it can be a good idea to disable this feature as it makes it a lot easier to steal your car without even having your keys. If you can't disable the feature, store your keys away from external walls in a Faraday key box or pouch to prevent thieves from carrying out a "relay attack" to steal your car.

One of the most effective means of crime prevention is for us all to remain vigilant and look out for each other. If you see a suspicious vehicle or strangers acting in a suspicious manner, please call it in to the Gardai on 01 801 0600. They could be on their way to steal from your neighbour, or they could be casing your own property with a view to returning later. The most important information you can provide the Gardai is the registration number and make/colour of the vehicle. Often you only have a second to look at a reg plate. Try to memorise the number that follows the county. Year is less important.

Please sign up to Skryne Text Alert if you have not already done so. There aren't a large volume of texts sent out, but they are effective and when Gardai need to get a message out to residents in our area urgently, it is the best way of achieving this. You can contact any member of Skryne Community Alert group or email us at [skrynecommunityalert@gmail.com](mailto:skrynecommunityalert@gmail.com) and we will get a signup form out to you.



# TOP 5 BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS



- 1 Secure all Doors and Windows
- 2 Light up your Home, use timer switches when out
- 3 Store Keys safely and away from windows & letterboxes
- 4 Record details of Valuables and don't keep large Cash amounts at home
- 5 Use your Alarm, even when at home

See [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie) for more information

# TOP 5 FARM THEFT PREVENTION TIPS



- 1 Restrict Access to your yard, install and lock gates
- 2 Ensure your Yard is well lit
- 3 Take Pictures of your Machinery with your unique ID features
- 4 Sign up for Community Text Alerts
- 5 Always Report Farm Thefts to An Garda Síochána

See [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie) for more information

## Recent Theft

### Stolen Horse Box



- Stolen from Macetown, Rathfeigh, 18th Nov
- Chasis Number: 5061630
- Navy HB511
- Reg 07-MN-421 (I assume removed)
- Yellow square painted on the front hitch
- Dent/scratch near the left handle when looking straight at box
- Front ramp is nearly impossible to open, as it's not sitting in correctly, takes a lot of strength to get it down
- Pink bridle holder, blue saddle holder and bales of shavings inside of the box

Any information please contact me on 0851314526

# Skryne National School from Martin Kennedy

There you are. Before we knew it we are almost out the other side of Stage 5 Restrictions. We are not going to pretend that it has been easy. In fact it has been quite difficult for some. The good news is that it has passed and while we are not at the point we had hoped to be in relation to suppression of the virus, there is at least some cause for optimism. You don't need another lecture from me on doing the right thing so let's just be thankful for the new found freedoms we have been granted and value them by continuing to do the right thing. Community and collective responsibility will carry us through.

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We had the strangest of experiences this week at the school. It is normally buzzing with anticipation and energy brought by the holding of Parent/Teacher meetings. Face-to-face meetings were not possible this year so for the first time we conducted these meetings via phone. All was going very well until the power cuts of Wednesday kicked in and brought panic. Teachers tried to rush home to make phone calls as connections were compromised by the power cut. It all worked out quite well in the end and thankfully we were able to contact most people on the day. Over the course of the week all parents/guardians were contacted and given the great news in most cases that your children are happy and doing well in school. Children are remarkably resilient and sometimes more able to deal with things than we give them credit for. Of course that is a broad generalisation. There are always some who need closer attention and a bit more understanding and reassurance. We try to do that at school. You can help by keeping a positive outlook and demeanour at home. We have so much to be thankful for. We need to keep reminding ourselves of that especially on the occasions when we feel a little low. Best foot forward always. We did miss the personal interaction which is so important to all of us but with the help of God - and perhaps a good dose or two of the vaccine we are praying for, it may be possible to hold more traditional meetings in the future.

Thanks to everyone who adopted so well to the new set-up. 95% of you have signed up to the new Aladdin Connect App and have used it successfully. There may have been a few initial teething problems but once these had been resolved it seems to have been plain sailing. You will find this new communication channel very useful for keeping yourself informed and connected to school activities. It also allows you to inform the school of any absences, early collection, provide permissions etc etc. We see it as a very positive step forward to improve communications in both directions.

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We have missed out on lots with the children so far this year. However we plan to make up for that in coming weeks with a few big events and perhaps a surprise or two as well. Starting out next week we will be having a Drumming Workshop for pupils from Rang 3 to Rang 6. This will be completely Covid Compliant and held in the school hall with doors open for ventilation. All going well we plan to repeat the process with sessions for the younger children. Check our school website for more detail. Apologies in advance if a drum kit appears on the Santa list after this!

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The following week we plan to stream a live performance of a pantomime for the children. We would usually have a travelling theatre company visit us at this time of the year but again Covid has put paid to that. So instead we have been inventive and are using technology to bring the panto to each classroom. Children can view the performance from the safety and comfort of their own classroom. Teachers may need ear-plugs. Oh no they won't! Oh YES they will!!

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Have a quick look at the pictures which follow here. We are blessed to have some amazing readers who have a voracious appetite for books. When we started out on the Accelerated Reader

Programme we were hopeful that we might eventually have a Word Millionaire or two. We should have had more faith in the pupils. We now have 15 Word Millionaires in Rang 6 alone. Some are multiple word millionaires! Join with us in congratulating newest "Millionaires" Rachel, Christopher and Michael.

{ A "Word Millionaire" is someone who has reached a word count of 1,000,000 words read. }

Aleida is on her 3rd. Million. Oisín has reached his 2nd. Million. What readers!

Oran appears because he was the lucky guy who visited our website and hit the 303030 visitor target. He won himself a cool jersey in the process.

The violent duo is Emily and Podge. They were fighting over the ball ahead of the Leinster Final. Unfortunately we know how that one worked out!

Charlie and Tadhg are sporting "Random Acts of Kindness" badges. We watch for exceptional acts of kindness displayed by pupils from time to time and love recognising these unprompted actions. It is one of the nicest things we get to do with super children. Santa please take note!



Millionaire 2 Oisín



Millionaire 3 Aleida





AOK Charlie



AOK Tadhg



Oran



Millionaire Christopher



Emily & Podge Leinster Final



2 The Weekender, Saturday, 4th November, 1995

## Skryne Pays Tribute To Taoiseach

- By John Donohoe

The Taoiseach, John Bruton, was honoured by the people of Skryne and Rathfeigh at a function in Swan's Pub, Oberstown, on Saturday night.

In what was strictly a social occasion, the local Fine Gael branch paid tribute to Mr. Bruton's ongoing assistance in the area and his role as Taoiseach.

Addressing the 150-strong gathering, Peggy McAuley, chairperson of the Skryne-Rathfeigh Fine Gael branch, said it was very fitting that the Taoiseach should be honoured in Skryne as it was a local man, Joe Hanly, who first proposed John Bruton as a Dail candidate as a 1969 party convention.

