RATHFEIGH/SKRYNE/TARA

29th May 2021 • Issue No. 3

















THANK YOU



Jimmy Gray

Greenpark, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath.

On the first anniversary of Jimmy's death (28th May, 2020), we the family would like to thank sincerely everyone who sympathised with us on our sad loss. Due to public health guidelines many were unable to offer condolences in the customary manner and we really appreciate all those who wrote, telephoned, texted or emailed with condolences, sent Mass cards and wrote messages on the condolence page. We also remember with deep gratitude the show of solidarity from neighbours and friends on Jimmy's final journey from his home to the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Rathfeigh. We would like to thank Fr. Paul Crosbie, P.P., Trim and Fr. Robert McCabe, C.C., Navan who con-celebrated Jimmy's funeral Mass and who have been so supportive to us during the past year. Thanks to the combined choirs of Skryne and Rathfeigh who did a wonderful job - he would have been proud of you all. Thanks to Mary Hetherington who stepped into Jimmy's shoes to play the organ. Thank you to Mick Ryan Funeral Director and his team for the professional and sensitive way they dealt with all the arrangements, which made things much easier for us.

Jimmy's first anniversary Mass will take place in The Church of the Immaculate Conception, Rathfeigh on Saturday 29th May at 6.00 p.m.

This issue is sponsored by THE RST COMMUNITY CENTRE



SKRYNE GOLF SOCIETY

As usual Liz Rogan was quick off the mark and within moments of the relaxing of Covid19 restrictions Skryne Golf Society kicked off the 2021 season with an outing to Rathcore on Sunday 9th May. What a joyous occasion. Some of the members didn't even complain about anything. What's rare is wonderful.

Winners on the day were Martin Browne and Ricky Powderly and the runners up were Shane Farrell and Dessie Finnerty. Next outing is to Edenderry on 26th June.



Skryne Community Alert

It has come to the point where we are learning to live with phone scams, and we are coming to accept them as a regular annoyance. It becomes second nature to simply reject a phone call from Tunisia or Guadeloupe. After all, it's highly unlikely we have any dealings with these countries. But it's a



numbers game, and if they call enough random numbers they are likely to get a small percentage that will engage. This makes it worthwhile for the scammers.

But in the last couple of months we have to look out for a new, smarter phone scam. The scammers are now spoofing the caller ID number, so it looks like the incoming call is local, or a valid number for a known service such as a bank, a shop, or perhaps a hospital. One local business owner was on the receiving end of one such scam calls this week. The caller ID which showed up on their phone suggested it was Bank of Ireland calling. The caller introduced themselves as being from the bank and explained that they were following up on fraud detection on the account. They did not have the foreign accents you might expect from a scam, and they transferred to more than one "department" during the call to make it even more convincing. Thankfully the business owner was vigilant and recognised it as a spoof call as soon as they asked for a PIN number. Gardai were notified and an investigation is ongoing.

We can be easily lured into a false sense of security with Caller ID. It's like someone calling to your door and showing you well forged company identification. No doubt others have been caught out by this scam and will continue to be. The scammers may have some of your details to hand in advance and are well versed in spinning a yarn to convince you of their authenticity.

What can you do to protect yourself from this type of scam? Firstly, if you have any doubts whatsoever, note their name and tell them you are not comfortable taking their call. Hang up and if you think the call is important, then phone their company using a known good number. You'll get this from your account statement, an official website, or a phonebook. Make sure you have hung up properly on the previous call before dialling again – use a different phone if possible. Secondly, never provide sensitive data such as a PIN – nobody but you needs to know this. Do not confirm credit card details or CVV number (last 3 digits from the back of your card) over the phone during an incoming call. Genuine callers will not mind if you refuse to answer any questions on a cold call. If you are being pressured to provide information, it's a good sign that the call is not genuine.

A New Website for the RST **Community Centre**



A new website www.rstskryne.ie is being designed for the RST Community Centre and will be launched shortly.

Our purpose for the new website is as follows:

- To create a modern attractive website that will provide a positive image of the Rathfeigh, Skryne and Tara area.
- To encourage the use of the centre by providing information about classes, events, meetings and other social events.
- To facilitate links to the many clubs and organisations based in the community.
- To provide a hub for the recently revised RST Newsletter and to upload and archive "old" newsletters going back to 1997- thus creating a home for invaluable local historic material.

There are a few key points about our new website that I would like to highlight. It is especially important for the RST Community Centre at the moment. After 14 months of Covid, we are all eager to get back on track with social activities and we see this launch as a starting point. We have got to acknowledge that IT Technology is now playing a huge role in modern living and an up-to-date website is crucial to the progress and development of any business, no matter how small. The RST Centre is only a small business but has potential to expand and develop. We believe that the new website will help.

We will include a **system for Booking and Paying on-line** but this will not exclude clients who wish to book and pay manually.

The RST area is blessed with many sports clubs and varied organisations and we will provide links for them to the website. With that aim in mind, we invite spokespersons or **PROs** for local groups to get in touch with us to express an interest. Please contact Susan at 087-3613388 or email rstskryne@gmail.com

The RST Newsletter has been a source of local news since 1997. Up to the arrival of the pandemic, it was a labour of love for Patricia & Jim Conroy and A&J Print. With Covid, a much larger and colourful newsletter evolved but only on-line. It will continue in that format from now. The RST Community Centre board and the RST Newsletter committee have come to an agreement that the newsletter will be published monthly in the new website. This is an exciting development and will be mutually beneficial. We are aware that after reading this paragraph, you may be somewhat confused by titles: the RST Community Centre is a building, and the RST Newsletter is a local magazine.

The launch of the new website www.rstskryne.ie will be announced in a forthcoming newsletter. We hope you will visit it. It will be updated regularly to keep our community abreast of local activities.



Family Holidays

Joan Gallagher

Our holidays were spent either camping or caravanning in those days as we had two dogs, Prince and Tiny and they always came on holidays with us, we went a lot to Achill, and all those years later I still love the place and spend a few days there at least every second year.

It is one of the few places that remained unspoiled until recently when the place is now being polluted like a lot of other beautiful places with those modern holiday homes. When oh when, is this practice going to stop.

