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A new voluntary code of practice for responsible marine wildlife watching was launched in Dingle this week by Minister for nature, heritage and biodiversity, Christopher O'Sullivan, T.D. Pictured are the friendly bottlenose dolphins off the coast of Ballinskelligs. Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan  
See page 6

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# A Note from the **E** DITOR



In the week when we enjoyed the first dry day since 2025, we have a jam packed 100 page magazine for you to enjoy. Jessie Buckley has another award under her belt in the run up to the Oscars, Lissivigeen National School are planning their new sensory garden and a new initiative has been launched to protect marine wildlife.

Sem boys donate funds to St. Vincent de Paul, Kerry Mountain Rescue Team mark 60 years of service and Anne Lucey takes a look at Gen Z.

We have all the details of the amazing St Patrick's Festival which brings the three year theme trilogy to a close, there is a new film club in town and Foster & Allen delighted the service users at Holy Cross Day Care Centre.

The Lions Club are holding a scrap metal day in association with KWD, a talented soccer player has been honoured with his Irish International Schools Cap and a quiz is planned for the Rise & Shine Trust.

The 2026 Ring of Kerry Charity cycle has been launched, there was a great turnout for the Mon Table Quiz and a Killarney golfer has been appointed to Golf Ireland High Performance Panel.

Hope you all enjoy this week's Killarney Outlook.



*Aisling Crosbie*



*Evening splendour...  
captured on the lake shore  
by Caitriona Shanahan*



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# THIS WEEK

ALL THE NEWS FROM THE  
KILLARNEY AREA AND BEYOND

## GET IN TOUCH

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- Anne Lucey - Talk of the town
- What Women Want - Beauty
- B Well Fitness - Fitness
- Astrid Longhurst - Wellbeing
- John O'Sullivan - Gardening
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# Another Major Honour for Jessie Buckley

Jessie Buckley has added another prestigious accolade to her growing list of achievements, winning Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Leading Role at the 2026 Actor Awards in Los Angeles for her powerful portrayal in Hamnet.

The ceremony, formerly known as the Screen Actors Guild Awards, is voted on by members of the SAG-AFTRA and is regarded as a key indicator in the lead-up to the Oscars, with actors representing the largest voting group within the Academy.

Accepting her award, Jessie delivered an emotional speech, reflecting on the support and inspiration she has received throughout her career.

"I have been categorically changed by so many people in this room and beyond," she said.

"To get to work with my heart in my hand and stand beside my brilliant, daring friends who show me their heart, I mean, what a way to spend a life."

The win further cements Jessie's reputation as one of the most compelling performers of her generation, with awards season momentum continuing to build around her acclaimed performance in Hamnet.

All eyes are now on the Oscars which take place on March 15th.



Jessie Buckley pictured at the 2026 IFTA Awards where she also won Lead Actress for her performance in Hamnet. Picture Andres Poveda

## LISSIVIGEEN NATIONAL SCHOOL WIN TOP PRIZE TO CREATE A SENSORY GARDEN

Lissivigeen National School were announced as the overall winner of the MD O'Shea's Community Builders Promotion on Radio Kerry, securing the top prize of a €3,000 MD O'Shea's voucher.

The funding won will be used to create a new sensory garden at the school, a project that will provide a calm, inclusive and engaging outdoor space for pupils of all ages.

Shortlisted from 89 entries across the county, the three finalists selected were

Firies Tidy Towns, Kerry Rape

& Sexual Abuse Centre and Lissivigeen National School.

The school received strong public support throughout the voting process. Representatives joined Pat Kelly on The 11 to 1 Club to outline their plans and explain how the sensory garden would make a meaningful difference to their school community. The results were later announced live on air, with the voucher presented by Pat O'Sullivan of MD O'Shea's.

For the pupils, the new sensory garden will be much more than just an outdoor space.

Ayla from 5th class said the garden "means a lot to us as it is a really good change for all of us in school. It will help us to get outside more and enjoy nature."

Saorlaith and Carolena said it will be "a nice place for children to explore the different senses, touch, taste, smell, sight and sound in nature. It will be a fun way to learn and we are excited to see it all come together."

Caolán said it "will be great on a hot day to get out and get some fresh air," while Eric described it as "an extremely important and very

worthwhile project for all of the students in our school."

Liliana believes it "will be calm, quiet and relaxing during the school day," and Fionn and Marc said it will be "a nice relaxing place to go when you feel sad and overwhelmed. If you are having a tough day, you can go out there and it will be quiet and calm."

Yasmin said it will be lovely for younger children to explore the sensory installations and learn about plants and nature, while Robyn is excited to learn about planting flowers and growing vegetables.

Nicole added that it will be calming for children who are feeling stressed about school work.

Bella and Annalynne summed up the excitement, saying it will be "a nice spot for the children of Lissivigeen NS, especially for a break after working hard in class. We are excited for there to be herbs, plants and flowers in the garden for us to see and smell."

The MD O'Shea's Community Builders Promotion shone a spotlight on the remarkable voluntary and community spirit across Kerry, with Lissivigeen National School's sensory garden project standing out as a truly deserving winner.



Members of the student council at Lissivigeen NS, together with (left to right) Teacher Brid Ryan, SNA Cathy Hogan, Principal Ellen Cagney & Teacher Sarah Cahill, displaying a huge thank you to MD O'Shea's & Radio Kerry, resulting their win of €3,000, pitched by Teacher Elaine Ni Shé (missing from photo), to assist in completing their sensory garden (at rear) which the whole school to enjoy. Picture Marie Carroll-O'Sullivan.



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# Minister O’Sullivan launches new initiative to protect marine wildlife in the south west



A new voluntary code of practice for responsible marine wildlife watching was launched in Dingle by Minister for nature, heritage and biodiversity, Christopher O’Sullivan, T.D., met with Local Boat Operators from The Iveragh and Dingle Peninsulas, and regional staff from National Parks and Wildlife Service. Photo: Valerie O’Sullivan

Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, Christopher O’Sullivan TD, has this week launched a new Code of Conduct for Responsible Marine Wildlife Watching. Developed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in collaboration with tour operators, the Code aims to help avoid harmful disturbance to sensitive wildlife and to encourage sustainable and responsible tourism operations off the Cork and Kerry coast. It is a conservation project of Páirc Náisiúnta na Mara, Ciarraí, Ireland’s first Marine National Park. Speaking in Dingle, where he met with the tour operators who will be involved in the pilot project over the coming months, Minister O’Sullivan said: “The whale watching off the

southwest coast can be world class. Encounters with ocean giants like fin whales and humpback whales aren’t unusual, and there’s also a chance to see other species like basking sharks and grey seals. But with the growth in eco-tourism and wildlife tourism, it’s important that we emphasise how this can be done responsibly. The Code of Conduct I’m launching today strikes a balance between being delivering world class wildlife experiences on the water while also ensuring that the species themselves are protected. Marine tourism is essential to the local economy in these rural areas, particularly during the summer months, and as a former volunteer whale-watching guide I fully believe that it is possible to have amazing encounters with these species at a safe distance. We must

ensure that our amazing marine wildlife will continue to breed and feed around our coasts, and this code of conduct is a great example of how we can protect nature and support the marine tourism sector at the same time.” The code is the result of an extensive consultation process with tour operators in the southwest region and is based on the latest scientific research. It sets out best practice in relation to species found off the Cork and Kerry coastlines, including whales, dolphins, seals, seabirds, basking shark and turtles. Examples of activities which may cause disturbance to them include noise, presence of vessels and personal watercraft, the irresponsible use of drones and visitor pressure. The code includes guidance to minimise and eliminate disturbance during wildlife watching activities. It includes recommended speeds, distance and time limits when observing particular species from boat tours. It describes the behaviours of these species when they are experiencing disturbance and highlights times when they may be especially vulnerable, for example during breeding season. The Minister added: “Simple actions can have a huge impact on the safety and future of these species – such as keeping our distance, especially during breeding season, and being vigilant for signs of disturbance. While the code has been developed with tour operators, it can be put into practice by all of us who love to watch wildlife – whether in Baltimore or around the Blaskets. I would like to thank all of the tour operators for their valuable input into this code and I look forward to hearing more after the pilot phase is complete.” NPWS will engage with the tour operators involved in this pilot phase later in the year to finalise the code and to explore how it can be shared more widely beyond the pilot phase.

## Fond Farewell to Pat Cronin After 51 Years with An Post

The 26th of February marked the end of an era in Farranfore and surrounding areas, as Pat Cronin completed his final delivery with An Post after almost 51 years of dedicated service. Pat began his career in the Killarney office before settling into his role in Farranfore, where he would spend 44 years serving the local community. Over the decades, he became far more than a postman, he was a familiar, friendly face on doorsteps throughout the area, delivering not just letters and parcels, but spending a little chatting creating a strong sense of connection with the community. Through changing times, evolving postal services, and all kinds of weather, Pat remained a constant presence. His commitment and reliability earned him the respect and appreciation of the many households he served.



A special photograph, taken by Mags Moriarty, captures one of his final moments on route as he greeted her with the post

For generations of families, Pat was simply part of daily life. On his final day, Pat was warmly welcomed home by his grandchildren following his last delivery, a fitting celebration of a remarkable career and a lifetime of service. Another special photograph, taken by Mags Moriarty, captures one of his final moments on route as he greeted her with the post, reflecting the warmth and good humour for which he is so well known. As Pat closes this chapter, the community extends its heartfelt thanks for his years of dedication and wishes him a long, happy, and well-earned retirement.



Pat was warmly welcomed home by his grandchildren following his last delivery,

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# CEO OF TOURISM IRELAND

## Addresses Kerry Tourism Industry at KTIF Tourism Day 2026

The CEO of Tourism Ireland, Alice Mansergh, is in Kerry this week to address tourism businesses at the Kerry Tourism Industry Federation (KTIF) Tourism Day 2026, taking place at The Brehon Hotel & Spa.

The event has brought together representatives from across Kerry's tourism and business community. KTIF, which represents tourism operators and chambers throughout the county, provides a unified voice for the sector at local, regional and national levels.

Attendees include accommodation providers, attractions, activity operators, hospitality businesses, publicans and transport services, reflecting the breadth of Kerry's tourism offering.

Alice Mansergh is outlining overseas market performance, travel trends and Ireland's global competitiveness, with a focus on opportunities for Kerry in key international markets.

Speakers also include:

Fearghal Reidy, Chief Executive of Kerry County Council, on infrastructure and sustainable growth.

Miriam Kennedy, Head of the Wild Atlantic Way at Fáilte Ireland, on the development of Ireland's Atlantic coastal brand.

Fergal Brosnan, CEO of RDI Hub,



Kerry Tourism Industry Federation (KTIF) met at the Brehon Hotel on Tuesday, to discuss the future of tourism in Kerry; from government policy, leaders in industry, AI projects, local developments, global economics and much more. Guest Speakers and leaders from left, Kevin O'Callaghan, KTIF, Billy Keane, Key Speaker, Writer and Publican, Michael O'Sullivan, Academic & Expert on Global Financial Markets, Pat O'Leary, Chairman KTIF, Grainne Kelliher, KTIF and Green Broker Consulting, Alice Mansergh, CEO Tourism Ireland, Fearghal Reidy, CE Kerry County Council, Emer Corridan, KTIF and Cahernane Hotel, and Patrick O'Donoghue, KTIF and CEO Gleneagle Group. Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan

on AI and digital innovation in tourism.

Mike O'Sullivan, financial markets expert, on global economic conditions and tourism demand.

Billy Keane, writer and publican, on the role of publicans in preserving heritage and enhancing the visitor experience.

KTIF Chairperson Pat O'Leary said the range of speakers highlights the interconnected nature of Kerry's tourism industry and the importance of collaboration across sectors.

Discussions are focusing on sustainability, community resilience, market diversification

and long-term competitiveness, with major events such as the Ryder Cup 2027 noted as key opportunities.

Established in 2019, KTIF continues to coordinate tourism interests across Kerry, promoting collaboration in marketing, sustainability and development.



St Brendan's Leaving certificate pupils Adeen Syed and Sean Dowling presenting a cheque for €1100 on behalf of their classmates to Seamus Galvin and Paddy O'Sullivan of St Brigid's SVP Conference Killarney with Leaving certificate students, Sean Coffey Principal, teachers Ann Culloty, Niamh O'Connell and Carol Hickson at St Brendan's College, Killarney. Photo by Michelle Cooper Galvin

## SEM BOYS SING THEIR HEARTS OUT FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

St. Brendan's annual SVP Fundraiser took place on Thursday 18th December, when the 6th Year and 6LCA students continued the annual tradition of Christmas carolling at the Market Cross in Killarney. Despite the yellow weather warning and pouring rain, the boys sang their hearts out and raised an incredible €1,100 in just 45 minutes. The money raised continues to support families in our community through the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

A cheque for €1,100 was presented to Seamus Galvin and Paddy O'Sullivan of SVP on behalf of our 6th Years, principal Sean Coffey, teachers Ann Culloty, Niamh O'Connell and Carol Hickson.



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# Kerry Mountain Rescue Team Marks 60 Years of Service with Anniversary Celebrations

The Kerry Mountain Rescue Team (KMRT) is preparing to celebrate a major milestone in 2026 as it marks 60 years of dedicated voluntary service across the county's mountains and uplands.

Founded in 1966, the team has spent six decades responding to emergencies in some of Ireland's most challenging terrain, providing life-saving assistance to walkers, climbers and outdoor enthusiasts in all weather conditions. From the rugged MacGillycuddy's Reeks to remote coastal headlands, KMRT volunteers have become a vital part of Kerry's outdoor safety network.

To commemorate the anniversary, the team is inviting members of the public to take part in the celebrations by sending video messages with well-wishes and memories. Submissions can be made via WhatsApp to +353 87 483 8922, with selected messages expected to feature in anniversary events and promotional



material throughout the year.

In a statement marking the occasion, the team acknowledged the crucial role of community support in sustaining its operations. As a voluntary organisation, KMRT relies heavily on the generosity of the public and the wider outdoor community to fund training, equipment and rescue resources.

"KMRT would not be able to operate in the capacity at which it does without the huge support it receives from the local community

and the outdoors community further afield," the team said.

Over the past 60 years, members have responded to hundreds of call-outs, often in extreme conditions, giving up personal time to ensure the safety of others. Advances in technology, training and specialist equipment have significantly enhanced the team's capabilities, but its core ethos of volunteerism and teamwork remains unchanged.

Anniversary events are expected to take place throughout 2026, celebrating not only the team's history but also the many volunteers, past and present, who have contributed to its success.

As outdoor recreation continues to grow in popularity, KMRT's role remains as important as ever, standing ready to respond whenever and wherever it is needed across the mountains of Kerry.

## KILLARNEY HOTEL SLASHES ENERGY COSTS BY OVER A THIRD AFTER RETROFIT

**Munster hospitality businesses urged to explore SEAI grant supports**

A full energy retrofit at Scotts Hotel Killarney will cut annual energy costs by more than a third, highlighting how hospitality businesses across Munster can benefit from available grant supports.

A showcase event at the hotel on Friday, February 27th heard how the project has significantly reduced carbon emissions while improving energy efficiency and the overall guest experience.

The project, delivered by Energywise Ireland under the SEAI Community Energy Grant (CEG) scheme, included a 162kW solar PV system, cavity and attic insulation, a hot water system upgrade and a new air conditioning system.

The renewable energy company said the retrofit has the potential to result in a 36% reduction in annual energy costs. It's also advising that companies and community groups can avail of grant amounts of between 30% and up to 50% for non-domestic buildings.

Speaking following the showcase event in Killarney, Berth Sheehy, CEO of Energywise Ireland commented: "We were delighted to be asked to take on this project at Scotts Hotel Killarney and we're very pleased with the results. Hotels operate year-round with significant energy demands, so the impact of targeted measures can be substantial. This project shows how businesses can reduce energy costs and emissions while making their operations more efficient."

Managing Director at Scotts Hotel Maurice



Pictured at an information meeting with Energywise and SEAI at Scott's Hotel, Killarney were from left, Maurice O'Donoghue, Managing Director Scotts Hotel, Katerina Ieromonahos, CEG Programme Executive, SEAI, Cllr Michael Foley, Cathaoirleach Kerry County Council and Berth Sheehy, CEO Energywise Ireland. Photo: Don MacMonagle

O'Donoghue added: "Like many hospitality businesses, energy costs are a key consideration for us. We received sound, practical advice from Energywise Ireland and the results have exceeded our expectations. Not only have we reduced our energy use and running costs, but we've also improved comfort levels for guests throughout the hotel."

The SEAI is encouraging other businesses across the country to explore available grant supports. Spokesperson Katerina Ieromonahos

said: "SEAI offers a range of supports to help businesses improve energy efficiency, from community-based projects to direct business grants. These supports help businesses reduce energy use and lower running costs. We would encourage businesses to explore the options available and seek advice, including through registered One Stop Shops, to find the approach that best suits their needs."



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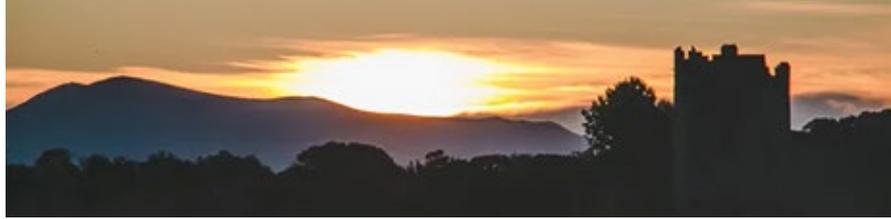


*"Our job was complicated as we needed to break into the bedroom to make the bathroom larger. We wanted a bath and a walk-in shower. Pat came up with a fantastic design. Nothing was a problem. The bathroom we ended up with, you would not find in a 5 Star hotel. It is beautiful. The design, the workmanship, the staff, all were great and knew what they were doing. It felt like it was their own bathroom they were doing; they were so dedicated to getting everything right and to the way we wanted it. Brilliant company."*

Mary O'Connor, Killorglin.



Anne Lucey looks at the positive news happening in Killarney



### GEN Z WORK TO LIVE, NOT LIVE TO WORK

Some of the unsung aspects of recent IHF conferences in Killarney are the high quality talks. Especially talks on the digital world. Last year I was transfixed by a leading French expert on AI - basically anticipating the focus of discussion for the year ahead: AI is not all it's cracked up to be and needs a lot more research back at the drawing board before advancing. This year, it was the turn of Gen Z. The generation born in the mid 1990s, are the first truly social media young people. They differ hugely from previous "vocalised" generations such as the baby boomers of the late 50s and 60s. But guess what? Even Gen Z are mellowing! In the meantime there were a few take away gems.

Strategist Erifili Gounari told hoteliers offering work-life balance, upskilling and flexibility would help in retaining the generation born circa 1997. This was a generation that had been on social media since they were nine or ten. They did not know a world without social media engagement. They were very "value driven". And while this was true of other generations before them, "Gen Z also have the means to shout louder about it," Gounari said. Gen Z would call people out because they had the means ( Instagram, FB etc) to express what they care about, she said. The 26-year-old who specializes in her own generation has advised the Greek Government in reaching out to the digital generation. "They have a distaste for being boxed in," and preferred not to evolve rather than be labelled or boxed in.

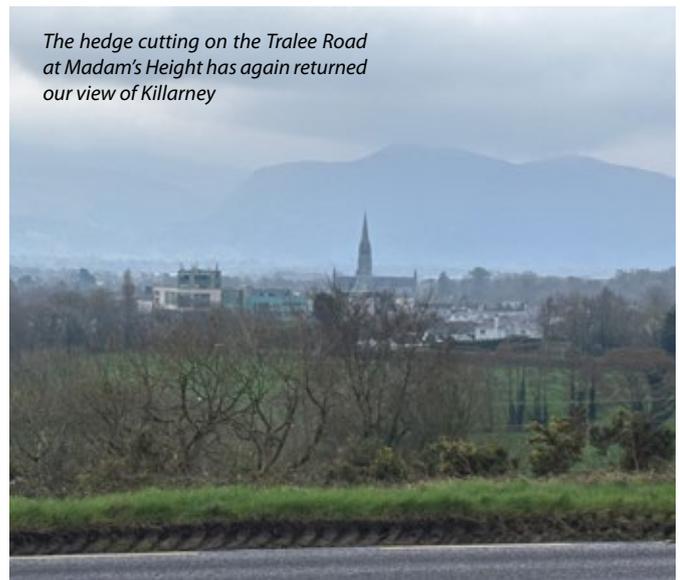
They prioritized mental health. "So many Gen Zs are in therapy without having mental health issues," she said. Being authentic and casual mattered more to them than polished and perfect. (Hear, Hear - I shout) Most were more interested in self-employment and entrepreneurship because they felt this would give them more freedom. For those employing them flexibility was important, she said. However the most overwhelmingly important thing for the generation was "work life balance". This was "way higher" in their priorities than a secure job, she said. Hybrid working was also important, but it not all remote working. Micro-managing them was not a good idea. Gen Alpha was already coming up, she said in response to questions from the floor.

### DEJA VU: NOT SO NEW REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM

We are back to the stage we were at 22 years ago - to the old health board. Except now they are called health fora. Micheal Martin's big misstep as health minister in the creation of the HSE goes unnoticed - behind a cloud of smoke. Smothered by his smoking ban that was deemed a success. (We won't mention the obesity problems that has followed the ban on fags). In any case, we are back to having Cork and Kerry conjoined. And the meeting was held in Tralee for the first time in over two decades. The new Regional Health Forum (RHF) South West Chairperson Cllr Finbarr Harrington said: "It is wonderful to be in Tralee today, back at the Council Chambers where the Southern Health Board meetings used to take place over 20 years ago." "The Regional Health Forum is such an important body; it allows local authority members to put forward motions and questions to senior HSE officials from HSE South West and voice the concerns of our communities. Not only do we learn so much about the health services available to our communities at these forums, but we get to make suggestions as to what we believe could improve the delivery of health services in Cork and Kerry too." Big issues were on the agenda. It is embarrassing for Killarney to

see how now practically every one horse village and town in the county - and country - has a primary centre. Except Killarney. But then, we like to live horse and get grass in Killarney. We got involved in arguments between State silos and handed our primary care centre back and the multi-million euro theatre that went with it in a fit of pique over car parks and which state body should give the land for the primary care centre! Kenmare, Listowel, Castleisland, and now Cahersiveen and Rathmore are on the road with primary care centres. Tralee has a glowing new women's health centre. I asked health forum member Councillor Marie Moloney was there any word on Killarney's primary care? Marie had raised it with executives after the meeting and has the good news that yes, the HSE have a site in mind and full details will be available next meeting. I gather though, the site is not straightforward. Meanwhile both Marie and Jackie Healy-Rae are furious with the HSE over the still unopened community nursing unit. "This gives a whole new meaning to the lights on and no-one home," Marie said.

### HEDGE CUTTING - KEEP IT TRIM AND NEAT, PLEASE!



The hedge cutting on the Tralee Road at Madam's Height has again returned our view of Killarney

With the fields of golden daffodils, the planting around Killarney is second to none. So take "a bough", town council, pardon the pun. The hedge cutting on the Tralee Road at Madam's Height has again returned our view of Killarney. And the sense of spring after impenetrable grey has been wonderful. But a whole lot more might be done by both the Council and the NPWS. The walls around the national park are in a terrible state - falling down. Or fallen. Surely they could do like Adare and rebuild them? There are other issues too with tidying hedge growth. Why, when trees are cut, do they have to be gartered and stumped and torn? Brennan's Glen is an example. It would be nice if our hedges were all shaped and cut the same size. For the sake of symmetry alone. Then we have the situation where there really is no maintenance of roadside trees going on. Trees need to be tidied and this time of the year when there is nothing but the daffs growing, the contrast with the beautiful flowers and the unkemptness is all too stark.



BON SECOURS HOSPITAL TRALEE  
Cosmetic and Hair Restoration Clinic

# March Offers

**SKIN CONSULTATION - ONLY €45 - FULLY REDEEMABLE AGAINST ANY COURSE OF TREATMENT AT CHRC!**

Receive a 1:1 skin consultation at CHRC with our expert aesthetic practitioner using the advanced OBSERV 520. In just one hour, we'll reveal hidden concerns like sun damage, dryness, and uneven tone, guiding you to the right treatments or products for your skin.

**TRIBELLA - NOW ONLY €250 (NORMALLY €500)**

Tribella, this 3 in 1 provides total facial rejuvenation to improve overall skin tone, elasticity, and texture, targeting redness, sun spots and fine lines and wrinkles.

**DERMALIFT - NOW ONLY €80 (NORMALLY €120)**

The Non-Surgical Face Lift - lift and firm with micro current technology, a non-surgical treatment that smooths wrinkles and boosts elasticity for a youthful glow!

**VAMPIRE FACIAL - NOW ONLY €300 (NORMALLY €600)**

Experience superior skin rejuvenation with our PRP and Microneedling combo. This powerful treatment harnesses your body's natural healing abilities to reduce fine lines, improve texture and give your skin a radiant glow.

**SKIN TIGHTENING FACIAL - NOW ONLY €150 (NORMALLY €265)**

Tighten, tone, and rejuvenate with Radiofrequency (RF) technology. This luxurious facial includes a deep cleanse, exfoliation, active serums, and Dermalux LED Light Therapy to promote collagen production and firm your skin.

**BODY CONTOURING & FAT REDUCTION**

Any 2 areas for only €100 normally €300!

After 4 treatments 1 FREE body laser fat reduction treatment worth €285!

**LASER HAIR REMOVAL**

50% off Bikini and Underarm  
Now only €75 (normally €150!)

**BOOK ONLINE OR CALL US TODAY**



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**HAIR CONSULTATIONS  
AVAILABLE - €120**

# Festival brings three-year theme trilogy to a close

St. Patrick's  
Festival  
Killarney

This year's St Patrick's Day parade in Killarney will mark the culmination of the linked trilogy of themes for the big event with the organisers having embraced the town's past, present and future since 2024.

The theme this year is Echoes of Killarney: Future and the emphasis will be very much focused on the wonderful events that are expected to happen in the town in the coming years.

In keeping with that theme, the three VIP grand marshals that will grace the viewing stand for the bumper parade on March 17 are top class athlete Sarah Leahy – one of the country's most promising sports stars who has already accomplished major achievements on the track – charismatic and hugely popular DJ and music producer David Sheerin, a 20-year-old rising star popularly known as SHEE – and hugely creative teenager Fionn O'Leary whose unique gift working with modelling clay sets him apart as one to watch in the future.

The theme in 2024 was Echoes of Killarney: Past, last year it was Echoes of Killarney: Present and in 2026 the focus will most certainly be on Echoes of Killarney: Future and to suggest that the three-year theme has been a success is quite the understatement.

"The festival grew in stature and in



Festival Chairman Jason Clifford.

participation levels every year and St Patrick's Day brings the biggest footfall to Killarney at any one time of the year," said Festival Chairman Jason Clifford. He added that the fact that the traditional one-day celebration has now grown to a hugely successful five-day festival speaks volumes about the high regard in which Killarney and its many festivals are held.

The judges that will choose the various prizewinners this year are none other than hilarious father and son duo and social media sensations Derry and Tadhg Fleming and 2025 Make-up Artist of the Year Annette O'Brien.

Influencer Annette will spot every imaginative costume, colourful float and dazzling look while Tadhg and Derry, celebrated for their contributions to arts and performance, will lend their expert eye to ensure every entry is judged with care and excitement.

The Killarney St Patrick's Festival is organised by a sub-committee of Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce, chaired by hotelier Jason Clifford, in association with Kerry County Council and Fáilte Ireland.

Jason Clifford remarked: "The St Patrick's Festival fills the town with joyful energy, from the spectacular parade and live performances to family fun and local traditions.

"It's a warm invitation to experience the magic of Killarney at its most spirited.

Ciara Sugrue, Head of Festivals and Events at Fáilte Ireland, said events like this showcase the very best of Irish culture, music and entertainment, inspiring both domestic and international visitors to explore new destinations across the country.

"By investing in St Patrick's Festival Killarney, we're strengthening Kerry's position within the Wild Atlantic Way as a must-visit destination and helping to drive economic benefits for local businesses and communities across the county and wider region," she said.

## Jake Carter to headline the wonderful Ablefest

What makes Killarney so special? Wonderful events like Ablefest is the simple answer and the big event is returning to town on Sunday, March 15 from 12 noon to 4.00pm.

The festival buzz can be enjoyed at the St Patrick's Festival Hub on Beech Road and it's set to be four hours of pure joy, music, creativity and unforgettable moments.