Mr. Bruton went on to win a Dail seat that year, having made his first campaign speech outside Walterstown Church, continued Ms. McAuley.

She congratulated him on "maintaining and developing a united government of three political parties - not an easy task".

Thanking the Skryne people for their continued support over the years, the Taoiseach said: "The wind isn't always on your back. I've had the wind on my face many times, and the people of this area have always supported me".

The local party branch presented a painting of the Hill of Tara Church by Kilmessan artist Michael O'Brien to the Taoiseach.

Also in attendance on Saturday night were Senator John V. Farrelly, county councillors Noel Foley, Patsy O'Neill, Mary Sylver and Tom Kelly, Drogheda Lord Mayor Fergus O'Dowd, James Holloway of Navan UDC, and Fr. J. Gleeson, P.P., Skryne.





## The Hill of Tara

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

### THE LIA FAIL — STONE OF DESTINY

Although somewhat insignificant in appearance this granite pillar is of great historic importance. It is presently located close to the statue of St. Patrick in a small enclosure surrounded by a railing.

Beneath the earth at this spot lie buried the bodies of men from Wexford and Meath who fought for their country during the Rebellion of 1798 and died near the hill of Tara. This site is also called the Croppies' Grave; the name being derived from their close cropped hair and applied to them by their enemies as a term of discredit or contempt.

The Lia Fail is 5 ft. high, it tapers towards the top, and is sunk to a depth of 18 inches. It is the opinion of some historians that it did not always occupy this position which was once the site of King Cormac's house. They feel it was originally situated on or near the Mound of the Hostages and was only transferred to its present position in 1798.

In that year it was erected as a headstone, being moved from a spot near the Hollow, or the Seat of the Kings. So it is quite probable that since that year it has marked the graves of thirty-seven Insurgents who were killed in battle with military forces in the neighbourhood.

According to tradition the Lia Fail was the original Jacob's Pillow referred to in the Book of Genesis. It was supposedly brought to Ireland by the Milesians and it is possible there is some significance in the fact that a true Irish king was always of Milesian stock.

There have been various interpretations of the name Lia Fail, the direct translation being the Stone of Fal.



The Lia Fail – Stone of Destiny

There have been many lengthy discussions and opinions as to the correct translation; sufficient it is to say that it is most commonly known as the Stone of Destiny.

Tara was, of course, the place of inauguration of the High Kings of Ireland. There is a tradition that when a king was about to be crowned, he was first made to stand on the stone to face his final test as being suited to hold

that high office. It was essential that he was also of good physical, moral and mental ability before being selected to rule.

The tradition suggests that if the stone remained silent when the king-elect stood on it he was considered unsuitable for the kingship. But if he had all the right qualities the stone gave a loud roar.

In Westminster Abbey, London, beneath the coronation chair lies a stone also known as the Stone of Destiny. There is a tradition that it is the real stone and it is supposed to have been taken to Scotland from Ireland at the beginning of the sixth century by Fergus More MacEarc, a brother of the reigning king of Tara. There, it was intended to serve the same purpose as in Ireland thus ensuring that Scottish kings were properly enthroned.

This, however, is regarded as being but a legend and the opinions of most historians favour the theory that the stone at Tara is, in fact, the True Stone of Destiny.

A lengthy ballad by Thomas Davis deals with all the qualities required for a True Irish King.

“For he must have come from a conquering race —  
The heir of their valour, their glory, their grace;  
His frame must be stately, his step must be fleet,  
His hand must be trained to each warrior feat,  
His face, as the harvest moon, steadfast and clear,  
A head to enlighten, a spirit to cheer;  
While the foremost to rush where the battle-brands  
ring,

And the last to retreat, is a True Irish King.”

Tenth century poet, Kenith O'Hartigan, says the Lia Fail is “This stone on which are my two heels” and quotes from an ancient tract Dinseanchus further proof that the Lia Fail was in Tara at that time.



## Memories from Eoin Hickey

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

After Baronstown comes Maher's Cross. The thatched cottage at the main road belonged to Mrs Nevins who was often to be found out on the road while we waited for the bus. We enjoyed asking her if the bus was gone and what time it was. She would gaze up at the sun and reply "No, the bus is not gone yet; it's only five to eleven".

Diagonally opposite is Nugent's, a substantial house, set well back from the road. Tommy Nugent and his wife Marjorie (Maher) lived here with their young family. As an amateur jockey Tommy rode over four hundred winners and was twice Champion Jockey. In the 1950s he used the yard at Skryne Castle to break young horses.

Speaking of horses brings to mind my two seasons at Killeen Castle Stud, 1961 and 1962. Killeen was owned then by Sir Victor Sassoon. Lord Fingall who had sold the castle in the early Fifties, was manager and he came on his white horse across the fields each morning to inspect. In his own right, Lord Fingall was an accomplished horseman and in his day a leading gentleman jockey. He won the Cheltenham Gold Cup with Roddy Owen in 1959, trained by Danny Morgan and ridden, at the last moment, by Bobby Beasley when Bunny Cox stepped off.

Wheelchair bound Sir Victor, who lived in the Bahamas with his nurse wife, came to visit each year to see his sires, Derby winners; Hard Ridden (1958) and St Paddy (1960). Sassoon also had two earlier Derby winners; Pinza (1953) and Crepello (1957).

Shortly after Lord Fingall and his second wife, Clair, moved into their new house, The Commons, on the Dunsany Road, my mother called to visit him and asked how he was settling in. "Excellent" he replied but added that the carpets were so thick that he couldn't even pick his nose without someone sneaking up on him!

The road straight ahead from Maher's Cross goes to Belper, where the local dispensary doctor, Doctor Murnane and his wife Alice, also a doctor, lived. Mrs Murnane was born in 1903 in South Africa, just after the Second Boer War and brought up there. My mother took her to lunch at Finnstown House Hotel when the doctor was in her nineties and still practising medicine. Mrs Murnane lived on to be the grand old age of 105. She was long predeceased by her husband and also by her daughter, Dr Marie, who lived in New York.

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## Rathfeigh National School from Seamus Tansley

### Book Fair

We were delighted to be able to run our annual Book Fair a few weeks ago. Although it was conducted in a slightly different manner this year the children thoroughly enjoyed it. We sold in excess of a £1000 in books which was a welcome surprise. The 60% commission that the school receives will be wisely spent on a variety of interesting books for each classroom.

As a little thank you to all the children who read numerous books throughout "Book Fair Week" and for being so resilient during Covid-19 we are going to give all the children in the school a free Folens Christmas Annual. The Folens Christmas annuals are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and they have always provided great fun for children at this special time of year. I'm sure many people can still remember the excitement of getting these annuals every Christmas when they were in primary school! So next week the children will receive a Súgradh, Spraoi, Siamsa or Sonas depending on the class they're in. The numerous activities, stories, games and competitions should keep the children happy and content for the early weeks of December!