Pitch and Putt

George was a great "Community" man, he loved being "involved", and I suppose it would be around 1971 or '72 when himself and Harry Dowling, and three or four others including myself, started a Pitch and Putt Club in Rathfeigh. Joe Tobin was very generous in giving the field at a very low rent for five years, and this gave us a great chance to get started, money was "begged" and borrowed, as anyone who ever got involved in the formation of any club knows, it takes a lot of money to get established, especially Pitch and Putt as Greens are very expensive to "make" and of course two mowers had to be bought straight away and a clubhouse (of sorts) had to be erected.

The club members also still remember the valuable help and advice that the members of the Skryne and Brownstown Clubs gave so willingly at that time.

Rathfeigh very quickly became a strong Club thanks to the hard work put in by the members, and the Club is still going strong today.

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

Martin Kennedy Retirement

By John Scanlon

Good luck, Martin. And thank you, most sincerely.

s most of you are now aware, Martin Kennedy will retire from his post as Principal of Scoil Cholmcille, Skryne, this summer. We asked three people for their thoughts on Martin's contribution to our community over the last nineteen years. Each of these people knew a different side of Martin's character. Kieran Fanning has been his colleague in Scoil Cholmcille for many years, Mick O'Dowd was a sporting colleague both with Skryne GFC and Meath GAA and John Scanlon served on the board of Scoil Cholmcille with Martin for several years. We join with these men in wishing Martin a long, fruitful and happy retirement.

The poet, Robert Frost, said, 'In three words, I can sum up everything I've learned about life. It goes on.' Can a man's teaching career be similarly summed up in a couple of words? If I had to pick two that epitomise Martin Kennedy, they would be 'sport' and 'people'.

As a proud Déise man, Martin has been a huge exponent, not just of the sliotar and stick game that he loved, but of all sport, and the children in his care have been exposed to a wide variety of sports from judo to orienteering, football to tennis. And while he liked to win trophies as much as any man, it was never the core reason for participation, because to him, sport is more than just physical exercise or a hobby. It is a philosophy that has permeated his teaching life, instilling in young people the value of teamwork, self-sacrifice, perseverance, and learning to deal with victory as well as defeat. He understood how team sport, in particular, could bind a class, a school and a community. To Martin, the game has never been about the score (except in finals!). It has always been about the people.

Which brings us to our second word. Martin is a 'people' person. Always welcoming and full of stories, chat and humour, he cultivated an atmosphere of joy in the school that visitors often commented on. He wasn't the sort of principal that kids were afraid of – he was the sort they high-fived (when that sort of thing was allowed!) on the way past. The connection he has had with his students was something to behold, and I think it would be fair to say, he was unrivalled in this regard. Our pupils respected him, trusted him, and often, adored him. Never was this connection more visible than in times of intense sadness, like at funerals, or in times of intense drama, like at football finals, or in times of intense bliss, like on school tours.

Where perhaps we saw Martin most in his element, was on the overnight school tours he organised to Wales and Scotland, an adventure most teachers wouldn't have dreamed of undertaking. On these trips, he made memories for life for the students lucky enough to have been brought. Like the Pied Piper, he took them on midnight walks through the graveyards of Edinburgh, thrilling them and scaring them in equal measure, and only ever losing one person (a teacher!).

Often unconventional in his approach, and never one to bow to parent or inspector pressure, he put the needs of his students before everything else. He pre-empted every decision he made with the question, 'Will the kids benefit?' To return to Robert Frost, Martin took the road 'less travelled by, and that has made all the difference.'

On behalf of the staff of Scoil Cholmcille, I would like to thank him for the huge contribution he has made to the school. We are very sad that he is leaving, but grateful to have had the experience of working with him, and learning from him. It's actually very difficult to imagine the school without him but as Frost says, life will go on. Enjoy your retirement, Martin, and we look forward to welcoming you back as a visitor, with the same open arms you always extended when you were at the helm.

Kieran Fanning

'I loves me County' is an expression well known by GAA supporters and while uttered by an emotional John Mullane, the great Waterford hurler, it might well have been first uttered by his fellow county man, Martin Kennedy. You wouldn't need to spend too long in Martin's company before some mention of his beloved 'Deise' or indeed his home club Mount Sion would be made. However, having chosen the teaching profession it was off to Dublin he went and soon he was having his customary positive influence on young players where he taught in St. Brigid's School in Blanchardstown. A few Dublin All-Ireland winners who have passed through that school still recall the influence he had in creating a culture and environment that helped them enjoy many great days.

Thankfully he saw the light and got out of there!! While it was to Dunshaughlin he came to live, it was Skryne that benefitted from his GAA passion. Having heard of his 'ways' and appreciating the freshness and independence that he would bring to our Senior setup - I landed at his door one winter's evening and asked him to join myself and Ray Mooney on a journey. That journey ended with the Keegan Cup back in Skryne and the club reaching the Leinster Final. Martin was loyal, positive, and he always saw the person first and the player second. Players appreciated that and he played a very important role in the dressing room during that time. Once he committed to you it was 100% and he had your back no matter what. After a couple of years working together, he took over the management of the Skryne senior team himself, something I know he is very proud of and still has a wonderful relationship with the lads he coached.

The three of us reunited again in 2011 and 2012, to look after the Club's minor team. Martin, of course, had taught and coached most of this squad so had plenty of inside knowledge on their talent. Another enjoyable campaign ended with a thrilling victory in the minor League in Pairc Tailteann.

We worked together most recently in the Meath Senior set up, where Martin acted as confidant, stats man, kitman and part time psychologist!! Sometimes combining the latter e.g. when telling a certain player, he could do with being able to fit into a smaller pair of shorts than the size he was asking for! Together with his great friend, Jim Gibbons, they were the 'advance party' that would land in Croke Park, Celtic Park, Hyde Park or many places in between, well before the team to have everything in place. I think Jim is still dealing with a little post-traumatic stress for some of those journeys but in fairness the county board never actually got a speeding fine! Martin would then head up to the stand to watch the game and provide important information to the management group during the game. His observations were always wise and insightful.

It would be easy to list the number of Cumann na mbunscoil titles that the school won during Martin's term or indeed to mention that the girls won the title for the first time in the school's history in 2015, in order to demonstrate the important role the school has played in the promotion of Gaelic Football in the parish. But I think what Martin would prefer is that the girls and boys who played the game in school enjoyed playing it, created great memories and life-long friendships, and are still playing the game. That would be a legacy that his thinking was geared towards. Many players in the club are still thriving from the early encouragement they received from MK.

Finally, on behalf of all in Skryne GFC, thanks for your significant contribution and that of all your staff in Scoil Cholmcille to the promotion of Gaelic Football in Skryne. Long may it continue.