Ablefest is a celebration of inclusion, community and fun for everyone, a place where people of all abilities, their families, friends and supporters can come together to dance, laugh, play and make memories. From electrifying live performances – headlined by Jake Carter and his band – to interactive experiences, drumming sessions, face painting, puppet shows, sensory-friendly spaces and so much more, there will be something magical wherever one turns.

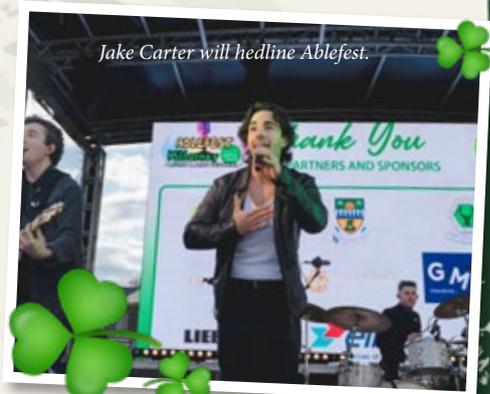
Whether grooving with friends, exploring creative corners, or sharing smiles with family, Ablefest Killarney is where every voice is heard and every heart belongs.

**So what can be enjoyed at Ablefest 2026? How's this for starters?**

- Sensory-friendly area
- Live music all day
- DJ and silent disco
- Art and creative activities
- Dance sessions
- Drumming experiences



- Circus skills workshops
- Balloon modelling
- Giant games
- Magic shows
- Animal roadshow
- Nail painting



Jake Carter will headline Ablefest.

- Face painting
- Brickx Club
- Teddy Bear's Hospital
- Jamming Hut
- My Canine Companion
- Carers' treats
- Funfair attractions



# St. Patrick's Festival Killarney

# Echoes of Killarney Future

13TH - 17TH MARCH 2026

Ireland's Family Festival

6th-23rd March 2026

Painting the town Green  
The Greening of Killarney's Iconic Buildings & Monuments



An Evening of Artistic Performance at the West End House School of Arts

Join us for our opening event of St. Patrick's Festival 2026 that includes, drama, comedy and music!

13th March 12.00pm

TICKET EVENT

Tickets €5.00 | Doors 6.45pm | West End School of Arts

14th March 12.00pm

## THE GREAT DUCK DASH

BUY YOUR DUCK

Adopt a rubber duck for the race, and you could be our lucky winner! Prizes await the fastest and most fortunate ducks! All proceeds to Down Syndrome Ireland (Kerry Branch).

Ducks €5.00 | Start - Demesne Playground

15th March 12.00pm

TICKET EVENT

## ABLEFEST Killarney

MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

**Ablefest** - A festival of inclusivity where those with additional needs, their families & friends can immerse themselves in music, art and activities. Country singer Jake Carter will headline the event with many other local musicians and entertainers taking part.

Adults: €25 | Child (U16): €10  
Family Ticket: €50 (2 Adults & 3 children)

Beech Road Car Park

16th March 9.00pm

## Céili Mór

With the Uí Briain Ceili Band. Come to dance or enjoy the spectacle. Our Céili Mór will celebrate tradition and pure Irish spirit.

Tickets €10.00 | Great Southern Hotel

TICKET EVENT

NEW

16th March

# BATTLE OF THE BANDS

REGISTER YOUR BAND

We are looking for Kerry's & Ireland's next big music superstars.

Battle LIVE on the main stage. Open to all musical genres Rock, Traditional, Metal, Country etc. Winners to receive Studio Record Time. Participants aged 10 to 21 yrs.

Register your interest at [stpatricksfestivalkillarney@gmail.com](mailto:stpatricksfestivalkillarney@gmail.com)

17th March 2.00pm

# St. Patrick's Day BIG PARADE

Parade starts at 2.00pm from Mission Road  
Festival Zone open from 12 noon till 6pm.

17th March 4.00pm

## DUNK FOR THE STARS

BUY YOUR BALL

A star-studded line up of well-known faces will be sitting nervously on the dunk tank, just waiting for YOU to send them splashing down! In Aid of Kerry Stars

€10.00 Per Ball | Festival Zone - from 4.00pm



TO BOOK  
Simply scan QR code

[www.stpatricksfestivalkillarney.ie](http://www.stpatricksfestivalkillarney.ie)





# Battle of the Bands will be something special



The Festival Zone on Beech Road will spring to life with music, song, sound and energy as an eagerly awaited Battle of the Bands competition gets underway on Monday, March 16 as a new addition to Killarney's St Patrick's Festival.

Emerging local bands will take to the stage to showcase their talents, creativity and sheer passion for music and the audience can expect everything from electrifying guitar riffs to soulful vocals as the search for Killarney's next big music stars gets underway.

The Battle of the Bands is open to all ages and the lively Festival Zone is the perfect place to soak up the festival atmosphere, enjoy great music and cheer on favourite acts. Winners will earn recognition, prizes and the pride of representing their local music scene at the festival.

It promises to be an unforgettable evening of music, community spirit and festival fun with some not to be missed performances and, if the winners make it to the big time, imagine being able to say 'I was there when it all started'.

The festival organisers are urging young musicians from Killarney and beyond to step into the spotlight and showcase their talents for the Battle of the Bands which will be live on the main stage from 5.30pm to 7.30pm on March 16.

"This is more than just a gig – it's an opportunity to showcase your sound, your energy and your originality on one of Killarney's biggest stages of the year and to perform live for a chance to win studio recording time," said Festival Chairman Jason Clifford.

All genres are welcome, including rock, pop, indie, hip-hop, folk, metal and everything in between.

Go to [stpatriksfestivalkillarney.ie](http://stpatriksfestivalkillarney.ie) for details on how to enter but act fast as time is running out.



# Céilí Mór will send 'em home sweatin'

It will be a case of all around the house but mind the dresser at a traditional Céilí Mór which will be one of the real entertainment highlights of this year's St Patrick's Festival in Killarney.

It will take place on the eve of the big feast day in the Killarney Great Southern and there will be a wonderful party atmosphere guaranteed on the night.

Providing the tunes will be the very highly regarded Uí Bhriain Céilí Band and they promise to send everybody home sweating after what will be a memorable night for locals and visitors. The March 16 céilí will commence at 9.00pm and continue right through until midnight and the admission for a wonderful night of pure Irish trad is just €10.00.

Bookings can be made on the festival website or patrons can pay at the door on the night.



# It's Patrick's Day babe, in the Dunk Tank

It's not every day that one gets a chance to dunk the town's first citizen up to his eyeballs in ice-cold water.

In Killarney, however, they do things differently.

Mayor Martin Grady has bravely volunteered to be a victim of what promises to be a hilarious Dunk for the Stars spectacular which will take place in the festival zone on Beech Road shortly after the parade ends on St Patrick's Day.

A star-studded line-up of local personalities and well-known business interests will be dunked in the giant open air tub and they will have to suffer the humiliation of a bumper crowd watching on as they are soaked to the skin.

Members of the public can purchase a ball to try to knock the nervous personalities off their lofty pedestals and directly into the water and

proceeds from the €10 per ball fee will go to the Kerry Stars Special Olympics Club. The fun will start from 4.00pm and joining the mayor in the dunk tank will be hilarious father and son influencers Derry and Tadhg Fleming, Neilus Hayes, Caoimhe Brosnan, Dan O'Connor, Wilson da Silva, Shelly O'Connor, Gerry Fitzgerald, Brian O'Donoghue, Brid O'Connor, Liadh Tobin, Edele Daly, Jared O'Sullivan, Louise Devaney, Niall O'Sullivan of Killarney Carpets and Furniture Centre and Killarney Valley Classic and Vintage Club supremo Tom Leslie. And there might even be a few surprises!

Those that can't make it need not fret as they can still purchase a ball to be thrown on their behalf and they can watch the event on livestream. See [stpatriksfestivalkillarney.ie](http://stpatriksfestivalkillarney.ie) for details.



Volunteers ready to make a splash at the Dunk Tank

# Great quack guaranteed at duck dash



*The 'Great Duck Dash', s will see sponsored rubber ducks race along the fast flowing River Deenagh opposite St. Mary's Cathedral, Killarney  
Photo: Don MacMonagle*

The action at the Great Duck Dash – a novel part of this year's Killarney St Patrick's festival – promises to be as keenly contested and fiercely competitive as anything that will be seen in Fitzgerald Stadium or even Croke Park in the weeks and months to come.

To give the determined duck sponsors the time to recover, the big event will take place on Saturday, March 14 – three days before the national feast day – and for 45 minutes that day it will be great quack as the owners will their chosen ducks to victory on the River Deenagh.

The flotilla of rubber ducks will be racing down the winding river and hoping to make a splash for a fantastic cause with the event in support of Down Syndrome Kerry.

The public has been invited to sponsor a rubber duck – or two – for the race and super prizes await the fastest ducks. And remember – the more ducks sponsored, the better chance of winning.

Those wishing to support the great event that can't be there on the day have been assured that the organisers will ensure their ducks are all lined up at the start line and the winners will be contacted after the event.

The race start point is the bridge at the playground off Port Road, almost directly opposite St Mary's Cathedral.

**To find out how to sponsor a duck go to <https://stpatricksfestivalkillarney.ie>.**



# Shades are spot on for the greening of Killarney

Killarney will leave every other town in the country green with envy when the whole place turns a distinctive shade of green in the lead up to and during the St Patrick's Festival.

From early this month, buildings across the town and the surrounding area will be illuminated in vibrant green, including landmarks such as St Mary's Cathedral, the Franciscan Friary, St Mary's Church of Ireland, Methodist Church, Ross Castle and Killarney Courthouse.

In addition, several hotels, shops, restaurants and pubs will join in the celebration and a public vote on Facebook will select Killarney's Best



*The Europe Hotel and Resort goes green for the festival.*

Green Themed Building.

Shop windows will be decorated, locals and visitors dress in shades from emerald to lime and colourful hats and costumes add to the fun.

Businesses have been urged to make a special effort this year and the entire town will be a winner.

# 10-minute plays will linger in the memory

The West End House School of Arts is delighted to take part in this year's St Patrick's Day Festival with a special evening of entertaining readings on Friday, March 13 at 7.30pm.

It promises to be a vibrant showcase of five original 10-minute plays written by emerging local playwrights, each of whom has recently completed a

playwriting course with Fiona Doyle. Diverse in style and subject matter, these beautifully crafted pieces promise an evening of laughter, tears, and powerful storytelling and each reading will be performed by West End House actors from Kerry.

Together, they highlight the remarkable talent of these up-and-coming writers and actors, who are the future of theatre in our community.

# Parade will be one of the best in the country

This year's St Patrick's Day parade in Killarney – which promises to be one of the most colourful and imaginative in the entire country – will follow a familiar route to ensure maximum viewing opportunities for the thousands of people expected to line the streets.

While the lively festival zone on Beech Road will open from 12 noon to 6.00pm, the big parade magic will commence on Mission Road at 2.00pm sharp with the route taking in East Avenue Road, College Street, Plunkett Street, Main Street – where the parade grandstand will be located – and New Street before finishing on Beech Road.

There will be a collection point for children participating in the parade close to the finish line and parents and guardians are asked to familiarise themselves and their children with that area.

As is the case every year, there will be several prizes to be won, including best interpretation of theme, best marching group, most imaginative float, best sporting entry, most entertaining entry and most original entry.

The awards will be presented to the winners at a reception in the Killarney Great Southern on Thursday, March 19.



*Dancers on the street for the big parade.*

# Gleneagle Recognised Among Ireland's Best Large Workplaces 2026

Gleneagle, Killarney has once again been recognised at the prestigious Great Place to Work awards, earning a place on Ireland's Best Large Workplaces 2026 list in the category of organisations employing 251 to 550 employees. The ceremony took place last night (February 25, 2026) at the Clayton Hotel Burlington Road in Dublin.

This respected accolade celebrates organisations that foster trust, prioritise employee wellbeing, and build strong, values-driven workplace cultures. The recognition reflects Gleneagle's continued commitment to creating an environment where people feel supported, valued and empowered to grow.

As a leader in the hospitality industry, Gleneagle has consistently invested in employee engagement, professional development and wellbeing initiatives. From flexible working arrangements to enhanced supports and career progression opportunities, the organisation remains focused on building a workplace culture rooted in trust and opportunity.

Eilis Loughrey, Director of People and Culture at Gleneagle said: "We are incredibly proud to once again be recognised among Ireland's Best Large Workplaces. This award is especially meaningful because it is based on direct feedback from our team. It reflects the trust, respect and sense of belonging



Pictured at The Great Place to Work Awards Ceremony were (Front L to R) Cianan Cronin, CFO; Eilis Loughrey, Director of People and Culture; Jadwiga Surmiak, Deputy General Manager; Ann O'Leary, People and Culture Manager and John Dolan, General Manager.

that we continue to build together. Our focus remains on creating an environment where people feel valued, supported and given every opportunity to grow." The Best Workplaces in Ireland recognition is based on a rigorous assessment of employee feedback, with

insights gathered from tens of thousands of employees nationwide. The Great Place to Work Trust Index survey evaluates areas including career development, recognition, wellbeing and teamwork, providing an independent measure of workplace excellence.

# KIFF

Kerry International Film Festival

## Kerry International Film Festival Announces The Kiff Film Club

Kerry International Film Festival (KIFF) is delighted to launch the KIFF Film Club. Supported by Screen Ireland through the Audience Development Fund, the KIFF Film Club brings the best modern Irish films and documentaries to the big screen in Killarney. Tickets for the first two screenings are on sale now at [kerryfilmfestival.com](http://kerryfilmfestival.com)

The Film Club will kick off in March with *Christy*, which recently won the IFTA for Best Film and Best Director. Set in the northside of Cork city, *Christy* follows the titular character as he moves in with his estranged brother. What follows is a compelling and heartfelt drama, as *Christy* integrates himself into the community and comes into his own. *Christy* screens March 25th, 8pm at Cinema Killarney.

For documentary-lovers, the April screening, *Gerry Adams: A Ballymurphy Man* provides a unique perspective on the Northern Irish conflict and fight for unity through unseen photographs and footage, as well as exclusive interviews with the man himself. *Gerry Adams: A Ballymurphy Man* screens April 22nd, 8pm at Cinema Killarney.

Tickets are €8 pp (plus booking fee). Attendees will be able to enjoy a complimentary cup of tea or coffee before each screening.

KIFF Festival Programming Director Amy Louise O'Callaghan said: "Despite the rising success of Irish film, many of these films rarely screen in Kerry, and if they do, never in Killarney. The KIFF Film Club offers regular opportunities to catch the best of Irish cinema where it belongs - on the big screen! So bring a friend, grab a cup of tea and help us build a vibrant and engaged film-loving community in the county".

In addition to the new KIFF Film Club, audiences can continue to enjoy curated cinema through the already established Siamsa Tíre Screen Club, which remains active at Siamsa Tíre Theatre in Tralee.

The KIFF Film Club will operate from March-May and November-January. Further screenings will be announced later in the year. Please keep an eye on KIFF's social media and newsletter for further updates.

All the information on the above and more can be found on KIFF's website.



Gerry Adams: A Ballymurphy Man screens April 22nd, 8pm at Cinema Killarney.

FILM CLUB  
SPRING SCREENINGS



Christy  
25th March @ 8pm Cinema Killarney



**The Lake Hotel**  
• KILLARNEY •  
★ ★ ★ ★

*Mother's Day Menu*



**€55**  
per person

Enjoy a 3 Course  
**Mother's Day Lunch Special**  
*Sunday, 15th March*  
Includes a complimentary glass of prosecco for the moms.

*Starters:*  
Crab on Brioche  
Ham Hock Croquette  
Cauliflower Velouté

*Mains:*  
Beef Feather Blade  
Seared Salmon  
Wild Mushroom Tagliatelle

*Lake Trio of Dessert:*  
Berry & Vanilla Pavlova  
Lemon Meringue Profiterole  
Baileys & Dark Chocolate Fondant

*Tea and Coffee*

*Savour award winning dining with a lakeside view.*  
Seating times are 12-2pm or 2:30-4:30pm.

Reservations can be made via email:  
restaurant@lakehotel.com or T: 064 663 1035

On the Lake Shore, Muckcross Road, Killarney, Co. Kerry, V93 RR59  
www.lakehotel.com

**BUCKLEY'S BAR**  
Arbutus Hotel - Killarney

1926 Arbutus Hotel Killarney 2026  
*'A Tradition in Hospitality'*  
Celebrating 100 years serving the people of Killarney.

**Buckley's for Food**  
Serving Full Bar Menu Every Weekend  
Friday - Sunday 9.30-9pm (Breakfast our speciality)  
Ideal venue for all social occasions (seats up to 70!)

**Buckley's for Sport**  
Watch all your Big Games Live  
Sky/Clubber/GAAGO/DAZN  
sky sports GAAGO clubber

**Buckley's for Music**  
Home of Traditional Irish Music in Killarney.  
Superb Traditional music every weekend,  
with afternoon and late Gigs on Sunday.

**St Patricks Day at Buckley's**

Book your table now for a Pre Parade Lunch  
Or an After Parade Dinner in our Arbutus Restaurant.  
Open from 12 noon till late Serving Breakfast and Full Bar Menu  
including some fabulous "St Paddys Days Specials."

Congratulations To Jessie Buckley on her achievement on winning the prestigious "IFTA" and "BAFTA" awards. We are all so proud!!

A time to remember to  
celebrate *Mother's Day*  
**Mother's Day**  
for all the ladies

**Mother's Day**  
**Arbutus Hotel**  
**Killarney**

Mothers Day  
**ARBUTUS**  
HOTEL  
KILLARNEY

**€45**

Music by  
**Ben Quinlan**

**1pm - 3pm Sunday 15th March 2026**

College Street, Killarney | T +353 64 663 1037

Foster & Allen pictured with service users and staff at Holy Cross Day Care Centre



Foster & Allen entertaining the clients at Holy Cross Day Care Centre.



Una O'Callaghan and Breda Lynch pictured enjoying the occasion.

# FOSTER & ALLEN

## Bring Musical Surprise to Holy Cross Day Care Centre

Service users at the Holy Cross Day Care Centre on Rock Road were treated to a memorable surprise on Friday morning when Irish music legends Foster & Allen paid a special visit and performed a selection of well-loved tunes. The Holy Cross Day Care Centre is a valued community facility serving people from across Killarney. Each weekday, service users are collected from their homes



The groups favourite Friday read!

and brought to the centre, where they enjoy a welcoming and social environment. Different groups attend throughout the week, with activities ranging from yoga and Pilates to music sessions, reading and relaxed social gatherings. The group are also treated to beautiful home cooked meals and treats throughout the day. Friday's gathering, however, proved extra special when the popular duo arrived, instruments in hand, to perform some of their favourite songs. The visit created an atmosphere of joy and nostalgia, with many in attendance singing along and reminiscing. One service user, Una O'Callaghan from Scrahan Court, was particularly delighted to see the pair. Una previously worked in the box office at the Gleneagle Hotel, where Foster & Allen were regular performers over the years. The reunion

added a personal and touching dimension to the morning's entertainment. The duo were en route to a scheduled performance at the Gleneagle when they made the stop at the centre, much to the surprise of those present. Staff at Holy Cross Day Care Centre expressed their delight at being able to organise such a special treat for their clients, describing the visit as a wonderful boost that brought music, memories and smiles to all in attendance. Among those who enjoyed the special day were Kathleen Buckley, Anne Mulligan, Patricia O Shea, Una O Callaghan, Eileen Treacy, Eileen Doody, Patricia Lawlor, Patricia Buckley, Noreen Reidy, Theresa O Donaghue, Una Sweeney, Bridie O Neill, Brid Long, Breda Lynch, Pauline Johnson.



Foster & Allen pictured with service users and staff at Holy Cross Day Care Centre



Staff at the centre including Cathy Cronin Nurse Manager/ CNM, Sheila Dixon (Chair person of Killarney Community service) pictured with Foster & Allen

*You're Invited*

# Heart to Heart

*March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026*  
*Tigh Mary Donals, Killarney*  
*7pm - 9pm*



Did you know that menopause is a major milestone for your heart? As our oestrogen levels naturally shift, our risk of heart disease can increase by up to 50%. But here's the best part: 80% of premature heart disease is preventable with the right small changes. Join us at 'Heart to Heart' to learn how to keep your heart as strong as ever.

Hosted by Dr Máire Cleary & Nurse Triona Casey from Mná Clinic

With special expert speakers:  
**Dr Haytham Makki**  
 Consultant Cardiologist  
 Bons Secours Hospital Tralee &  
**Edele Daly**  
 Co founder Bwell Fitness & Strength & Conditioning Coach

**Where:** Whitegates Hotel Function Room- next to Tigh Mary Donal's. Enter through the door on the left of the building

**Time :** 7-9 pm

Book through Eventbrite  
 Cost €10 for entry, tea & coffee







AT THE BREHON

## Mother's Day Lunch

*Sunday 15th March*  
*12:30-2:30pm*

Three-Course Lunch  
 | €49 Per Person |

BOOK NOW

*info@thebrehon.com*  
*064 663 0700*



# Residents in Woodlawn Voice Alarm Over Dumped Dog Waste Near Killarney Athletic AFC

Residents in the Woodlawn area have expressed shock and deep concern following the discovery of hundreds of bags of dog waste discarded along the roadway leading to Killarney Athletic.

The stretch of road is used daily by hundreds of club members, including children and adults attending training sessions and matches. Locals say the scale of the dumping has caused outrage within the community, particularly given the high volume of young people who walk the route each week. Health concerns have also been raised in relation to dog fouling. Dog waste can pose serious risks to children, particularly through the transmission of roundworm larvae (*Toxocara canis*). Infection can occur if parasite eggs are ingested, often as a result of contact with contaminated ground surfaces. Symptoms can include fever, abdominal pain and, in rare but serious cases, vision impairment. Young children are considered most vulnerable due to frequent hand-to-mouth activity.

Residents have pointed out that there are two dedicated dog waste bins in the Woodlawn area, while householders also have access to their own domestic bins for proper disposal. Many have questioned why dog waste is being collected only to be discarded along the roadside.

While similar issues have occasionally been reported in Killarney National Park in the past, locals say the presence of such dumping in a residential area represents a new and deeply troubling development.

Environmental concerns have also been highlighted. Depending on the material, dog waste bags can take anywhere from a few weeks to more than 1,000 years to decompose. Certified compostable bags may break down within 90 to 180 days, while biodegradable varieties can take six to twelve months. Standard plastic bags, however, may persist in landfill for between 100 and 1,000 years.

Residents are now calling on those responsible to act responsibly, dispose of dog waste appropriately, and respect the local community. They say immediate action is needed to ensure the safety, cleanliness and wellbeing of all who use the area.



Highly toxic dog waste is openly visible on the roadway



Hundreds of bags of dog waste hanging off the bushes on the road down to Killarney Athletic.

KERRY STARS SPECIAL OLYMPICS SPORTS CLUB

FUNDRAISER

**TABLE QUIZ NIGHT**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March

- ⌚ Doors Open 7:00pm
- ⌚ Quiz Starts 7:30pm Sharp

**€10 per person | Teams of 4**  
(individuals welcome – we'll match you to a team!)

★ QUIZ • RAFFLE • SPOT PRIZES • GREAT NIGHT GUARANTEED ★

🏆 **€100 Cash Prize for Winning Team**

**WHAT IT'S FOR**

All funds raised will help our 4 athletes get to the Special Olympics Summer Games in June.

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V93 X459

📞 Contact: +353 87 236 5664

✉ Email: [kerrystars63@gmail.com](mailto:kerrystars63@gmail.com)

📺 Follow us on Facebook: Kerry Stars Special Olympics



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*Mothers Day*

**Sunday, 15th March**

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KILLARNEY

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Sunday March 15th from 1-3pm  
**€59pp**

View our menu and book online



## Incredible value at PACO WAREHOUSE CLEARANCE

Paco Clothing is delighted to open a second shop at the Killarney Outlet Centre for March and April – and the fantastic news for customers is that there will be some astonishing bargains to be availed of.

Paco will have a massive warehouse stock clearance in the temporary shop with ladies and men's fashion tops, trousers, fleeces, jackets and so much more clearing from as little as €9.99.

They will also be selling stylish and popular Regatta outdoor tops at 70% off the recommended retail price.

The temporary pop-up store opens this Thursday, March 5th, at 10.00am and it will remain open until the May Bank Holiday weekend.

Paco has established a great reputation for being a one-stop-shop for really classy fashion with some of the major brands in stock to ensure customers can avail of great quality as well as great prices.

Now is the ideal time to stock up your wardrobe for spring and summer and the team at Paco can advise you on the best options to ensure you look and feel your best in the weeks and months ahead.

True style is about choosing what you love and you're sure to find that at Paco and, better still, there are massive discounts to be availed of.

Hugely popular brands stocked include Paco, Paco Active, Just Elegance, Regatta, Mudflower and Paco Man and the prices really will have to be seen to be believed. It will be the place to shop for the next two months – make sure you beat the rush.



## Get your Scrap Together



Pictured at the launch of the scrap metal collection are (l to r) Tadhg Hayes, KWD Recycling, Jason Higgins, President, Killarney Lions Club and Paul Keating, Killarney Lions Club

Following the success of the first ever Killarney Lions Club scrap metal collection in 2025, the Club will again run the event this year in partnership with KWD Recycling on Saturday, 28th March, at Killarney Racecourse.

Similar to 2025, money raised through recycling the metal will go towards improving facilities for families attending the children's cancer unit in Cork University Hospital, as part of an overall fundraising drive being coordinated by Lions Clubs all over Munster.

The Club is asking people to bring non-ferrous scrap metals such as aluminium, copper, brass, zinc and stainless steel (no white goods such as fridges/cookers washing machines). Volunteers will be on hand from 9am until 4pm to take donations of scrap and work with KWD Recycling to remove it for processing.

"Although Lions Clubs in Munster have already raised some funds for CUH, more is still needed, so we're delighted that KWD Recycling is working with us again to support this very worthwhile cause", said Jason Higgins, President of Killarney Lions Club. "We're asking anyone who has scrap metal at home, at work or on the farm now or in the next few weeks to please bring it to the Racecourse on the day because everything we collect will make a difference."

Tadhg Healy, Sales Manager at KWD Recycling added that "We will recycle any high quality scrap metal that we collect – it can be quite valuable and of course it's better for the environment if it's recycled instead of being dumped. On top of that, the main thing with this collection is to help families of children with cancer, so hopefully we'll get a good response from everyone and raise as much money as possible through this event".

IF YOU HAVE A STORY... **Contact Aisling on: 086 0400 958**



# Mother's Day Lunch

Join us at Fiadh Restaurant for a special Mother's Day Lunch on Sunday, 15th March, with seatings at 13:00 and 13:30. Enjoy a relaxed family celebration with a delicious meal, plus a Kids Disco from 14.30 - 16.30 in the Green Room to keep the little ones entertained.

**Adult 2 Course €37 | Adult 3 Course €45 | Children's Buffets (under 12's) €18\***



**BOOKING ESSENTIAL!**

Limited spaces available, so early booking is recommended.



Scan to Book!

[gleneaglekillarney.ie](http://gleneaglekillarney.ie)

**GLENEAGLE**



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AT THE BREHON

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SAVE  
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Honduras Bedside  
Drawer



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Honduras 4  
Drawer Chest

Luke Doolan, a talented forward from St. Brendan's College and Killarney Athletic A.F.C., has been honoured with his Irish International Schools cap by the Football Association of Ireland (FAI).

Luke was recognised as part of the FAI Schools Class of 2025 following his involvement with the Republic of Ireland Schoolboys (U18) squad during this year's Centenary Shield campaign. He earned four international caps in fixtures against Australia, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, becoming the first student from St. Brendan's Secondary School in Killarney to represent the Republic of Ireland in the prestigious competition.

The 18-year-old striker has shone brightly throughout his time with Killarney Athletic, delivering standout performances in the Kerry District League. A particular highlight came in the Munster Youths Cup, where he found the net five times. He also played an integral role with the club's senior side in the KDL, underlining his ability to perform consistently at a high level.

His impressive form earned him a call-up to the Ireland Under-18 squad, where he further enhanced his reputation with strong displays in international friendlies before going on to secure his four Centenary Shield caps in April.

The former Killarney Athletic striker's services had long been sought after by Kerry FC, and in July 2025 he signed for the Mounthawk Park club, taking the next step in his football career.

