

FREE

RST Newsletter

Rathfeigh • Skryne • Tara



26th May 2018 • Issue No. 4

St. Patrick's Classical School – Kolkata 2018



Going to Kolkata was a life changing experience and something that I will never forget. I went over to Kolkata thinking that I would be helping people, which I did, but they also helped me and opened my eyes to how lucky I am for what I have. In my opinion the people of Kolkata are some of the happiest, friendliest and welcoming people in the world.

When we landed in Kolkata it was almost like waking up in a dream watching as the cabin was fumigated. The first thing that hits you when you step off the plane is the heat – it was 41 degrees Celsius when we arrived. I don't think I will ever forget the first private bus ride we got from the airport to the Baptist Missionary Hostel, making our way down a main street built for 3 cars that was 4 cars and 2 motorbikes wide in reality. When we arrived our first port of call was to Mother Theresa's tomb in the Mother House, the sense of serenity and peace around Mother Theresa's tomb is surreal as if someone turned a switch off from the chaos continuing outside. Here I placed your petitions of Mother Theresa's tomb, prayed and then moved them to the potions box. While here we also got to see Mother Theresa's room, where she lived and worked, which was simple just like her tomb to symbolize the simple life she lived. Most mornings we got up at 5am and attended mass in The Mother House at 6am, which was only a short walk down the road. After this we were then given breakfast (which was bread,

jam, bananas and chia tea) and sent out to the various orphanages. The bus rides to the orphanages were an experience in themselves, the buses just slowed enough for 8 of us to get onto the bus and if you were lucky you got to sit. The first orphanage I went to was Daya Dan where there are two floors. I was on the second floor with the girls ages 4-18. When we first arrived at the orphanage at about 8:30am we went up to the roof of the building where we washed and hung up the bed linen and clothes. After that it was time to help feed the children because it was lunchtime. Every day in the streets of Kolkata and in the orphanages we worked in I witnessed things that stopped me in my stride and hit me hard. For example, when I climbed the stairs and walked through the collapsible door of Daya Dan the very first thing I saw was 2 small children strapped to the door, totally alone and screaming for attention as they tried to exercise their legs.

Another thing that really hit me was walking to The Mother House every morning and seeing so many homeless families who were sleeping on the curb. These people have

so little and yet are so happy and kind. It is really inspiring to see that these people don't let the hardships they face in life stop them from enjoying life and taking the time to say hello to you as you pass.

The second orphanage I went to was Nabo Jibon. This is a facility for men aged 18 up. Going to Nabo Jibon was tough for me because as Nabo Jibon is over 45 minutes away from The Mother House they are short for volunteers all year round. For example, where we were surrounded by Spanish, Chinese, Portuguese and other Irish volunteers in Daya Dan, we were the only volunteers to travel to Nabo Jibon. Despite this, we met some great characters in Nabo Jibon who would make your day just because they were so happy. The men were mostly outside and could walk around freely and do what they wished.



On one of the days that we weren't volunteering with the Sisters of Charity we visited the Prem Niwas Leprosy Colony about an hour and a half drive outside Kolkata. This is a place for people who have suffered leprosy and have been exiled from their own community. This community is completely self sufficient and even makes the saris for the Sisters of Charity. They buy in the white cloth, dye it blue themselves and weave it to become possible one of the most famous religious symbols, that of Mother Theresa.

This issue is sponsored by **DROGHEDA MILK PRODUCERS**

During the evenings in Kolkata we went to the St. Patrick's Centre of the Bridge Foundation after school programme where we played, sang and danced with some of the street children. One evening we got to see one of the children's home and it was amazing to see that some of them lived with 5 people in a house the size of a bathroom in Ireland. One experience that shocked me was when we were giving the children some pens and pencils (something so simple to us) one of the girls I was giving 2 pencils to started crying, it was amazing to see how grateful the children were and this made me feel especially grateful for what I have.

Kolkata is an absolutely amazing and beautiful place. It is somewhere I would definitely love to visit again and would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to go, Go! You will not regret it.

I would like to thank everyone in Skryne and Rathfeigh for their generosity and for all their support, because of this I was able to raise a staggering €4,072 for the bridge foundation. This money will go to the upkeep of the St. Patrick's Centre, which is run by the Bridge Foundation. This is a facility that has been set up as a result of past St. Patrick's Classical School students, who just like me, fundraised and went to Kolkata. **By Ciarán Cahill**