Enjoy your retirement (and the next journey....!)

Mick O'Dowd

I didn't really know Martin during his early years in Skryne. In fact, it wasn't till Fr. Thomas dragged me back on the school board that I got to know him well. When you work on a school board with somebody, you really get a measure of that person's priorities and Martin's number one concern as Principal of Scoil Cholmcille was that all pupils in the school should fully benefit from any opportunity available to them. He has had such a deep personal interest and commitment to his pupils that it staggered us on occasion. One part of every board meeting is the Principal's report and we had to kind of, unofficially, well limit Martin's time for his report. And why? Because he wanted to tell us about all the kids' involvement in school activities. all of their successes, all of their inventiveness, their fun, their development as people. He checked out every opportunity to broaden their world. He brought them orienteering in the snow, encouraged them to enter competitions, arranged additional reading opportunities for them, invited guests to bring them different educational experiences, brought them to football, rounders, handball, athletics. Well, you get the picture. He would, of course, be the first to say that he managed all of this because he had an exceptional staff working with him but what amazed me was the fact that his enthusiasm never waned. Every week was new.

Kieran mentions the kids high-fiving Martin in the corridor. On one occasion, a little girl of about seven stopped as we discussed something at the door. She giggled as she looked at us. "Haha,"

she said, "you two look the same." Martin was horrified. "I'm a lot younger than this guy, Missy, and a lot better looking." That did it. She nearly passed out with the laughter. I was gratified but also impressed with the natural way this girl and her Principal interacted. It spoke volumes to me of Martin's respect for his pupils. We will truly miss this fine Principal.

A Mháirtín, a chara, guím gach rath ort agus tú ag imeacht uainn. Go raibh saol fada, sona agat. Ná déan dearmad orainn agus tú ag sú na gréine i dtíortha i bhfad i gcéin.

John Scanlon

















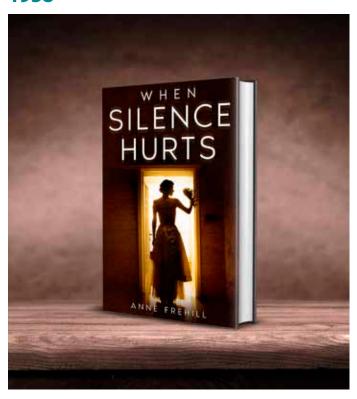


Anne Frehill Books

Anne Frehill

Anne Frehill who is a regular contributor to the RST newsletter has just taken the step of becoming a published author and has published not one, but two books. She has kindly sent us in a synopsis for each book and we would like to wish her all the best as she embarks on her literary adventure.

Brief summary – When Silence Hurts 1958



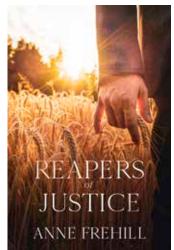
In the grey mediocrity of a 1950's small town, Evelyn and Kevin Moore seem like "the golden couple". Silver tongued and a gifted veterinarian, he is held in high esteem by town and country dweller alike. Yet, when the mask slips in the privacy of their home he is nothing but a tyrannous brute, who subjects Evelyn to regular outbursts of physical, sexual and psychological abuse. She does everything she can to conceal her suffering, but as more and more cracks appear in their disastrous marriage, she is forced to face reality.

The effort involved in keeping up appearances is simply not worth it. She must confront the grim future facing her if she does not discover the inner strength to leave him in a society where "separated women" are treated as second class citizens.

She begins to confide in others and along the way finds real friendship and romance in the most unlikely of places.

However, as he grows increasingly possessive, will she have the courage to escape from his toxic world and the resolve to stick with her decision despite the chains which bind them?

Synopsis – Reapers of Justice



Sarah Murphy, a young schoolmistress is not who she claims to be. Underneath the calm mask of the earnest spinster struggling to enable her pupils to escape from the gnawing poverty of their parents, lies a whirlpool of uncertainties. Reared by her grandmother, since childhood she has agonized over the untimely death of her mother and abandonment by her father. In her short life she has known absence, rejection, and loneliness

leading to a hasty and clandestine marriage with an IRA commander, who is on the run for the murder of RIC officers.

The local village of Somerset is beset by rumour and counter rumour as a lethal style of guerrilla warfare is waged against the forces of the British Crown. Time spent with Sean is precious as he moves under the cover of darkness from one "safe house" to another.

Yet, she doesn't know about the innate corruption of human nature. She only knows that she must stay one step ahead of informers and spies. In her efforts to stay alive she quickly learns that all rules of behaviour must be thrown to the four winds.

The only thing she must not do is reveal her dangerous secrets. And she must stay on estep ahead of informers and spies.

Anne's books are available on the following sites online:

- 1) Book Depository Ireland
- 2) Buy the Book.ie
- 3) Amazon UK books
- 4) Ingramspark.com

(Not available yet in local bookshops). She will have hard copies to sell directly in the next 10 days aprox.

Movie Review

Darragh O'Dowd

During this Covid time, entertainment is very much at home and a lot of people are looking for good movies. We're gonna look first at the Western, a favourite of the Sunday morning movie-watcher. Little-known fact about the 'spaghetti western': the term comes from the fact that Italian director Sergio Leone shot his "Dollars trilogy" in Italy because it was cheaper to shoot there than America. Here is my top three, must-see westerns;







1 Rio Bravo (1959)

While it may seem slow-moving and lackadaisical to some, Rio Bravo is a hilarious and thoroughly entertaining film from a genre full of the same old boring plots. Partly ditching the serious tone of previous movies of the genre, the film puts a cast of brilliantly oddball characters in a standard Western plot and we watch as they deal with it in their own mad way. The film is also brilliantly subversive: what other Western would stop half way through for an impromptu Dean Martin sing-along?

2 Django Unchained (2012)

Tarantino has become a name associated with explosive, stylish and almost cartoonish violence. And nowhere is this better seen than with this movie. Tarantino uses the narrative of a black slave being trained as a bounty hunter to revisit classic Western ideas all the while inventing his own ones along the way. Featuring great action, brilliant performances and a bizarre soundtrack that goes from Ennio Morricone to 2Pac, Django Unchained is one of the best Westerns of the modern era.

3 The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (1966)

A sprawling epic that somehow manages to keep your attention throughout, Sergio Leone's final film in his groundbreaking "Dollars trilogy" is his crowning achievement. An adventure film across Civil War-era America, countless back-stabbings, doublecrossings and gunfights occur between the titular trio as they attempt to get a buried treasure, all culminating in the greatest showdown in movie history.