The cap presentation recognises not only Luke's individual talent and dedication, but also the continued development of young footballers within Killarney, with his school and club both playing key roles in his journey to the international stage.

# Luke Doolan RECEIVES IRISH INTERNATIONAL CAP



Aiden Twomey FAI Schools (fifth from left) presenting St Brendan's student, Kerry FC and Irish International player Luke Doolan with his first International Soccer Cap for the Centenary Shield with (from left) Trevor Nagle Soccer Co-Ordinator St Brendan's College Killarney, Luke's parents Catriona and Denis Doolan and Hugh Rudden Deputy Principal St Brendan's College Killarney on Friday. Photo by Michelle Cooper Galvin

## €33,706 Raised in Memory of Seán Moloney for Kerry Hospice Foundation

Family and friends of the late Seán Moloney of Ballagh, Beaufort gathered at Kate Kearney's Cottage to present a cheque for €33,706 to the Kerry Hospice Foundation.

The impressive sum was raised through a fundraising dance held at the well-known Gap of Dunloe venue on December 13 last. The event drew widespread community support and served as a heartfelt tribute to Mr Moloney, who passed away on April 14th, 2025.

Seán's wife Kathleen, son John and daughter Catriona formally presented the cheque to Pat Doolan and Cathal Walsh, representing the Kerry Hospice Foundation – Killarney Branch. The family expressed their sincere gratitude to everyone who supported and attended the event, as well as those who contributed in any way to its success. They noted that

the remarkable total raised reflects the high esteem in which Seán was held within the community.

In a further touching gesture, Grace Johnson posed with a selection of blankets lovingly created by herself, along with family members and friends, for the Palliative Care Unit at University Hospital Kerry. It was in this unit that Mr Moloney received care prior to his passing. The handmade blankets are due to be presented to the unit in the coming week as a token of appreciation for the compassion and support shown to Seán and his family during his final days.

The presentation and additional donation marked a fitting tribute, with funds and gifts going towards supporting vital palliative care services for families across the region.



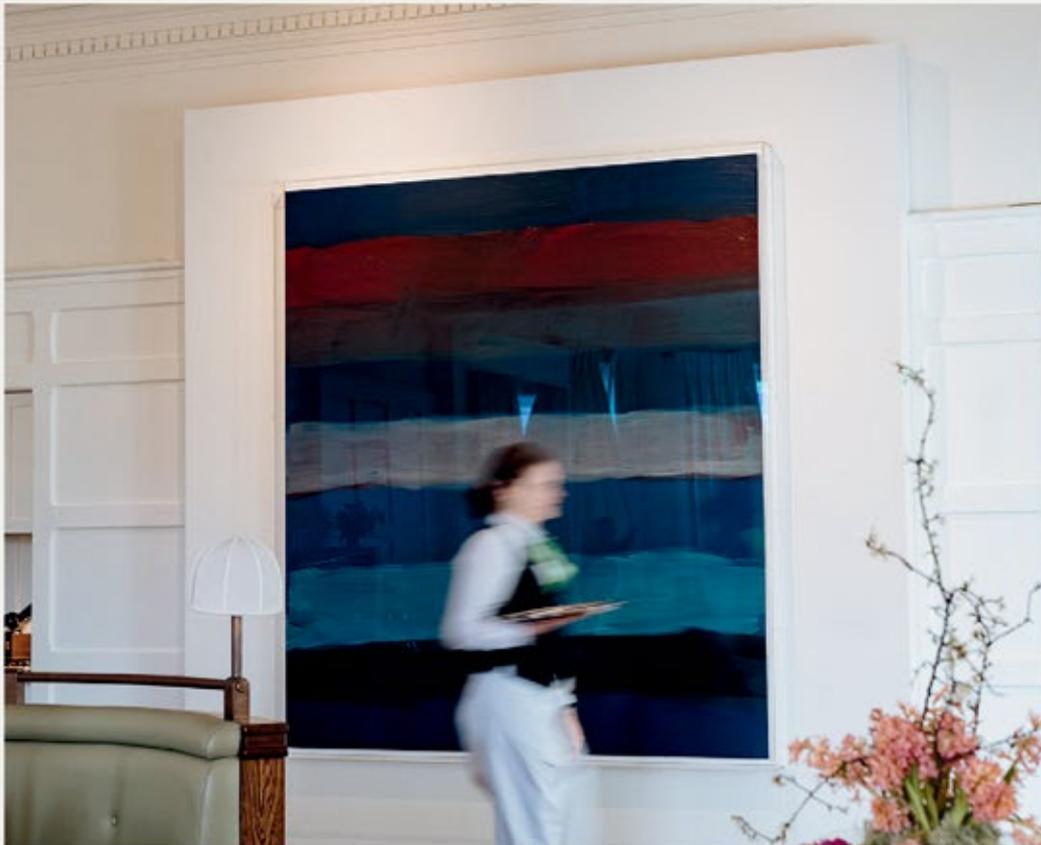
Kathleen Moloney, son John and daughter Catriona formally presented the cheque to Pat Doolan and Cathal Walsh, representing the Kerry Hospice Foundation – Killarney Branch. Photo by Michael G Kenny.



Grace Johnson posed with a selection of blankets lovingly created by herself, along with family members and friends, for the Palliative Care Unit at University Hospital Kerry. Photo by Michael G Kenny.

# PARK HOTEL KENMARE

## Mother's Day Lunch *Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> of March*



This Mother's Day, treat the mother figure in your life to a memorable Sunday lunch at Landline.

Chef James O'Sullivan and his team, have created a stunning lunch menu that is sure to delight, and made even more special by the soft accompaniment of our resident harpist.

Two courses €55 | Three courses €65  
Complimentary glass of bubbles on arrival.

info@parkkenmare.com | 064 664 1200 | www.parkkenmare.com

## Fossa Two Mile Comhaltas Present €3,234 to Crumlin Children's Hospital and Ronald McDonald House

Representatives of Fossa Two Mile Comhaltas recently presented a cheque for €3,234 to Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin and Ronald McDonald House Charities Ireland, following a series of successful fundraising events.

Catherine Joy, Tim Kissane and Therese Kissane made the presentation at the Fossa Community Centre, with Catherine Foley accepting the cheque on behalf of the charities. The occasion marked the culmination of months of celebration and community effort by the local branch.

The funds were raised as part of the branch's 20-Year Reunion Celebration held in September 2025, commemorating two decades of Fossa Two Mile Comhaltas. The milestone event brought together members past and present for a special evening of music and reflection. A subsequent

Céilí in December 2025, organised in conjunction with set dancing teacher Catherine Joy, further added to the fundraising total. Proceeds from both events were combined, resulting in the final donation of €3,234.

Members of the branch expressed their sincere gratitude to everyone who supported the events, contributed generously, and helped make the celebrations such a success. The community spirit and dedication shown throughout the anniversary year were widely praised.

The celebrations are set to continue with the Annual Rambling House on March 14 at the Castlerosse Park Resort, followed by a Céilí on Sunday, March 22, at the Fossa Community Centre. Organisers are encouraging the wider community to attend and join in the ongoing festivities.



Catherine Joy, Tim Kissane and Therese Kissane made the presentation at the Fossa Community Centre, with Catherine Foley accepting the cheque on behalf of the charities.

## KILLARNEY TABLE QUIZ for Rise and Shine Trust



Quizmaster Cathal Walshe



The quiz is dedicated to the memory of popular Killarney accountant Tim Moore,

A fundraising table quiz, to help send young people with additional needs on a pilgrimage to Lourdes, will take place in the Killarney Avenue Hotel on Tuesday, March 10th.

The event, organised by the Rise and Shine Trust, is also dedicated to the memory of popular Killarney accountant Tim Moore, who was a very dedicated volunteer with the organisation – previously known as the Irish Pilgrimage Trust – until his passing in 2002.

Proceeds raised on the night will help send a group of young people from Kerry to Lourdes for a week of respite at Easter.

All the doctors, nurses and carers that travel with them are volunteers who will pay for their own air fares and accommodation but the Rise and Shine Trust depends on various fundraising initiative, such as the Killarney quiz, to pay for the guests that travel.

For over 30 years the people of Killarney and East Kerry have generously supported the annual table quiz at which dedicated community volunteer Cathal Walshe is the quizmaster.

The quiz will commence at 7.30pm, the entry fee for tables of four will be €40 for adults and €20 for primary and secondary school students and all support would be greatly appreciated.

Rise and Shine is an independent, self-funding, inclusive and volunteer-led charity that strives to give people it was set up to support meaningful memories, the opportunity for personal growth and an unforgettable, life-changing experience

# GLENEAGLE ARENA

## Upcoming 2026

### St. Patrick's Celebration Live

Enjoy a weekend celebration of live music, dance & special guests.

13 MAR THE MERSEY BEATLES	14 MAR MIKE DENVER & GUESTS In Concert
13 MAR JACK KEOGH Dance	15 MAR JIMMY BUCKLEY Dance
13 MAR SERENA TERRY Therapy	16 MAR PETER BURKE Dance
14 MAR STUART MOYLES	17 MAR CHRIS DALLAT Dance

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THUR 05 MAR 2026  
FROM €45.70

**DAN MCCABE WITH SPECIAL GUEST GEARÓID MCCARTHY**



FRI 20 MAR 2026  
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FRI 10 APR 2026  
FROM €28.00

THE GATHERING FESTIVAL PRESENTS  
**BUTTON & BOWS IN CONCERT**



FRI 06 MAR 2026  
FROM €25.00

**CLIONA HAGAN IN CONCERT**



FRI 20 MAR 2026  
FROM €30.00

**THE DUBLINERS ENCORE**



SUN 12 APR 2026  
FROM €38.50

THE GATHERING FESTIVAL PRESENTS  
**MICHAEL MCGOLDRICK, JOHN DOYLE & JOHN MCCUSKER**



SAT 07 MAR 2026  
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**I'M GRAND MAM HAPPY CAMPERS**



SAT 21 MAR 2026  
FROM €40.20

**FRANCIS ROSSI**



MON 13 APR 2026  
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THIS WEEKEND

25TH ANNIVERSARY  
**THE GATHERING**  
FESTIVAL OF MUSIC & ARTS  
**LATE NIGHT FESTIVAL CLUB**  
**FREE ENTRY**



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FRI 06 MAR

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FESTIVAL OF MUSIC & ARTS

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WEEKEND PASS AVAILABLE

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  - **THE STAR ABOVE THE GARTER REPRISE:** WITH BILLY CLIFFORD, AIDAN CONNOLLY, COLEEN ANGLAND, BRYAN O LEARY, NIAMH DALTON & COLM GUILFOYLE

## CÉILÍS

- ÚI BHRÍAN • THE SHANDRUM CEILI BAND • NEILY O CONNOR  
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- SEAN NÓS DANCE CLASS – WITH EDWINA GUCKIAN  
SET DANCE CLASS (ADVANCED) – WITH PAT MURPHY  
CORK KERRY SETS – WITH JOHN 'THE LEAPER' LYNCH  
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- KATHLEEN & MARIAN MCCANN, TIM DENNEHY, JIM WALSH, TOM MCKENNA, PAT O SULLIVAN, CHRISTY CRONIN, ANDREW BASQUILLE, EVELYN O CONNELL, RICHIE FITZGERALD & GERRY KELLIHER, ELLIE MARIE DWYER & JOHN BRENDAN O'MAHONY

**PLUS**

- **SCHOOLS OUTREACH PROGRAMME** (IN ASSOCIATION WITH KILLARNEY CREDIT UNION, RATHMORE & DISTRICT CREDIT UNION,  AND KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL ARTS OFFICE) 
- **LATE NIGHT FESTIVAL CLUB** • TRADITIONAL MUSIC SESSIONS MORNING, NOON & NIGHT

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Paco

**WAREHOUSE  
CLEARANCE**

**KILLARNEY  
OUTLET CENTRE**

**NOW OPEN!**

# Trad Night 2026 – A Celebration of Culture, Community and Talent at St Brigid's Presentation



St Brigid's Presentation Secondary School was alive with music, song and celebration at their recent Trad Night 2026, a wonderful evening that showcased the rich cultural talent within their school and wider community.

This special event was a joint fundraiser organised by their Gaelbhreach committee, promoting the Irish language and culture; their Yellow Flag committee, celebrating diversity and inclusion; and their dedicated Music Department. The night reflected the spirit of unity in the school, bringing together students from all year groups in a vibrant celebration of heritage through

music, storytelling and dance.

The programme featured an impressive lineup of performances including the brush dance, junior and senior set dancers representing local clubs such as Kilcummin and Spa, and a spectacular performance from Irish dancing World Champion Caoimhe O'Halloran. Thri junior and senior traditional groups performed beautifully, alongside the hugely talented Glenflesk Ballad Group, multiple All-Ireland award winners, who brought the audience to their feet.

The evening was made all the more special with the generous sponsorship of tea and traditional brack from O'Sullivan's Bakery, which was warmly enjoyed by all in attendance.

The night concluded with a memorable performance from Deputy Principal, Liam McGill, who entertained the audience on guitar and vocals, accompanied by well-known local music teacher Rosie Healy and Aine McCann.

St Brigid's are immensely proud of all students who performed and contributed to making the night such a resounding success. Trad Night 2026 highlighted the extraordinary talent within the school and the strong sense of community that defines St Brigid's Presentation.





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- Contact Sharon at ladyhonsel@killarneygolfclub.ie




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*Mothers Day Lunch*  
AT CASTLEROSSE PARK RESORT

Mothers Day Lunch will be served on the 15th March in our panoramic Grosvenor Restaurant from 1pm to 2.30pm

**2 course lunch for €29.00**  
**3 course lunch for €34.00**  
*à la carte options also available*

To make your reservation call our team on 064 663 1144

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Sunday 15th March

**ABLEFEST**  
**Killarney**  
 - MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL -

SENSORY FRIENDLY AREA

St. Patrick's Festival Killarney

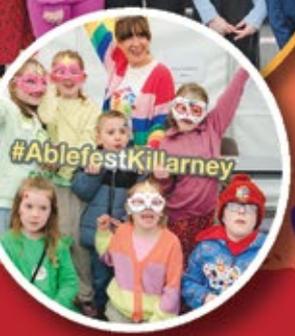


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**12pm-4pm**

Inclusive music and arts festival, celebrating individuals of all abilities, together with their families and friends.

**LIVE MUSIC LINE UP**

**DJ DONAL**  
**RETROGRADE**  
**SUPER CEILI**  
**JAKE CARTER**



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[www.stpatricksfestivalkillarney.ie](http://www.stpatricksfestivalkillarney.ie)

€50 Family (2 Adults & 3 kids) | €25 adults | €10 Children



@ablefestkillarney



# Minister O’Sullivan calls for vigilance as nesting season begins

As bird nesting season approaches, Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, Christopher O’Sullivan TD, is asking the public to play their part in protecting birds as they start to build their nests, lay eggs and raise their young. Vegetation such as hedgerows, trees and shrubs provide food and shelter for birds and wildlife. Legislation prohibits the removal of vegetation during nesting season, with some limited exemptions. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has published guidance to help landowners understand the legislation and their responsibilities. Under Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976 the cutting, grubbing, burning or other destruction

of “vegetation growing in any hedge or ditch” in the bird nesting season is prohibited to safeguard nesting birds and other wildlife during their critical breeding season. Any activities which involve removing vegetation should take place outside of this time. Guidance published by the NPWS assists landowners in their responsibility to ensure compliance when managing vegetation on their property. Landowners should take precautions to protect wild birds, such as monitoring vegetation for any nesting activity and the presence of eggs before undertaking any cutting or removal. It is an offence to wilfully disturb or harm the eggs or nest of a wild bird or a wild bird on or

near a nest containing eggs or un-flown young birds at any time of the year. The guidance also explains the exemptions which apply during the bird nesting season. If activities must take place when nesting birds may be present, it will be necessary to carry out checks for nests and breeding birds before they begin. Hedge cutting in Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) may require separate consent to be given prior to being undertaken. There is no exemption to the burning of vegetation during nesting season.

## “Lights, Lyrics, Layups: Lip Sync” Fundraiser Rathmore Ravens Basketball Club

Rathmore Ravens Basketball Club to Launch “Lights, Lyrics, Layups: Lip Sync” Fundraiser Rathmore Ravens Basketball Club warmly invites you to attend the official launch of “Lights, Lyrics, Layups: Lip Sync”, an exciting new fundraising event celebrating music, performance and our basketball community.

- This event will offer attendees the opportunity to:**
- Meet some of our mentors guiding this year’s performers
  - Learn more about the acts taking part
  - Hear about the club’s fantastic sponsors
  - See the venue

Find out more about Rathmore Ravens Basketball Club

Rathmore Ravens Basketball Club is a club still in its teenage years (founded in 2009). This



has been a milestone year for our club, with our largest ever number of juvenile and senior members, players competing at county and Basketball Ireland Academy level, and our first ever u20 men’s team in the National League.

With costs rising all the time, we are running this fundraiser in order to help keep basketball accessible for all. With over 100 children and adult members participating on the night, under the expert choreography of Joe Burkett, it promises to be a fun, high-energy community event.

Lights, Lyrics, Layups: Lip Sync promises to be a vibrant and entertaining initiative designed to bring the community together while supporting the continued growth and development of basketball in Rathmore. It would be a huge boost to our event if you could highlight it through your publication and include details re purchasing tickets from the poster attached. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

IF YOU HAVE A STORY... **Contact Aisling on: 086 0400 958**



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**10 Chapel Place, Chapel Lane, Killarney V93 DW61**  
In the vibrant centre of Killarney, close to the National Park, this 1 bed 1 bath apartment (approx. 420ft<sup>2</sup>) offers a rare opportunity to live in the very heart of one of Ireland's most beloved destinations. The property is a blank canvas, offering the chance to put your own stamp on a home that is already comfortable and very liveable as it stands.  
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SPA PARISH

By Leanne Cronin



The Spa Rince Foirne Dancers County Champions, Photo: Anne Holland



The Spa Tráth na gCeist team

**SCÓR SINSIR**

Spa enjoyed further success at the Senior Scór County Final held in Dúchas, MTU, where the club claimed first place in the Rince Foirne (Figure Dancing) competition to advance to the next stage. The winning team comprised Aoibhe O'Donoghue, Ellen Carroll, Ailbhe Gallagher, Aislínn O'Donovan, Anne Marie Nelligan, Kate Lawlor, Sarah Randles and Erin Holland, who delivered a composed and polished performance on the night. The result marks a notable return to Senior Figure Dancing for the club, whose last campaign in the discipline culminated in All-Ireland success in 2016. Spa was also represented in the Recitation competition by Alison Fitzmartin, who performed strongly in a high-standard section and represented the club with distinction.

**SCÓR SINSIR TRÁTH NA GCEIST TEAM**

Best of luck to our quiz team who, through the Glór na nGael / Conradh na Gaeilge Tráth na gCeist as Gaeilge, have qualified as one of just three teams representing Munster in the All-Ireland Final on Saturday 7th March in Croke Park. This is a tremendous honour for the team and the club, and a wonderful recognition of their knowledge and love of the Irish language and culture. We are immensely proud and wish them every success on such a prestigious stage.

**SPA GAA ACADEMY RETURNS**

Spa GAA's popular Academy returns this weekend - Saturday, 7th March! The academy has gone from strength to strength in recent years and continues to play a vital role in introducing young boys and girls to Gaelic games in a fun and welcoming environment. The club is looking forward to seeing plenty of familiar and new faces back on the pitch and encourages families to keep an eye on the Spa GAA website and social media channels for full details. Information on the Spa GAA Academy can be found via [www.spagaa.com/pages/academy](http://www.spagaa.com/pages/academy)

**A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE SPA LOTTO**

Exciting changes are on the way as we prepare to relaunch and refresh the Spa Lotto. With a new look and some great updates coming soon, there's plenty to look forward to. Keep an eye on our social media channels over the coming days for all the details — you won't want to miss it!

**FIXTURES & RESULTS**

East Kerry Super League (Senior Men) - Kenmare 0-10 Spa 0-6  
 Minor Championship Division 3 QF (Minor Boys) - Cordal 5-13 Spa 4-4

For details on all upcoming fixtures, visit [www.spagaa.com/fixtures](http://www.spagaa.com/fixtures)

**CLUB MEMBERSHIP**

Reminder that 2026 membership subscriptions are now due. To renew your membership, visit our website [www.spagaa.com/membership\\_products](http://www.spagaa.com/membership_products) or contact one of our registrars Ger Mangan – 087 251 2266 / Deirdre O'Sullivan Darcy – 085 121 6359

**DOWNLOAD OUR APP**

The best way to stay up to date on Spa GAA news, events, fixtures and results is to download the ClubZap app and subscribe to Spa. You can also visit our website [www.spagaa.com](http://www.spagaa.com) for all the latest news, updates, fixtures and results.



Alison Fitzmartin, who represented Spa in the Recitation competition. Photo: Anne Holland

# Aodhagán Proves HE IS THE BEST at the CPR Challenge

The School CPR Challenge Champion 2026 title was awarded on Thursday, February 26th at a special event held in the Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney.

Aodhagán O'Sullivan, a student of St. Brendan's College Killarney emerged as this year's winner. He was among approximately 300 students from post-primary schools across the county who took part in the School CPR Challenge, all aiming to answer the question: "Who can compress the best?"

Now in its fourth year, the event is organised by KCRU Community First Responders, a volunteer-based emergency response group serving communities including Killarney, Beaufort, Killorglin, Fries, Rathmore and Kenmare.

The competition centred on QCPR, Quality CPR, testing students on their ability to deliver effective chest compressions while also learning vital, life-saving skills. The day also provided an opportunity for participants



Aodhagán O'Sullivan, a student of St. Brendan's College Killarney, emerged as this year's winner.

to meet and engage with a range of emergency and community services, highlighting the importance of rapid response and community involvement in cardiac emergencies.

The event was supported by Vodafone Foundation, The Gleneagle Hotel, First Aid Systems Ltd and a range of local sponsors.

The continued success of the School CPR Challenge reflects the growing awareness among young people of the importance of CPR skills, skills that can ultimately mean the difference between life and death.

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There are four spacious bedrooms, two en-suite, all well-proportioned rooms designed for comfort. Externally, there are beautifully maintained mature gardens and a very spacious deck area maximising the lake and mountain views.

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**GLENFLESK PARISH**

*Written by: Sean Daly*

**MINORS**

Well done to the minor team who won their first game of the Country Championship away to St Senans on a score of 4:15 to 8:10

**KERRY**

Kathryn Ryan was part of the Kerry team who took on Galway last Sunday losing narrowly by 2 points. Best wishes to Ava Doherty for a speedy recovery following the injury she sustained in the game against Cork the previous week.

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Well done to Cliona Moynihan who did us all proud singing Amhrán na bhFiann ahead of the Kerry v Monaghan National League clash in Fitzgerald Stadium last Sunday afternoon.

**TRACTOR RUN**

Save the date! Sunday 22nd of March. Barraduff Tractor run in aid of Kerry / Cork Link Bus and Recovery Haven Tralee. All vintage cars, motorbikes, vintage and non-vintage tractors welcome. Entry €20.

**RATHMORE | GNEEVUILLA PARISH**

*By Michael O' Mahony*

**AGM**

The Gneeveguilla Ladies GAA Committee are holding their AGM on Monday March 9th at 9pm in the Gneeveguilla GAA club house. This committee plays a pivotal role in the community, involved in organising fundraising events, help cater for events hosted in the clubhouse from parties to post match events of all ages, and also helps in the catering after funerals. We also enjoy parties for our members. We invite as many as possible to attend this meeting and we particularly welcome new members.

**COLLECTION**

The Kerry Branch of Samaritans Christmas Collection. Wish to thank the parishioners in Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Shrine in raising € 448.10, the parishioners in St Joseph's Church Rathmore in raising €1,864.20, the parishioners in Christ The King Church Knocknagree in raising € 694, the parishioners in Church of the Holy Rosary Gneeveguilla in raising €1,764. Knocknagree – Kenya The recent Church-gate collection which took place in aid of Fr Sean Cremins Missionary Work raised €655. A sincere thank you to all who contributed.

**LENTEN ONLINE TALK SERIES**

The Diocese of Kerry invites you to its Lenten online talk series, "Beyond Almsgiving," exploring poverty in the light of Catholic Social Teaching, on 10 March, and 24 March at 7.30 pm. Speakers include Dr Aoife McGrath (Maynooth) and guest speakers from SVP and Trócaire. Information and registration: [www.dioceseofkerry.ie](http://www.dioceseofkerry.ie)

**SYMPATHIES** to Deirdre & Laurence Hickey & granddaughter Alana on the death of Deirdre's father Anthony (Tony) Flynn, Parteen, Co Clare whose funeral took place recently. May Tony rest in peace

**SHARE THE BUCKET**

Gneeveguilla Community Facility Group reminds you that Share the Bucket takes place weekly. The draw is every Friday evening in Teach Fáilte @8 pm and can be viewed live on our Gneeveguilla Community Facility Group Facebook Page. This week's jackpot was €207 and the winner was Neilie O' Connell. Tickets cost €2 each or 3 for €5. They are available at Teach Fáilte and can be bought online at <https://tinyurl.com/y2ade5om>. or in local businesses where you see the Green Share the bucket.

Your support is greatly supported and all funds will go towards our new proposed community facility. We would like to thank our local businesses, shops and pubs who continue to support our project and thanks too to everybody who purchases tickets every week.

**BOARD GAMES GROUP**

My name is Melissa Holland and I work here in IRD Duhallow as a Development Officer. As part of my role, I am exploring the possibility of starting a board games group for young people in Duhallow. We have some funding available to help make this a reality and are seeking partners in the community to join us. The Board Games group would be between the ages of 18-30 years old, any gender and/or disability.

From my understanding, this type of group is not really catered for in Duhallow and it would be my wish to change that. The board games can be Monopoly, Dungeons and Dragons, Catan, Clack, Bang Dice - just to name a few. The idea of this, is to engage young adults in the area who do not have an interest in traditional activities such as sports and music but would benefit from a social outlet through board games and talking. We would be looking for this to be volunteer led with some guidance and

support at the beginning from us.

If any community feels they have an existing group or a potential person(s) that would be interested to know more about IRD Duhallows involvement to this, please email me or call my work phone - 086 8209016.

**GNEEVUILLA ATHLETES CLUB**

We are this week celebrating being crowned champions of the Juvenile Sports hall games at MTU, Tralee. Accepting the Tracey Pigott Memorial Shield from Kerry athletics chairperson Teresa Higgins Walker were Sheila O'Donoghue, Sean Murphy and club athlete Grace who accepted the shield on behalf of all the Gneeveguilla athletes who competed. A fantastic achievement! A Huge congratulations to all our athletes and coaches who week after week give freely of their time and to the parents and guardians mile buiochas. Top Juvenile Indoor Club for 2026.

**LOTTO**

No winner of last weeks Lotto, Jackpot for this coming Friday March 6th €10,000 + Bonus draw for €1000 from now until Good Friday, all tickets each week will be entered into a draw for two Easter Hampers .

**HOLY FAMILY NATIONAL SCHOOL RATHMORE**

ENROLMENT For NEW pupils September 2026. Enrolment Registration Forms are available local pre schools and the school office ph 0861806018 or email [hfnrsathmorekerry@gmail.com](mailto:hfnrsathmorekerry@gmail.com)

**GNEEVUILLA COMMUNITY ALERT**

Millstreet/Rathmore Garda Text Alert. It is now time to finalise the text alert. Anyone interested in receiving text messages from the Garda text alert please give your name/phone no. & €10 to one of the following: John Vaughan 087 6336893, Donal Vaughan 087 6212462, Ted O'Connor 086 0848182, Eileen Fleming 087 1475386. Deadline for this is Saturday 14th March 2026.

**NOW ENROLLING**

Hollymount National School for September 2026. Small, local school with a family feel. • After-school club available • Extra-curricular activities • Favourable class sizes. Forms available from the office or forms can be emailed. Call or email for more information 064-7758269 / [office@hollymountns.ie](mailto:office@hollymountns.ie)

**KNOCKNAGREE NATIONAL SCHOOL**

Knocknagree National School is now accepting enrolments for the 2026-2027 school year. Knocknagree NS is a mainstream primary school catering for children from junior infants to sixth class and also includes a dedicated class for children with autism. We offer a Breakfast Club and After School Care available from 7.30am to 6.00pm.

**STATIONS**

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed in the Church of the Holy Rosary Gneeveguilla every Friday at 7.30 during Lent. It will be livestreamed on [mcn.gneeveguilla](http://mcn.gneeveguilla.ie) .

