



RST Newsletter

RATHFEIGH • SKRYNE • TARA

16th December 2017 • Issue No. 11

THE TUESDAY CLUB LOOKS BACK AT 2017

From humble beginnings in the old kitchen of Skryne GFC pavilion some years ago, the Tuesday Club has gone from strength to strength and meets every Tuesday morning in the ultra-modern lounge of the RST. Initially, it was retired GAA players and officials who got together for a cup of tea/ coffee, reviewing the previous weekend's sports activities, touching on politics when topical and no doubt engaging in philosophy and deep thought. Initially it was men only! Now the Tuesday Club is composed of ladies and gentlemen, a very welcome and progressive development and is evolving into a very popular Skryne social club. All are welcome. You don't have to be retired but it helps!

During 2017 we went on a number of trips. On a very cold day last April, a small but intrepid band of travellers went on a tour of the largest Norman Castle in Ireland at Trim. If ever a good guide was important it was on that day in Trim. Quite honestly, Trim Castle is in a very ruinous state internally but our guide brought it to life due to her detailed knowledge of the castle's history and her deep commitment to make it interesting for her listeners.

May saw us in the National Aquatic Centre (NAC), where we were honoured to have its CEO at the time, Dave Conway, Tara resident, take us on a guided tour. We were gob-smacked at the sheer size and the facilities available to our sports' stars. Dave can be very proud of his legacy and we wish him every success in his latest project, Limerick 20/30.

It was down the history trail again in June when 48 Tuesday Clubbers headed to Wexford to visit Johnstown Castle and the Kennedy Homestead finishing with lunch in New Ross. We didn't get access to the castle itself but the Agricultural Museum exhibits were fascinating to anybody from a farming background. The Famine Exhibition is well worth a visit on its own while the gardens were spectacular with peacocks strutting around, fanning their multi-coloured plumage. The guide said it was a courtship ritual but we didn't wait around to see their progress. The guide in the Kennedy Homestead was a distant cousin of JFK and was an excellent communicator. The number of visitors continues to increase annually and the facilities are both very modern and tastefully historic.

Though we live less than 25 Km from Oldbridge, it was, for the most of us, our first visit to the Battle of the Boyne site. The "battle" though little more than a few separate skirmishes was very controversial and decisive and changed the face of Irish History with repercussions to this day! We learned that King James fought his son-in-law King William of Orange from Holland. James had a much larger army but being an incompetent clown, he lost his nerve and fled. The rest is history! The trip with the most activities and variety was to Clonmacnoise in September. We travelled by bus to Athlone where we boarded a Viking boat in the shadow of Athlone Castle and sailed Viking like for an hour south on the Shannon, approaching the historic monastic site from the north as those heathens did in the 8th/9th centuries. Ironically, we were told that the monastic settlement was attacked by the Irish at least 27 times and by the Vikings at least 7 times. I never remember reading that in my history books! Following this we headed for a guided tour of Tullamore D.E.W. distillery, where small glasses of whiskey were sampled and we finished the day with a lovely lunch in the Bridge House Hotel.

The final trip was to Castletown House, a Palladian Country House in Celbridge built in 1722 for William Connolly. This too was a thoroughly enjoyable trip to a house steeped in 300 years of Irish History. It also has a nice café.

On Tuesday 28 November, 64 members of the Tuesday Club enjoyed a beautiful Christmas lunch in the Gandon Room in Slane Castle. What a spectacular setting! For most of us it was our first experience in such opulent surroundings. The feed-back (excuse the pun!) was that it was a fitting end to a busy Tuesday Club year.

As we look ahead to 2018, the Tuesday Club will not be resting on its laurels. We have provisionally planned to visit Collins' Barracks, Dublin in February; Dáil Éireann in April; Balmoral Show near Belfast in May; Midleton Distillery and Kilkenny City & Castle later in the summer. Omagh Folk Park may also feature later. An overnight stay in Westport or Killarney is a possibility.

During 2017, we set up a Bulk Text System whereby all Tuesday Club members can be contacted at the same time by one text message. If on reading this you would like to be included on our list please contact Michael Mulvaney or Dermot Carty or Maurice Daly.

We wish all our members, friends and supporters the compliments of the Christmas season and look forward to linking up again in 2018.

Maurice Daly.

Candlelit Acoustic Session

in aid of Simon Community:

**Sunday 17th December,
Swans, Curragha, from 6 pm.**

(Early start- early home!)

Simon Fitzpatrick, (Rathfeigh) and Dec Hickey (Curragha) are running this gig to raise funds for this very worthy cause.

Admission is free

and all are very welcome.

Your support and any donations on the night would be greatly appreciated.



RST readers supporting their local Post Office. Two of Mary's next generation customers sending off their letters to Santa this week... Long may it continue!!!