If these films are up your ally, other noteworthy Westerns are Once Upon a Time in the West, True Grit (the 2010 version), Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid and Unforgiven.

Happy 80th Birthdays







A big birthday was celebrated by 3 men on the same day last week. Happy 80th birthdays to Harry Dowling, Michael Lynch and Frank Swan. All were delivered by midwife, Molly Fox-Hogarty, who travelled around on her bicycle.

Rathfeigh National School

Seamus Tansley

Science-in-a-Box with Professor Luke O'Neill

We have just one week remaining in this year's Science-ina-Box programme. As part of last week's lesson we had the privilege of a live Zoom Question and Answer session with one of the most famous scientists in the country – Professor Luke O'Neill. He has a wealth of scientific knowledge and the children had numerous questions for him which he enjoyed answering. The questions covered everything from the size of a coronavirus particle, the instrument he played in his band to the type of food he likes most. It was a pleasure listening to Luke and the forty five minutes flew by. He complimented the children on their varied and interesting questions and his sense of humour shone through throughout the session. We thank our Science-in-a-Box scientist Suzanne for organising this special event for us. At the end of the programme next week we have two Luke O'Neill books as prizes in a raffle. Thanks to Eimear, not only for sponsoring these prizes, but for sponsoring the Science-in-a-Box programme in our school. Míle Buíochas!

Rathfeigh School Crest Artwork

I'm sure you'll all have noticed the fantastic artwork at the front of our school hall as you walked, cycled or drove passed our school. Over the last week or so our resident artist Róisín Wade has created a truly unique piece of artwork which, I'm sure, will be admired for many, many years to come. Róisín is truly a master of her craft and we were delighted when she accepted to complete this mammoth task for us. She worked though rain and shine and never complained once despite the weather and our occasional change of design! Everyone in the Rathfeigh school community is really proud of this tremendous piece of artwork and we thank Róisín for her time, skill and patience in completing it. Róisín's work is in high demand which is no surprise. If you want to contact Róisín about an art project please contact the school (0419825156) and we can send you her details. We thank Kevin and Paul from across the road in Borrowaddy Motors for helping us in making alterations to the scaffolding at the start of the project. Thanks lads!

Fundraiser for Sensory Room

Our Parents' Association are presently organising their second fundraiser of the school year. Following on from the very successful "Cash for Clobber" fundraiser at Christmas they will be organising a Relay Marathon at the rear of the school on Wednesday June 16th. The children in all classes will have a few laps to run each in relay format. Over the course of a few hours we have 42,195 metres to run! A number of years ago we completed the marathon in approximately 2hrs 20 mins. This, however, took place in one of the wettest days of the year with heavy and slippy underfoot conditions. If the weather shines favourably on us we hope to beat our previous time by a few minutes. No pressure! The children will be getting sponsorship cards this week. We hope everyone in the Rathfeigh and Skryne parish will support our fantastic

children as they embark on their "marathon" task. We thank Nicola (SNA) and Mrs Vaughan for all their work behind the scenes in getting this great idea (Sensory Room) to fruition. All monies received will go towards our Sensory Room which will be up and running by September.

Art – Construction

The children in Rathfeigh are showing great creativity during art lessons over the last few weeks. Third and Fourth class were learning about the Titanic during history lessons and Ms Reynolds got the children to construct their own "Titanic" ships using cardboard, paper, toilet roll holders etc. The standard of the construction work was amazing and it was great to see the children so proud of their finished products. Well done!!

The Fifth and Sixth class children also engaged very productively with their constructions during art classes. Their constructions were wide and varied which included a football stadium, race track, buildings, piano, animals etc etc. They presented their work for the children in the school last Friday and I'm sure it will inspire the younger children to create their own masterpieces in future years.

Standardised Tests/School Reports

Standardised tests in Irish, English and maths will be administered to the children in all classes from First to Sixth next week (Tuesday 1st, Wednesday 2nd, Thursday 3rd). Due to Covid-19 these tests weren't administered last year. These tests in conjunction with various teacher assessment methods over the course of the year will help in determining your child's progress. We will e-mail all parents/guardians information on how to interpret the scores in the standardised tests. The end of year school reports will be posted home in mid-June. If you would like to discuss your child's report with the class teacher please make an appointment before we close for the summer holidays.

School Garden

Our school gardener Mary McCarron is a regular visitor to our school. The children always enjoy Mary's visits as they get a chance to get their hands dirty while planting seeds and it also gets them out of the classroom!! We thank Mary for her enthusiasm and patience with the children.

Picker Pals – Litter Picking Programme

The pupils in 1st and 2nd class are taking part in this unique school based litter-picking programme. This programme motivates and equips children with "Picker Packs" containing items that children need to go litter picking. We hope the children continue positively with this important social and environmental issue over the next few weeks. After receiving a 'Green Flag' for the school last year this programme is another way of getting the 'Green' message across to our pupils and families in Rathfeigh. Thanks to Ms. O'Donoghue for co-ordinating the programme.

School Grounds

Our school grounds are looking fantastic at the moment. Ingrid is doing an amazing job in Jackie's absence - cutting grass, cleaning windows, painting railings, cleaning classrooms etc etc. We thank Ingrid for doing an amazing job and we also wish Jackie a speedy recovery.

Staff/Board of Management

I was told by a pupil during the week that "July" and "August" were a teacher's favourite words! I couldn't disagree! This year has been difficult for all staff due to Covid-19 so we are looking forward to a well-deserved break in July and August! All our teachers, SNA, Helen, Jackie and Ingrid have done an amazing job this year in difficult circumstances for which I sincerely thank them. Our Board of Management have also done amazing work. There's been more meetings this year

than any other previous year. I thank them for their hard work throughout the year and their commitment to the school.

It was with great sadness and shock last week when I heard the news of the passing of Jim Pentony. Jim was a regular visitor to Rathfeigh NS down through the years and I always enjoyed meeting him. He had a great sense of humour and his knowledge of the history of Rathfeigh was second to none. I had the pleasure of serving on the Board of Management with Jim from 2015 to 2019. At these meetings he never referred to me as Seamus but Mr Tansley. He also addressed Maurice Daly as Chairman. This "old school" respect is dying away but Jim had it in spades. I was very fond of Jim and will miss him dearly. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word. A text I received during the week mentioned Jim as being a "great friend of Rathfeigh NS" which he undoubtedly was. On behalf of all the staff and Board of Management I would like to express my deepest condolences to the Pentony family, relatives and friends. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Below are a few pictures of the children working in the school garden and a few examples of the construction art-work.

















