



**TARA ATHLETIC CLUB** - Sinead Maguire, Sinead Cooney and Lisa O'Dowd who competed in the South O'Hanlon 5K Road Race in Navan on Saturday 15th July. Also pictured is Sarah Cooney. Adult Training in Tara AC Track every Tuesday at 8pm. All Welcome.



David Byrne, Leinster Tabletennis Rookie of the Year 2006

## BLOTTO RESULTS

**SUNDAY 2nd JULY**

Numbers drawn: 1 - 14 - 15 - 22

**Jackpot not won - €40 each to:**

Damien Hayes, Harry Naughton  
Maria Goulding, Mark Geoghegan

**SUNDAY 9th JULY**

Numbers drawn: 1 - 13 - 14 - 21

**Jackpot not won - €40 each to:**

Ray Mooney, Christy Dorman  
Marie Mulroe, Peggy Devereux

**SUNDAY 16th JULY**

Numbers drawn: 8 - 16 - 18 - 21

**Jackpot not won - €40 each to:**

Brian Wilde, Sinead Daly  
Helen Gilsean, Barbara Laurie

**SUNDAY 23rd JULY**

Numbers drawn: 5 - 9 - 19 - 23

**Jackpot not won - €40 each to:**

Patricia Bowden O'Keeffe, Christy O'Connor  
Mary Whyte, Cathal & Julie Swan

**SUNDAY 30th JULY**

**Jackpot not won - €40 each to:**

Trish Lyons, L Dunne, George Grey, E Moss

**Next week's jackpot: €2,000**

*Thank-you for your support.*

## NEXT ISSUE

**SATURDAY 26TH AUGUST**

*All articles etc. to be submitted before*

**Wednesday 23rd August**

**Contact: Jim Conroy**

**Phone: 046 9025771**

**Email: jimkconroy@hotmail.com**

## CAR BOOT SALE

**SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST 2006**

At Skryne Church car park

**FROM 11AM TO 3PM ~ ONLY €10 PER CAR**

Get rid of all your unwanted little treasures and make some money at the same time.

**BUT PLEASE NO CARPETS, NO FURNITURE, AND NO CLOTHES. THANK YOU.**

All in aid of RATHFEIGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY for local amenities



## Rathfeigh Historical Society

Rathfeigh Historical Society would like to congratulate the pupils, staff and parents at Rathfeigh school on their fantastic win in the "Pride of Place" project.

It is an absolute delight when you see what can be done with imagination, effort and some good old elbow grease. Some of their work can be seen from the road, but if you go to the back of the school you will see some real surprises. I hope those pupils will continue to garden, as it is a hobby you can do all of your life.

## CONDOLENCES

Sympathy is extended to the family of Mrs Mary (Mafie) Devine, Cabragh, Garlow Cross, who celebrated her 103rd birthday on 28th May last. She passed away peacefully at St Joseph's Hospital, Trim, on Sunday afternoon last. Sympathy is also extended to the Madden family on the death of Catherine.

# RST Newsletter

Rathfeigh • Skryne • Tara

5th August 2006 • Vol. 11 • Issue No. 8

## The Old Road

### MEMORIES OF THE OLD ROAD AND THE NEW LINE AS SEEN BY A CHILD OVER FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Other old roads such as the old bog road off the Maynooth to Kilcock road have been remembered in song and story.

These few lines were prompted by seeing the tasteful new engraved signs indicating the road names which have been erected at Edoxtown cross.

The Borrowaddy and Macetown road signs clearly indicate the direction of each road but the New Line is a descriptive rather than directional sign.

More than one hundred and fifty years ago the Old Road would have been the only carriageway between Skryne and Rathfeigh and leading on to Drogheda. Indeed, there is a traditional story of an accident causing the carriage of sundry important persons to overturn somewhere about midway along the Old Road.

