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Freezing fog on Lough Leane as two mute swans glide by the freezing lake with Ross Castle in the background, Killarney National Park. Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan



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A Note from the EDITOR



As we welcome 2026, our first edition of the Killarney Outlook has lots for you to enjoy. Killarney got off to a flying start with a strong showing in the Irish Business Against Litter survey, 2026 is gearing up to be a big year for Kerry Airport and the question everyone is asking... Is there an Oscar on the way to Killarney?

The newly named Dr. Crokes Park was the setting for the 2025 Lap of Light with former members being remembered by the club, Autism Friendly continues to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment in the town and despite the frosty weather, it was business as usual for the Killarney Meitheal Group.

We look at how one decision changed the life of a Killorglin lady, the Killarney South Kerry Wheelchair Association enjoyed a festive Christmas gathering and check your tickets.... there is a €500,000 Prize Bonds winner in Kerry following the December draw.

The countdown is on for Killarney Musical Society's production of All Shook Up which is set to take place next month, a stunning calendar celebrating Killarney National Park is for sale and Killarney Soroptimist Club continue to support ADAPT Kerry.

In sport, Killarney Celtic FC have joined the FAI National League, all eyes are on Croke Park for the club finals this weekend and there were thrilling end of season finals at the Squash Club.

Hope you all enjoy this week's Killarney Outlook!

Aisling Crosbie



Soaring high at Ross Castle.... gulls captured perfectly by Rafal Taracha.



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THIS WEEK

ALL THE NEWS FROM THE KILLARNEY AREA AND BEYOND

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Killarney's great start to the new year

Strong showing from Killarney and Tralee in 2025 litter rankings

The latest litter survey by business group Irish Business Against Litter ((IBAL) of shows Killarney has retained its Top Ten spot in the ranking of 40 towns and cities, in 7th position. Tralee, also clean, has improved to 16th. Sligo finished atop the IBAL table for the first time in a study which showed that city areas in particular cleaned up in 2025.

The An Taisce report for Killarney stated:

Another superb showing for Killarney with eight sites surveyed getting the top litter grade. These included Muckcross Road and Cork Road Approaches, Beech Street, Main Street and Chapel Lane / Barry Lane – the latter is an excellent example of what can be achieved in a laneway environment, with the wall murals and

planter boxes. By far the most heavily littered site in Killarney was the JYSK Car Park – it would seem that the commercial bin area needs to be better managed at this site.

Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce has said the achievement of the town retaining its place in the top 10 in the fiercely competitive Irish Business Against Litter League is a wonderful tonic at the start of the new year.

There has been a warm welcome for the fact that the town is once again deemed to be cleaner than European norms and it is in seventh place out of 40 towns and cities surveyed.

The An Taisce report for Killarney stated: "Another superb showing for Killarney with eight sites surveyed getting the top

litter grade." Chamber said it was particularly gratifying that the town centre streets – including Main Street – received the highest possible grade despite the huge footfall and the thousands of people passing through every day.

"Great credit is due to Killarney Municipal District Council and its dedicated outdoor crew who work with such dedication, passion and purpose to ensure the town is presented at its best at all times," said Chamber President Johnny McGuire.

"The council is certainly setting an example for us all to follow and, combined with the work of tidy towns volunteers, those spearheading the Killarney Looking Good project and others, it is only a matter of time before Killarney is back in the number one slot in the Business Against Litter League," he added.

The Chamber said fact that eight of the 10 local sites inspected received the top A grade and it is hoped that concerns raised regarding the JYSK car park and Rock Road will be addressed as a matter of priority.



THE REPORT:

Killarney ranked 7th out of 40 towns and cities surveyed and was assessed as being cleaner than European norms. This represented another superb performance for the town, with eight of the surveyed sites achieving the top litter grade. Among the top-performing locations were the Muckcross Road and Cork Road approaches, Beech Street, Main Street, and Chapel Lane and Barry Lane. The latter was highlighted as an excellent example of what can be achieved in a laneway environment, enhanced by wall murals and well-maintained planter boxes. By contrast, the most heavily littered site surveyed in Killarney was the JYSK Car Park, where issues appeared to stem from poor management of the commercial bin area.

The Rock Road Approach received a Grade B+. The overall presentation of this route was very good, with wooden seating and colourful planting contributing positively to the general impression. However, the presence of food- and alcohol-related litter, along with cigarette butts – particularly around the bus stop and seating areas – prevented it from achieving the top grade. The Muckcross Approach Road was awarded a Grade A, with no visible litter issues noted along

this key route into the town. All aspects of the area were found to be in good order.

The Deposit Return Scheme facility at Aldi also achieved a Grade A. This stand-alone facility was very well maintained and included a "Reject Items Only" receptacle, clear signage indicating video surveillance and no dumping, as well as a colourful notice advising the public to contact a staff member if assistance was required.

The JYSK Car Park was graded C and identified as the most heavily littered site surveyed. The issues extended beyond casual litter, with accumulations of food packaging and alcohol cans and bottles, particularly along the pathway parallel to the silver bollards and within areas of heavy leaf fall. An open commercial bin allowed litter, plastic and packaging to blow around the site. Plastic bags were also noted in nearby trees. The report suggested this should be an easy issue to address with improved management. Killarney Bus Station received a Grade A. Pathways, seating and bicycle parking were all very well maintained, and there was a virtual absence of litter throughout the surveyed area. Main Street also achieved a Grade A. Positive features included high-quality paving, wooden

seating, attractive litter bins and bollards, planter boxes and planting around outdoor dining areas. Signage promoting Killarney as a single-use coffee cup free town was clearly displayed, outlining the reasons and how the initiative works. Apart from some cigarette butts, no other litter issues were noted.

Beech Street was awarded a Grade A. While this secondary shopping street does not feature the same level of streetscape enhancements as Main Street, it was found to be a clean and well-maintained environment.

Chapel Lane and Barry Lane also received a Grade A. These laneways were praised as an excellent example of effective laneway regeneration, with wall murals and large planter boxes placed centrally. Litter levels were described as excellent.

The Recycle Facility at the High Street Car Park achieved a Grade A. Although the recycling units were inaccessible at the time of the survey due to heavy flooding, the units themselves were freshly presented and the associated signage was clear and in very good condition.

The Cork Road Approach was awarded a Grade A. This busy route in and out of Killarney was found to be in good order, with no obvious litter issues observed.



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AUTISM FRIENDLY KILLARNEY

CONTINUE TO CREATE A MORE INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

"It takes a village to raise a child. It takes a child with Autism to raise the consciousness of the village"

- Coach Elaine Hall -

Autism Friendly Killarney has launched a new six-part video series showcasing how the town's community, schools, event organisers and businesses are working together to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for autistic people. Alongside the video series, Autism Friendly Killarney has also launched a new website, a central hub of information for Autistic people, their families and visitors to the town.

The video series, available on Autism Friendly Killarney's Instagram and website, highlights simple yet powerful ways in which Killarney is adapting - from sensory-friendly environments and visual supports to sensory accommodations, welcoming assistance dogs, staff training and event modifications - demonstrating that small changes can make a big difference. It also features heartfelt insights from families who share how these initiatives have opened up new opportunities for family connection and community participation.

The newly launched website autismfriendlykillarney.com, brings together information on autism-friendly accommodation providers, restaurants, shops, healthcare services, events and activity providers across Killarney. It is designed to help autistic people and their families plan visits with confidence, knowing what supports and accommodations are available in advance.

Killarney's Autism Friendly Champions: local businesses and organisations that have completed autism awareness training with AsIAM, Ireland's leading autism charity, have made meaningful changes to better support people with autism and their families. In the video series, four of these champions - Portwest, Ponytails, Ross Castle Boat Tours and Hotel Killarney - showcase how they have adapted their businesses to be more autism-friendly such as offering sensory cubbies, neutral interior design and lighting, supplying sensory boxes, having dedicated autism friendly hours with reduced sensory experiences, offering step by step visual aids, etc.

Jessica O'Connor, Chair of Autism Friendly Killarney said, "We hope these videos along with our new website, will give confidence to people with autism and their families who live in or are visiting Killarney. We want them to know that they will be supported, understood, and welcomed here. These videos show that Killarney is really living the ethos of inclusivity and access for all. We are very grateful for the financial support provided by Kerry County Council through the Community Support Fund 2025 and to Killarney Chamber of Commerce for their continued support."

Tony Fleming from Ross Castle Boat Tours explains the changes they made to their boat trips to support people with autism. "We've made small changes that have had a big impact. Our boat is longer and wider for easier movement, and we have a neurodiverse box on board with earplugs and sunglasses. We also provide quiet and early-morning tours so guests can enjoy the lake at their own pace. Seeing the smiles at the end of the trip is what it's all about."

Two videos offer personal insights, both from the perspective of a young boy with autism and a parent of a child with autism. Luke, a student from St Oliver's National School, shares what makes him feel welcome and understood in his school and in the local town. While Deirdre Prendergast, a parent of a boy with autism, reflects on the positive impact that a town that embraces neurodiversity with kindness and empathy has on her family. She says, "It has made the world of difference to us as a family that so many events and businesses in Killarney are now autism-friendly. We are able to attend events that we would never have been able to before, such as the Christmas in Killarney parade. We were able to enjoy it together as there was a dedicated space with sensory items to keep him occupied and in case he had an overload. He loves cars and we were able to go to a special evening at the Rally of the Lakes this year where everyone understood what autism was and he was able to get into a car. Because of the autism-friendly initiatives at events, my other son can now enjoy events with all the family, not just him and one parent - we can now enjoy things together as a family and it makes our lives so much easier."

In February this year Killarney was awarded the Autism Friendly Town Award from AsIAM, just the third town in Ireland to receive this accolade. This is testament to the work of the voluntary autism-friendly group who have worked tirelessly to ensure that Killarney's festivals and public spaces are accessible and sensory-friendly and that local businesses are adapting the way they work to accommodate people with autism. This has included sensory friendly film screenings, group meet-ups for families with children with autism, sensory rooms in public buildings and awareness-raising days. Dedicated quiet and sensory areas have also been created at major community events including The St. Patrick's Day parade, the Christmas in Killarney parades, the Wander Wild Festival, the Rally of the Lakes, Killarney's Samhain Procession, BikeFest, Rewild, and the town's Sensory Friendly Walk and AbleFest Festival. These initiatives have made a profound

difference, helping families take part in the magic of Killarney's festivals, knowing there is space to rest, recharge, and feel safe. To watch the videos or to see a list of autism-friendly accommodation providers, restaurants, shops, healthcare services, and activity providers in Killarney, go to www.autismfriendlykillarney.com or Instagram



Tony Fleming from Ross Castle Boat Tours



Luke Murphy, a pupil at St. Oliver's NS



Staff at Portwest are among a number of businesses to complete autism awareness training



Pony Tails welcome children with autism

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JESSIE BUCKLEY WINS CRITICS CHOICE AWARD for Best Actor



Killarney-born actress Jessie Buckley took home the Critics Choice Award for Best Actor on Sunday night for her role in the historical drama *Hamnet*. Jessie, who portrayed Agnes Hathaway, the wife of William Shakespeare, was visibly overwhelmed as she accepted the honour at the 31st Critics Choice Awards in Santa Monica, California, hosted by comedian Chelsea Handler.

"This is intense!" Jessie said on stage, her emotion evident. Many industry observers expect Jessie to continue her winning streak this awards season, with the Critics Choice Awards often seen as a precursor to the Golden Globes, which take place this year on January 11th.

In her acceptance speech, Jessie paid tribute to director Chloé Zhao and thanked her co-stars, including Irish actor Paul Mescal and Emily Watson. "Paul, I bloody love you man. And I know loads of other women do in this room too, but tough s***. I could drink you like water working with you every single day. You're a giant of the heart and thank you so much for making me a little bit more human," she said.

Hamnet, adapted from Maggie O'Farrell's novel, explores the grief of William Shakespeare and Agnes following the death of their 11-year-old son.

Kerry Airport Gears Up For A Big 2026 With 2025 On Course To Be Record-Breaking Year

KERRY Airport is gearing up for another year of growth in 2026 with passenger numbers in 2025 on course to exceed 430,000 for the first time.

The Spring/Summer schedule will be launched in January with increased frequency on routes to sun destinations in Spain and Portugal with Ryanair.com.

The Chief Financial Officer at Kerry Airport, Basil Sheerin, said "Growth in recent years has been driven by the professionalism of our staff, by strong performances across fuel sales, retail, and car parking, and by the flourishing of our corporate aviation services where Kerry Airport is earning a truly international reputation for quality and discretion. It will not be until 2026 when we can see the full benefits of the magnificent developments at the Airport – the new Arrivals Hall and the extended Departures Area.

"The main challenges in 2026 will continue to be attracting new airlines and routes. A lack of aircraft availability still a problem for airlines and the expansion of fleets is considerably behind forecasts. Administrative expenses remain



a challenge, with increased costs in wages, local authority rates, energy, and maintenance exerting pressure on our gross profit margin. We continue to monitor these areas rigorously to ensure optimal value for money. "The new developments that will provide larger passenger facilities at Kerry Airport are welcomed and will be a strong driver in our conversations with airlines with our capacity to handle additional routes. We will be confident that the more comfortable surroundings will encourage increased passenger spend in our

Gift Shop, Catering facilities and Duty Free."

Kerry Airport today contributes more than €18 million annually to the local economy and supports over 135 direct jobs – not to mention the countless others in tourism, transport, and service industries that depend upon our success.

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SVP South West records over 3,000 calls for help in December, up sharply on last year

St Vincent de Paul (SVP) South-West has warned of a deepening winter crisis across Cork and Kerry after recording over 3,000 calls for help during December alone, a significant increase on the 2,100 calls received during the same period last year.

The charity says this represents one of the busiest Christmas periods on record, with families continuing to struggle under relentless cost-of-living pressures.

In November, SVP South-West Information Officers recorded 11,000 calls so far this year in Cork and 3,200 in Kerry, a level of need that had already exceeded previous years.

The charity has stressed that the true number of people seeking help is substantially higher, as many families and individuals directly contact local SVP volunteers seeking urgent support with food, energy costs and basic

living expenses.

SVP South-West said that many families paper over the cracks of debt in the run-up to Christmas, doing everything they can to ensure their children have gifts and a sense of normality.

However, the charity has warned that the real hardship is now emerging in January, as households face mounting bills, depleted savings and ongoing debt accumulated over the festive period.

With a cold snap forecast over the coming days, SVP South-West has warned that demand for fuel and heating assistance is expected to rise further, placing additional strain on already stretched services as families struggle to keep their homes warm.

SVP South-West has also stressed that all funds raised in Kerry go directly to individuals and families in Kerry.

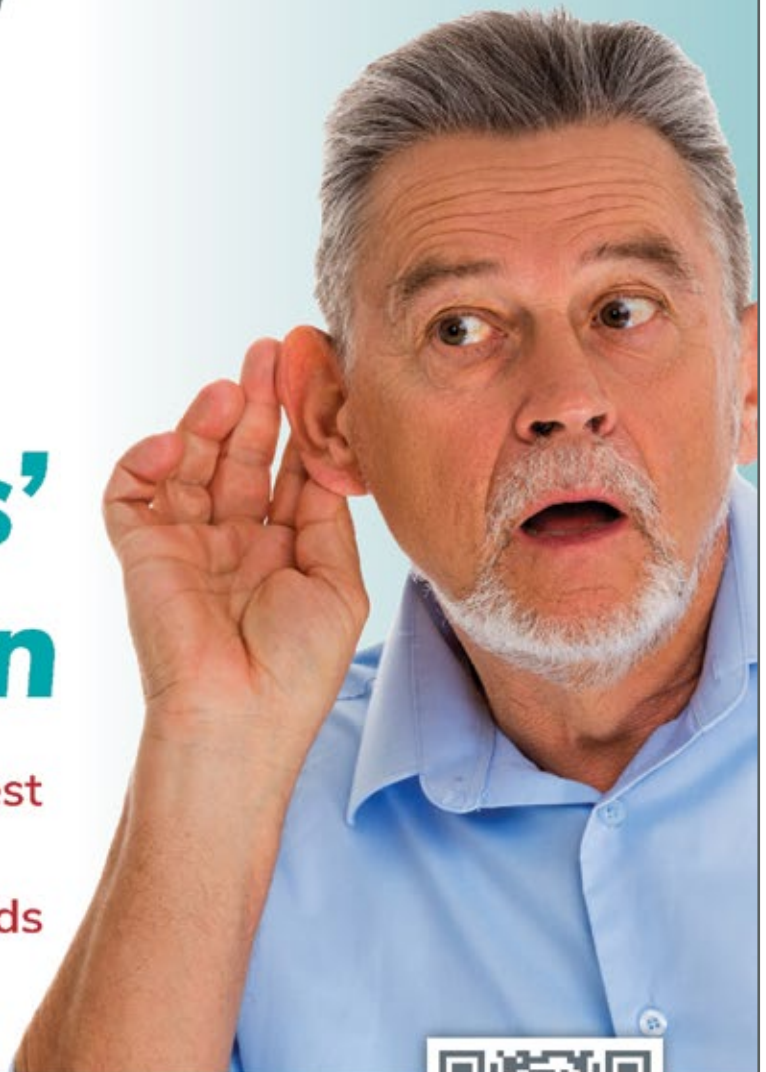


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Dr. Crokes Club members remembering the late Jamie Doolan.

Dr Crokes Lap of Light 2025 Brings Community Together

The newly named Dr Crokes' Park in Killarney was the setting for a deeply moving and uplifting community event on December 27 as the club hosted its Lap of Light 2025, one of several Christmas initiatives organised by Dr Crokes' Healthy Club committee which comprises of Colette Casey, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Risteárd Clancy, Éamonn Fitzgerald, Sinéad O'Mara and Brendan O'Connor

The event focused on celebrating and remembering the lives of deceased club members and loved ones, offering comfort, reflection and solidarity to families who have experienced bereavement. Attendance was exceptionally strong, with people of all ages present, including many families connected to the club who have suffered recent losses. Club vice-presidents Fr Tom Looney and Fr Paddy O'Donoghue set a tone of reverential celebration, balancing reflection with hope and togetherness. The atmosphere was further enhanced by a poignant musical contribution from Dr Crokes member Saoirse O'Sullivan. The 18-year-old solo singer and guitarist delivered a heartfelt rendition of This Christmas by Oh Wonder, a song that captures themes of loneliness, grief and the longing for loved ones during the festive season.