Scoil Cholmcille

Martin Kennedy

Before we realised it, May has slipped through our fingers and remarkably we are facing into the last four weeks of a challenging and never to be forgotten school year. "Slipped" is probably the most appropriate word to use as we have rarely seen so much rain fall during the Month of May. The contrast in weather to the brilliant sunshine we experienced during "lockdown" last year is remarkable. Thank God we were able to enjoy the best of it when we needed it most. "Meath in May" as the Ross Cross sage eulogises will have its day once more. For the present, we can only look to better days ahead. Tiocfaidh ár lá gréine arís.

School has been very busy in recent weeks. Standardised Tests were conducted as required by the Dept. of Education. I have made my personal feelings on holding these tests this year known previously.

At this stage we have corrected each paper and entered every answer from every paper into our admin system. It has been a mammoth task. This allows us to analyse the areas which may need some closer attention going forward.

English scores have remained fairly consistent and this is very pleasing in the circumstances. It is very evident that those pupils who have engaged with the Accelerated Reader programme consistently have benefitted. Since returning to school we have continued to work on this area of reading and comprehension.

Maths however is a different story. As expected we are finding many gaps in the children's learning. It underlines the importance of being in school and having teacher input to pass on the knowledge and to identify pupils who need help with a particular topic. Remote learning can not provide the same atmosphere

and learning environment as that generated by the classroom. Our ambition for the next few weeks is to try and remedy some of these issues. We have identified pupils in most classes who for whatever reason have gaps in their maths learning. We plan to rotate these small groups for some specific topic teaching in short bursts. Think of it as trying to fix the "pot-holes" that have emerged in their learning. This input should leave the pupils in a better place to face into the work for next year.

School Reports are being finalised at present and our ambition is to have them issued during the first week of June. Please ensure that we have the correct e-mail address for you.

We really have missed all the sporting events that we normally participate in - but that doesn't mean that the pupils have been idle. We have been participating in the "Dare to Believe" Road to Tokyo challenge in which pupils are encouraged to get in at least 60 min s physical activity per day. The response has been very impressive. Running, skipping, tennis, basketball etc, etc. have all been utilised to build capacity. Some lads have even included sweeping out the cow sheds! All physical activity counts. We did have some "fake-news" surrounding the Rang 2 scores but has now all been resolved. Bringing the goldfish for a walk might have been pushing it!

Our friends from Tayto Foods have been with us to deliver phase 2 of our Potato Pals programme. The bad weather has meant that our planned field trip had to be postponed. Ground is soaked and low temperatures have stunted plant growth. The pupils are really enjoying the experience and gaining a lot of knowledge from it. We really

do appreciate the opportunity that has been given to them.

Well done to all the very enthusiastic and active parents and pupils who have been willing participants in the "Walk on Wednesday" initiative. What a great way to get rid of the cobwebs and have the blood flowing before starting to work.

The cyclists have grown in numbers also and it is great to see. It is very important though that our young cyclists wear their helmets and high vis jackets. Last week we had two days of presentations from the RSA on road safety. Our pupils listened well but it is in the daily journey that we will see how they put it into practice. Our roads can be dangerous places. Please keep re-emphasising road safety with the children.

We are indebted to the many volunteers who help us to keep our campus tidy, clean and more importantly safe. In recent weeks Ken Doherty has been busy working on our Woodland Walk. Ivy has been cut from trees which were suffering and others have been pruned to remove dangerous branches. We are very grateful to Ken and his crew for the work they have been doing with our Coiste Glas.

Thanks again to all who are cooperating so well with the Covid protocols we are implementing at the school. Your help in keeping us all safe is appreciated. We must remain vigilant however. A number of schools have had outbreaks recently and this has necessitated whole year groups being excluded from school. In other cases, pods have been identified and removed from their classrooms. Unfortunately, the virus is still out there and active. We must be careful to follow HSE guidelines about mixing and congregating for a little bit longer. The vaccine rollout has built considerable momentum and it won't be long before we can resume more normal social interactions. Hold the line.

The Parents Association will shortly be supplying details on how you can order tracksuits and uniforms for next year as well as signing up for Book Rental scheme. The work that the various committees do behind the scenes is crucial to the smooth and effective running of the school. Well done to all who give so willingly of their time.

On a personal note, may I thank once more all the many people who have sent me cards or offered good wishes on my upcoming retirement. Your appreciation for my efforts over the years has been very humbling. As I face into my last few weeks at Scoil Cholmcille it feels like I am coming to a journey's end. It reminds me of a quote from Hemingway, "It is good to have an end to journey toward, but it is the journey that matters in the end."

I have enjoyed the best part of my 19 year journey with Skryne NS. I have been fortunate enough to meet some wonderful people and work with some excellent staff. But school should always be about the children and there hasn't been a day when I haven't looked forward to sharing their life's journey with them. Young people are great when given the opportunity to shine. Hopefully we have helped many of them do so. It has been my privilege to share in their journey.

Fan slán gach éinne.

Check out the pictures that follow to meet some of our very latest "Word Millionaires"



Róisín Silver R5

Serena R3

Night Sky June 2021

by Tony Canavan

Sunrise: 4:57 am (12th June)

Full Moon: 24th June

The June Solstice: The June solstice occurs at 0321 UTC. The North Pole of the earth is fully tilted towards the sun (longest day) and the sun will have reached as far north as the Tropic of Cancer.

Full Moon: The 24th June is known as the Strawberry Moon because it coincides with the peak of the strawberry harvesting season. This is the last of the three supermoons this year. The moon will be near its closest approach to the earth. Moonrise around 10 pm on the 23rd June.

Annular Solar Eclipse June 10th: Although this is not a full eclipse anywhere it is best viewed in parts of Russia, Greenland and Northern Canada. A smaller partial eclipse will be seen from Ireland. The eclipse magnitude (amount of the sun covered by the moon) is 30% for the east coast of Ireland.

Night Sky 31st May 2021:

This is the view in the SW at 1030 pm on 31st May. You can see the constellation of Cancer and to the right is Mars and just above it is Pollux and Castor in the constellation of Gemini. The star Regulus is one of the brightest stars in the sky, meaning 'Little King'. It is very conspicuous in the summer evening sky after sunset. It is a multiple star system and through a moderately large telescope it is clearly egg shaped as it rotates every 16 hours (our sun rotates every 25 days). Astronomers have seen three of the four stars that form this system. The presence of the fourth is revealed in the spectre of Regulus A.

