



RST Community Newsletter

RATHFEIGH/SKRYNE/TARA

30th October 2021 • Issue No. 8

Skryne GFC Memorial Garden

Skryne GFC are in the process of developing a Memorial Garden inside the gates of Fr. McManus Park. This garden will be dedicated to all our young people with GAA connections in our Parish who died tragically far too early in their lives.

Presently Jimmy Gibbons is busy cultivating, sowing and planting etc in preparation for an official opening which will be some time early in the Spring when the fruits of his labour are in full bloom.

Richard Swan will engrave the names on a memorial plaque which will be erected in the centre of the garden. At the moment we have over thirty names to enter on this Plaque and we are aware that some names could be omitted in error or because we don't know of their connection with the club.

In order to avoid this problem we are asking people to contact either - Dermot on 086 876 0337 or Joe on 086 1767006 to find out details of the names we have already or to add names to the list.



Joan Gallagher Archive

PG2

The Schools Collection

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Colmcille 1500

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Skryne Community Alert

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The Hi Digital Program

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Skryne GFC

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The Night Sky

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TARA & DISTRICT CREDIT UNION

Milestones along the Journey of Life

Joan Gallagher

“Gaining A Son-In-Law”

In 1994 Anne married Alan and they bought a house one mile away, and they have spent a huge amount of time making a lovely garden.

I consider myself extremely lucky that I dearly love my Daughter-in-Law and my Son-in-Law, and I realise I'm very fortunate that they all live close by.

Retirement

In 1996 I took early retirement from An Post and “reclaimed” a piece of ground at the back of my house and turned it into a beautiful garden of which I am very proud, it is an oasis of peace and quiet. It is impossible to feel anything other than closer to nature and God in a nice garden.



Rathfeigh Historical Society

Retirement also gives me more time to enjoy working with the members of Rathfeigh Historical Society, (of which I am Secretary at the moment).

This Society was the “brainchild” of the Late Jim Clarke, of Edoxtown, it was something he talked about for a very long time and eventually in the year 1985 Jim gathered a few of us together for a meeting in the local school and the Rathfeigh Local Historical Society was “born”.

an extract from Joan Gallagher's book “Milestones along the Journey of Life”

“Why Avril is digging into the dusty past”

Rathfeigh's Jim Clarke is a bit of a legend in his own right. For when it comes to knowledge of local history, Jim could keep you interested for hours on end. Which was what tended to happen to Jim's neighbour Avril Molloy whenever she popped in for a visit.

So Avril, together with Jim and a few locals, decided that something should be done to chronicle this wealth of an area that brims with folklore and history.

Avril also visited the Drogheda Independent offices where, she waded through a 100 years of our dust covered issues and managed to glean even more interesting snippets of Rathfeigh and environs. So five weeks ago (end of Nov.) a meeting was called in the local national school with a view to setting up the Rathfeigh Local Historical Society, and the response was surprising with 17 people turning up two weeks later to elect a committee.

The immediate aim of the new group is to bring out pamphlets and information leaflets containing some of Jim Clarke's vast knowledge, as well as newspaper cuttings.

Eventually they hope to join the National Federation of Local History Societies. The committee are as follows: Chairman Jim Clarke; Secretary Barbara Curran; Treasurer, Phil McCann; John Halligan, Avril Molloy committee members. That is what the Drogheda Independent printed in 1986, and I have to say that

Jim left us a great legacy, and I'm glad to say the Society is still going strong. We publish a Journal every couple of years entitled **“A Window on the Past”**, it is a collection of all things Historical, local and not so local.

In 1987 (egged on by Jim) a number of the members “attacked” Trevet Graveyard and cleaned it up, this was a huge job, as it was terribly overgrown. but I remember we had great fun doing it. It looked great and we were very pleased with the job, but because we didn't continue with the clipping and weeding and mowing and strimming, of course it got completely overgrown again, and about a year ago two or three of the members took it upon themselves to have a go at another “clean-up”, and they have done a great job. Trevet Graveyard, (near Dunshaughlin) is reputed to be the oldest Christian burial ground in Ireland, and so is of great historical importance

This is a piece from the Drogheda Independent 3rd. Jan. 1986.

Macetown Castle

Macetown castle is in the parish of Skryne. It was plundered by Cromwell in the year 1649. After that a family named Cheyney came to live in the castle. It is said that there is a huntsman's shoe full of gold hidden there but there is a life supposed to be lost in the finding of it. It is also said that there was a fight between the servants in the castle and after the fight their effigies were inscribed on stones and left in the castle.

There is also the remains of a church and a cemetery to be seen near by.

John Lynch

Dorca,

Rathfugh

This month's Dúchas article, "Macetown Castle", was written by John Lynch from Rathfeigh School. Image and data © National Folklore Collection, UCD

Colmcille 1500

Maurice Daly, 30 October 2021.

On the 7th Dec 2021, we celebrate the 1,500 anniversary of the birth of Colmcille. This is a very significant celebration for our parish of Skryne. There is a very strong Meath and Skryne connection with Colmcille: in 876 AD , Achail the former name of the area was changed to Scrín Cholmcille (Scrinium Sancti Columbae) when the relics of Colmcille were stored in the monastery on the hill to protect them from the marauding Danes; our almost 200 year old church in Skryne is dedicated to St Colmcille and Skryne School is known as Scoil Cholmcille. Mr Fanning's 4th class in Skryne is participating in the project and you may have seen lovely poems and art from his class in the RST Newsletter. Best wishes to Scoil Cholmcille.

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 world-famous book of the same name was written.

Special commemoration events are being organised in Ireland and Scotland to celebrate the life and work of Colmcille. **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 the saint'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 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 have already been working on the project and you will have seen lovely poems and works of art by his class in the RST Newsletter. Best wishes to Scoil Cholmcille.

St. Colmcille.

Colmcille was born in Gartan, Co. Donegal on **7th December 521**. His mother **Eithne** was a princess, from **Fanad** (Co. Donegal) and his father **Fedhlemidh (Phelim)** was a member of the Ó Néill dynasty. He was christened Criomhthann (meaning 'fox'). As with other princes, he was sent for fosterage in his youth and spent some time at the home of Cruithneachan, a holy man. Criomhthann was converted to Christianity and from early on spent many hours in prayer and meditation. **He was renamed Colmcille (from the Latin Columba) meaning "Dove of the Church."**

His education.