It is said that after this unfortunate event the construction of an alternative road was commenced, and thus the aptly named New Line came into being. This was probably part of a famine relief work project and was designed to bypass the village of Rathfeigh and proceed directly down to the Ashbourne Slane road.

In those days only the well off could afford to travel by carriage or by horseback, leaving the majority to go about their business on foot.

Even after the New Line was built, many continued to use the Old Road, and not surprisingly, as this was a more direct route to Rathfeigh village and church, and also to the school which was situated right beside the church in those days.

My recollection of the Old Road as an alternative to walking the New Line is that it was a route only undertaken in dry weather in summer. The path was lined with high thorn hedges on each side and ash trees which formed a canopy only allowing dappled sunlight even on the brightest day.

This path was definitely not for the unwary as the grass verges had also clumps of nettles and trailing briars, this was long before the days of sturdy jeans, so bare legs and sandals provided little protection and it was up to the youthful pedestrian to be watchful.

There was one area about midway, which was always damp underfoot. Despite these hazards it was a pleasant short cut but with the passing years it became more overgrown and difficult to transverse.

Once I acquired the luxury of a bicycle, the New Line became the obvious route.

This offered little in the way of traffic beyond the odd car or bread van or the occasional cyclist heading for Rathfeigh village, or perhaps in search of stray cattle.

The only hazards I can recall were a particularly ferocious turkey cock. This fearsome creature strutted magnificently in the early spring in defence of his territory and was quite prepared to take on anyone passing by his gate. This belligerent bird was only outshone by a huge bearded goat in the company of his small harem. He was a source of

wonder and amusement to a small child.

He turned up from "foreign parts" at appropriate seasons and then apparently withdrew to look after affairs on his own domain.

In those days it was not uncommon to see one or two milking goats grazing the "long acre" of the roadside verge. In recent times goats milk has come back into favour and can be seen on most Supermarket shelves This comes from specialised goat herds and is a long way from a couple of "Nannies" and a visiting "Billy" goat along the side of a country road.

This is just a child's view of a long vanished past, but perhaps it may encourage some to transverse this almost forgotten and seldom used Old Road and hopefully experience some of the sense of wonder as a small child did so long ago.

*Childhood memories of a former Macetown resident*



*Pitch & Toss at the 'Five Roads', 1920s*



*Can you name these Skryne men???*

*This Issue is Sponsored by:*

**MRS. K. DUNNE, KILLEEN**

## TARA UNDERAGE SOCCER CLUB AGM

The Tara Juvenile Soccer club held its inaugural AGM on Thursday May 18th in Skryne Hall. Val Finegan and Charles Carolan congratulated all three teams, managers, coaches and parents on a remarkable and enjoyable year. The U8 shield was the club's first silverware and the U9's were beaten on penalties in the final of the league cup by Parkvilla. The U10's lost both semi finals to Trim Celtic on penalties after dominating both games. Better luck next year!

### Mentors for the new season are:

U8: Val Finegan & Eamonn Doherty

U9: Ken Gill & Frank Weldon

U10: Charles Carolan & David Cassidy

Thanks were extended to Michael Dempsey, Kilbelin Construction Naas, and Anthony Battersby, Rice Hill Farm for donating €100 each for developing the club. Dermot Carty was thanked for keeping the pitch marked and maintained and for general administration. It was decided to continue playing in the MDL Mid Week League after considering the options of the Drogheda & District League, NECSL (north east counties), Brenfer (North Dublin League) and Dublin district schoolboys. It was agreed to purchase safety goal posts as recommended by the FAI.

## A full house every week at Skryne Bingo

Long before Ronan Collins or Shirley Temple Bar started pulling bingo balls on RTE, Joe Tobin and his team at Skryne bingo were giving out cash prizes for coloured balls bouncing around in a drum. Last week saw the game of bingo, an institution in the Skryne area, celebrate its fortieth anniversary there.

Forty years on, Joe, who was calling out the numbers on that first day in the summer of 1966, is still calling them out, assisted by Paudie McGoldrick and Joe's daughter, Tracy Tobin.

