

FERGAL O'REILLY

28 September 1936 – 7 November 2013

It was with great shock and sadness that we learned of the sudden death of Fergal O'Reilly on November 7th. Fergal was larger than life and was known by everyone in the area, he didn't stand on ceremony and we all have memories of his witty remarks and observations. A lifelong teetotaler, he was one of the mainstays of the Skryne/Rathfeigh Pioneer Centre, and had been president for the previous ten years.

He did Trojan work year after year raising money to send invalids to Lourdes; his annual auction in the hall raising many thousands of Euros towards this end. He was a frequent visitor to Lourdes himself and any of us who had the pleasure of his company on the pilgrimages were well marshalled as we followed his and Rosemary's lead.

Fergal hailed from Dulane, Kells and in his younger days he was very involved in football and music. He played the accordion with a ceile band for a number of years and had the honour of winning a Meath GAA Juvenile medal with Carnaross in 1950

His working career began in McEvoy's, Brews Hill, where he served his time as a butcher. He was then attracted by the bright lights of Dublin, gaining employment in a butcher's shop in Moore St. This explains a lot about Fergal's quick wit, it would be nice to be a fly on the wall watching him giving as good as he got from the legendary hawkers and street sellers. His next move was to Lipton's in Bray where he worked until his move to Skryne in 1972. Following his move to Skryne he diversified into plumbing and building and threw himself into the life of the parish. He carried out the door to door collections for many years and was very involved in organising the very popular Pioneer talent competitions in Skryne Hall. He also threw his weight behind the bingo which continues to be an attractive outing for many people.

We will all miss Fergal and the RST area is the poorer with his passing.

Our Sympathies are with Breda and his family who asked us to extend their sincere thanks to all who came to the house, attended the funeral and sent cards. Just being there was a great consolation to them all.



Rathfeigh Choir performing at their annual Carol Service

WHYTE'S FUELS

Phone: **(086)378 7368**

**POLISH COAL • BRIQUETTES • HARDWOOD TIMBER
TURF / GAS / KEROSENE • AGRI. DIESEL**

*Open Monday – Saturday
9am – 6pm*

Wishing all our customers a very Happy Christmas

RST wishes all readers,
sponsors, contributors
and distributors a very
Happy Christmas and a
Peaceful New Year



CHRISTMAS

This issue is sponsored by: **WHYTE'S FUELS**

Skryne G.F.C. – AGM

Skryne GFC held it's AGM on Monday 9th December 2013. The following officers were elected.

Presidents:Paddy O'Brien, Michéal O'Brien
Fr. Joseph Gleeson and Jim Fox

ChairmanDan O' Leary

Vice ChairmanEamon Giles

SecretarySenan McGrath

TreasurerMichael Mulvany

Assistant Treasurer & IT Registrar.....Caroline Whelan

PROJoseph O'Brien

Safety Officer.....Kevin O'Rourke

Co Board DelegatesOliver Harrington

& Derek Monahan

Children's/Schools Liaison OfficerEddie McCormack

Child Protection Officers:Caroline Whelan &

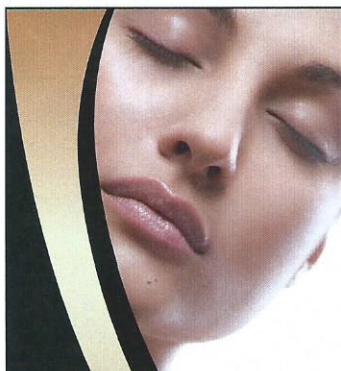
Hugh McNeillis

Additional Committee Members – Dermot Carty, David

Cassidy, Gordon Geraghty, Pat McCabe, Dolores Tobin.

Skryne GFC passed votes of sympathy with the following on their recent bereavements:

The Lenihan family on the death of Jim; John Scanlon on the death of his mother; the O'Donnell family on the death of their father; the O'Sullivan family on the death of Regina's mother; the Phillips family on the death of Nuala's mother and the Farnan Family on the death of Peggy's brother.



Specializing in:
Facials
Shellac nails
Waxing
Tinting
Manicures
Pediures
and many more

Danestown
BEAUTY ROOMS

Newly opened

Danestown Beauty Rooms, Balrath

Open Monday-Friday 9am/9pm

Saturday 9am/7pm

For appointment contact Kiva

on **086 350 1423** or email

danestownbeautyrooms@gmail.com

**Locally grown, hand-reared, pork
for sale.**

€200 for half a pig.

Contact

Dominic Gryson - 087 4173529

SKRYNE GOLF SOCIETY

We had our final outing of 2013 to Black Bush on Saturday 7th December. There were lots of turkeys won. Even those who couldn't win a turkey (and this turkey couldn't) did not go home empty handed, thanks to Swan's. We adjourned to the County Club for a steak meal which was so good that most members want to revisit next year.

