



Define Happiness and hope as we head out of lockdown



Caroline Giles-Lee has 5 donkeys which you might see in her front field as you pass. She holds a miniature foal in her arms which belongs to one of her neighbours who also is a donkey lover and breeds Mediterranean miniature donkeys.



Calling all local budding authors and artists.

Would you like to submit an article, story, photo or drawing to be published in the RST Newsletter? Maybe you have a hobby you would like to tell us about, or you could use this opportunity to publish your memoirs? We welcome articles from all ages.

TheRSTnewsletter@gmail.com

SKRYNE & RATFEIGH PARISH LITURGY

created by the parishioners, for the parishioners of Skryne and Ratfeigh, their families and friends.

<https://youtu.be/xxZPs8LRv8Y>

Dear Editor & RST Newsletter team,

I wish to use the medium of your newsletter to express my thanks and admiration for the great work done every weekend by Carmel Reilly who compiles the parish liturgy. It is greatly appreciated by me and my fellow parishioners. What a wealth of talent we have and thanks to them young and old for sharing with us. Thanks to all.

Grateful parishioner

This issue is sponsored by **THE WILKINSON FAMILY, BARRONSTOWN**

April's Sweet Face

Anne Frehill

“When, upon orchard and lane, Breaks the white foam of Spring.”

William Watson (1858-1935)

My favourite month is April. It is widely believed that the name for this month comes from a Roman word for second “aprilis” as it was the second month of their year. However, I like the tradition that says Romulus named April after the goddess Aphrodite, who was born from the sea’s foam (aphros). And if you walk around many gardens or parks at this time of year you can feast your eyes on clouds of ethereal white and pink blossom while at your feet you will encounter a carpet of floral colours, from vibrant yellows to the palest of lemons, then icy blue to turquoise blue and every shade of white from cream to vanilla. By late Spring when the garden is in full bloom there will be flowers and shrubs in every imaginable shade and colour, including the earliest of the roses and the delicate blossoms of the apple trees. Every year I never fail to be impressed by the humble but beautiful lilac bushes, their fragrance invariably transports me back to childhood and Saturdays spent playing in the garden or exploring the old ruin of a cottage beside my friend’s house. There lilacs had complete rein to show off their magnificent colours set against a bright blue sky.

The magic of the garden in April is second to none and any gardener will vouch for this. The sheer joy of toiling in the longer hours of daylight to change one’s patch of earth from fallow clay to cultivated ground is life-affirming. My mother was an avid gardener and from her I discovered as a child that gardening has a special vocabulary of its own: tubers, bulbs, sets, cuttings and so forth. Then there were the colourful but cryptic sayings which occurred in the language of gardeners e.g. “that man knows his onions” or “potatoes that are balls of flour.” Of course, any gardener worth his salt will know that there is still the danger of a light, sneaky frost wreaking havoc in the garden, in this month synonymous with rain clouds, sudden showers and bursts of sunshine.

The song of the fields, hedgerows and woods in April has served as the inspiration for countless poets down through the centuries. Thomas Merton, poet, mystic and Trappist monk, is said to have had “a Cistercian heart but a Franciscan soul” because he eloquently captured a sense of the sacred in the natural world.

*For, like a grain of fire
smoldering in the heart
of every living essence
God plants his undivided power-
Buries his thought too vast
For worlds
In seeds and roots and blade
And flower.
-“The Sowing of Meanings.”*

On April 13th I was delighted to see the first swallow of the season, as I went into one of the older sheds with a half-door, where generations of swallows have nested. Swallows are particularly able and swift when it comes to flying and so it just flew nonchalantly over my head to the great outdoors and a broad expanse of blue sky. Of course, one swallow does not make a summer and I am happy to say that two days later I saw three more high up in the haybarn, again reclaiming nests from other years. By that time according to an online site where I recorded my sightings, there were already over 298 reported sightings of swallows on this island.

Each year during childhood, my father encouraged me to listen for the call of the first cuckoo, again an arrival from sunnier climes in this month. And who can deny that there is something timeless and haunting about the first call of the cuckoo “koo-kooo.” Alas, in recent years, I have had to travel to The Shannon Callows to hear that beautiful sound, as the numbers of cuckoos have decreased in Ireland, due to various factors including so called “progress.” Two years ago, a friend from Dublin, a true “Dub”, visited, we had tea and cake in the garden. When I returned

from the kitchen with the teapot refilled, she excitedly told me that she had heard the cuckoo in the tall trees. Sadly, I had to burst her bubble and tell her that she had mistaken the sound of collared doves and pigeons for that of the cuckoo! Yet, this is a common mistake that the uninitiated ear makes.

In Irish the bird is called “cuach” and in folklore, “to hear” the cuckoo’s call was believed by some to herald good luck, while by others it was seen as an unlucky bird especially in matters relating to true love. A fascinating bird albeit a cunning one, who lays its eggs in the nests of other birds, thus leaving the task of rearing their offspring to their innocent hosts. The cuckoo can even be credited with giving rise to the word “cuckold” to describe a man whose wife has been unfaithful while the wife of an adulterous husband is (it appears in some circles) called a cuckquean!

