



Rathcoole Newsletter

Issue 1-21

April 2021

FUNDRAISER

RATHCOOLE
COMMUNITY CENTRE
NEEDS YOUR HELP



WITH OUR
gofundme 

We urgently need your help to help fund our ongoing operations and provide assistance for upgrade works to the Rathcoole Community Centre.

We need to raise **€150,000** through a combination of grants and local fundraising. We are seeking donations, any amount would be gratefully received.

COVID restrictions are making fundraising very challenging. We cannot do it alone



RATHCOOLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

We would like to take a moment to say thank you to everyone who has supported us over the years. We acknowledge that this past year has been truly difficult for all of us. No one could have predicted the struggles and the losses our community had suffered. Many people's world has changed forever in this pandemic. Even so, we all try to pick ourselves up and carry on.

We have all had to learn new ways of doing things, and even though it has been hard, but we slowly pushed ourselves out of our comfort zones. We have seen the spirit of love, sharing and togetherness during these challenging times and it made us stronger.

It has been mostly difficult for the Rathcoole Community Centre, as it has been for many organisations, losing our revenue and not been able to produce our bimonthly Newsletter.

With the promises we now see in the country and the work that the authorities are doing to keep all of us safe, we hope that we will be able to open soon. Therefore, we are encouraging everyone to keep safe and obey the rules until we safely see each other again

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Rathcoole Community Council

The 49th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF RATHCOOLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Will be held online via ZOOM on Tuesday 27th April
at 7:30 P.M.

As no organised indoor gatherings are permitted at present.

The agenda will be limited due to current restrictions.

Minutes of last AGM.

Financial report.

Appointment of Auditor.

Chairpersons Report.

Short Q&A.

The current board of directors have agreed to stay
in place until restrictions are lifted and we can have
an Election for Board Members.

If you would like to attend please send an email to

agm@rathcoolecommunity.ie before Friday 23rd April.



LOCKDOWN WASN'T ALL THAT BAD

Isn't it so strange how much can change in just a year, this time last year I was in my last year of school preparing for my leaving cert that was going to determine my path of life. But then a sudden bump in the road appeared and the whole world froze. School was no longer considered safe, all the stores shut their doors and the country went into its first COVID-19 lockdown. At the start of it all I had no clue what was going on, I couldn't see my friends, I couldn't see relations and I couldn't be five kilometres from my house, basically my prime years of youth were taken from me. I didn't question it and thought it would all be over in a few weeks, then it turned into months and now it's been a year.

As the months went by, I started to feel robbed of some big milestones in my life, I had just turned 17 but couldn't celebrate the way I had wanted to. The event I waited for since 1st year had finally come after all the years of watching the other years of people sign each other's yearbooks, getting dressed up for the graduation ceremony and it was finally my turn to have that experience but unfortunately it didn't happen the way I hoped. Instead, I had to pick up my yearbook the same day I had to clear out my locker that was filled with memories from my last days of school that I didn't know was going to be my last years of school. I watched my graduation ceremony on my TV, on my couch at home, with my family instead of being surrounded by my teachers and classmates I had spent every day with for the last 5 years with.

It was like everything just stopped, there was no ending, there was no closing chapter, it just ended. The book was slammed shut and put on the shelf to collect dust, "class of 2020" the year that was robbed of their last school experience. But they gave us the best send-off possible given the circumstances, they did their best to make memorable and it'll be one that goes down in history, in ten years' time I can tell my kids I was part of the famous class of 2020.

I understand lockdown wasn't all that great for everyone, but it couldn't have happened at a better time for me, I was at a point in my life when I was just figuring everything out and suddenly things just started to fall into place. If you talked to me a year ago and again now you wouldn't be talking to the same person, yes they are both me but it's the new me you're listening too now. In all honesty lockdown was one of the best things to happen to me in the last year, it gave me time to focus on myself and get my priorities straight.

My confidence went through the roof and I couldn't be happier with where my life is and where it's going. I now know what my values are and who I value in my life, I have made life goals that would have never crossed my mind this time last year, which has made me excited for the future. All I need now is for the world to open back up and when it does, I'll be ready for it.