### Parents' Association

Our Parents' Association will not be running the Christmas School Raffle this year due to the challenging trading circumstances of many businesses who would normally sponsor prizes. The Parents' Association are instead participating in the "Cash for Clobber" scheme to raise funds for our school in early December. Not only does the scheme raise funds for our school but the items go to children and adults less fortunate than ourselves and it gives you

the opportunity to declutter! You can recycle your unwanted clothing, bedding, curtains, shoes, belts and handbags. So let's do our bit to help reduce, reuse, recycle and raise funds in the process. There will be more information in next week's school letter. **Anyone in the Rathfeigh and Skryne area are welcome to take part in our "Cash for Clobber" fundraising event.**

### Student Council

Our student council members have done a great job in their short few weeks on the council. They have created a "Suggestion Box" which is sent around to classes fortnightly. This is an excellent way to get the children's thoughts about issues they care about in the school. They have also decided to run a Christmas raffle for the children in the school – the prizes being hampers (selection boxes, games, toys, sweets etc). If any parents/guardians would like to donate items for the hamper please let us know. The council members will be selling tickets in the next few weeks. Well done Faye, Rhys, Isobel and Lucy.

### Bloody Sunday

Michael Foley's documentary "Bloody Sunday, 1920" which was shown on RTE last week was exceptional. The documentary focussed on the deaths of the fourteen innocent people that died in Croke Park a hundred years ago. Of course most of us knew about Michael Hogan who died on the pitch that day playing for Tipperary. I'm sure not many of us knew much about the other thirteen that died. I think we owe Michael Foley huge gratitude for this programme as it gave us a valuable insight into the history of Ireland during the Civil War.

The 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> class children in Rathfeigh were shown the documentary in class last week. They were fascinated by the events of Bloody Sunday and in particular they were shocked to hear that children their own age were shot on that fateful day. It's great that the children of today have access to these documentaries that show history in a balanced manner. RTE don't always do documentaries well but "hats off" to them on this occasion!

### **Gaelic Football – 100 Touch Challenge**

The boys and girls in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class took part today in the "100 Touch Challenge". This challenge was timed with the children kicking off both feet, hand-passing with right and left hand, high catch and body catch. The standard was very high with Killian O'Dwyer coming out as winner. He will take place in the final in Dunganny on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Good luck Killian.

Damien Sheridan will continue with coaching the children in the skills of Gaelic football every Monday until Christmas.

### **Planting**

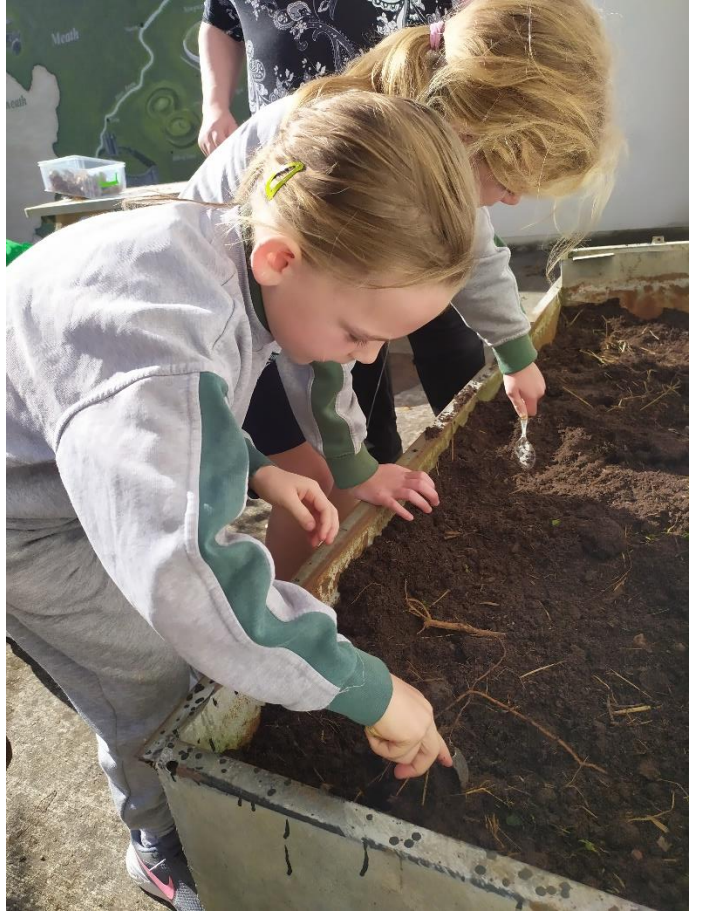
A big thanks to Mary Mc Carron and Mrs Campbell for helping the children plant flowers and buds at the back of the school. The children really enjoyed getting their hands dirty and learning about the planting process. We hope to see the fruits of their labour in the Spring and Summer! Below are a few pictures of the children hard at work!

### **Covid-19**

Luckily we've had no coronavirus cases in the school since starting school on August 26<sup>th</sup>. A sincere thanks to all parents/guardians for not sending their children to school if they are experiencing symptoms of Covid-19. The children too have been excellent and very resilient. A special thanks also to all our staff for working under very difficult circumstances. Although cases of the virus are decreasing please keep up the good work. Thanks.









## My Brother's Scribblings by Norbert Coyle

They used swear by it....Random Ramblings 220117  
Greetings ...one and all.

Health warning....

The following item may contain images that may have the easily disconcerted ,disconcerted. There are no flashing images and no animals have been harmed in the making of this piece...we'll almost none...depending on your individual viewpoint.

I was watching a taped cookery programme by Neven Maguire on tv last night .

He introduced a butcher from Tipperary whose family on the Mammy's side had been in the business for more that 5 generations.

He was the current owner of the James Whelan butchers and they won a major award for the best dripping selected from some 10,000 entries in Ireland and the UK.

The man is clearly a great butcher but should have been in PR. The vt showed pictures of his Angus cattle strolling around Tipperary smothered in grass as he spoke lovingly about rich grass....stress free life ( for the cattle) and he never mentioned slaughter or killing....the happy stress free cattle turned into a great product on his butcher's shelves and the small matter of their demise was airbrushed out with skill.

A man used take away his animal bones and fat ....one day he said he could no longer take it and James hit upon an idea whilst chatting to the Mammy about the dilemma.

The Mammy suggested making dripping and the rest is...ah you know...

The wonderful ....now 80.. Alan Bennet mentioned that his father...a reluctant butcher..used take the fat home and "render " it in the kitchen with the result that the whole house smelled of melting fat.

Shy Alan could never take a friend home because of the embarrassing whiff that pervaded the whole house.....this at a time when embarrassment was a serious state rather than a mere apology.

When I mentioned this to Mission Control she said that her sainted Momma used pour excess dripping into an enamel container and it was sold in their shop across the road.

Dripping ,lard and suet are all words from my youth and no longer are part of our everyday lexicon....that is until last night.