Finally, I must mention a myriad of wildflowers and plants, some edible, which appear towards the end of April. And several types of bees (flying insects) so essential to our ecosystem along with several species of other insects. The dandelion has always fascinated me, much maligned by gardeners despite its ostentatious colour in unmown lawns, it has its uses, including as a fizzy drink, traditionally used in the north of England and as a herbal drink.

William Wordsworth in his long poem titled: “To the Cuckoo,” captures superbly the air of mystery surrounding this bird often referred to as “a cheat.”

Verse IV-

*“Thrice welcome, darling of the Spring!
Even yet thou art to me
No bird, but an invisible thing,
A voice, a mystery.*

The End

Skryne Community Alert

> Catalytic Converters

There have been a spate of catalytic converter thefts around the county in the last month. The catalytic converter sits under your car as part of the exhaust system, reducing toxic gas and pollutants exhausted from the engine.

There is a high scrap value for used parts, as they contain precious metals including platinum, palladium and rhodium. This makes them attractive for thieves who can remove them from your vehicle, often unnoticed in car parks, and sell them on to scrap dealers.

Unfortunately, they are very expensive to replace. Probably the best precaution you can take to avoid theft from your vehicle when you are out is to park in well lit, busy locations, and to always report suspicious activity to the gardai.

> Vaccination registration

Congratulations to those that have already received their Covid vaccines. It looks like we are finally moving ahead at some pace with light at the end of the tunnel.

As we go to press this month, those ages 65-70 can register for vaccination. Some people have been finding it difficult to register online at vaccine.hse.ie for an appointment.

If you have difficulty registering online, you have an alternative option to register by telephone by calling the HSE helpline on 1850 24 1850. Please have as many of the following available as possible: Your PPS number, your Eircode, your mobile phone number and your email address, but you can still register by phone if you do not have all of this information.

If you are deaf or hard of hearing you can text HSELive on 086 1800 661 to register for your vaccination. The Gardai have offered to assist anybody that is having difficulty registering for their vaccine. You can contact our local Gardai on 018010600.

> Smoke/CO Alarms

Just a reminder to check your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to make sure they are working, and are not past their expiry dates.

These alarms have a limited lifespan, regardless of the state of the battery. The expiry date may be marked on the alarm, or if you know the alarms are there for as long as you can remember, it could be time to swap them out! The maximum lifespan of a smoke or CO alarm is 10 years.



Annual Tea Day

Sadly once again due to Covid Restrictions we are unable to hold our Annual Tea Day in the RST Community Centre which has always raised very valuable funds for Whistlemount Daycare in Navan. This year the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland are inviting you on May 6th to put the kettle on and connect with friends online over a simple cuppa. Hopefully next year we will have the kettle on in RST Centre.



Mary and Val Finnegan completed 100 days of walking on the 10th of April.

Each morning for 100 days at 7.30 they walked 5km around the running track and always had a great hello for other people training there.

It was always nice to have a chat with the regulars and share a smile to keep the spirits up. Slowly but surely the walking turned into running and they finished the challenge with their first 5km run. Two of our younger track stars, Niamh McGuinness and Kate Gibbons, who got to know Mary and Val over the past few months decided to celebrate their achievement by baking them a cake. Mary said "We both felt on top of the world for the rest of the day. It was such a surprise to have the cake!"

Well done Mary and Val.

SKRYNE TARA AFC

Dermot Carty

Skryne Tara Football club, along with Tara Athletic club, want to make it clear to all our supporters that the unwanted visitors to the Track at Ross Cross over the last 3 months had absolutely no permission to use the pitch at any time.

Since the Covid 19 Pandemic hit this country and the Government announced the lockdown our pitch has been 'officially closed'. We had no issues with children playing football there in small family groups but then some people choose to abuse the system. One particular group of about 20 young men even arrived in Ratoath Harps football gear and were about to start a match. When we approached these outsiders saying our pitch was closed they just ignored us. So the only option we were left with was to inform the Gardaí.

This was done and a squad car duly arrived from Dunshaughlin station and the group was sent packing. Ashbourne and Trim Garda stations were also informed and have monitored the situation ever since. The Secretary of Ratoath Harps was contacted and he promised it would be sorted out. To be fair to the Harps Committee they had to secure their own pitch for the very same reason.

On a more positive note, it's getting close to the days when we will be able to return to playing football. The underage section of the club hope to get back on the pitch in the next two weeks or so. We are just awaiting for a Government announcement

and then permission from the FAI to resume activities.

With that in mind there is a lot of work going on at the Track at the moment as we continue to upgrade our pitch. We had to await for some of the lockdown conditions to be lifted before we could proceed with this. So fertilising, spiking, sanding and brushing have all been completed today. (Wednesday).

We hope to insert another main drain in the wettest part of the field in the near future if needed. All this work is expensive in these difficult times so if one of our members approaches you in search of Sponsorship we hope you will look favourably on their request.

When we get back to playing football we would welcome some new players - both underage and adult. Our adult team play in the very competitive Athletic Union League Premier Sunday Division.