**RATHMORE ST PATRICK DAY PARADE** on Sunday March 15th at 12.30. Grand Marshal is Donal O'Leary, Rathmore. Well known GAA person and current chairman of Kerry GAA supporter club

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

LOCAL CONFIDENTIAL, CONTACT 087 3462332

**NOTES**

If you would like to add to the notes please email Michael O'Mahony ([momahony14@gmail.com](mailto:momahony14@gmail.com)) or ring or text 087-6676817 before 6pm

IF YOU HAVE A STORY... **Contact Aisling on: 086 0400 958**

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## Money Matters

**By Dermot Cronin**  
**Financial Advisor**

**WHEN CAN YOU ACCESS YOUR PENSION & WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS WHEN YOU WANT TO RETIRE?**

You can normally get access to your pension from age 60, a lot of the rules depend on whether you are an employee or self-employed. If you are coming close to retirement then you are probably wondering what options you have when you want to get access to your pension. It depends on what type of pension you have but generally there are four options:

**Tax Free Cash:** Most people will be entitled to a tax free lump sum, the amount varies however generally you will get at least 25% of the value of your pension in a tax free cash lump sum.

**Taxable Cash:** You may also be able to take a sum of your pension in taxable cash.

**Annual Pension:** This is a guaranteed income usually paid monthly for the rest of your life that is purchased with the money left after your tax free lump sum, this is subject to taxation.

**Approved Retirement Funds:** You may be entitled to keep some of your money in an approved retirement fund, money can be taken from the fund to give you a regular income, usually monthly. This is subject to taxation also. Taxation at retirement is often much lower than when you are working.

It is extremely important that you take your time and have all the options explained to you in plain simple English and that you understand all your options clearly before you make your final decision. As well as the above there is much more to be discussed about your pension. You should discuss your retirement options with a financial advisor who has access to a number of different pension providers before making any decisions, he or she will help you with the above options and any other queries you may have.

*To discuss the above or any other matter Dermot Cronin QFA can be contacted at 0646622775 or [info@dermotcronin.ie](mailto:info@dermotcronin.ie)*

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**KILCUMMIN PARISH**

Written by: Helen Moynihan

**KILCUMMIN CCÉ**

Fleadh Cheoil Chiarraí Church Gate Collection takes place in our Lady of Lourdes Church, Kilcummin next weekend, 7th & 8th March. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

**TABLE QUIZ NIGHT**

Special Olympics Sports Club are holding a quiz night to raise funds for our 4 athletes to attend the Special Olympics Summer Games in June. Quiz will take place on Friday, 13th March in Kilcummin GAA Hall. Quiz starts 7.30pm Sharp, doors open at 7pm. €10 per person, teams of 4 (individuals welcome – we'll match you to a team). Quiz, Raffle, Spot Prizes and €100 Cash Prize for Winning Team. For more information, please contact 087 2365664. Great night guaranteed.

**LINE DANCING**

Kilcummin line dancing classes with Carmel from Mid Kerry Moves will take place for beginners on Fridays, 7-8pm in the Kilcummin GAA Club, from March 20th to April 17th. €50 for 5 weeks, payable on the first night. Call to book your place on 087 6437686.

**KILCUMMIN GAA**

**EAST KERRY LEAGUE**

Gneeveguilla: 0-13 Kilcummin: 1-13. A goal from Gary O' Leary proved decisive as our senior team made it two wins from two in Gneeveguilla on Sunday last. We play Glenflesk away on Sunday at 12 noon with a place in the final for the winners.

**LOTTO**

There was no winner of our lotto on Monday 23th February for the Jackpot of €6,750. Numbers drawn were 9, 12, 13, 24. Consolation prizes of €50 went to John Mc, Munster Joinery; Lyno; Shane McSweeney; Ellen Aherne. Our next draw will be on Monday 9th March for Jackpot of €7,000. Thank you for your continued support.

**KILCUMMIN COMMUNITY GAMES**

**COUNTY FINALS**

Congratulations to the Under 13 indoor soccer team reaching the Community Games Munster Finals. Having beaten Kenmare in the semi-final which set them up for a final against Annascaul/Inch/Camp/Lispole,



Under 13 girls, County champions Team: Mia Lynch O'Doherty, Ellie Lynch O'Doherty, Hollie O'Sullivan, Grace Maher, Leah Brosnan, Faye O'Connor, and Abbeigayle Ocampos.

who had beaten Ballyduff in the other semi-final in Duagh. Many thanks to Duagh for the fantastic facilities and the referee who did a great job on the day. A huge 'thank you' to Sean Brendan O'Doherty for coaching the girls and giving up his time, also to the parents for their time and encouragement.

**LISTRY PARISH**

Written by: Colette Leslie

**LOTTO**

Mar 1st 2026. Jackpot €3,300. Numbers Drawn: 08,12,13,28. No Winner. €100 Tomas Griffin. €50 Robert Gallagher, Rockfield. €50 Eilish Hickey. €25 Kathleen Hobbins, Coolroe. €25 Cathriona & Tony O'Connor, Faha. Jackpot next weekend 08/03/26 €3,450

**MINORS**

Listry minors play Dr Crokes in the semi final of the club championship Saturday 7th in Listry time tbc .

**SENIORS' DAY**

March 3rd @1 pm-3pm Listry Community Centre: Dinner, Flower arranging with Clodagh €10. Contact: Ciara 0861997535. Community Centre: 0646624919

Let us know if you are coming and if you would like transport.



Congratulations to Beaufort Senior Team Cormac O'Sullivan, Maria Breen McMahon, Pdraig O'Sullivan and Fionán O'Sullivan who were crowned County Senior Tráth Na gCeist winners.

Tomas O hAinfein Scor Offices (on left of picture) and Christy Killeen (on Right of picture) Quiz Master set a very fair but challenging questions for all competing.



Gneeveguilla Athletics Club are this week celebrating being crowned champions of the Juvenile Sports hall games at MTU, Tralee. Accepting the Tracey Pigott Memorial Shield from Kerry athletics chairperson Teresa Higgins Walker were Sheila O'Donoghue, Sean Murphy and club athlete Grace

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**When Period Pain Isn't Normal  
Endometriosis Awareness Week**

As part of Endometriosis Awareness Week, we want to highlight an important message: period pain that significantly affects your daily life is not something that should be ignored. Many people grow up believing that painful periods are simply part of being a woman.

While mild discomfort can be normal, pain that prevents you from working, attending college, socialising, exercising, or getting a good night's sleep deserves medical attention.

One possible cause of severe period pain is endometriosis, a condition that affects around 1 in 10 women. Endometriosis occurs when tissue similar to the lining of the womb grows outside the uterus. Symptoms can vary widely and may include extremely painful periods, pelvic pain outside of menstruation, pain during or after sex, bowel or bladder symptoms linked to your cycle, and ongoing fatigue. Not everyone experiences the same symptoms, and they can change over time, which sometimes makes recognising the condition more difficult.

Despite being common, endometriosis can take years to diagnose. Many people are told their pain is "normal" or something they simply have to live with, which can delay getting help. This is why awareness, understanding, and early conversations are so important. You do not need to know the exact cause of your symptoms before speaking to your GP. Simply describing how pain affects your daily life is often enough to start the conversation.

Care may involve ongoing monitoring, symptom management, and, where appropriate, further tests or referral to a specialist.

During Endometriosis Awareness Week, we want to remind everyone that your experiences are valid, and support is available. If period pain or related symptoms are affecting your quality of life, your GP is there to listen, guide, and help you access the care you need.

By Dr Lynda O'Callaghan

- Women's Health Specialist



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**Storage Tips to Keep Food Fresh**  
Use airtight containers suitable for freezer and fridge storage. Label each container with date and contents. Store cooked grains and proteins in portions to reheat easily. Keep perishable items refrigerated and freeze anything you won't consume within a few days to extend freshness.

**Time-Saving Cooking Techniques**  
Batch cooking: prepare large quantities at once. Use of slow cookers or Instant Pots. Pre-cut vegetables and marinate proteins in advance. Multi-tasking during cooking (e.g., boiling grains while roasting veggies). Reheating and assembling meals quickly. Balancing Macros in Your Meal Prep. Ensure each meal contains appropriate amounts of protein, carbohydrates, and healthy fats. Use a macro calculator to determine your needs. Incorporate lean proteins, complex carbs, and healthy fats in every meal. Use tools like food scales and tracking apps to stay on target. Consistent, organized meal prep helps you stay aligned with your fitness goals despite a busy schedule. It promotes healthier eating habits, saves time, and ensures you never miss a nutritious meal. Make it a routine, stay flexible with recipes, and enjoy the benefits of a well-planned meal strategy.

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These 'refractive errors' can cause vision to be blurred, and may lead to headaches and eye strain.

### Myopia – short sightedness

Myopia is a refractive condition of the eye where light focuses in front of the retina. This makes distant objects appear blurry, but objects that are close are clearer.

If the amount of myopia is large enough and is left uncorrected, distance vision is poor and may lead to headaches and eye strain.

### Hyperopia – long sightedness

Hyperopia is a refractive condition of the eye where light focuses behind the retina. This makes close objects blurry, and while distant objects may appear clearer sometimes they are blurry too.

If the amount of hyperopia is large enough and is left uncorrected, close vision may be poor and may lead to headaches and eye strain, particularly in adults.

### Astigmatism

Astigmatism is where the optical surfaces are shaped more like a rugby ball than a football. This means that there is not a clear single point of focus. If left uncorrected, it can also lead to headaches and eye strain.

### Presbyopia

Presbyopia is caused by a loss of flexibility of the lens inside the eye. It affects all people as they age, generally becoming problematic after 40 years of age.

Presbyopia results in the inability to focus on close objects.

Presbyopia makes it difficult to read small print, and focus on closer objects, particularly in poor light.

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# Cllr Jackie Healy-Rae Demands Certainty on Killarney Community Nursing Unit Opening

Cllr Jackie Healy-Rae has sought firm clarity from the HSE on the long-awaited opening of the new Killarney Community Nursing Unit (CNU), following growing public concern about further delays. Raising the issue at the Regional Health Forum South West, Cllr Jackie Healy-Rae pressed HSE management for a clear and definitive update on when residents will finally move into the facility.

"The people of Kerry, Killarney and the wider county have waited far too long for this building to open," he said. "The original expected opening date of September 2024 has come and gone. In recent weeks there has been renewed speculation about further delays, and families deserve honesty and certainty."

During the exchange, Julie O'Neill Integrated Health Manager for Kerry in the HSE confirmed that it is their intention to have the entire facility open by the end of Quarter 1, with a phased transfer of residents once HIQA registration is finalised.

However, Cllr Jackie Healy-Rae sought to distinguish between an intention and a guaranteed commitment.

"I said very clearly at the meeting, intentions are not guarantees. People want to know when the doors will open, and whether it will be fully operational," he stated.

*Cllr Jackie Healy-Rae has sought firm clarity from the HSE on the long-awaited opening of the new Killarney Community Nursing Unit (CNU), following growing public concern about further delays.*



"I asked directly on the record whether the HSE is committing to having the full complex open by the end of March, and the response given was that it is their intention to do so, subject to final HIQA registration and regulatory processes."

Cllr Healy-Rae acknowledged that HIQA conducted a pre-registration visit in January and that work is ongoing to close out recommendations, with staffing arrangements also progressing.

"I welcome the progress that has been made, and I acknowledge the work being done daily to finalise registration and staffing," he said. "But we cannot ignore the reality. This building has been handed over since December. It is being maintained. It is ready. Yet residents are

still waiting."

He also highlighted the impact on families and elderly residents across the region.

"Every delay means elderly people remaining in unsuitable settings or families travelling further afield for beds. The only people being affected now are those who need this facility the most. The HSE has stated on the record that it intends to open the full facility by the end of March. I will continue to monitor this closely and ensure that this timeline is honoured."

Cllr Healy-Rae concluded:

"This is an exceptional facility. When it opens, it will be a huge asset to Kerry, Killarney and the wider region. But the time for uncertainty is over. What people now want and deserve, is delivery."

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# DANNY HEALY-RAE TD



Cllr MAURA  
HEALY-RAE

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### Danny Healy Rae TD - Monthly Clinics

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<b>1st Wednesday</b> 8.00 PM 8.30 PM 9.00 PM 9.30 PM	<b>Killarney Area</b> Torc Hotel, Lissivigeen The Village Inn, Kilcummin Old Killarney Inn, Aghadoe The Golden Nugget, Fossa	<b>4th Thursday</b> 7:00 PM 7.30 PM 8:15 PM 8.45 PM 9.15 PM 9.45 PM	<b>Killorglin Area</b> Golden Nugget, Fossa Galvin's Bar, Beaufort O'Grady's Bar, Killorglin Larkin's Bar, Milltown Griffins Bar, Castlemaine Anvil Bar, Boolteens
<b>1st Thursday</b> 8.30 PM 9.00 PM 9.30 PM 10:00 PM	<b>Glenflesk &amp; Barraduff</b> The Kerry Way, Glenflesk Spillane's Headford Murphy's Bar, Barraduff Sweeney's Bar, Barraduff	<b>4th Friday</b> 8.30 PM 9.30 PM 10.00 PM 10.45 PM	<b>Kenmare &amp; Sneem Area</b> The Roughty bar, Kenmare Riney's Bar, Sneem Blackwater Tavern O'Connor's Bar Kenmare
<b>1st Friday</b> 9.30 PM 10:00 PM 10:30 PM	<b>Tuosist &amp; Lauragh</b> Sailors Bar, Killaha West Helen's Bar Kilmacalogue The Lake House Tuosist	<b>Last Monday</b> 8:00 PM 8:30 PM 9:00 PM 10:00 PM	<b>Farranfore Area</b> Ulick's Bar, Farranfore James Daly's Bar, Farranfore Cunniffe's Bar, Currow John Hendersons, Furies
<b>3rd Monday</b> 8.30 PM 9.00 PM 9.30 PM 9.45 PM	<b>Knocknagoshel &amp; Brosna</b> O'Connor's Bar, Knocknagoshel Walsh's Bar, Knocknagoshel Kate Pat's Bar, Brosna Sportsfield Bar, Brosna		

## PASSPORTS

Check the expiry date on your passport. Contact our office for advice BEFORE applying for your passport.

PLEASE CONTACT

Danny 087 2316055 Office 064 6685315

Maura 087 7816432 Johnny 087 2354793 Eileen 087 9975419

Email: danny.healyrae@oireachtas.ie | johnnyhealyrae@gmail.com | maurahealyrae@gmail.com

With Daffodil Day on the horizon, this week The Irish Cancer Society today celebrates 40 years of the Night Nursing service and the provision of almost 200,000 nights of nursing to people across Ireland, allowing cancer patients to spend their last days surrounded by their families at home.

Since its establishment in 1986, the Night Nursing service has provided free, expert overnight nursing care to people at end of life, allowing them to die in the comfort of their own home.

The Irish Cancer Society calls on the public to go all in this Daffodil Day, March 20th to allow for continued funding of the Night Nursing service.

The Killarney South Kerry Branch of the Irish Cancer Society are looking for volunteers for Daffodil Day which takes place on March 20th.

If you can help out for a few hours, contact Eugene O'Sullivan on 087-6866337.

*With Daffodil Day on the horizon*

## ICS CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF NIGHT NURSING



*Pictured is Hayley Forde, Westmeath, who availed of Night Nursing for her late father Jimmy, who died of lung cancer with Nikki Gallagher, CEO Irish Cancer Society and Anne Freeman-Rahill, Cavan, Irish Cancer Society Night Nurse, who provided care for Hayley's father at end of life. Picture Andres Poveda*



## Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle Launched for 2026

Barnardos  
Dillon Quirke Foundation  
Cycle Against Suicide

Organisers have confirmed that event registration will open on Tuesday through the official online system, and cyclists are encouraged to register early due to the high demand traditionally associated with the event. Each year, the Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle attracts participants from across Ireland and beyond, combining a challenging and scenic route with the opportunity to make a meaningful difference to charities working at local and national level.

With a strong line-up of beneficiaries and another memorable day anticipated, this year's event promises to continue the proud tradition of community spirit and generosity associated with the Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle.

The Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle was officially launched this week, marking the beginning of preparations for one of the country's most anticipated fundraising events. This year's cycle will take place on Saturday, July 4th, when thousands of cyclists are expected to take to the roads around the Ring of Kerry in support of a wide range of worthy causes.

**The main beneficiaries for the 2026 event are:**

Breakthrough Cancer Research

Brú Columbanus  
Down Syndrome Kerry  
Ballinskelligs Inshore Rescue  
Kerry Hospice Foundation  
Jack and Jill Foundation

**In addition, seven Tier 2 charities will also benefit from this year's event:**

Recovery Haven Cancer Support House  
Enable Ireland Kerry  
Irish Red Cross Tralee  
Social Action Group Rathmore

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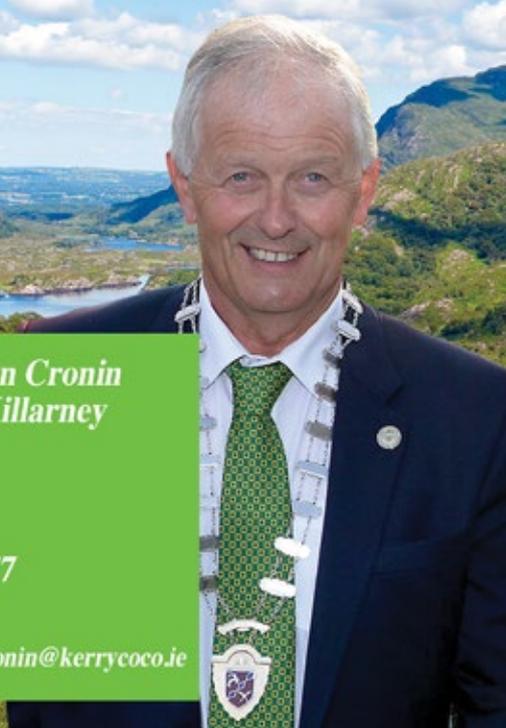
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**064 6685782**

Contact Numbers: 01 618 3363/064 66 85782  
E: michael.healyrae@oireachtas.ie




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# QUIZ BUFFS RAISE FUNDS FOR THE MON

A packed house with plenty answers for the many difficult questions posed by Quizmaster Cathal Walshe set the scene for the Presentation Monastery National School fun quiz which was hosted by the Killarney Avenue on Thursday evening. The annual School fundraiser, organised by the Parent's Association, has become an important date in their calendar with funds raised crucial

to the running of additional activities for the 170 students. School Principal Mary Brosnan was warm in her praise for all those who supported and attended the Quiz. "It was another fantastic evening for the School and I'm so appreciative of all the work that went into making the event a huge success. I want to thank the Parents Association for all

their work and a special thank you to the local business community who once again gave us tremendous support." Mary Brosnan confirmed to the Killarney Outlook. Apart from the eventual quiz winners, there were plenty more winners with some incredible spot prizes won in the raffle.



Triona Sheehy, Indiyah & David Murphy, Eamon Sheehy.



Tina Griffin, Jane Mc Gillicuddy, Breda Cronin, Irene O' Donoghue & Niamh O' Shea.



Ann O' Leary, Ellie Roche, Margaret McCarthy, Karen Smith, Diane Casey, Mary Brosnan & Alice O' Brien.



Kieran, Dara, Therese, Liadh & Evan Counihan.



Geraldine Pigott, Ann Leacy, Ger Coughlan.



Siobhan Wharton O' Sullivan, Pat O' Sullivan, Doireann & Stephen O' Brien.



Darren O' Shea, Elaine O' Shea Flavin, Denice Lucey, Caroline Neenan, Ellie Roche, Pat NewmanPlenty Answers for Mon NS Quiz.



Dara Counihan, JJ O' Sullivan, Conor O' Brien, Hugh Loonam.



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# Sean Lyons Reflects on Special Places in Tralee on Radio Kerry

A Mayo man who has called Tralee home since 1994, Sean Lyons will be the focus of this week's Saturday Supplement on Radio Kerry.

Presented by Frank Lewis, the programme - Sean Lyons' Special Places - airs from 9am to 11am on Saturday, March 7th, 2026. In the two-hour special, Frank takes Sean on a trip down memory lane, visiting eight special places in and around Tralee that have shaped his life and work. Originally from Mayo, Sean has led a varied and colourful life. A teacher by profession, he has worked in Dublin, Zambia, Australia and Tralee. Known locally as an MC, raconteur and writer, he is also deeply involved in community work. He currently serves as Chair of the Tralee International Resource Centre and the Kerry Cancer Support Group.

From St John's Church to the Kerry School of Music, listeners will hear Sean reflect on the people and places that hold special meaning for him. An avid cyclist and sea swimmer, Sean has clocked up an impressive 10,000 kilometres on the local greenway and swims in Fenit two or three times a week all year round - a testament to his energy and enthusiasm for life.

The programme will also highlight the vital work of the Kerry Cancer Support Group. In 2025, its buses completed 8,000 journeys transporting patients to cancer treatment appointments in Cork and Limerick. Service Manager Breeda Diland noted that the service must raise €300,000 annually to continue operating. Sean and Breeda also speak movingly about the many cancer patients who, through shared journeys, became lasting friends.

Sean Lyons' Special Places can be heard live worldwide at [www.radiokerry.ie](http://www.radiokerry.ie)

[radiokerry.ie](http://radiokerry.ie)

from 9am to 11am on Saturday, March 7th. The programme will also be available as a podcast on the Radio Kerry website from the following Tuesday or Wednesday.



The Kerry Cancer Support buses in 2025 drove 8,000 journeys to cancer treatment in Cork and Limerick. Service Manager Breeda Diland is pictured with Chairman Sean Lyons

*Rambling House*

A Rambling House will take place at Heritage Centre Scartaglen Monday 9th March at 8pm. Admission free, refreshments served. All are welcome.

## FOSSA TWO MILE COMHALTAS

Rambling House 2026 celebrating our 20th year will be held on Sat 14th March at The Castlerosse Park Resort, Fossa Admission Free, Raffle on the night, tea and coffee. All very welcome. CÉILÍ Our upcoming Céilí will be held on Sunday 22nd March 2026 from 3-6pm at Fossa Community Hall. Music by Johnny Reidy Ceili Band. Admission €10 We look forward to seeing you all there.

Ceolfhoireann Thraididiúnt Mhúscraí Concert Sat 21st March at Duchas Comhaltas Centre, MTU Tralee. Tickets €10

Adult €5 Junior/Student can be ordered from branch secretaries or purchased on Eventbrite.ie



## Online Survey In Relation To The Development Of A New Age Friendly Strategy For Kerry Now Open



Kerry County Council has opened an online survey in relation to the development of a new Age Friendly Strategy for County Kerry. The link to the survey is available at <https://consult.kerrycoco.ie/en/content/kerry-age-friendly-strategy-public-consultation-survey> A paper copy of the survey is available at the nine libraries across the county and can also be requested by emailing [agefriendlykerry@kerrycoco.ie](mailto:agefriendlykerry@kerrycoco.ie) or by calling 066 979 6713.

Completed surveys can be returned to the libraries or via a FREEPOST address listed on the survey. This survey is in addition to the public consultation sessions currently underway across the county. The survey and consultation sessions draw on the lived experience of older people and provide an opportunity to contribute ideas for the development of the new Age Friendly Strategy.

Anyone aged 55 and over is invited to complete the survey or join the conversation at a public consultation session.

The consultation is taking place in:

### KILLARNEY

Wednesday, 11th March 2026 | 6.30 pm – 9.00 pm  
Brehon Hotel, Killarney V93 RT22

### CASTLEISLAND

Thursday, 12th March 2026 | 6.30 pm – 9.00 pm  
Currow Community Centre V93 YV90

The aim of the Kerry Age Friendly programme is to make Kerry a place where people can live well and age positively. Within the Age Friendly Kerry programme, the Older People's Council provides people aged 55 and over an opportunity to exercise a strong voice on age friendly services and local and national policy development. Further information is available from: [agefriendlykerry@kerrycoco.ie](mailto:agefriendlykerry@kerrycoco.ie) and via <https://kerryppn.ie/category/age-friendly-initiatives/>



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## DEERPARK PITCH & PUTT CLUB

### COUNTY BOARD SCRAMBLE

Well done to Fionn O'Callaghan on being part of the team that won the Gross prize in the 18-Hole Scramble event in Tralee last Sunday.

Tim Scannell Memorial Inter-Club Matchplay: Best Wishes to the club's teams taking part in this event which begins from this weekend. The County Board will confirm all details prior to this weekend.

### MEMBERSHIP

As March 1st has now passed, 2026 fees are now officially due. Due to the high number of applications received thus far, the Committee has decided to put a hold on accepting further new member applications for a period up until Sunday March 15th. While we are still accepting renewals from 2025 at present, we ask our 2025 members who have not already done so to ensure they are joined up prior to March 15th next as the Committee will be making a further decision on membership numbers for the year following that date.

## KERRY PITCH & PUTT CLUB

Returning to a more traditional start time of March for the beginning of the season, Pitch & Putt officially gets going this weekend with the

bringing forward of the Tim Scannell Memorial Inter-Club Matchplay to the time more associated with the Bob Casey Memorial Inter-Club Strokeplay in the past.

Full details will be with the clubs by the end of the week as last Sunday saw an Open 18-Hole Three Ball Scramble take place in Tralee as the County Board wishes to thank Des and Gemma Hurley of North/South Café in Tralee for their kind donation of refreshments for the players after a round which was played in difficult conditions last Sunday. First Nett winners on the day were the combination of Jamie Blake, Danny O'Leary & Catriona O'Connor with the Gross Prize won by Darren Goodall, Reece Sugrue & Fionn O'Callaghan. Second Nett winners on the day were Gavin Carroll, Gavin Dillane & John Lynch.

Back in January at the County Board AGM, Damien Fleming returned to the position of Chairman as Chris Gibney remains on the Board as a non-portfolio officer. We welcome Listowel's Tom O'Connor and Monty Galvin as our new U16 Officers while we wish Connie O'Sullivan well in the role of Competition Secretary.

### 2026 Officers

Chairman: Damien Fleming (Deerpark)

Secretary: Jason Cregan (Tralee)

Treasurer: Sean O'Brien (Deerpark)

Registrar: Danny O'Leary (Tralee)

Competition Secretary: Connie O'Sullivan (Deerpark)

PRO: Jason O'Connor (Deerpark)

U16 Officers: Tom O'Connor & Monty Galvin (Listowel)

Non-Portfolio: Chris Gibney (Listowel) & Jason O'Regan (Tralee)

## ROSS LADIES GOLF CLUB

### RESULTS - SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2026

Scramble very kindly sponsored by Bridie Brosnan and Bridie Doyle

A great turnout and weather was favourable for the Scramble on Saturday. Well done to everyone who took part and congratulations to the winners of the beautiful prizes.

Winners: Betty O'Farrell, Mary B O'Sullivan and Aine Murphy

2nd: Mary Gorman, Emir Coffey, and Helen Moylan

3rd: Lady Captain Elaine Casey, Mona Looney and Sheila O'Mahony

### COMPETITIONS

9 hole single Stableford competition. Enter via the BRS App

### WEDNESDAY MORNINGS MEET & PLAY

Meet and play every Wednesday morning. Meet in the Club House 10.00am tee off 10.30am. Enter via the BRS App. All Members welcome.

### GOLF LESSONS

New PRO Jonathan Clery is available to give golf lessons at Ross Golf Club. Please contact Jonathan directly on 086 2143510.



Winners of the Ross Ladies scramble pictured Betty O'Farrell, Lady Captain, Elaine Casey Mary B O'Sullivan and Aine Murphy pictured with sponsors Bridie Brosnan and Bridie Doyle



2nd Ross Ladies scramble pictured Lady Captain Elaine Casey, Emir Coffey, Bridie Brosnan, Bridie Doyle sponsors Mary Gorman and Helen Moylan

## TOM DOHERTY APPOINTED TO GOLF IRELAND G4D HIGH PERFORMANCE PANEL

Golf Ireland is delighted to announce its inaugural G4D High Performance Panel, marking another significant milestone in the sport. The panel includes Killarney man Tom Doherty, who has been making waves on the golf scene.

The establishment of a dedicated G4D High Performance Panel reflects Golf Ireland's commitment to providing structured support to players competing at the highest levels of the game.

