

RST Newsletter

Rathfeigh • Skryne • Tara



DIGITAL VERSION FOR DURATION OF CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC

SATURDAY 2nd May 2020

ISSUE NO. 5



Sunset illuminating the Façade of Rathfeigh Church as it has done since 1874. Sun setting behind the Hill of Skryne.

Photo taken by Maurice Daly

Condolences

Our sympathy to the Dunne family, Killeen Road on the death of Kathleen. Kathleen has been a great supporter of the RST newsletter and sponsored each August edition in memory of her late husband Paddy. May she rest in peace



Our Sympathy to the family of Rita Heffernan (nee Hanley), who died this week in her 103rd year. Rita lived in Palmerstown and was an aunt of Anne Grey, David Carty, Dermot Carty, Martin Hanley, Mary (Mooney) Byrne, Fergal Mooney. She is pictured here on the occasion of her 100th birthday

Skryne National School from Martin Kennedy

As I sit putting a few thoughts together for this note to our school community it is with the very disappointing news that we will not be returning to school as we know it until September - at the earliest. The Taoiseach has just finished delivering his address to the nation and unfortunately it did contain the news that we all feared hearing. At the moment, I must say that just like you and so many others, I feel deflated. It's not what we had hoped for. But here we are and it is what it is. What do we do? Well experts much more knowledgeable than any of us about the situation are convinced of the necessity for maintaining restrictions. Then that is what we must do. We are saving lives by our actions and nobody said that saving lives would be easy.

But you know what, it is OK to feel down and sad sometimes. I feel that way this evening. We can try to be positive and brave, put on a "game face" and face the world, but sometimes it is only a mask that hides our true feelings. I was very taken this week by an interview given by a young gymnast Rhys McClenaghan. If you don't know Rhys then let me fill in the gaps. He was the first Irish gymnast to make it to a World Championships Final. That was last year. Age 19, he came away with a bronze medal. Some achievement. He definitely has a great sporting career ahead of him. The dedication is

immense, as it is for all top class sportspeople. He was a definite contender for an Olympic medal in the Games which were to be held in Tokyo this summer. Enter the Coronavirus and all those dreams lay in dust. The meticulous preparation and sacrifice seem to have been in vain. Rhys had the bravery to come out this week and say that there were mornings when he didn't want to get out of bed and go training. He didn't wear the mask. He showed us his true feelings. We all have them.

More importantly though he went on to tell us that he didn't dwell on it. He allowed himself be cajoled, hounded, pressured into hauling his tail out of the bed (does this sound like something a mam or dad would do?) and join the others in their training session. He picked himself up and got on with it. It is a lesson to us all. It is OK to feel down now and again. What matters is how you deal with it. It will get better. We have to push on. It always feels better when you look back at something to realise that you got through it. You didn't give in. You are stronger than you think. We all are.

Last week I made reference to a Paul McCartney tune and while I was tempted to continue on the Beatles theme with George Harrison's " Here comes the Sun", it just didn't seem appropriate tonight. Anyway, I think I would struggle to find a suitable Ringo tune for next week - but I'm open to suggestions! Instead I am going to offer you a tune that goes all the way back to 1944. Written by a multi Oscar winning songwriter who wrote mainly for musicals, he was inspired to pen this tune when he heard a sermon by a local preacher. Spot the biblical references if you can. At a time when the US was deeply immersed in the brutality of World War 2, this tune brought a little light and hope into a nation struggling to find a way. There are some striking parallels with today's situation. Many great artistes have covered this little gem. They range from Jools Holland, Ella Fitzgerald, Dr. John, Paul McCartney and believe it or not to Clint Eastwood (Ask your parents/grandparents!). Even Baloo in the Jungle Book stole the tune. My favourite version is the one put out by the gnarly old veteran Willie Nelson.

It is called " Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate The Positive"

Eliminate the negative

And Don't mess with Mr. In-Between"

I'm sure Rhys McClenaghan would agree. We can all be a bit more positive.

Just imagine what it was like for those poor kids in Spain who just this week have been allowed out for 1 hour of exercise. They have had 7 weeks of total lockdown. I'm feeling more positive already.re From this evening we have a plan. Bit by bit there will be an easing of the restrictions as we make our way back to normality. We must all continue to play our part. You know what.... "Here comes the Sun..... "

We hope you enjoyed seeing some examples of the wonderful work that our pupils continue to send to their teachers. There are some more examples in this issue. Creativity abounds in Skryne. We really enjoyed the article last week from former Chairperson Rev. John Scanlon. What a wonderfully nostalgic trip down memory lane with him. Tá leabhar iontach ag fanacht le scriobh!

We were delighted to see this week that Róisín Gryson has graduated from her studies and can take her place as a qualified MD to join the Covid 19 battle ranks. The Gryson family have long been great friends of Sc Cholmcille and we join in the pride of the family in sharing Róisín's achievement. Comhghairdeas duit a Róisín.



We hope you enjoyed the little puzzle we set you last week with our Dingbat Challenge. How did you do? We will allow you to be modest and not broadcast your score. The answers are below.

- 1 Holiday overseas
 - 2 Right on cue
 - 3 Mixed messages
 - 4 Double dose
 - 5 Lost overboard
 - 6 Down and out
 - 7 Top of the morning
 - 8 Final warning
 - 9 Jack in the box
-

Examples of work that our pupils continue to send to their teachers.