The golfer of the year, Anthony Togher, was presented with his trophy. Anthony will be Captain in 2014.

The 2012 matchplay competition was eventually completed in 2013. It had been delayed due to a broken leg or some such triviality. The victor Noel Gallagher was presented with the trophy. So that's the end of the 2013 season, we look forward to 2014. The AGM will be held in February. New and returning members are always welcome.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM COMMUNITY ALERT

Community Alert volunteers wish all residents in the RST area a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Most importantly we wish everyone to be safe and crime free. With this last wish in mind we urge all residents to watch out for their neighbours especially with the comings and goings that occur at this time and year. It is all too easy for wrongdoers to mingle and pass unnoticed. If something or someone appears out of place or unusual treat it as suspicious and report it to Ashbourne Garda on (01)8010600. Keep in mind that the Garda would sooner have a call that proves to be nothing rather than not have a call that could have prevented a crime.

A few things in particular to remember are:

- Do not get distracted when shopping or using an ATM. Thieves will use many ways to get your attention while an accomplice robs you.
- Leave absolutely nothing visible in your parked car.
- Smart phones are a particular target-12,000 a year are stolen! If you see any on sale cheap report it. Register your phone with your Service Provider and keep a note of the IMEI number. Also enable PIN security and keep it locked.
- Let no stranger into your house regardless of their reason or who they say they represent.
- Useful security advice and information on local crimes can be found on: www.facebook.com/MeathCrimePrevention.

Finally, if you know any senior (65 +) resident living alone or with another senior who could benefit from having a monitored personal alarm call Community Alert on (046)9026020.

Condolences:

Sympathy is extended to the following:

The Scanlon and Griffin families on the death of John and Mary's mother, Katherine.

The Farnan family on the death of Peggy's brother, Michael

The Phelan family on the death of Martin's mother, Delia

The Lenehan family on the death of Jim

The Byrne family, Painstown, on the death of Peter's mother, Helen

The O'Sullivan family, Painstown, on the death of Regina's mother, Helen

Nuala Phillips on the death of her mother.

The O'Donnell Family on the death of Charles



Dunshaughlin Players would like to thank our Patrons and audiences for their support in 2013. We donated €400 to St. Vincent de Paul, Dunshaughlin from our raffle at Comedy at the Arch. Earlier in the year €2,500 was donated to the Jack Kavanagh Trust profits from our Spring production. Looking forward to being back with a Spring production in April 2014.

Pictured above is of the Cast and Crew of Comedy at the Arch 2013

Back l-r: Barbara Sheehy, John Sheehy, Susan Brennan, Melissa Dunne, Louis Ronayne, Ettie Philip, Mick Roban, Martin Bolger

Front l-r: Christine Hynes, Emily Duignan, Katie Leech, Patricia Ronayne, Cora Rathborne

Happy Christmas and a very happy New Year.

CHURCH GATE COLLECTION

St Vincent de Paul annual church gate collection

A sincere thanks to all who contributed to our annual collection.

Your generosity raised €1,710.82 this year.

Jim Duignan

Skryne GFC Underage AGM

The Skryne Underage AGM took place on Monday 16th December in the newly opened RST Community Centre. It was well attended, and the following appointments were made:

Chairman:Mick Whelan

Secretary:TBC

PRO:Hugh Mc Nelis

Childrens Officers:Hugh Mc Nelis & Caroline Whelan

County Board Grading Officer:Fred Gilsenan

Minor County Board Delegates:Mick Whelan & James Reddy

Juvenile County Board Delegates:Mick Whelan & TBC

Under 6 Manager:Brian Smyth

Under 8 Manager:Aidan O'Connor

Under 10/Under 11 Manager:Pat Hawes

U12 Manager:Padraig Finnerty

U13 Manager:TBC

U14 Manager:Gordon Dardis, Ciarán Lenehan & Mark Battersby

U15 Manager:TBC

U16 Manager:James Reddy

U17 Manager:Declan Smyth

Minor Manager:Des Finnerty

Outgoing Secretary Seán O'Regan was thanked for stepping in at short notice to help as secretary last year. We would like to thank all incoming and outgoing managers and mentors. It's a huge commitment to make to set so much time aside for training and matches, all on a voluntary basis for the love of the sport and for the benefit of the children. Some have decided to take a well deserved sabbatical this year, and we look forward to welcoming them all back again with a spring in their step next year!!!