Colmcille's education has been described as an odyssey. His first monastic school was in Moville in Strandford Lough, Co. Down where he studied theology and learned the art of copying and illustrating manuscripts, under the tutelage of St. Finnian. He was ordained a deacon and later studied in both **Clonard** in Meath under another **St. Finnian** (patron saint of



the Meath Diocese) and in Glasnevin under St. Mobhí. He was ordained a priest in Clonard in 546- an important milestone in his life that began a half century of a remarkable C.V.

Colmcille's foundations in Ireland 546 – 563.

His first monastic foundation was in **Derry** in a place called Daire – “an oak grove” which later lends its name to the city of Derry. For the next 17 years, he continued teaching and preaching in Ireland, resulting in more than 300 houses associated with his name that may have been founded by the monks in his community, either during his lifetime or centuries afterwards: Durrow in Laois; Swords in Dublin; Drumcliffe in Sligo; Kells in Meath and Tory Island.

Why did Colmcille leave Ireland?

There is a lot of speculation why Colmcille and 12 monk companions left Ireland for Iona, Scotland in 563. Why did he pick **Iona**, a small bleak island off the west coast of Scotland? Historians agree that King Conall of the Irish kingdom of Dal Riada in that area gave him the island of area c.5 sq. miles. **Scholars conclude that the exile was as much political as it was religious.** Colmcille's clan, the Uí Néill fought and defeated the army of Diarmuid MacCearbhall, the High King, killing three thousand of his soldiers. Colmcille being very upset and guilty for the carnage, decided to leave Ireland and convert as many to make up for the battle dead. However, there is another more popular traditional story about his exile. At the time it was common in monasteries to copy and decorate manuscripts and King Diarmuid, had found Colmcille guilty in a “breach of copyright” case. The allegation was that while he was a student in Moville, Colmcille had copied a manuscript. Finnian took his case to the Ard Rí

whose famous judgement was: **“To every cow her calf and to every book its copy!”**

Colmcille in Scotland.

Colmcille remained in Scotland for most of his remaining 34 years. At Iona he built a strong monastic settlement with a dedicated community devoted to prayer, study and physical work. Copying and illumination of manuscripts, similar to the Book of Kells, were produced there. He preached to the warring Picts and Scots of Dal Riada leading to harmonious relations between them and paving the way for the later spread of the gospel. He and his disciples preached to the Pictish tribes in Scotland establishing monasteries in many places. Colmcille returned to Ireland a number of times but the parent house in Iona exercised supremacy over all the monasteries and establishments he had set up in Ireland, Scotland, and northern England.

Death of Colmcille 9th June, 597 in Iona.

According to traditional sources, **Columba died in Iona on Sunday 9th June 597.** His monks buried him in the grounds of the monastery but many years later his bones were disinterred and are thought to be buried in Downpatrick along with St. Patrick and St. Brigid. The old rhyme tells us: **“In Down, three saints, one grave they fill, Patrick, Brigid and Colmcille.”**

What kind of man was Colmcille?

How can we answer this question in any detail about a man who died 1,500 years ago? For an insight into the character and personality of Columba, modern historians rely on **St. Adamnán’s “Life of Colmcille”** which was written in Iona about one hundred years after the saint’s death and which has been translated from Latin into English in recent times. Some historians have been negative and critical and dismiss Colmcille as a politician, but Adamnán presents him as a kindly, prayerful man “in tune with nature” who showed great concern for the sick, the wayward, the poor and the downtrodden. Discipline and austerity were features of his religious community but “he mellowed with the passage of time.” His prestige after death was so great that many Scottish, Irish and Norwegian kings requested to be buried in Iona, which is still a place of pilgrimage.

Colmcille and the Skryne connection.

It is recorded in Adamnán’s “Life of Columba” that **Columba (Colmcille), visited the Augustinian monastery at Achail (as Skryne was then called) around 560 AD** and he also visited a neighbouring small monastery, that we now know to be **Trevet** (on the Bog Road from Skryne to Dunshaughlin). We also read that **he visited Tara** probably around the same time, where allegedly he was “angered by the pagan elements that were manifest at the Feis in Tara” but we have no details of what was involved.

But in 876 AD, a much more significant event occurred, resulting in Achail being renamed **Scrín Cholmcille** (Scrinium Sancti Columbae). The shrine of Colmcille containing his valuable relics was brought to Ireland from Iona to protect it from the marauding Danes who were plundering and robbing along the west coast of Scotland. It is recorded that the monastery on the hill of Skryne was plundered at least five times by the Danes and by the Irish. St. Colmcille’s relics were robbed by the Dublin Danes in 1127 A.D. but fortunately

were recovered. We can therefore conclude that **St. Colmcille is long associated with the parish of Skryne.**

Colmcille and the Loch Ness Monster.

Legends and miracles have always been associated with Irish saints and St. Colmcille is no exception. Travelling in Scotland, Colmcille is said to have encountered the legendary **Loch Ness Monster**. The saint and his entourage of monks were rowing and praying as they crossed the lake when suddenly the monster stuck up his ugly head and frightened the life out of the monks. But Colmcille had other ideas and challenged the beast. Raising his right hand, he commanded the monster to retreat to the bottom of the lake. The brute fled! The local pagans were amazed and many converted to Christianity.

The Prophecies of St. Columba.

The story of Colmcille would not be complete without reference to the prophecies the saint is reputed to have made. From the time of the Pagan Druids, the Irish were always influenced and gave credence to signs and writings which were regarded as prophetic. The Druids of the Ard Rí Laoghaire who lived on Tara, predicted the coming of St. Patrick, warning the monarch of the consequences if this stranger was allowed launch his mission. This deep-rooted veneration for sayings which professed to forecast events, passed on to the Christian Irish and flourished down through the centuries and were attributed to saints like Colmcille, Malachy, and Senan. How seriously are those prophecies now taken? We have heard from time to time that the world would end but thankfully, it’s still spinning on its axis! Though the life of Colmcille was written in the 8th century by Adamnán, a kinsman of his own in Iona, not a solitary prophetic verse is recorded. However, in 1855, Nicholas Kearney, a Louth folklorist published an English book purporting to be the prophecies of Columba. He stated that his version was a translation of Adamnán’s book. Something doesn’t add up here!!