South African G4D Open champion, Ian St John (Tramore), and G4D Tour @ FedEx Open de France winner Mark Clougherty (Lambeg) are joined by Paul O'Kelly (Portmarnock), Cian Arthurs (Roganstown), Fiona Gray (St Patrick's), Caolan Munnally (Tullamore), Conal Flynn (Athenry), Dianne Conway (Shandon Park), Tom Doherty (Killarney) and Timmy Moloney (Co Tipperary).

These golfers have demonstrated consistent performance and their inclusion on the panel signals the next phase of growth for disability golf in Ireland, aligning with Golf Ireland's broader high performance framework.



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## KILLARNEY VALLEY ATHLETIC CLUB

It was a very busy but successful weekend for KVAC athletes.

On Sunday Killarney Valley AC enjoyed strong performances on both track and road at the National Senior Indoor Championships in Athlone and at the Munster Road Racing Championships.

At the National Senior Indoor Championships, Sarah Leahy finished fourth in the senior women's 60m final in 7.42, with Keelie O'Connor competing in the heats. Alan Burke placed seventh in the senior men's pole vault (3.20m) and Anna O'Shea seventh in the senior women's event (2.80m). Jordan Lee finished eighth in the senior men's shot put (10.55m), while Jack O'Leary placed eighth in the senior men's 800m final in 1:57.

In the Munster Road Racing Championships, Natalie Breen won the Munster W35 Masters title as the Kerry team secured team gold. Conor Kissane finished second in the senior men's race in 20:36, helping Kerry to team silver. Grace O'Meara placed eighth in the novice women's race as Kerry also took silver, while Conor Crowley finished 21st in the novice men's race, contributing to further team silver medals. Kirsten Kenny was 18th in the senior women's race.

On Saturday our u9-u11 juvenile stars were in action at the Kerry Athletics Sportshall Games in Tralee with many taking part in their first ever competition.

The club claimed several gold medals, led by Kaylee Lynch who won the U9 girls sprint, while the U9 girls relay team also won gold. Matthew Doyle won the U9 boys standing long jump, and Tadhg Casey captured gold in the U12 boys shot put.

Silver medals were earned by Amelia Duggan (U9 girls sprint), Bella Brosnan (U10 girls sprint), Cara McElroy (U10 girls standing long jump), Sophie Taylor Curran (U10 girls speed bounce) and Conall O'Meara (U12 boys shot put). The U12 boys relay team also won silver.

Bronze medals were added by Cara McElroy (U10 girls sprint), Teddy O'Brien (U10 boys sprint), Teddy Taylor Curran (U12 boys sprint), Tadhg Casey (U12 boys standing long jump), Oisín O'Donoghue Sheehan (U12 boys shot put), Rosie Linehan (U10 girls speed bounce), Kaylee Lynch and Amelia Duggan (U9 girls standing long jump). Relay bronze medals went to the

U10 girls team and the U9 boys team.

Killarney Valley AC thanks Kerry Athletics, volunteers and sponsors for a well-run and enjoyable event.

The weekend's results highlighted Killarney Valley AC's strength across a wide range of disciplines and ages, from juvenile competitions to road racing and to national-level indoor competition.

For anyone wishing to join the club you can email us at killarneyvalleyac@gmail.com.

## KILLARNEY SWIMMING CLUB

### KILLARNEY SWIM CLUB PROUDLY REPRESENTED AT MCCULLAGH INTERNATIONAL

Killarney Swimming Club were extremely proud to be represented at the prestigious McCullagh International Swim Meet, held at the National Aquatic Centre in Dublin.

Training under the guidance of Head Coach Sean Farndon, the club's swimmers continue to go from strength to strength at national and international level.

Aoife Coffey delivered an outstanding performance, finishing 8th in the final of the 200m backstroke and also securing 8th place in the 50m backstroke final against strong international competition.

Aoibhín Heinemann also impressed with excellent swims in both the 200m and 100m backstroke events, continuing her strong form this season.

Meanwhile, Evan O'Donoghue represented Munster at the Interprovincial Championships (Interpros), where he competed as part of the Munster squad under the guidance of Regional Development Pathway Coach Erin McNulty. Munster secured an excellent second place overall finish.

It was a hugely successful weekend for Killarney Swimming Club, highlighting the strength and depth of talent within the club.

## WORKMAN'S ROWING CLUB

Last weekend, our crews were back in action on the Marina for the Cork Head of the River, marking an important milestone in the early season calendar.

Following a strong and productive winter



Pictured are Evan O'Donoghue, Aoife Coffey, Aoibhín Heinemann and Head Coach Sean Farndon.

block of training, the event provided a valuable opportunity to turn hard work into race performance. It was a positive step forward as we continue to build momentum and set high standards for the months ahead.

Racing ran throughout the day, beginning with our MJ18 singles, followed by WJ18 and WJ16 doubles, and concluding with the MJ18 doubles. Despite challenging conditions at times, our athletes showed great focus, resilience, and commitment, representing the club with pride. Well, done to all who took part on the day — your effort and determination were evident across every race.

Alongside the racing, our Annual Church Gate Collection took place over the weekend. Members and their families generously gave their time, braving difficult weather conditions to support the club. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed — your continued generosity makes a real difference.

### ONGOING TRAINING

Regular training sessions continue as scheduled throughout the week and consistency remains a cornerstone of our progress, as each session builds the fitness, technique, and resilience needed for the challenges of the season ahead.

## KILLARNEY RFC CLUB

### SENIORS ADVANCE IN MUNSTER JUNIOR CUP

The highlight of the weekend took place at a breezy Aghadoe on Sunday, where our Senior Men's 1st XV hosted Thomond RFC in the Bank



Killarney Triathlon Club members on their run session; Sean Reidy, Michael Jacobi, Tim Horgan, Amanda Keane, Ciara Kane and Brian Looney



Grace Mannix, Paula Prudnikovaite, Roisin O'Donoghue, Faye Mannix, & Nakita Wharton

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Killarney Rugby Club U14 Boys at Thomond Park



Killarney Rugby Club U14 Girls Team

of Ireland Munster Junior Cup.

In a gritty performance that showcased the defensive resolve this squad has built throughout their promotion-winning season, Killarney emerged victorious on a scoreline of 19-3. The win sees the Black and Red Army progress to the next round, where a mouth-watering clash against Fethard and District awaits. A huge thank you to the large home crowd whose support on the sideline made all the difference!

#### YOUTHS ROUND-UP

**U14 Boys:** Munster Shield Our U14 boys made the trip to Clonmel RFC on Saturday morning for their Munster Shield encounter at Ard Gaoithe. It was a tough outing against a very clinical Clonmel side, with the hosts taking the win. Despite the scoreboard, the Killarney lads never let their heads drop, showing massive heart in the scrum and breakdown until the final whistle. The boys headed on to Limerick to watch Munster take on Zebre at Thomond Park. A big thank you to coaches Fergus Cronin and Brian O'Sullivan.

**U16 Girls (KICK):** Cup Action The KICK (Killarney/Iveragh/Castleisland/Killorglin) U16 girls travelled to Castleisland to face Bruff RFC. In what is always a physical battle against the Limerick side, the girls put in a massive shift.

While the result didn't go our way this time, the development of this squad continues to impress the coaching staff as they navigate a highly competitive Cup group.

**U14 Girls:** Development Cup Last Saturday our KICK U14 hit the road to East County Limerick to take on the combined UL Bohs/Bruff side in round 2 of the U14 Development Cup. With a phenomenal 17 girls available to play, a fantastic game of rugby ensued, with the visitors running out winners. Very well done to all of our girls who played their hearts out and represented KICK Girls rugby as well as their own clubs with huge pride.

Well done to our coaches, Liam, Adrian, Becca, Aaron and Declan for looking after the girls and to Donncha Murphy who refereed the free flowing game. A huge thanks to all at Bruff RFC for the fantastic hospitality. No fixture next weekend, our next game is against Tralee at home the following weekend. New players always welcome, just give Liam Murphy a shout on 087-4145662 for more information.

#### UPCOMING FIXTURES

Keep an eye on our social media channels later this week for the full schedule. We expect a busy weekend of West Munster league games and further Cup progress for our youth girls' sections.

#### TRAINING & RECRUITMENT

New players are always welcome at all age grades, from Minis (U6-U12) right up to Seniors. No experience is necessary!

**Minis:** Every Saturday morning at 9:45am (Aghadoo).

**Youths/Seniors:** Contact your age-grade coach via ClubZap for mid-week session times.

### FOSSA ROWING CLUB

#### TABLE QUIZ - TONIGHT!

We hold our annual fundraising table quiz at the Golden Nugget this Friday night (tonight) and all are very welcome to come along, support the club and enjoy the craic. First prize is €200, second prize is €100 with some fantastic raffle prizes on offer also. Tables of 4 are €40 each and doors open at 7:30pm. See you there.

#### FLESK VALLEY INDOOR ROWING

The Flesk Valley Indoor Rowing event takes place at the Killarney Racecourse on Sunday the 22nd of March. All interested rowers are asked to confirm their entries as soon as possible. This is a fun event ahead of the Kerry Coastal rowing season and is always a great day out.

## Success at Munster and National level for senior athletes

This weekend proved to be successful and eventful on the track, on the roads and on the mountains for Killarney valley ac at senior level. The national indoor athletics championships were held in the NIA in Abbotstown Dublin over the weekend with six of the club's athletes taking part in a cross section of disciplines.

All eyes were on Sarah Leahy in the 60m who on this occasion was just outside the medals in 4th place. The two-time indoor champion ran a season's best of 7.42 seconds placing behind Ciara Neville 1st, Precious Akbe Moses in 2nd and Mollie Scott in 3rd.

Fellow club mate Jack O'Leary ran a brilliant semi-final in the men's 800m in 1.54 seconds to make the final for the first time and was to the fore for three quarters of the race just to fade in the final quarter finishing in 8th place. The exertions of a first 400m in 51 seconds was to tell in the final quarter but brilliant experience for the young middle-distance runner.

Young pole-vaulter Anna O'Shea in her first

senior championships finished in 7th place in 2.80m with men's club-mate Alan Burke also in 7th in 3.20m. O'Shea is seen as a rising talent in the discipline. Keelie O'Connor the Munster women's 60m champion finished in 6th place in the semi-final in 7.92 seconds putting a successful indoor season behind her in 2026.

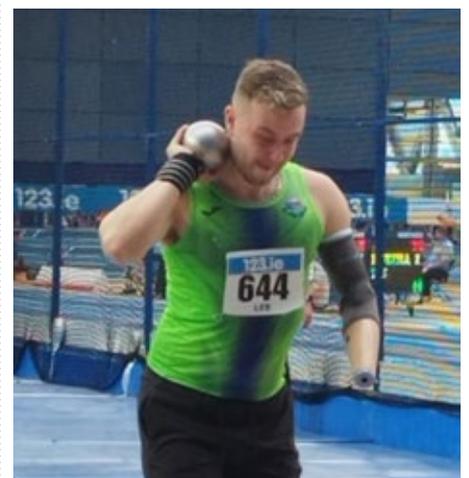
Jordan Lee who has converted his talents to shot putt finished in 8th place having thrown 10.55m, Lee who has his eyes on the Paralympic championships has shown his multi event capabilities again at the highest level.

The Munster road running championships was held in Castleisland where top class runner Conor Kissane finished in 2nd place over the four-mile course in a time of 20.36.

Club mate Natalie Breen won the W35 for a successful KVAC podium finish.

Other teammates Grace O'Meara was 8th in the novice in 26.43, Kirsten Kenny 18th in the senior women in 27.19 and Conor Crowley 21st in the novice men in 22.51.

On the mountains Conor McElroy won the IMRA (Irish mountain running association) 11.5km race in Ballinabollo Cork the race had a 300m elevation and Conor finished the distance in 56 minutes over the undulating course.



Jordan Lee in shot putt action

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## BALLYHAR DYNAMOS FC

### LOTTO

No.s 9, 10, 13, 17. No winner of the jackpot. 5 x €25: Brendan Quirke, Furies. Eileen O Donoghue, Killarney. Pat Cooper, Ballyhar. James O Sullivan, Farranfore & Joan O Sullivan, Ballyhar. Next draw for a jackpot of €3,700 will take place on Sunday next, 8th March at Henderson's Bar, Furies. Tickets available from Sheahan's Filling Station, Farranfore, Spar & Hendersons Shops, Furies & Butlers Bar, Furies. Thanks to all who support & help out with the club lotto draw.

### TEAMS

The u12 B squad had a good 6-2 home league win against Killarney Celtic D thanks to goals from Jack O Mahony, Ryan O Sullivan & Adam Dineen with Sean Daly, Shane O Connor, Leo Duffin, Daithi Fleming & Sean O Callaghan all playing well.

The U12 A squad lost 0-3 at home to Iveragh Utd in the Cup/Trophy competition. Pdraig Allen was outstanding in goals with Conor Ryan, Diarmuid Sheehy, Ethan O Sullivan, Tadhg Fitzgerald & Eoghan Clifford all working hard during the game.

The U12 girls were defeated away to Camp FC in the cup with all the girls putting in a big effort.

On Sunday last the U15s in league action had to battle against a physically stronger Fenit Samphires side as well poor weather conditions in a game the visitors ran out 1-6 winners. Alex Finn with the Ballyhar goal with Jamie Quirke, Daithi Allen, Daniel Ryan & Darragh O Sullivan all playing well in trying weather conditions. On Saturday the club U10 boys, Blue squad played Castelisland FC at Murt Scott Park, also on Saturday the club U6s & U7s played MEK away where both squads & teams enjoyed themselves. On Sunday the club U8s travelled to Kenmare and took part in a mini blitz against 5 other club teams where all squads performed well. Thanks to the Parents & Coaches who assist in the above games.

### SYMPATHY

The club offers its condolences to the Family & Friends of the late Moss O Connor, Furies. Bernie O Dowd, Furies. Tom O Sullivan, Furies. Brendan Allman, Faha & Vincent Scott, Furies. May they rest in peace.

The late Vincent Scott was an active member of Ballyhar Dynamos FC during the 1980s where he served as first team manager & club chairman. He was also actively involved in managing 7 a-side teams at local tournaments. The Club formed a guard of Honour at the Church of the

Sacred Heart, Ballyhar following his requiem mass. May Vincent rest in peace.

## KILLARNEY ATHLETIC

### AFC

#### U17 CUP RESULT

##### *Tralee Dynamos B 0 - 7 Killarney Athletic*

Ryan Kissane x 1, Leo Allen x 2, Jamie Fleming x 2, Darragh O Donoghue x 1, James Marshall x 1 Our U17's travelled to Tralee Sunday afternoon for the rearranged cup fixture. The boys scored some good goals and put on a decent display to run out convincing winners on the day. The home side play their football in the division below and can be very proud of their display, playing some good football throughout the game and we wish them well for the rest of the season. It's onto the next round for our boys as we look forward to going one step further than last year.

#### BOYS U16 PREMIER

##### *Tralee Dynamos 4 - 5 Killarney Athletic*

Top of the Table Thriller in Tralee! Killarney Athletic U16s made the short trip to Tralee for a massive top-of-the-table clash with local rivals Tralee Dynamos — and what a night of football it turned out to be! It was a beautiful evening for the game, played on Tralee Dynamos' brand new astro turf, which was in fantastic condition and set the stage perfectly for an open, high-quality encounter. From the first whistle, this had all the ingredients of a classic. Both sides went toe-to-toe, showing great quality and determination. The effort and commitment from our lads was outstanding, with that never-say-die attitude shining through. Even in the dying moments, Athletic kept pushing, always looking for the next goal. Every goal was vital in a game that swung back and forth all evening — a true showcase of schoolboy football at its best. Huge credit to Tralee Dynamos for a fantastic contest played in great spirit. Thanks also to the referee for officiating such an intense game. The supporters in attendance were treated to an absolute cracker, with Athletic edging a thrilling contest 5-4 in the end! Scorers: Paddy Nash, Adam Moynihan, Oisín Cryan, Max Moynihan, Conor Moynihan

#### NATIONAL TROPHY ROUND OF 16 U14 BOYS

##### *Killarney Athletic A 6 - 4 Quay Olympic*

Sean Quill x 3, Lucas Uchtyl x 1, Mark Doonan x 1, OG x 1, Quay Olympic-4

Our lads made the long trip up to Dundalk early this morning for their toughest test of the year

thus far against a very strong Quay Olympic team. The lads started the game on top and scored an early goal from a corner kick Lucas Uchtyl finished strong. Sean Quill struck with a hard fought goal 20 min into to take a 2-0 lead. The lads went up 3-0 with an own goal from a superb Sean Quill corner kick. Quay were very very dangerous up front and could have had a few goals in the first half. They got their deserved goal from a corner to make it 3-1 at half. Our lads started the second half very slow and were caught from the runaway train of Quay Olympic who scored 3 goals in 8 minutes to take a 4-3 lead. Athletic fought hard and regrouped and got the game back under control and were level from a well taken finish from Mark Doonan. Sean Quill struck with well taken free kick around the wall to go back into the lead 5-4. Darragh O'Toole earned a penalty for Athletic with 8 minutes left which Sean Quill coolly slotted home to go up 6-4. The lads showed serious fight and resilience to come back for this win. With only 1 sub as numerous players were down with injury and sickness. They all fought so hard for this one. The coaches and parents are extremely proud of this group of lads. Man of the match for Athletic Mark Doonan (right midfield). Onto the quarter finals lads. Well done!

**ATHLETIC U12BS** welcomed Iveragh A to home turf on a calm morning with captain Sadie O'Connor proudly leading the team out. It proved to be a tough encounter against a strong Iveragh side, who came away with a 5-1 victory. Despite the scoreline, Athletic showed tremendous spirit, determination and teamwork from the first whistle to the final minute. Athletic's highlight of the game was a superbly worked goal Player of the Match Carolena Kelly was outstanding throughout and showed fantastic vision and composure to create a brilliant opportunity for Emily O'Grady, who finished confidently to the net. It was a goal that truly reflected the quality and teamwork within the squad. A special mention goes to Alex Maguire, who put in a huge shift between the posts making several important saves and showing great bravery and focus throughout. It was a real team effort across the pitch, with every player battling hard and supporting one another. While the result didn't go Athletic's way, the girls can be very proud of their performance and attitude. Athletic now continue their journey in the Shield

#### U15 BOYS DIVISION 3

##### *Killarney Celtic 4 v Killarney Athletic 1*

Goal: Leon Hebda



Ballyhar Dynamos FC u10 boys who played Castelisland FC at Murt Scott Park on Saturday last.



Ballyhar Dynamos FC u12 girls who were defeated away by Camp Juniors FC in the cup



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## GIRLS U16 PREMIER RESULT

**St Brendan's Park FC U16 4 v Killarney Athletic FC U16 4**

*Ella Murphy x 1, Roxy Wawro x 3*

In our final league game of the season the girls travelled to Tralee for an early kick off to the league winners. The Park scored after 3 mins from a scrappy corner and went up two nil after 15 mins, before Ella Murphy got one back before half time. At the start of the second half the Park extended their lead by two goals to take the game to 4-1. In the last 15 mins the real side of this team came out they played with freedom and really took the game to the Park and in an amazing last 15 mins Roxy really stood up in front of goal with the aid of all her teammates and got an amazing hat trick to level the game it was a testament to the girls that they never gave up and a great end to a great league run that depending on other results could see us finish second. We would like to thank the Park for hosting us and a great exciting game and the referee.

## MASTERGEEHA

### GIRL'S CUP

#### U12 DOMINIC SCANLON PERPETUAL CUP

**Dingle 1 v Mastergeeha 5**

#### U14 PREMIER GIRLS

**Mastergeeha 7 v 1 Listowel Celtic**

*Eabha Moynihan (2), Sophie Moynihan, Ruby Moynihan, Aine Herlihy, Annabelle Casey & Mia Doherty*

Well done to both teams who lined out in very challenging weather conditions on Sunday afternoon in Mastergeeha. Credit to all the players for the effort and attitude shown throughout. Thanks to Listowel Celtic for a sporting game and to Mohammad for officiating. Another good team performance from the girls in red and black.

### BOY'S LEAGUE

#### U12 BOY'S PREMIER

**Killarney Celtic 1 v Mastergeeha 0**

Mastergeeha U12s boys didn't have too far to travel last night to our neighbours Killarney Celtic. Mastergeeha very unlucky to miss a couple of chances in the first half from Thomas O'Sullivan, Ronan O'Neill and Nathan Cronin. Dara O'Keeffe had some great attacking right play to put some opportunities in the box for Mastergeeha. A tough physical first half from both teams 0-0. Mastergeeha very unlucky in the second half with some close chances. It



Killarney Celtic Senior Women vs Castleisland

was looking like a 0-0 result and unfortunately, we conceded in the last minute with a big cross hitting us hard. A tough loss in the last minute for Celtic to win 1-0. A great overall team performance by Mastergeeha last night, some great football on display.

Man of the Match goes to Dara O'Keeffe, outstanding performance in midfield

#### U15 BOY'S PREMIER

**Killarney Celtic 2 v Mastergeeha 2**

On Wednesday night in the U15 premier division our squad made the short trip to take on Killarney Celtic. Celtic were much the better side in a first half that saw the hosts leading 1-0. The second half looked like it was going the same way when Celtic doubled their lead within a few minutes of the kick off. The tide began to turn and Mastergeeha began to get a hold. Their hard work saw Killian Moynihan pull one back directly from a corner. In a much more competitive period a Mastergeeha attack saw the award of a penalty which was well placed by David Fleming to level the score at 2 apiece. In an exciting concluding period neither side could find the winner and the draw was probably the fair result on the night.

#### U15 BOY'S DIVISION 3

**Castleisland B 2 v Mastergeeha B 1**

A top-of-the-table clash between two very evenly matched sides made for a cracking contest. Castleisland went in front just before half-time with a well-taken penalty and struck again a few minutes later to extend their lead. Mastergeeha battled hard in the second half, with captain Cathal Cronin leading by example. He pulled one back and drove the team forward in search of an equaliser, but despite the pressure, the goal to level the game just

wouldn't come. A tough result in a tight game, but plenty of positives to take.

Man of the Match: Cathal Cronin

#### MASTERGEEHA U14 GIRLS PITCH & PUTT FUNDRAISER

The countdown is on and tee times are filling up fast for our Deerpark Pitch & Putt Fundraiser on Friday April 3rd in aid of the u14 Girls Barcelona Cup trip. The cost of a Team of 3 – €75 and some Fantastic prizes on the day. To secure your tee time, contact ASAP: • Sinead – 087 165 7576 • Louise – 086 106 8106 • Jason – 087 455 6466 • Sean – 086 174 2675

#### MASTERGEEHA LOTTO

There was no winner of our lotto on Friday 27th February for the Jackpot of €5,200. Numbers drawn were 1, 3, 11, 28. Consolation Prizes of €50 each to the following, Noah & Freddie O'Leary Mountain View, Juile McCarthy Annual Ticket, Sinéad & Marion Collins Aghadoe and Eileen & Jimmy Devane Mastergeeha. Our next draw will take place on Friday 6th March at the Village Inn for a Jackpot of €5,400.

## KILLARNEY CELTIC

### CELTIC LOTTO

Numbers drawn 7,13,20,28. No Jackpot winner. Match 3 winners received €25. Next jackpot €7,600 on Monday March 9th. Tickets available from The Dungeon Bookshop, Amber Shop (Top of Ross Road), club members and online through clubzap.

### KDL PREMIER

**Killarney Celtic 0-1 Killarney Athletic**

Celtic suffered a setback to their league ambitions after they were beaten by local rivals Athletic in very tough conditions last weekend. Celtic remain in 2nd place with a 3 point



Killarney Celtic U14 Girls



Castleisland U15 Boys



Killarney Athletic U13 Boys



Killarney Athletic U14 Boys

advantage over Tralee Dynamos who have a game less played.

#### U15 PREMIER

##### **Killarney Celtic 2-2 Mastergeeha**

Killian O Sullivan, Emmanuel Itheme

Celtic played out a draw last week in this Premier clash. Celtic led 1-0 at half time after Killian O'Sullivan opened the scoring. Celtic doubled their lead through Emmanuel Itheme but Mastergeeha came back to take a point.

#### U15 DIV 3

##### **Killarney Celtic C 4-1 Killarney Athletic D**

Eoin Murphy 2, Dean Heaphy, George Nomikos

Celtic C had a clear cut victory in this local derby as they gained control of the play and finished off their good approach work with goals to take the points.

#### U14 PREMIER

##### **Killarney Celtic defeated Listowel Celtic**

Luke Clifford, Cillian Scannell, Jack Clifford, Paul McGrath, Fionn Culloty, James Brosnan, Conor Doherty, Josh O'Donoghue, Jace Flynn, Tiernan Cronin.

Killarney U14A were clear cut winners last week as they proved too strong for Listowel as they continue to chase down the league leaders.

#### U13 PREMIER

##### **St Brendan's Park 1-1 Killarney Celtic**

Josh Buckley

This top of the table ended all square as both sides remain unbeaten in this division. Josh Buckley scored the vital goal. U13 Premier looks like it will go down to the wire as the season enters its final phase.

#### U13 DIV 1

##### **Killarney Celtic 2-5 LB Rovers**

Illia Pomiszyk 2

Celtic B battled hard but came up short against LB Rovers. LB led at half time and maintained their advantage to the final whistle.

#### U12 PREMIER

##### **Killarney Celtic 1-0 Mastergeeha**

Eryk McGrath

Celtic grabbed a late winner to take all 3 points in this game played last week. Chances came and went before Eryk McGrath netted late on to give Celtic the win.

#### GIRLS

##### **KDL SENIOR WOMEN PREMIER**

##### **Killarney Celtic 4-1 Castleisland**

Hannah Casey 2, Ali Bowler, Ciara Forde

Celtic recovered from a goal deficit to overcome a dogged Castleisland. Celtic came back from

an early setback to lead 2-1 at half time. Further 2nd half goals sealed the win in a game played in very wet and windy conditions.

#### U17 FAI WOMEN'S CUP

##### **Killarney Celtic 5-0 Inter Kenmare**

Ali Bowler 2, Holly Forrest 2, Evelyn Grimes

A powerful 2nd half display saw Celtic overcome Kenmare in this U17 FAI Cup game. Celtic found the breakthrough and from then were able to consolidate their lead.

#### U14 PREMIER

##### **Castleisland 1-2 Killarney Celtic**

Molly Philpott, Niamh O'Leary

Celtic bounced back to winning ways as they overcame Castleisland in very testing conditions. This win keeps Celtic in contention behind the league leaders.

**CONGRATS** to Dylan McCarthy U13 who made the KSBGL Team of the Week and to Clodagh O Connor U14 who made the Girls Roll of Honour.

#### WALKING FOOTBALL

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## KERRY SCHOOLBOY/GIRL SOCCER

### NATIONAL DINGLE, ATHLETIC AND CASTLEISLAND ALL BOOK QUARTER FINAL PLACES

There were mixed fortunes for Kerry sides across the latest rounds of national competitions, while Dingle Bay Rovers, Killarney Athletic and Castleisland all put their names in the Quarter Final draw across their respective competitions. In the U14 Boy's National Cup Last 16, Dingle Bay Rovers produced a superb performance to defeat Cherry Orchard 3-2, trailing 2-0 TJ Ó hAinfein netted twice and Tommy Ó Shúilleabháin was also on target in a memorable comeback victory.

There was success in the U13 Boy's National Trophy Last 16, where Killarney Athletic advanced with a strong 4-1 win over Finglas United, thanks to braces from Darragh O'Toole and Harry Randles.

In the U15 Boy's National Trophy Last 16, Castleisland AFC proved clinical in a 5-1 victory at Inter Kenmare, with goals from Se O'Donnell (2), Sean Kerin, Yevhennii Momontov, and Alex Guerin Ryan.

It was a more difficult outing in the U15 Boy's

National Cup Last 16 as Killarney Athletic fell to a 4-1 defeat away to Malahide United, with Marc Cremin grabbing the consolation goal. Meanwhile, in the U16 Girl's National Trophy Last 16, Inter Kenmare exited the competition after a 2-1 defeat to Stella Maris, with Aisling O'Shea on the scoresheet.

#### GIRLS

### 12'S DOMINIC SCANLON CUP GETS UNDERWAY

A lively round of fixtures got the U12 Girls Dominic Scanlon Perpetual Cup underway, which produced plenty of goals and some standout individual displays as teams battled for progression.

Park started brightly with 4-0 win over LB Rovers, as Millie Costello struck twice alongside a brace from Roisin Diggins. Mastergeeha were equally impressive, running out 5-1 winners against Dingle, thanks largely to a four-goal haul from Gracie Maher, with Olivia O'Connor also on target, while Emma Kennedy replied for Dingle.