"Fr Larry Halpin was curate in Skryne at the time," recalls Joe. "And we needed some kind of fundraiser for the hall, which had been the old school." Bingo was decided on. Among those involved were the late Jim Hayes, the late Packie Mooney and the late George Gallagher, as well as Martin Dolan and Ciaran Staunton, who was at last Wednesday's 40th anniversary bingo. Gradually, the prizemoney and prices of the books increased, and instead of giving a jackpot in so many calls, they decided to guarantee the prizemoney. The bingo became a victim of its own success, and more funding was needed to put amplification into the billiard room to cater for the crowd. Then, it was decided to extend the hall to its present large size.

At last week's event, Joe Tobin welcomed all the past and present bingo players who had come along, and thanked everybody for their support over the years. Every Wednesday night sees the committee, ticket sellers, book sellers, shop staff and book checkers working hard at the bingo in Matt Talbot Hall, Skryne, for the weekly bingo.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY- JOE

Congratulations to Joe Tobin on his 70th Birthday. Joe was surprised by his family and friends with a party in Dunsany GAA Clubhouse recently



A discussion took place about the possibility of girls soccer!

### Officers elected for the 06/07 season:

Chairman: Brian Murphy; Secretary: Geraldine Clarke;

Treasurers: Irma Fox & Bernie Greene; Pro: Coaches are

asked to double as public relations with the RST.



The Tara under 8 team taken before a challenge match with Kentstown. This team competed very strongly in the recent Meath & District League Soccer Tournament.

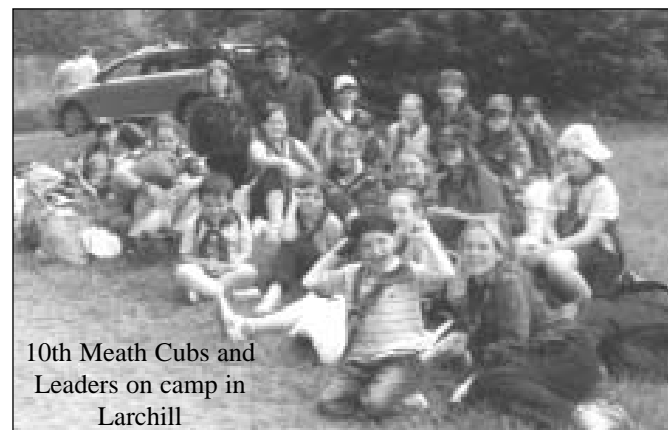
Back Row: M Doherty, L Carolan, F Finegan, F Carty, R Clarke, C Doherty, K McKeon. Front Row: L Thorpe, J Reddy, D Fitzpatrick, M Carolan, K Smith.

## MEATH PARTNERSHIP

Meath Leader and Meath TIDE have merged to form Meath Partnership. The objective is to provide improved service delivery and enhanced supports to the community and voluntary sector throughout the county. It is hoped to secure much-enhanced EU funding for support of social inclusion and local development. Meath Partnership states: "if your community has not yet availed of this opportunity to guide the future of local rural and community development (through workshop endeavour) we urge you not to lose another moment. Roll-out of our 2006 area-based consultation process is managed by Christine O'Shea".

This is an opportunity for the Parish of Skryne and neighbourhood to demonstrate that it has a strong community spirit - a willingness to co-operate at community level to plan a programme of development for the area. For example, should we have a strong and well-organised support system for our elderly within the parish? If Summerhill can do it, why not Skryne? There is need for an organisational base to make this possible. Have we the will to organise and avail of funding to support this aspect (or any other aspect) of community development? Would someone call an initial meeting designed to draw in all segments of our community to consider the possibilities? Christine O'Shea may be contacted at Tom Blake House, Bective Street, Kells, or at 046-9280797 or at areabasedconsultation@meathleader.ie

Could we have 12 volunteers (preferably 6 ladies and 6 men) who will come to an initial meeting to investigate the possibilities and arrange for a community-based workshop and meaningful consultation? Send your name to Jim Conroy and the writer of this note will try to move the idea forward. Is fearr a dhul ar aghaidh na ar gcull!