By Ellie Boggans

SEW & ZIP

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Community Employment Project

Rathcoole Community Centre and 4 Districts Day Care Centre currently have Community Employment Project vacancies for the following roles

Caretakers / Groundsperson

Care Assistant

Housekeeping

Bus Driver Assistant

Receptionist



Are you aged 21 or over and unemployed for the past 12 months or more and in receipt of Social Welfare Benefit? If so you could be eligible to work on our Community Employment Project based in Rathcoole.

Consists of 19.5 hours per week at the Community Employment rates.

This is a developmental opportunity, no experience necessary.

Accredited training will be provided to support your career.

If you are interested in any of these positions and wish to discuss this further you can contact one of the CE supervisors by email on fasrcc@gmail.com or by phone on 01-5045000

You can also drop your CV into in the Rathcoole Community Centre.

Come and join our friendly team

RATHCOOLE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

"The Rathcoole Christmas Lights Committee would like to thank everyone for their support in lighting up Rathcoole for Christmas. With special thanks to KN networks. With very little notice they pulled out all the stops to help us make Rathcoole a brighter place during these strange times.

It was heart warming to see such support."

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PADDY BYRNE RETIRES

Paddy has served this community for over forty years. We had an opportunity and honour of asking him a few questions about his experiences:

Hi Paddy, great pleasure to have this interview with you.

How has the lockdown impacted the shop and yourself personally?

The shop has been busy throughout the lockdown and people were great adhering to the new rules.
I miss going on holidays and meeting up with family.

Did you always want to have your own shop?

Yes I worked in the industry for a long time, I ran a shop in Mosney in county Meath for a while.

Tell us about your first day(s) in this shop...

It was a very busy and exciting day, myself my wife Margaret and Alison Kincaid worked. Alison had worked there previous so we relied on her experience

You must have seen big changes in the village since the 80s, what stands out for you?

The traffic is much busier, all the new apartment blocks and the park which is a great asset.

Have people's tastes changed much over the years?

Not a whole lot, there are less smokers
and people buy less newspapers.

What are your best sellers?

We would sell a lot of cards and toys.

Any strange requests?

I had someone in looking for a bag of cement.

Have you had any famous customers?

Ronnie O' Sullivan, Daniel O'Donnell,
Marianne Funnican, Dermot Kennedy, Brendan Grace.

Any big prize Lotto winners ?

No not anything major, the biggest was probably about 500 thousand.

How do you manage the school rush, especially at lunch time?

Years ago we had to have 3 of us, 2 on the tills and 1 standing at the door.
It has changed now with only 5th and 6th classes only being let down the village.

Is it hard to get a day off or a holiday?

No, I have very reliable staff to cover.

Have you any advice for someone starting their own business?

To do a lot of research in the area like parking, local facilities and customers.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to do gardening, walking and reading.

What will you be doing after your retirement, any big plans?

Relax and a holiday in the sun when it's safe to do so.

Who is going to take over the shop?

Unfortunately no one as it is being knocked down.

**You have built a beautiful legacy and earned so much respect in the community.
Have you ever had to mentor anyone?**

We took in work experience children from the local school.

Anything you would like to say to people who have supported you all those years?

Delighted with the support from our loyal customers over the years. Rathcoole has always had a friendly local atmosphere which we were delighted to see.

It has been a great pleasure to have you in our community and you will be missed dearly. Rathcoole village will never be the same without the Newsagent and we wish you the very best in this new phase of your life Paddy.



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RETIRED ACTIVE MEN'S SOCIAL (RAMS)

The past few months of lockdowns and "staying at home" has been a very difficult time for all of our RAMS members. The RAMS enjoyed and always looked forward to their weekly meetings in St Finian's Community Centre, and their occasional outings.

Since the pandemic, the RAMS in Rhythm have kept themselves busy by entertaining neighbours on Aylmer Road, and when allowed, entertaining the neighbourhoods of other members in their communities including Rathcoole, Celbridge, and Glasnevin.