Hugh Mc Nelis, Underage PRO

Royal Tara Golf Club

Founded 1906



Full membership for 2014 from €978

Under 30 years of age

Full Membership for 2014 from €489

Under 35 years of age

Full Membership for 2014 from €733



Venue for the All Ireland Cups & Shields 2013 Finals

Contact Declan/Riona in the Office
for further details

046 9025508 or info@royaltaragolfclub.com

BIRTH NOTICES IN THE CHRISTMAS 1976 NEWSLETTER

Congratulations to the following on their recent new arrivals:

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Murtagh, Lismullen,
a daughter, Catriona Patricia

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Murphy, Grange,
a son, James Daniel

Mr. & Mrs. David Nixon, Walterstown,
a daughter, Catriona Mary

Mr. & Mrs. Francis Geraghty, Riverstown,
a son, Gordon Mark

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Looby, Colvinstown,
a daughter, Margaret Emma

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Cromwell, Oberstown,
a daughter, Fiona Brigid

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Peters, Greenpark,
a daughter, Barbara Ann.

Crossword Answers:

Across:

2. Eggnogg
5. Blitzen
8. Scrooge
10. Christmas
12. Joy
13. Tinsel
6. Wreath
7. Holly
8. Tinsel

Down:

1. Stockings
3. Elves
4. Frosty
6. Wreath
7. December
9. Presents
11. Holly





Happy Christmas

The following article appeared in the 1976 Christmas edition of the Tara Newsletter. Our thanks to Colette Clinton for lending us a number of issues which had been kept by her mother Mrs. Romy Rathbourne

THOUGHT

By Gerald Perry

If a preacher were to start his sermon today by saying: "Christmas is oft referred to as the season of peace and goodwill," many of his congregation would probably tune their minds to a

different wavelength and reflect on some more mundane aspect of Christmas – like paying the bills – on the grounds that when it came to peace and goodwill they had heard it all before. But just how familiar are we with this particular aspect of the Christmas message

How many people, given the quotation "Peace and Goodwill to men" in a competition in which they were asked to "spot the error" would fail to notice the mistake? Quite a few, for we have come vaguely to accept that this is the correct quotation and that if a majority want peace and goodwill these qualities will be generated spontaneously throughout society.

But peace is not as easily established a quality as that. Like everything else in life it has a price. Tragically, it is a price that many are reluctant to pay and which many find it impossible to pay.

The message which the shepherds heard from the angels of the first Christmas was not "Peace and Goodwill to men". It was, as St. Luke records: "Peace to men of goodwill". There is our price – goodwill.

Many demand "peace and justice". But justice for whom? Manifestly, if there are opposing factions, what constitutes justice to one faction is injustice to another. If it were otherwise they would not be seeking peace – they would already have it! Many seek "peace at a

price" – but the price must always be paid by someone else! These demands have an inherent aggressiveness so they inevitably generate illwill and where there is illwill there can be no peace.

If nations, if opposing factions, if sectors of society, if individual members of a family cannot approach one another with goodwill they cannot hope to find true peace.

Is goodwill so very high a price to pay? As the very word implies, it requires an effort of the will. It presupposes some compromise. But if people seek peace with sincere goodwill they are already willing to accept at least some degree of mutual compromise. The spirit of goodwill approaches with its hands held out before it, empty, offering peace, petitioning peace, its heart willing, in the lovely Irish word, to "disremember" a past which has caused hurt, rancour, bitterness; to concede that the guilt for the faults of the past which gave rise to illwill does not rest exclusively on one person, on one faction, or on one nation. It is a shared guilt.

At Christmas we celebrate the birthday of the Prince of Peace. Let us do all we can during the Christmas season to cultivate and spread the spirit of goodwill so that we may earn for ourselves and others the gift for which the human heart yearns most earnestly: the gift of Peace.

Children's Corner

Santa Word Search

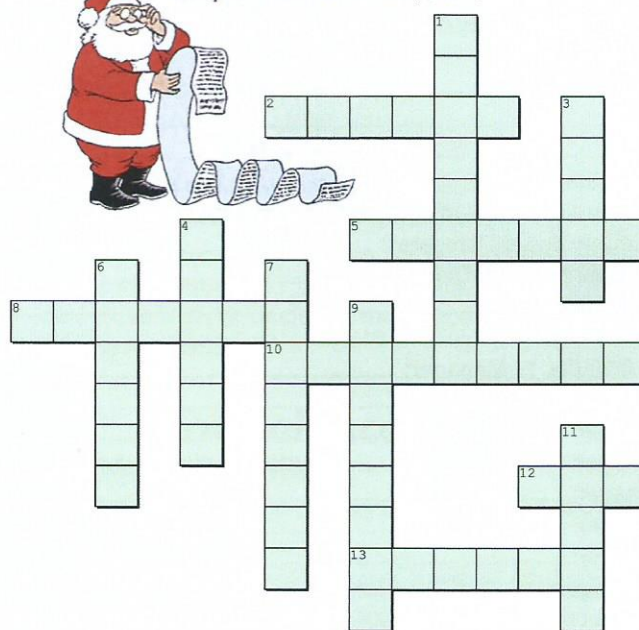
X U R S C T X B O J I W W I Y
S O W X H O Q T O C N F F I Q
L W K T I Y M T Q O A S F D Q
R F F B M S E Q A I U C Y Z B
V E K Y N S R S R H S O H L K
K Y I V E X L I U L G Q Q C C
T H C N Y U E E L U G I S K I
M D C E D S K E D X H E E Z N
J O L L Y E B U G C V E O L T
F U O J D H E H P L O D U R S
Z E U C G T D R E N K O W X Q
W F I I G Q J Z G E H W C M D
D X E L O Y P J H I W K X Z Y
N L N O R T H P O L E O S L Z
S T Y R V U D M Q A W K U Z A

