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BLOTTO RESULTS

**03-July-2016
15-16-17-27**

No Winner - €40 each to: Brendan Canavan, John Quinn,
James Dardis Jnr., Colette Kitson

**10-July-2016
6-9-18-19**

No Winner - €40 each to: Annie Ryan, Paul Rafter, Mary
Baker and Darren Carty

**17-July-2016
9-15-19-25**

No Winner - €40 each to: Paddy Cahill, Pat Hawes, Olive
Carty and Eddie McManus

**24-July-2016
3-10-15-28**

No Winner - €40 each to: Sinead Rooney, Martin
Mulvaney, Anne Gray and Trish Hickey.

**31-July-2016
11-22-25-2**

No Winner - €40 each to: Michael and Anne Mulvaney,
James Gibbons Jnr., Brigid Beeton and Michael Clarke.

**07-August-2016
3-7-13-27**

No Winner - €40 each to: the Mooney Family, Hilary
Tobin, Iga Maguire and Harry Naughton.

**14-August-2016
13-15-20-26**

No Winner - €40 each to: Quick pick winners were
Michael Russell, Frank Weldon, C and E McLeen and
James Hegarty.

**21-August-2016
9-15-17-1**

No Winner - €40 each to: Quick pick winners were Peter
Waters, Liz synnott, Eeon Giles and Gary Burke

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**Next Issue Saturday
24th September**

Submissions by Wednesday 21st September

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046 902 5771
email: jimkconroy@hotmail.com

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RST Newsletter

Rathfeigh • Skryne • Tara

27th August 2016 • Issue No. 6

Fr Joseph Gleeson, 1931-2016



The passing, unexpectedly after a brief illness, of Fr Joe Gleeson on Sunday 14th August in the Mater Hospital brought great sadness to the parish of Skryne & Rathfeigh – a community he had served with distinction since 1987. His remains reposed in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Rathfeigh on Tuesday 16th August where hundreds of mourners paid their respects with 972 signing the Books of Condolence. His funeral Mass, celebrated by Bishop Michael Smith, assisted by 68 priests, including his friend of 69 years, Fr Peter Farrelly, Beauparc who gave the homily, was in St. Colmcille's Church, Skryne on Wed 17th August with burial afterwards in the adjoining cemetery.

The following is a presentation given in Skryne Church before Fr Gleeson's funeral Mass.

"Good morning,
It is my great privilege to welcome you all to St Colmcille's Church, Skryne. This parish is in mourning since Sunday when the death of Fr Joe was announced. We have lost a wonderful friend who will be deeply missed. Today we celebrate his wonderful life of dedication and tireless work in the service of God and the people of the four parishes in which he ministered for 58 years. Having been ordained in Maynooth in 1958, his first posting was to Kilkenny Cathedral. There as a young enthusiastic priest, he began his long journey of illustrious ministry. As he said himself, he was thrown in at the deep end, and quickly got involved in the local community, by spearheading the establishment of a Pitch and Putt Club. He loved Kilkenny and even watched them playing hurling last Saturday only hours before his death. After 7 happy years in the Marble City, he was sent back to Tullamore. He is remembered with great affection in Offaly, where his pastoral work and especially his regular visitations of his people, enabled him to establish a close bond with his parishioners. His desire to help people in need of support and intervention, prompted him to get involved in the establishment of Alcoholics Anonymous. Fr Joe has spent the last 39 years in Co. Meath where he made an even greater impact

by rejuvenating two parishes: Laytown/ Mornington and Skryne/Rathfeigh. He arrived in Laytown in 1977 where I got to know him. He made life-long friends in Laytown where he is still remembered with deep affection. In that parish, he completed two major projects. Under his leadership the Church of the Sacred Heart, which can hold a congregation of 800 people, was built and paid for in quick time. Having catered for the living, Fr Gleeson next turned to looking after the dead. Having prepared them well for the after-life, he believed they should be buried in their own parish. He acquired a site in Laytown, where the designed and planned cemetery of Reilig Mhuire was consecrated. In 1987, there were a number of clerical changes and there was widespread speculation about who would be the next Skryne P.P. A few names were mentioned. It was a fortunate day for this parish when Fr Gleeson was appointed. He has served with distinction since. In Skryne, he rolled up his sleeves again, and tackled a number of important projects: Rathfeigh Church was refurbished; Skryne Hall was upgraded; Rathfeigh School was extended twice and a new school built in Skryne; the old stables at the back of the parochial house were transformed into the Blessed Margaret Centre; the Parochial House was gutted and turned into the splendid