I decided to google them....my anorexic band wifi was sulking so I had to resort to the old reliable...the COD....the Concise Oxford Dictionary.

I drift....Miss Cullen , our old English teacher, used purchase a new COD every year and highlight the new words in the new version. She would defray the cost by selling the old one to some eager student....we managed to get one...one time....

I used "eager " and " student" there in the loosest possible manner.

The semisainted Da was not exactly gagging to get a gawk at last year's offering .

Dripping....fat that has melted and dripped from roasting meat, used in cooking or eaten cold as a spread.

Lard...fat from the abdomen of a pig that is rendered and clarified and used for cooking.

Suet ...the hard white fat on the kidneys and loins of cattle ,sheep and other animals, used to make foods including puddings, pastry and mincemeat.

My 95 year old cousin used visit a neighbour who shall be nameless to protect The Cooper Gibson....when he was a young fella....my cousin...not the Cooper....and he used be given a special treat on occasion.

If The Cooper was frying bacon he would dip a slice of "shop" bread into the hot bacon fat and then liberally shake sugar on the hot fat soaking bread and folding it over would present it to my cousin.

He reckons he has yet to encounter such a delicious treat.

The same Cooper used kill his own pig every winter in keeping with most of his neighbours. It was part of the process to shave the pig before boning etc.

Many years later I watched this manual shaving being performed in a more modern manner in McCarren's bacon factory in Cavan.

They simply popped the complete dead animal for a brief few seconds into a furnace and the pig emerged quite hairless if a little singed.

Patrick Kavanagh once referred to the air being "drugged with Egypt"....

The air around the factory would not encourage one to indulge in pork for quite some time.

The Cooper was unique in the neighbourhood in that he never shaved his winter pig.

He said that it was useful to have hair on the bacon for ease of turning it on the pan without a tongs.

Fat was once deemed to be quite detrimental to one's health.

New thinking tells us that it is prophylactic and also " good for you".

We also know that like the bible....science...can be used to promote any theory.

I wonder if the client in our poetic offering today should have had a bit more fat in his diet....."not well" to quote one of our readers.

After Second Shift by Lowell Jaegar

***She's stopped to shop for groceries.  
Her snow boots sloshing  
up and down the aisles, the store  
deserted: couple stock boys  
droning through cases of canned goods,  
one sleepy checker at the till.  
In the parking lot, an elderly man  
stands mumbling outside his sedan,  
all four doors wide to gusting sleet  
and ice. She asks him, Are you okay?  
He's wearing pajama pants, torn slippers,  
rumpled sport coat, knit wool hat.  
Says he's waiting for his wife.  
I just talked to her on the payphone  
over there. He's pointing at  
the Coke machine. What payphone?  
she says. That one, he says.  
It's cold, she says, and escorts him inside.  
Don't come with lights  
and sirens, she tells the 9-1-1  
dispatcher. You'll scare him.  
They stand together. The checker  
brings him a cup of coffee.  
They talk about the snow.  
So much snow.  
They watch for the cop.  
This night, black as any night,  
or a bit less so***



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

### ***Mobility At Last!***

It was around the mid fifties or early sixties that the motor car started to make it's appearance in many homes, and this was the single biggest improvement to the lifestyle of people living in the country. Now, people could take the family away on a Sunday to see different places and there would always be a picnic. (No McDonalds in those times).

Some of the first places my father brought us after we got our first car, ( a 1938 Morris 8 bought in 1953 for £55. Reg. ZC.3365) was Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth, and those places were nothing like they are today.

Another place I remember my Father taking us on those "Sunday Excursions" as a teenager, was Kilmainham Gaol, and although I never really believed in ghosts, I definitely felt a "presence" when I found myself standing on the spot where James Connolly was executed.

On wet Sundays we were brought to see the Tara Brooch in the National Museum, the Book of Kells in Trinity College, the Art Gallery, the Wax Museum, Christ's Church Cathedral, and lots of other places.

There was a family trip to Knock every year without fail. It was always on the first Saturday of August, the beginning of the holidays.

We had this huge picnic at the same place each year on the way down, and another one on the way back. Dad and the Boys would gather sticks for a fire to boil the water for the tea, while my Sister, me and my Mother buttered the lovely fresh crusty bread that we had bought in Mullingar on the way down to have with the cooked chicken, ham, fruit, apple-tart, chocolate etc. etc. We had our picnic so many times at this same gateway every year that we started calling it our "drive-in Hotel".

I still go to knock every year. I get a lovely feeling of peace and tranquillity there. (I wonder will the next generation of my family keep up the tradition?).

I don't "dine" at "our Hotel" any more, as it has too many bittersweet memories.

# The Night Sky by Tony Canavan

Sunrise: 810 am

Sunset: 414 pm

New Moon: 14<sup>th</sup> December

Full Moon: 30<sup>th</sup> November (Penumbral Eclipse)

**Mars** is directly above the moon through most of December. Mars however continues to fade and by the middle of December is only half the size it was in October as it moves away from earth.

**November 29<sup>th</sup>:** We will have a full moon on November 30<sup>th</sup> and it will be south of the Pleiades star cluster (Seven Sisters) and just above the Hyades (the **V** shape just above Orion). They remain in this pattern until dawn. There is a partial eclipse of the moon but it is at dawn so will not be visible.

**Orion:** As we continue through December the constellations of Orion and Taurus continue to climb into the evening sky with the arc of the Milky way just to the left of Orion. Best viewed in the late evenings from 7<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> December. Its makes for a very good wide angle, long exposure photograph on a clear night.

**Venus** appears in the East at 7 am at the beginning of December with **Mercury** trailing close behind. On 12<sup>th</sup> December a small crescent moon is very close by with the star

**Zubenelgenubi** just to the right. The stars name is Arabic and means 'Scorpion's southern claw' and the name goes back 2000 years. It is thought to be part of a group of stars that move through space together.

**December 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>:** The new moon (no moon!) is perfect for viewing the Geminids meteor shower one of the best annual meteor showers with a meteor expected every minute. Its origin is near Castor in the constellation of Gemini. The earth passes through the trail of the asteroid 3200 Phaethon. Because Jupiter's gravitational field continues to perturb the asteroids orbit in a few hundred years our encounters with the Geminids will be no more.