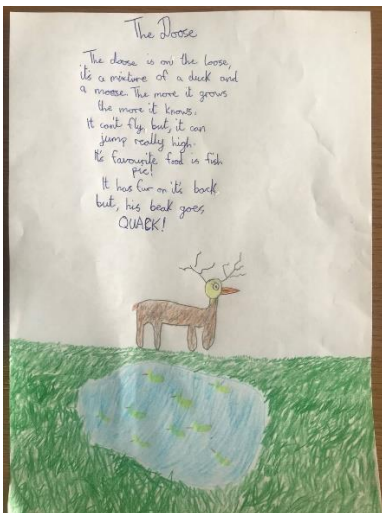
Katie B, R3, Egypt



Aoibhinn R2 Fanad Head Lighthouse.



Christopher R3 Cookies.



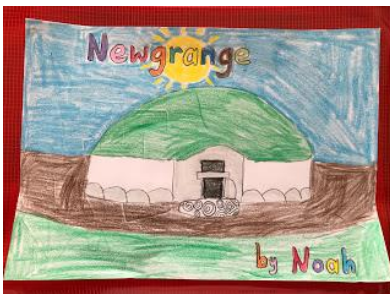
DJ's Doose Poem



Eric's R2 Cliffs of Moher



Lucas solar oven 1



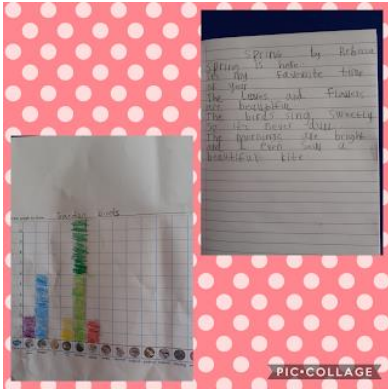
Noah's R2 Newgrange



Olivia Jun Inf's Easter Basket.jpg



Patrick P Hand Washing R4



Rebecca R3 Poem 7 Bird Count



Roby R3 Lumen Print Pic



Sen Infs Collage 2

Here is another set of puzzles to keep you guessing until next issue.
Best of luck with these from Set 20.....

<p>Cellar Sellar Seller</p>	<p>six balls & six balls</p>	<p>tttt4</p>
<p>ADO ADO ADO ADO ○ ADO ADO ADO ADO</p>	<p>Vig E at S e T</p>	<p>Tonkinese ← Burmese Siamese Persian</p>
<p>Pigeon Pigeon Pigeon Pigeon Tabby Pigeon Pigeon Pigeon Pigeon Pigeon</p>	<p>R A T S</p>	<p>I'll get T U T I</p>

Here is a gem of a poem m Ben which summarizes so well how so many of us feel at the current time.
Great insight Ben. We loved getting your work on "Poetry Ireland day".
We thought it was worthy enough to get Pride of Place in our gallery of work.

There Will Be A Time

*These are times when I'm lonely
But there will be a time when I need my space*

*There are times when I want to scream at my family
But these are times when I need them the most.*

*There are times I will play with my friends
But these are times to play with my family.*

*These are times to be grateful for technology
And there are times to turn them off*

*There are people who break the rules
And there are times when I want to break them to
But at this time, it is better to stay at home.*

By

Ben Ward

Rathfeigh National School from Seamus Tansley

Rathfeigh National School

Mental Health- Amber Flag

At the start of this school year our 1st/2nd class teacher, Ms. Ward, applied to get an Amber Flag for the school. The Amber Flag is a mental health initiative that promotes mental health and well-being for children in school. Ms Ward set up a committee of pupils who met regularly and their main aim was to promote positivity in the school. This was achieved through the holding of Friendship Weeks and using positivity quotes to motivate and encourage the children to have a positive frame of mind. To achieve the Amber Flag we did a fundraiser for Piéta House. This fundraiser was incorporated into our annual Pancake Tuesday festivities with our sixth class pupils making pancakes for all pupils in the school with all proceeds going to Piéta House. We were due to receive our Amber Flag last week but like so many things it has been delayed due to Covid-19. Nevertheless we still hope to have the flag flying outside the school before too long!

In conjunction with our promotion of mental health I did a case study in a Junior Urban Primary School as part of a postgraduate diploma in School Leadership. Without wanting to bore readers too much this involved analysing research on Well-being from various countries. Some of the findings which should be introduced in all schools are: Well-being initiatives need to be introduced on a whole-school basis and integrated formally into the school's SPHE curriculum. There needs to be continuous professional development for all teachers. Teachers need to focus on their own Well-being in order to promote Well-being among children and there needs to be regular and a variety of opportunities for children to give feedback on their Well-being and mental health as it is difficult to quantify Well-being. We hope to introduce some of these findings in Rathfeigh in September but it requires substantial investment by the government. It is a matter of priority, though, as our children in particular are going through an extremely tough time presently as they are not in school and not able to socialise and communicate with their friends face-to-face. This added to the extra pressures of being at home almost 24 hours a day which probably feels like a pressure cooker for many children.

During the last week I asked the children in my class to think of or research positivity quotes. The results were very uplifting which gives me great hope going forward. A selection of these are as follows:

- Be strong. It may be stormy now but it never rains forever.
- No one is perfect. That's why pencils have erasers.
- Do not wait to strike till the iron is hot but make it hot by striking.
- You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think and loved more than you know.
- People wait: all week for Friday, all year for summer, all life for happiness. Be happy today.
- In order to learn sometimes you fail first but remember to fail is actually your first attempt in learning.
- If you see someone without a smile give them one of yours.
- Ní neart go gur le chéile (we're stronger when we work together).
- Learn for yesterday, live for today and hope for tomorrow.
- Do what you can with you have and where you are.
- Why fit in when you can stand out.
- Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.