As darkness fell, participants took part in Darkness into Light laps around Dr Crokes' Park. Wearing high-visibility clothing and carrying torch lights, candles and mobile phone lights, the walkers created a striking and symbolic scene. Some were accompanied by dogs dressed in black and amber coats, proudly reflecting the club colours and adding a gentle, personal touch to the occasion.

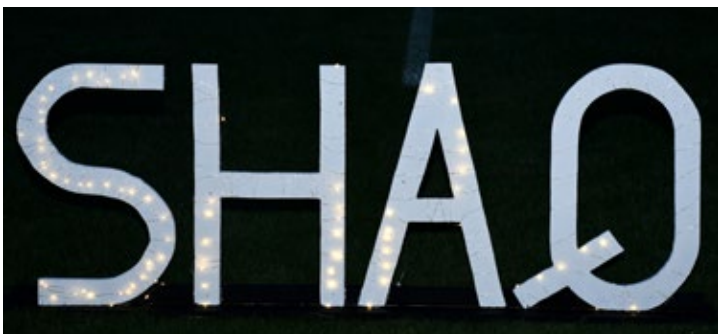
The evening concluded with a social gathering in the clubhouse, where complimentary Crokes' cuppas, coffee and conversation were provided. The hospitality was organised by events organiser Maggie McAuliffe,

assisted by her many helpers, ensuring a welcoming space for chats, craic and shared remembrance.

Music on the night was also provided by a quartet of seven-year-old Dr Crokes Scór na nÓg musicians, whose performance added a note of youthful hope and continuity, perfectly capturing the spirit of a club that honours its past while nurturing its future.



Dr Crokes member Saoirse O'Sullivan with Eamonn Fitzgerald and Fr. Tom Looney in the background.



Caoimhin 'Shaq' O'Donoghue and Amy O'Connor were remembered at the Lap of Light 2025

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<p>THIS WEEKEND</p> <p>CELINE</p> <p>MY HEART WILL GO ON</p> <p>SAT 10 JAN 2026 FROM €33.65</p>	<p>CELINE</p>	<p>ROBBED</p> <p>BY RAY O'SULLIVAN</p> <p>SAT 07 FEB 2026 FROM €17.45</p>		<p>THE BLINDBOY</p> <p>PODCAST</p> <p>SAT 28 FEB 2026 FROM €36.25</p>	
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<p>DAVID MCSAVAGE</p> <p>THE OCCASIONAL RIDE</p> <p>FRI 06 FEB 2026 FROM €30.00</p>		<p>CORNELIUS O'SULLIVAN</p> <p>PULL HARD</p> <p>FRI 13 FEB 2026 FROM €25.00</p>		<p>THE GATHERING FESTIVAL PRESENTS</p> <p>BUTTON & BOWS</p> <p>IN CONCERT</p> <p>FRI 06 MAR 2026 FROM €25.00</p>	
<p>REMEMBERING JOE</p> <p>THE JOE DOLAN SHOW</p> <p>FRI 06 FEB 2026 FROM €23.00</p>		<p>ONE NIGHT OF ADELE</p> <p>FRI 27 FEB 2026 FROM €33.65</p>		<p>THE GATHERING FESTIVAL PRESENTS</p> <p>MICHAEL MCGOLDRICK, JOHN DOYLE & JOHN MCCUSKER</p> <p>SAT 07 MAR 2026 FROM €30.00</p>	

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Anne Lucey
looks at the positive news
happening in Killarney



DEER CULL: TIME TO TACKLE OUR SACRED COW

The number of deer taken out of the Killarney National Park in 2025 is underwhelming. 116 Reds and 276 Sika. This at a time when we have daily reports of accidents, some resulting in serious injuries and cars being written off.

There is no comeback because unlike farmers if their animals stray onto the roads, the NPWS refuses to take responsibility. It also refuses to fence the deer in.

This is despite the fact the national park is the repository of the deer.

The NPWS excuse is no one owns wild animals and deer are mobile and they can't be held responsible for where they roam.

40 years ago, deer were furtive. We rarely saw a deer other than during the rut when a few reds would come down from higher ground. Now the deer - sika and reds both - won't get out of the way and they are being treated by

the authorities like the scared cow is treated by the Hindus.

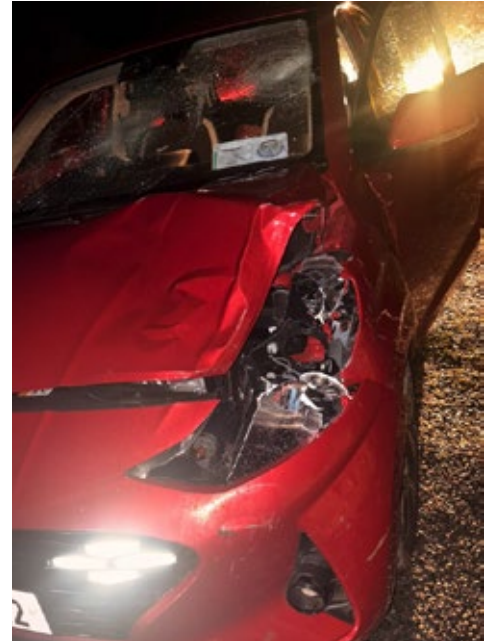
Councillor Brendan Cronin is calling again for the NPWS to take responsibility.

There is no census of deer, no one knows how many there are; they bred without restriction and the numbers were now out of control. He is again calling for "fencing, restriction and responsibility to be taken by the NPWS", Brendan said.

"Deer are a huge road traffic issue now in Kerry and are jumping out onto the bonnets of cars. They are in every direction, miles outside the National Park," Brendan said.

Yes, as the NPWS remind me, a deer management strategy, managed by Farm Relief Services, has been set up across the country. But it is very little, very late and won't be up and running properly for a while.

Meanwhile the impression increasingly is that Kerry is merely a playground for deer and day trippers with wild deer given priority over the local humans.



The damage done by a Red Stag after he jumped a ditch and landed on a car on the Milltown Road near Aghadoe.

AN EMBASSY TO CHINA

An Taoiseach Micheal Martin is starting the New Year on a visit to China, as this small country on the edge of a beleaguered Europe tries to grapple with a new world order.

With China such a dominant player, it may be worth recalling how it was another Irishman who broke the first ground breaking official visit to China from the west, 230 years ago at a time when China was just as powerful.

took place from June 1793 to January 1794.

There was an imbalance of trade at the time with Britain buying far more from China than the other way round. (Does anything really change and is most history mere repetition?)

Born in 1737 in Co. Antrim and educated in Kildare and Dublin, Macartney had risen in diplomatic circles from a colourful time at the Russian court and success in India. His official journey to China was huge and he was accompanied by painters, botanists, gardeners, architects, surgeons and mechanics.

It did not achieve its direct aims and there followed the opium war. But Macartney kept a journal and the visit was widely documented and the illustrations and ideas circulated. Indirectly, it led to a quiet revolution in architecture among other things.

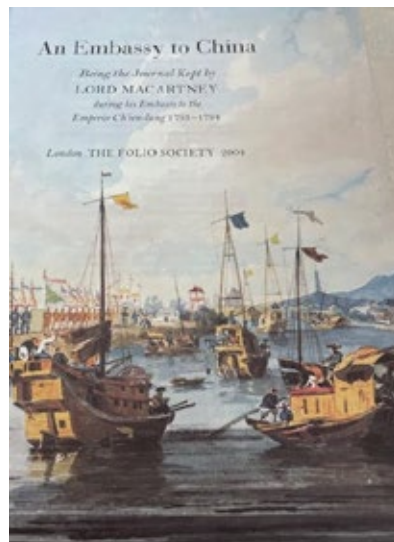
Here in Killarney, the New Entrance cottage with its elaborate Chinese like roof and eaves at the New Entrance is straight out of the paintings from my

Folio book of the Macartney visit.

Much like Micheal Martin's embassy this week, that of 1793 sought to lift trade restrictions and lessen tariffs.

But will it go anywhere near the visit in 2001 of Chinese Premier Zhu Ronghi who flew into Farranfore to huge fanfare that September?

The Chinese leader was impressed with the dairy farms in north Kerry and the beauty of the Killarney National Park. A lavish 27,000 punt banquet was hosted for him by Brian Cowen at the Hotel Europe. Chinese tourism didn't exactly rocket but the dairy industry did. We have more cows now than ever before. And China has more milk. Who knows what exchanges Micheal's visit will bring back- a flock of Yaks perhaps?



SHUTTLE THE ICE?

This Christmas in Killarney was a wonderful experience. Credit is due to all the volunteers, council workers and business owners for the huge effort. But the traffic in Killarney is beyond the joke. Crucially, there is no progress on a shuttle service which was inserted into the local area plan by Councillor Marie Moloney with support from the other councilors.

The matter came up on Tuesday at the special meeting on the local area plan of the Killarney MD where councillors rightly zoned an area off the bypass for industrial use. We were told the landowner might be willing to accommodate a shuttle bus car park.

Shuttle is the only solution. The council needs to look at a shuttle for the popular ice rink. To my astonishment, I learned Killarney On Ice pays nothing for the car spaces it takes up on Beech Road for the vital shopping weeks running up to Christmas.. People had no place to park this year and worse, the town was clogged like never before.

I know of people who shopped in Killorglin, Castleisland, Tralee and Cork towns rather than face the Killarney traffic. "Kerry County Council facilitates the rink every year to enhance the Christmas in Killarney experience and encourage people to visit the town and shop locally. After every Christmas season, all arrangements for Christmas in Killarney are discussed and reviewed," a council spokesman said, confirming there was no charge.

There is little evidence the ice rink brought shoppers. But there is plenty of evidence it reduced car park spaces already in short supply.

We are plagued in this town and we deserve a medal to continue to support it. No shuttle and no car parking and no sensible traffic management.

In July we have to forgo the whole car park at Fair Hill for Bird's and in December we give up a large skelp of the Beech Road for the Ice. The bazaar and the ice are wonderful enjoyable family friendly activities, don't get me wrong. But they don't need to be in the centre of town. The racecourse would be ideal for both.



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Gallivan Financial Celebrate Official Opening of New Main Street Office

Gallivan Financial marked a significant milestone in the company's history on Friday, 19th December, with the official opening of its new state-of-the-art office at Main Street Mall, Killarney. The occasion brought together staff, families, project partners and invited guests to celebrate both the new premises and the journey of the business to date.

Speaking at the opening, Founding Director Tadgh Gallivan paid tribute to the many people who helped bring the vision for the new office to life. He acknowledged Ger O'Connor and his team at G O'Connor Construction, Des O'Leary, who carried out the electrical works, and Fabio from Computer Next Solutions, whose support with the company's IT requirements was described as invaluable. Special praise was also given to Annamaria Gallivan, who oversaw the design process from concept to completion.

Mr Gallivan said it was particularly meaningful to celebrate the occasion alongside team members, their partners and families. He noted that the patience, hard work and dedication shown by staff throughout the year, and over many years, were central to the continued success of Gallivan Financial.

Managing Director Fergal Smith described 2025 as a landmark year for the business, highlighted by the move into the new premises. He said the modern office space reflects the company's identity, its roots, and its ambitions for the future, providing an environment that supports continued growth and high standards of client service.



The event also welcomed colleagues from sister companies Property Partners Gallivan and Its4Rent, underlining the strong connections across the wider group. Councillor Martin Grady attended as a special guest and officially opened the new office by cutting the ribbon. Councillor Grady congratulated Gallivan Financial on the development, noting that established local businesses investing in modern premises demonstrate confidence in Killarney and its future. He said the new building reflected the firm's strong reputation, professionalism and commitment to growth,

while also contributing positively through employment and opportunity within the town. Guests on the night were also treated to food and refreshments provided by the team at Sheahan's Centra, Muckross Road, who were warmly thanked for their service.

The evening concluded with a celebratory atmosphere, as those present raised a glass to the new office, reflected on the company's progress since its establishment in 1989, and looked ahead with optimism to further growth and success in 2026 and beyond.

Frosty Morning Brings Major Progress at Dromrower Wood



Despite a cold and frosty start, dedicated volunteers turned out in force on Sunday last for another productive work session in Dromrower Wood, Killarney National Park. The early morning conditions did little to dampen

spirits, and those who arrived were rewarded with a stunning sunrise on the drive into the park. Significant progress was made during the morning, with a large area leading up to the Dundag Car Park successfully cleared. As

the work continued, the sun broke through the canopy, casting a golden light across the forest floor and providing a fitting backdrop to a very satisfying day's work.

The volunteer group continues its ongoing efforts to protect and maintain the natural beauty of Dromrower Wood and the wider national park. New volunteers are always welcome to join the meitheal, whether to give something back to nature, enjoy the outdoors, or meet like-minded people. No previous experience is required, just a willingness to help, suitable footwear and an appreciation of Killarney National Park.

Volunteers meet every Sunday and Tuesday, weather permitting, from 9.00am to 12.30pm, with a tea break at 11.00am. The meeting point is Dundag Car Park in Killarney National Park. Dromrower Wood can be accessed by taking the first left after entering the main Muckross House gate, driving to the end at Dundag Car Park, then staying left through the gate and walking towards the boathouse, keeping left where the volunteers can be seen and heard working.



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A Calendar to Celebrate KILLARNEY NATIONAL PARK

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has released its annual Killarney National Park Calendar 2026, celebrating the park's biodiversity, restoration projects, woodlands, native flora and fauna, and the staff who maintain this UNESCO biosphere reserve. The calendar is available at Muckross Craft Shop for €5 and highlights the work carried out in 2025 by NPWS, Killarney National Park, Muckross House & Gardens, and local volunteers. Photography by Valerie O'Sullivan captures the park's stunning landscapes and wildlife.

Eamonn Meskill, Divisional Manager NPWS, said, "We are delighted to showcase the conservation and restoration work in Tomies Woodland. In 2025, significant progress was made clearing Rhododendron on Tomies Mountain using new mulching machinery-a real game-changer in the decades-long effort to restore native woodlands." NPWS Conservation Ranger Padraig O'Sullivan added, "Our recent clearance in Cullinagh has revealed dry stone walls, potato drills, old farmsteads, and animal shelters, remnants of a self-sufficient community. The area is steeped in history, with links to the lost village of Cullinagh, the Royal Oak, and Innisfallen Island Monastery, founded in 631." Other highlights in the calendar include the final year of the White-tailed Eagle reintroduction project, Ross Castle's new boating experience for visitors with limited mobility and neurodiverse needs, long-service awards, native woodlands, and some of the park's most-loved residents-'Winnie' the Pine Marten and 'Cyril' the squirrel-from the popular summer video series The Secret Life of Killarney National Park.



ILLARNEY NATURE AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECTS: THE GARDENS AND HERBARIUM OF THE LITTLE OF AN OLYMPIAN HERBARIUM GARDEN

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KILLARNEY NATIONAL PARK 2026
Ireland's First National Park • UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVE

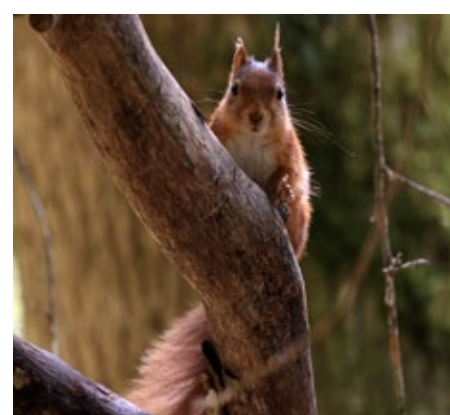


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KILLARNEY NATIONAL PARK 2026
Ireland's First National Park • UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVE

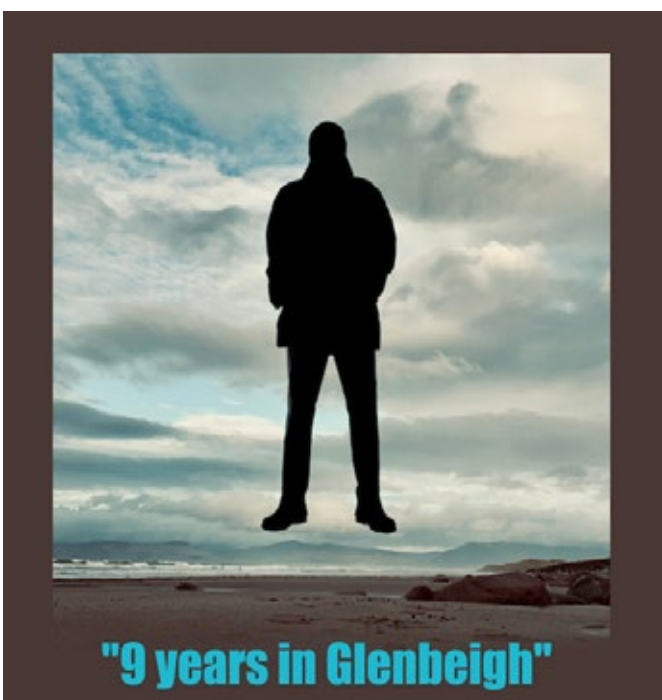


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KILLARNEY NATIONAL PARK 2026
Ireland's First National Park • UNESCO BIOSPHERE RESERVE



EXHIBITION SHOWCASES Nine Years of Artistic Exploration in Glenbeigh

An upcoming exhibition by artist Markus Ehrhard will open later this month at the exhibition space of the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport on New Road, Killarney.

Originally from Trier in Germany and now living in Glenbeigh, Ehrhard presents 9 Years in Glenbeigh, a body of work inspired by his long-term observations and findings on Rossbeigh Beach. The exhibition reflects nearly a decade of artistic engagement with the landscape, capturing the changing environment and its influence on the artist's practice.

The exhibition will officially open on Thursday, January 15, at 6pm and will run until Friday, February 20. Members of the public are invited to attend the opening and view the exhibition during its run.

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From Existing to Living: How One Decision Changed Everything

Anny McArthur Shares Her 6 Stone Weight Loss Story with Slimming World

There was a time when Anny's world had grown very small. Her health was failing, pain was constant, and her mobility was so limited that she relied on two crutches just to move around. She wasn't truly living-more merely existing-day by day, increasingly housebound, watching her morale slip away alongside her independence. Although she was losing some weight, it wasn't enough to halt the steady decline in her quality of life.

Walking into her first Slimming World group was one of the most frightening things Anny had ever done. She was terrified of being judged, of being mocked for what she felt she had "allowed" to happen to herself. Above all, she was afraid of failure-and of not being strong enough to face it.