Christy would like to wish all patrons

A Happy Christmas

*and thanks for their custom
during the year*

This issue is sponsored by **O'CONNELLS PUB**

Sam Maguire in Greenpark in October 1954.

Threshing at Tommy Mooney's farm, now the headquarters of the Ward Union Hounds.

Back Row L-R: Ray Mooney, John Lynch, Gay Mooney, Mr. Clarke, Tom (Tex) Mooney, Jim Finnerty, Paddy Lynch, Jim Clarke (Trevet Grange).

Middle Row L-R: Basil Curran (Owner of Combine), Tommy Mooney, Bernadette Mooney, Packie Mooney, Jim Mooney, Claire O'Toole.

Front Row: Johnny Sherry, Sean O'Brien.

Notices

SKRYNE BINGO: Skryne Bingo Wish all Their Patrons a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year and Thank them for Their Support over the past year. We also would like to thank those who have given their time to help to run our bingo every week. And we look forward to seeing more people from the parish at Bingo, which is on every Wednesday @ 8.30pm. The bingo is run in aid of parochial funds.

SKRYNE CYCLE CLUB:

Christmas Cycle Saturday 23rd for all cyclists including beginner group. Non-members welcome. 2pm Fox's – choice of 20km or 40km routes – all abilities welcome. Coffee and mince pies in Fox's afterwards at 3:30 ish! Come along and bring a friend. Lights & Hi-Viz recommended. Contact Pat McGovern 087 2586315 or James Brady 085 7106524



THANKS TO:

all the members from Tara AC who donated to the Trim Family Resource Centre food appeal Catherine is receiving the donations from Davy McCarthy (Chairman Tara AC). Just goes to show when anyone is in need Tara AC will always help out. Wishing all members



a happy Christmas & a happy New Year. Roll on 2018 as our club is getting bigger and stronger.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL: Thanks to all the people of Skryne and Rathfeigh for their generous contributions to our Church gate collection on 9th & 10th December. A special thanks to all our collectors. A grand total of €2,285.00 was collected for this worthy cause. Thanks again to all.

Jim Duignan



LOOKING BACK IN TIME

Eamon De Valera at ceremonies on the Hill of Tara in October 1948 to commemorate those who fell fighting for freedom on the Hill of Tara and other parts of Meath in 1798. Fr. Gerald Cooney P.P. Skryne is in the background.



Skryne Community Alert

We have had an increase in burglaries and attempted burglaries in recent weeks. Unfortunately this is to be expected in the run up to Christmas, but it is up to ourselves to ensure that we do not make ourselves easy pickings for the opportunist burglar. The advice below is worth repeating:

- Do not keep jewellery in your bedroom. It's the first place burglars look. The hot press is the second! Invest in a good safe and use it. Keep photos of your jewellery, including photos of you wearing it so you can prove ownership.
- Never keep large amounts of cash at home. Ask yourself will your home insurance cover you if it's stolen?
- Keep your burglar alarm serviced, and set your alarm even when you are at home. The most popular time for burglaries at the moment is daytime or early evening. Having the perimeter armed will stop burglars getting in and out of your home undetected. There are a number of good local alarm companies that can advise you on improving your home security.
- Keep your windows closed and doors locked. Failure to take basic security measures may affect any potential insurance claims.
- Store your car keys out of view from your windows or letter box. If you have a car with a keyless entry system, store your key fob in a metal container near the centre of the house. This prevents car thieves using wireless relay technology to steal your car. If you have a high value car then consider installing a tracking device.
- Consider upgrading your door locks. It takes seconds to overcome a "standard" euro lock cylinder. Speak to a local locksmith about upgrade options.
- Make use of outdoor lights to deter intruders. Lights with motion detectors can be more effective than those which are permanently on.
- Report suspicious activity to Gardai as and when you see it. You could be preventing a burglary at a neighbour's house by doing so. Save the Garda number to your phone: 01-801-0600. By simply being more vigilant we can help drive the criminals out our area.

If you would like to become more involved in Community Alert, whether it be promoting crime prevention or looking out for the more vulnerable members of the area, why not come along to our next meeting? Date for your diary: Monday 12th Feb at 8pm in the Parish hall. Wishing you all a happy and safe Christmas, from Skryne Community Alert.

RATHFEIGH SCHOOL

The 'Literacy Lift Off' reading programme is in its fifth year in Rathfeigh N.S. and continues to be a great success. Each year the children in Senior Infants, First and Second classes have intensive whole class intervention of reading and writing for six weeks. During the intervention the pupils work in stations to carry out a particular aspect of this Literacy Programme. Literacy Lift Off results in the vast majority of pupils being competent independent readers by the time they get to third class. A big thanks to the Learning Support Teachers, Class Teachers and parents/guardians who make the reading programme a fantastic success. In September the school set up a Student Council consisting of pupils in 3rd to 6th classes. The pupils on the council have been very creative and have worked very closely with the teachers. They have come up with great fundraising ideas. The money from these events have been pumped back into the school. New members will be elected to the council after Christmas. An after-school Homework Club has just been set up at which the children can do their homework free from the distractions at home. It operates three days a week (Tuesday to Thursday).