I think we can all take one or two of these quotes and apply them in their own lives!!

Green Flag

I am delighted to announce that we have just been granted the Green School Flag for our school. A huge amount of work was carried out by our Green School Committee and ALL the pupils in ensuring that we are a much greener school than previously. A huge thanks to Mrs Campbell for co-ordinating the whole initiative. The only problem now is to find a space for the flag on the flag poles!

Please see some Acrostic Poems (Below) from Third/Fourth class pupils.

English – Acrostic Poem

We are living in very unusual times at the moment. I'm sure you are all finding it tough going at times but I know that all the boys and girls in Rathfeigh are resilient and fantastic children. We WILL all get through this and hopefully you will all be back in school before too long. It's been great seeing your homework on Edmodo over the last few weeks. More importantly, though, I love seeing your little messages. It really cheers me up. So why not cheer me up even more and send me a message on Edmodo today. I'd really LOVE to hear from you all. Tell me how're you're getting on, what you're doing with all the spare time, what films you are watching etc etc.

Please write an acrostic poem called "optimism". An optimist is always positive and looks on the good side of things. We should all be optimistic and hopefully we'll all be playing on the field at the back of the school before too long!!!!!!! Please upload your acrostic poem to Edmodo.

O key
 P raise
 T rying New things
 I nsight
 M emories
 I nformation
 S milcing
 M aking new things

Please write an acrostic poem called "optimism". An optimist : the good side of things. We should all be optimistic and hopefi field at the back of the school before too long!!!!!!!!! Please up Edmodo.

O n these strange days
 P laying
 T ogether
 I s something we can't do
 M inding each other
 I s more important
 S taying at home
 M inds everyone.

are watching etc etc.

Please write an acrostic poem called "optimism". An optimist is always positive and looks on the good side of things. We should all be optimistic and hopefully we'll all be playing on the field at the back of the school before too long!!!!!!!!! Please upload your acrostic poem to Edmodo.

O ne day we will look back and think
 P art of the time washing hands at a sink
 T alking about Covid-19
 I s all that on the news or so it may seem
 M aybe we should stay at home
 I t's strange like a house under a dome
 S elf isolation
 M ighty Nation

O nly be happy and hopeful.
 P roblems are yesterday's news.
 T he better days will come soon.
 I can't wait for the good times
 I to come.
 M ix emotions are so happy that
 I the good will come soon.
 I just can't wait to be free
 S ome times I wonder if they'll come but
 I know they will.
 M eh my I just can't wait

The Tuesday Club from Maurice Daly

The Tuesday Club is hoping to launch its own website during the course of the coming year with the intention of recording details of our trips and relevant photographs of each trip. The idea being that in years to come there would be a permanent record of the outing and the participants and any relevant information on the venue that might be of interest now and in the future.

As you are aware we were also planning before Corona closed us down a series of talks in the RST, having already had a few. Reports and highlights of each of our talks it is hoped would be included on the site.

it is hoped to add to this site an additional section whereby we would try and collect and publish on line old photographs of people and events that have occurred down through the years and ensure that there is a permanent record for the future rather than have these photographs gather dust in drawers and get thrown out sometime in the future because they might appear to be of no significance. I am sure that many of us have already cast aside such photographs that at the time did not seem to be very relevant but on reflection were a permanent record of some event.

Another concept the Tuesday Club would like to pursue is to ask that all of you who are cocooning at home would take the time to write a short reflection on growing up in your parish. This can be quite broad in its perspective and could cover any aspect of your memories from family gatherings, family events, schooling both National and Secondary, sport and sporting occasions, successes and failures, holidays, farming (thinning turnips and weeding), hay making . Any topic can be approached and written about from any decade. They are your memories and reflections. Don't let them die. This is not going to be a literary test but your own reflections and memories of bygone days. So please don't be shy and say ... "I couldn't do this". Of course you can. You are telling your children or grandchildren a story from your days. Write it as you think. Make a start.

We would ask that you send your scripts to Maurice at ...mauricedaly29@gmail.com.....or to Jim ConroyJimconroy747@gmail.com.....or to Michael at mulvaneyross@eircom.net for collation and I'm sure they will ensure that each is recorded and published.

The aim and concept behind all of the above is to start the creation of a social history of our Parish, community and county and to ensure that the many events that occur within our community are permanently recorded. We are all aware of many events that occurred in our community in the past but are now only a distant memory or something someone told us about but without a permanent record. Over time I am sure we can create a record that many will look back on in years to come.

We have to start small so let's all try and make a contribution.

From Mayo to Candle Hill – 80 Year Anniversary

This piece of family history was sent in by Cassandra Conway

Back in 1930's /40's The Irish Land commission was the government body responsible for relieving congestion on small farms, families applied for extra or better quality land & in many cases they were than offered to 'change' to the midland or east of Ireland. This was the case for both the Duffy & Conway family & so the story began

The lane we know as Candlehill was constructed in 1938, four houses were built by the land commission, but it wasn't until April 1940 the first people moved onto the land, McManus's, Duffys, Pryles & Conways.

On 5th April, 1940, as dusk began to fall, a little village in Co. Mayo began to buzz with the sound of voices. Boleybreen is tucked away in the shadows of Croagh Patrick. For years life has gone on as usual, that night was cold and clear as the people from the surrounding villages made their way to say farewell to the families due to leave the next day for their journey and a new life in Co. Meath.