## Spacecraft News:

### **International space station (ISS):**

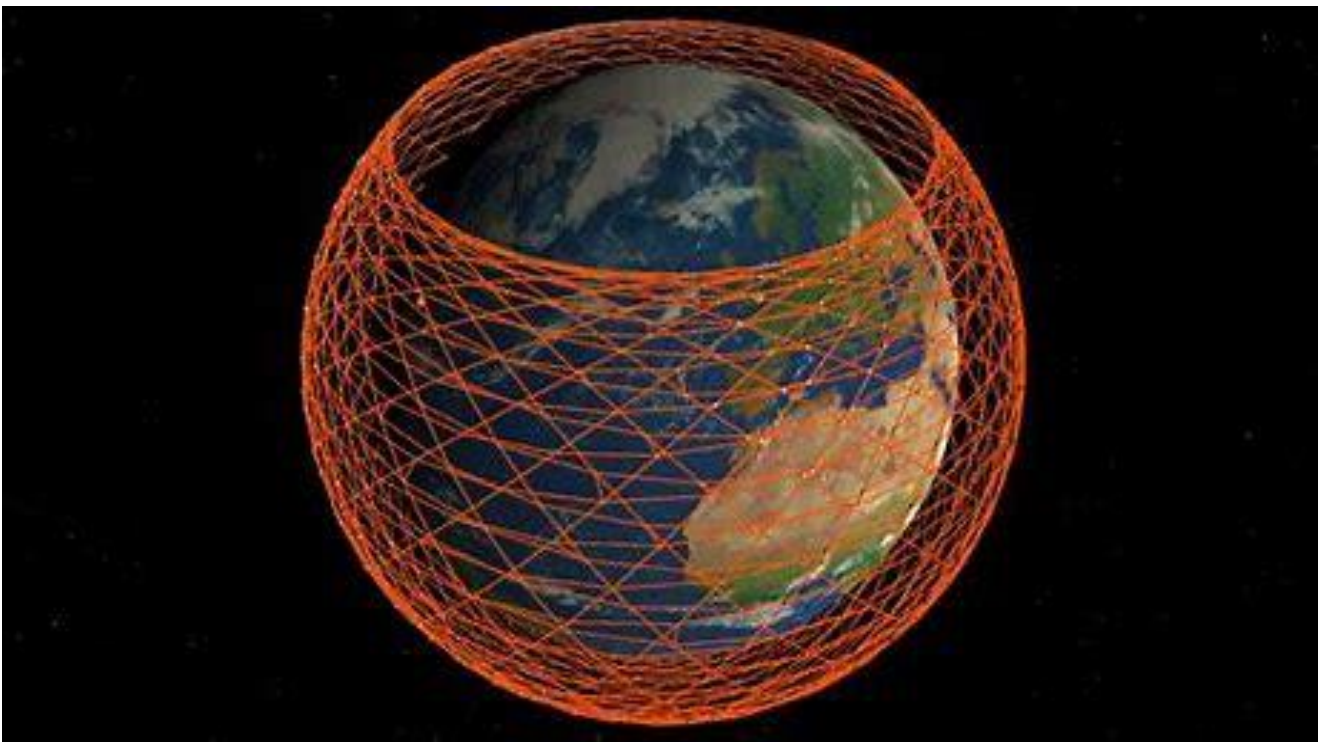
**SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket** lifted off from Nasa Kennedy Space Center's Launch Complex in Florida on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November bound for the International Space Station with four astronauts on board. The Falcon 9 is a two-stage rocket with booster engines returning to earth for reuse.

This will bring to seven the number of astronauts on the ISS. This number is required to carry out the large number of microgravity experiments. This is the study of physical phenomena in

which the normal force of gravity present on earth is greatly reduced. For example, living, working, growing food, health, bones etc have all evolved tuned to the earth's gravity ( $9.8 \text{ m sec}^{-1}$ ) and this effects our entire body, from how our hearts have to pump, to the density of our bones, our hearing etc. All experiments on earth are subject to earths gravity, but take gravity away and many things change, opening up opportunities to view systems in a whole new way not possible on earth. The ISS is a resource for developing medical, economic, technological and social benefits back on earth.

### **Starlink:**

Starlink is a satellite internet service being developed by SpaceX. Due to the reduced cost of launching satellites that SpaceX has developed and the increased demand for broadband internet access this project has literally managed to 'get off the ground' where other previous projects failed. On Tuesday night the Falcon 9 rocket with its nine kerosene Merlin engines was launched from Cape Canaveral. The first stage booster made a vertical descent back on the drone ship called '**Of Course I Still Love You**' positioned in the Atlantic Ocean

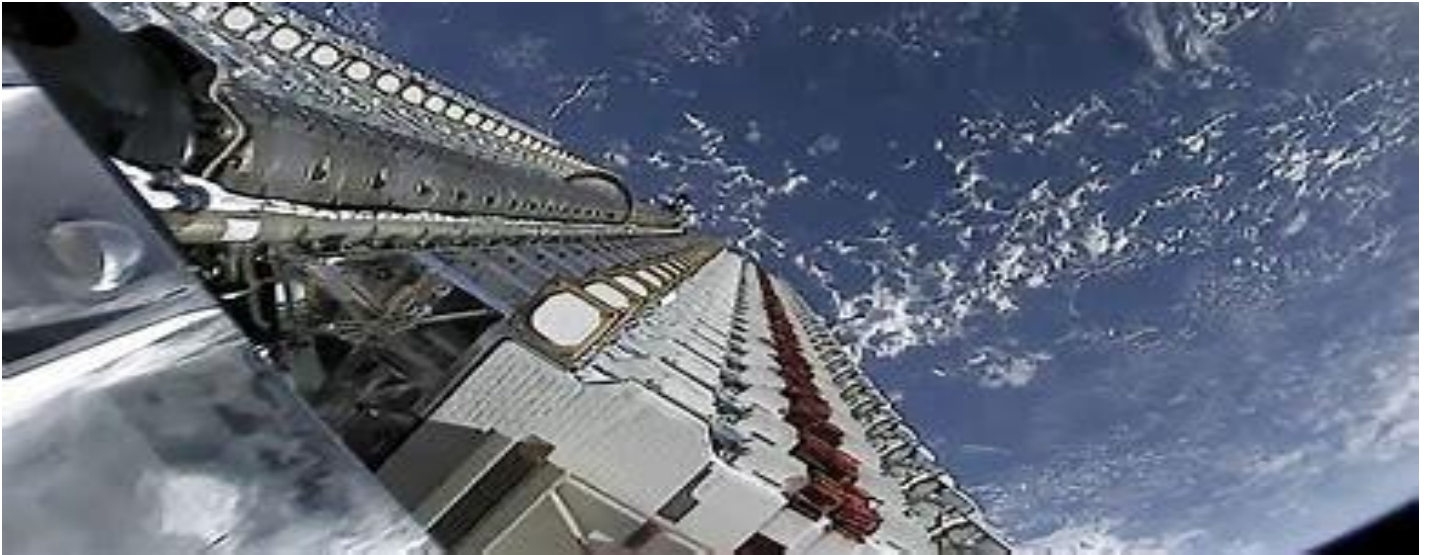


SpaceX lattice of satellites

The spacecraft released 60 internet satellites into low earth orbit as part of a deployment of 1500 satellites by 2021 (at this time 1000 are in place) and the intention is to eventually field a fleet of 12,000 satellites. This will allow internet to be available even in the remotest parts of the world (even reaching parts of County Meath that still has poor connectivity!). This system is already being rolled out in parts of the United States. There are preliminary plans



for an even larger fleet of 30,000 internet satellites. Other companies such as Amazon, Kepler, Telesat and Leosat are all planning to launch satellites.