It was her doctor who encouraged her to take that step. While pleased with the progress she had started to make on her own, her GP suggested Slimming World, telling her he had seen it change lives.

"I promised I would try. One phone call later-to Hayley-and my life quietly began to change," Anny recalls.

That first meeting is etched in her memory. She shuffled through the door, shaking, registered, and hid at the back of the room, head down, just listening. What she heard wasn't judgment-it was kindness. Encouragement. Practical advice. Support for those who were struggling. And most importantly, not a single hint of guilt or blame. She walked out of that room determined to give it everything she had.

The early weeks were challenging, but Anny was no longer alone-and that made all the difference. Group support became her anchor, especially during the weeks when her motivation wavered.

Slimming World taught Anny how to make food work for her, not against her: swapping



Before & After... Anny McArthur



high-fat snacks for fruit, choosing lower-fat and wholegrain options, staying within her daily Syn allowance, and filling her plate with Free Foods-foods low in calories that don't need weighing or measuring. For the first time, she felt in control.

What surprised her most was the emotional impact. Living with weight issues often carries a heavy burden of guilt. In the group, that guilt was replaced with understanding-and channeled into positive energy. There was no competition, no pressure to be "the best." Just a shared belief that every single member could reach their target, together.

Anny lives with a chronic condition that causes severe, debilitating pain and affects her mobility. The pain hasn't disappeared, but the way she copes with it has transformed. Even on bad days, she now has the mental resilience not to let pain define her. Her emotions are steadier, her mindset more positive, and some days she even has energy to burn. Best of all, she can now walk unaided most of the time-something that once felt impossible.

The changes ripple through her life in ways both big and small. She can walk along the

beach, wander through woodland and parks, and is edging closer to a long-held dream of riding horses again. She can play with her granddaughters-push them on swings, paddle in the sea-moments that were once completely out of reach. These "off-scale victories" are too many to count. Anny is no longer just existing. She is living. And that feeling is priceless.

Anny encourages anyone reading her story who is wondering whether to take that first step into a Slimming World group: "Don't overthink it-just do it! It may be the greatest gift you ever give yourself. You will find people who understand your struggle, who support you without judgment, and who help you rediscover your confidence. You deserve to shine-sometimes you just need a little help to find your sparkle again."

"My heartfelt thanks go to Hayley and the wonderful Saturday morning Killorglin group. Their encouragement and support have made this journey possible-and my life richer in ways I never imagined."

To find out more about how Slimming World could work for you, visit Hayley's groups in Killorglin or Killarney.

ALONE URGES OLDER PEOPLE TO SEEK SUPPORT DURING COLD SNAP AND ENCOURAGES COMMUNITIES TO CHECK IN

ALONE, the national organisation supporting thousands of older people across Ireland, is urging older people to seek any help they need as temperatures are set to fall sharply in the coming days. The organisation is also asking the public to check in on older neighbours, friends and relatives during the cold spell.

Met Éireann has issued a number of Yellow Weather Warning for the entire country this weekend as temperatures are forecast to fall to as low as -4 degrees. ALONE is closely monitoring conditions and keeping in touch with the older people they support nationwide.

Cold weather significantly increases health risks for older people. Slips and falls can have serious, sometimes fatal, consequences, and cold snaps often lead to a rise in respiratory infections in the following weeks. ALONE is urging older people to reach out for any support they may need and asking

communities to stay alert to those who may be isolated.

ALONE is recommending older people to:

- Keep the heating on in their home, especially in the rooms that they use the most.
- Eat and drink hot food and beverages to stay warm, perhaps even using the microwave if there is a concern around energy efficiency.
- Wear more than one layer of clothing to stay warm.
- Avoid making journeys that involve going outdoors particularly in counties affected by the snow-ice warning.
- If using an electric blanket, check for signs of wear and tear – if the blanket is old and damaged, do not use it under any circumstances.
- Keep in touch with friends and family to let them know if you need any practical support such as picking up fuel, medicines and groceries.



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Killarney South Kerry Wheelchair Association Enjoy Festive Christmas Gathering

The Killarney South Kerry Wheelchair Association held its annual Christmas party at the Heights Hotel, Killarney, on Saturday, 14th December 2025. Members and guests enjoyed a warm and festive occasion, beginning with Mass, followed by a lovely meal and music that continued into the evening.

The event provided a wonderful opportunity for everyone to come together in a relaxed and social setting, and the atmosphere throughout the day was one of celebration and community spirit.

The committee expressed sincere thanks to all the local businesses that generously donated gifts and vouchers for the raffle, which proved



to be a huge success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance. Appreciation was extended to Sheahan's Centra, Muckcross Road; Aghadoe Heights Hotel; The Ross Hotel; Luna Coffee Shop; Quills Killarney; Dunnes Stores; M.D. O'Shea's; Torc Travel; Urban Optics; Killarney Hardware; Lir Café; Houlihan's Coaches; The Reeks; Jimmy O'Brien's; O'Callaghan Coaches; Foley's Spar, Fossa; and the Heights Hotel, Killarney.

The committee also extended an open invitation to anyone who would like to become involved with the association, either as a volunteer or as a member, to contact any committee member for further information.



Committee members who organised the event.



Fun and games at the festive gathering.

Lucky Kerry Winner Scoops €500,000 with Prize Bonds

A lucky Prize Bonds holder in County Kerry has scooped the December monthly prize of €500,000 in the latest Prize Bond draw. The winning bond, number ADG508969, was purchased in 2016, making it a life-changing win for the local bond holder.

The weekly top prize of €50,000 was also awarded in the same draw, going to Prize Bond number BER164616, which is held in County Laois. That bond was purchased in 2023. In total, more than 8,755 prizes were awarded in this week's Prize Bond draw, with a combined value of over €1,233,475. As well as the monthly €500,000 Star Prize, which is awarded in the final weekly draw of each calendar month, weekly draws offer a top prize of €50,000. Other prizes awarded

Free Supporters buses for Kerry FC fans once again in 2026

Kerry Football Club is delighted to announce that we will once again be running free supporters' buses to our Away matches in 2026, following the success of the initiative in 2025.

Kerry fans travelled the length and breadth of the country for free during the 2025 campaign, which led to large numbers shouting on the boys in green across all four corners of the country. The support was particularly evident when the club provided five free 52-seater coaches for our Sports Direct Men's FAI Cup semi-final at Tallaght Stadium in October last.

To see a record number of Kerry supporters on the road in 2025 was a huge milestone for the club, and we

hope to see more and more availing of the free service once again in 2026.

The club are set to undergo a minimum of 18 away trips once again in 2026, bringing the Kingdom supporters from Cork to Donegal and from Wexford to Longford.

Supporters wishing to avail of the free buses will need to book a free ticket online via our website www.kerryfc.com/tickets. Sales will be advertised on our social media channels in advance of the away game, and the buses will be subject to availability.



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400 Walkers Took Part in Charity Walk & Set with Sam Maguire

The much coveted 'Sam Maguire' was hoisted high over the mountains of Kerry by Derry Healy (organiser) and John Hussey (Kerry Mountain Rescue Team) along the 17 km 'Old Kenmare Road' from Kenmare to Killarney National Park in aid of Kerry Mountain Rescue Team.

Photos: Valerie O'Sullivan

A total of 400 walkers took part in what proved to be a great day in aid of a great charity at the Charity Walk & Set with Sam Maguire for the Kerry Mountain Rescue Team.

Walking at Christmas time has long been a lovely tradition in Kerry, and on Saturday, December 27th, 2025, well-known fundraiser and musician Derry Healy, along with James Cahill and their dedicated crew, organised a hugely successful charity fun day in support of the Kerry Mountain Rescue Team. Participants trekked the 17km trail of the Old Kenmare Road, accompanied by none other than the

famous Sam Maguire Cup.

The trek was inspired by Killarney man James Cahill, who owed his life to the Kerry Mountain Rescue Team following a horrific fall on Bóthar na Gíge (the Zig Zags) while descending Carrauntoohil in July 2016. James was treated at the scene by KMRT before being airlifted to Kerry University Hospital by ICG Rescue 115. He sustained life-changing injuries that left him paralysed on his right side and subsequently spent several months undergoing treatment at the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Dún Laoghaire, supported throughout by his wife

Carmel and their families. Deeply grateful to the courageous volunteers who saved his life, James was determined to give something back. Adding plenty of "craic" to the day, walkers enjoyed a special music stop and a lively "set dance with Sam" at the newly restored Sheep Shed in Eskamucky Glen. The event concluded in Kenmare, where walkers finished up tired but smiling, having raised vital funds and awareness for an organisation that plays a crucial role in mountain safety across Kerry.



The much coveted 'Sam Maguire' was hoisted high over the mountains of Kerry along the 17 km 'Old Kenmare Road' from Kenmare to Killarney National Park in aid of Kerry Mountain Rescue Team. Over 400 walkers made the journey from both directions on the day.



'Round the Sam.. a set around the much coveted 'Sam Maguire' over the mountains of Kerry.

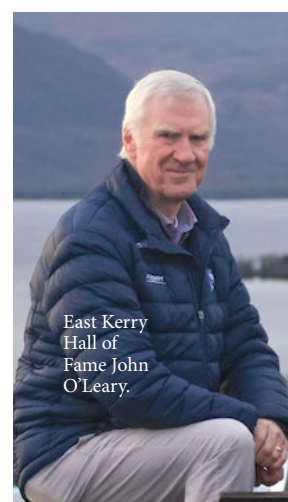
Honours for outstanding servants of East Kerry GAA

Two outstanding servants of East Kerry GAA will be recognised at the East Kerry All Stars Awards Night, which takes place on Friday, January 9th, and is sponsored by Gleneagle Killarney, Gleneagle Leisure and The Kerryman.

This year's Person of the Year award will be presented to Donie O'Leary of Dr Crokes GAA, while the prestigious Hall of Fame honour will be bestowed on John O'Leary of Spa GAA. Donie O'Leary has given decades of dedicated service to Dr Crokes, both on and off the field. In addition to his playing career, he has held a wide range of key roles within the club. He was a selector on Dr Crokes' historic All-Ireland winning team of 1992 and later served as club chairman during their County Championship

triumph in 2000. Donie has also represented his club as a delegate to the East Kerry Board for many years, contributing significantly to the administration and development of the game in the region.

John O'Leary's contribution to GAA administration has been equally significant. A former player and long-serving secretary with Spa GAA, he later took on the role of Public Relations Officer with the East Kerry Board before progressing to become Kerry GAA PRO. John's professionalism and dedication in this role were widely recognised, culminating in his being named Gaelic Writers' Association PRO of the Year in 2015. Both awards acknowledge years of commitment, leadership and service to Gaelic games in East Kerry.



East Kerry Hall of Fame John O'Leary.



East Kerry Person of the year Donie O'Leary.

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Killarney Plaza Hotel & Spa UNVEILS HALCYON

A Reimagined Sanctuary of Wellness, Now Offering Exclusive Private Memberships



Killarney Plaza Hotel & Spa has unveiled a sophisticated new chapter in its wellness offering with the launch of Halcyon, the hotel's newly refurbished and rebranded leisure facility.

Blending a state-of-the-art gym, calming wellness studio and 11-metre swimming pool with luxurious thermal quarters, Halcyon will remain complimentary for hotel residents while also introducing a limited number of private memberships, offering locals a refined and restorative way to begin the new year.

The thermal quarters have also been enhanced with the addition of a new serenity shower, complementing the existing sauna, steam room and jacuzzi. The fully upgraded gym now features cutting-edge fitness equipment to support both performance-driven training and gentle movement.

Adding to the sense of tranquillity is the newly created yoga and movement studio; a softly-lit, calming space designed for mindful practice and thoughtfully styled with premium yoga accessories from Irish brand Inish Living.

Gemma Ring, Managing Director of the O'Donoghue Ring Collection, said: "Halcyon represents a thoughtful evolution of the

Killarney Plaza Hotel & Spa's leisure facilities, combining state-of-the-art fitness with deeply restorative thermal and mindfulness spaces. While our hotel guests have always enjoyed complimentary access to our leisure facilities, we are delighted to now offer local residents the opportunity to be part of this new chapter, enjoying carefully considered benefits that enhance daily routines while offering moments of escape."

Halcyon private membership is available now to a limited number of members.

Exclusive perks include:

15% off spa treatments, Monday–Thursday, at The Spa at Killarney Plaza Hotel

10% off spa retail products

10% off food and beverage in Café du Parc and The Tan Yard

One complimentary Serail Mud Chamber experience per year

One complimentary personal training session

For further information on Halcyon private memberships, visit: www.killarneyplaza.com/halcyon-private-membership or email: halcyon@killarneyplaza.com

Lissivigeen Student Celebrated in Kerry County Council Road Safety Competition

Ella Moynihan, a pupil in 6th class at Lissivigeen National School, has been recognised as one of the winners of the Kerry County Council Road Safety Art Competition.

Ella's winning artwork has been selected for inclusion in Kerry County Council's 2026 Road Safety Calendar, a significant achievement that highlights her creativity and understanding of road safety awareness.

She was recently presented with a trophy at a special ceremony held in the Council Chambers at the Kerry County Council building. The award was presented by Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council, Jim Finucane, along with Community Garda Trish Fitzpatrick, who both congratulated Ella on her success.

The competition aims to promote road safety messages among young people across the county, and Ella's artwork stood out among many entries from schools throughout Kerry.



Ella Moynihan pictured at County Buildings.



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Killarney Soroptimists Support ADAPT Kerry

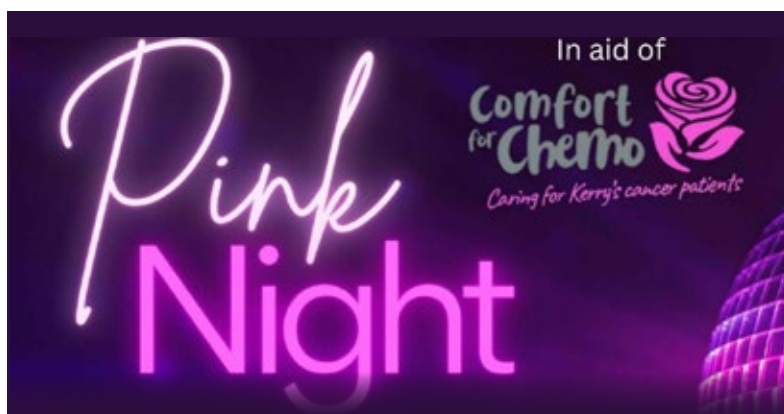
Killarney Soroptimist Club once again showed its commitment to supporting women and families in need by preparing and donating Christmas hampers to ADAPT Kerry in the lead-up to the festive season. Club members, together with family and friends, carefully assembled the hampers before travelling to Tralee to present them to the ADAPT Kerry team.

Speaking at the presentation, Club President Teresa Irwin said she was delighted that the club was able to continue the initiative this year. She thanked all those who contributed to the appeal and noted that the aim was to bring some light and hope to the residents of the refuge during the Christmas period. She expressed the club's hope that the hampers would be enjoyed by the mothers and children who receive them.

Catherine Casey, General Manager of ADAPT Kerry, warmly welcomed the donation and praised the ongoing support shown by Killarney Soroptimist Club. She described the generosity of the club as heartening and highlighted the strong relationship that has developed between the two organisations over a number of years. Ms Casey added that the club's work has helped to raise awareness of ADAPT Kerry's services and has contributed to more women reaching out for support, whether by phone, through the outreach service or by accessing refuge accommodation.



Members of the Killarney Soroptimist Club donating hampers to ADAPT Kerry over Christmas.



Pink Night Rescheduled at Kilcummin GAA Club

The Ladies' Committee of Kilcummin GAA Club has announced the rescheduling of its annual Pink Night, which will now take place on Saturday, January 10th, in The Klub Bar. Now in its twelfth year, and supporting Comfort for Chemo for the fifth year running, this popular event promises another enjoyable evening of fun and fundraising.

Guests will be welcomed with a prosecco reception and chocolate-dipped strawberries, creating a relaxed and festive post-Christmas atmosphere. While attendees are encouraged to wear pink, dressing up is entirely optional, with the emphasis firmly on community spirit, enjoyment and supporting a very worthy cause.

Prizes will be awarded on the night for Best Dressed Female and Best Dressed Male. Festivities will begin at 8.00pm, with live music from Derry and Rosie Healy from 8.00pm to 10.00pm, followed by Barry McGrath providing entertainment late into the night.

A raffle will also be held, along with a selection of attractive door prizes, generously donated by local sponsors. The committee expressed its sincere appreciation to all sponsors and supporters for their continued and valued support.



**Rambling House at the Heritage Centre,
Scartaglen, Monday, 12th January 2026.
Refreshments served, all are welcome.**

FROM ELVIS TO KNEECAP

By Nicky Barry

In the beginning there was Elvis, who brought us rock' roll,
And then along came Dylan, a teenage troubadour,
Who sang songs of freedom, of the powerful and the poor,
And inspired a generation, to do a whole lot more.
The Beatles burst upon the scene, with 'Love, Love me Do'
And then along came the Rolling Stones, The Kinks and The Who.
They introduced rhythm and blues, to a whole new generation,
Which came from America, with cool funky gyrations.
This funky stuff just left me cold, and full aof music dread,
For I much preferred Neil Diamond, with 'I am I Said.'
Then came heavy metal, with Bon Jovi and Iron Maiden,
AC/DC, Metallica, Def Leppard and Van Halen.
U2 is a Dub quartet, who took the world by storm,
And Bono as their front man, became a rock icon.
Belfast gave us Van the Man, who started off with Them,
And then came the Troubles, and the city bled.
But from all the bloodshed, came the cool Ra-Rap,
Performed by three GaelGoers, who call themselves Kneecap.
They are out and out republicans, wearing balaclavas,
Who rap for freedom everywhere, especially in Gaza!

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Kerry-Based Travel Counsellor Part of Award-Winning National Team

Nicola Browne, who runs her independent Travel Counsellors business in Kerry, is part of the Travel Counsellors Ireland team that has won Best Long-Haul Agency for the second year in a row at the 2025 ITTN Irish Travel Trade Awards.

The prestigious awards, hosted annually by Irish Travel Trade News (ITTN), celebrate excellence, innovation, and customer care across Ireland's travel industry. Headquartered in Mahon, Cork, Travel Counsellors Ireland has more than 80 independent business owners nationwide and is part of a global community of over 2,500 Travel Counsellors across six countries. The company is widely recognised for delivering highly personalised service, expert travel advice, and trusted leisure and corporate travel management.

