

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

www.oxfield.ie

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Slán to 2011...

Welcome to our last edition of the Oxfield Community Newsletter for 2011. Just a quick word of thanks to all of our contributors, sponsors and supporters who helped make our newsletter possible throughout the year. On behalf of the Oxfield Community Centre, Happy Christmas to all, and we look forward to an equally active (and newsworthy) 2012!

10 Days, 2 Whales

The eyes of the nation were on Maugerow earlier this month as two fin whales were washed up on beaches near Raghly. Although always a sad event, these beached mammals, at 40ft and 60ft in length, were quite something to behold and visitors came from all over the country to get a look.



Visitors get up close to the fin whale near Raghly (Photo by Dickon Whitehead)

A few years ago, the people of Kilbrittan in Co. Cork created a popular tourist attraction by re-assembling the skeleton of a beached whale and putting on display in the village park. And now the residents of Maugerow have embarked on a similar project.

On Saturday 10th December, a group of local volunteers came together and despite near freezing conditions managed to transport one of the whales to Raghly harbour, where the blubber and meat was removed and disposed of.



Not an easy job - loading the 30 tonne whale onto a low loader (Photo by Dickon Whitehead)

Each bone of the carcass was then sorted and meticulously labelled. The bones will now be entombed for several months (in horse manure) to allow nature do its thing. Then all going well, Maugerow and North Sligo may become home to yet another 'must see' tourist attraction. (Well done to all involved!)



Conor Ryan, PhD student from NUIG, labelling and sorting the bones from the whale's skeleton (Photo by Viera Stupakova)

Oxfield 500 Club Draws Close...



The first Oxfield 500 Club monthly draw takes place on Saturday 18th December at 9:30pm in Henry's Bar/Restaurant. There's €1,000 in cash prizes and an additional 'star prize' to be won on the night. Finger food will be served so why not make a night of it? All welcome!

A sincere thanks to everyone who has supported the draw. The response has been hugely positive and very encouraging. For anyone who has yet to buy a ticket, there are still a few days left. Tickets cost €100 (or €10 per month). Please call 087 6755753 or enter online at www.oxfield.ie.

Santa Wonderland..



To make up for not making it last year, due to the terrible weather conditions, the big man himself is making a welcome return to Oxfield on Sunday 18th December. It promises to be another great festive outing for the whole family, with a few new attractions added this year. Admission costs €3. Doors open from 2pm to 5pm. All welcome as always!

De-tached...



Alfie Mahon gets to work on Colin Noone's moustache

The 'Men of The Yeats Tavern' raised over €1,200 from their moustache event in aid of men's health awareness in association with The Research and Education Foundation charity at Sligo General Hospital. A big thank you to barbers Alfie and Mary Mahon, DJ Michael Farrell, and all spot prize sponsors.

With thanks to this month's Newsletter sponsor...

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What a Gig...2011 Hallelujah Concert in the RDS

After being one of the lucky schools selected to take part in the 2011 Hallelujah concert in the RDS Simonscourt, the 5th and 6th class kids from Rathcormac NS took their opportunity with gusto. They left for Dublin at 7am on Sunday 11th December. On arrival to the RDS, they had a short rehearsal, and then the show finally started at 2pm.



All that practice paid off as the Rathcormac kids joined almost 3,000 others from schools around the country for what was a brilliant event and a great experience for all involved. Thanks again to the teachers for all their time and effort. And also to the parents who travelled and made the whole thing possible.

Rathcormac NS...

School News

Many thanks again to everyone who supported the school's recent Hospice Coffee morning. A cheque for €1,180 was presented to John Kelly and Kathryn Toner representing the North West Hospice.

Well done to everyone who donated shoeboxes of toys to the recent Team Hope Christmas appeal. Over 95 boxes will now be distributed to children who otherwise would not have received presents at Christmas.

Please note that the school's Christmas Assembly will now take place on Tuesday December 20th at 11.30am. And the school will close for the Christmas holidays on Thursday 22nd at 12.30pm.

Parents Association

The PA hosted their annual Christmas social evening in Davis's on Thursday

8th December, with parents and representatives from the teaching/school staff and school's Board of Management in attendance. Keep an eye out on the Parent's Association Facebook page for more news in 2012.

Local Xmas Gifts?



Given the times we're in, why not consider going local for some of your gifts this Christmas. Here's a few suggestions...

- A DIY pressie from Ben's Topline
- A ceramic sculpture from Art Junky at Branley's Yard
- A book on WB or Jack Yeats from the Drumcliffe Teahouse
- A witty illustration by Annie West
- A timeless timepiece from Yeats Country Antiques
- Six free range eggs from Benbulben Farm
- A Goodyear (or four) from Michael Regan's Tyre Centre
- A voucher for the Yeats Tavern
- A bottle of Vino from your local convenience shop
- Something sweet from The Cake Lady
- A chainsaw from North West Grass Machinery
- A masterpiece from the Teach Bán Gallery
- Some handmade Benbulben Garden Furniture
- New year planters from Feeney's Garden Centre
- A new digital projector from AVA
- Some seasonal feed for the farm pets from Leslie's Farm Supplies

Crafts Markets...