Chimney
Elves
Fairies
Jolly
North Pole
Reindeer
Rudolph
Sled
Sleigh
Sleigh Bells
St. Nick
Toys



Merry Christmas

Complete the crossword below



Across

2. Christmas Drink
5. One of Santa's Reindeer
8. Christmas Hater
10. December 25th
12. ... to the World
13. Shiny Thin Tree Decoration

Down

1. ...were hung by the Chimney
3. Santa's Helpers
4. 'The' Snowman
6. Circular Tree Branch
7. Month
9. Under the Tree
11. Deck the halls with boughs of ...

You will find the answers elsewhere in the newsletter

A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all thro' the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar plums danc'd in their heads,
And Mama in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap .

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters, and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,
Gave the luster of mid-day to objects below;
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and call'd them by name:

"Now! Dasher, now! Dancer, now! Prancer and Vixen,
"On! Comet, on! Cupid, on! Donder and Blitzen;
"To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall!
"Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of toys — and St. Nicholas too:

Clement Moore, the author of the poem 'Twas the night before Christmas, was a reticent man and it is believed that a family friend, Miss H. Butler, sent a copy of the poem to the New York Sentinel who published the poem. The condition of publication was that the author of 'Twas the night before Christmas was to remain anonymous. The first publication date was 23rd December 1823 and it was an immediate success. It was not until 1844 that Clement Clarke Moore claimed ownership when the work was included in a book of his poetry. The poem 'Twas the night before Christmas' has redefined our image of Christmas and Santa Claus. Prior to the creation of the story of 'Twas the night before Christmas' St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, had never been associated with a sleigh or reindeers!

And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound:

He was dress'd all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnish'd with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys was flung on his back,
And he look'd like a peddler just opening his pack:

His eyes — how they twinkled! His dimples: how merry,
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry;
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face, and a little round belly
That shook when he laugh'd, like a bowl full of jelly:

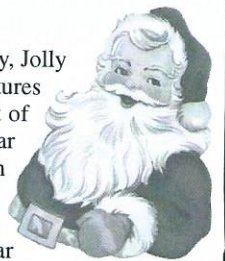
He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laugh'd when I saw him in spite of myself;
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And fill'd all the stockings; then turn'd with a jerk,
And laying his finger aside of his nose
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.

He sprung to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew, like the down of a thistle:
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight —
Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night.
—Clement Clarke Moore

The Origin of Santa Claus

Santa Claus, Saint Nicholas, Saint Nick, Father Christmas, Kris Kringle, Santy, Jolly Old Elf, Santa Klaus or simply Santa, is a gift-giving figure in various cultures who distributes presents to children and adults, traditionally during the night of December 24, Christmas Eve, while everyone is sleeping. The popular American form Santa Claus originated as a mispronunciation of Dutch Sinterklaas, which is a contracted form of Sint Nicolaas (Saint Nicholas). On Christmas Eve of 1822, another New Yorker, Clement Clarke Moore, wrote down and read to his children a series of verses; his poem was published a year later as "An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas" (more commonly known today by its opening line, "'Twas the night before Christmas . . ."). Moore gave St. Nick eight reindeer (and named them all), and he devised the now-familiar entrance by chimney. Moore's Nicholas was still a small figure, however — the poem describes a "miniature sleigh" with a "little old driver." Meanwhile, in parts of Europe such as Germany, Nicholas the gift-giver had been superseded by a representation of the infant Jesus (the Christ child, or "Christkindlein"). The Christkindlein accompanied Nicholas-like figures with other names (such as "Père Noël" in France), or he travelled with a dwarf-like helper (known in some places as "Pelznickel," or Nicholas with furs). Belsnickle (as Pelznickel was known in the German-American dialect of Pennsylvania) was represented by adults who dressed in furry disguises (including false whiskers), visited while children were still awake, and put on a scary performance. Gifts found by children the next morning were credited to Christkindlein, who had come while everyone was asleep. Over time, the non-visible Christkindlein (whose name mutated into "Kriss Kringle") was overshadowed by the visible Belsnickle, and both of them became confused with St. Nicholas and the emerging figure of Santa Claus. The modern Santa Claus derived from these two images: St. Nicholas the elf-like gift bringer described by Moore, and a friendlier "Kriss Kringle" amalgam of the Christkindlein and Pelznickel figures. The man-sized version of Santa became the dominant image around 1841, when a Philadelphia merchant named J.W. Parkinson hired a man to dress in "Criscringle" clothing and climb the chimney outside his shop.