During December, the RAMS in Rhythm, fundraised for our local SVP, singing at Luggwood Saggart, and over in Newcastle at Annie May's Pub & Restaurant and at Kelly's Spar.

Total funds raised of €2875 were presented to the SVP by our Musical Director Mr. Liam O' Donnell to assist them in their Christmas Appeal.

We celebrated the 80th Birthday of one of our long-time members, Mr Bernard Dowd. Bernard is originally from Clondalkin, where he farmed on the New Road, before moving to Newcastle in 1964 where he continues to farm. He is a great supporter and follower of the Dublin GAA and the Irish Rugby teams. He is also a great fan of Formula Grand Prix.

Bernard's hobbies are gardening and also Marquetry, where he spends many hours engaged in the art and craft of applying pieces of veneer to a structure to form decorative patterns.

Bernard has been a great supporter of the RAMS and he has made many contributions for the continuation and success of the RAMS group.

During the early years of the RAMS, the local graveyards were mapped and recorded including Arthur Guinness' grave in Oughterard County Kildare of which Bernard was an ardent participator.

Recorded by Bernard on www.historicalgraves.ie

"(39) In the additional vault are deposited the Mortal remains of Arthur Guinness late of James Gate in the city of and of Beaumont in the County of Dublin Esquire. Who departed this life 22nd January A.D. 1803 aged 78 years, Richard Guinness Esq. late of Lexlip, and those of Anne his wife."

The RAMS wish Bernard a very "Happy 80th Birthday" and many more years of good health and happiness. Some of the RAMS members presented a cake and a little tipple to Bernard. Pictures are of Bernard receiving his birthday cake from the Chair of RAMS, Mr Paddy Becton.



Call for Volunteers

If you would like to get involved in saving the Rathcoole Woodlands, we would love to hear from you.