The prophecies attributed to Colmcille, seem to predict some of the most significant events in the history of Ireland from invasions to Famine. I will quote a few examples: **the fall of Tara is foretold as follows:** “Tara of Magh Bregia, which you now see so prosperous, shall be covered with grass- all of its buildings and its elevated site.” **The Famine is predicted:** “Death will become oppressive throughout the land, though there shall be abundance of food in one part. Thousands will die of starvation; houses shall be felled. Afterwards the land shall become a barren waste. The pure fair Gael will fly away into exile both into the east and into the west.”

References:

1. St. Adamnán, “Life of Columba,” 7th Century,
2. Dr. Brian Lacey, “The Discovery Project, Dublin.”
3. Rev. Robert McNamara, “St. Columba of Iona.” 2006.
4. Nicholas O’Kearney, “The Prophecies of Saint Columcille etc.” 1856.
5. Wikipedia: “Columba” 2021.

Skryne Community Alert

Now that the shorter days are here, we need to be more vigilant and make sure our homes and possessions are secure from theft. We have seen an increase in opportunist thefts in the area in the last few weeks, with thieves taking advantage of the cover of darkness. Here are some statistics and tips from the Gardai on how to avoid becoming a victim to these vermin.



Data from the Garda Analysis Service shows that one-third of all burglaries are through the front doors - with most burglars using their own body to gain entry. Other key findings include:

- Burglars also commonly target back doors (26%), back windows (24%) and front windows (8%), with one in five cases involving a burglar getting access through an unsecured door or window.
- Jewellery and cash remain the most common objects stolen, with €600 being the average value of goods taken.
- Computers, mobile phones, TVs and games consoles are also among the top items stolen.
- Nearly half of burglaries (46%) occur between 5pm and 11pm.
- The practice of 'fishing', where car keys are fished through a letterbox by burglars, also remains a problem with the Dublin region most at risk.

Having your home burgled is a distressing and traumatic experience. An Garda Síochána is hoping that by raising awareness of some simple crime prevention measures, such as locking up and lighting up, less Irish families will have to endure the pain of being burgled this winter.

If going out, Irish homeowners should endeavour to make sure their home looks occupied - to Lock Up and Light Up. Use timer switches to turn on lights, lock all doors and windows, store keys away from windows and letterboxes, and use your alarm.

Taking these simple steps will lessen a home's vulnerability, deter burglars and protect homes.

We would also remind you to ensure your sheds are secured and well lit and alarmed if possible. Some recent thefts from the RST area include a ride-on mower.

Please call your local Gardai on 018010600 to report all suspicious activity in the area. It could save you or your neighbours from the distress of being burgled.

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A letter from the Yank

Anne Frehill

It is hard to believe that November is just around the corner. In the Christian tradition during this month we remember all our loved ones who have died: parents, a husband, a wife, siblings, sons, daughters, relatives, friends, neighbours, colleagues and those who chanced across our path for their little acts of kindness.

It brings to my mind a quote from Daphne Du Maurier - an English novelist and playwright
(Born 13-5-1907 Died 19-4-1989).

“If only there could be an invention that bottled up a memory, like scent. And it never faded, and it never got stale. And then when one wanted it, the bottle could be uncorked, and it would be like living the moment all over again.”

In the hallowed landscape of my childhood memories, there is one golden day which towers above all the others. My father, a farmer, monitored the weather like a meteorologist, except his predictions were based on a combination of Old Moore`s Almanac and the movements of birds and animals.

One long, glorious summer`s day in the late 1960`s when a prolonged spell of scorching weather arrived, the biggest meadow was mown. Each morning that followed he turned the swards with a horse drawn hay -rake and on the third day he declared it fit to be made into haycocks. Then enlisting the help of two local brothers and some young schoolboys, the stage was set for a bumper crop.

The heady scent of cut grass mixed with wild- flowers and plants including white and red clover filled my nostrils as my young legs tried to keep up with the “haymakers” who reached the meadow in purposeful strides. They reminded me of warriors with their hayforks slung across their right shoulders, and a steely determination in their eyes.

Like a ship`s Captain, my father assigned the brothers to the section known as the “Headland”, and the boys to a small strip near the rusty iron gate, while he took pride of place at the centre of the meadow. I was deemed too young to be of any use, instead I sat in the shade of a haycock and reread one of my favourite books by Enid Blyton about the Famous Five. While my father and his retinue of helpers laboured under the prickly heat of the sun, and dodged flies with their faded straw hats, in my imagination I was in Corfe castle on the Dorset coast along with Julian, Dick, Anne, Georgina, and their dog Timmy (Enid Blyton`s five famous characters). And in my mind`s eye I drank ginger beer and searched for treasure with them.

When noon approached, my father plunged his fork into the half-made haycock and listened intently in that bucolic setting, where skylarks and thrushes put on an aerial display to put even the Royal Air Force`s *Red Arrows* to shame. Then as the distant sound of the church bells from Dunsany travelled through the still air, he removed his hat, and beckoned to my mother, who had arrived to lend a hand, to lead the prayers of

the Angelus while he answered them along with the others.

Afterwards, I followed my mother through the lush grass where Friesian cows were grazing. Suddenly, I realized that I had stepped into a fresh, round mass of vivid green waste from the cow`s rear. Tears flowed, and my nose and throat were filled with an overpowering smell worse than rotten eggs. However, ten minutes later and we were back at the house where I washed away all traces of the dung.

Then my mother made chunky ham sandwiches, buttered scones, and filled a huge teapot with tea, plenty of sugar and creamy milk. Along with 5 cups, everything was packed neatly into a large basket.

We were just about to return to the hayfield when the Postman arrived. It`s American stamp made my mother leave down her load on the ground. Excitedly, her fingers tore open the envelope. I watched while her eyes scanned the neat handwriting, for a few moments there was total silence. Then she put the letter into her pocket and exclaimed.