The music from the accordions could be heard for miles around and the dancing continued all night. Dawn was approaching and with it the realisation that soon most of the people from the village would be leaving for good. Those who had come to dance had stayed to help pack and help in any way they could. On the 6th of April 1940, it was with heavy hearts they said goodbye to their friends and neighbours.

The Duffy & McManus Family left for their new homes in Meath, all the livestock were loaded and brought by lorry to Westport Railway Station. They were loaded on to the train and then unloaded later in Kilcock, Co. Kildare, where they could be walked the remainder of the journey to Candlehill

For the people left behind they never did get the chance to go and visit in Skryne. To them it may as well have been America.

One week later a few miles outside Castlebar in a place called Darnadiva another family like so many were preparing to make the same journey. James Conway & his Mother Mary were about to embark on the same journey leaving family & friends they had known all their lives to travel to Skryne. The Conway family left their 362 acres in Mayo for just 25 acres on Candlehill

Love blossomed later on Candlehill between James Conway & Mary Duffy, they married on the 3rd of January 1945. The couple went on to have ten children, Mary, Paddy, Sarah, Marcella, Christy, Angela, Jacinta, Pauline, Brendan & Bernie. There happy times & lifelong friendships were made & lived with all on the hill & the other families that made the great move to Skryne during that time.#

Back to Mayo

Lets go back to Mayo

The Pride of all the west

The Mountains of Croagh Patrick

Knock Shrine looks at its best

Castlebar & Westport

Those town I sure do know

It was there I spent my childhood

In the County of Mayo

They faced each day with courage

& smiled right to the end

They were kind People who stood out in a crowd

Never too noisy never too loud
They enjoyed a song
The Kind of people who'd miss when gone

We miss them from the house
We miss them from the Chair
Its worse on special occasions when we know they won't be there

In loving memory of all the Conway/Duffy Family no longer with us



Mary & James's Conway's Wedding January 1945



Conway – Duffy Family Gathering Mayo April 2013



Conway Children – Paddy Conway, Jacinta Egan, Mary McCauley, Sarah Grimes, Pauline Ruddy, Marcella O'Grady, Bernie O'Byrne, Angela Burns, Christy Conway(Not Present Brendan Conway RIP)

Jealoustown by Maurice Daly

Is it Greenpark or Jealoustown?

What have the following in common: Colm Wilkinson, Aslan, Brian Kennedy, Don Baker and Finbarr Furey? Apart from being among the top Irish musicians, they visit Greenpark regularly to practice and record in **Jealoustown Recording Studio** owned by **Stuart Gray**, another brilliant musician. It was on a recent visit that Colm Wilkinson asked, “Where did you get this peculiar name for a studio?”

Jealoustown gets its name from an Anglo French family, the **Jealous** family who were probably given this tract of land – all of 383 acres- when the Normans invaded in the late 12th century. Nowadays the townland is generally called **Greenpark**, conveying a lovely image of rich pasture and luscious vegetation, and more than likely it got its “new” name from Greenpark House owned by Henry Carnett who rebuilt Green Park Bridge in 1826! But Stuart Gray has helped maintain the heritage of the area by naming his business after the original occupant. Well done!

When cleaning up the old Trevet graveyard in the 1980s, local historian Austin Whyte came across a **very historic headstone with an inscription and a crest**. The inscription read as follows: “**This tombe was erected by Mr Robert Jealous, March 25th 1725 where under lyeth his Father and Mother, Edmond Jealous and Mary Woods with one child, his wife Mary Petit and Emillia Hombs where he designs to be interred himself where many of his ancestors hath been interred these five hundred years past.**” The crest on the stone is a hand grasping a small sword or dagger pointing upwards.

Maurice Daly.

Things to do

[Discover all the boats in the world](#)

You can see all the marine traffic that is on the move. Click on one of the vessels and it'll tell you what it is, where it is and where it is going! Who knew you could do this!

<https://www.marinetraffic.com/en/ais/home/shipid:418155/zoom:2>

[Fancy a tour of The Sistine Chapel?](#)

Enjoy having The Sistine Chapel to yourself during this virtual tour

<http://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en/collezioni/musei/cappella-sistina/tour-virtuale.html>

From The Archives

The piece below was taken from *The Tara Newsletter*, December 1975, Issue no. 1

TARA ATHLETIC CLUB

Founded by a few pioneers in March 1972 it has in the space of a few years become one of the strongest in Meath.

The innumerable prizes and championships won by our Juveniles pinpoints the great wealth of athletic talent available.

Oliver Hughes on returning to the Parish formed a senior section. This small band of pioneers persevered against all difficulties and confounded the critics by winning the Meath Novice Championship for the first time on Sunday 14th December 1975. Tara senior team are firm favourites to win the Senior Championship also.

Despite the unbelievable success of these lads the real depth of talent has not yet been tapped. We are confident that Tara A.C. will become the best in the land.

New members are welcome. Oliver appeals to the youth of Tara to come along and train. Fitness will enable them to more efficiently participate in other sports.

The Glory of ancient Ireland and Greece was greatly enshrined in their athletic prowess.

TARA A.C. - TRACK NEWS

With the growth of the Club it was clearly apparent that a proper track was an essential priority.

The opportunity arose with the relinquishing of the old tennis courts and pavillion by Skryne Tennis Club. A suitable exchange was negotiated with the Limestone Land Company through the good graces and endeavours of W.P. Iceton, Tara Stud.

A few volunteers set to work at the end of the Summer. Messrs. Pryle & Dunphy's chainsaws roared and fires blazed.