building it is today. So what kind of man was Fr Joe Gleeson? Basically, he was a very humble man; he was a simple and unpretentious man; he was a very holy man with life-long devotion to Our Lady; he was also a very happy man who appreciated a joke, often directed at himself. He was very shrewd, astute and a great judge of people. He was very understanding of the nature of human frailty and was always available to give advice and support. He was the President of Skryne Gaelic Football Club at the time of death, and though an Offaly man, he was a great supporter of Skryne and of Meath and particularly the local county stars. He said that his arrival in Skryne coincided with the football success of Meath. Maybe he will now work a football miracle from the other side! His pastoral and priestly works were given priority and he visited every house once a year. He was a fund raiser supreme who believed in clearing debt as quickly as possible. On Saturday last he watched the Black and Amber for the last time. On Sunday morning, he entered the Stadium of Heaven where I'm sure he occupies a premium seat. We thank God for the gift of Fr Joe Gleeson. May he rest in peace."

Maurice Daly.



This issue is sponsored by **A PARISHIONER**

SKRYNE GFC

Exciting game in Ashbourne: Skryne 0-9 Dunshaughlin 0-8.

This Junior Football Championship quarter final played in ideal conditions in Ashbourne this evening (Monday) was a very close and exciting encounter. Both sides missed a lot of scoring chances but this just added to the excitement of a local derby. The game was played in an exceptionally sporting manner and the standard of Junior football served up - apart from the finishing - was a credit to both teams. Dunshaughlin were in sparkling form in the first half and deservedly led at half time by 0-7 to 0-3. Having said that Jason Fox hit the post with a rasping shot that seemed destined for the net and from the rebound Dunshaughlin went straight down the field and pointed at the town end. This amounted to a four point difference instead of a draw match.

While Skryne may have had luck on their side today this result leaves quarter final qualification still in their own hands when they play Rathkenny in the last group game. Skryne - Felim O'Rourke. Declan Morley, Mark Harrington, Niall Lenehan. Thomas McKeown, Ciaran Lenehan, Adam O'Sullivan. Aidan Tuite, Harry Rooney, Brian Davis (1-0), Conor O'Brien (0-2), Paddy Fox. Mark Jordan, Patrick O'Rourke (1-6), Mark Battersby. Subs used - Darragh Campion and Stephen O'Brien.

Skryne- Des McAvinney. Timmy Lennon, Eoghan Greene, Barry Clarke. Paddy Carpenter, Martin Mulvaney, Darren Fox (0-1). David Lynch (0-1), David McGoldrick (0-1). Ronan McCabe, Brian Smyth, Jaso Fox (0-1). Allan Carty (0-2), Vinny O'Reilly, Niall Morley (0-2). Subs used - Cian Lynch, Paddy Doherty (0-1), Kevin O'Reilly.

Lucky draw for Skryne: Skryne 2-8 Cholmcille Gaels, Kells 1-11

Skryne escaped from Pairc Tailteann today with a draw match in this SFC clash with the Gaels from Kells. Played in front of a small crowd in conditions more akin to October or November than August, but with a breeze which had little effect on the game. Skryne played into the Town goals in the first half with a slight advantage from whatever gentle wind there was, but it was the Kells men who got into their stride immediately. They attacked from the throw in and had the ball in the back of Felim O'Rourke's net from their first attack. Then at the other end, also in Skryne's first attack, KHarry Rooney put Brian Davis through and he made no mistake in finding the net with a fine goal to level up the scores. Patrick O'Rourke added two points from play and things were looking good for the Blues. That was as good as it got for Skryne who kicked seven wides in this half and defensively gave away three silly frees which were all converted by Cholmcille Gaels who added another from play to lead at the break by 1-4 to 1-2.