“The Yank is coming to visit in August.”

I digested this cryptic news as we resumed our journey, aware that my mother had a far -away look in her eyes. All I knew with certainty was that three times per year, a long letter arrived from Rhode Island, packed with not only news but American dollars from Daddy`s cousin Margaret.

When we reached the meadow, the men hurried over to our unpretentious picnic. They sat on the ground and my mother handed the letter to my father with a big smile. While she poured the tea and I handed out the cups, he digested the contents of the letter, and the brothers, dangled cigarettes from their mouths.

Then we tucked into the simple fare which for me seemed like a sumptuous repast. Afterwards, my father took me for a stroll along the hedgerows where wild roses bloomed.

He explained that he had not seen Margaret since 1920 when he was just five years old and she a girl of 20 summers. Yet, he could recall vividly the “American Wake” which his family had had for her and the empty months which followed, in which her absence seemed to be palpable.

Several decades later, he was overjoyed that they would soon meet again.

Something changed for me too on that eventful July day as there were intimations of other times and other lives lived.

Finally, a few lines from Charles Dickens that rings true from the mists of time.

“Have a heart that never hardens, and a temper that never tires and a touch that never hurts.”



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Vodafone Ireland Foundation

The Vodafone Ireland Foundation in partnership with Active Retirement Ireland and ALONE have just launched Hi Digital, a new five-year free digital skills training program especially for older people but open to anyone who wants to learn basic and essential online skills. The web site is www.hidigital.ie

The Hi Digital Program will support people who want to improve their digital skills.

It's a free learning experience that aims to support both self-learners and those helping others to get on-line.

The course takes people through a basic introduction to the internet: how to use devices like smartphones, tablets and iPads;

email; social media; WhatsApp; video chat; how to listen to music; how to use You Tube & Google;

do shopping on-line; do banking on-line; research anything and read the RST Newsletter!

We in the RST Community Centre have been in touch with Meath Partnership with a view to having some more IT classes in the centre in the future.

N.B. In the meantime, if you or someone you know would like to learn essential on-line skills, - get started immediately on a free on-line course at

www.hidigital.ie

Oliver Harrington & Maurice Daly at the RST Community Centre.

Reference:

The RTE Guide October 9-15, 2021.

Rathfeigh National School

Seamus Tansley

The first term of the school year has flown by. Everyone in the Rathfeigh school community has worked extremely well together in what has been an exceptionally busy and productive time in our school. It hasn't been without its challenges as the cloud of Covid-19 continues to loom over our society. All the staff in Rathfeigh have worked diligently since returning to school for which I thank them. The children in Rathfeigh have been exceptionally resilient and after working extremely hard since returning to school after the summer holidays on August 26th they deserve a well-earned rest. We hope they enjoy the break and have an enjoyable and spook-tacular Halloween!

Enrolments for September 2022

We have started accepting applications from Parents/Guardians who will have children starting school for the 2022/23 school year. You can download the Enrolment Form from the school website (rathfeighns.org). If you would like to find out more information about the school and activities please e-mail the school (rathfeighns@outlook.com).

First Communion/First Confession

The children in 3rd class received the two sacraments on October 9th in Rathfeigh Church. It was a lovely ceremony for which we thank Fr. Thomas. Despite not being able to practice in the Church due to Covid-19 the children showed great maturity in saying the readings and prayers with the mobile microphone.

We were delighted that all the pupils were able to play an active part in the ceremony and again I thank Fr Thomas for facilitating this. We thank Rita for playing the organ which really added to the ceremony.

A special thanks to Helen for producing the beautiful Communion booklet, to Mrs Vaughan and Mrs Campbell for decorating the Church and to our Parents' Association for the gifts they gave to the children.

"The Hideaway"

A few weeks ago we ran a competition for the children to name our Sensory Room. The children came up with amazing ideas and numerous names would have been apt for the room. After a lot of deliberations the name that was chosen was "The Hideaway". Well done to Lucy in 6th class who came up with the winning name. Well done and thanks Lucy!

We are fortunate and excited to have acquired the services of Una Curran who runs "Finding your Wings". Una will be visiting the school for six weeks starting the week after Halloween. Una is an expert in the field of mindfulness and well-being. Una strongly believes that understanding and supporting your emotional and mental health is vital for good health at every age. She will be working with all classes after Halloween with a focus on the children's well-being. Well-being will be developed through mindfulness, movement, story, literacy and relaxation. We can't wait for Una to start and her classes will undoubtedly benefit the children especially after the negative impact of Covid-19.

Parents' Association Fundraiser

Following on from last year's "Marathon Relay" fundraiser in aid of the Sensory Room our Parents' Association organised a very successful "Cash for Clobber" fundraiser during the mid-term break. Thanks to everyone in the Rathfeigh and Skryne community for helping us in this fundraiser.

All the children were given a "Guess the Weight of the Clobber" card before the school closed for the mid-term. These cards must be returned on Monday November 1st. The cost per "Guess" is 2 Euro. The closest "Guess" wins a hamper. Best of luck!!!!

Computer Room

Our school computer room is back up and running after not being in use due to Covid. Our IT consultant Colm started back two weeks ago teaching the children various digital literacy skills and will be returning for a further two weeks after Halloween. The children's excitement on being back in the computer room was lovely to see and we can see the benefits already. Thanks Colm.

Gaelic Football Training

The children in all classes were very excited to see Damien Sheridan returning to the school for weekly Gaelic Football training. Damien is always so encouraging and patient with the children and they were delighted to hear that he will be in Rathfeigh for a further four weeks in November. Thanks Damien.

Friendship Week/ Anti-Bullying Week

We celebrated Friendship/Anti-Bullying Week a number of weeks ago. The aim of Friendship Week was to re-inforce the importance of friendships in our lives and particularly while in school. In class we discussed the importance of friendships and that friends can have "ups and downs" from time to time. All classes did a variety of interesting activities during the week e.g. acrostic Names, Friendship hands, poems etc.