The school has purchased a Buddy Bench for the front of the school playground. The aim of the Buddy Bench is to foster friendships between pupils and to spread the message of inclusion and kindness. The children have just completed six weeks of Gaelic Football, Hurling and Rugby coaching. We thank all the coaches who have visited the school to train the children. Their expertise in their respective fields has benefited the children greatly and encouraged the children to partake more in sports. Paul & Bridget Copeland (Copeland Coppersmiths) and Val & Anastasia Clarke (Tara Developments) have very generously offered to sponsor new Boys' and Girls' School Jerseys. We thank them for their generosity and it is a lovely gift to receive before Christmas. We hope these jerseys will be worn with pride by many children for years to come. A big thanks also to the many parents/guardians who offered to pay a contribution towards the jerseys.

The children in Sixth class (pictured above) had a brilliant day last Wednesday December 6th as they were invited to the Badminton Irish Open in the National Indoor Arena in Dublin. The children got the chance to watch top Irish players in action, and also avail of a 'free play' session and meet and greet with Irish international players.



SKRYNE TARA AFC

Skryne Tara have continued this season where they left off last season and even though they are in a higher and more competitive league find themselves top of Division 3.

More than half way through the season the club is on a high and doing really well with a good blend of youth and experience. As well as being top of their Division they are also in the last sixteen of the Challenge Cup and have won their two rounds of the Leinster Junior Shield, defeating Gorey Rangers from Wexford in the first game and Clontarf FC from Dublin in the second.

With more than 20 players turning up for training and matches there is plenty of healthy competition for places. Being prominent on three fronts it is imperative to have that number of players if the club has any intentions of being successful in any of these competitions. Also with five substitutes allowed the strength of the panel can be tested in every match and so far this year all players used have played their part in what so far has been a very successful season.

Home matches are played at the Tara Athletic Grounds at Ross Cross (usually at 11.15 on Sunday mornings) and admission is free. Come and have a look - all are welcome.

Team picture (compliments of Mick Wall, Slane) taken before the 2-2 draw in our most recent match played in Dundalk under lights against Glenmuir United.

Back row (L to R) Jack Byrne, David Lynch, John McGovern, Ian Gillett, Paddy Carpenter, Darren Fox, Allan Carty, Luke Thorpe, Conor McGovern, Niall Cleary, Robbie Thorpe (Manager), Cyril Carty (Assistant Manager). Front row (L to R) Colin Doyle, Ciaran Croke, Mark Jordan, Frank Carty, Timmy Lennon, Conor O'Brien, Jason Fox, Jack Conroy, Barry Clarke. Mascot - Jack Carty (hiding behind Thomas the Teddy).

Some players unavailable for this game as it was played under lights on a Friday night.

SKRYNE GOLF SOCIETY

We had our final outing of the year to Corballis on 25th November. There was a veritable flock of turkeys to be won on a lovely sunny crisp day. The golf was followed by a hearty meal in the Ashbourne House Hotel. Ray Smith took the honours on the day.

Mick Rogan was presented with the trophy for Golfer of the Year for 2017. Mick will be captain for 2018.



Mick Rogan with Golfer of Year Trophy



Ray Smith receives First Prize



Dr. Yolande O'Brien who was conferred with a PhD in Archaeology from the National University of Ireland, Galway. Yolande is a daughter of Joseph and Tilly O'Brien, Cabragh, Tara.

Condolences

The Parish and Skryne GFC passed votes of sympathy with the following:

- Jimmy Gibbons, Ross on the death of his brother.
- The Dowling family, Ross on the death of Billy.
- Olive Carty, Berrillstown on the death of her brother.

Have we got the best playing surface in Meath?

McManus Park Skryne has been used continually, week in week out since last January and that has been the case for the last number of years.

With so many teams within our club - Ladies and Gents - using the pitch it is in constant use, then add in its use for County trials and games plus County Championship matches from Juvenile to Senior and you can see what I mean by constant use. With the Floodlights in use it makes it a seven day and night operation.

On one particular weekend in early October matches were called off (or switched to all weather) at numerous venues in Meath and Louth (LMFM reports) but Skryne hosted three games on the Saturday and three more on the Sunday. That is six games on one of the 'wettest' weekends of the season.

Along with the many games fixed for Skryne by Meath Co. Committee we also get fixtures from Meath Ladies Co. Committee and we host the two Ladies SFC Semi Finals on the one day and we were honoured with hosting the Ladies SFC Final between Oldcastle and Boardsmill which was attended by one of the biggest crowds seen at the venue in recent years.