Our adult Ladies team play in the North East Football League, usually on a Monday night. Information on the ladies section can be found on their Facebook page - Skryne Tara Women's FC.

Unfortunately at the moment at underage level we only have Boys Under 10s and Boys Under 14s due to shortage of both players and managers. So anyone available to help out in any capacity would be most welcome.

Lastly, and most importantly, we would like to thank all our sponsors for their much appreciated help in the past and we look forward to their continued support in the future.



Work continues at the Club

Patrick Dennehy

Skryne



Patrick Dennehy, Greenpark, Dunshaughlin, who died on 5th March last, was a carpenter who set up a company specialising in equestrian carpentry, constructing and erecting American barns, prefabricated stables and stable doors.

A native of Skryne, Tara, he died at Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown, aged 85.

His hobby was his farm and Pat was never happier than when he was walking the fields among his cattle with his beloved dogs, in the company of his grandchildren.

Pat is survived by his wife, Sheila; sons, Padraig, Martin and Jody; daughters, Emily and Mary; sons-in-law, Mark and David; daughter-in-law, Judit; grandchildren, Dylon, Scott, Ben, Chloe, Misi, Annalee, Billy and Matthew; sister, Marie Wright; nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

The funeral took place from St Colmcille's Church, Skryne, to the adjoining cemetery.



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Saving on Energy

Hugh McNelis



When is the last time you changed your electricity provider? Did you know that it's very simple to do, and if you do it every year you could save yourself hundreds of euro per year? There are a number of websites which can help you find the best deal available to you. You will first need your last electricity bill. This shows your current electricity rate per unit, and your current standing charge rate. You may also see your current "plan", though if you have been on the same rate for years it is likely that you are on the normal non-discounted rate. You should also make note of your MPRN, usually at the top of the bill.

Now go to one of the price comparison sites, as this will save a lot of time ringing around. Two of the main options here are www.bonkers.ie and www.switcher.ie.

Once you pick the best deal, you can switch there and then. You will need to provide your MPRN from your bill, and your account details for setting up a direct debit (it's always cheaper to pay by direct debit). It's as simple as that! No need to post anything or visit any showrooms.

You will probably find that you receive a call from your existing provider within a

few days offering you a deal to stay with them. For this reason, make a note of the pricing on the deal you sign up to. There is no issue switching back within the first few days if your existing provider offers a better deal.

Put a note on your calendar to do the same exercise again in 12 months' time, as the discount rate typically ends after this period and you will be automatically be bumped up to the non-discounted rate without warning.



Rathfeigh National School

Seamus Tansley

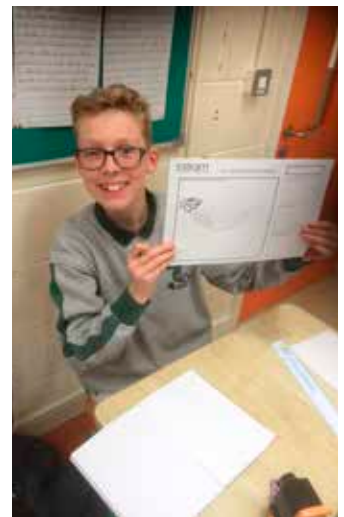
Positivity

“When you can’t find the sunshine – be the sunshine”

We all need positivity in our lives at the moment. We’ve all been on a tough journey throughout Covid-19 and every day there seems to be something negative in the media regarding the vaccination programme or quarantining etc. This negativity can even wear down even the most positive of individuals. As we enter the last school term of the year we will be trying our best to stay positive for the children. We hope the children can take part in as many fun activities as possible between now and the summer holidays and that they will have fun and exciting memories to take with them from the 2020/21 school year. Parents/guardians have a role to play too. Please e-mail the school if you have any suggestions for activities the children can engage in over the last few months in school. We look forward to your suggestions!

■ Science-in-a-Box

We introduced “Science-in-a-Box” to our school a number of years ago and the programme continues to go from strength to strength. It is designed for 5th/6th class pupils through a tour of the history of the universe and discovering the excitement and wonder of science along the way. It is developed to meet and exceed the requirements of the science curriculum in primary schools. Our scientist this year is Suzanne who conducted the first lesson last week via “Zoom”. The children in 5th/6th are really enjoying the challenging lessons and their questions after each lesson for Suzanne is an example of their positive engagement with the lessons. We thank Eimear for sponsoring this programme again this year and we hope it will be in place in our school for many years to come.



■ Autism Awareness/Sensory Space

April is Autism Awareness Month. This month gives us an opportunity to celebrate the autism community and highlight the challenges that autistic children face in society and educate the wider public to have a better understanding of the condition. The children in the senior classes will have lessons on the topic of autism to help them understand better the difficulties that some autistic children have. We as teachers are constantly learning more about the complex condition of autism so as to enable us to adapt our teaching methods for autistic children.

“If they can’t learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn” (Ignatio Estrada).