"A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out"

Meath Children's Book Festival

This year's book festival took place online due to Covid-19 but was no less interesting as a result! The various classes had a variety of live Zoom sessions from Irish authors – Ronan Moore, Patricia Forde, Una Woods and Jennifer Farley- as well as a Book Quiz. These sessions were very interesting and the children were fully engaged throughout and they had the opportunity to ask the authors questions. The authors also gave their advice to

the children on how to write short stories or books. Hopefully next year we will be able to see the authors in person!

Maths Week

We celebrated Maths Week from October 18th to October 22nd. The children engaged very positively with the variety of activities over the course of the week. The daily live Zoom maths sessions were very entertaining and informative which got the children thinking about maths in a different way! The message to the children is very simple – **Maths is all around us!**

Halloween Fancy Dress/Pumpkin Competition

The Halloween and Fancy Dress competition are one of the highlights of the school year for many children. The variety of costumes on display was huge. Many thanks to all the parents/guardians who got up early to help with their children's costumes. It was all worthwhile!! The standard in the pumpkin competition is getting higher year on year. We

had the difficult task of picking a top three in all classes. Well done to everyone who took part in the competition.

Personally, a big thanks to Mrs Vaughan, Mrs Campbell, Ms O'Donoghue, Ms Reynolds, Nicola (SNA), Mrs Cooke, Helen, Ingrid and all the substitute teachers. Our Staff in Rathfeigh are excellent and their commitment to the education of the children is second to none for which I thank them.

Thanks, also, to all the parents/guardians for their continuous support of the school particularly during Covid-19.

Of course the children in Rathfeigh are excellent in every manner but I want to thank them for their unbelievable resilience and good humour over the last 18 months. They're a credit to themselves and their families. With their great attitude and spirit it's easy coming to work each day! Thanks.

Happy Halloween.



09 October 2021

Rathkenny edge Skryne to advance to Final

Rathkenny 2-10, Skryne 1-08

Premier Football Championship. Division 5 – Semi final.

Skryne took an eternity to get all the cylinders firing in this game in sunny Rathkenny and found themselves five points down by the time the game broke for the first water break having registered only a single point in the opening quarter, the point coming in the first minute of the game when Daniel Fitzpatrick fielded a Gary Browne kickout. He sent the ball down to Allan Carty who knocked it down to Aidan Gill. Gill popped it over from the right hand side. After that Skryne were guilty of giving away possession time and time again, handing Rathkenny the advantage as they capitalised on these mistakes. Water break: Rathkenny 0-6, Skryne 0-1.

Both sides were reduced to 14 men shortly after the water break with Jayo Fox seeing red for Skryne. Rathkenny added another point from their lively number 15 before Mark Harrington added Skryne's second point on the 25th minute of the game. Rathkenny's pacy corner forward again found the target after cutting in along the endline and pointing from a tight angle. Ronan McCabe made a burst forward as the game moved into injury time and was fouled 30 yards from goal. Allan Carty stroked over the free. Mark Harrington hit the target for his second point on the stroke of half time after Colm McLoughlin made a fine block to win back possession for Skryne. Despite a miserable opening quarter, Skryne were only four points down at half time. Half time: Rathkenny 0-8, Skryne 0-4.

The second half saw a barren opening five minutes with neither side troubling the scoreboard. But the game suddenly burst into life when Mark Harrington sent a delicious ball into Aidan Gill who rounded his opponent and raced towards the Rathkenny goal before dispatching the ball low under the keeper and into the back of the net. Skryne were back

within one point of Rathkenny. From the kickout Rathkenny moved the ball forward quickly and their troublesome corner forward hit a shot that was well saved by Gary Browne. However, the ball rebounded out and the Rathkenny centre forward was quickest to react finishing the ball to the back of the Skryne net to restore their four point lead. Brian Smyth pulled a point back for Skryne, but then came the sucker punch when Rathkenny were awarded a penalty on the fourteenth minute after one of their forwards was taken down inside the Skryne penalty area. Their prolific corner forward stepped up and coolly slotted the ball to the left hand side of the goal. A Felim O'Rourke free was Skryne's final score of the third quarter. Water break: Rathkenny 2-8, Skryne 1-6.

In the final quarter Rathkenny hit two more points to extend their lead. Felim O'Rourke added two more frees, but alas Skryne were not able to reel the Rathkenny men in and the game finished with Rathkenny triumphant on a scoreline of Rathkenny 2-10, Skryne 1-08.

This was an excellent campaign for the Skrynemen who produced some brilliant performances, particularly in their first game against Rathkenny where they produced a superb comeback to secure a draw when the game looked to have been lost.

Skryne: Gary Browne; Paddy O'Leary, Paul McGoldrick, Liam Gill; Colm McLoughlin, James Looby, Ciarán Finnerty; Ronan McCabe, Mark Harrington(0-2); Jason Fox, Allan Carty(0-1, 1f), Daniel Fitzpatrick; Bryan Clarke, Felim O'Rourke(0-3, 3fs), Aidan Gill(1-1).

Subs Used: Brian Smyth(0-1,1f), James Keane, Michael Swan, Niall Morley, Martin Mulvany

Blotto Results

03rd October 2021

Numbers drawn: 02, 17, 27, 28

Jackpot €10,000

No winner of this week's jackpot. Quick pick winners were

- Harry McQuaid
- Amy McQuaid
- Brenda Govern
- Johnny Quinn

10th October 2021

Numbers drawn: 02, 07, 19, 24
Jackpot €10,000

Jackpot WON!!!

Congratulations to Nichola Cowley who was the lucky winner of our Blotto jackpot of €10,000

17th October 2021

Numbers drawn: 02, 09, 13, 25

Jackpot €6,400

No winner of this week's jackpot. Quick pick winners were

- Cormac Keogh
- Jimmy Swan Snr
- Eamon Giles
- Patricia Gaynor

The Blotto jackpot for

24th October 2021 is

€6,500.

10th October 2021

Powerful second half from Skryne seals comfortable victory over Curraha

Skryne 0-16 Curraha 0-09

Fairyhouse Steel Senior Football Championship. Relegation Playoff Quarter Final.

