

# RST Newsletter

Rathfeigh • Skryne • Tara

10th March 2018 • Issue No. 2

## Tara Needs Basic Amenities

The RST Community Group hosted a public meeting in the RST Centre, Skryne on Monday 26 February 2018. The purpose of the meeting was to highlight the dearth of basic amenity facilities on the Hill of Tara and to hear what plans, if any, were in the pipeline for the development and improvement of this ancient, mystical, mythical and historic site.

Invitations were issued to the general public, the local elected representatives – Ministers, TDs, Co. Councillors along with the following stakeholders, Meath Co.Co., Meath Heritage Council and the Office of Public Works (OPW). The meeting was chaired by Oliver Harrington, Chairperson of the RST Group. Oliver welcomed the large attendance and thanked them for coming out on such a cold night. He explained who the RST Group were and their role in the local community. He told them that in public opinion, Tara, a prime historic site in Ireland, had been ignored for too long by the Dept. of Heritage & the Gaeltacht, by Meath Co.Co. and by the OPW. “Future planning and the development of Tara, in tandem with conservation of the site, are priorities for us all. We believe that the vast potential of the area has been stifled for too long,” the Chairman added.

The meeting was then opened for discussion and many speakers contributed. The absence of **parking facilities** and the unsuitable and often muddy approach roads came in for much criticism. One long-time Hill of Tara resident, Harry Dowling, has seen traffic congestion in the area getting out of control and described it as “an accident waiting to happen.” The three narrow **approach roads** which converge on Tara were all described as unsuitable for the current flow of cars and buses. One solution proposed was to focus on the 1.3Km road from the R147 up to the hill and upgrade it as the main access route to Tara for non-local visitors. Jim Gibbons suggested Park and Ride facilities for Tara, similar to Newgrange, with cars parked in a designated car park some distance away and tourists ferried by shuttle bus to the site.

The **absence of toilet facilities** on the Hill of Tara was “disgraceful, unbelievable and incredible”. Were it not for Michael Maguire,

proprietor of Maguire’s Café, Tara would have no toilets! Chairman Oliver stressed the importance of having a vision for Tara. He suggested a model or a mini-Tara where the monuments’ significance would be interpreted for visitors, thus reducing the numbers who trample on Tara for the 12 months of the year. This led to a proposal for a proper modern **Interpretive Centre** in any plan going forward, for the two adjacent hills, Tara and Skryne which would be open all year round. Michael Mulvaney strongly supported this idea, saying that as a premier national historic site, “brand” Tara had huge potential both as a tourist attraction and a commercial centre for employment, which should not be overlooked.

Cllr Dr Claire O’Driscoll addressed the meeting. She told us that she and Cllr Suzanne Jamal as local public reps would share a position on the Steering Group of the official **Conservation & Management Plan** set up by Dept of Heritage and the OPW to develop Tara. This plan had been dormant for years but was now getting a renewed focus. She welcomed the lead being taken by MCC and appreciated the work of The Friends of Tara. She said it was very important that locals, from Skryne and wider Meath took “ownership” of the site and access was the key. The OPW who has responsibility for the day to day management of the State owned lands on the Hill of Tara, were strongly criticised at the meeting by several speakers. They were described as “a difficult crowd to deal with”, they allegedly refused to come to a car-park meeting and perhaps the most serious complaint was, that they were not co-operating with MCC. During the 1916 centenary celebrations on the Hill of Tara, they were very un-cooperative and had dishonoured the great celebration. Joe O’Brien was critical of the OPW and said that they had done nothing for Tara with a plan that was “fifty years out of date”.

Cllr Darren O’Rourke pointed out that there were “two processes” or two plans involved to manage and develop Tara. One was MCC who were in charge of access roads, parking, toilets, tree maintenance, etc – in other words “outside the walls of Tara”. The second involved the state stakeholders – the OPW, the Heritage Council, and the Dept. - who have responsibility for “inside the boundary walls”. The Conservation & Management Plan is promised for mid-summer 2018 and it’s very important that the community has an input and knows what’s happening.

An important development took place at the November meeting of Ashbourne Municipal District. The Friends of Tara represented by Michael Slavin and Luke Bowden made a very impressive and illustrated presentation in relation to the basic public amenities required at Tara. Significantly, MCC responded and agreed to proceed with their own plan separate to the official plan. We hope that this will open the door for more presentations from the local community, including the RST group – a move welcomed and encouraged by the elected councillors.