contact us at:-

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Carla's Kingdom

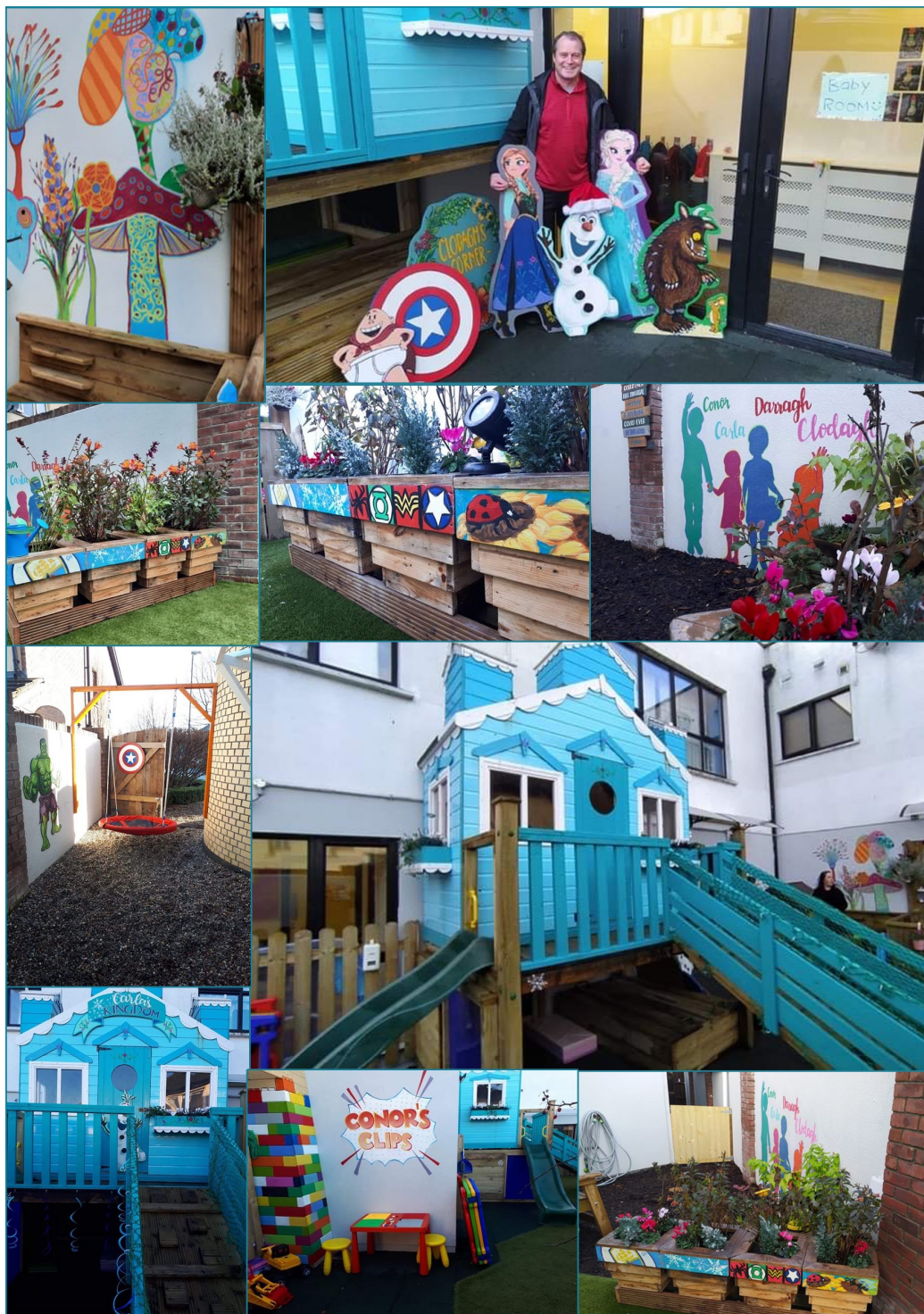
On Thursday March 5, 2020, just days before the country went into lockdown, an entire community filling the main hall of the Rathcoole Community Centre came together for a coffee morning to show their support for the McGinley, Morley and Magliozi families who lost their young children far too early. Special thanks to Deirdre Duignan, friend of the McGinley and Morley family and Happy Feet parent for her wonderful idea to host a coffee morning in support of Carla's Kingdom.

The idea for Carla's Kingdom was inspired by the eulogy of Andrew McGinley and the memories of his children who passed away, as well as, the memories of Happy Feet student Clodagh Magliozi, daughter of David and Dierdre Magliozi, from Rathcoole who passed away in 2013. The support from the local community, communities beyond the four districts, local businesses, charities, sports clubs, and schools on the day of the event was truly overwhelming. The event proved not only to be a great fundraising success with raffles, face painting, music, cakes, and rock painting, but an opportunity for this community to be together for a lovely morning, full of love, laughter, tears, and hugs.

Andrew McGinley is an avid supporter of this community and continues to, in honour of the memory of his children, advocate regarding the huge impact that community, creches, schools, sports clubs, and extracurricular activities have on who our children become. It is that message that led to the idea of Carla's Kingdom, a playground planned for the blackthorn hill location of Happy Feet.

With COVID lockdown restrictions in place from March of 2020, progress on the playground was slow, with several suppliers and tradesmen being unavailable. However, with a bit of creativity, local talent (Aga Smolarska, artist), and determination (O'Hickey family), much of the works were completed within COVID restriction guidelines. A few final touches remain, but Carla's Kingdom is currently open and providing a happy and meaningful place for several children to enjoy daily.

The support throughout this incredible journey has been overwhelming, with far too many people to thank personally. Our hope is for a community wide grand opening when COVID restrictions are completely lifted.



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Rathcoole Active Retirement Group

Rathcoole Active Retirement Group is a local group of people(55+)which provides opportunities for friendship, learning new skills, participation in a wide range of interesting activities (e.g.dancing, card games, short mat bowls), day trips, holidays, support and information for members. Under normal circumstances, we meet every second Wednesday, from 11.00am to1.00pm in the Rathcoole Community Centre.