Nicola, who has been running her independent travel business in Kerry since 2019, said:

"I am so proud to be part of a team that has been recognised on a national stage. Winning Best Long-Haul Agency reflects the care, personal service, and attention to detail we give every client. Being able to run my own business here in Kerry, while having the support of such a strong community, is incredibly rewarding. It

is wonderful to see Travel Counsellors Ireland acknowledged for the work we do every day."

Cathy Burke, Managing Director of Travel Counsellors Ireland, added:

"We are incredibly proud to be recognised among Ireland's best at this year's ITTN Awards. This achievement is a tribute to our amazing community of Travel Counsellors across the country who consistently go above and beyond for their clients. Because these categories are voted on by customers, winning Best Long-Haul Agency for the second year reflects the passion, care, and professionalism shown every day, as well as the trust customers continue to place in us.

"This recognition also speaks to the culture we've built. For anyone passionate about travel, being a Travel Counsellor is truly the best job. The relationships our Travel Counsellors build with their clients, and the loyalty they have earned over the years, are at the heart of our success."

The 2025 ITTN Irish Travel Trade Awards took place at the Clayton Hotel, Burlington Road, Dublin, on Friday, 28 November.



HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL HARE'S CORNER BIODIVERSITY PROJECT OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE IN KERRY FOR FIRST TIME

Applications are open for The Hare's Corner, an innovative biodiversity initiative developed by the nonprofit organisation Burrenbeo Trust, which is coming to Kerry for the first time this year.

Kerry landowners are invited to apply for support in the creation of wildlife ponds, mini-woodlands, hedgerows, mini-orchards, and plans for nature on their land through the initiative, which takes its name from the old farming expression for an awkward section of a field which wasn't intensively farmed and was therefore left to nature.

Kerry is one of ten counties involved in The Hare's Corner project this year, with the others being Limerick, Offaly, Carlow, Monaghan, Sligo, Donegal, Louth, Wexford, and Kilkenny. Applications close on Sunday, January 18th and anyone interested can apply via www.thehairescorner.com.

The website also offers practical tips, infographics and short videos aimed at helping people to create their own Hare's Corners.

The Hare's Corner in 2026 is being funded through a combination of public and private sector funding, including the National Parks and Wildlife Service's Local Biodiversity Action Fund, and is an action of the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023 – 2030. Private funders include SSE Generation Green Community Fund, NTR PLC, Greencoat Renewables PLC, ESB and Intact Insurance. The project is also

grateful for the partnership with Heritage Council's Biodiversity Officer Programme, which is enabling biodiversity officers in each of the 10 counties to provide ground support for the initiative.

Last year, The Hare's Corner marked its fifth anniversary by creating 1,600 habitats for biodiversity in six counties around Ireland.

The 'menu' of supports available from The Hare's Corner includes – a mini-woodland (a mix of 50 native trees and advice), a wildlife hedge (a mix of 50 native trees and advice), a heritage orchard (5 heritage apple trees and advice), a wildlife pond (hydrologist advice and some expenses towards machinery costs), and a 'Plan for Nature' (a visit and advice from a Hare's Corner advisor on how to enhance nature on your site). For more info on the

supports and eligibility criteria please visit <https://thehairescorner.ie/supports/>.

The initiative is coordinated by Burrenbeo Trust, a national non-profit organisation that supports people to take positive action for their local landscapes. Its flagship programmes – 'Farming for Nature', 'Heritage Keepers' and 'The Hare's Corner' – initiated in and inspired by the Burren are spreading across the country due to their proven efficacy and demand.

Ultimately, the project plans to go nationwide and welcomes interest from private and public funders to help achieve this. It is also interested in hearing from ecologists and hydrologists who have hands-on experience of working with people and nature and who would like to join The Hare's Corner team as freelance advisors in their own counties.

Paul Wojcik and Emma Stewart Liberty, Ballyvaughan, Co Clare, pictured at their Hare's Corner pond





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Revised price ceilings to open the First Home Scheme to more buyers in Kerry

A €25,000 increase has been applied to the price ceiling for houses and apartments in Kerry.

The higher ceilings will bring more homes within the eligible price range for purchase with scheme support.

Changes to the First Home Scheme will enable a greater number of first-time buyers in Kerry to access support in purchasing a home.

From 1 January, following the latest scheduled twice-yearly review, price ceilings in 17 local authority areas, including Kerry County Council have increased by €25,000. This adjustment raises the eligible value of houses (including self-builds) and apartments in Kerry to €400,000 broadening access to the scheme and ensuring that more prospective homeowners can benefit from its supports.

The revised ceilings will allow many prospective buyers who were previously excluded because their preferred home exceeded the local price limit to now qualify for support under the scheme. The changes may also encourage the supply of additional new homes in areas with low stock of new homes.

The €740 million scheme provides financial support to borrowers and facilitates them in purchasing a new home (or building their



FIRST HOME SCHEME

Supporting Home Ownership

own home) that they could not otherwise do after combining their available mortgage and deposit.

By bridging the gap between the available mortgage, deposit and the price of the new home, the Scheme will make the prospect of home ownership possible for many for the first time.

Since the launch of the scheme up to Q3 2025, 8,399 buyers in all 26 counties have been approved by the scheme. The First Home Scheme has provided over €273m in support to people who have bought or self-built their homes.

More information at www.firsthomescheme.ie

Feel the Beat with All Shook Up



Meet the Cast:

Conor O'Leary- Sheriff Earl

Killarney Musical Society presents 'All Shook Up' for their 40th anniversary on the 10th, 11th and 12th of February in the Gleneagle Arena. Each week we will be introducing you to our lead cast members.

Conor O'Leary plays the role of Sheriff Earl. Earl is described as "the law" and is consistently enforcing the town's strict, conservative laws alongside Mayor Matilda Hyde (played by Orna Cleary O'Shea). He is known as a "man of not many words," often communicating through body language, looks, and shrugs, making him a brilliant comedic role.

This production marks Conor's 30th show with the society, a long-standing family tradition for him. His brother Derek O'Leary is also in the show alongside him again this year. He is delighted to be taking on the role of Earl. He's thoroughly enjoying bringing the well-meaning sheriff to life and sharing the stage with such a talented and hard-working cast and crew. He hopes you enjoy the show as much as he has enjoyed being a part of it.

Tickets are available for 'All Shook Up' on Ticketmaster or the Gleneagle Box Office.

Photo by Lisa Campbell.



This year, Killarney Musical Society is bringing the energy of Elvis Presley to the stage with All Shook Up, a lively jukebox musical that first premiered in 2004. Rather than tracing Elvis's life story, the show tells an original, fun-filled tale inspired by his music - full of romance, mistaken identities, and plenty of rock 'n' roll spirit. Featuring timeless hits like "Jailhouse Rock," "Hound Dog," and "Can't Help Falling in Love," the musical combines classic songs with a storyline loosely inspired by Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. It's a feel-good show for all ages and a favourite for community theatre groups, offering plenty of excitement, laughs, and heart. Get ready to tap your feet, sing along, and see our cast bring this energetic show to life!

Killarney Musical Society would like to thank everyone for their amazing support - patronage and sponsorship are vital in bringing every show to life! Your generosity truly makes a difference. Patronage for the upcoming year is due in early January. If you'd like to join KMS's community of supporters or have any questions, please email musicalsocietykillarney@gmail.com. We'd love to have you on board! 'All Shook Up' will run on 10th, 11th & 12th February 2026, don't forget to get your tickets at the Gleneagle box office or Ticketmaster.com

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Eight Groups and Individuals Honoured as

FEXCO KERRY HEROES OF 2025

Radio Kerry is delighted to announce that eight outstanding groups and individuals have been recognised as the Fexco Kerry Heroes of 2025, celebrating exceptional community spirit, leadership, courage and service across the county. The winners were announced on Kerry Today, where Jerry O'Sullivan spoke with each of the award recipients during a special programme honouring their contributions to Kerry life over the past year.

As with every year, the standard of nominations was exceptionally high. Every nomination received was deserving of recognition in its own right, making the task of selecting just eight award recipients a difficult one for the judging panel.

The Fexco Kerry Heroes of 2025 are:

- Kerry Senior Football Team and Management
- Forbairt na Dromada Teo
- Jerh O'Donoghue, Founder of the Social Action Group, Rathmore
- Sean O'Sullivan
- Dingle Coast Guard
- Marian Barnes, Recovery Haven
- Pádraig Kissane
- Anthony O'Carroll

In 2025, each award recipient will be presented with a personalised Kerry Heroes wall plaque, specially commissioned for this year's awards and proudly supported by Fexco.

Radio Kerry and Fexco thank everyone who took the time to submit nominations and share the inspiring stories that continue to define Kerry at its best.



Marian Barnes, Dermot Crowley Recovery Haven



Helen and Jerh O'Donoghue from Rathmore Social Action



James Costello - Kerry Senior Team Selector

FREEZING IRELAND: How To Prevent Burst Pipes

January is a time for getting your house in order, and the last thing anyone wants is an expensive pipe repair as a result of freezing temperatures. With Met Éireann issuing a warning about Storm Goretti, plumbing expert Sean Richardson of Complete Plumbing Solutions has compiled his top tips on how to prevent pipes from freezing and worse, bursting.

1. Keep Water Running

The tiniest trickle can sometimes be enough to stop a devastating freeze.

"Met Éireann are pretty good at forecasting when there'll be a particularly harsh storm or drop in temperatures, so turn your taps on and allow just a trickle to come through the pipes. We're not saying do this with all of the taps in the house, but just the ones that are supplied by exposed pipes. The constant movement of the water through the pipes will help prevent freezing and relieve any

potential pressure build up that could burst a pipe."

2. Insulate Your Pipes When Possible

Pipe insulation is cheap, widely available and can potentially save you hundreds.

"A metre length of pipe insulation can be as cheap as two euro so it really is a no brainer, you could have all of your pipes insulated for less than one hundred euro. We would always advise that you focus on the most vulnerable sections of your plumbing; the exterior pipes and the pipes located in the unheated areas of your home, like the attic. If there's cold weather on the way and you haven't had the time to insulate your pipes properly, you can DIY it too. Around fifty-sixty years ago, people used to wrap the pipes in old, bunched up newspapers and just secured it with some tape. It may sound funny, but it definitely does the job in a pinch."

3. Keep The Heat On

Energy prices are still quite high, so, understandably, this may not seem like the most appealing option. However, a small bump in your heating costs will still cost far less than the repair of a burst pipe. "When temperatures dip, we tend to blast the heat during the day and turn things down at night; this isn't helping your internal plumbing. Try and keep your heating at a more consistent temperature over the twenty-four-hour period as this will keep the pipes from freezing. Ideally, you should always be around twelve degrees Celsius at least."

4. Keep Your Cabinets and Doors Open

"Keeping cabinets and doors open is a simple but effective measure to keep warm air circulating around your pipes. In most homes, the kitchen or bathroom plumbing is tucked away behind a cabinet door of some sort. During a cold

snap, you should open these doors to allow the warm air from inside the house to get around the pipes, keeping them free from blockages."

5. Plug the Gaps

There are dozens of unhelpful cracks and openings throughout every home, and a cold snap is the perfect time to sort them out.

"Around this time of year, you should be checking around your doors and windows for any holes and large gaps that are letting all of the warm air in your home escape and letting cold air in. Windowsills are a common leakage point, so if you have any cabling running externally to internally, examine where it enters the home for gaps. By sealing these gaps, you're helping your overall home insulation which in turn benefits the plumbing."



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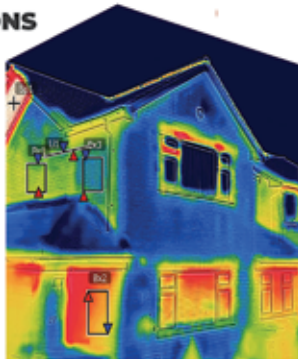
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Killarney Celtic FC joins FAI National League

Kerry champions Killarney Celtic FC have signed up to play League of Ireland football.

The club, founded in 1976, will be part of the new National League being established by the Football Association of Ireland.

"We are pleased to announce that our application has been successful. As a founding member of the National League, we look forward to working collaboratively with the FAI and all other clubs in what is a significant step for football pathways and player development," said club chairman Philip O'Callaghan.

"The achievement reflects the continued growth of Killarney Celtic FC, the dedication of our volunteers, coaches, players and the ongoing support of our community," he added.

Celtic have been the dominant force in Kerry soccer, winning the last seven-in-a-row premier league titles and six cup wins on the trot.

The club said participation in the FAI National League represents an important milestone as it will provide enhanced opportunities for player progression, high-performance development and a clear pathway for young players to compete at the highest levels of the game in Ireland.

"Killarney Celtic is committed to upholding the values and standards of the FAI National League and to contribute positively to the future development of Irish football," Mr O'Callaghan said.

Further updates regarding squad preparations, fixtures and club initiatives will be revealed in due course.



The FAI is recruiting 15 teams – to compete in two divisions split into north and south – for the new league that will act as a direct connection between grassroots and professional football for the first time in Ireland. The confirmation of the 15 clubs follows an extensive process which saw an initial 67 clubs/entities from around the country expressing an initial interest in joining the new league.

Following a thorough assessment of the criteria, designed to ensure long-term sustainability and competitiveness, 15 have been formally

admitted and will become the league's founding members.

The composition of the league represents every province in Ireland, reinforcing the FAI's commitment to fostering talent and ambition across the entire football community.

The 15 confirmed clubs are:

- Killarney Celtic (Kerry)
- Bonagee United (Donegal)
- CK United (Carlow/Kilkenny)
- Cockhill Celtic (Donegal)
- Home Farm (Dublin)
- Letterkenny Rovers (Donegal)
- Lucan United (Dublin)
- Mayo Football Club (Mayo)
- Mervue United (Galway)
- Newbridge Town (Kildare)
- Salthill Devon (Galway)
- St Francis (Dublin)
- TU Dublin (Dublin)
- UCC Soccer (Cork)
- Villa FC (Waterford)

FAI Head of Competitions Fran Gavin said: "We're delighted to be able to announce the clubs who will be the founding members of the new FAI National League and we congratulate them on coming through a rigorous selection process."

"The clubs have put in a lot of hard work and we're really excited to get started in Autumn 2026 with a shortened, truncated season before the full launch in February 2027."

BUILDING AND OR BUYING BUILDINGS TO MEET DEMAND FOR CRECHE'S

Dear Editor,

The recent announcement by government to meet existing and expected growth of crèche facilities, by building or purchasing buildings to meet present and possibly future demands for such facilities will be overly costly and will take decades to attain. There is a faster and less costly way, to the country and the users, in which to deliver a universal crèche system in Ireland.

There was, over the past thirty or forty years, countless buildings erected in every parish in the country, with multiple buildings in many parishes. These buildings, by in large, are not in use five days a week from early morning until 6.00 P.M and are vested in sporting clubs and communities throughout the country and are rent and rates free which is very significant in keeping the cost to the user to a minimum.

One would have thought it far more practical to begin a series of pilot schemes in chosen areas, to offer these clubs, full conversion grants to operate crèche's in their clubs and or community buildings and cover the cost of providing fully qualified personnel to operate them.

The clubs and community groups would have the benefit of having members from the cradle to the grave and the cost to the users and the taxpayers would be greatly reduced and come to fruition in half the time.

Sean O'Grady,
Killarney



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College aspirants can be very optimistic about the 2026 CAO application season

PROMISING

As a new year dawns, college applicants must focus on the CAO form as the deadline looms large. Indeed, 2026 is looking very promising for CAO applicants. With more places becoming available, particularly in competitive courses, and with a gradual return to standard Leaving Cert exam marking, the pressure on applicants is beginning to ease. The positive impact being made by the new Universities, including MTU Kerry, will ensure that a generous supply of places in all disciplines will be available to 2026 college applicants.

PROSPECTS

Last year, CAO received 89,308 applications for a third level college course, up from 83,169 in 2024. Applicants to CAO in 2026 will probably exceed a record 90,000. The prospect of securing one of the precious places is very good as many initial applicants opt instead for PLC courses, Tertiary Degrees, Apprenticeships, Traineeships or study abroad. Applicants have until 5pm on 1st February to submit a completed application form. So, use the remaining weeks wisely. Carefully consider your course choices. Follow your heart but keep an eye on the jobs market.

STATISTICS

In total, 54,032 applicants accepted a CAO college place in 2025. That figure will increase in 2026. 47,634 applicants accepted an offer at Level 8 (Honours Bachelor Degrees) where demand is always strong. 6,398 applicants accepted an offer at Level 7/6 (Ordinary Bachelor Degrees/Higher Certificates) where interest continues to decline. CAO always issues more offers than there are places available in anticipation of a level of refusal by applicants. Offers are issued independently in respect of the two lists (Level 8 and Level 7/6), so it's well worth filling in both lists. Indeed, with good research and due care with the application, it's not very difficult to secure a higher education course.

POINTS

Grades' inflation considerably increased CAO points' requirements during the Covid years, but a reduction in the post marking adjustment of Leaving Cert exam raw scores last year helped to stabilize the points. A further decrease in the post marking adjustment in the 2026 Leaving Cert exam should reduce CAO points' requirements. Consult the 2025 cut off points as a guide to likely points requirements in 2026, but keep in mind that points' requirements for courses can fluctuate from year to year, so predicting cut off points is an inaccurate science. Each Leaving Cert candidate should aim to achieve her/his best possible result in that exam. Points' requirements for courses will take care of themselves in due course.

CAO ROLE

The CAO processes applications for admission

to undergraduate courses in third level colleges in Ireland. Every public sector university, college and institute in the country, as well as a number of private colleges, participates in the CAO system. An applicant may choose from the entire range of courses in the CAO Handbook 2026. The courses are categorised as 'Level 8' or 'Level 7/6'.

The 'Level 8' category contains the Honours Bachelor Degrees while the 'Level 7/6' category contains Ordinary Bachelor Degrees/Higher Certificates.

SINGLE APPLICATION

All you have to do is submit a single application to compete for one of the available third-level places. The interactive online application system, 'Apply' has made the process very straightforward. 'Apply' is easy to follow, particularly as the CAO provides an 'Interactive Demo Facility' to enable you make a trial application. The CAO Handbook 2026 also contains detailed easy-to-follow information on how to apply for the courses on offer. The interactive online application service will remain open on the CAO website, www.cao.ie, until 5pm on 1st February. The fee is €35, if you apply by 20th January and €50 thereafter until the 1st February.