Nicola (SNA) has been doing a lot of work researching the benefits of a Sensory Space in our school. We hope to have this **Sensory Space** up and running by September. We envisage this Sensory Space to be used by all children. In time we hope to have a fully equipped **Sensory Room**. We thank all the children who brought in 2 Euro yesterday which will go towards the cost of our Sensory Space.

■ Literacy Lift Off

We introduced the Literacy Lift Off reading programme to our school eight years ago. This early intervention programme gives children the opportunities to read books at their own level of competency and gradually lift the complexity of what they can do in both reading and writing. We usually teach the programme in blocks of six weeks in Junior Infants to Second class. Covid-19 put a spanner in the works in relation to the implementation of this programme this year. However, we will continue to give the children a great variety of books to read at their own level of competency. On Monday the children in First and Second class

brought home a folder with a selection of P.M. books to read for homework each night. Please listen to your child reading each night and please give them plenty of praise and encouragement. We will be starting Literacy Lift Off with the Infant classes in May. Thanks to Mrs Campbell for co-ordinating the programme.

■ Standardised Tests

The standardised tests in English, Maths and Gaeilge will be administered this year from June 1st to June 3rd (inclusive) to all pupils in First to Sixth classes. These tests were not completed last year due to Covid-19. These tests, along with other teacher assessment data, assist the class teacher in providing parents/guardians regarding the progress of their children. Children perform better in tests when they’re not stressed so we will be treating these tests like any other normal test. We will be e-mailing parents/guardians information regarding the interpretation of the standardised tests results in early June.

■ Student Council

Our student council that we had in place before Christmas did an excellent job organising the Christmas raffle. They showed great enthusiasm and initiative and we were very proud of their fantastic effort. We now have a new student council in place until the summer holidays. We wish Seán, Sarah, Leila and Holly the best of luck in their new roles.

■ School Grounds

Self-praise is no praise! However, I must say our school and school grounds are looking fantastic. Our caretaker, Jackie, does a fantastic job from one end of the year to the next. In her absence Ingrid has continued the very high standards both inside and outside the school. We wish Jackie a speedy recovery and hope to see her back at work before too long.

■ Congratulations

In the present climate there seems to be little to cheer about. It was great hearing during the week that Ingrid’s star greyhound “Shady Bel”, won her fourth consecutive race at Mullingar track. Well done Ingrid. May many more successes come your way!!

(Below are a few outdoor pictures of our Student Council members and some of our 5th/6th class pupils engrossed in their science exercises!)



Scoil Cholmcille

Martin Kennedy

So it is great to be back in school with a more positive outlook ahead for us all as the vaccine roll-out continues and Covid case numbers begin to fall back. There is definitely a positive vibe around the school as most pupils skip in happily for the day's work ahead of them.

In the initial phase of the return to school we had been concentrating on getting the pupils back into a routine and allowing them time and space to reacquaint themselves with friends and classmates. For most pupils that approach has worked well. However, now that we are all in and over the bedding-in time it is time to focus on the work and try to make up for the ground lost by so many. Teachers will be focusing on the core subjects for the next few weeks as we try to work out where the gaps in learning are. Expect the pupils to be worked hard during school time. The compromise for that is that there will be little or no homework to contend with. Children will be tired from the work of the day and will need to rest and recover for the following day of schoolwork. Parents, too we feel sure, will welcome the break from having to tackle homework with children after their own daily work schedules. Be sure to get out and take some exercise. Enjoy spending this precious time with your children. Improving weather will also help in this regard. Walk, run, play, laugh and have fun.

Teachers have reported back incidentally that reading levels in most cases have held up well. Our AR scheme has helped us to assess this. Maths performance on the other hand has taken a considerable hit. Hardly surprising when you consider how much time is spent daily in class on Math's instruction. This cannot be easily replicated through distance learning. We will expect to see a sizeable dip in performance in Standardised Tests which are to be administered this year. The Dept. of Education is insisting these must be carried out during the last term.

Personally, I am not in favour of this. Standardised Tests are "standardised" against a "norm" and this "norm" cannot be valid given what pupils have missed out on. Results must be viewed through a different lens this year. Nothing is the

same. No matter what we say, some children will be stressed at the thoughts of sitting such tests. That is not right. Accommodations are being made at subject levels for the Leaving Cert this year, with certain topic areas being left out. No such accommodations are being made for children as young as 7 yrs. who will sit these tests during May. That cannot be right. It is vitally important that adults adopt a sensible approach to these tests. As teachers, we will be viewing them as a useful exercise in identifying what areas need addressing for the children. It is probably the best use we can make out of them in this current situation. We are asking that parents play their part in playing down the importance of these tests. No child should feel under any pressure because they were less engaged, or less suited to remote learning.

We had a great day with Rang 4 last week as they welcomed some visitors from Tayto Foods. Our friends there started phase one of the excellent "Potato Pals" programme. Pupils were given seed potatoes and a bucket of fertilised soil to plant them in. We hope to see these potatoes grow and flourish over the growing season before we harvest early in autumn. All things going well we will finish the programme with a visit to the Tayto Foods plant and witness our carefully grown spuds turn into delicious crisps. We really do appreciate the opportunity being given to our pupils. We know they will tender their potatoes carefully.