Unfortunately, under current restrictions, we've had to suspend our regular meetings for the last year. However, with the rollout of vaccines commencing here in Ireland, we're currently putting in place plans that would see us meeting again as a group later in the year. We are targeting the 1st. September for our first meeting of 2021.

This is exciting news for all our existing members and we also look forward to meeting with many new members who may wish to join us. So, if your over 55 and living in Rathcoole, Saggart, Newcastle or Brittas, we would love for you to come along on 1st. September next for a cuppa and a chat, to rekindle old friendships and to make new ones.

Put the date-1st September-in your diary and, if you're talking to friends, spread the word.

We all need something positive to look forward to in these challenging times and the Rathcoole Active Retirement Group has always been a beacon of positivity for so many of us-and it can be for you in 2021. Come along on the 1st September and lets make some new memories together.



SCAN ME

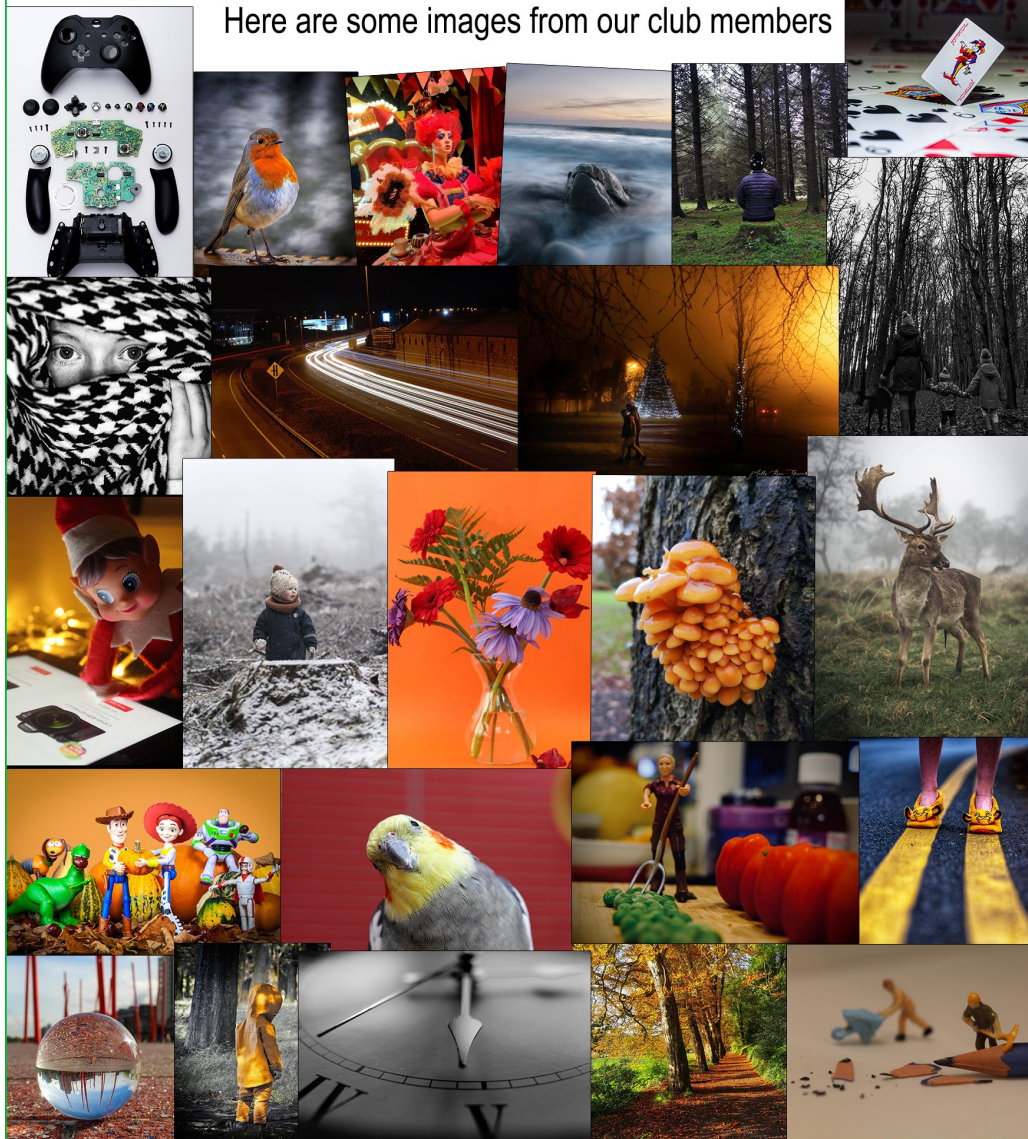
Rathcoole Camera Club



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Here are some images from our club members



LOOKING FOR WRITER'S

Want to boost your C.V? We are a community based Newsletter which comes out 4 times a year, it covers Rathcoole, Saggart, Newcastle and Btittas with a distribution of 5,000 copies. We are looking for any up and coming writers out there who would love to see their work in print and give them good experience!!!

You could cover any local news, events such as local parades, festivals, concerts, sport fixtures etc. You could also do feature pieces on local individuals community groups or human interest stories from the local area, could this be you?

The article should be sent to our Newsletter Team at newsletter@rathcoole.info, the next issue is due out in May...

SO GET WRITING!!!

My Lockdown Experience

Jade McCormack

It has been a very long year. Lockdown has most definitely changed me as a person, I believe I am less energetic, sociable and confident in my abilities. I wonder about what the future holds for us. At the start, we were so worried about the unknown, about what could happen to our loved ones. There was a lot of uncertainty. I was happy to go into lockdown as I was protecting those that I loved. Except two weeks suddenly became a year and we seemed to miss out on so much during that year. The hardest part of this whole lockdown is that I have a real close relationship with my grandad who I have not been able to spend any quality time with for a whole year and I feel I am losing the most precious times with him as who knows how much longer we may have together. No hugs or kisses, and I know that he misses me so much. It is so hard.