RST COMMUNITY CENTRE OPEN DAY, SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER 2013

The idea of having a new community centre in the Rathfeigh/Skryne/Tara (RST) area was first suggested by Ms Clare Rogan back in 2008/9 when a Community Draw was being organized by Skryne GFC. This "dream" came to fruition on Sunday 8th December 2013, when the New RST Community Centre, located on the first floor of Skryne GAA Clubhouse, was informally opened.

We, the Board of the RST Community Centre, were delighted with the huge numbers of visitors on the day. Reactions varied from "Wow!", "What a beautiful building!", "Brilliant workmanship", "Lovely colour scheme", "Spacious rooms", "Love your kitchen", "What a view from the balcony!", "Great, you have a lift!", "That's a fab sliding door", etc, etc.



Pictured at the Centre Open Day: From left: Dermot Carty, Gerry Tuite, Miriam Cremin, Rose Rogan, Claire Rogan, Kevin O'Rourke

FINANCE

This new centre cost €205,000. All the money has been raised and we expect final financial settlement early in the new year. The Board wishes to acknowledge the strong support of Skryne GFC as €50,000 of the proceeds of the House Draw was set aside for the centre. We were successful in our application to Meath Partnership for a grant of €150,000 under the Leader Program for Community Projects. As we were granted public money, the tendering process under EU procurement rules was strictly adhered to. Gerry Tuite's company, AGT Contracts, won the contract and as you can see, did a wonderful professional job with work of excellent quality. Thanks to Gerry for his commitment, patience and thorough personal attention to every detail.

THE 300 CLUB

When a project like this is under way, there are many extra costs incurred so the Board set up a monthly draw. The draw, known as the 300 Club Draw, is limited to 300 members and costs €5 per line per month. Each month

€500 is returned in prize money. We are extremely grateful to those of you who already support this draw. There are still some places available in the draw and we would love to fill those places to maximize income to help us defray our bridging loan interest payments (until our grant comes through), along with other incidental expenses.

USE OF THE RST COMMUNITY CENTRE.

The RST Community Centre is a public utility building to enhance the RST area. The centre is for everyone's use. It is your centre. You, the RST residents are now the stakeholders of this new facility. We must all get together and put the centre to work. The success of the centre depends on YOU.

This must of course be done in an organized way. We propose to have a timetable of events posted up so that everybody can see what is happening and where. There are three rooms (of different sizes and shapes), and a kitchen, so different activities can take place at the same time. If you would like to run a course, start a club, organize a group or indeed a one-off event like a party, please phone our Admin Secretary, Susan, at 087-1306985 or email rtskryne@gmail.com. Rates for the rooms are flexible but will be in the region of €15 - €25 per hour.

The RST region of Rathfeigh, Skryne, Tara is rich in history and heritage. It is good and uplifting to remember the past but the new RST Community Centre represents the future – let us all embrace it.

THE RST BOARD MEMBERS: Oliver Harrington, Clare Rogan, Jim Gibbons, Kevin O'Rourke, John Scanlon, Rose Rogan and Maurice Daly.



The RST Centre and Skryne GFC combined to host a very successful evening for the Meath Senior Football Team in the new RST Community Centre on Tuesday 17th December. Manager Mick O'Dowd was very impressed on his first visit to the centre and congratulated all for providing such a state of the art facility for the area. The players mingled and signed autographs for the children present and then enjoyed a pleasant meal.



I began making a conscious effort to question, examine and research my choices and actions, after a Comhlámh course in which I partook on the back of two summers volunteering in Uganda, with a Non-Government Organisation. The work of this NGO, like many others, is laudable, and I felt it was beneficial to more than just myself that I went. However, I returned from this year's trip with a sense of uncertainty. The truth is, for all the "progress" and "development" achieved by us humans, the inequalities that are allowed exist between the peoples of this world are appalling. It is a source of shame to us all that our quality of life should depend in such large part upon our country of birth. Equality of opportunity does not exist and this is a terrible failure. However, despair is debilitating. We can change nothing if we feel powerless. **We are NOT powerless**, however. In fact, the **power is ALL ours**.