The star marking the lion's tail is Denebola (Arabic meaning 'The Lions Tail'). You can clearly see the 'Sickle' marking the lion's head. Denebola shines 15 times greater than our sun but is dim because it is 36 light years away. To the left (to the East) is the Virgo **Cluster of Galaxies**. Telescope required.

Sunset: 9:53 pm

Astronomical noon: 1:22 pm



This annular eclipse occurs because the Moon's orbit is not entirely circular but elliptical. The moon is partially in the direct sight path between the earth and the sun. This coincides with the time of the New Moon on 10th June because the sun is shining on the opposite side of the moon to us and so we cannot see the moon i.e. no moon phase at all.

Partial First Contact 10:06 am

Partial Greatest Contact 11.13 am

Partial Last Contact 12:24 pm



Virgo Cluster of Galaxies: The universe is composed of clusters of galaxies and the Milky Way is part of our own local group which includes Andromeda, The Great Magellanic Cloud and the Small Magellanic Cloud. Instead of all galaxies in our local cluster moving towards the Virgo Cluster as gravity would dictate, they seem to be moving toward a spot that does not align with Virgo. Even the

Virgo Cluster was moving toward that same area. Astronomers refer to that mysterious region as the Great Attractor (Laniakea Supercluster).

Each galaxy follows the flow of gravity as leaves in a flowing river. So you have small lakes feeding into larger lakes. The local supercluster is one of those smaller lakes. The Great Attractor is the centre

of what is now called the Laniakea Supercluster. They call Laniakea a true supercluster because anything within its boundaries will move gravitationally towards it, while whatever lies beyond those boundaries will move away. It is believed that there are 100,000 galaxies in the Laniakea Supercluster, each with billions of stars like our sun and with even more billions of planets of various shapes and sizes. (Google the video 'A journey to the Virgo Supercluster, YouTube).

Similar Galaxy Cluster:

NASA, Hubble Telescope: Galaxy Cluster S 295 dominates the centre of the picture. This picture recently released by NASA is a similar cluster to the galaxies to the Virgo Cluster. From atoms of hydrogen, add some gravity and this is the end result. Mind blowing!

The galaxies in the foreground act as lens for the galaxies behind. Gravitational lensing has been used here to subtly frame the centre of this image and produces a beautiful scene. These are all galaxies, each with billions of suns.

Michael Collins: The NASA astronaut who was the command module pilot for the Apollo 11 mission to land on the moon died recently aged 90 years. On 1st May 1851, 170 years ago, Lord Ashtown of Woodlawn wanted his land cleared for sheep farming and so 52 families were evicted, and their houses were demolished, and the stones heaped into two piles. The Townsland was Funshinagh, Co. Roscommon and the area is still known as 'the piled fields'. One of the families was the Cunniffe family, father and mother and two children aged 1 and 2 years. The family remained with cousins for a few years in Corrocot, Mt. Talbot. Mary Cunniffe, the child aged 2 years, emigrated to the United States in 1867, moved to Milwaukee and married a man called Dwyer. Their daughter married James Lawton Collins, a Major General of the US. Army who served in World War 1 and World War 11. Their second son was Michael Collins. He served in the Air Force, was later selected as part of NASA's third group of astronauts in 1963. His first space flight was the Gemini 10 mission in 1966 and his second flight was as part of the Apollo 11 mission to the moon. From utter despair in Corrocot to landing on the moon. The Ashtown family estate was declared bankrupt in the early 1920's.

SpaceX: The Elan Musk owned company launched its SN15 on 5th May from its test facility in Boca Chica, Texas. SN15 fired its three massive Raptor engines and the rocket climbed through the sky reaching a height of 6 miles where it hovered for a moment, cut its engines and then flipped sideways using its flaps and 'belly flopped' towards the earth. It then fired two engines and righted itself landing safely back at the base. Many of the previous tests had ended in explosions so this was a huge step forward for this Space X program and the possibility of astronauts going back to the moon this decade.

The prototype testing will continue. When completed the Starship will sit on top of a heavy booster rocket, total height 120 metres (394 feet) and will be capable of lifting a payload of 100 tonnes + carrying equipment back and forth on space missions. This will greatly accelerate the setting up of bases on other planets and moons.

CHINA: China lands its Zhurong Rover on Mars, the vehicle used a combination of protective capsule, a parachute and a rocket to make its descent. Given the difficult nature of the task, and China's first attempt, this is a remarkable achievement. It took 17 minutes to unfold its solar panels and 18 minutes for message to reach earth. Let's hope it is a case of sharing information about Mars.

Richard Branson: Virgin Galactic's VSS Unity ignites into space having been carried aloft by aircraft VMS Eve. It was launched from Spaceport America, in New Mexico, on Saturday May 22, 2021. The spacecraft reached a height of 55.45 miles coming just short of the **Karman Line** that bridges Earth from space at 62 miles. You can book a seat onboard for \$250,000, and, as an incentive, customers will get to keep their space clothes, including jumpsuit, underwear and boots. And there is a long queue. Priority boarding only!

Local Business & Professional Directory

Calling all local businesses & professionals it is our intention to publish a directory of your services in an edition of RST at least twice a year.

This will consist of a one liner and for which there will be no charge. Readers will be able to print it and keep for handy reference.

The idea is to encourage our readers to support local and to have your contact details at the ready.

HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF **HOW IT WILL READ:**

Local electrician John Smith

reci certified phone 085..... email johnsmith@..com

Smiths Grocery & Bar Ross

ph 085.... email smiths @com Please email your contact details to us at Therstnewsletter@gmail.com

Paddy Corr

Riverstown, Rathfeigh Wallpaper Hanging Contact: Paddy on (086)3200811

Lady available for dog walking,

I have completed an Animal Care Level 5 course and a Canine First Aid course. My phone number is 085 771 4414.

Skryne Cycle Club

Training has resumed up to a max of 15 in any one group.

Wednesdays at 7pm and Sundays at 9am, both from Swans Carpark.

Hi-Viz and helmet essential; lights recommended.

Three levels catered for, so something for everyone.