Another side note: College, it is all online. I have officially been out of college for a year and who knows when I will ever get back to my lecture hall with my college friends. It is the sad truth, but I have gotten through it! I have found the lockdowns to be difficult, but I am blessed to have the family I have, and I know I am not alone in this. My family has been the joy and positivity in the lockdowns as spending time inside constantly forces you to communicate more with others which I am pleased I did.

MIND YOURSELF

You have probably heard the word Mindfulness a lot lately. Mindfulness can be defined as “awareness of the present-moment with acceptance”.

It has become very popular because of its proven benefits. Practicing Mindfulness reduces anxiety and depression, enhances overall well-being, and even stabilizes glucose levels among people with diabetes. The time it takes to go to the cupboard to get out your pills and take them, is also the time it takes to do a mini meditation. Additionally, meditation has an anti-aging effect on the brain.

Mindfulness is not just about meditating. You're probably already getting mindful moments in your everyday life and even more so during Lockdown. For example, when you are peeling the potatoes for dinner is your brain busy thinking about other things you need to be doing? Next time try being in that moment and breathe deeply 3 times and see how you feel. If thoughts appear just gently remind yourself to come back to the present moment.

Did you know we are all born with a negativity bias? Which means we have to work that bit harder on maintaining happiness and well-being. When your brain is relaxed endorphins are released which kill bacteria, relieve pain, and reduce inflammation. Mindfulness gives us mental space, and with mental space comes the freedom to choose how we might like to respond to a situation as opposed to reacting to it.

Here's a few ideas of how to practice mindfulness and get some mindful moments in your day:

Go for a walk in nature.

Try out some meditations on YouTube as short as 1 minute until you find ones you like.

Savour the good moments and breathe them in.