Kells began the second half almost like the first but this time only scored a point before Skryne got their act together and got back on level terms through O'Rourke again and two beautiful points from Conor O'Brien. It was nip and tuck from there to the end with never more than two points between the sides. With a minute and a half left on the scoreboard clock Kells were two points ahead but with their never-say-die spirit the Blues attacked in numbers and Patrick O'Rourke slotted home a great goal to seemingly give Skryne an unlikely victory. In injury time Kells were awarded yet another free from which they levelled up the score and Referee Gerry McGivney blew full time without the ball being kicked out.

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Subs used - Darragh Campion and Stephen O'Brien.

Skryne U14's Play out an emphatic Div 1 Summer League Final

Skryne U14's played in Dunganny against Duleek Bellewstown in the Div 1 Summer League Final. It was a game that was to be controversial and nothing to do with players or management but simply down to the Final Score.

Skryne met Duleek / Bellewstown in Dunganny on 18th of August. Both teams had already met the previous week with Skryne winning by a point. Skryne on the final day were short some players due to holidays and injury and credit has to go to a player who cut short his holidays for the love of the sport. Skryne were slow at getting started and Duleek were picking off the points with a battle from One to Fifteen on the field. Duleek kicked some wides and the game was not going Skryne's way. Skryne fought hard and defended well. When the half time whistle blew Skryne were still in it with some fine scores from Sean Keogh, Alex Grendon, Kian Reddy. Half time scores Skryne 0-4 Duleek Bellewstown 1-4. The second half started and Skryne were slow at getting off again. Duleek rattled in 1-03 and Skryne's Niall Finnerty replied with a goal of his own. Duleek then came back to counteract the goal and scored four more points. This would knock the wind out of any team but not this bunch of lads. Skryne went on and responded with 2-04 points in quick time, with being down by 8 points and ten minutes to go the lads had drawn it level in normal time. Scorers in the second half were Niall Morland, Niall Finnerty, Oisín Keogh & Kian Reddy. Extra time was to be played with 10 Minutes aside. Skryne again went behind by six but came back to leave two in it by half time with Skryne defending really well and the lads playing quick moving ball. The second half of extra time commenced and Skryne's tails were up. Once again Finnerty, Reddy, Morland, Keogh & Sean O Regan were on the score sheets. Skryne were unlucky not to be further ahead with a penalty that was awarded and just went wide and Finnerty hitting a cracker of a shot to rattle the crossbar. Skryne went five points up with three minutes gone, one hand was on the Shield, Duleek Bellewstown had different ideas two quick goals saw them up by one point and the referee blew the whistle to the cheers of Duleek. The Skryne players went over to



The team as follows was, Alex Curran, Jack Swan, Sam Hawes, Gary Browne, Billy Reilly, David Rathbourne, Alex O Reilly, Alex Grendon, Shane Smyth, Niall Finnerty, Niall Morland, Oisín Keogh, John O Regan, Sean Keogh, Kian Reddy, Paddy Wright, Killian Cahill, Nathan Chawke, Scott Armstrong, John Finnerty, Kristofer Kinsella. Managment: Pdraig Finnerty, Cormac Grendon & Martin Browne.

the referee for the final score and the referee told Skryne they had one by two points. Cue the confusion. The referee awarded it to Skryne and Skryne knew Duleek had won by a point. The referee left the pitch and the Chairman of Co Na Nog would not award the Shield. In true sportsmanship Skryne sent a mail to the County Board confirming Duleek were the rightful winners. You can take nothing from this panel of players who have got to six finals since U12's and remained unbeaten. This was their first one just to come up short. Well done to the players and management for a great year. This game didn't go unnoticed as a lot of other clubs who came to witness the game still speak of that Skryne spirit of never giving up. The Skryne management want to acknowledge the support for the lads on the day from family friends, cousin's aunties and all. It was fantastic to see. The sportsmanship of both teams has to be complemented. The lads mingled at the end of the game tired and exhausted after over 70 minutes with only one point separating them.