But all this does not happen by accident and the pitch can only handle such usage with great care and attention. So, particularly in the summer months, it needs work at least three times per week, that is mowing, marking, flagging, sanding and setting up or removing goalposts etc. Thanks is due to all the volunteers who carry out this work on behalf of the people who use the facilities. It also costs money to maintain everything in working order and to that end our outgoing Treasurer Michael Mulvany at Thursday nights AGM outlined the amount spent annually which is approximately 14,000 euro. This includes purchasing and spreading of sand, maintenance and cost of running floodlights, tractor diesel and pitch marking equipment etc. Our Facilities Coordinator Kevin O'Rourke stated that our overall spending between Skryne GFC and the RST Committee amounted to over half a million euro over the last few years.

This is a credit to our local community and supporters and a sincere thanks is due to all concerned.

Skryne GFC

Nurture Africa Christmas Gift Campaign

Michelle Griffin

Please take a moment to consider Christmas morning without the gifts; Christmas Day without the dinner; Christmas holidays without any actual break from the daily grind.

This is not another "Help the poor, faraway helpless" article. This is a suggestion. Many of us struggle to think up original, personal, thoughtful gifts for those we love at Christmas. Perhaps we've bought Uncle Tom a lovely jumper but we'd like to throw something else in with it. A gift from an organisation such as Nurture Africa could be what you're looking for. Nurture Africa's Christmas gifts range from a €10 mosquito net, which could prevent an already unwell child contracting malaria, to a child's €250 tuition fees for a year.

There are many Irish organisations selling Christmas gifts such as these, from Bothar to Concern. We have, of late, been bombarded with negative news regarding charitable organisations, but please don't become cynical. I worked closely with the management of Nurture Africa from 2012 - 2014 and I have supported their work ever since. Caring individuals, Irish, Ugandan and other nationalities, are trying hard to help the community of Nansana achieve the standard of healthcare, education and self-sufficiency they deserve to experience.

This Christmas, instead of most of the money you spend going into the coffers of faceless multi-nationals, consider purchasing a gift or two on the Nurture Africa website: <http://www.nurtureafrica.ie/christmas-gifts>. Uncle Tom might really appreciate a gift being bought in his name for the benefit of a family less well-off than himself.

Next Issue

Saturday 27th January

Submissions by Wednesday 24th January

An Evening With Skryne Legends.

On Friday the 29th of December 'An Evening With Skryne Legends' takes place in Royal Tara Golf Club.

This is a Social night for people to come along and enjoy themselves, have a chat about old times, look forward to the new year with a new Committee, a new Management team and optimism for a good campaign in the Club Championship. People love to have a chat in relaxed circumstances and that's what this evening is all about.

It will take the form of a question and answer session with all the Skryne Keegan Cup winning Captains. A second question and answer session with the remaining Skryne All Ireland Medal winners. This is something the Club has never attempted before and should be very entertaining for old and young alike. Also in attendance will be the winning players who brought the Junior B Championship to the Club all of fifty years ago back in 1967. The player of the year for 2017 will be presented with the Paddy Browne Memorial Trophy during the night. For an admission fee of €10 you get all this entertainment, Finger Food and a free ticket for the upcoming GAA draw (worth €10) where you have a chance of winning a car as a first prize. Come along and enjoy a great relaxing evening after all the rushing around for Christmas.

Skryne Therapy Clinic

Holistic & Sports Massage
McTimoney-Corley Spinal Therapy

Ruth 086 891 2083
Joyce 086 101 7342

www.skrynetherapyclinic.com

Clinic to Rear

Contact: Jim Conroy
phone: 046 902 5771
email: jimkconroy@hotmail.com



SKRYNE HILL PRESCHOOL
Newly extended preschool
opening January 2018

Hands on, play-based curriculum in friendly, safe and secure environment with large outdoor natural play area
Fully qualified leader with over 15 years experience

Contact Alison 086-8427682
skrynehillpreschool@gmail.com
f [skrynehillpreschool](https://www.facebook.com/skrynehillpreschool)



FREE TO GOOD HOME
Lovely Tiger kittens with white paws born late October ready for Christmas.

AN AUDIENCE WITH
SKRYNE LEGENDS



CELEBRATING
KEEGAN CUP CAPTAINS - ALL IRELAND WINNERS
1967 JUNIOR TEAM - 80 YEARS OF SENIOR CLUB STATUS

29th DECEMBER 2017 @ 8PM
ROYAL TARA GOLF CLUB
TICKETS €10.00 AVAILABLE ON THE NIGHT

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
PVC Window & Door Maintenance
repair of Hinges & Locks
Supply and Fitting of Fireplaces & Stoves

NO JOB TOO SMALL!

Contact: Pauric
T: 046 9034846 M: 085 1597105