Orlaith Dignam

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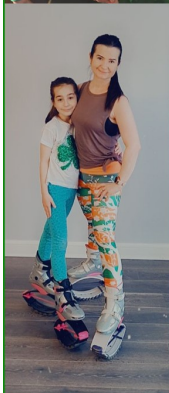
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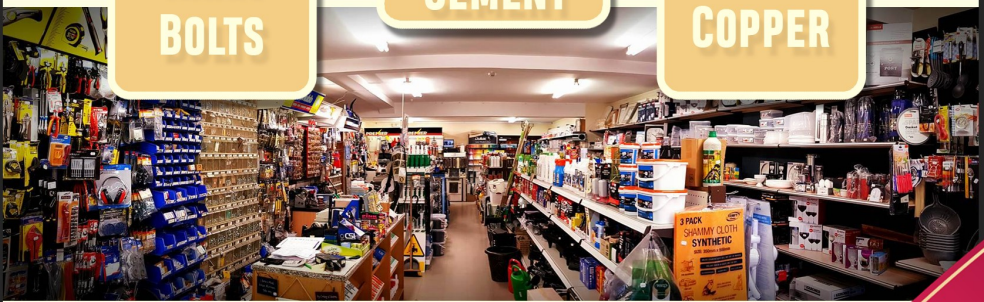
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The Rathcoole Playing Fields History by Paddy Gavin (short summary)

In 1967 I came to live in Rathcoole and in the autumn of that year the carriageway was open and became known as the Naas Dual Carriageway. This made such a difference to the village with the removal of heavy traffic from Rathcoole main street.

Within a few years, when many of the new houses were occupied and a young generation of children were growing up, the question of infrastructure, such as schools, shops, play areas and other services became a priority. In Rathcoole at this time, there was a local Garda Sargent, Jim McKeever, who was very conscious of the need to provide recreational amenities for the youth of the area. He invited a group of parishioners to consider electing a Community Council for the immediate area. Until then the only representation of residents' interests was catered for by Saggart and Rathcoole residents association under the chairmanship of Sean Nolan.

Sean Nolan was a dedicated community activist worker and became the first chairman of the newly formed Saggart & Rathcoole Community Council and served as an excellent chairman for nearly 20 years. Over that time Sean Nolan built up the Community Council to one of the most active in the county. The two major pursuits of the time in our area were a Community Centre and playing fields, but first of course it was funding which had to be considered. Dublin County Council was approached, and they made it clear that they would help by means of grants, but that there would be no full funding for amenity projects at that time. This of course left a major responsibility on the Community Council to fundraise. The initial project was to build a Community Centre. Several means of fund raising began including non-stop draws, carnivals, dinner dances, concerts, dog shows, discos, and auctions of household items. Soon there were sufficient funds for a deposit to qualify for a bank loan to purchase a site and build a Community Centre.

The Community Council worked hard during the 1970s and 1980s to pay off the loan and start to accumulate some funding for the provision of the local playing fields. The County Council were now being asked to keep and provide some local lands before it was bought up by builders for future housing. It was now past the 1980s but the Co. Council did respond and ear marked some 70 acres of agricultural land on the eastern side of the village known as "Stassens Lands". After long negotiations, this land was eventually purchased by the County Council. Even then, nothing happened on the purchased lands for nearly two years. By then there were several newly formed clubs in the area making demands for pitches and play areas. The County Council too were making demands for monies from the Community Council to help develop the playing fields and the park.

After several meetings with the County Council's senior landscape architect, Mr. Christy Boylan, agreement was reached on the layout of the new park. A substantial sum of money was paid over to the County Council. The agreement provided for following items:

Two GAA pitches and a Soccer pitch.

A playground and a rose garden.

A network of tarmacadam surfaced pedestrian pathways.

A landscape scheme of tree and shrub planting throughout.

Re-alignment of the stream and some waterfalls.

Also, to plant and maintain the 3-corner field that was given by John Mulholland as an open space for Coolamber and Beechwood estates.

All of these facilities were intended for the residents of both Saggart and Rathcoole.

At this time also we were fortunate to have two local Councillors on Dublin County Council, who in fairness to them pushed hard to provide Rathcoole Park and other local facilities.