Skryne Community Alert

It's great to see the longer evenings and the return of the warm weather. It's a time when the garden lovers amongst us might get the chance to go outside and relax with some gardening. Please remember to keep your doors and windows locked if you are out in the back, and if you have a burglar alarm, set it. It only takes a few minutes for a burglar to get in and out of your home unnoticed through unsecured doors or windows. Also, if you are out working in the garden and you have a personal monitored alarm, remember to keep your pendant/bracelet with you in case you have a fall in the garden and need to call for help. We hear many accounts where the pendants have been lifesavers in such situations. If you don't have a personal monitored alarm and you would like one, please contact any member of the Community Alert Group. The grants available have been extended and if you need one, we can arrange an application for you. The annual roadside cleanup was a great success. Well done to Brigid and her team of volunteers. Unfortunately there have been a number of incidents of fly tipping since then, where bags of rubbish are dumped at gateways or in the ditches. This is a problem county wide, and it is often the case that someone has paid an unlicensed refuse collector to dispose of their rubbish for them. The householder is jointly responsible in these cases, and will be fined if evidence in the rubbish points back to them, so please ensure you do not pay a "man with a van" to dispose of any items for you. If you see any adverts in the local area or on social media for such services, please notify Meath County Council by email at customerservice@meathcoco.ie with a photo/screenshot and location. The council have been successful in closing down some of the illegal operations with the help of the public.

No doubt you are all fed up hearing about GDPR at this stage! From a Skryne Community Text Alert point of view, we can assure you that your data is safe with us. Your details are securely stored in an encrypted database managed by a small team, and only your phone number is stored by our service provider, PinPoint. We do not share your name, address, eircode or email details with PinPoint or any other third party. We do not need to come back to you to request any further authorisation as the data is stored as per your original sign-up/renewal form. If you have not yet signed up to our Text Alert service, you can do so now at Tara Post Office.

RST Rathfeigh School

Cumann na mBunscol Final

The Rathfeigh Boys' Gaelic Football Team are playing in Páirc Tailteann this Saturday at 12.30p.m. in the Cumann na mBunscol final. They have had a fantastic year so far and are undefeated in their path to the final. They defeated Carnaross in the semi-final in a high scoring game 9-11 to 5-11. They now play Kilbride in the final this Saturday. It is a big day for the children their families and the school and we hope they are well supported on the day. The boys are going for a famous double after being crowned Meath Champions in Rounders earlier in the year. Up Rathfeigh.



Retirements

Mrs Mc Auley and Mrs Long are retiring at the end of this school year. Both teachers have given amazing service to Rathfeigh School and will be greatly missed. There will be a special Mass in Rathfeigh Church on Friday June 22nd at 10.00a.m. to celebrate their retirements. There will be food and refreshments in the school hall afterwards. All are welcome.

The Tuesday Club at Balmoral Show.

On the 17th May, the Tuesday Club enjoyed a trip to the famous Balmoral Show near Lisburn in Northern Ireland. The glorious weather enhanced the wonderful occasion and the atmosphere was lively and buzzing.

The show is Ireland's largest agricultural show and encapsulates everything that's great about Northern Ireland agriculture from local food and animal production to the plentiful and ever expanding agri-food industries. Whether you have an interest in farming, local food, family fun or exciting attractions, Balmoral Show has it all. The livestock on display were varied and impressive, some of the modern machinery on display was breath-taking and more than 600 trade stands displayed their goods.

The Tuesday Club had a great day at the show. We took it in our stride, we saw plenty, we relaxed, we chatted with the locals and enjoyed the hospitality on offer in the food and drink stalls. Nobody got lost and we arrived back in Skryne about 8 pm.

PS Some of us met up with Irish Rugby Captain, Rory Best and were photographed with the Six Nations Trophy.

Wildflower Garden at Scoil Cholmcille

People may have noticed the lovely flowers which surround the new seating in the area behind the carpark across the road from Skryne Church. Throughout the spring this garden was a blaze of glorious daffodils and tulips. As these died off other flowers have replaced them. This garden was designed and prepared by the Green Committee of Scoil Cholmcille, a group of dedicated parents, teachers and pupils who have a huge interest in all things green. The flowering areas of the garden will be kept as a wildflower garden while the paths leading to the seating in the centre will be regularly mowed.

Everybody in the community is invited to visit the garden and to sit for a while in its peace and beauty. It will be officially opened on June 28th at a time to be announced later. Again, all are welcome to the opening ceremony. The Green Committee deserve great credit for turning a piece of waste ground into an area of beauty and colour.

SKRYNE GOLF SOCIETY

Skryne Golf Society held its latest outing at Tulfarris Golf Resort near Blessington on 12th May. Several members took advantage of the opportunity for an overnight stay in the hotel. The meal after the golf was quite delicious. The members and visitors also enjoyed the golf.

Winners on the day were Noel Gallagher in category 1 and James Finnerty in category 2. Runners up were John Neville and Brian Gaynor.

Our next outing is on 9th June to Moyvalley.



A Community Effort on Behalf of Tara

What began as an action group aimed at keeping the five roads of Tara free of litter has evolved over the past 18 years as a true voluntary community effort on behalf of the beloved Hill itself.