Neighbours Skryne and Curraha were thrown together for a mouth watering relegation playoff quarter final in sunny Dunshaughlin in front of a sizeable crowd at 1pm today. Despite earning a win and a draw in Group D, Skryne still found themselves in a relegation dogfight against Curraha who had struggled in Group B with 3 heavy defeats leaving them rock bottom of the group. Nevertheless, Skryne were acutely aware of the danger that Curraha pose, particularly with James Toner making a return to their ranks after a spell away.

The first half was an epic battle as the sides traded scores throughout. Curraha raced into an early two point lead with Conor Moriarty and Padraic O'Hanrahan registering points in the opening two minutes. Shane Smyth who was electric throughout, got the first of his four points with a fine shot with the outside of his boot from just inside the 40. A point from Gavin Coyle and two frees from the ever reliable Padraig Finnerty drew the sides level at three points each. Skryne were then awarded a penalty after Darragh Champion was pulled down in the Curraha penalty area. Niall Finnerty stepped up to take the peno and his shot to the right hand side of the goal was parried away superbly by Luke McCarthy in the Curraha goal. Indeed McCarthy kept Curraha in the game in the first half with two fine saves from Niall Finnerty to deny Skryne two golden goal opportunities. Frank Carty was also guilty of spurning a goal chance when he raced in on the Curraha goal only to shoot wide. To be fair, this was Frank's only mistake in an otherwise excellent performance as he pushed hard for the man of the match accolade. The man of the match award today must surely go to Robbie Clarke who was in superb form in Skryne's defence as he persistently won every ball that came near him. A point from Curraha saw them lead by the minimum at the first half water break. Skryne 0-3, Curraha 0-4.

Diarmuid Moriarty was excellent for Curraha in the first half and in the second quarter he hit four points (two frees). Shane Smyth kept Skryne in touch with two points to increase his personal tally to three. Captain Fantastic Paddy Fox got his name on the scoresheet with a fine point after some excellent

work from Stephen O'Brien to win possession. A pointed free from Padraig Finnerty on the stroke of half-time saw the teams leave the field with only a point separating them. Skryne 0-7, Curraha 0-8.

Skryne had a huddle at half-time and the message was quite clear. We're playing well, just keep doing what we're doing and the scores will come and they did, the first a monster of a point from Oisín Keogh from out near the right hand side touchline. Skryne hit the front for the first time in the game when Mark Battersby struck a point from the left hand side after he received an excellent pass from Ciarán Lenehan. Curraha's only point of the half came in the eighth minute when Diarmuid Moriarty got his fifth score of the afternoon. Darragh Champion who tormented Curraha throughout the game, hit two points on the trot to give Skryne a two point advantage at the second half water break. Skryne 0-11, Curraha 0-09.

The final quarter was comfortable for Skryne as Curraha tired. Padraig Finnerty tapped over his fourth pointed free before Mark Battersby (two points) and Shane Smyth hit the target again. The final score of the game fittingly came from the boot of inspirational captain Paddy Fox who drove his troops forward all afternoon.

Well done to Liam Harnan, Aidan Tuite, Vinny Reilly and all the team on securing another year in the Senior Championship.

Curraha have another chance to save themselves from the drop in the Relegation Playoff Semi final where they play Navan O'Mahonys.

Skryne: Ian Gillett; Niall Lenehan, Ciarán Lenehan, Robbie Clarke; Frank Carty, Patrick Fox (0-2), Shane Smyth (0-4); Harry Rooney, Darragh Champion (0-2, 1f); Oisín Keogh (0-1), Padraig Finnerty (0-4, 4fs), Stephen O'Brien, Niall Finnerty, David McGoldrick, Mark Battersby (0-3).

Subs used: Conor O'Brien



10th October 2021

Gaeil Colmcille too strong for Skryne

Gaeil Colmcille 4-15 Skryne 2-08

Premier Football Championship. Division 1 - Relegation Playoff Semi Final.



Despite the margin of victory, Skryne put in an excellent spirited performance in this Relegation Playoff semi final in Grangegodden. Skryne opened the scoring with a Ronan McCabe point. Gaeil Colmcille equalised before Billy Reilly and then McCabe again added to Skryne's tally. Gaeil Colmcille pulled a point back before Billy Reilly guided the ball into the back of the

net for Skryne after Ronan McCabe floated a ball into the Gaeil Colmcille penalty area. Two minutes later Gaeil Colmcille hit back with a goal of their own when the ball fell to a Kellsman in front of the Skryne goal. He made no mistake when he buried the ball past Des McAvinney in the Skryne goal. Another point from Gaeil Colmcille saw them level matters at the first half water break. Gaeil Colmcille 1-3, Skryne 1-3.

Gaeil Colmcille ramped it up in the second quarter, scoring 1-4 without a reply from Skryne, the goal was a bit of a slobbery effort as their #13 weaved through the Skryne defence from the right hand side before getting a sliced shot off when falling to the ground. The shot was deflected over the diving Des McAvinney and into the Skryne net. Skryne replied with two points(1 free) from John Morley to reduce the deficit to five points at half-time. Gaeil Colmcille 2-7, Skryne 1-5

Gaeil Colmcille killed the game off as a contest in the third quarter. They kicked things off with three points inside the

first two minutes of the half. John Morley slotted over a free for Skryne's only score of the quarter. A third goal followed for Gaeil Colmcille as they began to cut Skryne adrift. This goal came when a ball was squared across from the right hand side and palmed to the net. They followed this goal with three more unanswered points before hitting their fourth goal just before the whistle blew for the second half water break, when a Kells forward slid a low shot past Des McAvinney into the Skryne net. Water break: Gaeil Colmcille 4-13, Skryne 1-06.

Skryne to their credit never gave up. John Morley scored a spectacular point from near the left hand sideline and Niall Morland added another with a fine shot with the outside of his boot from distance. Gaeil Colmcille hit two points of their own, but with the last kick of the game, John Morley fired Skryne's second goal after some great work from George Fitzpatrick who found Morley free inside the Kells penalty area. Final score: Gaeil Colmcille 4-15, Skryne 2-08.