SpaceX internet satellites being released into space from the Falcon 9 spacecraft.

## O Winter! by Anne Frehill

Each year by the first day of December we know that winter has arrived by his frosty breath and the pinch of his icy fingers. And in case we are in any doubt about his presence, soon he throws in the shortest day and the longest night for good measure!

December the last month of the year and the tenth month of the Roman calendar is derived from the Latin *decem*, ten. However, in astronomical terms it does not begin until the winter solstice on 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

I can recall several years ago, around the time I had just bought my first car, car stickers appeared which proclaimed; “Put Christ back into Christmas.” Of course, time has moved on and we now have a multi-cultural, multi-racial society with several religious beliefs and that is as it should be, diversity makes for a healthier world. However, it reminded me that

we live in an increasingly secular and commercialized era and the weeks leading up to Christmas are now referred to mostly as “the run -up to Christmas”. We are bombarded on T.V., Internet and in magazines/newspapers with images convincing us that we must buy the products shown to have a happy or joy-filled “festive season.” I admit that I don’t like the creeping Americanization (of this day celebrating the Birth of Jesus) with the greeting “Happy Holidays !” Last December, I happened to meet a casual

acquaintance (Irish lady of indeterminate age) on Grafton Street, we exchanged pleasantries and then came the final “Happy Holidays!” It was a nod to political correctness I know but somehow it rang hollow. Do we really need to embrace every detail of other cultures?

In the main Christian Churches, the weeks before Christmas are called Advent and Advent Sunday begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. I love the tradition of the Advent wreath and the weekly lighting of an additional candle - these beautiful candles, reminding us of “The light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus.” The original Advent Calendars were used to count down the days of Advent one by one until Christmas Day and I can recall as a child feeling very lucky to have acquired a simple one from a relative who lived in the United Kingdom.

Of course, this tradition too has long since been hijacked by vested interests. A quick check on the Internet revealed a staggering array of so called “Advent Calendars,” bearing everything from liqueurs, mini perfumes, chocolates, spices, make-up, artisan cheese, hair products, nail polish and those described euphemistically as “Adult Calendars.”

It is worth noting some important events from history which took place in the month of December.

“2nd December 1859. In view of the Black Lives Matter movement which has gone from strength to strength this year (2020), it is interesting to learn that the US abolitionist John Brown was hanged all those years ago. He was actively involved in the anti-slavery movement. In the 1850`s he took part in the violent conflict raging in Kansas and in 1858 declared that he was setting up a mountain refuge in Virginia for runaway slaves. Then in 1859 he led a raid on an arsenal at Harpers Ferry and took some powerful citizens from the local community as hostages. However, he was forced to surrender and tried for murder, treason, and insurrection, he was convicted and sentenced to death.

Soon afterwards, in the Civil War that followed, he was hailed as a martyr and hero and the song “John Brown`s Body” (author unknown) became the anthem of the soldiers.

On 6th December 1921. The signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty took place, between an Irish contingent and the British government. Michael Collins along with Arthur Griffith and British Prime Minister David Lloyd George otherwise known as “The Welsh wizard” pitted their wits against each other as they attempted to

hammer out an agreement acceptable to both sides. Back in Ireland, the Treaty helped bring simmering tensions to the fore between two opposing groups and indirectly fanned the flames of the Civil War. The Treaty was also a major step on the road to full independence for the Republic of Ireland.

On 10<sup>th</sup> December 1896 the Swedish chemist Alfred Bernhard Nobel, inventor of dynamite died. In accordance with his will, the bulk of his fortune which he had amassed because of his inventions, went to the Nobel Prizes fund. The Nobel Committee in charge of this fund would award five prizes on an annual basis in the following five categories; chemistry, physiology, medicine, literature and peace, “ to those who , during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind.” In total there have been 11 Irish Nobel Prize winners on the island of Ireland, among them are well known names such as W.B. Yeats, George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett, Sean Mc Bride, Seamus Heaney, and John Hume.

On 14<sup>th</sup> December 1918, for the first time in British history women voted in a general election. Countess Constance Markievicz was elected Sinn Fein MP for St Patrick`s division of Dublin, making her the first British female MP elected to the House of Commons. Although, in line with Sinn Fein abstentionist policy she did not take her seat in the Commons.

On 18<sup>th</sup> December 1916, the longest battle of World War 1 ended on the Western Front in France. It had begun on 21 February that year. It was also one of the bloodiest battles of the entire war. It is believed that there were 400,000 French casualties, 350, 000 German ones and in the region of 300,000 were killed.

On 21<sup>st</sup> of December every year, people flock to Newgrange to see the winter solstice, marking the day with the shortest period of daylight and the longest night of the year, when the sun is at its lowest daily maximum elevation in the sky. On the mornings from the 18<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> December at sunrise when the skies are clear, the rising sun illuminates the passage and chamber of this 5000 year- old megalithic passage tomb. In recent years due to a world- wide demand for access to this passage tomb around the time of the winter solstice, the OPW only allows admittance to the tomb on these dates via a lottery system. A draw for places is held every year at the site in September.

However, this was not always the case and back in the 1980s I visited the tomb on two occasions without any fuss, on 21<sup>st</sup> December. Fortunately, the skies were clear, but inside all was dark, damp and bone-chilling as we waited with bated breath for the drama which was about to unfold. I shall never forget those



awe-inspiring moments as the sunlight tentatively made its way through the lightbox up the ancient path and broke through into the centre. When the sun rose higher the whole chamber was illuminated in an ethereal light and at that point there was an eerie silence as time and space seemed to be suspended. It would not have surprised me had Adam, Enoch, Noah, and Methuselah appeared in that order! Nothing mattered except the light, it was as if the intervening 5000 years were just a dream and we were back walking in the footsteps of those who lived in megalithic times.

It is sobering to remember that the Newgrange monument lay hidden for thousands of years and it was not until 1699 that workers dug up buried stones and unwittingly uncovered the entrance to the monument. And then comes December 25<sup>th</sup>, besides being the day when we celebrate the birth of Christ, it is also a magical time for children. The jolly character we now know as Santa Claus appears to be largely based on the legend of St. Nicholas from fourth century Greece, who is believed to have travelled on a white steed. The first known written account of reindeer associated with Santa Claus occurred in 1821, when New York printer William Gilley published a book titled; *A New Years Present to the Little Ones from Five to Twelve Number 111*. This was followed in 1822 by Clement Moore`s poem *A visit from St Nicholas*.

It seems to have cemented the image of Santa Claus and his reindeers in the public consciousness. And in this wonderful poem which has stood the test of time, the reindeers are identified for the first time by name.