I have begun a blog, called letsliveconsciously.wordpress.com. On it, I am documenting my experience of trying to make more ethical choices as a consumer and daily decisions based on MY values, not what is pushed on us by the marketing industry. I share information also, so that anyone interested can join me if they are so inclined!

I know the message of this blog might be interpreted as idealistic, preachy and unrealistic. I know that it would be far more challenging for me to take on this project within my own life if I had, say, children or a mortgage. I know no one likes being pushed or 'guilt-tripped' into doing anything. So I don't harp on about our responsibility to each other and our environment in every single post, nor do I bombard readers with links to sites and videos that will melt your head...that 'head-melt' factor has certainly been an element of my experience of living more consciously.

I will however, ask you to take a step back within your own life, and question. Ask yourself what you can do. Think about where this one item you never thought about came from. Consider who put in the hours that brought you this other item at the affordable price for which you nabbed it. Is there an area of your life you've never questioned? Maybe now is the time to do so.

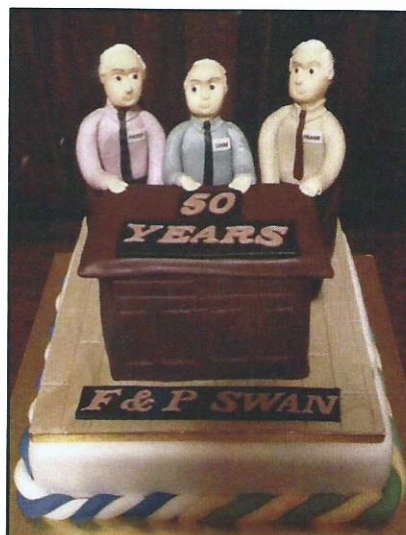
Please see letsliveconsciously.wordpress.com for more, and don't hesitate to leave a comment. All feedback, especially at this early stage, is more than welcome.

Nollaig Shona Daoibh go léir,
Michelle Griffin

Happy Christmas to everyone from 10th Meath Scouts

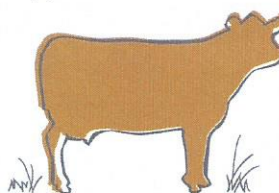
We've had a gr8 year in 10th Meath scouts. All 3 sections enjoyed a very varied range of activities planned by themselves with guidance and support of their fantastic Leaders. We had overnights in scout's dens in the County and a brilliant hostelling weekend in Carlingford not to mention a totally awesome annual scout camp in Donegal during the summer. Our shoebox appeal received a very credible response from the beavers and cubs, 48 boxes in total were greatly appreciated by Team Hope. These little boxes of joy and fun filled by kids for kids who have nothing of their own ... well done. Our Cubs put a lot of thought and effort into making decorations and Xmas banners which decorate the Parish hall, have a look if you're in the hall over the festive season. 6 of our senior cubs are doing their Chief Scout Award at the moment. Just before we broke for Xmas we had a fantastic Xmas night in Balrath Woods ... Hot Chocolate, Biscuits not to mention a visit from Santa who had selection boxes for lots of excited children. We would like to thank everyone who supported our 12days fundraiser ticket sale. This money is used to enhance the programme of activities during the year. We wish everyone in Skryne & Rathfeigh a very happy Christmas and New Year.

The 10th Meath Scout Group.



Swan's were celebrating their 50th year in business this year and would like to wish their friends and customers a **Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.**

Here's to many more years at the heart of the community.



BURKE'S FARM

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS:

Saturday 21st, Sunday 22nd, Monday 23rd &
Tuesday 24th 10 am to 4 pm each day

**Why not call and try our delicious
Christmas Pudding and Mince Pie Ice
Creams and Dreamy deserts!!!!**



NEXT ISSUE

SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY 2014

All articles etc. to be submitted before

Wednesday 22nd January

Contact: Jim Conroy

Phone: 046 9025771

Email: jimkconroy@hotmail.com

BLOTTO RESULTS

SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER

Numbers drawn: 3 - 9 - 13 - 24

Jackpot not won - €40 each

Cathal Swan, David Byrne, Hugh Tully and Ian Davis

SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER

Numbers drawn: 18 - 19 - 24 - 26

Jackpot not won - €40 each

Aoghan McConnel, Jim Hammill, Valerie Clarke, Noel Divine.

SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER

Numbers drawn: 4 - 18 - 23 - 24

Jackpot not won - €40 each

Harry Naughton, Paddy O'Rourke, Paul Donnelly, Conal Ferry

Jackpot: €2,800

Thank-you for your support in 2013 and looking forward to continued support in 2014

Happy Christmas to all our supporters, sponsors and readers

Skryne Therapy Clinic
Tara, Co. Meath

Holistic Massage

Sports Massage

Spinal Therapy

Massage
€50 (1 hour)
€30 (½ hour)
Spinal €40
(1 hour)

Discounts
for prepaid
bundles
Gift Vouchers
Available

*To arrange
appointment call*

Ruth 086 8912083 Massage

Joyce 086 1017342 Spinal

**DAY AND EVENING APPOINTMENTS
AVAILABLE**



The Flooring Mill

Carpets, Wood Floors, Blinds
*Expert Fitting and Personal
attention guaranteed*

We'll beat any like-for-like quote

New Showroom Open

Ph: Stephen: (086)2351954

or (041)9821745

Email: info@flooringmill.ie

www.flooringmill.ie

Happy Christmas to all

**Happy
Christmas**

From all

at

A & J PRINT

Tel: 01-8256402

TARA ATHLETIC CLUB



*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*



TARA ATHLETIC CLUB 2013

Over the last 10 years Tara Athletic Club has been growing and expanding and we are now firmly rooted within Meath Athletics. We have seen a huge swell in numbers in the last year and are delighted to say that we have had a great response from parents with many of them helping out on a weekly basis taking a very active role in their children's fitness and health.

Club membership is at an all-time high of 165, comprising of the youngest members from 6 years of age to the oldest adults of over 70 years. All ages are catered for within the following groups.

Training Times

Juvéniles	Thursday	6.45pm	(Tara Sports Ground)
	Sunday	11am	(Hill of Tara)
Adults	Monday	7pm	(Tara Sports Ground)
	Friday		Different Locations
	Sunday	9am	(Hill of Tara)

2014 - Registration

2014 Registration takes place on Thursday
16th January at 6.45 – 7.30pm in Clubhouse.

Registration Fees

Juveniles €60 (3 or more juveniles per family €150). Adults €60
All members will receive a Tara AC Club Technical T-Shirt

GOAL MILE CHALLENGE

For the first time this year Tara AC will host a Goal Mile Challenge on our running track at Tara Sports Grounds on Christmas Eve at 4pm. This is open for children and adults (walkers/runners) to try and compete 1 mile around the track for a worthy cause. Hope you can join us.

2014

We have made a lot of progress with our Club and Track facilities over the last year with a great deal of the work organized and carried out by Dave McCarthy, Aidan O'Connor, Seamus O'Kane and Seán O'Regan.

Over the next year we hope to build and expand on this by improving lighting on the track, repairing and improving toilet facilities and water quality. We would also like to improve Long Jump Pit and update some training equipment.

In order to make these improvements we will be increasing club membership this year, this is the first membership increase in the last 8 years but we hope you can understand that in order to provide Safe, Quality Training Sessions to all our athletes we must improve facilities. We endeavor to keep costs low and greatly appreciate any assistance or help. If you feel you can give your time, expertise or advice please contact a club representative.

LITTLE ATHLETES

6-8 YEAR OLDS

This special group of 'Little Athletes' attend the track every Thursday evening from 6.45pm - 7.30pm at Tara Sports grounds. They are coached in all the fundamentals of athletics, with the emphasis on games and enjoyment. Activities include mini hurdles, ladders, obstacle courses, relays, running games, long jumping, ball throwing, balance and coordination exercises, sack races and fun stuff!

"Little Athletes". The team of 5 coaches: Natasha Meharg, Judith Giles, Kenny Pentony, Niamh Bagnall and Brenda Govern. Finally, many thanks to the parents who lend a hand to the team of coaches for which the club is most grateful.



JUVENILE 8 – 12 YEAR OLDS

'Athletes who progress into this group from the 'little athletes' programme, have the option of being introduced to competition for the first time in the under 9 age group. While the emphasis is still on fun and enjoyment, all children are encouraged to compete in either cross country or track and field events. The fundamentals of sprinting, hurdles, distance running and field events, such as long jump, shot putt, javelin and now high jump are coached and the emphasis is on exposing these young athletes to a variety of events, to develop different skills, good coordination and balance, and also to prevent injury. Training is at the track every thursday and on Sunday morning at 11am on the Hill of Tara. We are very grateful to the coaches and athletic leaders who coach this group, many of whom have completed a large number of coaching courses run by Athletics Ireland in 2013 who include: Lisa O'Dowd, Caroline Giles, Schira Mullen, Noreen Swan, Jenny O'Dowd, Jessica

Quinn, Seamus O'Kane and Shane Collins and David Rogers and all the other parents who lend a hand each week. We encourage other parents to get involved and no prior experience is necessary. Just assisting in putting out equipment or marshalling a group of athletes at one leg of a relay is a huge help!