Iveragh produced a strong attacking display to defeat Killarney Athletic B 5-1, with Sianna O'Sullivan scoring twice and further goals from Abbie Fitzgerald, Summer Hickey, and Maisie Donovan. Camp A also enjoyed a clinical outing, beating Ballyhar A 6-0 as Erin Wallace netted a hat-trick, supported by a Roisin Murray brace and a goal from Sophie Lynch.

Fenit edged a thriller 4-3 against Camp B, with Emma Barrett scoring a hat-trick and Eimear O'Sullivan adding the fourth, while Shauna O'Connor hit all three for Camp.

Elsewhere, MEK A claimed a 2-0 win over Tralee Dynamos through Erin Cronin and Katie Foley, and Castleisland advanced with a 3-0 victory over Listowel Celtic A, courtesy of goals from Hannah O'Connor, Olivia Murphy, and Alannah Walsh Murphy.

### MASTERGEEHA, CELTIC AND DINGLE PICK UP THREE POINTS IN 14'S GRADE

There was plenty of attacking quality on display in the latest round of O'Sullivan's Bakery U14 Girls fixtures, with wins for Mastergeeha and Killarney Celtic in the Premier and Dingle in Division 1.

Mastergeeha delivered the standout performance of the round, powering to a 7-1 victory over Listowel Celtic. Eabha Moynihan led the charge with a hat-trick, while Sophie Moynihan, Ruby Moynihan, Aine Herlihy, Mia



Under 12 A Premiere Boys



Killarney Athletic U16 Girls

Doherty, and Annabelle Casey also found the net.

Killarney Celtic defeated Castleisland 2-1, with goals from Molly Philpott and Niamh O'Leary proving decisive, while Bella Clifford replied for the hosts. While Park and Fenit shared the spoils in a 3-3 draw, Ciara Cronin, Saoirse Moynihan and Macy Reidy finding the net for Park, while Fiadh McElligott, Aoife Carey and Hannah Barrett-Neziri fired back for Fenit. In Division 1, Dingle claimed an impressive 4-2 win over LB Rovers. Lucy Keane was in excellent form with a hat-trick, and Temi Aderomnu also got on the scoresheet. LB Rovers battled throughout and got on the scoresheet through Laoise McCarthy and Aoife Fitzgerald.

### LB TAKE THREE POINTS AS PARK AND ATHLETIC DRAW AT SUMMIT

An exciting round of U16 Girls Premier action produced goals and was highlighted by a dramatic share of the spoils between title chasing St Brendan's Park and Killarney Athletic and an impressive attacking display from LB Rovers.

Park and Killarney Athletic served up a thrilling 4-4 draw in a game that swung back and forth throughout. Sofia Rybanska struck twice for Park, with further goals from Saoirse Moynihan and Malwina Jankowska ensuring they claimed a point. Killarney Athletic were equally dangerous going forward, led by a Roxy Wawro hat-trick, while Ella Murphy also found the net in a high-quality encounter.

Meanwhile, LB Rovers recorded a strong 6-3 victory over Fenit in a lively contest. Saoirse Brosnan led the scoring with a hat-trick, supported by Eilish Cregan, who added two, and Leona Meaney. Fenit stayed competitive with goals from Aoibhin Corridon (2) and Roisin Rice.

### BOYS

#### CELTIC ADVANCE IN JOHN MURPHY SHIELD

Killarney Celtic C booked their place in the next round of the U12 John Murphy Boy's Shield (Knock-out) with a solid 4-2 victory over Ballyheigue.

Dwayne Koeller was the standout performer on the day, hitting a brace to lead the scoring, while Cillian Murphy and Jim Coffey also found the net to round off a confident attacking display to seal their passage.

### GOALS FLOW IN DIVISION 1 AS ROVERS, RANGERS AND MEK CLAIM WINS

There was plenty of attacking football across U13 Boy's Division 1, with three high-scoring contests producing a combined 22 goals.

LB Rovers produced a strong second-half display to defeat Killarney Celtic B 5-2. Darragh Walsh O'Boyle led the way with a superb hat-trick, while Harry Bennett and Shane O'Carroll also struck. Illia Pomishchuk grabbed both goals for Celtic in reply.

In another entertaining tie, Ferry Rangers defeated Tralee Dynamos A 5-3. Cormac Kelly hit a brace, with Andrii Zbihlei and Conor Mulhern also on target, while Max McCarthy, Ryan McDaid and Patrick Hobbart scored for Dynamos.

MEK A completed the scoring spree with a 5-2 win over Killarney Athletic B. Gavin Coleman netted twice and was joined on the scoresheet by Isaac Robbins, Fintan O'Neill and Finian Swarbrick to secure the points.

### CASTLEISLAND, CASTLEMAINE AND CELTIC REACH JOHN-JOE NAUGHTON SHIELD SEMI-FINALS

The U13 John-Joe Naughton Shield quarter-finals delivered decisive victories for Castleisland B, Castlemaine and Listowel Celtic B, setting up semi-final clashes.

Castleisland B edged past Killarney Athletic C with a narrow 1-0 win. Keagan O'Brien's decisive strike proved enough to secure the victory and send Castleisland into the next round.

Castlemaine powered past Park C with an emphatic 5-0 triumph. Kieran Sheehan was in fine form, scoring twice, while Joshua O'Connor, Billy Galvin, and Marcus O'Neil also found the net to round out a dominant team display.

Elsewhere, Listowel Celtic B advanced with a 4-3 win over Milltown, Darren Houlihan netted a brace including what proved the winner for Celtic, along with a brace from Robbie McCool, while Muiris Quirke scored twice for Milltown, along with a goal from Martynas Kerpe.

### GOALS, DRAWS AND DRAMA ACROSS U15 FIXTURES

The latest round of TC Construction U15 fixtures saw some exciting encounters across all divisions, with standout performances and decisive victories shaping the league tables.

In the Premier Division, Killarney Celtic shared

the spoils with Mastergeeha in a 2-2 thriller. Killian O'Sullivan and Emmanuel Itheme scored for Celtic, while Killian Moynihan and David Fleming found the net for Mastergeeha, ensuring an even contest.

Division 1 saw Fenit storm past Ballyhar with a commanding 6-1 win. Jack Corridon netted twice, with Evan Neary, Cormac Lawlor, Cody Deady, and Zach Kearney also scoring, while Alex Finn scored Ballyhar's lone goal.

In Division 2, Tralee Dynamos A overpowered Killorglin B 4-1, with William Scanlon grabbing a hat-trick and Marcos Benito Martínez adding another. Division 3 featured a few competitive matches, Castleisland B defeated Mastergeeha B 2-1, thanks to goals from Brian McShane and Ryan Clifford.

Killarney Celtic C claimed a 4-1 victory over Killarney Athletic D, with Eoin Murphy scoring twice alongside Dean Heaphy and George Nomikos. Leon Hebda scored for Killarney Athletic, but it wasn't enough to prevent the defeat. Meanwhile, Park B picked up points with a 3-0 walkover against MEK, rounding out a week of high-scoring action.

### BOYS TEAM OF THE WEEK

1. Alan McCarthy (St Brendan's Park U13)
2. Mark Doonan (Killarney Athletic U16)
4. Eoin McMillian (Tralee Dynamos U13)
5. Keagan O'Brien (Castleisland U13)
3. Billy Kirby (Tralee Dynamos U16)
6. Cormac Kelly (Ferry Rangers U13)
8. Darren Houlihan (Listowel Celtic U13)
10. Jack Corridon (Fenit Samphires U15)
7. Dylan McCarthy (Killarney Celtic U15)
9. Kieran Sheehan (Castlemaine U13)
11. TJ Ó hAinfein (Dingle Bay Rovers U14)

### GIRLS ROLL OF HONOUR

1. Julie O'Dowd (Fenit Samphires)
2. Orlaith O'Rourke (Tralee Dynamos)
4. Ava Fealey (LB Rovers)
5. Hayley Powell (St Brendan's Park)
3. Clodagh O'Connor (Killarney Celtic)
6. Samantha Lyons (Listowel Celtic)
8. Roisin Diggins (St Brendan's Park)
7. Lucy Keane (Dingle Bay Rovers)
10. Gracie Maher (Mastergeeha)
9. Shauna O'Connor (Camp Juniors)
11. Roxy Wawro (Killarney Athletic)

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# HOME DRAW FOR KERRY FC

## Kerry FC 1-1 | Longford Town

Kerry FC were back at home on Friday night in Mounthawk Park for the second time in as many weeks as they welcomed Longford Town to Tralee for Matchday three of the SSE Airtricity Men's First Division.

It has been a rocky start for the Kingdom, who were yet secure a single point from the opening two league games of the 2026 season. An opening night defeat to UCD AFC in Belfield and last week's 1-0 defeat at home to Athlone Town meant that Friday's game was all about the three points. Kerry FC strengthened before the window closed midweek with the signings of Matthew Britton and Eric Koufie on loan from Shamrock Rovers to increase squad depth and competition.

Before Friday night's game, Kerry FC manager Colin Healy said "he knows what this club means to people," and he emphasised how hard the staff and players will work to get the team as high in the league as possible. There was no better opportunity to start than on Friday night in front of the home support.

Kerry FC immediately looked sharp in the opening exchanges. In the sixth minute, the hosts pressed aggressively and forced a couple of early mistakes from the visitors. A clearance from Longford goalkeeper Kian Moore was closed down by Cian Murphy, leading to successive corners for the home side. However, Longford's defence stood firm and dealt with the danger.

Longford's first real opportunity arrived in the tenth minute when Daragh Murtagh struck from the edge of the area, but his effort was comfortably gathered by Harry Halwax, who remained assured between the posts throughout the opening period on his first league start for the club.

Kerry's best chance of the half came in the fifteenth minute. A precise ball from deep by Vince Borden picked out Sean McGrath in space. McGrath did well to glide past Cole Omorehiomwan, before unleashing a powerful shot that crashed off the crossbar, leaving the home supporters agonisingly close to celebrating the breakthrough.

As the half progressed, the tempo dipped. By the thirtieth minute, the game had settled significantly, with both sides enjoying spells of possession but struggling to carve out clear-cut chances. The battles around the pitch intensified, with Kilian Cantwell leading by example and Jonas Häkkinen and Luke Palmer working tirelessly to maintain Kerry's shape.

There was a moment of ambition in the thirty-seventh minute when Vince Borden attempted an audacious strike from approximately thirty-five yards. His effort swerved through the air and narrowly drifted wide of the left-hand post, drawing appreciative murmurs from the crowd. In the forty-fifth minute, Kerry fashioned one

final opportunity before the interval. Sean O'Connell delivered a dangerous ball across the area that found Luke Palmer, but his touch lacked the necessary precision to trouble Moore in the Longford goal. The sides went in at the break level, with the scoreboard reading 0-0 after a competitive but scoreless opening half.

The second period began with renewed energy, and it did not take long for the deadlock to be broken. In the fifty-first minute, Kerry FC netted their first home league goal of the season in spectacular fashion. Niall Brookwell produced a delightful trivela pass forward that released Finn Barrett down the right flank. Barrett's pinpoint cross into the area found Sean McGrath, who timed his run perfectly and finished emphatically into the roof of the net to send Mounthawk Park into celebration.

Buoyed by the goal, Kerry continued to press. In the fifty-eighth minute, Cian Murphy displayed excellent determination on the left wing to win a corner for the hosts. Although the resulting delivery was dealt with by Moore, Kerry maintained their attacking intent.

A milestone moment followed in the sixtieth minute when Eric Koufie entered the fray in place of Luke Palmer, marking his debut for the club. Just a minute later, in the sixty-first minute, McGrath attempted to double his tally with a curling left-footed effort from outside the area, but Moore was equal to it and gathered the ball safely.

Despite Kerry's positive spell, Longford responded. In the sixty-fifth minute, the visitors found their equaliser through Alex O'Brien, who capitalised on an opportunity to bring the sides level at 1-1 and shift the momentum of the contest.

Longford sought to build on that equaliser, and in the seventy-first minute, Andy Paraschiv tried his luck from distance. However, his effort sailed well over the crossbar, sparing Kerry any further concern on that occasion.

In the seventy sixth minute, Kerry made their second change as Brandon Bermingham replaced goal scorer Sean McGrath. The home side continued to push for a winner, with Brookwell and Borden attempting to dictate play in the middle of the park.

Further substitutions followed in the eighty-sixth minute when Ciaran Cooney and Cian Brosnan were introduced for Sean O'Connell and Finn Barrett, respectively. It marked Cooney's first league appearance of the season, adding fresh legs as Kerry searched for a decisive moment in the closing stages.

Four minutes of additional time were indicated in the ninetieth minute, and both sides probed cautiously in the dying moments. However, neither could fashion a clear opportunity to snatch victory.

At the final whistle, the spoils were shared in the Kingdom. While Kerry would have taken great encouragement from their attacking display



Sean McGrath celebrates his goal.



Kilian Cantwell wins possession.

and McGrath's well-taken goal, they ultimately had to settle for a point after a hard-fought 1-1 draw. Kerry FC now face two trips on the road back-to-back as they take on Treaty United and Wexford FC in the coming weeks.

Kerry FC Team: Harry Halwax; Finn Barrett, Sean O'Connell, Kilian Cantwell (C), Sean McGrath (GOAL '52), Cian Murphy, Jonas Häkkinen, Luke Palmer, Vince Borden, Niall Brookwell, Ewan Lee. Subs: Eric Koufie on for Luke Palmer '60, Brandon Bermingham on for Sean McGrath '76, Ciaran Cooney on for Sean O'Connell '86, Cian Brosnan on for Finn Barrett '86.

Longford Town Team: Kian Moore; Luke O'Brien, Taylor McCarthy, Pharrell Manuel, Stefan Ugbesia, Cole Omorehiomwan, Daragh Murtagh, Alex O'Brien (GOAL '66), Conor Errity, Andy Paraschiv, Sean Moore.

Subs: Francis Campbell on for Stefan Ugbesia '70, Sultan Adenekan on for Andy Paraschiv '83, Dean Williams on for Daragh Murtagh '83, Kobichidi Ndebumadu on for Francis Campbell '90.



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## FOSSA

### LOTTO

The numbers drawn on 01/03/2026 for a jackpot of €6,750 were 3, 19, 21, 24. There was no jackpot winner. The €40 consolation prize winners were; Lorraine Friel, Doanl O'Reilly, Eileen Hickey, Claire Wharton, Cronin Grandchilderan.

Tickets are available from our sellers and can also be bought online with the following link <https://fossagaa.clubforce.com/products/lotto/fossa-gaa-club-lotto>

### EAST KERRY SUPERLEAGUE

Fossa played Glenflesk under lights on Friday evening in the last game of the superleague. The first half was a low scoring affair with Glenflesk getting the only goal of the game after three minutes and this proved the difference for the most part, the visitors leading 1-03 to 0-03 at the break. The second half was competitive and both sides played well in difficult underfoot conditions but Glenflesk prevailed in the end, winning on a score of 1-11 to 0-9.

### MINOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Fossa were at home to Ballyduff in the Club Championship on Saturday afternoon. Played in ideal conditions, Ballyduff had the better of the opening exchanges, they had a three point lead after seven minutes and were denied a goal by a great save from Dara Whelton. Fossa settled and got back into the game courtesy of scores from Harry O'Connor, Fionn Doyle, Donnacha Vaughan and Jack Hallissey. Ballyduff were dangerous going forward and kept the scoreboard ticking but Fossa hit a purple patch from the 20th minute onwards, scores from Morgan O'Brien and Eoin Bennett drew them level by the 25th minute. Fionn Doyle kicked a fine two pointer and Jack Hallissey pulled a ball from the skies, he then floated a magnificent pass over the Ballyduff defence to Eoin Bennett, who duly finished to the net to give Fossa a one point lead at the break, 1-08 to 0-10.

The home side started the second half well with points from Donnacha Vaughan, Fionn Doyle and James O'Meara to give them a four point lead after five minutes of play. Ballyduff were back on level terms with a goal in the 8th minute, it was a cracking contest at this stage with some fine displays on both sides. Ballyduff scored their second goal in the 16th minute but Fossa showed true grit and stayed in the game with scores from Harry O'Connor and Shay McCormack. Ballyduff were gaining momentum and got some crucial scores near the end, their third goal coming in time added on, to run out winners on a score of Fossa 1-15, Ballyduff 3-17. In spite of the result, this was a gritty performance by a very young Fossa side who were hampered by injuries and they can be very proud of their efforts on the day. Thanks to Mike Morrissey from Kilcummin who came to referee the game at very short notice.

## DR CROKES

**CROKES CUBS AND ACADEMY** returns on Saturday March 7th.

**FR. PADDY'S CARDS** continues Wednesdays at 8pm in the clubhouse.

**KATHLEEN'S GENTLE EXERCISE CLASS** for seniors continues each Tuesday at 11am in the

clubhouse. All are welcome.

**GENTLE YOGA** for both Men and Women will return on Thursday 5th of March from 6:15pm-7pm. It is €40 for 4 weeks, valid for 5 weeks.

**LOTTO** took place on March 2nd Numbers drawn were 7, 10, 19, 24. Jackpot of €19,100 was NOT WON. 29 patrons matched 3 numbers and receive €25 each. Jackpot for draw on March 9th will be €19,400. Play online by following the link below and follow instructions attached <https://member.clubspot.app/club/dr-crokes-gaa/fundraisers>

### BINGO

Dr. Crokes Bingo continues every Sunday in St. Mary's Parish Hall. Doors will open at 7pm with the first game commencing at 8pm.

**CONDOLENCES** to the Friel family on the passing of Kevin Friel. May he rest in peace.

### NOTES

If anyone has anything they want to add to our club notes please email communications. [drcrokes.kerry@gaa.ie](mailto:drcrokes.kerry@gaa.ie)

## KILLARNEY LEGION

### AWARDS NIGHT

Next Friday 13th march sees our Awards night take place in the Avenue hotel. This is always a great night where we recognise the efforts of players and members throughout out the year. Please come and show your support. Tickets are €20 and available from any member of the executive.

### SENIOR LADIES

Our senior ladies kicked off their season last Sunday morning with a great challenge game workout on a wet legion pitch this morning. Senior D1 side Scartaglen were our opponents in what could only be described as "tough" conditions. We had 20 players line out today with 2 girls making their senior debuts. In a great work out we came out on top 1-05 to 0-06

### FIXTURES

Senior men play Kenmare at 12 noon on Sunday at home in round 5 of EK league Div1A

### MINOR BOYS

**GGC 3-17. Legion B 4-06.**

Our minor B team began their group F championship against a physically stronger Glenbeigh/ Glencar/ Cromane side in Cromane last weekend

GGC had a strong wind behind them in the 1st half and built up a big lead to lead 1-13 to 1-01 at 1/2 time.

Unfortunately the wind died off, but credit to the lads they battled well in the 2nd half to lose out by 8 at the final whistle.

The lads must play Austin Stacks B at home in their next game so today will definitely stand to them

### MOTHERS N OTHERS

Our Mothers and Others group are starting back again on Thursday 12th March 8-9pm. This activity is both sporting and social and we are inviting any woman/girl to join us for a hours fun each week. No football experience necessary as all training will be given. Fitness or lack of fitness is not an issue so just come along and meet new friends and have some fun. All new players welcome. Any further information you might need on this please contact Blaithin on

0876963979

### ACADEMY

THE 3-6 year old section of the Academy are back in action with a fun indoor session at Loretta National School v93 AY90. It's an hour of learning the skills of Gaelic football in a friendly and fun environment with fully vetted coaches . It's on from 10-11 am on every Saturday morning up until and including Saturday 7th March and then on the 14 th March we have a full Academy return outdoors in Derreen. All new kids are very welcome. Any query please contact Justin 086 3684108 or Derek 089 2299769 and this is the list of Academy coaches for 2026

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership is now due for all members. Sign up in the Clubzap app or click on your renewal email. Any queries please contact Fiona 085 8263358

### FUN RUN

We are continuing our running sessions on the back of last years success! Every Thursday Night at 7:30pm - 8:15pm on pitch 3. These sessions are open to everyone from U13 to adults. The beauty of the sessions is that everybody runs at their own pace. Come along for a bit of fun

### LOTTO

Lotto numbers: 11,16,17,24. Bonus 28. One jackpot winner without bonus - Trevor Farry  
**KEANE'S SUPERVALU MINOR CLUB FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION 1 1/4 FINAL.**

### Ardfert/ St Pats 1-08 Legion 2-20

Our minor A team had there first outing of the year this evening in Caherslee. A tight first quarter saw us lead 0-4 to 0-2. We played some good football in the 2nd quarter and built up a lead of 1-10 to 0-4 at half time. Next up is a home semi final v Laune Rangers on Saturday. Time is TBC.

### CHELTENHAM

Senior team are running a fun tipster fundraiser, starting next Tuesday. To enter just check on any of the social media sites and follow the link

### BEST WISHES

Best wishes to Dodo Hegarty who is recovering from his recent operation

## EAST KERRY GAA

### DIVISION 1A

Rathmore 0-15 Firies 0-10

Kenmare 0-10 Spa 0-06

### DIVISION 1B

Fossa 0-09 Glenflesk 1-11

Gneeveguilla 0-13 Kilcummin 1-13

### DIVISION 2

Currow 2-14 Cordal 0-07

Kilgarvan 0-11 Scartaglen 1-08

### FOURTH ROUND SUPER LEAGUE FIXTURES

First team named is at home

Round 5 Super League fixtures for next weekend. Please take note of the change in Div. 1B Round 5 schedule. First team named is at home

Div. 1A:

Rathmore V Spa, Legion V Kenmare, Firies bye

Div 1B:

Kilcummin V Glenflesk

(Note: this game will be played in Glenflesk)

Div. 2:

Scartaglen V Currow, Dr. Crokes V Kilgarvan –

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Friday 6th March at 7:45pm, Cordal bye  
Unless stated, all above games are Sunday 8th March at 12 noon

**MILLTOWN/  
CASTLEMAINE CLUB**

**LOTTO**

Sponsored by Almas Takeaway, Milltown  
The most recent fortnightly club lotto draw took place on Monday, February 16th 2026 at the club grounds.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 25, 29 Bonus Ball: 12. No Jackpot or match 3 winners. Lucky Dip Winners: €50: Andrew Fitzpatrick, Milltown. €50: Ann O’Leary, Gneeveguilla. €25: Arnold Castroverde, Milltown. €25: Kieran Hogan, Milltown. €25: Sean Hogan, Castlemaine. €25: Peter Twiss, Killorglin

**CLUB EXECUTIVE MONTHLY MEETING**

Milltown/Castlemaine GAA will host their next club executive monthly meeting on Wednesday March 11th at 8:30pm in the clubrooms. All members are welcome to attend.

**BIG NEWS FOR OUR CLUB & COMMUNITY!**

We’re delighted to announce plans for a brand new, state-of-the-art community gym, spanning over 2,000 sq ft on the first floor — a top-class facility that will be open to the entire community. Downstairs, we’re creating a modern home dressing room, complete with a dedicated warm-up area and a physio & rehabilitation room, giving our members everything they need to perform at their best. We’re also adding a community exercise space

and an extra dressing room to boost comfort and capacity across the club.

This is more than just an upgrade — it’s a major investment in the future of our club and our community.

**MID KERRY SENIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE 2026: GROUP B RESULT**

*Milltown/Castlemaine 0-07 Keel 1-10*

Hard luck to the Milltown/Castlemaine Senior Football team and management who lost out to Keel this morning in the Mid Kerry Senior Football League in very wet and windy conditions.

**MID KERRY SENIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE: GROUP B FIXTURE**

Milltown/Castlemaine will host Beaufort at the Paddy Burke Memorial Park, Milltown on Sunday, 8th March at 1:00pm. All support is welcome.

**KEANE’S SUPERVALU MINOR CLUB FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP: GROUP C, QUARTER-FINAL RESULT:**

*Milltown/Castlemaine 4-5 (17) Finuge 1-8 (11)*

Well done to the Milltown/Castlemaine Minor squad and management team who advanced to the Semi-Final of the Keane’s SuperValu Minor Club Football Championship on Saturday afternoon following a six point victory at home to Finuge.

**CLUB MEMBERSHIP**

Now Due for the 2026 Season  
Milltown-Castlemaine GAA Club membership registration is now open for the 2026 season via our Clubforce App/Webpage. Website link: <https://milltown-castlemaine.clubforce.com>

[com/pages/milltown-castlemaine-gaa-club-membership-2026](https://milltown-castlemaine-gaa-club-membership-2026)

If you have any queries on membership, please contact the Club Registrar by email: [mcgaaclubregs@gmail.com](mailto:mcgaaclubregs@gmail.com).

**MILLTOWN/CASTLEMAINE GAA CLUB WALKWAY**

**Temporary Closure Notice During Construction Works**

Club members please be advised that the walking path around the pitch will be closed during the day and available for use only after 7:00pm in the evening time until further notice to facilitate construction works for the new community gym and dressing rooms. This is to ensure the health and safety of all users so your cooperation on this matter would be very much appreciated.

**KERRY SENIOR FOOTBALL TEAM**

**David Roche Represents Milltown/Castlemaine GAA**

Congratulations and well done to Milltown/Castlemaine GAA’s David Roche who featured for the Kerry Senior Men’s Football Team on Sunday, 1st March against Monaghan in Round 5 of the Allianz National Football League Division 1. A wonderful achievement for David, his club and family.

**U12 BOYS TRAINING COMMENCES**

Milltown/Castlemaine’s U12 Boys team have commenced training for the 2026 season. Training will take place every Thursday at the Paddy Burke Memorial Park, Milltown at 6:15pm and all are most welcome to join.



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# GALWAY SEAL HARD FOUGHT VICTORY OVER KERRY

Galway 1-11 | Kerry 1-9

By Dan Kearney

Galway sealed their fourth win of their Lidl National League Division One campaign with a hard fought victory over Kerry at Austin Stack Park in Tralee in hardy winter conditions.

A goal 30 seconds into the second half by Leanne Coen made all the difference for the winners despite a stirring comeback from Kerry in the final quarter of the game.

A swirling wind favoured Kerry in the opening period where both sides did quite well even with the heavy downpour before the start of the game.

It was the visitors that settled better early with Aoife Molloy raising a white flag after two minutes following some good patient play.

Scores followed from Roisin Leonard and Aoife O'Rourke as Galway attacked with intent and purpose and certainly looked the better side early on.

Siofra O'Shea finally got Kerry off the mark in the 8th minute from a free but a flowing move involving the rampant Hannah Noone and Coen finished with Noone striking over a good score to push Galway three ahead once more.

Full forward Julia Curtin replied for Kerry in the 10th minute after Danielle O'Leary's initial shot was blocked, and straight afterwards Rachel Dwyer slotter over to leave Kerry just a single score behind, before Andrea Trill showed fantastic pace to slot over for the visitors.

Kerry struck for the goal they craved in the 18th minute when Danielle O'Leary struck low and hard past Leah O'Halloran after a brilliant raking pass from Niamh Carmody.

Galway responded in style from Kate Slevin and the brilliant Noone, with O'Shea getting a welcome reply with another free for the hosts.

It was Galway who finished the half the stronger though with Slevin popping over her second, and Coen slotting her first, to see the maroon and white take a 0-9 to 1-4 lead in at the half time break.

Coen scored the all-important and crucial goal at the start of the second half for Galway when she showed a snipers instincts to finish after



Danielle O'Leary of Kerry who scored Kerry's goal against Galway.

Photo: Tyler Miller/Sportsfile

Roisin Leonard's initial shot was blocked.

Trill and a brace of frees from O'Shea saw Galway lead by 1-10 to 1-6 with 40 minutes gone and the visitors were unlucky not to add a goal when, after a poor kick out from Mary Ellen Bolger, Roisin Leonard's shot was saved by Bolger and Trill hit the follow-up off the post.

Kerry roared into the game from here on with Dwyer, an O'Shea free and a monster Anna Galvin point bringing them within one, but the final say of the game fell to Kate Slevin when she popped over the insurance free on the final whistle.

Scorers: Galway: L Coen 1-1, H Noone 0-2, K Slevin 0-3 (1f), A Trill 0-2, R Leonard 0-1, A Molloy 0-1, A O'Rourke 0-1.

Kerry: S O'Shea 0-5f, D O'Leary 1-0, R Dwyer 0-2, J Curtin 0-1, A Galvin 0-1.