Money talks and certainly in the case of Tara, funding will be a key issue. It’s here pressure must come at every level, on Meath Co.Co., the Dept of Heritage, and on local TDs including the three Ministers from Meath East & West. Thomas Byrne TD, spoke about getting a budget from the Government for Tara and with political intervention, we hope to knock on “Boxer” Moran’s door when that can be arranged.

The RST Group were encouraged to keep going, to get involved in the various campaigns and to put pressure on the local and national stakeholders. Michael Slavin and Luke Bowden supported the RST and told the meeting that the OPW cannot continue to ignore the people of Skryne, Tara and Meath.

The meeting concluded with Margaret Hayes beautifully reciting a poem, “Two Hills” by Skryne man, the late Fr Michael Douglas. This was very appropriate for the occasion.

### In summary what did the meeting achieve?

The lack of basic amenity facilities on the Hill of Tara was highlighted for the general public and will be the subject of pressure and campaigns to be put right.

There are now two plans or “two processes” alive to improve and develop one of the foremost ancient sites in Ireland (a) the official Conservation & Management Plan set up by the Dept of the Heritage and the OPW and (b) Meath Co. Council’s plan. It’s imperative that those two plans converge with all the relevant stakeholders on the same voyage.

The RST Community Group in conjunction with The Friends of Tara will prepare a presentation for Meath Co. Council.

Signed on behalf of the RST Community Group:

**Oliver Harrington and Maurice Daly.**

This issue is sponsored by **MAGUIRES HILL OF TARA**



## Joe Allan - An Appreciation

*The recent death of Joe Allan severed another link with the great Skryne Championship winning team of 1954. He made his way onto the senior team in 1952 after the retirement of the veteran incumbent goalkeeper Pat (Red) Donnelly.*

The young Branstown lad had an outstanding game in the 1952 Senior Final defeat to Syddan. The match was played on a rock hard pitch in January of 1953 when Joe made some spectacular saves before his team

eventually went down on a scoreline of 0-7 to 0-4.

He was ever present in the team all through 1953 when Skryne lost out to Trim in the semi final after three hectic games.

Joe's day in the sun came in 1954 when the Blues defeated Kells Harps in the Senior Championship Final 1-5 to 0-4. Once again he had an outstanding game, keeping a clean sheet, in Skryne's first Keegan Cup success.

His short career came to an end way too soon in 1955 when unemployment raised its ugly head and he was forced to emigrate to England to find work in Liverpool. He lived in Cheshire since then only returning home for a few special occasions.

A devoted family man to his wife Nancy and his two daughters Susan and Jennifer. He seldom left Nancy's side and was broken hearted when she passed away in 2002. He was predeceased by his brothers Mick (Ashbourne) who also played for Skryne, and Pete (Branstown) and his sister Betty (Oberstown).

He is survived by his two daughters Susan and Jennifer (Cheshire, England), and his remaining sister Peggy, now in her 90s and living in Balbriggan, County Dublin.

The Club offers condolences to his daughters, sister and all his extended family.

Ar Dheis De go Raibh a Anam.

May he rest in peace.

**Skryne GFC.**

### The TUESDAY CLUB at COLLINS BARRACKS.

The Tuesday Club, with the bare 15, lined up for our first trip of 2018 by going to Collins Barracks and visiting the exhibition: **Proclaiming a Republic – the 1916 Rising.** The barracks which is now part of the National Museum, has put on show one of the largest displays of materials from the Rising period: the memorabilia of the rebels, the British Army, civilians and survivors.

Diarmuid our guide was excellent. He knew his history and the stories behind the scenes, detailing the personal circumstances of the participants along with the suffering and destruction of property that insurrections bring.

The background to the Rising including the political movements both nationalist and unionist and the cultural developments and other organisations that influenced opinion, culminating in military activity in Easter week, were outlined. The activities and movements of the rebels during the week were illustrated together with the ruthless suppression of the Rising by the British Army (many of whom were Irish), the trials by controversial Court Martials, the execution of the leaders and the imprisonment of thousands in English and Welsh jails.

Some of the personal belongings from 1916 combatants and civilians are on display including clothing, watches, bullets, a bicycle, smelling salts, the last letters of the rebels in their own handwriting and crafts from internment camps. These objects "bring us closer to the reality that was the 1916 Rising."

If you get an opportunity, we recommend a visit to Collins Barracks. We saw the Asgard Yacht which has been restored and is on display there. There are several other exhibitions which we didn't have time to see. Arbour Hill where the leaders are buried is a short walk at the back and is well worth a visit. The Museum is free and has a nice restaurant. Some of us travelled by bus and LUAS which stops at the entrance. Others drove and parked nearby.