STUDY THE 2026 HANDBOOK

Before you apply, study the online CAO Handbook 2026 which explains how to apply for a third level college place. The colleges in the CAO system are listed in alphabetical order by location. The courses in each college are listed directly under the college title, with 'Level 8' courses being listed separately from 'Level 7/6' courses. Select your personal preferences from the entire range of courses in the Handbook. Each course is assigned a code, which you enter on the application. You may apply for up to ten courses in each of the two categories, listed in order of your preference.

STRENGTHS

Consult the CAO Handbook 2026 for information about general academic requirements, specific course requirements and content of courses. Similar information can also be found on colleges' websites. Consider the potential career value of each course for which you are applying. Play to your strengths as you do your course research during the next few weeks. Jot down your personal career profile, including such variables as ability,

2026 CAO Common Points Scale

Percentage	Higher	Points	Ordinary	Points
90 - 100	H1	100	O1	56
80 < 90	H2	88	O2	46
70 < 80	H3	77	O3	37
60 < 70	H4	66	O4	28
50 < 60	H5	56	O5	20

achievement, application, aptitude, ambition, values, interests and personality (5AVIP). Select courses that suit you in order to have a fulfilling, enjoyable and successful college experience. Good luck with your 2026 CAO application.

- 25 bonus points are awarded for Higher Level Maths for H6 or above if Maths is one of the six subjects being counted for points calculation
- Foundation Level Maths: F1 and F2 are valued at 20 and 12 points, respectively
- LCVP: Distinction, Merit, Pass are valued at 66, 46 and 28 points, respectively

CHECKLIST

- Familiarise yourself with the H and O grades and the respective points' values
- Be aware of the minimum and specific course entry requirements
- The CAO processes applications for admission to third level undergraduate courses
- The fee for the online application is €35, if you apply by 5pm on the 20th January
- Thereafter the fee is €50 until the standard closing date of 1st February at 5pm
- Before you tackle the CAO application, study the online CAO Handbook 2026
- Select your personal preferences from the entire range of courses in the Handbook
- You may apply for up to ten courses in each of the two categories
- Don't apply for a course without consulting the college web site
- Play to your strengths as you consider your course choices
- Jot down your personal career profile, based on the "5AVIP" method
- Good quality research will result in you securing a suitable course

Billy Ryle is a Career Guidance Counsellor and Educational Commentator
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Thrilling End of Season Finals Squash Finals

The end of season finals at Gleneagle Squash Club took place on Thursday 18th December in Gleneagle Leisure, kindly sponsored by Kerry Airport.

The night started off with two great Ladies' finals showing the growth of the club, with Mary O'Callaghan and Éabha Lynch standing toe to toe for first final. Éabha, a junior who has progressed so well to be competing at senior level, took an early two-nil lead. Mary was not backing down lightly and after a few words with her coaches changed her tactics and brought it level to two games a piece. Éabha held her nerve and saw out a close run fifth game and took the prize.

Next up was a great battle between two ladies who have had a few great matches in the past - Paula McElligott and Joanne McCarthy. Paula was dominant for the first game, but with Joanne's experience, she changed up her game

and levelled it at one a piece. Paula then put on the afterburners and took the next two but didn't have it easy.

Men's Div 4 found Alan Moriarty taking on Rob O'Sullivan - two players back from a sabbatical and already finding themselves in a final. Alan took off with a two nil lead with great power and great T-work. Rob was struggling but came back in game three and had a great chance to make it two one but Alan stole the third to win the match.

Then it was time for the juniors to show the seniors how much they have progressed. Div 3 saw Junior Noah Counihan take on John O'Sullivan. Noah, who has been making waves with promotion up each level all season, was definitely going to challenge John. All games were a tight affair but Noah's ever gathering momentum saw a 3-0 victory.

Div 2 saw another Junior on a rampage in

pursuit of our A players. Ignacy Truchan faced Junior Coach and Mentor Keith Cronin in a cracking game from the off. Ignacy had a presence on the court like a professional and took off to a flying two-nil lead. Keith Cronin who never says never covered every inch of the court and brought it back to level. It was anybody's game now but once again on the night, it was another Junior who won out - final score 3-2 to Ignacy.

Down to Finale and another battle between the top two players in the club - Paul O'Brien, current Holder of the cup, took on Donnagh Crowley. Donnagh wanted the cup back and showed his intent early on, going into a 2-1 lead. The gallery murmured that it looked like the cup would be going back to Shrone but Paul ever the pro, took the next two to retain the cup in a brilliant end to the night.

The squash club thanked Kerry Airport wholeheartedly for their continued support as well as the Gleneagle Leisure team: Eoin, Lisa, Dieter, Lisa and all the staff for their help in organising these nights. And finally to wish all our members and volunteers a Happy Christmas and hope to see ye all back in the New Year.



At the presentation of prizes of the Christmas competition at Gleneagle Squash Club, Killarney sponsored by Kerry Airport were front from left, Connie Doyle, Darragh Flanagan, Noah Counihan, Ignacy Truchan and Alan Moriarty. Middle row from left are Keith Cronin, Maree Malone, Eabha Lynch, Hannah McCarthy, Eoin Horan (Gleneagle Aquila Club), Paul O'Brien (overall winner) Evelyn Crowley (Kerry Airport Customer Service Manager), Bernice Enright and Paula McElligott. Back from left are Wayne McDonald, Ray O'Callaghan, Mike Crowley, Jack Buckley, Robert O'Sullivan, Noreen Buckley, Maciej Truchan, Noreen Tobin, Joanne McCarthy, Monika Brogowska, Tim and Adriana O'Leary, Brendan Counihan, Donnagh Crowley, Mary O'Callaghan, Domagoj Rac, Tony Mackey, Mike O'Donoghue and Arthur Murphy.

Picture: Eamonn Keogh



Eoin Horan, Gleneagle Aquila Club, presents the Gleneagle Cup to overall winner Paul O'Brien at the Gleneagle Squash Club Killarney Christmas competition. On right is Evelyn Crowley (Kerry Airport Customer Service Manager), sponsor of the Gleneagle Squash Club monthly competition.

Picture: Eamonn Keogh

HSE South West advise public to be aware of Injury Units and Hospital alternatives owing to unprecedented demand

HSE South West have this week advised the public to be aware of the full range of services available to those seeking urgent healthcare away from acute hospitals.

Arising from seasonal illness and the adverse weather in recent days, Cork University Hospital (CUH) and other hospitals in the region have experienced significant and at times unprecedented levels of demand for health care services. The HSE South West are advising that many of the treatments required by patients presenting at Emergency Departments can be provided in alternative settings such as injury units located across the region.

Injury Units often have shorter waiting times and provide consultant-led assessment and

treatment, including X-rays, fracture treatment, burns treatment, and wound care.

Priscilla Lynch, HSE manager for Cork South and West said: "Many urgent injuries can be treated at our Injury Units, which often provide the fastest access to specialised care. Our Emergency Department at CUH remains very busy due to high demand and seasonal illnesses and weather related injury, so patients with less urgent problems may experience longer waits as we prioritise those most seriously ill. We're asking people to choose the most appropriate service for their needs-using Injury Units and community services where suitable-to support our hospital teams and keep emergency care available for those who need it most.

A wide range of services is available for those who need them, so consider which options are best for you:

- Self-care – Have a well-stocked medicine cabinet to help with colds and sore throats
- Pharmacy – Ask your pharmacist for advice on common minor illnesses
- GP Surgery – Make an appointment with your GP if you're feeling unwell
- Local Injury Unit at Mallow – For minor injuries, broken bones and burns. See www.hse.ie/injuryunits for more information
- Out-of-Hours GP – if your GP clinic is closed, call SouthDoc on 0818 355 999
- ED or 999/112 – For emergencies, please visit your nearest ED

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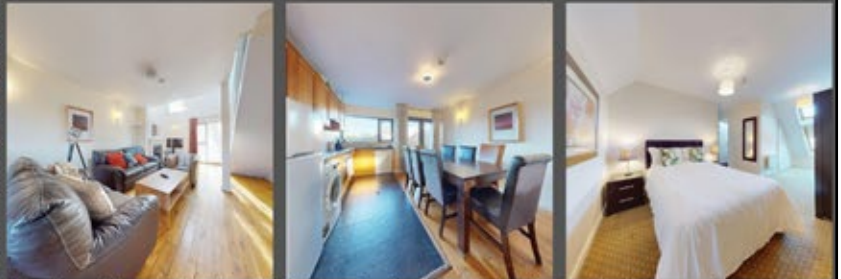
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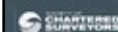
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RATHMORE | GNEEVEGUILLA PARISH

By Michael O' Mahony

GNEEVEGUILLA COMMUNITY FACILITY GROUP – 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 at 8.30pm and can be viewed live on the Gneeveguilla Community Facility Group Facebook Page. This week's jackpot was won by Nellie Collins (€202). Tickets cost €2 each or 3 for €5. They are available at Teach Fáilte, online at <https://tinyurl.com/y2ade5om>, or in local businesses displaying the Green Share the Bucket. All funds go towards the proposed new community facility. Thanks to local businesses, shops, pubs, and everyone purchasing tickets for their support.

SYMPATHIES

Condolences to the families, neighbours, and friends of:
Tim (Timisine) O'Sullivan, Knocknageeha, Gneeveguilla. Funeral took place Saturday, 20th December in Gneeveguilla.
Hugh O'Keeffe, Knocknagree. Sympathy to his sister Mary O'Connor (Lamanaugh, Boherbue) and extended family. Funeral Monday, 22nd December in Knocknagree.
Breda Collins, Banteer. Sympathy to her brothers Dan Francis Murphy, Nono Fitzgerald, and families. Funeral Monday, 22nd December in Castlemagner.
Mary O'Reilly, Kanturk. Sympathy to her brothers, extended family, and staff at Brun na Sinsear. Funeral Tuesday, 23rd December in Kilbrin.
May Tim, Hugh, Breda, and Mary rest in peace.

JERH O'DONOGHUE – SOCIAL ACTION GROUP

Jerh O'Donoghue founded the Social Action Group in Rathmore in 1975 to give young people the chance to help their community. The group has developed a day care centre, meals on wheels, and raised over €250,000 for developing nations. His daughter Helen nominated him for a Fexco Kerry Hero Award 2025.

RATHMORE BRANCH KPFA

The branch expresses gratitude to everyone involved in the recent Christmas Bingo. Thanks to volunteers, supporters, sponsors, and donors. Proceeds of €7,955 will be donated to Kerry Parents & Friends.

RATHMORE TEXT ALERT

Reminder to renew membership or join as a new member before 20th January 2026. Drop €10 with your name and mobile number into Dermie Moynihan's letterbox at Shinnagh, P51X821. Report suspicious activity to Macroom Garda Station at 026 20590.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON DANCING – Milltown Community Hall

Dancing from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm, admission €10 with free draw ticket:

11th January: Neilie O'Connor Band
18th January: Effie Neill & Barry Doyle Band
25th January: Jerome Coakley, Charlie Crowley & Lee Sound
1st February: Eddie Lee Band
Contact John Joe Herlihy 087-9735113

EAST KERRY ALL STARS 2025 GALA NIGHT

Friday 9th January 2026 at Gleneagle Hotel. Tickets available from clubs and board officers. Sponsored by The Kerryman, Aquila Club, and East Kerry GAA. Presentation to All Stars players (Senior, Intermediate, U21), Hall of Fame 2025, and Person of the Year 2025.

TFI – LOCAL LINK KERRY

Check bus services to Killarney at www.localinkkerry.ie/killarney/ or call 066 714 7002 during office hours.

CULLEN & DISTRICT SPECIAL NEEDS

Annual sponsored weigh-in begins Monday 12th January at 8 pm.

KILCUMMIN GAA CLUB – PINK NIGHT RESCHEDULED

The annual Pink Night will now take place Saturday 10th January at The Klub Bar. Supporting Comfort for Chemo for the fifth year. Guests will enjoy prosecco reception, chocolate-dipped strawberries, entertainment from Derry and Rosie Healy (8–10 pm), followed by Barry McGrath playing late. Prizes for Best Dressed Female and Male. Raffle and door prizes provided by local sponsors.

RATHMORE GAA

Aidan O'Mahony is set to be new manager of Rathmore senior football team after David MacCarthy has stepped away from as senior manager of Rathmore

WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to Nora Leader, Cahirbarnagh, Rathmore who married Jerome O'Brien, Mallow recently in st Joseph Church Rathmore by Fr. Pat O'Donnell. Best man was Mark O'Brien and groomsmen were Padraig O'Brien and Don Bourke. Bridemaids were Siobhan Leader assisted by Katie & Aine Leader. The reception was held in the Rose Hotel Tralee and the couple are residing in Mallow. We wish both them long happy life together

NOTES

To add to the notes, email Michael O'Mahony (momahony14@gmail.com) or call/text 087-6676817 before 6 pm.

LISTRY PARISH

Written by: Colette Leslie

LOTTO

4th Jan 2026. Jackpot €14,350. Numbers Drawn: 5,6,15,17. €100 Jack Walsh, Flintfield. €50 Tom Blennerhasset, Cullenymore. €50 Donal & Aoife Cronin, Ballytrasna. €25 Paul Kennedy, Lahard (online). €25 Liz Tangney, Clash. Jackpot Next Week 11/01/2026 €14,500

LISTRY AWARDS NIGHT

FRiday the 16th January at 9pm, Faha court. Senior junior, Minor and Under 16s Medal presentation And Awards a night to celebrate our club all welcome.



Out for the day... ahead of the much coveted 'Sam Maguire' which was hoisted high over the mountains of Kerry by Derry Healy (organiser) and John Hussey (Kerry Mountain Rescue Team) along the 17 km 'Old Kenmare Road' from Kenmare to Killarney National Park in aid of Kerry Mountain Rescue Team. Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan



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Money Matters



By Dermot Cronin
Financial Advisor

IS IT MORE DIFFICULT TO GET A MORTGAGE TO BUILD MY HOME THAN A MORTGAGE TO BUY MY HOME?

Yes, it can be more difficult. When you are building your family home there are more of risks of things going wrong than purchasing your home especially in relation to the overall cost. The most obvious and biggest risk is of course the risk of you going over your budget to build and finish your property and not having enough money to complete your home. Lenders when assessing your application need to take this risk into account. Lenders will put emphasis on the cost of construction of your property. If you are making your application through a mortgage broker they should spend time discussing the cost of the construction and loan amounts with you to make sure they are realistic and affordable. If these figures are incorrect and especially if they are too low then your mortgage application could be declined and more importantly you may not have enough money to finish the property. A big plus at the moment for people who are first time buyers and are building or buying a new property that is their family home is that there is a Help To Buy Scheme that you can apply for through the Revenue. Thankfully this was extended recently in the budget. There is up to €30,000 available through this scheme, there are terms and conditions attached to this Help To Buy Scheme. Obviously this is very beneficial in terms of reducing your overall cost and reducing your mortgage amount also. Each lenders criteria for self build mortgages is different & you need to know this before choosing a lender that suits your needs best. A mortgage broker who has access to many lenders and has a lot of experience with self build mortgages should be very helpful to you.

If you require any further information on the above or any other matter you can contact Dermot Cronin at info@dermotcronin.ie or 0646622775 or 0872893649.

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KILCUMMIN PARISH

Written by: Helen Moynihan

PINK NIGHT RESCHEDULED

The Ladies' Committee of Kilcummin GAA Club would like to announce the rescheduling of its annual Pink Night, taking place in The Klub Bar, it will now take place on Saturday, January 10th. Now in its twelfth year—and supporting Comfort for Chemo for the fifth year running—this much-loved event promises a fantastic evening of fun and fundraising for all. Guests will be greeted with a prosecco reception and chocolate-dipped strawberries to set the tone for a relaxed post-Christmas celebration. While everyone is encouraged to wear pink, dressing up is completely optional—the true spirit of the night is community, enjoyment, and support for a great cause. Prizes will be awarded for Best Dressed Female and Best Dressed Male. The festivities begin at 8pm, with entertainment from Derry and Rosie Healy from 8 to 10:00pm, followed by Barry McGrath playing late into the night. A brilliant raffle will take place on the night, along with fantastic door prizes kindly provided by our wonderful local sponsors, whose continued support is deeply appreciate.

JUNIOR SET DANCING

Registration for junior set dancing will take place on Friday 16th January from 7 to 7.45pm in Kilcummin Recreational Hall. Dancing will commence on Friday 23th January from 7 to 8pm for beginners and intermediates and 8 to 9pm for advanced. These classes are also open to children from outside Kilcummin parish. Further information contact Mary on 087 9620135.

KILCUMMIN COMMUNITY CARE

Kilcummin Community Care will return on Tuesday 13th January. New members welcome, we meet every Tuesday from 11am to 1.45 pm in

the G.A.A. hall. Hot dinner provided, free transport available. Anybody interested please contact Mary Doyle on 086 1550803.

KILCUMMIN GAA

Ireland Lights Up & Irish Life GAA Healthy Clubs Steps Challenge is back for 2026. The hugely popular 'Ireland Lights Up' walking initiative returns on January 7th, 2026, in partnership, with the Irish Life GAA Healthy Clubs Steps Challenge, and Get Ireland Walking. Kilcummin GAA and LGFA will be joining GAA clubs across the 32 counties once more to ensure 'Ireland Lights Up' by turning on their lights and hosting community walking groups for a period of 5 weeks. Members of the public are welcome to join us at the Kilcummin GAA Walking Track each Wednesday night between 7.30-8.30pm to walk safely with the flood lights on. You don't have to be a member of the club to take part. All welcome. Please note - On health and safety grounds, only therapy or assistance dogs are permitted on the walking track and GAA grounds. Healthy Club Steps Challenge €30,000 in prize funding is up for grabs for clubs and you don't have to be a member of any GAA Club to get involved. Kicking off on 7th January 2026 – participants are asked to track a combined 4000km over 5 weeks up until 11th February. Any club hitting the 4000km on the finish date will be entered into a draw to win a share of €30,000 funding for their club. We're encouraging all club members and supporters to download the Irish Life App, sign up to the GAA Healthy Clubs Challenge, find Kilcummin GAA & LGFA and track your steps over the 5 weeks! Just tap on the following link: https://web.mylife.irishlife.ie/resources/challenges/691de227d54844331b08b10b7lc=en_IE

BEAUFORT PARISH

By Bridget Hartnett

TABLE QUIZ

Thank you to everybody who took part in the Table quiz. Thanks to the sponsors, Kate Kearney's Cottage, Chris M.C. and Mary Jo for the questions.