GALWAY: L O'Halloran; R Quinn, S Ní Loingsigh, B Quinn; H Noone, S Divilly, A Molloy; N Divilly, A Madden; A O'Rourke, K Slevin, K Thompson; A Trill, L Coen, R Leonard. Subs: O Divilly for A O'Rourke 41, L Ward for S Divilly 43, N Ward for S Ní Loingsigh 46, L Noone for R Leonard 49, M Glynn for A Madden 59.

KERRY: M.E. Bolger; K Furey, E Lynch, D Kearney; R Rahilly, A Galvin, A Dillane; M O'Connell, C Evans; N Carmody, K Enright, R Dwyer; S O'Shea, J Curtin, D O'Leary. Subs: J Lucey for J Curtin, K Brosnan for K Furey (both h/t), N Ní Chonchúir for R Dwyer 53, M Mulvihill for C Evans 59.

Referee: Conor McCarthy (Cork).

## RESULTS AND FIXTURES

### Munster U16 Championship

Limerick 2-06 Kerry 6-12 (Correct Score)

Munster U16 Sharon O'Keefe Tournament

Limerick 2-06 Kerry 0-11

### Munster Minor Championship

Cork 2-19 Kerry 1-07

### Upcoming Intercounty Fixtures

Munster U14 Stage 1 Blitz

Venue Mallow GAA Complex

Sunday 15th March

Lidl National Football League

Division 1 Round 6

Armagh -v- Kerry

Saturday 21st March

Venue TBC

### Munster U16 Championships

Saturday 16th March - Venues TBC

U16 Championship

Tipperary -v- Kerry

### Sharon O'Keefe Tournament

Tipperary -v- Kerry



JIMMY O'SULLIVAN-DARCY

takes a look at all things sport...

## World Affairs & Impact On Irish Sport

Some stories you just don't want to write. Every part of this is jagged, no matter how you approach it. It's like a variant of an old joke. If I touch this, it hurts. If I touch the other, it hurts. Umm, maybe you just have a broken forefinger? Masked ICE agents disappearing people in the US without warrant or trial and in regular defiance of judicial orders. The stomach-turning Jeffrey Epstein matter and the blatant cover-up masquerading as an investigation. Illegal regime change in Venezuela because... there is no apparent 'because'. America's hard right becoming hawks while outright rejecting allies like Mexico and Canada and simultaneously appeasing Putin. The chaos after the cartel killing in Mexico almost, appalling as it sounds, seems relatively trivial in comparison. A growing hard right – not fascist, far from there yet, unlike elsewhere, but most definitely xenophobic. Thankfully – a ray of sunshine – the Irish electorate rejected that pretension at philosophy in our last election; I'll admit I was genuinely worried. The illegal invasion of Ukraine severed world supply lines and spread economic havoc. But, sure, along came a colossal and extremely random and rambling tariff policy from the world's biggest economic entity. You might think that it only shafted America's real economy (do they even realise that almost half their population don't have any stocks?) but it didn't; it shafted every economy. And if US corporations pulled out of Ireland's tax system? Well, remember 1982 in Ireland? There was a reason they were trying to tax childrens' shoes.

Gaza. That's blatant genocide. You can arguing the historical reasons from any angle that you want; that's genocide. I'm proud of Ireland being among the first countries to call it out, but nobody's shouting stop loud enough.

And now you have those well-known arbiters of reason, Donald Trump and Bibi Netanyahu, launching a completely illegal war with Iran. Trump is calling it 'Operation Epic Fury'. If I was Donald Trump, I wouldn't be getting involved with anything that starts with the letter 'Ep' just now, but I think that might be the point. I think it's more domestic distraction than international policy. Not that I support Iran, because I most certainly don't, what they have done to their own people, from one of the most ancient and wonderful civilizations in world history, is grotesque. But just like that murderous shambles in Iraq, exactly what kind of endgame are ye seeing here, lads? There isn't one.

I don't think I have any broken finger; I think the world we live in is in a bad place and heading for a worse one.

Look, I'm not trying for any polemic here. I'm

not offering solutions; I'm not sure that I'm bright enough to understand the questions. But....

My mandate is simply a sports column. But I have a lot of fun giving my opinion on the easy sports topics. You know how most media organisations refer to the sports section? The Toy Department. And I quite like working in the Toy Department. Kerry losing an All Ireland is the closest I come to delving into tragedy, and that's not really any actual tragedy, is it? But I would feel hypocritical if I didn't at least give my own opinion on the impact of these current events on sport.

## The GAA and Allianz

I agree with the calls for the GAA to end their sponsorship deal with Allianz. It's an amateur organisation, not a professional one...or we are told that's the ethos. It's nonsense, it has been at least since that deal with Sky Sports against grass roots disapproval.

David Hickey is inarguably one of Ireland's greatest humanitarians. I have huge respect for Colm O'Rourke for his dedication to the social impact of the GAA. I have to admit that Peter Canavan has lost a little bit of that respect from me. You can't call for the GAA to cancel Allianz sponsorship and then get paid as a pundit on a programme called 'Allianz League Sunday'. Fine to make a stand – and in fairness he has made some great points in drawing respectful parallels with Gaza now and Northern Ireland in the early seventies - but stop using bilocation. The GAA's response has been fairly anodyne, in my opinion. Just unwilling to stand over or against the sponsorship deal. Lord, let this cup pass from my lips. As for this referral to an 'Ethics Committee'? In my experience, virtually any time that something is 'referred to a committee', it's getting buried. The supposed leaders of the organisation can then just say "Nothing to do with me; it was the Committee". Yeah, right. Remember health protocols, Jarlath, make sure to wash your hands....just like Pontius Pilate. I actually respect Jarlath for the most part, a very decent man who did his best, but I feel that he aimed a lot higher than he hit when you examine his final record in office. Let the Football Review Committee be his legacy; that much was brilliant.

All that said, I utterly condemn these clownish have-a-go heroes who broke into GAA Congress with their antics. Poseurs who have just succeeded in putting everybody's back up. Peaceful protest is an important right (especially with fascism on the rise in general) and we had a perfect example of it with a well-conducted protest against cuts in SNAs here in Killarney. That wannabe invasion of Congress wasn't that. And if it's true that there were physical assaults, I absolutely hope that there are criminal charges. I honestly believe that that most of this people care far more about

their own self-image and egos than anyone in Gaza, and what they have managed to do is absolutely kill off any possibility of reasoned debate.

## Ireland Playing Israel in the Nations' League

No, of course it shouldn't be happening. Israel should have been banned from competing internationally while under UN sanction. Modern organised sport, as brilliantly expoused by the Baron de Coubertin in founding the modern Olympics, should be a substitute for war (albeit, fearing the growing power of a relatively recently unified Germany, he also wanted sport to ready young men to fight wars). It should not be run in conjunction with it.

FIFA, of course, have always claimed that they are an entirely apolitical organisation and as such, they do not interfere politically with any country, and tolerate absolutely no political interference themselves. That....cough, cough.... was why they couldn't let countries investigate the blatant and well-known corruption in national soccer organisations. Did you know about years of corruption by FAI mandarins down the decades? Jaysus, literally every players' biography or sports article going back to the twenties – the 1920s, lads! – wrote about it. But the Irish Government couldn't intervene without Ireland facing FIFA sanctions. Not that the Irish Government cared; the Irish team had a large following but the LOI even in its heyday was not a strong political demographic.

Ireland playing a country found guilty by UN Commission of ongoing genocide just last September. The UN has 112 – 112! - such Resolutions since 2006, and Ireland are going to host them. The thing is, I don't remotely blame the FAI for any of this. People want to put pressure on the FAI instead of FIFA? Sepp Blatter's exposure only happened because the US were tough enough (back in those halcyon days) to ignore FIFA's bluster when it came to calling out corruption in American soccer. Blatter, facing charges himself, had to resign in the aftermath, but that's okay, his designated heir Gianni Infantino was appointed and it's been normal service ever since according to their own weak standards. Blatter, with breathtaking hypocrisy, has recently claimed that Infantino turned FIFA into a different path than Blatter. No he didn't; he just pressed on the accelerator. Infantino doesn't do politics? Right, because Qatar was suitable for a World Cup. As for that cringefest of a gurning Donald Trump receiving an imaginary ('trumped-up') world soccer peace award yoke – people are telling me that it looks like his grip on reality may be slipping – what grip are ye talking about? It

makes Charlie Chaplin's 'The Dictator' look like a reasonable documentary instead of satire.

Israel should be banned. No question. 280 soccer itches bombed out of existence. Thousands dead, including players like Hani Al-Masdar and Mohamed Baraket. Yarmouk Stadium used as a detention (definitely) and torture (eyewitness reports) site before being destroyed.

But that's nothing to do with FIFA. Because "FIFA cannot solve geopolitical problems, but it can promote football by harnessing its unifying, educational, cultural, and humanitarian values," according to Infantino.

Four days. That's how long it took FIFA (and UEFA) to ban Russia from all international soccer competitions, including clubs, after it invaded Ukraine. Four days.

Look, this is not a new thing, there are plenty of lessons in FIFA's history.

Take a look at the 1978 World Cup in Argentina. The junta against Isabel Perón's Government had taken place in 1976 but it was in 1978, just before the World Cup, that Videla's Junta committed most of their thousands of executions. Host nation Argentina 'won' that World Cup; let's just say that it was obvious from early on that they weren't going to lose and most of the shooting possibilities had nothing to do with a football.

Go back just a little further. Back to Irish soccer's most shameful moment. And you might think that John Delaney was the absolute nadir, but you'd be wrong.

In 1973, Russia were faced with a World Cup Qualifier in Chile's Estadio Nacional. The stadium in Santiago where General Auguste Pinochet, the US-backed dictator, had thousands lined up as 'intellectuals' (many simply because they owned spectacles) and 'dissidents' and shot. Russia refused, saying the pitch was 'stained with blood'. Chile lined out alone and scored a symbolic penalty, claiming a historic victory. Russia turned away and accepted the world's plaudits for their stance.

The first team to play Chile after that? Ireland, on May 11th, 1974, as part of a South American tour that was enormously damaging to Irish soccer anyway. But that's only in soccer terms. Playing that game was something far, far worse, a statement that Ireland did not care about those murdered thousands. Hundreds of thousands. Ireland chose – for a useless 'friendly' – to legitimise that butchery. Lost 1-0, not that it would have mattered. The stadium had a fresh new coat of paint, just put on the day before. To cover the bloodstains.

I know that the Irish rugby team toured South Africa in 1981 at the height of apartheid, and that was shameful. But it doesn't really compare, and Moss Keane, Tony Ward, and Donal Spring refused to travel. Playing that soccer match was worse. To his credit, Eamon Dunphy would always admit afterwards that he regrets it.

Go back further again. Back to 1958. This is just quirk of history, really. It was the qualifiers for the 1958 World Cup. Ireland don't really feature. We actually played quite well in Group One, beating Denmark twice and drawing 1-1 with England, but a 5-1 thrashing from England saw them go through and Ireland out. Northern

Ireland and Scotland also got through, while Wales had lost out in second place to Czechoslovakia.

Except FIFA had a problem. Israel had qualified out of the AFC/CAF zone for the simple reason that Egypt, Turkey, Sudan, and Indonesia refused to play them (it was the time of the Suez Canal Crisis).

FIFA, who kind of didn't want Israel at the World Cup (blocking the Suez Canal was incendiary to say the least – arguably, it finished the UK and France as international brokers as the Cold War got a lot colder and the Middle East got quite a lot hotter) made a rule that a country couldn't qualify without playing a game.

So Israel were drawn against the second placed teams from the European groups. Italy, Uruguay, and Belgium refused to play Israel, but nine other teams, including Ireland entered the draw. Wales were drawn out of the hat and, despite being without the great John Charles, won both the home and away games 2-0. It was the first and only time that England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern all qualified for a World Cup. Just Fontaine of France set a new scoring record but it was a 17 year old prodigy called Pele who led Brazil to their first World Cup triumph.

I don't think Ireland have any choice but to play Israel. It's FIFA cowardice, not ours. In fact, Ireland did vote in favour of a motion to sanction Israel previously. That's more than most countries did with the smell of lucre in their nostrils. I'm not going to the game, and I actually think it would send a great message to FIFA and everybody else if no Irish supporters turned up at all. Leave them off, it would send a message that this game should not have happened.

What I desperately don't want to see is Israeli players or supporters being abused – there's a lot of great Israelis who don't support the actions of their Government. And look, you'll have plenty of flag-waving Palestinian supporters. No problem, as I say, it's an important right – but there will be people trying to stir up trouble. No matter what, do not let this be their day. FIFA have absolutely disgraced themselves, to no-one's surprise, but we don't have to follow suit. Ireland's basketballers didn't want to play Israel but had to, so they did so with dignified disapproval, and I think that's the example the Irish soccer team and supporters should follow.

## Should the World Cup Take Place in North America?

No. Let's keep this one quick and simple. Of course it shouldn't. I'm not a fan of these enlarged tournaments, be it UEFA or FIFA, anyway. Far too large and cumbersome and there just isn't remotely enough quality games. That World Club Cup was absolute rubbish. Maybe it improved towards the end; I tuned out long before the finish. By the way, the weather caused enormous problems during that endurance fest masquerading as a spectacle – I haven't heard any plans to transform the

weather recently.

North America is simply too expensive compared to the majority of competing countries. Canada isn't cheap either, by the way. Supporters could actually backpack around the big soccer tournaments in the likes of Poland, France, Italy, Mexico. Not necessarily cheaply, but they were actually affordable for ordinary supporters. This isn't. Aside from 'dynamic pricing', consumer rip-off that it is, the US has a higher standard of living and thusly more costs than foreigners can generally afford. Public health care is famously the worst in the first world (to be fair, their public hospitals do far more than all the horror stories we hear would indicate, albeit you'll pay for it). There are people dying of a measles outbreak (admittedly, a fairly isolated pocket) in a first world country where Secretary RFK Junior mostly opposes vaccines. It's not exactly Aneurin Bevan, is it? Public inter-city transport is not part of the culture; you can afford to fly or else you may as well hitch-hike. And we're talking about thousands of miles. And you can't plan for anything outside the Group stages.

People often use the fact that many US citizens don't own passports to imply some sort of deficiency. Try to understand that these people live on a continent. The US has never really been a melting pot; it is incredibly diverse. In a good way, despite the awful history of racism (and Irish emigrants don't come as well out of those stories as we like to pretend). By the way, their much-maligned education system is much better than you think.

The US alone is 50 different states, each with a range of dialects, foods, music, histories.... Texas could fit ten European countries inside the state. They mostly holiday in America for the simple reason that there is so much of it that they have never seen. It really is that simple. Way more hospitable and sophisticated than ye think; most of us grow up with an unfair impression of Americans. To be fair, there is a large preponderance of blinkered worldviews; their media platforms are chronic. Absolutely chronic. Fox News is considered middle of the road. Dear God, think about that for a minute.

But the US that I visited a few times, spent a summer over like many of us? Loved it. If I could afford it, and that is a real 'if', I would have loved to follow Ireland in the World Cup. I was in New York for that famous victory over Italy (couldn't get my hands on a ticket, unfortunately, but the craic really was something else).

This time around? No way can I or most reasonable people afford it. Nine countries have already had their supporters (not players or officials) banned. I fully expect the UAE to be simply substituted for Iran as participants – given recent history between the UAE and FIFA, that decision might even be taken above the table. But I'd be a lot more scared of the current US administration ahead of their Midterm elections....some people are a bit worried that the US is drifting towards a totalitarian state. Some of us think that ship docked a while back; no way would I be going anywhere near this World Cup. Genuinely.

## GAA Congress Motions

Phew! Like I said, I wanted to get that off my chest. It's not that I think anybody should pay particular attention to my opinions, but I could hardly pontificate on trivialities if I wasn't willing to iterate my beliefs on more significant matters.

After all that, GAA Congress seems almost like an anti-climax. And to be honest, aside from that dignified external protest and unedifying internal one regarding Allianz Sponsorship, I don't think it was dramatic in terms of the games. Good, we've had a lot of rapid changes in the last few years; I'd like it to settle.

### Derek Kent to Be Next President

Wexford's Derek Kent was the popular choice to take over from Jarlath Burns next February, comfortably beating Tipperary's Ger Ryan (the only candidate I've met personally, and I am a huge admirer of the man) and Sligo's John Murphy. By all accounts, it was a 'good' election, respectful and without major points of difference.

#### MOTION ONE

Allow Five Year Officer Terms to be Reset after One Year (Meath)

Withdrawn to be reworded for next year.

#### MOTION TWO

Rounders to have a Representative on Central Council

Passed with a 98.3% majority

Sure, what delegate was going to refuse that one? Most of ye didn't even know that Rounders is the GAA's fourth official sport.

#### MOTION THREE

To Reduce the Initial Age of 'First Club' from U12 to U10

Defeated with 34.3%.

U12 is the first competitive age, U10 is Go Games. I'd be very wary of blurring that line.

#### MOTION FOUR

Expanding Circumstances Where Players Could Represent Two Teams In One Code Within A County in Championship

A Kerry motion, this was defeated despite gaining 51.1% (it needed 66% as a rule amendment).

It was a simpler motion than it sounds. As an example, my club has a senior hurling team. I'm young, but a brilliant hurler (I never said it was a realistic example). My club doesn't have a U20 hurling team, so I want to play with the neighbouring club. Technically, at the moment, that U20 team would need an independent name, whereas a successful motion would have simply meant that I could have played U20 with the neighbouring club and senior with my own. I wanted it to pass; I can cite several real-life examples, but look, there you go.

#### MOTION FIVE

That a Player Would have to Play Eight Times with their Club to Play Inter-county

Withdrawn

God bless the little innocents who actually thought that was going to be debated on the

floor of Congress! I was in favour and fully agree with Noel McCaffrey, but I knew it was going nowhere. Inter-county tail swings club player dog, and just to mix that metaphor, that horse already bolted long ago!

#### MOTION SIX

Remove Joe McDonagh Losing Finalist From All Ireland Quarter-finals; Allow Group Winner to Joe McDonagh Final, Second and Third Placed Teams to Play McDonagh Semi-Final (Laois)

Passed with 94.1%

Basically, it takes out the Liam McCarthy Preliminary Quarter-Finals. I have no problem with it. Changing the McDonagh from top two straight into final to second and third playing a semi-final is of far more interest to Kerry hurling, provided we can get out of the Christy Ring. Personally I think a few supporters are far too confident about that this year, given that we have a great chance of reaching a league final; I remember us on the long and tough Christy Ring road previously. League is different, and we aren't qualified for that yet either; Meath are way trickier than ye think. But I digress....

#### MOTION SEVEN

To Return the Minor Finals as Curtain-Raisers to the Senior Finals

Rejected with 15.8%

Yeah. I'm in favour, but it was never going to happen.

#### MOTION EIGH

To Limit the Inter-County Season to 30 Weeks

Passed with 66.7% (as a new rule, it only needed 50%)

Hallelujah!

#### MOTION NINE

To Clarify Match Officials Giving Oral Hearings at Appeals (Abbeylara)

Rejected with 57.7%

A technical motion. No danger of any rows breaking out!

#### MOTION TEN

A Decision to Take Effect After Appeal or at the End of Time for Such Appeal to be Made (Abbeylara)

Passed with 79.1%

I always assumed it was the case anyway!

#### MOTION ELEVEN

To Change a Quorum for a Special General Meeting from 12 to 10% or Min 25% of Membership

Withdrawn

Just a wording issue; it'll pass with ease next time

#### MOTION TWELVE

To Allow A Management Committee to Have Three or More Female Members

Passed with 96.2%

Misogynists relax. It's 'allow to', not 'required'. It's just cleaning up some archaic language.

#### MOTION THIRTEEN

Allow for Replays in Provincial Football Finals

Passed with 73.3%

Currently, drawn provincial games go to extra-time and finals (ask Armagh if you don't believe me! This allows for replays. Makes sense... even if it's another potential squeeze on the calendar. Surprised, given last year's Munster Hurling Final, that it doesn't apply there, but I guess that schedule is definitely too tight.

#### MOTION FOURTEEN

To Extend the Inter-County Season

Withdrawn

I refer you to Motion Eight, and once again I sing "Hallelujah!"

#### MOTION FIFTEEN

To Require Certification for Inter-County Teams (Amateur Status Review Committee)

Passed with 59.1%

It's my suspicious mind, but I'd prefer the exact terms for certification laid out before I was willing to vote on this. If straight up, a great idea, but I'd watch closely what's put in the mix.

#### MOTION SIXTEEN

Amendments to Rule 8.1 to Allow for Motion Fifteen

Passed with 82.6%

Should they not have been voted in reverse order? Anyway, that was just a formality.

#### MOTION SEVENTEEN

Adjust New York's Hurling Status for Promotion/Relegation

Passed with 87.3%

Basically just a clarification for the reigning Lory Meagher champions

#### MOTION EIGHTEEN

Similar to Motion Six

Withdrawn

Meh

#### MOTION NINETEEN

To Bring a Free Forward 30m in Hurling for Dissent

Passed with 95.1%

Wow! I was sure this one would draw arguments on the floor. The 50m penalty in football is controversial enough; I never expected such an overwhelming vote in what is usually a more conservative hurling fraternity.

#### MOTION TWENTY

To Allow Counties to Give Club Status Within Central Council Guidelines

Passed with over 99.5%

Demographics are changing. Actually demographics are changing very fast, and not in a good way. Counties need to be able to react quickly. There's more than a few Kerry clubs struggling at various grades, by the way, and potential remedies being discussed (nothing formal as yet).

#### MOTION TWENTY ONE

To Allow Clubs to Field at Not Less than Twelve Players

Passed with 98%

Same issue. Look, it's been implemented in practise long before now, including in Kerry, this is only recognising reality.

#### MOTION TWENTY TWO

To Add Positions to the Development CCC

Passed with 97.8%

If I was a delegate, I'd be looking for my dinner at this stage. I hope it was just a formality, because I may as well admit that I droned out completely.

#### MOTION TWENTY THREE

Central Council to Interpret Codes as well as Rules

Passed with 99%

I bet there was no 1% against it. Somebody was just asleep.

#### MOTION TWENTY FOUR

Clubs to be Allowed Use an Online System for

Transfers  
Passed with 94.6%

Yeah, the energy has been sucked out of the room. All the hard fights have been fought (mostly before they reached the floor at all, as is usual with things like this)

**MOTION TWENTY FIVE**

Clarification Regarding Permanent Residency  
Passed with 99%

A cáirde, táimid críochnaithe. Agus buíochas le Dia ar sin.

## Kerry Cruise to Tame Victory

### National League:

#### Kerry 1-18 Monaghan 0-7

There isn't too much to be said about this one, to be honest. Some days it really is just a case of 'job done, and we move on'. Monaghan have given us plenty of trouble in the past and no doubt will on many an occasion again, but they are down a number of key players and a return to Division Two looks inevitable.

It was a small enough crowd on a bad enough day weather-wise and it was that sort of game. Monaghan had the wind in the first half but were a bit tentative and when the long pots failed to go over, there was no great life to it. Sometimes its a rollercoaster, sometimes it's cruise control; this was the latter.

Cameron Dowd and Oisín McGorman split the Kerry posts early on, but Monaghan were already struggling with Paudie Clifford's direct pace and he landed two good scores. Karl Gallagher and Dessie Ward made it 0-4 to 0-2 to the visitors, but Kerry should probably have had a goal by then (Joe O'Connor didn't spot Dylan Geaney wide open at the back). Keith Evans and Joe O'Connor squared things up. Paudie, obviously revelling at being back in a starting jersey, nudged Kerry in front and just before the break, the outstanding Mark O'Shea rose high against Rory Beggan but the ball came back off the crossbar. 0-5 to 0-4 to Kerry at half-time, and we all knew full well that Monaghan hadn't scored enough.

Kerry basically put it to bed in the next ten minutes. I know that sounds simplistic, but Seán O'Shea with three points (1f) and Paudie another.....Monaghan weren't closing a five point gap. As it turns out, they could only muster three more points in total, while Kerry filled their boots and could have scored more if they needed them. It wasn't exhibition stuff; this was real spadework. Jason Foley, Tadhg Morley, Armin Heinrich, Mark O'Shea (motm), Keith Evans (Monaghan really didn't like his pace) and Seán O'Shea (outstanding once again) were the pick of Kerry. David Clifford came on for fifteen minutes and promptly picked off 1-3. Apparently we are now calling a goal, two pointer, and one pointer a 'GAA hat-trick'. I have no idea who makes up these things, and I would have voted against.

Job done, no lessons learnt. Grand. But a chance now to push for a League Final. Mayo at home in Tralee (David Clifford against the 'next David Clifford' Kobe McDonald? Arrah, stop)



Action from the Kerry V Monaghan Game.  
Picture: Orla Coyne, Kerry GAA Fans

and away to Armagh, who are playing great but will likely need those points. We'll learn plenty of lessons yet!

Kerry: Shane Murphy, Paul Murphy, Jason Foley, Dylan Casey, Eddie Healy, Tadhg Morley (0-1), Armin Heinrich (0-1), Joe O'Connor (0-2), Mark O'Shea, Keith Evans (0-1), Seán O'Shea (0-4, 2f), Graham O'Sullivan, Dylan Geaney (0-1), Cillian Trant, Paudie Clifford (0-4). Subs: Tom O'Sullivan (for Cillian Trant, half-time), Micheál Burns (for Paudie Clifford, 47 mins), Donagh Shine O'Sullivan 0-1 (for Eddie Healy, 53 mins), David Clifford 1-3, 1tp, 1f (for Graham O'Sullivan, 56 mins), Liam Smith (for Dylan Geaney, 62 mins), Darragh Lyne (for Mark O'Shea, bs, 66-ft).

## Late Surge Not Enough for Kerry Ladies

### Ladies National League: Galway 1-11 Kerry 1-9

Tough weather in Austin Stack Park and a tough result for a Kerry side who looked more

themselves when they finally cut loose but were just missing too many top guns on the day. Galway, many of whom had lost an All Ireland Final to Kerry two years ago, were in a determined mood and had the first three opening scores before Siofra O'Shea got Kerry going with a free. Kate Slevin and Hannah Noone were already cutting wreck, though, and Noone extended Galway's lead.

Danielle O'Leary had a dangerous effort blocked but an alert Julia Curtin picked off the rebound and Rachel Dwyer added another. Andrea Trill burst forward for a Galway score to make it 0-5 to 0-3; this was good football in hard conditions, but you'd have to say that Galway had more of the play.

Kerry are always danerous for goal, though, and once Danielle O'Leary gathered an incisive pass from Niamh Carmody, there was only one thing on her mind. 1-3 to 0-5 and Kerry in front for the first time.

Kate Slevin and Hannah Noone scored for Galway, with a Siofra O'Shea free levelling matters, but Slevin again and Leanne Coen gave Galway a 0-9 to 1-4 half-time lead. Galway struck like lightning on the restart. Roisín Leonard's effort was well denied, but

Leanne Coen pounced for a sniper's goal. Andrea Trill added a point. Siofra O'Shea did kick two points but Kerry were very fortunate when Roisín Leonard intercepted a poor kick-out, only for Mary Ellen Bolger to produce a brilliant save, with Andrea Trill's rebound hitting the woodwork.

Rachel O'Dwyer, Siofra O'Shea, and Anna Galvin (a really brilliant kick) brought it back to one but Galway had the luxury of lowering the tempo and playing the clock (exactly the right thing to do) and Kate Slevin kicked the final score in the dying minutes to seal Galway's fourth victory.

Tough result for Kerry, but there's a bit more doom and gloom around than is remotely warranted. We are down a lot of top quality players and consequently getting minutes into a lot of players, playing on wet ground that doesn't suit us (this Kerry team will revel in the new rules on summer ground; I guarantee you that), and we are still fourth in the table in Division One. What on earth were people hoping for?

Kerry: Mary Ellen Bolger, Keira Furey, Eilís Lynch, Deirdre Kearney, Roisín Rahilly, Anna Galvin (0-1), Aoife Dillane, Mary O'Connell, Caoimhe Evans, Niamh Carmody, Kelli Enright, Rachel Dwyer (0-2), Siofra O'Shea (0-5), Julia Curtin (0-1), Danielle O'Leary (1-0). Subs: Jady Nucey (for Julia Curtin, half-time), Katie Brosnan (for Keira Furey, half-time), Niamh Ní Chonchúir (for Rachel Dwyer, 53 mins), Mikaela Mulvihill (for Caoimhe Evans, 59 mins).