Rang 4 were working overtime again this week when they welcomed renowned children's author Marita Conlon-McKenna into their classroom. This was a virtual visit and thankfully the technology did not let us down!

The pupils had been reading "In Deep Dark Wood" and were thrilled to hear Marita explain the process and the inspiration that gave birth to her latest successful novel. She was mightily impressed by their knowledge of her work and challenged by some of the searching questions posed by the pupils. Marita is not just a great writer but also a great story-teller and we were all captivated by her enthusiasm and love for her

own characters. The 90 minutes flew by but not before Grace and Christopher gave Marita some interesting thoughts to ponder on for a sequel to this book. Oran impressed her with his artwork and she encouraged him in his ambition to be an animator. Her breath was taken away when some of the pupils produced their own published novels to show her. Sarah's "Secret Sister" was a real head-turner and really impressed Marita. Thanks to the great work and guidance of Mr. Fanning we can rest assured that there will be many more published authors for readers to enjoy. It really was a magical experience for us all. I am so glad I sat in on it.

One aspect that most teachers have commented on since reopening is that the fitness and stamina levels of the children have dipped considerably. This again is hardly surprising. The winter weather has meant that children have not been out as much, or for as long, during dark evenings. Add in that all sporting activities have not been available for them. On top of that, they haven't had their daily school breaks when kids are chasing and running for 40 mins every day. No wonder they are out of condition. Teachers will be building-in regular exercise breaks during the week as we begin to build these levels up again. It is important that they do the same at home. Get them out and active. A healthy body will produce a healthy mind. There are more benefits than simple fitness. Let's not neglect it.

Our Coiste Glas has been proactive in promoting our "Walk-on Wednesday" initiative. (Almost called it a drive there, but that wouldn't be right!) We were delighted by the uptake over the past two weeks with lots of people making the little extra effort to park and walk their way to school. It was great to see red cheeks and fresh clear heads troop into the classrooms. Let's keep this very positive vibe going. Well done to everyone and to Coiste Glas for their efforts to promote. They are also doing trojan work around the campus with the assistance of Rang 6 in tidying and maintaining flower beds ahead of new design and planting.

On a personal note, I posted an update to our school website this week regarding the position of Principal at Sc. Cholmcille. The post has not yet been readvertised and so it is highly unlikely that the new appointee will be in place before the summer. The process takes some weeks to complete. In that context I have offered to defer my retirement until the end of this school year. The Board of management has accepted my offer and despite my best efforts the words from that Paul Brady song I mentioned last time have come to pass. This is the long goodbye.

I was very touched by the nice words in the last issue of the RST from my colleague in Rathfeigh. As neighbouring schools in the same parish, it is good that we can get on. Cooperation in all aspects of life is so important. Thank you Seamus for acknowledging our cooperation over the years. It means a lot. By the way, Meath GAA are running Ref's course's ahead of the new season!

Thanks again to all the good people who have been sending messages of goodwill around my retirement. Your kind words and thoughts have been very humbling but deeply appreciated. Míle buíochas.

Check out our website for news of the Community Games competitions being run this year. You will also see some work from the children and a host of other bits and pieces from Sc. Cholmcille.

Fan slán.



Rang 4 pick up some Potato Pals goodies



Brian examines the growth pattern of a potato plant to Rang 4



Marita Conlon-McKenna fields some tough questions from Rang

Night Sky

by Tony Canavan

• Sunrise: 06:05 am • Sunset: 8:42pm • Full Moon: 27th April • Astronomical Moon: 1:23 pm

27th April:

Full Pink Moon: this is the second of the supermoons for 2021 with the moon 360,000 kms away, centre of earth to centre of moon. On the 27th April the Moon rises at about 10 pm and will be a supermoon (Bigger than normal) but will be a gold colour. The reference to 'pink' corresponds to the early spring blooms of a wildflower in North Eastern America that blooms at this time.

19th April:

NASA engineers waited three hours for the pictures to arrive from Mars, 300 million kilometres away, to confirm the successful flight of the **Ingenuity helicopter**. The helicopter flew 3 meters above the Martian surface a flight of 39.1 seconds. The density of the atmosphere on Mars is only 1% that of earth but the gravitational pull is only a third that of the earth. It was 117 years ago that the Wright Brothers flew for the first time and a patch of fabric from their plane was taped to **Ingenuity**. This was the first flight made by man on another planet. There will be more challenging flights for **Ingenuity** over the next few weeks. A remarkable achievement.

Evening April Sky:

Arcturus is in the east, altitude 50° and azimuth 137° . It is among the very brightest of stars, shining with a soft yellow light. It is in the constellation **Bootes**, the Herdsman, and it is the fourth brightest star in the sky. It is only 37 light years away and shines 113 times more brightly than our sun. To the south we have the constellation of **Leo the Lion**, the only constellation that looks like its name suggests with **Regulus** marking the end of the 'Sickle of Leo'. Orion has set in the West with Mars, Pollux and Castor trailing close behind. In the NE the famed star of the summer sky Vega is gaining altitude. It is the fifth brightest star in the sky. At 10 pm on 30th April it has an altitude of 20° and azimuth 50° .