Skryne showed great heart as a team in today's game and had great performances from Jack Swan in particular at full back, Niall Morland and the two Fitzpatricks. Skryne will now face Seneschalstown in the Relegation Playoff Final to try to secure their place in Division 1 for 2022

Skryne: Des McAvinney; Shane McEnroy, Jack Swan, Paddy Wright; George Fitzpatrick, Andrew Moore, Scott Armstrong; Niall Morland(0-1), Jack O'Donnell; Daniel Fitzpatrick, David Rathbourne, Tommy Kelly; Ronan McCabe (0-2), John Morley(1-4, 2fs) , Billy Reilly (1-1).

Subs used: Ciarán O'Rourke



Skryne GFC Club Lotto

clubforce.com/clubs/gaa-skryne-gfc-meath/

Skryne Ladies LGFA

Karen Russell



Hard luck to the Skryne ladies B team who lost the Junior D Championship semi final against Drumbaragh Sunday 17th.

The ladies had a great game and produced some brilliant scores which leveled the teams multiple times during the game.

Unfortunately Drumbaragh scored a last minute goal to put them ahead and secure the win.

Well done to the ladies and management on a fantastic year and making it to the semi final.

Final score:

3-7 Skryne

4-8 Drumbaragh

Night Sky October 2021

by Tony Canavan

Sunrise: 08:20 am

Sunset: 6 pm

November 4th – New Moon (no moon visible)

November 19th – Full Moon

November 11th – First Quarter (half-moon visible)

November 27th – Last Quarter (half-moon visible)

Venus has the same phases as the Moon, and this is a good month to study Venus especially with a telescope or binoculars. It will be visible to all in the evening sky after the sun sets. Because it is one of the inner rock planets it is always close to the sun. At the end of the month, it is at its highest, shining with a magnitude of -4.4.

The Moon is not visible during the early and later parts of the month so good time to view the night sky.

November 8th: A beautiful crescent moon will be visible in the evening sky and to the right of the moon will be the planet Venus. They will be accompanied by Jupiter and Saturn to the South, Neptune in the SE and Uranus rising in the East.

November is a good month to spot Uranus with your telescope. The earth and Uranus are on the same side of the sun at this time so Uranus will be slightly brighter than usual. It rises in the evening sky in early November and is with us for the month.

November 10th: Close approach of Moon with Jupiter and Saturn. The moon will pass just south of the two planets on 10th/11th November in the constellation of Capricornus.

November 17th: The Leonid Meteor Shower takes its name from the constellation of Leo and is caused by the debris of the comet Tempel Tuttle. Its point of origin is from Leo and you can expect to see 15/20 meteors per hour.

November 28th: Any time before and after this date if you stay around until 11 pm you will see, on a clear dark November night, the winter night sky of Orion and all his troop rising. On a clear dark night, away from light pollution and noise, the whole sky will be bright with celestial objects, including the Orion nebula, Betelgeuse, Rigel, Bellatrix, Sirius, Pleiades, Aldebaran, Hyades Cluster, Pollux and Castor and overseeing them all is Capella one of the three brightest stars of the Northern Hemisphere with an altitude of 75° and azimuth of 113°.



Landsat 9: The UK will host **Cop26** in Glasgow from 31st Oct -12th Nov and it will fill many pages of news. But good decisions require good unbiased information and a great contributor to this is information gleaned from space satellites. **Landsat 9** was launched on 27th September 2021 from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on an Atlas V401 rocket. It is the ninth satellite launched over a period of five decades. It has the ability to separate human and natural causes of change. It is a critical component to monitoring the state of the earth. It provides an impartial and unbiased record of the earth's forests to verify claims of environmental protection and carbon storage. It is an invaluable tool in managing scarce water resources, coral reef degradation, glaciers and ice retreat, natural and man-made disasters and gives us, from previous missions, a picture of how five decades of climate change has affected the earth's surface and biology.

Artemis Moon Plan:

The Artemis mission will be the big story over the next few years as NASA and SpaceX return four astronauts to the moon. The Orion spacecraft has already been stacked atop of the powerful Space Launch System (SLS), the integrated system is entering its final phase of preparations for an unmanned flight to the Moon in February 2022. **Artemis 2** will learn from the first mission and complete another unmanned mission in 2023. **Artemis 3** will be launched in 2024 as follows:

- Orion will be launched atop of SLS with four astronauts aboard
- On arrival in orbit around the moon two astronauts will transfer, in orbit, to the SpaceX Human Landing System (HLS) for their final leg of their journey to the surface of the Moon
- After about a week exploring the Moon, they will board the lander for return to Orion for their trip back to earth.

Orion atop the powerful Space Launch System

NASA will set use a Gateway, a Moon orbiting space station that will provide vital support for a long-term human return to the lunar surface as well as a staging point for deep space exploration. It will eventually supply advanced external robotics, additional habitation, refuelling capability and other enhancements.

VERA RUBIN



One of the great American astronomers was Vera Rubin. In the 1970's she was refused entry to Princeton University because the college did not allow women into it's graduate astronomy course until 1975.

She rose to become only the second woman to be awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society. She studied the movement of galaxies and celestial bodies within. Due to her work, it became clear that the known mass of a galaxy or a cluster of galaxies was insufficient to hold the galaxy or cluster together. There had to be significantly more mass. In fact, most of the mass was missing, which we call today **dark matter**. Her results became the first persuasive results supporting the theory of dark matter initially proposed by Fritz Zwicky in the 1930's. The search for subatomic particles had begun.

She witnessed the discovery of the **Neutrino**, a particle with no charge, almost no mass, of which billions pass through the earth and our bodies every second, only occasionally interacting with matter.

She saw the construction of the Large Hadron Collider at CERN on the Franco-Swiss border where the conditions of the very early universe are re-created. She died on December 25th, 2016. On the 10th December 2019 the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope in Chile was renamed National Science Foundation Vera C. Rubin Observatory.

WILLIAM SHATNER



On October 4th William Shatner flew to the edge of space aboard Blue Origins 'New Shepard' NS-18 Rocket. Ninety-year-old Shatner originated the role of 'Captain Kirk' in the 1966 television series 'Star Trek'.