Contact Pat McGovern 087 2586315

Skryne Boy's Underage report

Cormac Grendon



kryne U6s has commenced on a Saturday morning. New players are always welcome and practice takes place as per below. It's all about fun and enjoyment and learning the basics. Skryne underage has a great turn out and with the U6's there is a fun game towards the end of the year. We have some qualified coaches that will make sure that everyone really enjoys the morning and its all about the fun element. The U6s are known as the "Super star heroes" so if you would like your son or daughter please call down to the pitch and introduce yourself to the coaches on the Astro pitch.

When is practice: Every Saturday morning at 10.00am on the Astro Pitch.

What do i need to bring:

Runners or Astro boots

Coaches name:

Vinny O' Farrell 086 845 9784

The key principles for Underage teams is FUN-ENJOYMENT-MAKING NEW **FRIENDS**

Skryne U7s has commenced also with practice on Saturdays mornings. Fergal O Bric is the manager and with all age groups the door is always open for new players. Please drop Fergal a message at 087-6861941 The U7s are in Go Games

starting the 12th of June. It's not an All Ireland final to the kids it is as those that have moved from U6s will get to play some Go Games and with the U6s it's all about fun and enjoyment. It's great to get back to some form of normality. Please give Fergal a call if your child is interested.

With the pitch being so quiet over the last year we are delighted to see all age groups back playing right up to Minor. It's been a long year and everyone has played a part in battling this dreadful virus. It's a year that will never be forgotten. Thanks to all the frontline workers and local Covid volunteers. We already knew that we have a fantastic parish that supports each other in a time of need. We have all learned a lot with Covid throughout the year. We take a look at the remaining Underage teams.

The U9s are practicing on Tuesday evenings at 6.30pm and also some Wednesday evenings. Go Games are due to commence very soon in June also and again all new members are welcome. Albert Gallagher is looking after the U9s and if your child is interested in joining please give Albert a call at 086 8189995. Training times can vary so best give Albert a call. It's been a long year so it's certainly a way for kid to use up some energy and the kids will certainly be well looked after with the experienced coaches.

The U11's are practicing on a Wednesday and Saturday and with a large panel of 38 they will be looking forward to the Go Games. Trevor Giles is the Coach. Again there is no shortage of volunteers as with all age groups and we are grateful to all those that give up their own time. The U11's have really enjoyed being back at practice and with the Go Games due soon they look forward to playing games. With Go Games no score is kept and it's all about Fun and enjoyment. Again new players are always welcome and it's never too late to play Gaelic.

The U13's is where it all begins with competitions and competitive games. The U13's practice on a Wednesday and Saturday. Brian Smyth is the coach and again there is no shortage of players and coaches. The U13's last year got to a Div 2 final and progressed really well throughout the games with some fantastic talented players. Skryne will have two teams for the U13's this year which shows the fantastic amount of underage players who show up week in week out. We look forward to seeing the players develop.

Skryne U15s are managed by Pat Hawes.

Competitive games will commence in late June but there is a U15's final to be played from 2020 that Skryne will met Navan O Mahonys in the Div 2 final. The time and date of the final has yet to be confirmed. The best of luck to the entire 2020 panel in the U15's final. There is no shortage of players for the 2021 U15's panel who are certainly putting in alot of hard work.

The Minors are managed by Sean O Regan and have really hit the ground running. Practice takes place two even three times a week. The Minor team will be in Div 1 this year and are certainly up there at the top competing well. For some players of this year's minor panel with Minors now at U17s will be there last year before moving to adult teams. Skryne minors still await the Div 1 teams but as usual it will be mostly town teams that they will be competing against. For a rural club we have been lucky to have so much success at underage. With a great bunch of committed players it will be certainly a team to watch out for.

The very best of luck to all the Underage players for 2021 and we look forward to a Busy Father Mc Manus pack. Also we can't forget the coaches and all those that volunteer their time in making the club a success that it is. Being the longest serving Senior club in Meath comes with hard work, dedication and commitment. This is all down to Players, Coaches and Committees and most of all the parents who bring the kids to practice and games. We are grateful and we have no doubt that a Keegan Cup is coming soon and Croke Park will be calling. Thanks again and please give us a like on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We even have a You Tube channel that we set up over Covid and put some games from seniors to Underage.



U15s 2020 team who play in a Div 2 Final against Navan O Mahonys



Aerial view of a quiet Father Mc Manus Park during Covid times looking really well thanks to the pitch committee. The grass still had to be maintained.

The Young Guns

- Skryne Tara Under 10s.

The Soccer Season is about to start for Skryne Tara after the pandemic lockdown. It's great for everybody at the club to be able to get back on the pitch even if it's only training at the moment. Both underage and adult players are now back at Ross Cross in preparation for the new season ahead.

As you can see the from the picture above the Under 10 team are ready and raring to go for their first attempt at the mini leagues in the MDL on the Trim Road in Navan.

The Under 14 team are also well ahead in their Training preparations for the season which in the North East Football League is now Summer Soccer. The Ladies team are also back and nearly ready for their League.

The Senior Men's team play in the AUL



and although their Competitions don't start for a while yet, preparations have

Adult training is on Wednesday evenings and new players are always welcome. The Club would like to Thank all our loyal sponsors who have recently supported us again at the Track and also our new sponsors who have just come on board recently.

In these very unusual times for everyone 'Fundraising' is very difficult - therefore your support is most welcome and very much appreciated.

Thank you.

CALLING ALL FUTURE STARS!

Jennie Banks

Our Skryne U8 girls Gaelic Football team are looking for new recruits. This team is all about building friendships, learning new skills and having lots of fun!!

Come on down and give it a try. We train on Mondays and Fridays at 6.30pm.

For more information contact Stephen Naughton on 087 222 5572.





2021 marks the 1,500 anniversary of the birth of St. Colmcille (Columba) in Gartan, Donegal on 7th December 521 A.D. Colmcille is one of our three patron saints. He founded monastic settlements on the Island of Iona, Scotland and in many places in Ireland including Kells where the famous book of the same name was written.

St. Colmcille has very strong associations with Skryne having visited on a number of occasions. In 876 A.D. a much more significant event occurred resulting in the former name

of the area, Achaill, being renamed Scrin-Cholmcille (Scrinium Sancti Columbiae). The shrine of Colmcille containing his relics was brought to Ireland from Iona to protect it from the marauding Danes who were ravaging the coast of Scotland.