As far back as 2001, the group with the cooperation of Meath County Council, began organising a bi-monthly litter collection on the roads. This important activity has been kept going through the years and the group of 18 has just completed its 100th clean-up.

In 2002 contacts were made with the Meath County Council engineering department and the then Minister for the Environment, Noel Dempsey, which resulted in the old car park being tar macadamised while the area at the cross-roads landscaped and hedged for a more aesthetically pleasing entrance to the heritage site.

That same year, restoration of the Holy well in the village was started in conjunction with the national group Slaine. This allowed public access and lighting at the Well which is a beautifully quiet spot to sit and contemplate the magic of the environment. Of course all the local children know that this is also rumoured to be a magical entrance to the fairy kingdom and so deserves special care – but these are rumours only.

The first effort at creating an OPW Management Plan for Tara began in 2003 and the Friends of Tara conducted two brainstorming meetings at Maguire's on the Hill to make sure locals had a say in what strategy was put in place. Over 200 people attended both sessions and it resulted in a detailed paper being presented to the consultant group employed by OPW and Meath County Council.

The Night of Stone event was held in 2004 to progress the rebuilding of the old Tara village wall. Families were encouraged to bring their own contribution of a stone to be inserted in the wall and so become part of the physical history of the Hill. A list of the contributors was sealed in lead and placed within the repaired structure for future generations to discover.

From 2003 to 2005 an annual Solstice Festival was organised by the group. However, lack of parking to accommodate the huge numbers attending created health and safety issues that resulted in the project being abandoned.

In 2007 the group had a meeting with three Ministers at Dail Eireann, Noel Dempsey, Mary Wallace and Noel Aherne, along with leaders from OPW. The goal was to have the Management Plan for Tara progressed. Unfortunately, despite the goodwill on all sides there is still no progress. The Friends of Tara pushed on with practical changes and meetings with the County Council between 2010 and 2015 resulted in a traffic island being created at the turn off for Tara on the N147 and a disabled parking place designated in the car park. In December 2016 the Friends of Tara met with the local Garda Superintendent and members of Meath County Council which brought about the appointment of a Community Garda for the Tara Area.

All these actions have made the Hill of Tara a better place for all to enjoy and we owe a debt of gratitude to the Friends of Tara. A love of the sacred Hill and surrounding areas brought locals together to take practical action that would enhance the Hill of Tara as a local amenity for locals and visitors. The success of this can be seen in the clean roads and well-maintained approaches to the Hill. But there is more work to be done and it is obvious to all that the Hill of Tara is growing in popularity as a recreation space. The Friends of Tara met with Meath County Council in Ashbourne in November 2017 outlining need for the creation of new controlled car park for Tara. Also highlighted on that occasion were the health and safety issues associated with overgrown trees on the main approach road and a call for greater control of activity in the existing car park. The Friends of Tara were heartened to see the excellent turnout at the meeting organised in the RST to address those same safety concerns. The hope is that a renewed effort will be made by all in local Government and the OPW to bring about a Management Plan for the Hill of Tara that will benefit all visitors. **Well done to all involved.**

Notices

EXPERIENCED CHILDMINDER: in Rathfeigh/Skryne area required to mind 2 year old and four year old, 4 to 5 days per week from 8am to 5.30pm in childminder's own home. 4 year old will be attending local play school. Ideally we would like someone that is available from June onwards. Please contact John @ 086 1661601 if you are interested. Thank you.

THE RST THURSDAY CRAFT & COFFEE GROUP: have taken a break for the summer and look forward to resuming in September.

ALZHEIMER'S TEA DAY THANK YOU: This year our Alzheimer's tea day raised €3205 which is given directly to The Whistlemount Day Centre in Navan. A sincere thanks to everyone for their generosity to this worthy cause. To all the helpers on the day, to all who attended and to everyone who couldn't come but gave donations, to all those who donated their lovely baking, eggs, jams etc and to Liam Reddy for supplying the milk and cream and to Supervalu Dunshaughlin and also Drogheda Producers Co-operative Ltd for their continued support. A special thanks to Brid Conroy who over the winter grew lots of lovely bedding plants and on the day raised €523 from their sale. Lastly a big thank you to the RST Centre for the use of their wonderful facility and especially Alan and Susan. **Patricia**

WANTED: GRAZING LAND required for Long term rent in Co. Meath. Approx. 10 to 15 acres in **Rathfeigh, Skryne, Kentstown, Ashbourne,** Dunshaughlin Areas. Contact: **087 241 2020**

Kentstown ICA Invitation

Kentstown ICA are seeking new members and would love you to join us if you have an interest in crafts, cooking or simply meeting new people and having a cuppa and a chat. In June we have a talk and demonstration by Amy Battersby, Milliner who will show us how to make fascinators and dress up hats etc. Competition on the night for best floral arrangement in a cup or mug. If you are interested in joining us further details are available from:

Meherine McLoughlin(087) 218 8131
Frances Lee(087) 235 4775
Mary Lawlor (086) 301 4378

Condolences

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

• **Duff Family, Tara on the death of Ron**

Skryne GFC

On behalf of Skryne GFC & Feile Committee and all the Kids who are part of the U14's we want to thank everyone for their contribution that was given for the Blotto.