“More rapid than eagles his

Coursers they came,

And he whistled and shouted and called them by name ;

Now, Dasher! now, Dancer!

Now, Prancer and Vixen!

On, Comet! on , Cupid! On,

Dunder and Blixen!”

(over time these are often called Donner and Blitzen).

Moore was a professor of biblical languages at the Episcopal Theological Seminary in New York. He is said to have been inspired by New Amsterdam traditions as well as Norse and German legends.

Finally, to recognise the true meaning of Christmas Day from the year 1622 comes a haunting and beautifully written piece.

“A cold coming, they had of it, at this time of year; just, the worst time of the year, to take a journey, and specially a long journey, in. The ways deep, the weather sharp, the days short, the sun farthest off in solstitio brumali, the very dead of winter.”

Lancelot Andrewes , Of the Nativity,

Sermon 15

Despite this troubling and troubled year which is slowly coming to an end, let us be grateful that we have lived to celebrate another Christmas. Yes, it will be like no other Christmas given that we must comply with restrictions but they are there, let us not forget, for the good of everyone. However, we shall make the best of it mindful of all those who have not been so fortunate.

# AWFUL BLOODSHED IN CO. CORK AMBUSH

**FIFTEEN AUXILIARY  
POLICE DEAD.**

**ONE MAN MISSING**

**HEAVY REPRISALS IN  
THE DISTRICT.**

**MANY HOUSES BURNED**

The most appalling bloodshed yet reported in an ambush in Ireland occurred between Macroom and Dunmanway on Sunday.

The official report states that 17 auxiliary police, under District-Inspector Graig, were ambushed by between 70 and 100 men.

Fifteen of the auxiliaries were killed, one was reported dying, and another, who is missing, is believed to be dead.

A message from Cork states that reprisals at once followed, and several houses in the district are reported to have been destroyed. In Macroom business was suspended, and panic prevailed.

Martin Walsh, aged 62, an inmate of Clare Lunatic Asylum, who apparently did not understand an order to halt during a raid on the institution by Crown forces, was shot dead.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGHT.

The Cork correspondent of the "Daily Chronicle" states that the 2 lorries had not long left Dunmanway on the return journey when at Shanacashel they were ambushed. Immediately the first lorry came within range it was subjected to a terrible rain of rifle and revolver bullets. The second lorry opened fire in the direction of the attackers, but with little effect, judging by the heavy firing in reply.

Bullets kept pouring in on both lorries, the engines of each being rendered useless by the attacking riflemen. Thus exposed to a merciless onslaught, the occupants of the lorries did their best to seek cover where they could, but the firing of the attackers was most deadly. In a short time all the police in the first lorry were killed. The men in the second lorry bravely defended themselves, but the marksmanship was too true, and eventually only one of the Auxiliaries escaped the rain of bullets.

The attackers, not hearing any replying fire, crept up to the lorries, where they found that 15 of the 17 had already been killed and one seriously wounded. The remaining one, who was uninjured, they made a prisoner. They then took away all the rifles, revolvers, and ammunition, and escaped. As the patrolling party did not return to Macroom a search party was sent out, and they found the dead bodies on the road.

## REPRISALS FOLLOW THE DEADLY AMBUSH.



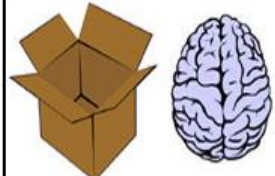






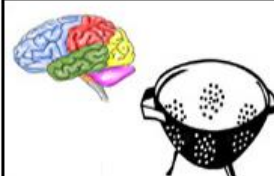


"Shops in the district were set on fire, and scarcely a house was left undamaged. The people are clearing out of locality in terror. Business was at a standstill at Macroom yesterday, all shops being closed. As a precautionary measure against reprisals, large parties of auxiliary police arrived with rifles and revolvers and patrolled the town. Travellers who motored there were ordered by the military to leave."



# 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 Bury The Hatchet, 2 Green With Envy, 3 I Only Have Eyes For You, 4 Losing Your Marbles, 5 A Pair Of Pants, 6 Face Like Thunder, 7 A Fly In The Ointment, 8 Man Of The Moment, 9 Good For Nothing, 10 A Cut Above The Rest, 11 Time On Your Hands, 12 Driven Up The Wall

## Poetry Corner

### *A Shooting Star by Brian Smyth*

(I)

When stars shoot forth across a Northern sky  
Brightening the heavens in their speeding wake.  
And rush along into the great unknown  
They leave us naught to know what course they take.

(II)

My Mother told me in my childhood days  
As sped these stars upon a winter's night.  
A shooting star was but a pure bright soul  
That from this earth had ta'en its heavenward flight.

(III)

And in my childish way she taught me send  
A little prayer up heavenward with that soul.  
That God might guide me through my earthly life  
Along the path to my eternal goal.

(IV)

And often since that night when I doth see  
These meteors flash across the Northern sky.  
An olden voice comes back to me and speaks  
Of youthful life let slip so idly by.

(V)

And so our course of life speeds on to endless time  
Scarce brightening the dark thro' which we've sped.  
We know not where we go and small the memory is left behind  
When we are numbered 'mongst our kindred dead.

*This is from Brian's 'Collected Poems*



## Interesting Snippets from Norbert Coyle

Entrance to Paul Reynolds ' Belvin Hall , former home of Dr Clarke 's first cousin ,Judge Comyn .He successfully defended Mick Jagger on his first drugs rap at the Horseferry Courts in London in 1963.The judge , ie Comyn , was also Lord Lucans barrister at the time of his disappearance.





# Cattle

*It may be obvious from the last issue that we have run out of cattle breeds that may be seen in our fields. Below are some of our readers who asked to be included in this last article.*



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

### ***Breed 12A***

The Texas Longhorn is a breed of cattle known for its characteristic horns, which can extend to over 70 inches tip to tip for bulls, and up to 100 inches tip to tip for steers and exceptional cows

### ***Breed 12B***

The Brahman is an American breed of zebuine beef cattle. It was bred in the United States from 1885 from cattle originating in India, imported at various times from the United Kingdom, from India and from Brazil;

## Many Years

God created the donkey and said to him, "You will work unceasingly from sunrise to sunset carrying burdens on your back. You will eat grass and you will have no intelligence. You will live for 50 years. You will be a donkey."

The donkey answered, "I will be a donkey, but to live 50 years is too much. Give me only 20 years."

God granted his wish.

God created the dog and said to him, "You will guard the house of man. You will be his best friend. You will eat the scraps that he gives you and you will live for 25 years. You will be a dog."

The dog answered, "Master, to live 25 years is too much. Give me only 10 years."

God granted his wish.

God created the monkey and said to him, "You will be a monkey. You will swing from branch to branch doing tricks. You will live 20 years. You will be a monkey."

The monkey answered, "Master, to live 20 years is too much. Give me only 10 years."

God granted his wish.