By the end of April Saturn and Jupiter will rise in the East ahead of the sun but only reaching an altitude 10° before civil twilight at 05:20 am.

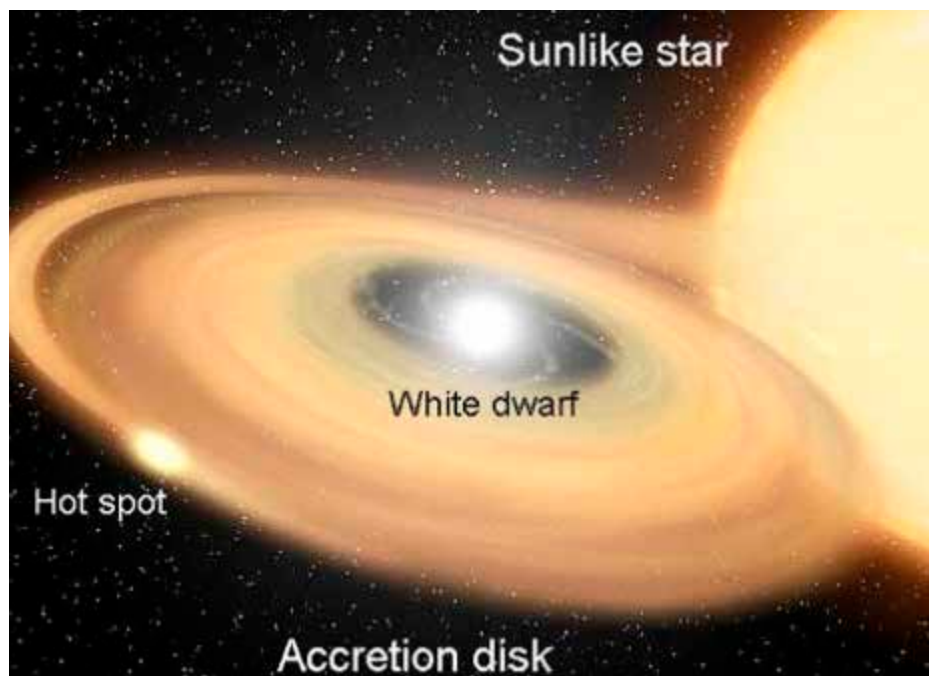
Formation of a NOVA:

Nova discovered in the constellation of Cassiopeia on the 18th March 2021:

Like a spring flower, a bright, new nova has bloomed from the darkness of Cassiopeia. Yuji Nakamura of Japan discovered the Nova at magnitude 9.6 in four images. Four days prior, nothing was visible at the location down to magnitude 13.

On 26th April 9 pm Cassiopeia has an altitude of 26 degrees and azimuth of 342 degrees. This constellation is a distinct **W** shape in the northern sky.

The Nova comes from two close binary stars comprised of a compact white dwarf and either a main-sequence star like our Sun or a red giant. The dwarf star's powerful gravity siphons hydrogen from its partner into an accretion disk. Material then funnels from the disk to the dwarf's surface, where it is compacted and heated to around 10 million degrees centigrade, hot enough to trigger explosive nuclear fusion. The majority of the



material is blasted into space in a rapidly expanding shell.

With this particular Nova the material was ejected at 1,600 kms per second (3.6 million miles per hour). At that rate you could rocket to the Moon in

4 minutes flat! The star can brighten from 50,000 to 100,000 times in a matter of hours. Through it all, the underlying white dwarf survives intact, and soon starts accreting a fresh layer of hydrogen for a future blast.

Cassini: On October 15th 1997 NASA launched the Cassini Mission to Saturn arriving in June 2004. Its mission was to explore Saturn and its icy moons. Cassini was a lone explorer for 20 years. It showed water and ice jets from Enceladus and confirmed the existence of methane rivers running into methane lakes on Titan. It showed that Saturn is a giant world ruled by raging storms and delicate harmonies of gravity. Cassini carried the European probe 'Huygens' which it released onto the surface of Saturn, the first man-made object to land on Saturn. As Cassini ran out of fuel its last daring assignment was 22 dives through the rings of Saturn, examining the rings and the planets interior. On the final orbit Cassini plunged into Saturn and with its aerial still pointed towards the earth transmitting its last farewell as it disintegrated in the atmosphere of Saturn. Its mission was a stunning success leading to the Titan Mission.

Nasa has announced a new mission to Titan, one of the Moons of Saturn for 2026 with its arrival in 2034.

NASA's Dragonfly mission to Titan is part of the New Frontiers Program and

will sample materials from multiple sites on Saturn's moon Titan. The mission is a rotorcraft lander (a dual-quadcopter), and will take advantage of Titan's dense atmosphere (four times denser than earth) and low gravity to explore a variety of locations, determining surface composition in different geological settings. It will be nuclear powered and will be able to travel up to 100 miles at a time. Researchers [discovered](#), utilizing data from the Cassini mission, [that lakes](#) on Titan are filled with liquid methane. In 2005 a probe was released

from Cassini and it landed on the surface and sent back information for 70 mins. There was evidence of methane rainfall on Titan's surface. Titan is the only body in the solar system known to have surface lakes which were observed by Cassini. Temperature on Titan is minus 180 Celsius so liquid methane and ethane, rather than water, dominate the surface. The lakes are not associated with rivers but are believed to be filled by rainfall of hydrocarbons.