TARA A.C. - TRACK NEWS Cont/d.

A grass track in return for the labour and cost required was not a viable proposition and so the idea of an all-weather track was born. The first estimates for labour and materials were frightening, but with an abundance of goodwill from many quarters the committee steamed ahead.

Donal O'Brien moved in, ploughed and rotovated without counting the cost. Maurice Cassidy was a great asset with machinery on our doorstep. The valleys were filled and the standard track cut out after careful planning to ensure maximum use of space.

Roadstone, considerably, reduced their estimates for materials and a first class base was laid for a six lane track. At the same time facilities for Field events were catered for.

We are deeply indebted to all those who support our 400 Club and fund-raising functions. Especially we are grateful to those who made personal contributions and we hope to acknowledge these in our next issue.

Dan Pearse was always available with tractor and trailer and the younger members of the Club helped by picking stones and roots. W. Dowling is at present supervising the re-erection of the old pavillion. For parishioners who can remember the days, a floor board bears the inscription "laid by Matt Toole on June 14th 1936.

The next stage of the track project is the laying of the kerbing which we intend commencing on Monday 29th December. All willing hands will be welcome. Financially we are glad to be able to tell you that all commitments are covered up to the last stage of laying the fual coating on the kerbed track. At present negotiations are in progress with the necessary authorities to obtain grants to defray this final expense which we estimate at about £2,500. We are more than confident that this will be achieved.

The Night Sky by Tony Canavan

May 7th - We will have the final supermoon for 2020. This is when the moon is at its closest to the earth, because of its elliptical orbit, with an increase in size of about 14% from the moon's furthest distance away.

May 12th 0400 hrs – Moon, Jupiter, Saturn and Mars (rising) with all visible to the naked eye.

May 15th 16th – The ISS (International Space Station) seen low in the sky passing close to Sirius in the SW sky. (about 15th/2300 hrs 7 2200/16th but need to check websites for exact times).

Crew members carry out experiments in biology, physics, astronomy, meteorology and other fields (vaccine please!)

It completes 15.7 orbits per day travelling at 17,150 mph or 7.66 km/s.



This is the Whirlpool Galaxy (courtesy of NASA) and we can clearly see the coming together of two galaxies.

Follow the handle of the Big Dipper (Plough) away from the bowl until you reach the last bright star of the handle. Slightly to the South and to the West there is this pair of interacting galaxies.

The Whirlpool Galaxy was discovered by William Parsons, 3rd Earl of Ross, at Birr, County Offaly with the 'Leviathan Telescope' a 72 inch telescope built in 1845 and was, at the time, the biggest telescope in the world.

John Herschel (son of William Herschel) both giants in astronomy and the manufacturing of very large telescopes, declared that it was "an achievement of such magnitude..... That I want words to express my admiration for it".

The Whirlpool galaxy is a spiral galaxy similar to our own Milky Way. The graceful, winding arms of this majestic galaxy appear like a grand spiral staircase sweeping through space. These spiral arms are star formation factories. You can actually see the assembly line on the spiral arms with dark clouds of gas on the leading edge, then the reddish star formation giving off light in the infrared, the radiation from the stars blowing the dust clouds away and on the trailing edge the bright blue colours of the newly formed stars.

The Merry Month of May by Anne Frehill

Those of a certain vintage will recall that every year when May 1st arrived, the late Gay Byrne played the famous hymn *Bring Flowers of the Rarest* on his radio show. It was sung by Canon Sydney Mac Ewan (1908-1991) a Scottish tenor who was blessed with a truly magnificent voice and is believed to have been coached by our very own Count John Mc Cormack. It reflects the popular piety of mid -20th century Ireland. Another title for this hymn is *Queen of the May*, embodying the special devotions held in the Catholic Church during this month, honouring the Virgin Mary as "the Queen of May." It's author and composer are unknown, but it can be traced back to the 13th century, with the original version coming from England.

The opening verse captures the splendours of the countryside in May and includes both the gardens tidied to within an inch of their lives and the wild beauty of the flowers to be found on hillsides, and in valleys, woodlands and boglands.

From May Day onwards, wily farmers kept a close eye on the weather as the laborious work of saving the turf for the forthcoming Winter loomed. Once a dry spell was predicted, it was "All hands- on deck" as everyone in the family from young children to senior citizens helped in the bog. The schools emptied and homework went undone amid the days of feverish activity to get the job started. Saving the turf was no mean feat as it involved: cutting, turning, footing, rickling, and clamping and could not be completed in a couple of weeks but extended into August. Then it was brought home, to keep the fires burning for the

dark months ahead. Of course, there was great craic to be had in the bog too among the heady scent of heather in all its purple glory. Children ran wild and free while romance blossomed among the young and not so young as families from different parts of the parish worked alongside each other.

There are two different schools of thought about the origin of this month's name. Some believe that it is called after Maia, a Roman goddess of growth while others assert that it comes from *Maiiores*, which referred to the senate in the original constitution of ancient Rome. In Ireland, the month of May is called Bealtaine, originally called after a pagan festival. There were many customs associated with May Day including the lighting of bonfires and various rituals involving garlands to ensure the future wellbeing of livestock and homesteads. It was a time for people to engage in merrymaking as they bid farewell to the dark days of winter and welcomed the long days of Summer, through dancing and singing. In a few scattered places around Ireland the maypole (popular in England and beyond) was a tall tree decorated with flowers, branches and colourful pieces of cloth, it served as a focal point for the celebrations. While, the ritual of decorating the May Bush, (whitethorn, gorse or furze bushes) with seasonal flowers and colourful rags was found all over this island. It was said to help keep away the fairies as well as protecting crops and animals. Indeed, fairies were believed by many to be at their most mischievous, playing and cavorting in the dew filled fields of an early May morning. One custom reflecting this belief related to cows, who were not allowed out before noon on My 1st. Another one entailed decorating cows with wild yellow May flowers to protect them not only from the fairies but also from the acquisitive and/or thieving eyes of their neighbours. While May has always been regarded as the herald of Summer, the weather can be inclement.