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Skryne Tara U13 Boys New Players Welcome for 2016-17 Season

Skryne Tara U13 boys are preparing for their new season. League kick-off day is Sat 3rd September. Training is underway at Ross Cross. New players interested in playing soccer are welcome to join. Last season was very enjoyable and successful. The lads were winners of the Meath Community Games Futsal competition. They got to the semi-finals in Meath Community Games 5-a-side, and had a very good outdoor league campaign played on grass. For details please contact Patrick on 087 6889116 or skrynefc@gmail.com



The team following a successful league game at Ross Cross. Left to right: Sean McCarthy, Andrew Canavan, James Reeves, James Mangan, Cathal Lenehan, Riain McConnell, Jamie Mullan, Danile O'Kane, Luke Crawley, Paul Byrne-Kelly. Missing from photo Alex Schneider, Jack Molloy Brito, Conor Ward and Mark Swan.



Thank You...

To the wonderful RST Community, I would like to share my heartfelt gratitude, thanks and appreciation with you all for your incredible support for me over the course of the Nissan Generation Next campaign. I really cannot express how much I appreciate your support. I was completely blown away for the entire month of June-it was an absolutely amazing experience! I have often heard of the incredible power of a close-knit community but I hadn't experienced it myself until this campaign. It is thanks to you that I am now in the possession of my very own Nissan van..a NV200 to be exact! I feel so lucky and fortunate to know and be a part of this incredible community. I really could not ask for a more supportive, encouraging and wonderful place in which to live. So go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir!

Notices



Childminder required

for September in Rathfeigh/Skryne area for 3 primary school siblings in their own home. 3 days maximum, needs to be flexible. Please ring/text Maire 087 7465581.

Skryne Bowls Club

Skryne Bowls Club starting back on September 6th at 8 p.m. in parish hall every Tuesday & Thursday. New members welcome. Tel: Marie 0863502344 Michael 0862718282

Congratulations from RST to Natalya Coyle

who did us all proud in Rio. Natalya came 7th in the sport of Modern Pentathlon (Running, Swimming, Shooting, Horseriding & Fencing). This was an amazing result. Well done Natalya



Thank You from ISPC (Childline)

Thank you to the people of Skryne and Rathfeigh parish for their generous contribution of over €600 from the recent Church Gate collection. Thanks to the collectors Dermot Carty and John Critchley, Skryne and to Pdraig O'Rourke, Rathfeigh. Tom Costello, Galway.

CONDOLENCES

Sympathy is extended to the following:

- Fr Thomas, bishop Michael, the Gleeson family & all his parishioners & friends on the death of Fr Joe.
- Terry Cahill Oberstown on the death of her sister.
- Anne O'Connell Rathfeigh on the death of her sister,
- Jim Conroy Collierstown on the death of his mother.
- Mary O'Halloran, Cabragh on the death of her mother.
- Donal O'Brien on the death of his sister in law.
- Nuala Philips Trevet on the death of her

Community Games All Ireland Champions 2016

Skryne Rathfeigh Tara were crowned the 2016 Community Games U13 Futsal All Ireland Champions in Athlone on Sunday August 14th.

The journey began for this wonderful team back in April on a misty Sunday morning at the MDL, when they represented the parish in the Meath competition. 4 tough matches on the day including the final played against the mighty Park Villa from Navan saw the Skryne Rathfeigh girls win the Meath title and the honour of going on to represent their county in the Leinster competition.

So on to July and a trip to Carlow, where the girls continued their winning streak and secured the Leinster title. One started to wonder how far these girls could go and the dream of landing the national title was starting to feel possible.

And finally to Athlone in August. The Munster champions from Newport, Tipperary were the opposition on the first day. A very close match that had the look of being a draw until the deadlock was broken by a superb goal. Rather than leave the parents and coaches too anxious on the sidelines, the girls kindly scored a second goal. A 2-0 win over the Munster champions and now only the Connaught champions from Burrishoole, Mayo stood between the girls and gold.