10th Meath Cubs and Leaders on camp in Larchill

## SKRYNE GFC

### Meath Senior Football Championship

Skryne v St. Peters – Dunboyne

Pairc Tailteann - Sunday 23/07/06

Skryne 1-13, Dunboyne 0-14.

Skryne took on reigning champions Dunboyne in this Senior Championship clash and came away with a well-merited 2 points victory. Skryne had managed to collect only 2 points from their three previous outings in this competition and so a win was a must if they harboured any ambition to progress in this year's championship. This they did with some style and we witnessed in Pairc Tailteann some of the old Skryne flair and confidence on their way to collect 2 points. Skryne played against a fairly stiff breeze in the first half and they were first on the scoreboard in the 2nd minute when Trevor Giles converted a free kick to send Skryne 1 point in front.

Dunboyne responded in the 7th minute when Aidan O'Connor scored a point from play to bring the sides level. Dunboyne then had a point from free kick awarded after a foul on midfielder Nigel Crawford. Skryne hit back with a well-taken point from Mick O'Dowd following on from a well-timed pass from Trevor Giles. This had the sides level again at the 10th minute stage on 2 points apiece.

Brian Byrne added to the Skryne tally when he received a pass from Alan Carty and made no mistake when placing the ball between the Dunboyne uprights putting his side 1 point to the good. This lead was to be short lived when Dunboyne were awarded a free kick which Ger Robinson converted to make things all square again

in the 15th minute. The game at this stage was end to end when a well worked move by the Skryne men involving Trevor Giles, Alan Carty, Mick O'Dowd and finally Jamie Jordan who finished to the Dunboyne net when he coolly tapped the ball over the head of the advancing keeper in the 17th minute of the half. The scores now stood at Skryne 1-3, Dunboyne 0-3.

Dunboyne made back some ground a minute later when Ger Robinson put the ball over the Skryne bar and they had another point three minutes later to leave the minimum between the sides. James Gibbons then came broke through from the middle of the field and set Brian Byrne up for another Skryne point in the 24th minute. Sean Moran responded for Dunboyne with a point in the 27th minute to leave the sides Skryne 1-4 Dunboyne 0-6. Alan Carty then found Mick O'Dowd from a quickly taken line ball and Micko took full advantage when he scored a point. Dunboyne were determined to stay in touch and this they did when Leo Reilly added another point to their tally to leave the sides in the 29th minute at Skryne 1-5, Dunboyne 0-7. Skryne were determined to maintain the pressure on Dunboyne and they were awarded a free kick in the final minute of the half when Mick O'Dowd was fouled going through on goal. Trevor Giles converted and he converted another free kick a minute later to leave the sides at half time Skryne 1-7, Dunboyne 0-7.

Skryne now had wind advantage for the 2nd half, however, Dunboyne were first of the mark with a point from Colm Brown to leave 2 points between the sides on the 5th minute of the half. Trevor Giles then collected a ball from a David McGoldrick knock down in the middle of the field. Trevor made full use of this when he scored an excellent point from about 40 mtrs. Dunboyne responded in the 11th minute with a point from a free kick and they

had a further point this time from play 2 minutes later. This now left the scores at Skryne 1-8, Dunboyne 0-10. Tony O'Connor then levelled matters when he took a point from play in the 14th minute of the half.

Skryne fought back to restore their lead and a move involving Jamie Jordan, Trevor Giles, Alan Carty and finally Mick O'Dowd who finished the ball over the bar to put his side back in front. This lead was short lived when Barry Waters put the ball between the Skryne uprights to bring the scores level again at Skryne 1-9, Dunboyne 0-12 in the 21st minute. Skryne were back in front a few minutes later when Mick O'Dowd had another point from play. The game was now on a knife edge and this was demonstrated when Dunboyne again levelled with a point from play. Mick O'Dowd was now representing a real threat to Dunboyne and he was hauled down near the 21-yard line to give his side an opportunity to go back in front. Trevor Giles stepped up to take the free from a very acute angle and he made no mistake and in the process sends his side back in front on a scoreline 1-11 to 0-13.