The proverb: *Ne'er cast a clout till May be out*, warns against shedding winter clothes before the end of the month.

Some years ago, I happened to be in York for May Day and an English acquaintance told me a story from English folklore about Rood Day, which fell on May 3rd and comes from the Old English calendar. Rood means cross or gallows and Holy-Rood refers to the cross of Christ. It was alleged that the day marked the discovery in AD 326 by St Helena (mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great) of the cross on which Jesus was crucified. Subsequently, fragments, said to be cut from "the true cross" were sold to pilgrims by unscrupulous traders. However, in a curious twist the supply of these fragments never seemed to abate, and the cynics asserted that if all the so-called pieces of the true cross were put back together it would take hundreds of men to carry it.

Those same purveyors of spurious goods should have taken heed of lines from *The Knapsack* written by Maria Edgeworth, the early 19th century writer.

Nor elves, nor fays,
Nor magic charm,
Have power or will, to work us harm,
For those who dare
The truth to tell
Fays, elves and
Fairies, wish them well.

My Brother's Scribblings by Norbert Coyle

From my older brother, Vincent, a young man with no family and nothing to do except sail around the world two or three times a year

Scribbling from SPAIN...where it rained today...a bit..131016

Tadgh is 81..... a small wiry man....made from bits of angle iron and bull wire . He has a twin sister...he has a wife and six kids. He used to teach in a variety of secondary schools in Ireland but has also taught in Africa and Brazil. He has a great love for the Legion of Mary and has travelled the globe promoting same.His conversation is littered with bold words and he flings them out with the disdain of a woman emptying an enamel bucket into the "street". He loves Greek and Latin and is a great fan of Philosophy. He studied theology but just for fun and is reasonably proficient in a number of languages.

He's the essence of moderation in most everything and not "for the love of God" or for the " holy souls" but simply because moderation is so much easier than over indulgence.

He did admit to drinking 4 pints onetime in his youth.

When you ask about his kids he thinks for a while as he sorts them out and is reasonably clueless as to what they do....."something in engineering that pays well" .

Some teach and some have reached the stage where they're ready to retire.

Some lad accused him of being a fanatic and he admonished him saying that he was not a fanatic but an enthusiast.

My bride and guide and I were walking along the beach looking for an hotel we heard about and stopped at one of those lovely Spanish churches.

Who's checking the Mass times but me bould Tadgh.....The Beloved One asked him about the hotel...he hadn't a clue but did have a do dah from our hotel in his.....what the Da would call.."breast pocket".

He does not bug us at dinner.....he dines alone but joins us for "afters"

I could talk to him for hours but Sweetness and Light finds him a bit of a "crashing bore".

She has never said this but when you see her doing Solitaire on my iPhone and saying every now and then...."I'm listening" you can be sure that she's not enraptured.

Enough of that....the real stuff...a grand poem...a lot of you will have been here.....

Be kind to each other....v

Questions by Joseph Mills

On the Interstate, my daughter tells me she only has two questions. I'm relieved because she usually has two hundred. I say, Okay, let's have them, and she asks, What was there before there was anything? Stupidly, I think I can answer this: There was grass, forests, fields, meadows, rivers. She stops me. No, Daddy. I mean before there was anything at all, what was there? I say that I don't know, so then she asks, Where do we go when we die? I tell her I don't know the answer to this either. She looks out the side, and I look forward, then she asks if we can have some music.

Wildlife

This photo of a Collierstown frog was sent in by Karen Carty



Birdwatching by Tom Bannon



Blackcap



Coal Tit Photographer

Garden Photos from Norbert Coyle



She was an avid gardener in her youth but now , sadly , all grown up ,, who do you think this is , a splendid voucher if you can identify this thoroughly modern Miss?



Honesty is the best policy ,, gardeners will get this one !!!

The Briar Patch by Senan McGrath



The Briar Patch

If you are of a certain vintage you may well remember with a degree of nostalgia the story of Brer rabbit and the briar patch from your childhood. However, I was not feeling nostalgic towards the briar patch that had colonised part of my back lawn.

As briars tend to do, they approach from the outer reaches moving in covertly under the cover of ditches, hedges and the canopy of trees. They slowly but surely and unashamedly stake a claim on your property spreading their barbarous tentacles further and further with each passing year. This particular tribe of briars had obviously observed that the attention of yours truly was otherwise occupied over the past few years and therefore took their opportunity to land grab.

The times that are in it resulted in me having a fair bit of down time and so I resolved to meet out to these marauding thorn laden invaders the same fate that any land grabber deserves. I psyched myself up for the upcoming conflict and entered the field of battle armed with a slash hook, hedge clippers, loppers and anything else I felt would lay these *lousers low*.

As I approached furtively, there they stood tall and defiant making little of my presence. The blood began to boil as my particular gene pool has a deep rooted antipathy and downright hostility towards land grabbers. I wanted to rush head long straight into battle with my slash hook flailing wildly- to down these rotter's.