**Maurice Daly.**

## Skryne Golf Society

The AGM was held on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

**Officers for 2018** are

**Chairman** - Willie Rogan,

**Secretary** - Liz Rogan (0871384803),

**Treasurer** - Luke Bowden (087 2388155),

**Handicaps** are the responsibility of Noel Gallagher and Liam Kellegher.

**Captain** for 2018 is Michael Rogan.

Membership is €50 per annum and €50 for each outing which includes golf, food and 2's competition.

### OUR OUTINGS FOR 2018 ARE:

7th April ..... Beaverstown

11th May Tulfarris .....(overnight stay is optional)

9th June ..... Moyvalley

7th July..... Hollywood Lakes

11th August .....Hollystown

September ..... Sillogue

October ..... TBD

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME !!!**

### Rathfeigh Pitch & Putt A.G.M.2018

**Presidents:** Billy Cleary & Bill Mills.

**Chairman:** Stephen Lynch

**Vice Chairman:** Errol Carry

**Secretary:** Kathleen Grendon

**Treasurer:** Kevin Carolan

**Assistant Treasurer:** Harry Hall

**Competition Secretaries:** Harry Hall & Eugene Morgan

**Ladies Captain:** Kathleen Grendon

**Gents Captain:** Errol Carry

**P.R.O.:** Joan Caffrey

**Delegates to the county board:**

Des Caffrey & Errol Carry.

**Committee:** Anto Grendon, Dick Walsh Seamus McAuley, Nicko Lynch, Matt Murray, Kieran Quinn along with the above members.

Rathfeigh pitch and putt would like new members to join. It is a great way to keep fit so why not come along and see what you think. All you need is two clubs a ball and a few tees. Call in any Sunday afternoon and talk to a member. The price for the year is as follows.

**Ladies and Gents €70**

**Couples €120**

**Family €120 euro**

**Juveniles €25 euro** ( parent or guardian must be present when they are playing )



## RATHFEIGH SCHOOL VISIT TO THE GREEN SCHOOLS EXHIBITION

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February the 5<sup>th</sup> class children from Rathfeigh N.S. attended the Green Schools EXPO in the RDS Dublin. Promoting long term, whole school action for the environment from the wider community. The Green Schools EXPO this year main focus was on Climate Action and what we can do in our schools, home and communities to combat climate change. The children enjoyed looking at the exhibits from Ireland's top green schools. They had great fun taking part in a selection of hands on workshops and informative activities.

Photo: Fifth Class pupils from Rathfeigh N.S.

## BADMINTON IN BALDOYLE

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> march the Sixth class pupils competed in the All-Ireland Primary Schools Badminton Tournament in Baldoyle Badminton Centre. With 210 pupils entered the children had the opportunity to play plenty of games against children from around the country. Both boys and girls performed very well in particular the boys who came second in their group. It was a very enjoyable day out where the children learned a lot, had fun and made some new friends. The children all received medals at the end for their efforts. I would like to thank the parents/guardians who helped with supervision on the day and a special thanks to Teresa Mangan for all her help with training and developing the children's interest in badminton. We hope that they will continue to play in the future.



Michael Dunphy celebrating his 80th birthday January 27th with a surprise party surrounded by his family and friends. Thanks to everyone who came and thanks to Swan's staff for a wonderful night.

# Notices

**THANK YOU:** to all our neighbours and friends for all their help during the severe weather, in particular those who helped to clear the roads around the home and those who rang to offer their help. We would also like to pay tribute to all our staff who made every effort to get to work and make sure that our residents were well cared for. Rebecca Carolan, Manager, Hillview Nursing Home, Rathfeigh, Tara, Co.Meath.

**THE FAMILY OF:** the late Mary (Babs) Clarke, would like to take this opportunity to thank very sincerely all the people that helped out with the parking and traffic control on the evening of the removal and the day of the funeral mass in Rathfeigh.

**ENGLISH GRINDS AVAILABLE:** Experienced teacher available for English grinds for Junior and Leaving Certificate students. Also available to help improve English language skills. For more details please contact Claire on 086-3960835

**THANKS:** The residents of the Collierstown to Trevet road would like to sincerely thank John and Martin Hanley for all their hard work in clearing the road after the recent heavy snowfall. Without their help some people would still be stranded in their homes.

**NAVAN SHAMROCK FESTIVAL:** have organised a free concert dedicated to the memory of Paddy Pryle on Wednesday 14th March at 8pm in St. Mary's Church of Ireland in Navan. An evening of song, music, history, story and poetry.