Many of the concepts used in the series are now a reality and others such as 'Warp Drive' i.e. the ability to warp spacetime to allow a space craft to travel to its destination faster than the speed of light, is believed to be a possibility. What moved Shatner was how thin the protection is around the earth, about 50 miles of depth and then just blackness similar to Carl Sagan's description, back in 1980, in his book 'Pale Blue Dot'.

'a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam' - Carl Sagan



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- **We are always on the Lookout for New Directors and Volunteers** - if you would like to become a volunteer get in touch with us today.
- **Not For Profit But For Service**

Table Below Represents Loans at our STANDARD loan rate of 7.9%

Loan Amount	Typical Weekly Repayments	Term Months	Total Interest	Total Repayments
€1,000	€20.02	12	€40.60	€1,040.60
€5,000	€36.22	36	€613.45	€5,613.45
€10,000	€46.57	60	€2095.92	€12,095.92
€15,000	€70.06	60	€3,144.17	€18,144.17
€20,000	€71.67	84	€6,011.19	€26,011.19
€30,000	€107.50	84	€9017.39	€39,017.39
€40,000	€111.34	120	€17,782.53	€57,782.53

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Here at Tara & District we have loans worth looking at, so whether you're a New or Existing Member you can get a reduced Interest Rate for your first loan with TDCU or if you are already a member but have not had a loan in the last 24 Months you can also avail of the reduced Interest rate of 5.9% 6.07% Apr).

What are you waiting for - speak to us today about a loan that suits you!

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- **Quick decisions on applications**
Almost 90% of our loans are approved in just 48 hours.
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In the event of your death your loan will be cleared in full. (Terms & Conditions apply).
- **Personalised application process**
Every loan application is considered on a case by case basis. We take your individual circumstances into account & assess your overall situation.
- **Local**
The knowledge that your savings are supporting the local community loans.



Tuesday - Saturday 9.30Am-1pm & 2pm-4.30pm. Closed 1-2pm for Lunch



You talkin' to me?



Not Muchroom



Birds
of a
Feather
flock
together.

NOTICES

A healthcare assistant is required for Hillview Nursing home.

Flexible hours, experience desirable but not essential as training will be provided. Must have or be willing to undertake a healthcare assistant course. Please contact Rebecca on 041 9825698 or email info@hillviewcare.ie for further details.

A part time assistant cook is required for Hillview Nursing Home

Qualification not necessary, but must be able to cook for large numbers. Will include evenings and some weekends. Please contact Rebecca on 041 9825698 or email info@hillviewcare.ie

The RST toddler group will reopen in the RST centre on Wednesday the 3rd of November at 9.30 to 11.30.

Local family looking to rent a house in the Rathfeigh Skryne Tara or surrounding areas from December 2021 / January 2022. Please phone either 0868393142 or 0868033715



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

01 e a v e s	02 YOU JUST ME	03 Stand I	04 lem ade
05 Job I'm Job	06 GOGOGO GOGO GOGO GO	07 OLD	08 H ijklmn O
09 Symphon	10 OHOLENE	11 ANT ANT ANT ANT ANT ANT ANT ANT ANT	12 DISC DISC DISC DISC

1 Eavesdropping, 2 Just between you and me, 3 I understand, 4 Lemonade, 5 I'm in between jobs, 6 Goatee, 7 Growing old, 8 H2O, 9 Unfinished symphony, 10, Hole in one, 11, Tennants, 12, Slipped disc

Answers to Dingbats challenge



Some Awful Jokes

Hold her hand

While out in the town, I saw an elderly couple holding hands while they were walking. As they approached, I commented on how romantic it was. The man replied, "We have been holding hands when we go out in public for over 30 years. I have to. If I let go, she shops."

Heaven

An elderly couple died and were received by St Peter through the Pearly Gates into heaven. They found it a wonderful place. The husband said to his wife: "If you hadn't fed us such healthy food all our marriage, we could have reached here years ago."

KEEP
THE
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Condolences

We extend our sympathy to the

- Margaret Hanratty, Proudstown on the death of her brother Eamonn Kelly, Roscommon
- The Hickey family, Collierstown on the death of Maureen
- Allison Dowling, Oberstown on the passing of her father Larry Walsh, Navan
- The Rodgers family Co. Mayo on the death of Carol formerly Skryne
- To the Curran family on the death of Joe, Garlow Cross.
- To Seamus Lynch on the death of his son Anthony, England

Our local Business & Service Directory

Earlier in the year we asked our local businesses & service providers to submit their contact details to be added to our directory which we will include twice yearly and can be printed for easy access.

If we already have your details no need to resubmit but we invite more people to send us theirs. There is no charge for inclusion. Email your details to Therstnewsletter@gmail.com. Our next directory will be in last RST of 2021 which is fast approaching

Local Handy Man Available

SERVICES PROVIDED:

- Carpentry / Wooden Floors / Cabinet Making
- Radiator covers made to measure
- Shelving for Hot Presses
- Side Gates made to measure
- Under Stairs storage units
- Garden Maintenance including Hedge Cutting
- Power-washing Paths & Patios
- PVC Window & Door Maintenance
- repair of Hinges & Locks
- Supply and Fitting of Fireplaces & Stoves

NO JOB TOO SMALL!

Contact: Pauric
T: 046 9034846
M: 085 1597105

SPONSORSHIP OF THE RST NEWSLETTER



BECOME A SPONSOR

We require sponsors for future editions of RST Newsletter.

The cost of sponsorship is €100 which will include a half page advertisement. Interested sponsors please contact Therstnewsletter@gmail.com or telephone Patricia 086 838 8017.

Same contact details apply for advertisements and cost

€25 per half page or €20 for regular repeated half page advertisement.

Smaller advertisements cost €10.

All money raised from this source will be spent to the benefit of the community. Our initial project is to help the RST Community Centre update and further develop their website.

We take this opportunity to thank those who continue to support us through their sponsorship and advertising.

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.



There will be no issue of the RST newsletter in November. The next edition will be a Christmas issue and will go out on 18th December.

Please forward articles etc. on or before Friday 10th December.

Contact:

Jim: (086) 383 7436

Patricia: (086) 838 8017

Email: therstnewsletter@gmail.com