Luckily the lessons learned from my youth around tackling briar patches came back to me in the nick of time and I decided a more tactical approach was called for. The briar patch likes nothing better than a thoughtless frontal attack, as it affords them the opportunity to ensnare you, octopus like and inflict deep wounds with their barbarous tentacles.

As I observed the enemy I decided to take them on one by one-bramble by bramble in a sniper like fashion. I extended the handle of my hedge clippers to maximum length and took them out from the top to start with until I got them to slash hook level. I now came at them slash hook in hand with a renewed sense of confidence and the fighting for the next

two hours was intense. I swung left to right, right to left, crossways, up and down with a dexterity of movement that Michael Flatley would be proud of.

After several hours the battle was over - the victory complete as the briar patch had been put to the sword or should I say slash hook. They now looked very sorry for themselves indeed with none of the open defiance I had at first encountered. I may have lost some sweat during this encounter but I'm proud to say not one drop of blood was spilt or drawn indicating my total superiority in this battle of the briars.

To the victor belongs the spoils as I now observed the not inconsiderable patch of ground I had grabbed back from the clutches of these marauding invaders. The war was won but now we must also win the peace and decide what to do with this won back ground.

One suggestion was to acquire some rescued chickens. What is a rescued chicken I queried as I entertained visions of a distressed chicken being plucked to safety from a sinking ship or burning building into the safety of a Sircosky helicopter. Nothing so dramatic I was informed, a rescued chicken is one sourced from a chicken farm after it has reached the end of its productive life. A noble thought indeed and one worthy of consideration.

The second proposal was to turn it into a wild flower garden to aid the birds and bees and mother earth in general. Another worthy proposal and definitely added to the list. Maybe even a vegetable patch but not sure it would survive the attention of our mischievous cocker spaniel.

There is one thing for sure I cannot allow these spike laden squatters gain a foot hold on my lawn once again.

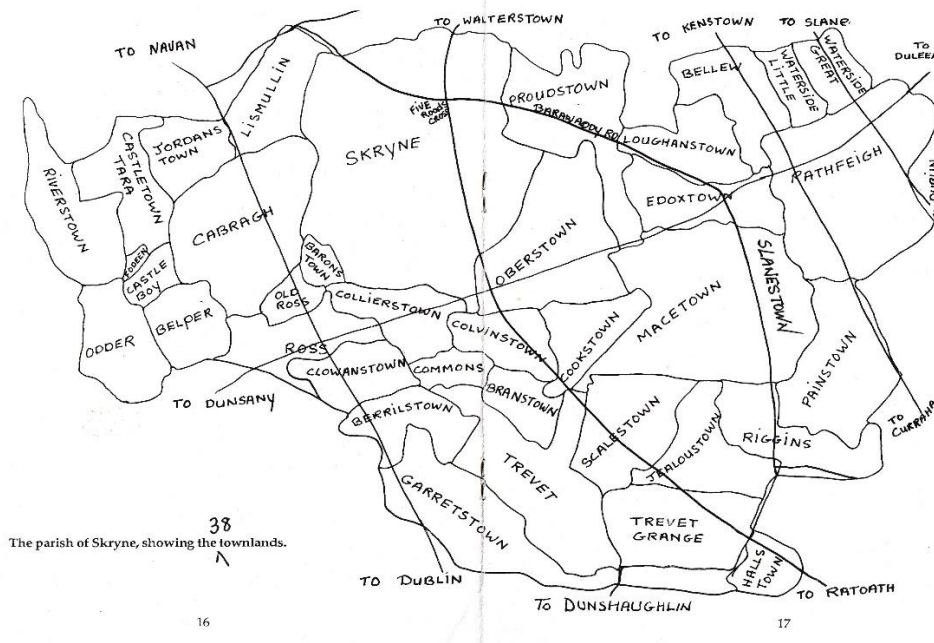
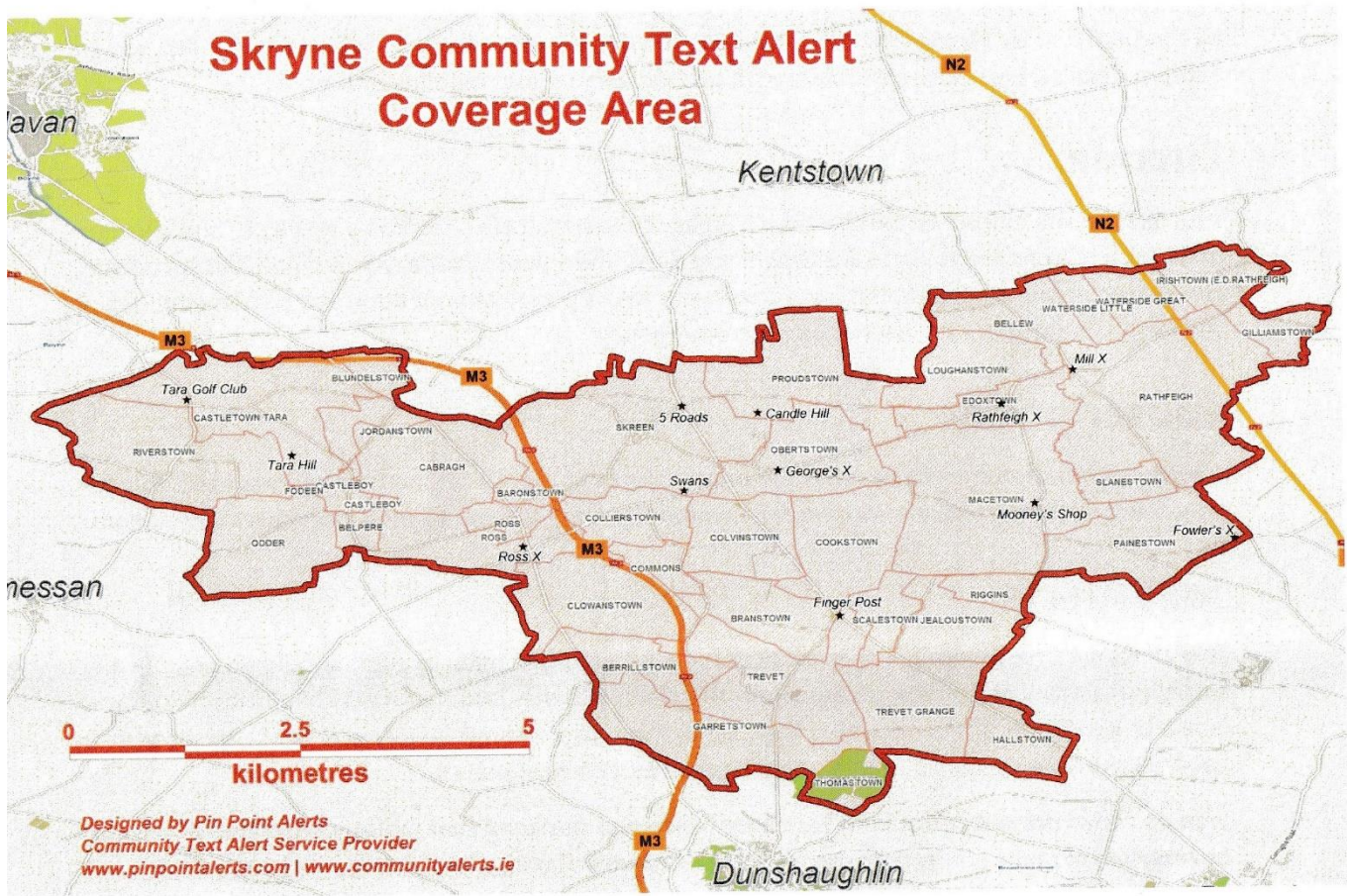
In conclusion I have to admit I'm partial to some black berries in the autumn time of the year but when it comes to briar patches I take on the NIMBY approach:

Not in my back Yard.

A born again gardener.

Skryne Townlands from Maurice Daly

I was doing a bit of research into the 38 townlands in the RST area. There are two maps that I'm familiar with, one which is in colour and in on the Skryne CAG application form . Quite a professional effort. The other appeared in first booklet of Rathfeigh Historical Society back in 1987.



Old Farm Machinery by Tom Bannon

Can you name these two old pieces of farm equipment? Answers in next week's RST



Last week's machines:

Pierce Corn Roller, used to crush grain

Horse Drawn Potato Digger

COVID 19 Community Support Group and Club Together

As you are aware Skryne GFC joined forces with the Active First Responders a few weeks back to form the local COVID 19 Community Support volunteer group to help local people most in need however we can in these restricted times. Since then the GAA has partnered with SuperValu and Centra to help keep the most vulnerable of us to keep well stocked up with essentials to get through these difficult times. As part of this "Club Together" initiative Skryne GFC have partnered with Supervalu Johnstown who will contact the COVID 19 Community Support group to assist with the delivery of groceries to the more vulnerable in our parish. This will be a drop and go service to ensure all physical distancing guidelines set out by the HSE will be adhered to all times.

I hope you will agree this could be a great help to the more isolated in the parish so please spread this message out to all your local contacts that may require the service or may know someone who does. The service will be up and running in the coming week with details advertised on all Skryne GFC social media platforms.

Thanks again and mind yourselves!

COVID 19 Community Support group

Cormac Grendon 0879409677

Ross Philips 0879798822

Des Manning 0860584116.
Stephen Naughton 0872225572;
Niall Muldoon 0852091801;
Sean O Regan 0868145169
Christy O Connor 086 2854057
Declan Smyth 087-2504983
A.F.R. (9 am - 6pm) 0868853713.

Please contact any of us for further information or assistance

Notices

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: Pauric

T: 046 9034846

M: 085 1597105

Swans of Oberstown would like to inform our customers that we are doing our best to keep the shop open and are taking advice from the government and the HSE on how best to do so.

Customer safety is of paramount importance to us all and we kindly request the same in return for all our staff. Please maintain the new social distancing etiquette and follow all HSE guidelines.

The Swan family would like to thank all our customers for your continued support. Rest assured we will strive to keep the shelves well stocked with all the essentials, together with lots of goodies to help us through these challenging times. As well as offering somewhere safe to shop we are also doing deliveries where possible. At the moment we are open from 8am-8pm. Stay safe.

I would be willing to offer any advice to readers regarding their vehicles. With garages closed readers may have queries regarding issues that they are worried about.

Ron Chawke

Ron Chawke Motors

086-1717159

ronchawkemotors@gmail.com

Local person seeking to buy site with a view to building a residential property in the Skryne/Tara area

Contact details:

086-0424290

A&J Print are open for business, this may be of particular interest to students who need to have their projects printed up

SEDUM AND SAGE

LOCAL PLANT NURSERY



FREE DELIVERY ON ORDERS OVER €50
WITHIN 50KM OF SKRYNE

CATALOGUE AVAILABLE AT:
[HTTP://SKRYNE SAVER.COM/SEDUM/](http://skrynesaver.com/sedum/)

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

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

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