There was an outstanding response and we want to pass on our gratitude to everyone.

Also to the Kids who spent Friday, Saturday & Sunday collecting and handing out Blottos. We were overwhelmed with the generosity of the people of Skryne and further afield.

Unfortunately there was no winner of the Blotto and the prize money will be rolled over. Also thanks to the Senior Executives who allowed us to collect all funding's for the Blotto.

This has really helped towards our Fundraising. In the next edition of the RST we will update all on the Féile weekend.

Winners of €40,00 and spot prizes

Cormac Harten

Beth Shanley

Ross Phillips

John O'Brien

Winners of the spot prizes:

Newbridge Clock–Claire Caffrey

Dinner Set–Gary McKeown

€75.00 Yoga Voucher–Louise Hawes

Bottle of Rosé West Coast Cooler–

Nicholas Tobin

Bottle of Whiskey–Nicola Dalton /

Bernie Boland

Bottle of Vodka–Martin Dennehy

Bottle Prosecco–Padraic Togher

Box of Chocolates and Candle–Lorcan Lynch

OPW Family Voucher–Sean Cassidy

OPW Family Voucher–Breda Lee

10th Meath Skryne Scout Troop.

It has certainly been quite a while since there has been interesting articles from 10th Meath in the RST. This was because a very considerable number of leaders stepped down in June 2017. A recruitment campaign was put in place back in September 2017 and we have been very fortunate to have a wonderful enthusiastic team of fully trained leaders in place in 10th Meath. This process took a very considerable length of time to complete as application processes and the required obligatory training was required in the first instance.

We are delighted to bring you the news that 10th Meath will be reopening this SEPTEMBER. We are aware that our wonderful youth members have been doing other cool stuff for the past year.

For existing 2017 youth members wishing to return we are having a registration night in the parish hall on JUNE 12TH @ 6.30pm – 7.30pm. There will be the opportunity to pay the half yearly subscription which will be €45 / 1st child , €40/ 2nd child and €35 /3rd child should parents/guardians wish to do so . Our collective thinking behind having the registration night before school breaks for the summer holidays is one that we will know how many will be back in September .This will also determine whether a waiting list will be required . It will also inform the new scouters as to the approximate size of their respective section and whether they will be able to accommodate more children when the group recommences. **The reopening date for the new scouting year will be SEPTEMBER 11TH at 6.30 -8.00 in parish hall to Cubs and Scouts and 6.45-8.00 for beavers in School Hall.**

We would sincerely wish to thank the whole community for their support and good wishes expressed to the group during the past year ... it must certainly did not go un noticed. We look forward to an action packed rejuvenated energised scout group doing lots of cool scouting activities and part of the wonderful community spirit that lives on in Skryne .

Keep an eye on our facebook pages too.

Registration night June 12th @ 6.30-7.30 in the Parish Hall. Reopening night September 11th
The 10th Meath Skryne Scouters. Bryan: 087 9864837. Bravissimo.



The U6's Superstar Heroes received some medals as a part of their achievement in practice to date. There were a lot of happy faces and the kids are really enjoying themselves. Practice takes place every Saturday morning from 10.00am till 11.00am. If you are interested please call down and talk to any of the Management and Mentors. Its a great way for kids to have fun and also make new friends not alone inside the club but also people they

will be playing against in the near future. A big thank you also to all of the Management who gives up their morning to show the kids the basics of Gaelic Football. Its not only Gaelic football that they are being taught its also about flexibility and their Core.

Next Issue

Saturday 23rd June

Submissions by Wednesday 20th June

Contact: Jim Conroy

phone: 046 902 5771

email: jimkconroy@hotmail.com

BLOTTO RESULTS

May 20th 2018

10 - 11 - 16 - 20

No Winner - €40 each to: Cormac Harten
Beth Shanley, Ross Phillips, John O'Brien,

May 13th 2018

1 - 14 - 17 - 19

No Winner - €40 each to: Tomas Doyle
David Lynch, Liz Synnott, Michael O'Grady

May 6th 2018

11 - 12 - 18 - 21

No Winner - €40 each to: Jack Carty, Brendan
Hanley, Sheila & Fergal Murphy, Cian Carty

April 29th 2018

3 - 9 - 20 - 27

No Winner - €40 each to: Molly O'Connor,
Ronan Mulvaney, Irene Reilly, Martin McQuaid

Next week's jackpot

€8,500

Thank you for your support

Skryne Therapy Clinic

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Joyce 086 101 7342

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