In the early 1990s an area about 3 to 4 acres adjoining the N7 was removed from the Park to make way for a link road between the villages of Rathcoole and Saggart. This gave rise to concern as to what might be put into the remaining area between the link road and the N7. Eventually we heard that Avoca were to build a major store there with a large carpark, which eventually happened.

By 1996 a traffic light system which was operating at the eastern entrance to Rathcoole and Newcastle was about to be removed and replaced by a major bridge over the carriageway. This work also involved lowering the dual carriageway. Millions of tons of earth and rock was removed. The surplus material was used to landscape the new Park forming the hill, lakes and waterfall. All this was in keeping with the promise of Christy Boylan given some time earlier.

In the 1990s there was a scheme where major contractors were obliged to contribute a small percentage of their successful contract's income towards artists. The contractor of the new bridge made a financial gift to a selected artist, to create a sculpture. In our case an artist was selected to create a replica of a local lady's hands in bronze and to set the sculpture at the base of the major waterfall in the Park. I wonder how many have noticed these bronze hands or are they aware of their existence. It was in the 1990s that Rathcoole got several multi-story apartment blocks as well as shops, a bank, a Church and several other services. Despite the increase in the local population the then Minister for justice Mr Padraig Flynn in 1992 maintained that Rathcoole did not merit a full time Garda station. In recent years we have got seating at several locations in the Park along with several exercise machines, thanks to the County Council. More recently of course we had the disruption of a major but necessary water mains being taken across the playing fields. Thankfully, it is now completed, and we will be back to normal from next summer. It is a pleasure to walk or exercise about the Park or playing fields or to sit and watch the swans or other wildlife.

While relaxing there, we should be grateful to the Community Council personnel both past and present who worked hard to bring about such a pleasant local amenity.

Paddy Gavin 2020

EVERY DAY IN LOCKDOWN IS THE SAME

Every day in lockdown is the same. This is not accidental. I know us students are all unique and have absurd ways of dealing with lockdown, but my goal is simply to live as normally as I can. I wake up at the same time each morning - it is crucial that I absorb as much sunlight as possible. Breakfast always consists of an assortment of berries and fresh yoghurt. This ensures I put myself in the right summer mindset and promises me that brighter days are coming. On weekdays, I force myself to sit at my desk as if I were in college, enticed by unlimited cups of tea. My empty stomach eventually pulls me away from my stinky laptop and I trudge around the local park with the person I spend most of my time with – my dad.

At this point, we know every tree in our area personally, and they are sad to see us go when our lunch time walk ends. Every day, I make a bagel for lunch. I discovered my love for bagels at the beginning of Lockdown One and ever since, I have been addicted to the happiness they provide me. In the afternoon, I alternate between working at my desk and scrolling through Tik Tok on my bed. If I feel adventurous, I jump around to a workout video and a boppy playlist I made at the start of Lockdown One – a masterpiece called Thanks, Corona. Since my paents are essential workers, I usually volunteer to cook dinner, which is often a basic yet soul-warming pasta dish. I fall into bed at the end of the day and usually ring my partner, who lives in a faraway land they call Kildare. Their soothing voice eventually puts me to sleep and I wake up again, bright and early for another fabulous day in lockdown.

SAVE OUR COMMUNITY CENTRE!

Rathcoole Community Centre has been serving the Community for the last 40 years. During this pandemic we have lost all revenue and we are asking for your help to keep our doors open. The Community Centre is more than a business it is a space that provides all kinds of activity for the young and not so young. We have a range of classes going on from preschools, dance classes, martial art groups, slimming classes, speech and drama, active retired groups bridge club's music recording facilities, IT classes and so much more.

We also have our annual events that are so important to many e.g., Golden Years Tea Party, Funday, Christmas Fair, Senior Citizens Christmas party.

Please help us to keep these going for many years to come.

The Community Centre needs your help for ongoing operations to provide badly needed upgrading work to keep our doors open. Please give what you can to our gofundme page to help keep our doors open to serve our Community.

Some pictures below of these annual events.



SCAN ME