**SKRYNE BINGO:** Takes place every Wednesday at 8.30pm sharp and is over by 10pm. Run in aid of our parish fund.

## Condolences

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

- To the family of Mary (Babs) Clarke, Edoxstown.
- To the family of Una Lynam, Irishtown
- To Grace Finnerty and family, Greenpark on the death of her father
- To the family of Lady Anne Comyn late of Belvin Hall who died in Cambridgeshire England
- To the family of Joe Allan who died in England.

## RST COMMUNITY NEWS

**Mother & Toddler Mini Music Classes** The RST Centre hopes to start a mother & toddler music hour on a weekly basis. We already have a number of interested parties but would require a few more to make up the required minimum. It would be a great way for parents to meet friends, especially if they are new to the parish. If you are interested, please call the RST Centre/Susan on 087-1306985.

**Pilates** Morning classes each Wednesday 10am – 11 am. For more information please contact Nicola on 087-697 5207

**Craft & Coffee** Every Thursday from 11am – 12.30pm

**Line Dancing** Wednesdays from 7.15pm – 9pm


**Irish Conversation** Monday evenings from 8.15pm – 9.15pm

**The Tuesday Club** meets on Tuesdays from 11am – 12 noon

**Digital Skills** Those interested in this FREE course please contact Angela Arkins of Meath Partnership on 046-9280790

New classes/ideas welcome. The Centre is available for Birthday Parties, Workshops, Talks, Meetings etc. All enquiries to Susan on 087-1306985 or email [rstskryne@gmail.com](mailto:rstskryne@gmail.com),

website: [rstskryne.ie](http://rstskryne.ie)

 [rstcommunitycentre.skryne](https://www.facebook.com/rstcommunitycentre.skryne).



SKRYNE GFC Present  
**MIKE DENVER**  
IN CONCERT  
PLUS SPECIAL GUEST  
POP ARTIST  
**JAKE CARTER**  
Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim  
**SUNDAY**  
**29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2018**  
**@ 8.00PM SHARP**  
Tickets €30

## SKRYNE COMMUNITY ALERT GROUP

Well the snow was certainly picturesque, but not something we want to see too often in those volumes. A huge thanks goes out to the local farmers that helped clear the roads and get us moving again! And also to the community at large, calling in to check on elderly or vulnerable neighbours. Just a reminder that personal monitored alarms are available to those in need, and the qualification criteria for grants for these devices have been reduced considerably. So if you, or one of your family are in need of a personal monitored alarm, please get in contact with any member of Skryne Community Alert and we will give you further details and help arrange this for you. They can be real life savers!

The snow kept the thieves at bay for a few days, but unfortunately they are back on the road so please remain vigilant. Latest reports from around the district include theft of tools from vans, and theft of cars left warming up in people's driveways! If you see anything suspicious in the area please contact Ashbourne Gardai on 01 801 0600 immediately.

Our next meeting is on Monday 26th March at 8pm in the parish hall. All are welcome to attend.

## BLOTTO RESULTS

**February 11 2018**

**4 - 14 - 16 - 22**

No Winner - €40 each to: Mary O'Growney, The Reddy Family, Claire Rogan, Jim & Pauline McManus.

**February 18 2018**

**5 - 20 - 22 - 28**

No Winner - €40 each to: Jennifer Barry, Margaret Allen, Harry Naughton, John Quinn

**February 25 2018**

**2 - 11 - 13 - 20**

No Winner - €40 each to: Elodie Mulvaney, Karen Dardis, Telcy Crocock, Betty O'Shaughnessy

**Next week's jackpot**

**€7,300**

*Thank you for your support*

## Skryne Therapy Clinic

Holistic & Sports Massage  
McTimoney-Corley Spinal Therapy

**Ruth 086 891 2083**

**Joyce 086 101 7342**

[www.skrynetherapyclinic.com](http://www.skrynetherapyclinic.com)

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Definitive stamps are Ireland's 'everyday' stamps that remain on sale for a number of years. This, the new edition of Ireland's ninth definitive series, features some of the nation's best known antiquities including the Ardagh Chalice, the Tara Brooch, and the Book of Kells.

The definitive series is based on Fintan O'Toole's book, A History of Ireland in 100 Objects, with each object opening a window into an important moment in Irish history between 5000BC and the early 21st Century. Images of further '100 Objects' tracing Ireland's history will be issued on stamps over the next five years.



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## Next Issue

**Saturday 14th April**

Submissions by Wednesday 11th April

Contact: Jim Conroy

phone: 046 902 5771

email: [jimkconroy@hotmail.com](mailto:jimkconroy@hotmail.com)