Special commemoration events are being organised in Ireland and Scotland to celebrate the life and work of Colmcille during this year. **Scoil Cholmcille Skryne** has been selected along with four other schools in Meath, five in Sligo and ten in Donegal to participate in a digital animation project to celebrate the 1500th year of St. Colmcille's birth. The participating schools will be trained in digital animation, scriptwriting and storyboarding with a view to contributing to an animated film about the life of St. Colmcille. Funded and organised by Meath County Council and the Nerve Centre Creative Learning Centre in Derry, the final pieces of animation will be exhibited and showcased in an event in December.

Mr Fanning's Rang 4 has already begun working on the project and you will see some lovely poems and works of art in this Newsletter. Best wishes to Scoil Cholmcille.



Jane McLoughlin



Although we call him Colmcille, Crimhtann was his name, He kept the tradition and was fostered,

By a chieftain far away.

Cruithneach was a kind man, When he returned late one night, He saw a flame above Crimhtann's head

And in the house he ran.

Indeed Colmcille was a great, great

Ordained a priest a decade later, Spread the word of Jesus, Yes, that's Saint Colmcille.

Finnian's book he copied, Finnian's book he stole, Finnian complained to the king, Then there was war.

The damage he done was dreadful, It most certainly was, Colmcille promised to never return, To the country he once called home.

Iona was where he went, Building monasteries galore, The people of Scotland loved him, But never as much as Ireland.

Skryne was where his relics were buried, Oh yes Skryne it was, Our school, our church are named after him.

Oh Saint Colmcille.

By Charlie Reuter



Oran Lynch

Colmcille

Born in Gartan, Donegal, Crimtheann was his name, He was fostered by 14 When he died he rose to fame, Ooohhh! What a saint he was.

Flame of fire above his head, Copied a friend's book, Name changed to Colmcille, Chance to fight the king he took, Ooohhh! What a saint he was.

3000 men died in the war. He was so sad at what he done, Exiled himself to Iona, Built monasteries, more than one, Ooohhh! What a saint he was.

His relics are in Skryne, Remembered by all in our parish, Our school is named after him, A man everyone will cherish, Ooohhh! What a saint he was.

By Louis Crawley, 4th Class.

Christianity is the thing On that day it made Colmcille sing Loved the book that didn't belong to him My love for the book became a hymn Christianity is the thing **I**magination Life as a saint Loved by the people until he died Everlasting St. Colmcille in our hearts

By Lillie Rose McGoey



Harry O'Farrell



Alicia Dardis

St. Colmcille

I have news for you In 521AD In Gartan, Donegal A baby boy was born His name is Colmcille

I have news for you Got fostered when He turned 13 Saw a flame above his head His name is Colmcille

I have news for you Became a priest Copied a book Fell out with the high king His name is Colmcille

I have news for you Started war over a book Exiled to Iona Set up a monastery His name is Colmcille

I have news for you Spread the word of Jesus Died in 597AD Our school's named after him His name is Colmcille

By Jimmy Shorten

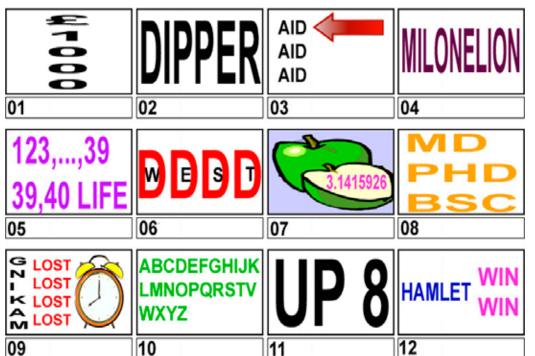


Find the 8 differences

hidden in these two seemingly identical pictures



Can you solve this Dingbats challenge? Answers to the wingdings are directly below the quiz



Degrees, 9 Making Up For Lost Time, 10 Missing You, 11 Up Before Eight, 12 Play To Win 1 Grandstand, 2 Big Dipper, 3 First Aid, 4 One In A Million, 5 Life Begins At Forty, 6 West Indies, 7 Apple Pie, 8 The Three

Answers to Dingbats challenge



Some Awful Jokes



₹hey have Dial-a-Prayer for atheists now - you call up and it rings and rings but nobody answers.



tourist, planning a Atrip to the Holy Land, was aghast when he found it would cost £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. "Goodness," he objected to the travel agent. "In England it would not have been more than £20." "That might be true," said the travel agent, "but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord Himself walked." "Well, at £50 an hour for a boat," said the tourist, "it's no wonder He walked."



Scottish lady invited a **A**gentleman to dinner on a particular day, and he accepted with the dour reservation: "If I am spared." "Weel, weel," she replied briskly, "If ye're deid I'll no'expect ye."



RST committee & readers send get well wishes to Norbert Coyle, Oberstown. Wishing him a speedy recovery following his stay in hospital. Hopefully we will see you out and about with your camera soon.





Bird Watching in Lockdown

Editorial Notice

The Rathfeigh, Skryne and Tara newsletter (RST) is published by the RST committee supported by submissions from the local community.

It provides a community news and information service to the people and organisations in the area as well as people from further afield.

The RST is provided digitally, free of charge, to anyone who provides their e-mail to the RST committee. E-mails are not shared with anyone outside the committee.

Anyone or any company who would like to sponsor the RST are welcome to make a request to the committee.

Anyone who wishes to advertise anything in the RST are asked to make a small contribution to have their advert published.

The RST committee reserves the right to alter, abridge, or omit material, including advertisements submitted, if in its opinion such submissions are seen to affect the Newsletter's function to the community as a whole.

The RST is open to all Articles, letters or other submissions from contributors and are always welcome. However, such published contributions do not necessarily reflect the views of the RST committee. The RST committee are committed to trying to ensure only accurate and legal articles are published.

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

NO JOB TOO SMALL!

Supply and Fitting of Fireplaces & Stoves

Contact: Pauric T: 046 9034846 M: 085 1597105

Brian O'Reilly









Condolences

We express our smphathy to the following:

- Agnes Fox on the death of her mother Mabel McNally, Naul
- Brenda Smith on the death of her sister Florence in England
- The family of Pat Bennet, Tymoole, Rathfeigh
- The Hogan family Macetown on the death of Peter
- Annette Cassidy, Cabragh on the death of her sister Agnes in Monaghan
- To Marie and Pentony family Rathfeigh on the sudden passing of Jim



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- Paye employees Year End Assessment
- Rental Income computations
- Company secretarial CRO
- New business sole trader and limited company start up
- Company voluntary strike off

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Submissions on or before Wednesday 23th June

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