Speaking of local gifts, why not check out the range of crafts at both the Drumcliffe Teahouse and at the

Benbulben Centre, Branley's Yard, Rathcormac.

The Benbulben Centre is hosting an indoor Christmas Art & Crafts Market on Saturday 17th December from 11am to 6pm. (Any artists or crafters interested can call 086 8490608 or email thebenbulbencentre@yahoo.ie).

Scouts...

The local 11th Sligo Benbulben Scout group would like to thank everyone who bought tickets for 12 Days of Christmas Draw. And they would like to wish all the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, parents, family & friends a happy Christmas and prosperous and activity filled New Year. Many thanks for your continued support!

Xmas Carols...

Look out for Christmas carol singers around Carney village on Thursday 15th December. Also, there will be Christmas Carol Services taking place, on Sunday 18th at 7pm in Drumcliffe Church of Ireland, and also on Monday 19th at 7pm in Rathcormac RC Church. Everyone welcome!

Tots & Co...

The local baby and toddler group, Tots & Co. would like to wish all their mums and tots a happy Christmas. The group meets every Monday morning at 10.30am in the Lissadell Centre, opposite Lissadell Church of Ireland, where tea/coffee is served to the parents and carers, while there are lots of toys, play time, craft, stories and songs for the little ones. The group starts back for the New Year on Monday 16th January.

Carrigan's Babies

The parents of the group are having their Christmas night out in Davis's on Thursday 15th December. Contact Una for more details on 087 7930075. Happy Christmas to all!

Seasons Greetings!

Local Councillor Hubert Keaney would like to wish everyone in North Sligo a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Thanks again to all of our previous Newsletter Sponsors in 2011...

Rathcormac Gala Dinner & Variety Night...



A cabaret festive dinner will be held in Rathcormac hall on bank holiday Monday 2nd January at 7pm. Good food (4 course dinner & wine), good entertainment and good fun guaranteed! Tickets cost €25 per person with proceeds going to the Lissadell Centre refurbishment, Crumlin Children's Hospital, and The Smiles Foundation in Romania.

Tickets must be pre-booked and are limited for catering reasons. Anyone who would like to come along can purchase tickets in Drumcliffe Teahouse or by texting or phoning Avril on 087 4140696.

Charity Swims...

A Christmas Day festive fancy dress swim takes place at Lissadell beach at 12noon, in aid of the Irish Motor Neurone Disease. Contact Ian Flanagan on 087 6220116 for sponsorship cards.

A St. Stephens Day charity swim in AID of St. Vincent DePaul and the Lissadell Parish hall takes place in Raghly at 1pm after the Goal Walk. Sponsorship cards from Dunleavy's shop or Jimmy on 086 8616981.

Water Drum Message...

The Drum East group water scheme wishes all its members a Happy Christmas. Please conserve water and check for leaks this Christmas. If you need to contact the group with regard to problems with supply over the winter months, contact Michael Lally 087 3308083.

25 Drive...

To kick off the New Year, the local CosCos dance group are running a '25 Drive' cards night on Friday 13th January in Collins Lounge, starting at

9pm. Entry is €10, which includes light refreshments. There will be cash prizes on offer, plus some spot prizes. All welcome! Finally, CosCos would like to wish all their dancers and supporters a very Happy Christmas.

Karate...

North Sligo Higashi Karate club would like to wish all Parents and Students and the Oxfield committee a very happy Christmas and we'll see you all in 2012. (Don't forget to check out our new website www.northsligokarate.com).

A Tidy New Year...

Planning is already underway for Rathcormac Tidy Towns' participation in the 2012 National Tidy Towns Competition, and Mary Power and the students of Rathcormac National School have been hard at work planting hundreds of daffodil bulbs around the school and other areas.

Anyone interested in becoming involved with the group's activities, or has suggestions for the committee can contact 087 997 3558. Again, many thanks for all who helped with our efforts during 2011, and best wishes to all for a Happy Christmas and 2012!

Also, the Carney Tidy Towns committee would like to say a big thanks to all the villagers and locals who helped out in 2011, and looks forward to getting more people on board in 2012.

Oxfield Centre Update...

We've made a small start on the repainting of the Centre, but we'll have to wait until the weather improves in the New Year to get a proper run at it.

A word of thanks to our TUS workers Sean, Phillip and Shane, and also to Sligo Leader, for all their work and support to date.

A 'HUGE' thanks to all our 500 Club ticket sellers who gave up so much of their time to go door to door for their local community centre!

Thanks also to Aidan White and his Oxfield volunteers on recent repair works to the dressing room roof.

Big year ahead - 500 Club Draw, new roof and heating system, various events, new front door, other repairs and improvements, new services, activities and facilities, repaint the place...and so much more.

The Oxfield AGM will take place in January, and we would welcome as many new people as possible.

Keep up to date with Oxfield on the web, on Facebook and Twitter.

Sculpture Club...

Sculpture Club is now in full swing! The evening ceramic sculpture class sessions take place at Branley's Yard every Wednesday from 7pm to 9pm (and Thursdays depending on numbers). All are welcome! €15 per person. Please call Jerusha on 086 8490608 for info and bookings.