LOTTO

No winner on 4th January. Numbers: 1,6,16,20. Consolation Prizes: €80 Mikey Moriarty, Dunloe. €50 Noel Spillane, Coolmagort, Noir O'Connor, Keel, Cathal Cronin, Shanara. The next draw for a jackpot of €9,400 will be on Sunday, 18th January.

Tickets available from usual sellers, shops, public houses and online at www.clubforce.com/beaufortgaa

GET IRELAND WALKING

Beaufort is taking part in Ireland Lights Up in the G.A.A. field on Wednesdays and the Steps challenge.

Download My Life App to take part in the Steps challenge. There is a draw for all Clubs who reach 4,000 km in the challenge. Please sign in at the Clubhouse before you begin

GLENFLESK PARISH

Written by: Sean Daly

IRELAND LIGHTS UP

Glenflesk GAA are proud to be participants in 'Ireland Lights Up' once again and have registered for the MyLife Every Step Counts Challenge 2026. The challenge begins on the 8th of January for 40 days and runs until the 12th of February. The goal of this challenge is to collectively hit 4,000 Km for our club and be entered in a draw to win a share of the €30,000 prize fund. The more participants on our team, the quicker we'll hit our target. This is a great post Christmas challenge and a great way of getting the Community together while getting fit also. The following are the steps to join. STEP 1: DOWNLOAD: MyLife from the App Store or Google Play Store SEARCH: MyLife by Irish Life. STEP 2: JOIN THE CHALLENGE Go to Social > Challenges > MyLife's Every Step Counts Challenge + your province > find your club to join.

COUCH TO 5K

Glenflesk GAA Healthy Club is starting 2026 on the right foot with the launch of 'Couch to 5K' on Monday 12th of January at 7pm at Glenflesk GAA Grounds. Training will continue every Monday and Thursday at 7pm. The programme is open to all ages and all fitness levels, whether participants are starting from scratch or returning to exercise, and aims to build fitness, confidence and a strong sense of community, with everyone welcome to take part.

PILATES

New year physio based pilates classes starting 7th of January in Glenflesk GAA Hall. A unique blend of functional muscle activation, mindfulness and movement. It's a 6 week course each Wednesday 6 to 7pm. Contact David 086 3410365.



Precious Cargo...The much coveted 'Sam Maguire' was hoisted high over the mountains of Kerry by Derry Healy (organiser) Musicians Michael Kelliher and Rosie Healy, trekked along the 17 km 'Old Kenmare Road' from Kenmare to Killarney National Park in aid of Kerry Mountain Rescue Team. Over 400 walkers made the journey from both directions on the day.

The obligatory Kerry Set Dance sprang up at the Shearing Shed - the halfway point, with musicians Rosie Healy and Michael Kelliher. Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan

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Festive Fun

Families took part in many festive activities in Killarney Over the Christmas Period



Charlene Brosnan, Noah, Bobby, Kieran, Bella Brosnan, Michael O'Sullivan, Bernadette O'Sullivan, Martin O'Sullivan, Susan Fleming, Robert O'Sullivan, along with over 400 hardy souls from dipping into the icy waters at this years Christmas Day Charity Dip, at the popular shoreline at Dundag, Muckcross Lake, Killarney National Park. Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan



Ready for the count down...Fiona O'Donoghue, Niki McCarthy and Kevin Murphy, along with over 400 hardy souls from dipping into the icy waters at this years Christmas Day Charity Dip. Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan



Out for the day... ahead of the much coveted 'Sam Maguire' which was hoisted high over the mountains of Kerry by Derry Healy (organiser) and John Hussey (Kerry Mountain Rescue Team) along the 17 km 'Old Kenmare Road' from Kenmare to Killarney National Park in aid of Kerry Mountain Rescue Team. Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan



Walking ahead of the much coveted 'Sam Maguire' which was hoisted high over the mountains of Kerry by Derry Healy (organiser) and John Hussey (Kerry Mountain Rescue Team) along the 17 km 'Old Kenmare Road' from Kenmare to Killarney National Park in aid of Kerry Mountain Rescue Team. Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan



Freezing Fog didn't stop Kate O'Donoghue, Tina O'Donoghue, Ciara O'Kane, Catriona Shanahan, Mary O'Donoghue, along with over 400 hardy souls from dipping into the icy waters at this years Christmas Day Charity Dip, at the popular shoreline at Dundag, Muckcross Lake, Killarney National Park. Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan



Freezing Fog didn't stop the Kavanagh Family, Ciara, Una, Eamonn, Dara and Kieran along with over 400 hardy souls from dipping into the icy waters at this years Christmas Day Charity Dip, at the popular shoreline at Dundag, Muckcross Lake, Killarney National Park. Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan



Anne Looney, left and Maggie McAuliffe, with the Precious Cargo 'Sam Maguire' which was hoisted high over the mountains of Kerry by Derry Healy (organiser) along the 17 km 'Old Kenmare Road' from Kenmare to Killarney National Park in aid of Kerry Mountain Rescue Team. Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan/



Out for the day... ahead of the much coveted 'Sam Maguire' which was hoisted high over the mountains of Kerry by Derry Healy (organiser) and John Hussey (Kerry Mountain Rescue Team) along the 17 km 'Old Kenmare Road' from Kenmare to Killarney National Park in aid of Kerry Mountain Rescue Team. Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan

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HARNESS THE POWER OF NEW BEGINNINGS

New beginnings are often associated with January calendars and fireworks, but change does not need a date to be valid. A new beginning is simply a decision to respond differently to life, and that decision can be made on any ordinary afternoon. Moments of transition appear quietly: after a conversation, a mistake, a success, or a pause that reveals what no longer fits.

Waiting for the "right time" can become a comfortable delay. In reality, time rarely announces its readiness. What creates a beginning is awareness, followed by a small, intentional action. When you notice a pattern that drains your energy, you are already standing at a doorway. Stepping through does not require a dramatic overhaul; it requires courage to start where you are.

New beginnings can be practical and gentle. They might look like setting one boundary, telling one honest truth, or trying one new habit for seven days. These small shifts build evidence that change is possible now, not someday.

Coaching tip: Ask yourself, "What is one choice I can make today that my future self will thank me for?" Write it down, make it specific, and commit to it for 24 hours. Beginnings grow stronger when they are practiced, not postponed. Any moment can become your starting point. Happy New Year!

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Noreen

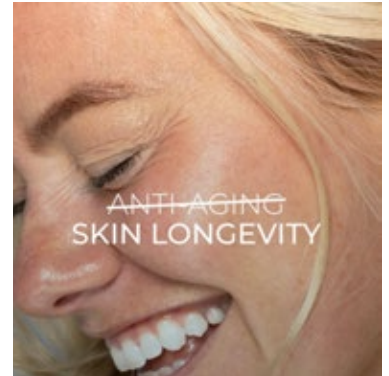
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WHAT SHOULD I DO TO PLAN MY FITNESS GOALS FOR THE NEW YEAR?

Planning your fitness goals for the New Year is a great way to start fresh and stay motivated, and it doesn't matter if you are starting from scratch or already on a journey and are thinking of what next.

Here are some steps you can take:

Reflect on Your Current Fitness Level: Assess where you are now. Consider your strengths, weaknesses, and any past experiences with fitness.

Define Clear and Specific Goals: Instead of vague goals like "get fit," set specific targets such as "run 5km in 30 minutes" or "lose 10 pounds." Use the SMART criteria - Goals should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound.

Identify Your Motivation: Understand why you want to achieve these goals. Whether it's improving health, gaining strength, or boosting confidence, knowing your motivation keeps you committed.

Create a Realistic Plan: Outline the steps needed to reach your goals. Decide on workout routines, frequency, and types of activities. Make sure the plan fits your lifestyle.

Set Short-term Milestones: Break down your main goal into smaller, manageable milestones. Celebrate achieving these to stay motivated.

Track Your Progress: Keep a journal, use apps, or take photos to monitor your improvements over time.

Adjust as Needed: Be flexible. If something isn't working, modify your plan rather than giving up.

Prioritize Consistency Over Perfection: Focus on making regular progress rather than perfect workouts every time.

Seek Support: Consider working with a trainer, joining a fitness community, or finding a workout buddy.

Plan for Rest and Recovery: Incorporate rest days to prevent burnout and injuries.

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Glaucoma

Glaucoma affects 1-2% of the population, and is a leading cause of sight loss. In the majority of cases, glaucoma is asymptomatic, so regular sight tests are important for detecting glaucoma. The majority of patients with glaucoma are diagnosed following referral from an optometrist. Without regular sight tests, the prevalence of late presentation, sight threatening glaucoma, would rise.

Diabetic retinopathy

People with diabetes are at a high risk of developing retinopathy and possible blindness if untreated. Attending regular sight tests allows signs of developing retinopathy to be identified

Risk of falls

Uncorrected vision in older people also increases the risk of falls. Falls are the leading cause of disability and death from injury among people over 75.

Risks for children

Undetected conditions such as amblyopia (lazy eye) have been shown to affect reading ability and therefore may impact on future educational attainment.

Hyperopia, or long sightedness, has also been linked to poorer literacy in young children. Spotting vision problems through regular sight tests is critical to a child's future health and education.

Driving risks

Undiagnosed vision problems can increase the risk of accidents, particularly those that affect distance and side vision.

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Protect your heart and reduce your risk of a heart attack

Advice from GP Care Killarney who will be attending Heartbeat meeting on Mens Health on January 27th to answer any queries or concerns you may have regarding your Heart Health

Hear disease also called cardiovascular disease is a term for conditions that affect the heart and blood vessels. A heart attack happens when blood flow to part of the heart suddenly blocks.

Protect your heart and reduce your risk of a heart attack.

Heart disease doesn't just affect older men!

1 in 5 heart attacks in men occur before the age of 50, but the good news is Prevention is effective, and can reduce up to 80% of heart disease.

Why are men under 50 at risk of a heart attack?

- Symptoms are often missed or ignored - you feel 'too young' to be at risk
- Family history can increase your risk
- High blood pressure and cholesterol - often unknown
- There may be no warning signs

How do I help prevent a heart attack?

Know your numbers - attend you GP for an annual check up. New guidelines now recommend all individuals over 40 to have an annual blood pressure check.

Aim for a healthy weight and waist measurement- 60% of adults are living with overweight or obesity. Small changes to your lifestyle can prevent or reduce weight gain.

Be more physically active - 'Every Move Counts' being active regularly has significant benefits for your heart. Aim for 150 minutes per week of moderate activity - find something that you enjoy doing, brisk walk, cycle, and swim. Exercise classes and gyms are a great place to spend some time and also can be very social. Resistance training isn't just about muscles. It plays a large role in heart health by lowering your blood pressure, reduces body fat, and reduces your risk of type 2 diabetes. Gyms and exercise classes also great way to reduce stress and improve mental wellbeing.

Smoking Cessation - Stopping smoking is the most important step you can take to live longer and greatly reduce your risk of heart disease. Vaping is not an alternative to smoking



cessation. A recent study reports vape users have 19% higher risk of developing heart failure compared with people who never vape. www.quit.ie

Alcohol - Less is better for your heart. The low risk weekly guidelines are not to drink more than

17 standard drinks weekly for men

11 standard drinks weekly for women.

Avoid binge drinking and make sure you have alcohol free days.

Stress - Stress isn't just in your head. Longterm or unmanaged stress has a physical impact on your heart. Stress increases your blood pressure, and increases your heart rate. We all manage stress in different ways, some examples include

- Physical activity, talking to family and friends, or a professional
- Getting enough sleep and rest to recharge your batteries
- Plan ahead, learn to say no
- Learn to relax - cinema, reading music

Diet - has a major impact on heart attack risk. Limit or avoid processed meat and foods. Limit fried and fast foods, sugary drinks, energy drinks, cakes and high fat foods.

Eating more fruit and vegetables- 5-7 portions a day, limit red meat to 2-3 times weekly. Oily fish is so beneficial for your heart health. Swapping white to brown whole grains, pasta, breads The Mediterranean Diet tops the healthiest diet worldwide because of its health benefits and very easy to follow.

Knowing symptoms of a heart attack can save a life- you or someone else

Common symptoms of having a heart attack

Chest discomfort - pressure, tightness, squeezing or pain, often central or left sided.

Pain can last for more than a few minutes, or come and go.

Pain can spread to other areas such as the left or right arm, neck, jaw and shoulder.

Other symptoms can be shortness of breath

- cold sweat
- nausea or vomiting
- lightheadness
- dizziness, sudden fatigue.

Some experience crushing chestpain, can start mild and worsen over hours, or can be very sudden intense pain.

If you experience intense chest pain lasting longer than 10 minutes call an ambulance.

Remember early treatment means less heart damage

Come to Heartbeat meeting on Tuesday 27th January to hear more about heart health and a true story of a very healthy 30 year experiencing a heart attack. Also an opportunity to have a free Blood Pressure check



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Minister Michael Healy-Rae confirms Ireland will vote against Mercosur, standing firm with Irish farmers

Minister of State Michael Healy-Rae has today reaffirmed that Ireland will vote against the EU-Mercosur trade deal, underlining that this position has always been Government policy and is clearly set out in the Programme for Government.

Minister Healy-Rae said that Ireland's opposition is not a late change of heart, but the culmination of sustained engagement and hard work by Government Ministers over a prolonged period.

"This was always Ireland's position under the Programme for Government. It is not new, and it is not reactionary. The Government has been clear and consistent in its opposition to Mercosur in its current form."

The Minister said he has seen first-hand, on a daily basis, the level of work and commitment shown by the Minister for Agriculture in defending Irish farming interests at EU level.

"I have seen the enormous work Martin Heydon has put in month after month over the past year, engaging with his EU counterparts and trying to maintain a blocking group. Ultimately, however, we can only be responsible for ourselves as a country and Ireland must, and

will always, stand by its farmers."

Minister Healy-Rae said the Mercosur agreement is a bad deal for Europe and a particularly bad deal for Ireland's agriculture-based economy, risking the undermining of high standards and placing Irish farmers at an unfair disadvantage.

"Irish farmers operate to the highest standards in the world. Any deal that undercuts those standards or exposes farmers to unfair competition is simply not acceptable."

Looking ahead, Minister Healy-Rae noted that MEPs will have an opportunity in the coming weeks to block the deal, and he urged Irish representatives in the European Parliament to stand firmly with farmers.

"MEPs will have a chance to block this deal in the next two to three weeks, and I hope that Irish MEPs, across all parties and none, will back Irish farmers and oppose Mercosur."

The Minister also highlighted that Mercosur was a major issue for Independents before entering Government, and said the outcome demonstrates the importance of Independent voices at the Cabinet table.

"I want to thank Seán Canney for his efforts with

the other coalition leaders, and for remaining steadfast in our opposition, along with all of my Independent colleagues in Government. This clearly shows the importance of having Independents in Government, people who are prepared to stand their ground on issues that matter."

Minister Healy-Rae rejected claims that Ireland's stance is "too little too late", saying such commentary ignores the reality of how Government works.

"A lot of work has been done on this over many months. Government work is all-encompassing. Those who say this is too little too late are being disingenuous. Many of the same people shied away from being in Government and had no input into the detailed work that has been ongoing on Mercosur."

"While others grandstand from the sidelines, we have been working diligently behind the scenes on the issues that really matter, like Mercosur. The goalposts have constantly shifted, but with a vote expected on Friday, the Government has stated its position clearly and it is a position that was never in doubt as far as I'm concerned"

Minister Foley welcomes over €1.4 million in funding for Kerry towns under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Minister for Children, Disability and Equality and Kerry TD Norma Foley has welcomed confirmation of over €1.4 million in funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

The projects receiving funding include Listowel Community Centre (€500,000), Corcra Dhuibhne museum & Community centre (€300,000), Fossa Community Centre (€300,000) and Muintir na Tire hall, Milltown (€269,939).

Funding under the scheme for project developments work on community centre upgrades has also been provided to Rathmore (€50,000) and Currow (€50,000).

Minister Foley said: "I welcome confirmation of this funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme from my cabinet colleague, Minister for Rural and Community Development Dara Calleary. The regeneration of town spaces and upgrading of community centres and other facilities has been a priority for this government."

The Town and Village Scheme is one of a series of national and local support measures designed to rejuvenate small rural towns and villages throughout Ireland, under the Rural Development Investment Programme.



Hugh Rudden, Deputy Principal welcoming the audience to the St Brendan's College Choir Christmas Carol performance in The Chapel at St Brendan's College Killarney.
Photo by Michelle Cooper Galvin



DANNY HEALY-RAE TD



Cllr MAURA
HEALY-RAE

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Danny Healy Rae TD - Monthly Clinics

1st Monday

8.15 PM
8.30 PM
9.00 PM
9.30 PM

1st Wednesday

8.00 PM
8.30 PM
9.00 PM
9.30 PM

1st Thursday

8.30 PM
9.00 PM
9.30 PM
10.00 PM

1st Friday

9.30 PM
10.00 PM
10.30 PM

3rd Monday

8.30 PM
9.00 PM
9.30 PM
9.45 PM

Rathmore & Gneeveguilla

Top of the Hill, Rathmore
Bridge Bar, Rathmore
Dennehy's Bar, Rathmore
Richie McAuliffe's, Gneeveguilla

Killarney Area

Torc Hotel, Lissivigeen
The Village Inn, Kilcummin
Old Killarney Inn, Aghadoe
The Golden Nugget, Fossa

Glenflesk & Barraduff

The Kerry Way, Glenflesk
Spillane's Headford
Murphy's Bar, Barraduff
Sweeney's Bar, Barraduff

Tuosist & Lauragh

Sailors Bar, Killaha West
Helen's Bar Kilmacalogue
The Lake House Tuosist

Knocknagoshel & Brosna

O'Connor's Bar, Knocknagoshel
Walsh's Bar, Knocknagoshel
Kate Pat's Bar, Brosna
Sportsfield Bar, Brosna

3rd Friday

7.30 PM
8.00 PM
8.15 PM
9.00 PM
9.30 PM

4th Thursday

7:00 PM
7.30 PM
8.15 PM
8.45 PM
9.15 PM
9.45 PM

4th Friday

8.30 PM
9.30 PM
10.00 PM
10.45 PM

Last Monday

8:00 PM
8:30 PM
9:00 PM
10:00 PM

Castleisland Area

River Island Hotel, Castleisland
The Kingdom Bar, Castleisland
The Crown Hotel, Castleisland
Hughes Bar, Cordal
Lyon's Bar, Scartaglen

Killorglin Area

Golden Nugget, Fossa
Galvin's Bar, Beaufort
O'Grady's Bar, Killorglin
Larkin's Bar, Milltown
Griffins Bar, Castlemaine
Anvil Bar, Boolteens

Kenmare & Sneem Area

The Roughty bar, Kenmare
Riney's Bar, Sneem
Blackwater Tavern
O'Connor's Bar Kenmare

Farranfore Area

Ulick's Bar, Farranfore
James Daly's Bar, Farranfore
Cunniffe's Bar, Currow
John Hendersons, Furies

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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

SHORT TERM LET'S



"We need Long and Short Term Let's, there's no doubt about that. We need all sorts of accommodation types to fill the needs of the people. Restricting any type, for instance Short Term Lets, is a detrimental move and we should encourage more of all types" according to Kerry Fianna Fáil TD, Michael Cahill.