JUVENILE 13 YRS +

Andy Murphy trains the 13+ age group. These athletes are competing in both Cross Country and Indoor/Outdoor Track & Field Events throughout the year. They are trained as a group with particular emphasis on their chosen event. Many of these athletes compete for their schools as well as their club. They have progressed from Meath Championships to All Ireland National Finals in all of their chosen events and continue to perform at a very high standard under the guidance of Andy.



ADULT TRAINING GROUP

Dave McCarthy leads this every expanding group, who last April started out as joggers and are now competing in local 5k and 10k and also Marathons. It started out and continues to be a great success with upward of 40 new members joining the club.

Monday night 8pm is our main training session at the track with a focus on core strength and speed training. Friday night 7pm is generally a 6k run at various locations with monthly time trials.

Almost all group members have competed in events to include 5k and 10k races, Half and Full marathons, dualathons and triathlons. We've also had a few pints to celebrate along the way! It has been great to see so many people from local and surrounding areas training with our club, committed to improving their health and fitness whether just starting out or improving.



TARA 5K ROAD RACE

Tara AC holds its 5k Road Race every August and we saw nearly 380 runners and walkers participating this year in our annual event.

The rain held off leaving very pleasant running conditions. We have many of the top Dublin and Meath athletes competing in our 5k challenge and this year we saw Rory

Kavanagh Dunboyne with a time of 16.07 and leading lady Lorraine Manning of Raheny with a time of 18.03. .

Local athletes also looked impressive with Jarlath Jordan finishing in a fantastic time of 19.46, Conor Cullen 20.45 Sean Byrne 21.30 and David Hawes 21.32. Quite a number of our adult athletes also took part as well with most improving their Personal Best Times.

We had great sponsorship from local businesses including Maguires of Hill of Tara, Foxes Pub, Swans Pub, Ryans of Navan, Cyclize (Pat McGovern) and Jones Fruit and Veg(Dunshaughlin) with many other to donating spot prizes on the night.

We would like to thank the parish of Skryne for their patience and understanding while the race was in progress and to all those who came to help us out on the night. It is great to see such great Community Spirit alive and well.

FESTIVE RUN



We have been holding a Festive Run for the last few years on the Hill of Tara and this year it takes place on St.Stephens Day at 12 noon followed by Hot Chocolate/Teas/Coffees in Foxes Lounge. Open to all. We hope you can join us.

TARA ATHLETIC CLUB 2013

We recently had our award night in Scoil Cholmcille where every member received a Trainer Bag in celebration of all their hard work and Training over the last 12 months. We also recognised the coaches who plan and organise training sessions every week and to parents who lend a hand each week. We also want to thank all the parents who travel up and down the country taking their children to competitions throughout the year.



Well done to all our athletes who competed in Track and Field and Cross Country Competitions this year.

We had some fantastic achievement over the last 12 months, as a club taking Bronze in the Meath Track and Field League. Thank you to all those athletes who competed weekly for their club.

We also had great results from individuals such as **Rosin McManus** and **Beth O'Donnell** making their presence felt in Track and Field, definitely ones to watch in 2014. Girls U10 **Roisin McManus**, **Caragh Conway**, **Sasha Guirey**, **Megan Clarke** and **Aly Clarke** taking home Meath CC team medals. Girls U11, **Rosin O'Dowd**, **Amy O'Dowd** and **Ellie Murphy** giving fine performances. Well done to our younger girls **Lisa Brown**, **Ellie Murphy**.



Our boys also did us proud with new athletes **Charlie Swan**, **James Reeves**, **Dylan Murphy**, **Daragh O'Dowd** and **Ciaran Quinn** making all U9 events very exciting and we hope to see more from them in 2014.

Gary Brown and **Luke Cullen** showing promise in the Shot Putt and **Sam Hawes** showing huge improvement this year.



Niall Finnerty was another who featured in the Track and Field but his best performance was in the All Ireland Cross Country in Santry recently, where he finished in 24 position, a fantastic result showing us what a true natural talent he really is. We hope to see more of him next year.



Other National Final Cross Country athletes were **Jake Cullen** 28th, **Jarlath Jordan** 34th and **David Hawes** who brought home All Ireland medals for their County. **Paul O'Brien** featured well and **John Cullen** didn't let us down either. Well Done Lads.

Also **Sean Byrne** came 1st in the Leinster 400m Hurdles. **Daniel Collins** and **Conor Cullen** doing particularly well in the Meath Championships bringing home 3 medals each. Also **John Finnerty** and **Jack Swan** showing lots of promise.

Well done to all athletes who consistently trained every week at both the Track and the Hill of Tara, your hard work and determination has been seen and recognised and we hope to see you all out again next year. We also have some new athletes coming through and are looking forward to seeing them in action as well over the coming year.

Hill of Tara Training for Juveniles
every Sunday morning at 11am, come and join us.