The final match was simply epic. Burrishoole are a skilful and well organised team, with a serious pedigree in this competition. And they really put it up to Skryne in the opening 15 minutes. Yet it was Skryne that broke the deadlock towards the end of the 1st half. The 2nd half was just as tough, but resilient defence and excellent goalkeeping by the Tara girls maintained their slender lead. And then a well worked free kick saw Skryne increase their lead. Time nearly up, but Burrishoole scrambled a goal of their own to make for a tense climax. Team spirit, hard work and attacking football had got the girls this far and they continued in this vein, scoring a 3rd goal to wrap things up in style. 3-1 the final result and that was it – Skryne Rathfeigh Tara were the All Ireland Champions 2016. Needless to say, joyous celebrations ensued. A sizeable group of friends and families had made the journey to Athlone for the 9am kick-off and they promptly invaded the pitch to join in the revelries. 8 games, 8 wins and our 8 girls were bringing gold medals back to Tara. A huge thanks to the team managers Schira Conway and Aisling Cullen. This would not have happened without them stepping forward to put the team together and guide the girls through the competition. Thanks to Andy Murphy, Brendan Canavan and Super Coach Mark Pentony for assisting with the team along the way. And thanks to the Skryne Rathfeigh Tara community games team who supported this group all the way to Athlone.

But most of all, thank you and congratulations to the 8 girls who all played a pivotal role in this mighty achievement. They have done themselves, their families and the community proud. Our parish has produced all Ireland champions in the past. This team's accomplishment ranks up there with the best of those.



Skryne/Rathfeigh 7-13 Fethard Tipperary 2-04

Families were wide awake and somewhat bushy tailed on Saturday 20th August as a mighty bunch of Skryne/Rathfeigh girls made the early morning journey to Athlone for the semi-final of the All-Ireland Community games U12 gaelic finals on a damp miserable Saturday morning. It rained all the way down but as superbly predicted by local weatherman Eddie McManus the rain cleared prior to throw in. A first appearance from a Skryne team in this particular competition and a first for any Meath team in many years. Skryne made a whirlwind start and had 2-3 on the board before the Fethard girls drew breath. The girls kept the scoreboard ticking over with slick scores. The team has an excellent work ethic and it would be unfair to single out any individuals as it was a success built on intense work rate, quick movement of the ball, ball retention and excellent score taking.

Skryne/Rathfeigh 2-16 Clontibret Monaghan 0-4

Sunday morning was greeted with another early start as throw in for the final was scheduled for 10am. The weather was much kinder with dry conditions and little wind to contend with. Skryne started a little slower than on Saturday but began to find their stride and kicked some wonderful scores to lead 0-8 0-0 after ten minutes.

The girls continued to be relentless for the entire game picking out intelligent passes and some excellent running off the shoulder. There is a real togetherness within the group and there's no doubt there are some intercounty stars of the future within this team if they continue to work hard and show the commitment that is required to reach that level. Prior to this weekend it's eleven years since a Meath team won an all-Ireland in this competition. Hopefully it will not take as long to win a national title in the future.

A little after 10.47 the final whistle blew to cheers and applause from the large parish contingent that made the trip to Athlone. With the aid of technology and the goodwill of Fr. Thomas the result was announced during Sunday masses to parishioners, the girls and mentors alike are forever indebted to Fr. Tom for the kind gesture.

Following the medal ceremony and an hour spent at the funfair the journey home was made a short one as happy faces regaled tales of the weekend and life long memories were born.

A special mention to the community games committee, all our sponsors including Mr. Price, all the bag packers, mentors: Declan Smyth, Madonna Purcell, Brenda McGovern, Ollie McLoughlin and Brendan Canavan

The victorious panel as follows: Ali Clarke, Steffi Finnegan, Lisa Browne, Megan Clarke, Niamh Cahill, Ciara Smyth, Ava Purcell, Tara Traynor, Roisin McManus, Ellie Murphy, Samantha Clarke, Caoimhe McGovern, Kate Thorpe, Shuna Hogan, Aoife McLoughlin, Destiny Carty



Heritage Trail – Rathfeigh & District Historical Society

2016 is the 30th Anniversary of the Rathfeigh and District Historical Society. The Society is marking this anniversary year with a heritage trail which hopes to provide information and guidance on historical sites and buildings of historical interest in the Skryne, Rathfeigh and Tara area. The society has identified a number of sites which it believes merit inclusion in the trail and it invites the RST readership to submit relevant information on the sites which can be included in the trail guide.