Creative Writing...

Have you always wanted to write but don't know where or how to start? A new eight-week workshop will begin on January 31st at the Drumcliffe Teahouse. Contact Berta at 087-2712313 for more information.

Cake Courses...

The local 'Cake Lady' will be running courses starting in February 2012, covering everything from cupcakes to basic sugarcraft and Christening cakes. For further info contact Sarah on info@sarahthecakelady.com.

Local Fitness...

A new year - a new you?

Joes2Pros Circuit Training - starts back in Oxfield on Tuesday 3rd January at 6:30pm, and then every Tuesday and Thursday at 6:30pm.

Zumba Fitness - in Maugerow hall starting on Wednesday 11th January at 7:15pm. Numbers are limited so book with Amanda on 086 8770525.

Evening Walking - under the floodlights at Oxfield, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30pm to 10:30pm

Cian Takes National Title...



Cian McBride from Drumcliffe crossing the finishing line to take the National U15 Cross Country title (Photo by Sportfile)

Congrats to Cian McBride from the North Sligo AC who won the U15 boys National Cross Country final in the Curragh earlier this month. Cian took up the pace with 1,500m to go and led all the way home to take the prestigious title.

Well done also to North Sligo AC U15 boys team who came 2nd in the club team standings. The team comprised of William Crowe, Sean Power, Daire McCloskey, Ronan Anderson, Sean Flanagan and Cian Mc Bride.

St. Stephen's Tag...

Don't forget about this year's annual Drumcliffe / Rosses Point GAA club's St. Stephens day charity fundraiser. This year it's a Tag Gaelic mini tournament starting in Oxfield at 1pm. All proceeds go towards Motor Neurone. There will be soup, sambos and a presentation after in Henrys Bar/Restaurant. For info contact Hughie Slevin 086 0524629.

Yeats Classic...

Yeats United football club are holding a Poker Classic in Collins Lounge, Rathcormac, on December 27th at 4pm. Everyone is welcome - promises to be a great evening out.

The club would like to express a very Happy Christmas to all its members and families, supporters and sponsors.

Shooting Hoops for Ireland...

Congrats to Philip Hamilton from Carney who was recently selected on the panel for the Irish under 16 Development Basketball Team.



It is a wonderful achievement for Philip and for our local coaches Peter McHugh, Glen Monaghan and Shane O'Meara of Sligo All Stars Basketball who have supported his training in the last number of years.

Basketball Coaching...

Hopefully following in Philip's footsteps, kids basketball coaching will continue in the New Year - Sundays at Oxfield, 3-4pm (U10's) and 4-5pm (U12's). The Coaches hope to start up a club and play against other clubs in the county. (Any ideas for the Club's name? e.g. Oxfield Ravens - please email us at oxfieldcentre@gmail.com).

Also, if more parents would be willing to help out, coaching for 6 and 7 year olds can be accommodated.

Community Games in Jeopardy...

The AGM of the Drumcliffe Area Community Games took place on December 13th. While there is a small committee in place, the 2012 local

games can only go ahead if additional help comes from parents. Therefore an EGM (emergency general meeting) has been called for 18th January at 8:30pm in Oxfield. Unless there is a good attendance from parents at this meeting, the future of the Drumcliffe Area games is in jeopardy.

For the Diary...

Handball Coaching - Oxfield, Wednesdays, 8-9pm 11 to 17yrs, 9-10pm adults

Indoor Arts & Crafts Market - Branley's Yard, Sat 17th, 11am to 6pm

The First 'Oxfield 500 Club' Draw - Henry's Restaurant, Sat 17th, 9:30pm

Santa Wonderland - Oxfield, Sunday 18th Dec, 2 to 5pm

Christmas Carols Services - Drumcliffe Church, Sun 18th, 7pm Rathcormac Church, Mon 19th 7pm

Rathcormac NS Xmas Assembly - Rathcormac Hall, Tues 20th, 11:30am

School Xmas Holidays (Rathcormac) - Closes Tues 22nd Dec at 12:30pm Re-Opens Monday 9th Jan (2012!)

Xmas Day Charity Swim - Lissadell, 25th Dec, 12noon

St Stephen's Tag Gaelic - Oxfield, 26th Dec, 1pm

St Stephen's Day Goal Mile and Charity Swim - Raghly, 26th Dec, 12pm and 1pm

Yeats Utd Poker Classic - Collins Lounge, 27th Dec, 4pm

Fundraising Cabaret Night - Rathcormac Hall, Mon 2nd Jan, 7pm

Circuit Training - Oxfield, every Tue & Thurs, starts back Tues 3rd Jan, 6:30pm

Zumba Fitness - Maugerow hall, Wed 11 Jan, 7:15pm

Cos Cos '25 Drive' - Collins Lounge, Fri 13th Jan, 9pm

Tots & Co Toddler Group - Lissadell Ctr, Mon 16th Jan, 10:30am

Community Games Emergency Mtg - Oxfield, Wed 18th Jan, 8:30pm

Creative Writing Workshop - Drumcliffe Teahouse, Tue 31st Jan

With thanks again to...

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