Martin Mulvaney then put 2 points between the sides when he scored an excellent point from play which involved Vinnie O'Reilly and Trevor Giles in the set up. Dunboyne reduced the margin to the minimum when they had a point from play in the 29th minute of the half. The final score of the game came from the boot of Trevor Giles when he converted a 45-mtr kick to leave his side 2-point winners on a final scoreline:

Skryne 1-13, Dunboyne 0-14.

Team: P O'Rourke; A. Curry, D. Donnelly, D. Rogan, James Gibbons; J. Quinn, M. Mulvaney (0-1), B. Smyth; D. McGoldrick, B. Byrne (0-2), T. Giles (0-6); F. O'Rourke, A. Carty, Mick O'Dowd (0-4), J. Jordan (1-0). Subs: V. O'Reilly for F. O'Rourke, D. Lynch for B. Smyth.

## THE 1916 RISING - by the late Fr. Michael Douglas

(taken from the Tara Newsletter 1976)

When that eventful day dawned, (April 24th, 1916) I was considered too young to attend the race meeting at Fairyhouse, inviting as the prospect was since the afternoon turned out to be sunny and warm to the delight of the sporting fraternity. It used to be the accepted custom in those far-off days for youngsters to waylay, so to speak, the patrons coming home from the meet in order to secure a coveted orange or two tossed in our direction by the droves of cyclists.

This we did to our advantage, on that occasion as always, but it was only when enjoying the feast by the fireside later on that we learned quite casually that there were reports of some trouble in Dublin during the afternoon as a result of which the British troops out for the day had been recalled to Barrack duty - and doubtless some of them to their deaths. But this would not be the first time in history that an event of major significance was conveyed in such simple, even ambiguous, terms. No fanfare, for example, on the Resurrection morn itself some 1900 years earlier to let the world know that something had taken place which would change the course of humanity.

In the ensuing days (we had holidays from

school all week and enjoyed each shining hour) there were no newspapers or postal deliveries to give the bewildered populace some inkling of what was taking place around the embattled Post Office over which floated the colours of the young Republic. Pearse had stood on the stone steps there to read the Proclamation before a handful of people who were indifferent to the message; and as you pass the building today, you can read it for yourself on a tablet on the outer wall which marks the spot. But as the week wore on, we could hear the steady thump of the shells falling on Liberty Hall and the Post Office itself during the day hours, while at night as we gathered by the roadside, the glow in the skies above Corbalton Woods told its own tragic story.

It was all a great mystery of course and in the perspective of history one can now appreciate why not all the observations made at the time were favourable to the rebel cause. It would be asking too much that Ireland should awaken overnight from the sleep of centuries. Meath got its mention in dispatches late on Friday of that week when an engagement took place at

Ashtourne, although the insurgent leaders originally planned to meet the enemy at Tara.

But the end was not long in coming as I recall, for next evening on a shopping errand I saw a solitary motorcyclist dismount in front of Halligan's store (as it then was) with the news that Pearse and his men had surrendered in the interests of the civilian population. Knighthood was still in flower in those days.

So back to the books we went on the following Monday, little aware in our innocence that as a result of the happenings in the days just past, Ireland had finally set out to take her rightful place in the family of nations. While it seemed like the end at the time, it was only a beginning. Later on, as we learned to sing the new chants of freedom, we would be told of the executions - 16 in all - that had taken place in Kilmainham jail as part of the heavy price to be paid, while the mother of the brothers Pearse, even in her grief, was resigned to her loss "because her sons were faithful and they fought." Thus did we store away another precious memory against the hard days that were to follow.