Dragonfly vehicle



Irish Astronomers:

Agnes Mary Clerke (1842-1907):

Born in Skibbereen in 1842 at a particularly difficult time in Irish history, she was home-schooled by well-educated parents. Her father, a bank manager, owned a telescope and taught her the basics of astronomy while her university educated brother taught her mathematics. From an early age Agnes and her sister Ellen showed a keen interest in astronomy.

She spent 10 years in Italy studying renaissance history and Italian. In 1877 she returned to London where she wrote for the Edinburgh Review. She studied astrophysics, publishing 'A Popular History of Astronomy During the Nineteenth Century' in 1885. The book was hugely popular. She eventually completed seven books. Her accuracy and attention to detail made her a success. She completed scientific

biographies for the Encyclopaedia Britannica and the Dictionary of National Biography.

In 1903 she became only the fifth women member of the Royal Astronomical Society. She died in London in 1907. There is a small crater on the moon 'Clerke Crater' named after her.

Applications for Astronauts: The dream of becoming an astronaut, to leave this world and explore other worlds is the dream of millions. Traditionally astronauts have been chosen from the military, especially from test pilots, as space flight required significant human input, and required people who could stay calm under pressure. Today, for example, the Space X's Crew Dragon can dock and undock with ISS autonomously. The European

Space Agency is now recruiting future astronauts and it wants to increase its female selection and has opened recruitment to persons with a physical disability. Requirement is a Master's degree in subjects such as, natural science, engineering, mathematics or computer science with three years post graduate experience. They will also select a reserve list of candidates who will remain with their present employer until called. **All information on the ESA website.**

SpaceX: NASA announced on 16th March that it had awarded a contract to SpaceX for \$2.9 billion to use **Starship** to take astronauts from lunar orbit to the surface of the moon. The contract extends Nasa's trend of using private companies to ferry people, cargo and robotic explorers to space.

Skryne GFC

Skryne GFC are delighted to welcome back our juvenile players from next Monday 26th April 2021 as the Government begin to ease the Covid 19 restrictions. We hope to see further easing of the restrictions soon and a full return for all of our players. There is certainly more than just a flicker of light at the end of the tunnel at this stage and with a bit of luck we will be back to normal in no time.

Please note that membership for the 2021 season is now due. All players should have their membership paid in advance of the commencement of training next week. You can pay your membership at www.skrynegfc.ie/membership

Parents and players should note that Covid 19 regulations remain in place. Prior to each training session or game, and until further notice, players, parents/guardians and backroom personnel who are in attendance should complete the self-administered standard risk assessment health questionnaire i.e. the health questionnaire on the Foireann (Return to Play) app.

Parents can be reassured that the Management and Backroom teams of Skryne GFC are preparing for the safe return of our players to training and will be adhering to all Covid 19 guidelines.

To assist with the safe implementation of these guidelines, parents should drop their children off at training and return when training is over to pick them up. We ask parents not to congregate in groups at the pitch and to ensure to follow all Covid 19 guidelines.

Training times for each group can be viewed on the Pitch Booking section of our website www.skrynegfc.ie. Managers of each team will also be in touch with parents to advise when training is scheduled to take place.



www.mycommunitygames.com/
Entries to Community Games virtual events are open & coming in fast and furious:

www.mycommunitygames.com to enter your child in any of the **7 events:** Art, Handwriting, Model-Making, Dance, Music, Singing and Recitation before May 5th!

Check Out the community games Facebook page or website.

www.communitygames.ie/
Any queries please contact our Secretary, Madonna Purcell at skyrne@communitygames.eu

Best of luck!
Skryne Rathfeigh Community Games

Blotto Results

Date	Jackpot	Numbers Drawn				Lucky Dip Winners
18/04/2021	€10,000	02	07	09	25	Brian Smyth, Anne Gray, Dom O'Brien Maria Ui Ruairc
11/04/2021	€10,000	05	18	20	22	Saoirse Carty, Grace Conway Liam O'Rourke, Riona & Laura Toomey
04/04/2021	€10,000	02	23	25	26	Jenny Banks, Carmel Bennett The Barry Family, The McDonnell Family
28/03/2021	€10,000	01	07	21	25	Ann Tuite, Paddy Mulvaney, Allan Carty, Stephanie, Shane & Declan O'Connor
21/03/2021	€10,000	01	07	13	21	Pauline McKee, Seamus & Niamh Mullan Paddy Mulvaney, Tom Halpin

My Computer Was A Sewing Machine

Joan Gallagher

I worked from home when the children were small, (I was way before my time, now they are all at it, only now they are on computers.) I made skirts for a clothing firm in Dublin, they were delivered and collected once a week.