Hill of Tara visitors centre and Cusack stone
Hill of Tara and Holy well, Statue of St Patrick
St. Columa's church.
St. Columa's column
Rathfeigh church
St. Colmcille's church, Skryne
Trevet graveyard and church ruin
The Old watchhouse - Rathfeigh graveyard
Harvest Mile - old road to Rathfeigh
Lismullin Henge
Three arch bridge
O,Connell's pub
Lions mouth
Danes fort
Balrath woods

There are a number of sites which are understood to be in private ownership and may be included in the trail. Permission will be sought from the relevant owners before they are included in the trail guide. Additionally, there are some antiquities of historical interest in the area which have not stood the test of time but the Society feels should be included in the guide nonetheless for information purposes only. Those sites are:

Old Tara Post office
Macetown Castle
Macetown Church
Tara Castle
Odder Castle
Skyne water trough
The mill bridge
Rathfeigh Motte
Rath Lugh

Readers can submit information [written text or photographs] to the email: info@rathfeigh-historical-society.org or contact Nicola Dowling at 087 6200932.

Thank you again for your support.



Paul Keogan off to Rio for the Paralympic Games

Over the past number of weeks the greatest show on earth has been aired across our television stations and radiowaves alike. It's hard, but to be inspired by the Olympic games where, this August, we watch as dreams are realized or shattered. The world's greatest athletes, who have sacrificed so much for the chance to go down in history, put on a show for the entire world to marvel at.

This year for Skryne man Paul Keogan the Olympics is but a curtain raiser. The selection of the Cushionstown athlete, for the Irish Paralympic Team was confirmed in city hall, Dublin in the beginning of July.

Paul graduated from college two years ago and decided to dedicate his full time to athletics with the hope of qualifying for the Paralympic games in Rio this September. Paul's determination and can-do attitude has seen him realize this goal as he joins 9 other athletes on the Irish Paralympic team. Following a brilliant indoor season in February, where he ran a personal best time of 55.78seconds, he has had a turbulent year on the track. Having picked up an injury in May he has been out of training up until early August. Luckily for Paul his race is one of the last in the Paralympic games, taking place on the 15th of September.

Paul will compete in the T37 400m sprint. Never being one to shy away from a challenge he hopes to qualify for the final on the 16th of September, although he acknowledges that this will be a tough ask, he believes that with 6 weeks of good training behind him he can reach this goal.

Before going to Rio, the team will be training in a holding camp in Uberlandia, Brazil from the 28th of August until the 5th of September, following which the team will travel to the Olympic village. "Although I've been dreaming of this for so long, it feels so surreal now, I feel giddy when I hear people talking about the Paralympic village", admits the Oberstown man.

Paul has done his family, parish and indeed, country proud and I'm sure we will all be behind him as he represents us in front of the world. Be sure to tune in to watch this inspirational young man in the next chapter of his remarkable story on the 15th of September.

Tuesday Club Upcoming Trips

Tuesday 20th September National Ploughing Championship, Tullamore.

A number of people have expressed an interest in organising a bus to attend the Ploughing Championship in Tullamore. In order to ascertain the numbers we will require anyone interested in going to contact Maurice at **0879543222**, Dermot at **0868760336** or Michael at **0872525586**. We would ask that people would pay a deposit of €10 to confirm their place as we need to ensure that we can book the correct size bus for the event. Deposits to be with any of the above by 18th September. **We would expect to be leaving Oberstown before 8 am**, returning late afternoon/evening. Cost of entry will be checked before due date and everyone is responsible for feeding themselves at the show.

27th September Walking tour of Dublin 1916 rising

This walking tour will cover key positions with an outline history of the actual events in each location and the principal people involved. This tour is being conducted by A O'Neill and it will involve stopping at each location with a short outline of events being outlined against the background noise of the city traffic. In order that people can hear the narrative, the numbers are limited to about twenty. The tour will last about 1.5 to 2 hours and participants will be expected to make their own way to Dublin and **assemble at City Hall at 10.30am**. City Hall is on Dame St. beside Dublin Castle or if you come from Capel St towards Dame St., Dublin Castle is directly in front of you.

Please contact Maurice to confirm your interest at 0879543222 as soon as possible.