The Fianna Fáil Spokesperson on Tourism has claimed that the richest vein of experience around accommodation and tourism in Ireland is within his own county, the premier Tourist county in Ireland and business owners there should have been consulted, before any changes in legislation are introduced for the sector.

"There are many types of accommodation available throughout Kerry, with Hotels, Guest Houses, Bed & Breakfasts, AirBnB's, etc, Long and Short-Term Lets. The wide choice of accommodation available, is one of the reasons that Kerry is so successful in attracting visitors to the area. Without this mix and flexibility, many people would stay away, despite our fabulous food and stunning scenery offerings" said Deputy Cahill.

"As I stated previously, we need to be very careful that we do not 'kill the Golden Goose' by legislating Tourism Accommodation Providers out of the market. Granted we have a big need for housing units long term, but I firmly believe that with the reclamation of Vacant & Derelict premises and a marked increase in new Planning Permissions, for both One Off Housing and Group Housing, which I have been constantly pushing for at the highest level of this Fianna Fáil led Government, with the expected investment in Constructed Wetlands in villages across the county, something that I have been consistently calling for since being elected a TD for Kerry 12 months ago, we will solve that shortage in the medium term" stated Deputy Cahill.

"The Kerry Tourism Trade feeds and supports many families in this county and has a positive ripple effect on our Farming and Fishing communities, our transport, food and beverage suppliers. In the present trying times, they are to be and should be supported, not challenged" said the Rossbeigh based TD.

The setting up of a Short Term Letting Register by Fáilte Ireland, does not have universal support throughout the country, especially in Killarney, the real capital of Tourism in Ireland, according to Deputy Cahill.

"The fact that this new Register is to focus on just one type of letting, i.e. Short Term, has brought it into disrepute with those offering such a service. Many of them believe that it is discriminatory towards Short Term Letting and that they are being held responsible for the shortage in

MICHAEL CAHILL TD

Rossbeigh, Glenbeigh, County Kerry

Email: Michael.cahill@oireachtas.ie

Constituency Office: 083 4525841

Temporary Constituency Office:
C/O Orchid Accountants,
Upper Park Rd, Upper
Ballycasheen, Killarney,
Co. Kerry, V93 PT04

FIANNA FÁIL
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

Long Term lettings and the Housing Crisis" stated Deputy Cahill.

"Many of those in the AirBnB sector see this as a means to force them away from Short Term Letting, but they have confirmed to me that they have no interest in, or intention of getting involved in Long Term Letting. They have found their niche, they say, they pay their taxes and they feel they should not be forced out of business" said the newly elected TD for Kerry.

"Legitimate businesses should be allowed to carry on and other tactics need to be employed to encourage and attract people to offering Long Term Letting. We need not use a sledge hammer to crack a nut" stated Deputy Cahill.

"During the first quarter of 2025, I called for a waiver for all those involved in Short Term Lets for 3 years or longer. Prior to that as a member of Kerry County Council, I moved a Motion calling on the then Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien and the then Minister for Tourism, Catherine Martin to allow a waiver for the proprietors of AirBnB outlets on the need to apply for Planning Permission to continue their business and I stated at the time that this sector is a very important and popular part of our tourism offering and enforcement of Planning Permission requirements will see many leave the market, creating a major shortfall in accommodation offerings in the county" said the Fianna Fáil man.

"There is very real anger amongst all those involved in this sector, especially in Killarney, they feel that they are being dictated to, that they are now being told how and how not to invest their own money. I am again repeating my call for a waiver for all those involved in Short Term Lets for 3 years or longer and I will again raise this serious matter in the Dáil, with the Taoiseach and Senior Government Ministers. This issue is more important now than ever before as is evident over the past 2 weeks with the opening of the first completed section of the South Kerry Greenway and the very obvious shortage of accommodation" added Michael Cahill TD.

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KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL STOPPING HOUSE BUILDING IN KERRY

With the country in the midst of a unprecedented housing crisis and builders are putting the blame for this squarely on the shoulders of senior management staff of Kerry County Council, accusing them of making the problem worse.

“ERRATIC
PLANNING
DECISIONS
WITHOUT
CONSEQUENCES
FOR
KERRY COUNTY
COUNCIL”

Builders have expressed the view that it is easier to build houses in Cork than it is in Kerry. In Cork, for example, builders carry out the work, a snag list of any outstanding issues is created, the builders rectify those issues and any bond funds are promptly returned to the builder. Bond funds are amounts of money held back from the builder by the bank until all work has been completed. If the council delays signing off on the completion of the snag list, the bond funds are not released back to builder and they are left out of pocket. In Cork, once the snag list has been signed off, the maintenance of any new housing development is promptly taken over by Cork County Council. Builders claim that it is much more problematic dealing with Kerry County Council. It can take years for an official snag list to be created. The saga does not end here. When that list is finally completed, more maintenance issues are added. Builders have claimed that this final stage can take years and can add unnecessary financial stress. In effect, builders are being used to maintain an estate, post-build. In many cases, the builder ends up just forfeiting the bond, as it

becomes too costly to continue completing the constant snag lists generated by Kerry County Council. Works are rarely carried out with these bond funds and ultimately the money ends up in the road maintenance programme for the whole county.

While waiting for Kerry County Council to take over the maintenance of their estate, the residents are obliged to pay for that maintenance themselves, and all the while, Kerry County Council continue their delaying tactics. These residents already pay road tax which goes towards road maintenance. And they are also paying local property tax. Why are the most pressured group in society being treated so badly? Typically these are young people with young families struggling to pay bills and Kerry County Council has the power to make their lives a little bit easier but unfortunately, the opposite is the case.

A number of County Councillors have said that they do not have the power to change things. They were critical of council management who have just brushed their concerns aside.



A builder built an extra thirteen houses in an existing housing estate. The builder rerouted heavy traffic away from the estate and used an existing farm road at the rear of the site to access the building site. The photo shows the relief road and this road was in existence long before his company built these houses. After the houses were built the Council instructed the builder to go onto private property and dig up the relief road and turn the area into a green field otherwise Kerry County Council will take €20,000 via a bond from the builder. Kerry County Council contacted this publication stating that the heading of this article is "grossly misleading and incorrect". Nobody wants badly built estates but this example does not entice builders to build houses.



This is a photo of a manhole that was built in 2008. This manhole is in perfect condition after sixteen years. The specifications on building a manhole has changed recently and Kerry County Council wants all the manholes in the estate dug up and rebuild under the updated specifications and this work will cost the builder €45,000.

Kerry County Council does not accept that this decision is a gross abuse of power. There is no appeal system and no consequence for the decision makers.



This is a photo of an item on a snag list from a builder. Kerry County Council wants the builder to remove the fence and replace it with a fence that's a few inches taller. Because there is a slope in the green area the fence measures 2 mtrs when measured from the back and 1.85mtrs when measured from the front because of the slope in the green area. Does it really matter if this fence is a few inches shorter. This is an example of the nonsense that builders have to put up with from Kerry County Council.



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FOSSA ROWING CLUB

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wishing all of our rowers, trainers, members, supporters, sponsors and all families a very happy new year. 2026 promises to be a very busy year for Fossa Rowing Club so keep an eye on our socials for more. Our members weren't idle over the Christmas break, we were busy indeed.

ST. STEPHEN'S DAY WALK

A huge well done to all who traveled to Rossbeigh beach on St. Stephen's Day for our Walk. A huge turnout ensured there was great craic and banter along the way and a huge well done to the hardy souls who took to the water for a dip after the walk, in freezing conditions. A super turn out with all funds going towards the purchase of a new Coxed Quad boat.

TORC MOUNTAIN WALK

Well done to our members who went for a new years eve hike up Torc mountain. A hardy bunch out enjoying the last day of 2025. Well done one and all.

TRAINING

Training resumed following the Christmas break last Monday, the 5th of January at the Old Chirch. Preparations are underway for the forthcoming Indoor championships at UL on the 17th of January next.

KILLARNEY VALLEY ATHLETIC CLUB

The club training groups have resumed this week after the festive break. However our road runners were busy over the break with local races. Our club captain Conor Kissane kicked off the New Year in style winning the Beaufort 10km with a time of 00:31:19.

Well done also to Derek Pyne, Naoise Daly, Daire O'Brien, Denis McCarthy, Patrick Kissane, Erin Moloney, Caitríona Shanahan (2nd F40 10km), Elaine Lanigan, Eamon Sheehy, Pádraig Brosnan, Marie Kehoe O'Sullivan, Sinéad McMahon and Jack Coffey, who all represented the club brilliantly across the 5km and 10km.



Fossa Bridge Club President Margaret O'Sullivan congratulating Ursula Daly & Ciarán Broadbery on winning our Christmas Competition. Very worthy winners.

Fossa Rowing Club pictured on their St. Stephen's Day walk at Rossbeigh beach.



There are still a few places left on our Couch to 5K program for 2026 and anyone wishing to take the leap can book online on our website <https://killarneyvalleyac.ie/events/couch-to-5k-2026/>. It will start on 13th January with two sessions per week for 8 weeks (Tuesday and Thursday at 7.15pm). The goal is for all to be able to complete the Killarney House parkrun on Saturday 7th March 2026 in a fun non-competitive environment.

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

FOSSA BRIDGE CLUB

Wishing all our bridge players a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

We had our Christmas lunch on the 18th December at The Killarney Golf & Fishing Club. It was the most enjoyable day.

RESULTS OF OUR CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

1st: Ursula Daly & Ciarán Broadbery

2nd: Phyllis O'Regan & Pauline Lyne

3rd: Finola Spillane & Ger Foley

4th: Mary Murray & Maureen Culloty

5th: Mary Gleeson & Evelyn O'Leary

Intermediate B Winners

Patricia Lynch & Ann Clerkin

Well done to everyone.

BRIDGE RESUMES on Thursday 15th January at The Castlerosse Hotel at 10am. Hope to see you all there.

WORKMAN'S ROWING CLUB

All crews were delighted to get out on the water last Sunday, with the lake presenting near-perfect, glass-like conditions. Double and single sculls were in full flight throughout the morning, overseen by MJ Burns, who kept a watchful eye on all activity. The coastal boats also took to the water, where the crisp, brisk air encouraged strong, rhythmic movement, carefully guided by Timmy Moynihan. As the year draws to a close, such calm and favourable conditions were a welcome and enjoyable sight for all members on the water.

The Christmas break provides a valuable opportunity to reflect on the past year, and it has truly been a fantastic season for the club. From steady progress across all crews to the commitment and dedication shown by both athletes and coaches, the year has been marked by hard work, development, and great camaraderie. These achievements would not

have been possible without the continued support and involvement of our wider club community.

To round out the year, some of our members also took the opportunity to spend time together away from the water, 'Killarney on ice'. This proved to be a highly enjoyable event, with plenty of laughs and good spirits, where speed was matched only by the impressive balance and coordination on display. It was a fitting and light-hearted way to bring the year's activities to a close.

As we look ahead, excitement is already building for the new year and the fresh challenges and opportunities it will bring. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and coaches a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. We also extend our sincere thanks to everyone for their continued support throughout the year. We wish you all a very happy festive season and look forward to welcoming everyone back and seeing you all again in 2026.

KILLARNEY RFC CLUB

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The President, Committee, and members of Killarney RFC would like to wish all our players, coaches, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters a very Happy New Year. We look forward to another successful and enjoyable year of rugby in 2026.

MINI RUGBY RETURNS

Our Mini Rugby section (U6-U12) is set to returned last weekend and will continue this coming Saturday, January 10th. New members are always very welcome. Training kicks off at 09:45am—don't forget the gumshields and warm gear!

YOUTH RESULTS

It was a busy opening weekend of 2026 for our youth boys' squads, who hosted Munster Cup and Plate action at Aghadoe on Sunday. While the results didn't go our way, both teams put in battling performances against strong opposition.

U18.5 BOYS

The U18.5s hosted Waterpark RFC in the Munster Cup (Group 2). Despite a high-scoring effort and plenty of determination, the visitors secured the win.

Result: Killarney RFC 26 - 38 Waterpark RFC.

U16 BOYS

Earlier in the day, our U16s faced Garryowen RFC in the Munster Plate (Group 2). A physical encounter saw the Limerick side come out on

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top.

Result: Killarney RFC 12 - 27 Garryowen RFC.

U11S AT THOMOND PARK

A massive congratulations to our U11 Boys who had the experience of a lifetime on December 29th. The squad travelled to Thomond Park to play at half-time during the Munster v Leinster URC clash. Playing in front of a sold-out stadium was an incredible opportunity for the lads, who represented the club with pride and skill. A huge well done to the players and the coaching team for organizing such a memorable trip.

UPCOMING FIXTURES

U14 Boys: The U14s are on the road next weekend, travelling to Clarisford to face Newport/Ballina-Killaloe in the Munster Shield on Saturday, January 10th (KO 12:00).

Senior Men: Our Senior Men continue training as they prepare for the resumption of the Munster Junior League Division 3. Their next league outing is scheduled for January 25th at home to Rugbaí Chorca Dhuibhne.

TRAINING

Wednesdays and Fridays at 7:30pm at Aghadoe. New players always welcome

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KILLARNEY BADMINTON CLUB

A super start to the new year for Killarney Badminton Club.



Freezing Fog didn't stop the fun along with over 400 hardy souls from dipping into the icy waters at this years Christmas Day Charity Dip, at the popular shoreline at Dundag, Muckcross Lake, Killarney National Park. The Christmas Dip was in aid of the Charity AWARE. The event was organised by Killarney Cycling Club, assisted by Killarney Triathlon Club and Niki and David McCarthy. To date over €70K has been raised from the charity dip.

Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan

Congratulations to Maeve Twomey on winning the Munster C Closed Doubles title in Killarney Leisure Centre on Sunday last. A great start to 2026.

Well done to Div 3 men's and ladies teams, Div 4 men's, Div 5 ladies teams who are all after making their county finals.

Division 3 and 5 final will take place in Annascaul Wed, 14th @ 8pm sharp!

Div 4 mens and ladies league final will take place in Ballyheigue, Thursday 15th, 8pm sharp.

Good luck to Sinead galvin who is representing Ireland in the masters Scotland Ireland in Glasgow next Friday



Maeve Twomey (Killarney Badminton Club) and Laura Murphy.

Past, present, and future members of Killarney Judo Club were invited to visit Derreen to view the impressive new facilities, including a dedicated judo dojo. This new development, delivered by a local not-for-profit company Derreen Sports CLG in partnership with Kerry Stars, St. Paul's Basketball, and Killarney Judo Club, will serve the local community for many years to come.

From a judo perspective, there is growing national interest in developing Killarney as a hub for international training camps, helping athletes prepare for World Championships and the Olympic Games. This opportunity will undoubtedly strengthen the club and support the development of future champions.

Construction so far has been very efficient and has been funded by the Community Recognition Fund administered by Kerry County Council. Further work to finish will be funded by the Sports Capital and LSSIF funds administered by the Department of Sport based here in Killarney. The finish phase now depends on the timescale for provision of these funds. At present, it is not known when this will be.

KILLARNEY JUDO CLUB MEMBERS TOUR NEW DERREEN SPORTS FACILITY



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Pat O'Neill presenting his sponsored Ladies Stableford competition prizes to winner Annette Sheehan (back from left) Geraldine Collins 2nd, Eimear O'Donnell Best Gross and Sharon Ormonde 3rd with Captain Annette McNeice at Killarney Golf and Fishing Club on Sunday. Photo by Michelle Cooper Galvin



Pictured after Deerpark Pitch & Putt Club's 18-Hole Three Ball Scramble on St Stephens Day last were Danny Nolan Memorial Cup winners Denis Duggan, Daniel Quinlan and Luke O'Sullivan, Johnny Kelly Memorial Shield winners John McGrath, Jack O'Leary (with Mike 'Seve' O'Leary absent from photo), Aidan O'Keeffe, Niall O'Loughlin, Jean O'Shea and Sean Kelly (Club Chairman).

ROSS GC (GENTS)

RESULTS

On New Year's Day we held a very successful mixed scramble in great course and weather conditions.

The winning teams were:-

1st: Daniel Ling, Lourda Kelly, Michael O'Leary, Bridie Brosnan.

2nd: Virginijus Jonikaitis, Mary Moynihan, Anthony O'Mahony, M J Casey.

3rd: Donie Broderick, Kay Cremin, Mike Leary, Sheila O'Mahony.

4th: M J O'Sullivan, Noreen O'Mahony, Maurice Coffey, Emer Brosnan.

SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to past Captain Dermot O'Connor and to Dan O'Connor on the recent death of their brother, Denis, R.I.P.

We also offer our sympathy to Ross GC member Jackie Looney on the recent death of his brother, Michael, R.I.P.

DEERPARK PITCH & PUTT CLUB

FESTIVE PERIOD

We had a busy and interesting end to 2025 as it was not until the onset of the first weekend of 2026 that matters slowed down slightly.

CHRISTMAS TURKEYS

The results of the final round (sponsored by Tim Jones Butchers) held on Sunday December 21st were as follows- Two Ball Scramble- First Nett: Alan O'Sullivan & Jerry Kelliher 34½, Gross: James Foley & Hugh O'Sullivan 45 and Second Nett: Dave Spillane & Robbie O'Brien Snr 36.