You need to be very disciplined with yourself to work from home, you need to start and finish at a certain time of the day. I'm afraid I was not so disciplined, because if the sun was shining I was in the garden, and therefore I often found myself working late into the night as the work had to be ready on collection day.

Driving The School Bus

After that I worked for C.I.E. where I trained for my E. licence, got it, and drove a school bus for six or seven years. This is a difficult and rather responsible job, especially in winter when the roads are frosty, (after all it is tomorrow's generation who are being carried).

But thank God I never had an accident. Although how I didn't have one the day someone let off a Stink Bomb at the back of the bus I will never know. It is indescribably awful. At that time the drivers had the bus parked at their own house during term time, and had to wash the bus once a week by hand i.e. a sweeping brush and buckets of water, and also, to sweep out the bus. One evening I was under pressure and I delegated the job of sweeping out the bus to my Son (who was a very reluctant "little helper" but I insisted). A while later as George was walking past the bus he could hear our eleven year old effing and blinding and generally turning the air Blue, and when he was questioned about his awful language, horror of horrors !!! He was missing TOP OF THE POPS.

Latest Snippet from Joan Gallagher's book "Milestones along the Journey of Life"

RST Newsletter

We invite local businesses to sponsor future editions of RST Newsletter at a cost of €100 which will also entitle you to a free half page advertisement in that issue.

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Half page adds cost €25

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Some Awful Jokes

My girlfriend laughed when I said I was building a car from spaghetti. She didn't laugh when I drove Pasta

A pirate goes to the doctors. "Thar be strange moles on me back" he said. The doctor says "it's ok, they're benign"

The pirate says "check again matey, I think thar may be ten"

A woman was found guilty in traffic court and when asked for her occupation she said she was a school teacher. The judge rose from the bench. 'Madam. I have waited years for a schoolteacher to appear before this court.' He then smiled with delight. 'Now sit down at that table and write "I will not run a red light" one hundred times.

An Inexperienced curate was sent to do a graveside burial for a homeless man with no family or friends. Not knowing where the cemetery was, he made several wrong turns and got lost. When he eventually arrived, the hearse was nowhere in sight, the backhoe was next to the open hole, and the workmen were sitting under a tree eating lunch. When the curate looked into the open grave and even found the vault lid was already in place. he felt veiy guilty. The homeless man deserved something. Even though it was late. And so. the curate delivered an impassioned burial service. Sending the deceased into the great beyond in some style. The workmen looked on in silence, but as the curate returned to his car. he overheard one of the workmen remark: 'I've been putting in septic tanks for 20 years and I ain't never seen anything like that!'



LOCAL ACTION HERO HOPING TO MAKE IT 8 OSCARS THIS YEAR



Find the 8 differences

hidden in these two seemingly identical pictures



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Condolences

The Parish passed votes of sympathy with the following:

- To Celine Jordan, Greenpark on the death of her mother Irene Mulholland.
- To the family of Ray Mooney, Castletown.
- To the Whelan family, Oberstown on the death of Brian
- To Susan & Derek McAuley Proudstown on the death of their Uncle Brian McAuley
- To Seamus McAuley, Ross on the sudden death of his sister, Frances Curley in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway



New Celtic Cross in Rathfeigh Cemetery

SUNDAY INDEPENDENT, APRIL 4, 1971

1. SPECIFY (J. Cool) 20'1". 2. BLACK SECRET (Jim Drapear) 20'1".
3. ASTBURY (J. Burke) 33'1".

SPECIFY TAKES REAL THRILLER

Jim Drapear just pipped on name Black Secret



IT'S ALL OVER! Specify thunders past the post with Ireland's challenger Black Secret a neck behind in second place and Astbury two lengths further away third.

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: Paucic

T: 046 9034846

M: 085 1597105

Irish Independent, Tuesday, April 13, 1971

KING'S SPRITE'S 'NATIONAL'

SPORT 50 YEARS AGO

KING'S Sprite, as confidently predicted by trainer George Wells after Mr. Dick McElhagga's home-bred Pampered King gelding had run so well in his Navan preliminary, won the Irish Distillers' Grand National before a huge attendance at Fairyhouse yesterday.

Given a copy-book ride by Arthur Moore, King's Sprite took the lead when Proud Tarquin, having led almost throughout, blundered badly at the second last. From there, the gallant L'Escargot took up the challenge and, landing second over the last, set about the task, which proved unavailing of reducing King's Sprite's lead.



This year's Grand Nationals, both in England and Ireland, will be remembered for their "flat race" finishes, and one would be forgiven for thinking, on looking at this picture of the finish of the Irish equivalent at Fairyhouse yesterday that the race had been "on the level." Passing the post first with his jockey, Arthur Moore, crouching in flat race fashion, is King's Sprite, with Proud Tarquin (Peter McLoughlin) a length and a half second, and L'Escargot (Tommy Carberry) three-quarters of a lengths away third. Another similarity between the two "Nationals" was that a Drapear horse finished second.

Next Issue

Saturday 29th May

Submissions on or before
Wednesday 26th May

Contact:

Jim: 086 383 7436

Patricia: 086 838 8017

Email: therstnewsletter@gmail.com