Finally God created man and said to him, "You will be a man, the only rational creature on the face of the Earth. You will use your intelligence to become master over all animals. You will dominate the world and you will live 20 years."

Man responded, "I will be a man but to live only 20 years is very little.

Give me the 30 years the donkey refused, the 15 years that the dog did not want and the 10 years the monkey refused."

God granted his wish.

Since then man lives 20 years as a man, he marries and spends 30 years like a donkey, working and carrying all the burdens on his back. Then when the children are gone he lives 15 years like a dog, taking care of the house and eating whatever is given to him, so that when he is old he can retire and live 10 years like a monkey, going from house to house, from one son or daughter to another, doing tricks to amuse his grandchildren.

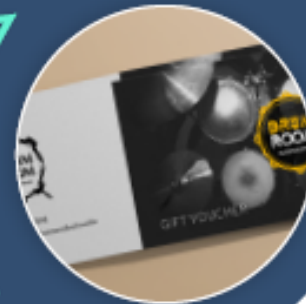


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# *Junior Trad Classes*

**Áine Kerr Grúpa Ceoil Classes**

**RST Centre, Skryne**

**Tuesdays 3.15 – 4.45pm**

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

**On your instrument of choice**



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

 **GREALLY ACCOUNTANTS**  
& CHARTERED TAX ADVISORS

Richard Greally - FCCA, AITI (CTA) Chartered Tax Advisor, B.Sc Mgmt,  
Cert in Capital Taxes for Private Clients, Cert in Business Studies

Our services include, but are not limited to the following;

- Year End Accounts for Sole Traders, Partnerships and Limited Companies
- Management Accounts
- Bookkeeping and VAT
- Payroll and PAYE
- Income Tax
- Corporation Tax
- Subcontractor and Principal Contractor Tax
- Succession Planning tax advice - gift tax, inheritance tax, retirement planning tax
- Paye employees Year End Assessment
- Rental Income computations
- Company secretarial CRO
- New business sole trader and limited company start up
- Company voluntary strike off

Garlow Cross, Navan, Co. Meath Ph: 0872717282

[www.greallyaccountants.ie](http://www.greallyaccountants.ie) [info@greallyaccountants.ie](mailto:info@greallyaccountants.ie)



## Local Handy Man Available

### SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Carpentry / Wooden Floors / Cabinet Making
- Radiator covers made to measure
- Shelving for Hot Presses
- Side Gates made to measure
- Under Stairs storage units
- Garden Maintenance including Hedge Cutting
- Power-washing Paths & Patios
- Supply and Fitting of Fireplaces & Stoves

**NO JOB TOO SMALL!**

**Contact: Paoric**

**T: 046 9034846**

**M: 085 1597105**

Room required to rent in  
Rathfeigh area please contact  
Rebecca on 041 9825698

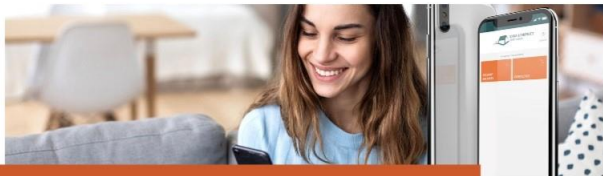
'Healthcare Assistant  
required for Hillview  
Nursing Home.  
Experience desirable  
but not essential as full  
training will be  
provided. Flexible shifts



## TARA & DISTRICT CREDIT UNION

046 902 5871 info@taracreditunion.ie  
taracreditunion @uniontara

www.taracreditunion.ie



### We Have Some Fantastic Services Available for All Our Members

- **Standard Savings Account**  
You Can Save Up To €30,000
- **Highly favourable Interest Rate for Standard or Secured Loans**  
whether it be for that dream car or that new kitchen we have a wide variety of loans to suit you.
- **Online Balance Checker**  
You can check your balance and all your latest transactions online.
- **Download Our New App**  
From the App Store or Google Play store to stay Up To Date with your account.
- **Transfer Funds To Your Bank Account**
- **Become a member in under 15 Minutes**  
Contact us today to see what you need to bring when setting up an account.
- **You Can set up a Recurring Standing Order**  
via your bank to your Credit Union Account
- **Follow us on Facebook and Twitter** to keep up to date with all our announcements.
- **We are always on the Lookout for New Directors and Volunteers**  
if you would like to become a volunteer get in touch with us today.
- **Not For Profit But For Service**



Opening Hours

Tuesday – Saturday 9.30Am-1pm & 2pm-4.30pm. Closed 1-2pm for Lunch

We are regulated by the central bank of Ireland. T&C Apply.

## YOUR MONEY - YOUR DREAM

Here at Tara & District we have loans worth looking at, so whether you're a New or Existing Member you can get a reduced Interest Rate for your first loan with TDCU or if you are already a member but have not had a loan in the last 24 Months you can also avail of the **reduced Interest rate of 5.9% (6.07% Apr)**.

What are you waiting for speak to us today about a loan that suits you!

T&C Apply. Max Loan €5000. Max Term 36 Months.

## CONSIDERING A LOAN....

Here are some of the many reasons members come to us for loans:

- **Highly favourable interest rate**  
You only pay interest on the reducing balance and we have one of the best interest rates around.  
Standard Interest Rate 7.9% (8.22APR)  
Secured Interest Rate 5.9% (6.07APR)
- **No extra charges**  
No processing charges or documentation fees.
- **No penalties for early settlement**  
Pay off your loan early with no penalties.
- **Quick decisions on applications**  
Almost 90% of our loans are approved in just 48 hours.
- **Free loan protection insurance**  
In the event of your death your loan will be cleared in full. (Terms & Conditions apply).
- **Personalised application process**  
Every loan application is considered on a case by case basis. We take your individual circumstances into account & assess your overall situation.
- **Local**  
The knowledge that your savings are supporting the local community loans.

Table Below Represents Loans at our STANDARD loan rate of 7.9%

Loan Amount	Typical Weekly Repayments	Term Months	Total Interest	Total Repayments
€1,000	€20.02	12	€40.60	€1,040.60
€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

\* Credit unions in the Republic of Ireland are regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

# Christmas Science Camp



9am-2pm on 2nd January at  
RST Community Centre Skryne.  
€50 per child.

Make our own Christmas Crystals,  
Leaky Pen Christmas Chromatography,  
Blubber Gloves, Old Crusty Earth,  
Arctic Animal Adaptations, Snow Slime,  
Vicious Volcanoes & LOTS more!

Bookings & info at: [www.junioreinsteinscienceclub.com](http://www.junioreinsteinscienceclub.com)



0857555635



junioreinsteinsmeath@gmail.com



# SEDUM AND SAGE

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



Speech & Drama Classes



Every Saturday at the RST Centre from 12-3pm

All ages catered for

Areas covered include speech correction, poetry, monologues & group drama, improvisation, mime, performance to camera, audition preparation and lots of fun.

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

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020

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