## Hogan Cup Semi-Final

Tralee CBS 4-11

St. Gerald's Castlebar 1-15

Warmest congratulations to Marc Ó Sé and the Tralee CBS lads who saw off a brilliant Castlebar outfit in the Midwest TUS Campus (I'm sorry now lads, but that's a ridiculous venue for supporters, not even comparable to a club ground – I accept it's an impossible task getting pitches in this weather). Both sides left a few chances behind them early on but, with corner forward Joe Forry really outstanding, Castlebar looked the better side. Ronan Carroll gave the Green breathing space with a goal but Castlebar's Paul Hurst replied with a penalty. Tralee led by 1-5 to 1-4 at the break, but that had been with a wind and rain worth at least six points in my opinion.

Gearóid White started the second half well, but then Castlebar lorded the middle and cut loose. Six points on the trot gave the Mayo side a 1-10 to 1-6 lead and it looked like curtains drawing to a close for the Green. However, just as in the Corn uí Mhuirí Final, Gearóid White reversed a losing tide simply by slicing through a shocked defence and blasting as good a goal as you will ever see. Nick Lacey very quickly with another one.

Back came Castlebar with three points to square things up again. One minute left in normal time. Up stepped Máirtín McKivergan to a very long range free. It looked almost impossible, but somehow he got it over for a precious two points. Joe Forry responded with his sixth point



The victorious CBS The Green team that beat Castlebar to win a place in the Hogan Cup Final.

Photo: Adrienne McLoughlin

of the game to leave just one between them, but the Green just had that tiny little bit left in the tank and four minutes into injury time, Ronan Carroll finally sealed it with one last goal. Best of luck to Tralee in their second ever Hogan Final (a star-studded side lost in 2007) and here's hoping for their first win. Best of luck also to their hurlers, who could set up an astonishing double if they can beat Portumna in the All Ireland B Hurling (Paddy Buggy) Semi-Final this weekend.

## Kerry Win a Thriller to Top the Table

Centra Camogie League:

Kerry 1-12 Carlow 1-9

I was probably expecting it to be the most one-sided contest I would see this weekend. Instead it was the best. Carlow really struggled against us in the last two years and couldn't muster a single point from play against us in the corresponding fixture last year. This was a different Carlow, though. They really put it up to us, I thought some of their precision passing in particular was fantastic. And I don't know if it might sound a bit odd, but I'm genuinely delighted for them. You hate to see a team really struggling, we all know that sometimes it's an achievement just to get bodies on the field. I've seen several of those Carlow players struggle on tough days, so it's nice to see them shine.

Of course, it's easy for me to be talking on a day when Kerry were superb as well! And Kerry really were. Caoimhe Spillane was firing Kerry's midfield engines early on and the thing is that, while both sides had great control and precision, only Kerry had the real firepower. Two points from Patrice Diggin, 1-2 from Jackie Horgan, and an Amy O'Sullivan point had us leading by 1-5 to 0-1, but I genuinely promise that wasn't reflective of the general play. In fact, Aoife Fitzgerald had already made a spectacular save to deny Ciara Kavanagh. The teams exchanged a brace each to leave Kerry in

front by 1-7 to 0-3, but facing a strong second half wind.

Patrice Diggin opened the second half scoring, but then Carlow really opened up the engines. Four points on the trot, Kerry absolutely swarmed on their own puck-out. Amy O'Sullivan did well to pick off a Kerry score, but it was a very brief respite as Gillian Joyce set up Caoimhe Jordan for a Carlow goal. Kerry's lead down to two points and Carlow running riot.

Aimie Nolan darting into space and just about to pull the trigger...but Patrice Diggin just managed to get a touch to knock it away at the last second and Rachel McCarthy cleared. I've always been sceptical about the idea of lone turning points in games but yeah, that's the only way to describe it.

Two points from Amy O'Sullivan and Patrice Diggin with another free. Five points in it. Carlow still coming, scores from Eleanor Treacy and Caoimhe Jordan. Just a goal in it, and they could scent a goal. Absolutely heroic last ditch defending by Kerry – at one point I swear it looked like a rugby scrum in the Kerry square, but sheer defiance won out and Kerry finally cleared their lines for a crucial victory. Top of the table now (albeit Laois have a game in hand) and Kerry could clinch a league final place with a win over Westmeath at home next week. I hope so – our last game is away to Derry, and don't mind counting chickens before they hatch, I wouldn't even count those chances as eggs!

Kerry: Aoife Fitzgerald, Michelle Costello, Sara Murphy, Rachel McCarthy, Roisín Quinn, Niamh Leen, Ellen O'Donoghue, Patrice Diggin (0-6, 5f), Caoimhe Spillane, Laura Collins, Ruth O'Connor, Kate Lynch, Amy O'Sullivan (0-3), Jackie Horgan (1-3), Danielle O'Leary. Subs Shannon Collins (for Danielle O'Leary, half-time), Áine Devlin (for Roisín Quinn, 40 mins), Emma Conway (for Laura Collins, 46 mins) Amy McCarthy (for Kate Lynch, 53 mins), Kathryn Ryan (for Rachel McCarthy, 55 mins)

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## Basketball Ireland National League Division One.

### Portlaoise Panthers 91 Killarney Cougars 67

A competitive contest at St Mary's Hall Portlaoise on Saturday night as the Portlaoise Panthers eventually overcame Killarney Cougars 91-67 in an entertaining National League Division One clash played before a large and vocal crowd home support.

For much of the opening half, there was little between the sides. Killarney made an assured start, moving the ball well and attacking with purpose to take a 23-16 lead at the end of the first quarter. Paul Adedeji struck eight early points, while Joshua Phillips and Kenny Shimwa provided composure and scoring threat as the Cougars settled quickly into their rhythm.

Portlaoise responded in kind in the second quarter. Amiri Darnell Stewart found his range, pouring in 14 points in the period, while Xavier Arriaga's penetration and energy lifted the home support. The Panthers edged the quarter 28-20 to sneak into a narrow 44-43 lead at halftime after a breathless first 20 minutes that showcased the offensive quality in both sides. Joshua Phillips best for Cougars in the second period adding 10 points despite aggravating an ankle injury.

The third quarter proved pivotal, though it remained hard-fought throughout. Arriaga delivered an excellent spell, scoring 15 points in the period as Portlaoise stretched their advantage to 70-54. However, the Cougars refused to fold. A spirited 11-2 run late in the quarter demonstrated their resilience and kept the contest alive heading into the final stretch. In the closing quarter, both teams continued to battle. Stewart and Arriaga added important baskets to steady the Panthers, while Phillips continued to drive the Cougars forward with strong finishes and leadership. Ultimately, Portlaoise's efficiency down the stretch allowed them to close out the game 21-13 in the final period and secure a victory with a margin that perhaps did not fully reflect how competitive the tie had been for long stretches.

Three-point shooting was a major feature of the game. Portlaoise knocked down 17 shots from beyond the arc across the night, but many came under pressure, reflecting the intensity of Killarney's defensive effort on the boards.

While Portlaoise deserved credit for their clinical second-half execution, Killarney's intensity and refusal to back down ensured this was a compelling Division One encounter that entertained the large attendance throughout the contest, next up the Cougars return home to the Presentation Gym for the visit of Ulster University on next Saturday evening.

#### Top scorers

Panthers: Amiri Darnell Stewart 28, Xavier Arriaga 25, Davin McEvoy 12, Dylan Dunne 11, Kevin Donhoe 7

Cougars: Joshua Phillips 20, Kenny Shimwa 15, Paul Adedeji 13, Simon Olanipekun 11, Lucas Cronin 8

## UCC GLANMIRE 95 UTILITY TRUST ST PAULS 70 MATCH REPORT

### Dominos Womens Superleague Sunday March 1st Mardyke Arena, Cork

#### UCCGlanmire 95 Utility Trust St Pauls 70

Report by Enda Walshe

The two form teams in the league went toe to toe in the Mardyke Arena on Sunday afternoon. UCC Glanmire had only lost one of their last six, while Utility Trust St Pauls were on an eight game winning run which had seen them ascend to the top of the Dominos Womens Superleague. The last team to defeat James Flemings side were Glanmire in mid December and so it was a case of *deja vu* as the Cork side put on a show of power to cement their third place position in the league and give themselves a chance of a top two finish.

For St Paul's all winning runs do come to an end and the one positive they can gain out of the day is that their fate is still in their own hands. They travel to the Parochial Hall in Cork next Sunday knowing that a win over Brunell gives them a chance of topping the league standings and a home quarter final and a possible home semi final. On the other hand defeat could open the door for Glanmire to overtake them and even though third place guarantees you a home quarter final, you could face a trickier path thereafter.

The story of this game revolves around the third quarter where Glanmire blitzed St Pauls for 33 points, with American duo Jewel Watkins and Viane Cumber both hitting 13 points. They were the dynamic duo for the hosts, combining for 66 points, including nine three pointers between them. It gave them the cushion to finish the game out comfortably, something nobody would have foreseen at half time, as the game was finely balanced at 43-39.

Glanmire made the better start to the game with Watkins looking sharp. But Tara Cousins, who had an outstanding opening half, got her side up and running and alongside Maisie Burnham helped St Pauls take an early 7-5 lead. But Cumber soon joined her compatriot on the scoresheet netting two threes, with Kerrywoman Aine McKenna prominent. Miriam Loughrey and Annaliese Murphy pushed that lead out further, 19-9. It took some points from Burnham and Cousins to steady the away side's ship and they were glad to see out the first quarter just nine back at 22-13.

Displaying a composure, St Pauls opened the second quarter well, visibly playing their way back into the contest. Leah McMahon and Lorraine Scanlon hit opening salvos to which Cumber gave Glanmire their sole reply. Cousins and Scanlon were again on the mark and when Cousins converted from downtown, the gap was down to two, 26-24. Both sides missed opportunities in the following moments with

Watkins and Cousins exchanging points. Denise Dunlea kept St Pauls in the conversation as did Scanlon and just when it looked like McKenna and Claire O Sullivan were helping Glanmire steal a march, Lynn Jones hit a signature three. It went tit for tat until half time with Lovisa Hevinder and Watkins prominent, the sides retiring to the dressing rooms with four between them, 43-39.

The closeness of the exchanges continued into the second half initially with Cumber and Watkins netting for the hosts, Burnham and Hevinder replying. Burnham was now sitting on three fouls and had to thread carefully and perhaps another factor in what was about to be unleashed, was the absence of Siofra O Shea whose defensive intelligence was a loss. Glanmire were about to hit their purple patch with Watkins and Cumber now rampant. With the assistance of Claire O Sullivan and Miriam Loughrey alongside McKenna they opened up a 71-49 advantage in the blink of an eye. Burnham was St Paul's chief scoregetter in this period and she attempted to stop the rot but Annaliese Murphy again struck from beyond the arc to head for the final quarter with a twenty two point advantage, 76-54.

Truth to be told the final period was just a steering job for Glanmire as a Watkins three quickly cancelled a similar McMahon effort. McKenna, Cumber and Loughrey added further points to extend the advantage over a St Pauls side who could do little right at this stage. But to be fair they did persevere with Cousins, Burnham, Hevinder and Deirdre Geaney all on target. But the hosts were not to be denied as they eased to a 95-70 win. Given that his side were on an eight game winning run, this defeat may prove to be a blessing in disguise for Coach James Fleming as he faces into the final weeks of the season. Given the standard of the league a defeat is nearly always around the corner so it gives them a chance to reboot ahead of next weekend's crucial clash against Brunell, which tips off in the Parochial Hall at 2pm.

Maisie Burnham hit 22 points, Tara Cousins 21, Lorraine Scanlon 8, Lovisa Hevinder 7, Leah McMahon 5, Lynn Jones 3, Deirdre Geaney and Denise Dunlea 2.

Jewel Watkins had a game high 41, Viane Cumber 25, Aine McKenna and Claire O Sullivan 8 each.



Manager James Fleming coaching his team at the Dominos Womens Superleague on Sunday March 1st at the Mardyke Arena, Cork

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# All Ireland Runners Up for Castleisland Community College U16 Basketball Teams



All Ireland Basketball U16 teams that were runners up.  
 Back row (L-R): Yvonne Rice (Manager), Brid McCarthy, Holly O'Neill, Rachel O'Donoghue, SinEad Galvin, Danielle Sheahan, Mikaela Murphy, Denny Porter (Coach)  
 Front row (L-R): Nessa McAuliffe, Anna McCarthy, Isabelle Walmsley, Abbie O'Donoghue, Julie McAuliffe.



Back row (L-R): Máire McLoughlin (Coach), Fionn Browne, Emmett Hickey, Seán Kerin, Connie O'Connor, Darragh O'Sullivan, Conor Ryan, Dean O'Donoghue, Joey Kelly, Mr. Maurice Casey (Assistant Coach). Front row (L-R): Daniel Riordan, Ryan O'Connor, Olly O'Shea, Ogie O'Leary Griffin, Gearoid Joy, Oran McGovern.

The U16 A Division Girls and U16 A Division Boys basketball teams produced outstanding campaigns to reach their respective AllIreland Cup Finals, ultimately finishing as national runnersup.

The U16 A girls' team enjoyed a superb Cup journey, marked by consistency, teamwork, and impressive performances from start to finish. They opened their campaign with strong victories over Scoil Phobail Shliabh Lachra Rathmore and Mungret Community College, setting a confident tone for the rounds ahead. In the second round, they continued their winning form by defeating Crescent College Comprehensive, Limerick and St Angela's, Cork, both competitive fixtures that showcased the team's composure under pressure. A powerful semifinal display saw them overcome Calasactius College, Galway,

securing a fully deserved place in the AllIreland Final. In the national decider, the girls faced a talented Presentation Secondary School, Kilkenny side. Despite a determined and spirited performance, they were unfortunately defeated on the day.

The U16 A boys' team also produced a memorable Cup campaign, demonstrating resilience, skill, and remarkable teamwork throughout. Their journey began with a comprehensive win over Midleton CBS, a performance that underlined their intent from the outset. The quarterfinal stage brought a demanding trip to Galway, where the boys faced two strong opponents in Portlaoise and Summerhill College. They rose to the challenge superbly, winning both games to secure their place in the AllIreland Final. The final itself was a dramatic and fiercely contested encounter,

with the boys losing out by just two points to St Pat's College, Cavan in a game that could have gone either way.

The boys team also had to contend with the absence of Irish International Joey Kelly, who suffered an ACL injury ruling him out of the final. The school community extends its warmest wishes to Joey for a full and speedy recovery.

'Both teams have represented their school and community with distinction, displaying commitment, sportsmanship, and a level of performance that promises even greater success in the years ahead. Their achievements have brought immense pride to players, their coaches- Yvonne Rice & Denny Porter (Girls team) Máire Mc Loughlin & Maurice (Boys team), families, and supporters,' stated Máiréad Corridan (Principal).



## Sunrise Social Kerry Enjoy the Beautiful Dinis Cottage Loop

On Saturday morning, the Sunrise Social Kerry hiking group met up to walk the beautiful Dinis Cottage Loop. Surrounded by stunning lakeside views and fresh Killarney air, the group enjoyed a relaxed and scenic start to the weekend. The trail offered the perfect setting for great conversation, new connections, and a shared appreciation of the outdoors.

It was another fantastic turnout, with a mix of familiar faces and new members joining in. Sunrise Social Kerry continues to grow a welcoming community where people can come together, get active, and explore some of Kerry's most scenic spots.

Information about upcoming hikes and the variety of other social events hosted by Sunrise Social Kerry can be found on their Instagram page.



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**LENTEN ONLINE TALK SERIES:** The Diocese of Kerry invites you to its Lenten online talk series, "Beyond Almsgiving," exploring poverty in the light of Catholic Social Teaching, on 10 March, and 24 March at 7.30 pm. Speakers include Dr Aoife McGrath (Maynooth) and guest speakers from SVP and Trócaire. Information and registration: www.dioceseofkerry.ie

**KILLARNEY COMMUNITY GAMES:** The committee of Killarney Community games wishes to sincerely thank everyone for your generosity at their Church Gate Collection last weekend. Information regarding our extensive range of activities and events is available at <https://kerrycommunitygames.ie/> . If your child is interested in representing Killarney in any of these events, we would be delighted to hear from you. For further details please email [killarney@communitygames.eu](mailto:killarney@communitygames.eu)

**KILLARNEY ACTIVE RETIREMENT** have resumed their Weekly meetings - KCYS - back of Friary Bookshop - Fridays 2 to 4 PM - €20 Annual Membership now due - New members always welcome

**JOIN US FOR OUR LADIES' CRAFTING GROUP!** Meetings will be held on the 4th Monday of each month. This group is for women who are hard of hearing, and offers a fun, supportive, and inclusive space to learn new skills, enjoy great conversation, and make connections. 10.30am- 12.30am at the Chime unit 1b Park place, High Street, Killarney V93 CDP9 Contact: 064 6620052 or 0860105200

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## A Word of Victory

*"When will you finally catch on? Is He deaf - the One who made your ears? Is He blind - the One who formed your eyes? He punishes the nations - won't He also punish you? He knows everything - doesn't He also know what you are doing?" (Psalm 94:9-10).*

Welcome back dear student, we sure are living in perilous times (2 Timothy 3:1-5). Jesus warned 'when you hear of wars and rumours of wars... look up for your Salvation draws near' (Luke 21:9-36). There's always going to be chaos in the world friend, for the god of this world is Satan, the most divisive, destructive, lying tyrant, and manipulator (2 Corinthians 4:4). When people are influenced by, or aligned with him, curse, instability, and wickedness result. It's wonderful to see the dear people of Iran celebrating freedom from that oppressive and brutal regime, praise God, we pray for Salvation and Peace. We pray for protection for those caught up in the conflict, for those living in the nations surrounding Iran; and for those working to deliver our world from the threat of terror (Psalm 46; Psalm 121). Thank You Father for exposing the works of darkness, in Jesus' Name (Ephesians 5:8-11).

Over here it has been distressing to hear in the news of the number of babies who were born alive after abortion procedures. Mattie McGrath TD who requested this information from the HSE, found out the number stands at one hundred and eight from 2019 to 2023. No doubt many more in the intervening years. Since abortion was legalised in Ireland seven years ago, almost SIXTY thousand babies have been terminated here. Terminated is a benign word for brutality conducted in the privacy of the womb, unseen by the naked eye - hence it doesn't touch people like it should. But God sees everything. I doubt that those who were tricked into voting 'yes', ever thought it would come to this. People were led to believe that it would only be the odd pregnancy ended here and there; like if the mother's life were in danger. They talk about population decline - sixty thousand is the population of Waterford City, that's a lot of children not given the chance of life. The figure worldwide is about seventy-three million abortions EVERY year. Of course there are people who benefit from it: it's a lucrative industry - selling aborted body parts and tissue for research. It does not empower women but is a marketplace of rampant greed. The lies and manipulations by those who push for abortion are now being exposed, and hopefully the people of Ireland will arise and demand its end. It is not healthcare and is not good for any mother - evidenced in scientific studies of female mental health problems and depression post-abortion, and also from personal testimonies; and it's certainly not good for the innocent babies.

To think that in our hospitals babies are being born alive after surviving the violence of the abortion procedure; and then left to die without any pain medication, with no medic allowed to comfort that little one as they take their final breath is horrendous, and undignified. It can be minutes or hours of anguish before they succumb to death. Four of the one hundred and eight babies were over twenty-four weeks - with no indication of any congenital anomaly. If this were happening to animals, there would be protests and riots nationwide - and rightfully so. Sadly, animals are given more protection and comfort than human babies. It is completely unacceptable and inhumane. And don't forget the majority of our public representatives voted for no pain relief for babies during abortions. This whole thing is a modern-day wicked scandal and a source of curse upon our nation (Proverbs 26:2; Proverbs 6:16-17).

**Bible Study and Prayer every Sunday @ 11am and Thursday @ 7.30pm at Word of Victory Christian Fellowship Killarney V93V6X4**

**f** Word of Victory Christian Fellowship Killarney  
**t** @WOVKillarney  
**s** Text for Prayer: 087 639 6744  
[wordofvictory.ie](http://wordofvictory.ie)



Podcasts on Spotify: A WORD OF VICTORY

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & 1ST ANNIVERSARY**

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
**GERARD O'SULLIVAN**



LATE OF CURROW PO.  
 KILLARNEY  
 WHO DIED ON 11TH  
 MARCH, 2025.

On the First Anniversary of Dad's passing on March 11th, we, his loving family, wish to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who supported us during our sad loss.

Thank you to all who attended the funeral home, funeral Mass and Months Mind, those who travelled to be with us, and those who sent Mass cards, messages, prayers and condolences. Your kindness and support meant more to us than words can say.

We wish to thank Fr. John Kerin, Fr. Buckley, Fr. Ahern, Fr. Horgan and Fr O'Keefe for the beautiful funeral Mass, and to our family friend, Fr. O'Brien, for his prayers at home.

A special word of thanks to Bernard and Hanna Marie Tagney for their care and professionalism.

We are deeply grateful to our friends, neighbours and the wider Currow community for the guard of honour and their continued support, and to the management and staff of the River Island Hotel for their hospitality.

Thank you also to Dr. Daly and staff at Brookfield Surgery, Castleisland, and to Dr. Margey, Dr. Dollard and staff at the Mater Private Hospital, Cork, for their care.

As it is impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as a token of our heartfelt appreciation.

*We were not ready to lose you, Dad,  
 and we still miss you every day.  
 You remain in our hearts always.*

Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by his daughters Beatrice, Máire and Siobhán, his sister Sr.Hanna O'Sullivan, Sons-in-law, Liam, Jackie and Edwin; his adored grandchildren, Ríán, Seodhla, David, Ellie, Mó and Nellie; sister-in-law, nieces, and many friends.

First Anniversary Mass for Gerard will take place on Friday, 13th March at 7.30pm in Currow Church.

**9TH AND 11TH ANNIVERSARIES**

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
 THE LATE



**MARY MCMCLOUGHLIN**  
 WHO DIED ON  
 6TH MARCH 2017  
 AND

**JAMES MCMCLOUGHLIN**  
 WHO DIED ON  
 23RD APRIL 2015

BOTH LATE OF  
 ARDANEANIG, KILLARNEY  
 AND LONDON

**Missing you both**

Those precious memories of you will always bring a smile. If we could have you back even for a little while then we could talk and walk again like we used to do.

The fact you are no longer here will always cause us pain but you are forever in our hearts until we meet again.

Our hearts still ache in sadness and secret tears still flow, what it meant to lose you no one will ever know.

There is a path of beautiful memories from here to heaven above That keeps us very close to you its called the path of love.

And down that path of memories we travel today All our thoughts are with you As life goes on its way.

And life has gone on without you and the days have turned to years. But each day has held a thousand memories and a million silent tears.

**Lovingly and sadly missed by their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, brothers and sisters, extended family and friends.**

**2ND ANNIVERSARY**

IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF OUR BELOVED MOM  
**RENA KENNELLY**



WHO PASSED AWAY ON  
MARCH 7TH. 2024.

*Our hearts are full of memories  
With pride we speak your name  
Though life goes on with you  
It will never be the same  
Those special days will not return  
When we were all together  
But the love and memories in our hearts  
Will stay with us together.*

Always loved and sadly missed by  
Daughters Shirley and Kate, Son, Mark,  
Sons-in-law JohnJoe and Dan.

Daughter-in-law Paula. Grandchildren Jason  
and wife Jacqui. Kenneth and his wife Annette.  
Ciara and Colm, Ailbhe, Justine, Catherine.  
Great Grandchildren Roan and Ben,  
Sister Margaret and brother Gene.

**1ST ANNIVERSARY**

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
MY DEAR BROTHER  
**DONAL  
O'CONNOR**



RATHCOMMANE & MILLTOWN  
WHO PASSED AWAY ON THE  
8TH MARCH 2025.

*God looked around his garden  
and found an empty place .  
He then looked upon the Earth  
and saw your tired face.  
He put his arms around you  
and lifted you to rest.  
With the help of his angels they flew  
you to your heavenly place.*

May Donal's Gentle Soul Rest In Peace.

"Uncle Donal Thanks for the Memories,"  
Seamus and Mary.

Remembered with Love  
by your Brother Des and Bob.

*First Anniversary Mass in Ballyhar Church on  
Sunday Morning 8th March at 10am*

**1ST ANNIVERSARY**

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
**DONAL A  
O'CONNOR**



LATE OF MILLTOWN AND  
FORMERLY OF RATHCOMMANE  
WHO PASSED AWAY ON  
THE 8TH MARCH 2025.

*To come home to yourself*

*May all that is unforgiven in you,  
be released.  
May your fears yield  
Their deepest tranquillities.  
May all that is unloved in you,  
Blossom into a future,  
Graced with love.*

Loved and missed by your children James,  
Daniel and Lisa, grandchildren,  
Aela, Ben, Luke and Killian.

Anniversary Mass to be held in  
Ballyhar Church, 8th of March at 10am.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
& 1ST ANNIVERSARY**

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
**DONAL O'CONNOR**



MONASTERY GARDENS,  
MILTOWN  
WHO SADLY PASSED AWAY  
ON 8TH MARCH, 2025.

As we lovingly remember Donal on his first anniversary, we his family would like to express our sincere gratitude to all who supported and sympathised with us following Donal's passing. Thanks to all who attended the funeral home, Requiem Mass and burial. To everyone who sent Mass Cards, Preputial Scrolls and Online Condolences thank you.

Our thanks to Father Danny Broderick for calling to Donal with communion in his final months and for the lovely rosary. Thank you to Father Pádraig Kennelly for celebrating Donal's Requiem Mass and the other attending Clergy. To Helen Kerins for the lovely singing thank you. Our deepest thanks to all the Medical professionals Donal attended during his illness. Dr Michael Maloney and staff at Killarney Medical centre, Dr Eileen Kelliher hematologist Bons Secours Hospital Cork, the staff at University Hospital Kerry and the doctors and nurses in the Palliative care unit Tralee. We deeply appreciated all the care given to Donal. To Liam and William Sheahan and staff at Sheahan's Pharmacy Killarney for their dedication and efficiency during Donal's illness. Your support and advice was always appreciated. Thank you all.

Thanks to Eamon O'Connor undertaker Furies, for your patience kindness and professionalism. To Donal and Martha's neighbour Margaret Flartherty thank you for all your help and support during Donal's illness, your door was always open and your kindness will never be forgotten.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our deep gratitude. The Holy sacrifice of the Mass has been offered for your intentions.

*Rest in peace dear loved one and thanks for all you've done, we hope that God has given you the crown you've truly won.*

Forever missed and never forgotten by his loving wife Martha. His children James, Daniel and Lisa, grandchildren Aela, Ben, Luke and Killian.

First Anniversary Mass for Donal will take place on Sunday, 8th March at 10am in Sacred Heart Church, Ballyhar.

**14TH ANNIVERSARY**

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
**DEBORAH  
O'SULLIVAN**



LATE OF RATHDUANE,  
RATHMORE  
WHO DIED ON THE  
7TH MARCH 2012.

*You lived for those you loved,  
And those you loved remember.*

*Loved and remembered always  
by Denis, Nigel, Jonathan, brother,  
sisters and all the extended O'Sullivan  
and Breen families.*

**NOVENA TO ST. JUDE**

Most holy Apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the Church honors and invokes you universally, as the patron of difficult cases, of things almost despaired of, Pray for me, I am so helpless and alone.

Intercede with God for me that He bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolation and help of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, and sufferings, particularly (Mention your request here...)

And that I may praise God with you and all the saints forever. I promise, O Blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor granted me by God and to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you.

Amen

**1ST ANNIVERSARY**

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
**DONAL  
O'CONNOR**



15 CHURCHVIEW, MILLTOWN  
& LATE OF RATHCOMMANE,  
BALLYHAR

WHO PASSED AWAY ON  
THE 8TH MARCH 2025.

*A year without you, too quick now  
Life moves on, but we still bow.  
You were the calm, the steady sound  
Now in our memories, you are found.  
We miss your laugh, your shining light  
Until we meet, our brother, "Goodnight".*

From your loving brothers and  
sisters, and their families.

First Anniversary Mass for Donal will take place on Sunday, 8th March at 10am in Sacred Heart Church, Ballyhar.

**THE MIRACLE PRAYER**

Dear Heart of Jesus in the past I have asked many favours. This time I ask you this special one, (mention favour).

Take it dear heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then in his merciful eyes it will become your favour not mine.  
Amen.

Say this prayer for three days. Publication of prayer and favour will be granted.

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