ST STEPHENS DAY

Thankfully the frost did not arrive like it did on Christmas Day as we managed to get our 18-hole Three Ball Scramble played. Danny Nolan Memorial Cup Winners (Overall Nett): Denis Duggan, Daniel Quinlan & Luke O'Sullivan 33. Johnny Kelly Memorial Shield Winners (Overall Gross): John McGrath, Mike 'Seve' O'Leary & Jack O'Leary 44 and Second Nett: Aidan O'Keeffe, Niall O'Loughlin & Jean O'Shea 34 1/3.

UTILITY TRUST DOUBLES MATCHPLAY FINAL

This was an interesting decider between the

pairs of Brian McCarthy & Conor O'Riordan along with Bobby Kelly & Sean O'Brien on Sunday December 28th. Brian and Conor were 3up with four to play but Bobby & Sean battled back to bring the margin down to 1up before matters went awry for Bobby & Sean on the 17th green with Brian & Conor 2&1 winners overall. Congratulations to both as we thank Utility Trust for their support of this revived event.

DECEMBER 28TH DRAWS

Fourball Betterball- First Nett: Gearoid Cronin & Dave Spillane 40, Gross: Robbie O'Brien Snr & Sean Ashe 49 and Second Nett: Gerard O'Brien & Dan Kiely 41½.

New Years Day: Two Ball Scramble- First Nett: Alan O'Sullivan & Jerry Kelliher 34 (B9), Second Nett: Alan O'Sullivan & Sean O'Brien 34.

AGM

Our 2026 Club AGM takes place in the clubhouse on Wednesday January 14th next at 7pm. All adult members welcome to attend.

DEEPEST SYMPATHIES

It was an immensely sad time for our Club PRO over Christmas as the death occurred of Jason O'Connor's father Denis in the run-up to New Year's Eve. Our members showed great support

for Jason throughout a tough week however as we send Jason, his mother Margaret, his brother Eric and his family along with Jason's extended family our deepest sympathies once more. May he Rest in Peace.

KILLARNEY GOLF & FISHING CLUB (LADIES)

The 2026 season at Killarney Golf and Fishing Club got off to an excellent start on Saturday January 3rd with a record attendance at the traditional Captains' & President's Drive In. This was followed by a mixed foursome competition on O'Mahonys Point course kindly sponsored by Sapphire Signs.

RESULTS

Captains' & President's Drive In Mixed Foursomes Competition January 3rd 2026 sponsored by Sapphire Signs.

1st: Jane Dwyer & Mike McAuliffe 46 (17)

2nd: Mary A Cronin & Ger Linehan 40 (23)

3rd: Kate O'Leary & Brendan O'Toole 39 (15)

4th: Mary Geaney & Joseph Hartnett 38 (17)

5th: Noreen Coffey & Seamus O'Connor 38(18)



Michéal O'Donoghue Club President driving In with (from left) Junior Boys Captain Luke McCan, Tomás Kelliher Captain, Annette McNeice Captain and Junior Girls Captain is Aoife O'Sullivan at Killarney Golf and Fishing Club on Saturday. Photo by Michelle Cooper Galvin



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Photographed at the presentation of the Christmas Hampers sponsored by Killarney Race Company in the Ross GC are (l to r): John O'Driscoll, MJ O'Sullivan, Captain, Peter Wickham, Niall O'Brien, Johnny Brosnan, Darren Gaffey, Alan Flynn, Donie Broderick, Terence Mulcahy, KRC, Sponsor.



Aine O'Donoghue presents the Ross GC Golfer of the Year Award to Barry O'Grady (centre) and Captain Peter Wickham.



Ger Foley, Theresa Kissane and Rosaleen Kennedy, walking ahead of the much coveted 'Sam Maguire' which was hoisted high over the mountains of Kerry by Derry Healy (organiser) and John Hussey (Kerry Mountain Rescue Team) along the 17 km 'Old Kenmare Road' from Kenmare to Killarney National Park in aid of Kerry Mountain Rescue Team. Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan



Freezing Fog didn't stop Emma and Katie Brosnan and over 400 hardy souls from dipping into the icy waters at this years Christmas Day Charity Dip, at the popular shoreline at Dundag, Muckross Lake, Killarney National Park. The Christmas Dip was in aid of the Charity AWARE. The event was organised by Killarney Cycling Club, assisted by Killarney Triathlon Club and Niki and David McCarthy. To date over €70K has been raised from the charity dip. Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan



St Brendan's students performing at the St Brendan's College Choir Christmas Carol Concert in The Chapel at St Brendan's College Killarney on Tuesday.

Photo by Michelle Cooper Galvin




St Brendan's student Paddy O'Donoghue performing at the St Brendan's College Choir Christmas Carol Concert in The Chapel at St Brendan's College Killarney on Tuesday.

Photo by Michelle Cooper Galvin




St Brendan's students performing at the St Brendan's College Choir Christmas Carol Concert in The Chapel at St Brendan's College Killarney on Tuesday.

Photo by Michelle Cooper Galvin



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2026

happy new year

All the team at Killarney Outlook
would like to wish all our advertisers,
contributors and readers a very happy,
healthy and peaceful New Year.



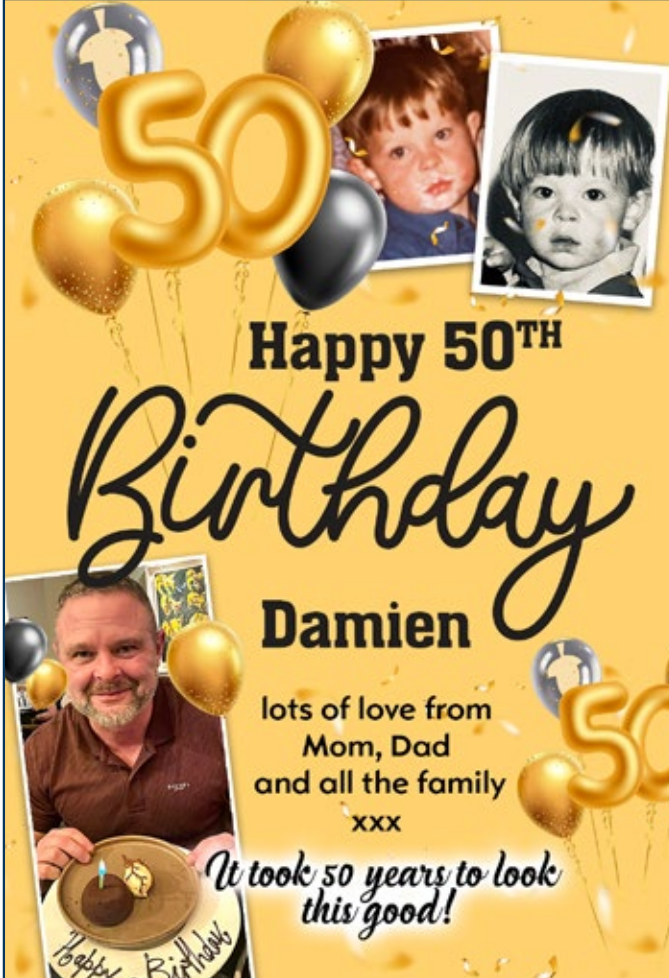


Happy 50TH Birthday

Damien

lots of love from
Mom, Dad
and all the family
xxx

*It took 50 years to look
this good!*



BALLYHAR DYNAMOS FC

LOTTO

No.s 1, 4, 26, 28. No winner of the Jackpot. 5 x €25: Hannah Kennedy, Castlegregory. Marie Groves, Firies. Jerry Kennedy, Castlegregory. Bridie Breen, Firies & John O Shea, Faha. Next draw for a jackpot of €3300 will take place on Sunday next 11th January at Henderson's Bar, Firies. Tickets available from Committee Members, Sheehans Filling Station, Farranfore, Spar & Hendersons Shops, Firies & Butlers Bar, Firies. The Christmas spot winners were Liz McGillicuddy, Ballyhar. Hayley Murphy. Mary Teahan, Tralee. Hannah McGillicuddy, Ballyhar. Margaret O Connor, Headford, Killarney. Mike Walshe, Killorglin. Mary O Halloran, Ballyhar. Mary Daly, Farranfore. Bernadette Cooper, Ballyhar & Kathy Galvin, Clonakilty. Thanks to all who help out & support the club lotto.

TEAMS

A reduced programme due to the weather conditions but the club still got three games played.

The U14 girls (Division 1) welcomed Tralee Dynamos to Murt Scott Park where the visitors took the points on a 1-6 result. Niamh O Sullivan with the Ballyhar goal for whom Sophie O'Brien & Anna Fitzgerald did well on the day.

The U15 Boys travelled to take on Killarney Celtic B with the home side taking the win on a 6-1 scoreline. Daniel Ryan with a fine individual goal for Ballyhar.

The U13 B squad travelled to Killorglin where after a 9 goal thriller it was Killorglin who came out on top after a 5-4 win. Tadhg Fitzgerald with a hat trick & a well taken goal from Darren Foley were the Ballyhar scorers. This was a spirited performance by the Ballyhar youngsters with Matthew Hickey, Luca Mulchinock, Patrick Brosnan, Jamie O Connor, Zach Goodman, Shane Collins, Adam Czimor, Dermot Nealon & Fionn Curtin also in fine form throughout the game. Best of luck all club teams & coaches for 2026.

KILLARNEY ATHLETIC AFC

A NEW YEARS MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I would like to extend warm New Year wishes

to everyone on behalf of Killarney Athletic AFC. Last year saw remarkable growth in our membership throughout the club, reflecting the continued enthusiasm and dedication of our players, coaches, and supporters. From new faces joining our ranks to the strengthening of our existing teams, it has been a year of progress and promise. This growth is a testament to the positive culture and community spirit that defines Killarney Athletic AFC, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead beginning with our underage awards early this year. Lastly, a huge thank you to everyone who organised, attended and sponsored our 60th anniversary celebrations. Your time, effort and generosity made it a truly special occasion. Without you, none of this would be possible. As we reflect on the past year, our thoughts are with the club members and the broader soccer community we've lost. Here's to a brighter 2026

Best regards,

Donie Murphy Chairman, Killarney Athletic AFC

BOYS U15 DIVISION 2 RESULT

Fenit B 0 - 5 Killarney Athletic B

Artem Dzhandra x 2, Daniel Quinlan x 1, Dylan O'Connor x 1, Malachy Audley x 1

A great way to start the new year with a strong, disciplined performance from the lads up at Mounthawk Park this afternoon. We controlled the game well, moved the ball with confidence and showed real hunger and intensity throughout, while staying patient and composed in our play. Credit to Fenit who kept working right to the end and made it a competitive, sporting game throughout. Thanks also to the referee for managing the game well. A very pleasing team performance and a positive platform to build on as we move into the new year. Well done lads

MOTM - Artem Dzhandra

KILLARNEY ATHLETIC U13S MARCH ON IN THE NATIONAL TROPHY

Killarney Athletic A.F.C 2 - 1 Kilfrush

Killarney Athletic Under 13s delivered a high-tempo, committed performance in their National Trophy clash against Kilfrush, setting the tone from the first whistle. Athletic played with real pace and intensity, throwing everything at their visitors and putting Kilfrush under constant pressure early on. That pressure was rewarded with a deserved breakthrough when Rian Reilly

found the net, capping off a strong opening spell from the home side. Kilfrush responded well and showed their quality with a well-worked corner that brought them level, but Athletic showed great character to bounce straight back. From another corner, Mark Clifford rattled the crossbar and John Hegerty reacted quickest to smash home the rebound, restoring Athletic's lead. Athletic continued to work hard all over the pitch and fully deserved the victory on the day against a very competitive and sporting Kilfrush side who never stopped battling.

A good win and into the next round for Killarney Athletic. Thanks to Kilfrush for a great game, the referee for his efforts, and all the supporters who backed the lads once again Rian Reilly x 1 John Hegerty x 1

BOYS U13 DIVISION 1

Killarney Celtic B 3 - 4 Killarney Athletic B

On a bitterly cold morning the boys traveled to our neighbours Celtic in a New Years cracker. Celtic started brightly and deservedly took the lead. Athletic began to take control and scored twice before the break through great finishes by Jakub and Donncha. Celtic battled back and got a deserved equaliser but we took the lead again with another clinical finish by Jakub. A few missed chances to really put the game to bed allowed Celtic in for another equaliser. Thankfully after a great move Luke had us in front again and despite late Celtic pressure we managed the claim the 3 points.

Thanks to Celtic for a great game and to the referee for excellent officiating.

Jakub Slowakiewicz x 2, Donncha Slattery x 1, Luke O'Sullivan x 1

U13 BOYS DIVISION 2

Iveragh Bs 3 Killarney Athletic Cs 1

Rian Horgan x 1

We travelled to Cahersiveen on Saturday to play Iveragh. The boys started well and took an early lead through a Rian Horgan penalty. Iveragh gradually grew into the game and despite some resolute defending from the boys, Iveragh drew level, 1-1 at half time. Iveragh dominated much of the second half but the boys were excellent in defence and it looked like the game might finish in a draw but Iveragh managed to score 2 late goals, the game finishing 3-1 to Iveragh.

Thank you to Iveragh for hosting, the referee, and all who travelled to support the boys.



Ballyhar Dynamos FC U13 B squad who lost away to Killorglin FC B in 5-4 thriller.



Killarney Athletic U13 National Trophy

TOP 10 SAFETY TIPS' FOR DRIVING IN SNOW AND ICE

WHEN TEMPERATURES DIP BELOW FREEZING, DRIVING CONDITIONS CAN BECOME TREACHEROUS AS THE RISK OF ICE OR SNOW ON THE ROADS INCREASES. THE ROAD SAFETY AUTHORITY (RSA) HAS THE FOLLOWING "TOP 10 SAFETY TIPS" FOR MOTORISTS DRIVING IN SNOW AND ICE.

1. Get a grip. Remember your only contact with the road surface is your tyres, so it's vital that they are up to the task in icy and snowy conditions. Check tyres, including the spare wheel, and replace them if the tread depth falls below 3mm. Check that tyres are inflated to the correct tyre pressure. Lack of grip can occur even on treated roads, so drive slowly in the highest gear possible, manoeuvre gently and avoid harsh braking. Replace tyres if necessary.

2. Make sure you can see. Clear your windows and mirrors before you set out and carry a screen scraper and de-icer. Do not use hot water on the windscreen as it can crack the glass. Replace windshield wiper blades if necessary. De-mist the inside of your windows thoroughly. Make sure your windshield washer system works and is full of an anti-icing fluid. Remember that heavy snowfall will reduce visibility. Watch out for grit or salt spreaders and snow ploughs. The glare from the sun can be dazzling in winter when the sun is low in the sky, so wear sunglasses in these conditions.

3. Check and use your lights. Use your dipped headlights so that others will see you. Make sure your headlights and taillights are all in working order and replace broken bulbs. Ensure lights are clear of snow.

4. Gently does it. Manoeuvre gently, slow down and leave extra distance between you and the vehicle in front. Too much steering is dangerous, and harsh braking

and acceleration should be avoided. Use the highest gear possible to avoid wheel spin. Select a low gear when travelling downhill, especially through bends. Falling snow, fog, rain or hail will reduce visibility. Do not follow the tail lights of the vehicle in front as this can give a false sense of security. When slowing down, use your brakes so that brake lights warn drivers behind you.

5. Watch out for "black ice." If the road looks polished or glossy it could be black ice, one of winter's worst hazards. Black ice is difficult to see as it is nearly transparent and often looks like a harmless puddle or is overlooked entirely. Watch out for black ice especially in sheltered or shaded areas, under trees and adjacent to high walls.

6. Give yourself a brake. If you get into a skid, you need to know if your vehicle has ABS (Anti-Lock Braking Systems). After you step on the brake, the ABS begins cycling and you will feel pulses in the pedal or hear the system working. It is easy to properly use antilock brakes: remember Step, Stay and Steer. Step on the pedal, stay on the pedal and steer around the obstacle. A warning should be noted that a small amount of steering goes a very long way in an emergency. For vehicles without ABS, you must rely on the old-fashioned cadence braking system. Push the brake pedal until the wheels stop rolling, then immediately release the brake enough to allow the wheels to begin turning again. Repeat this sequence rapidly. Your goal is to have the tyres producing maximum grip regardless of whether the surface is snow or ice.

7. How does your vehicle help? Check your owner's manual to find out if your vehicle has any safety assist technology such as Electronic Stability Control (ESC) or Anti-Lock Braking System (ABS) and know how they assist

your driving in severe weather conditions. However, remember that technology offers no miracles and should not encourage overconfidence in available traction.

8. Be prepared. In prolonged icy or snowy driving conditions it is advisable to carry the following in the boot of the car: a high visibility vest, tow rope, spare bulbs, spare fuel, a shovel, appropriate footwear such as boots in case you have to leave your vehicle, a hazard warning triangle, a spare wheel with correct pressure and tread, de-icing equipment for glass and door locks, a first aid kit in good order, a fully operative fire extinguisher, a working torch, a car blanket, additional clothing, and some food and water. In preparation for driving you should also ensure the vehicle is properly maintained and serviced, engine oil viscosity is suitable for cold conditions, the strength of coolant or antifreeze is measured, there is an adequate supply of fuel for the journey, and you consider carrying some salt or sand. Give someone an estimated time of arrival at your destination and carry a mobile phone with a fully charged spare battery if you do not have a car charger.

9. Get informed. Listen to local weather and traffic reports. The RSA has prepared a helpful guide called "Severe Weather Advice for Road Users" which can be downloaded from the RSA website and provides additional useful advice on dealing with difficult road conditions.

10. Stay at home. The best thing to do in extremely bad weather is to stay off the road. Take heed of warnings not to travel as this allows emergency services to deal with real emergencies instead of assisting stranded motorists.





Killarney Athletic U12 Girls



MEK Galaxy U14 Girls Div 1

GIRLS U12 MATCH REPORT

Tralee Dynamos 0 – 2 Athletic

Away Day in Tralee. Athletic travelled to Tralee Dynamos on a beautiful but cold morning with blue skies and sunshining. Captain: Aoibheann Hegarty. A very tight and competitive opening half with both teams battling hard. Chances were limited and it remained 0-0 at half time. Second Half: Athletic came out fighting and turned up the intensity! Huge performances were put in by every player, Athletic maintained a high level throughout and created lots of chance Goals: Carolena Kelly, Jessie Doolan. A massive team effort with commitment, energy and determination shown by all. Thanks to Tralee Dynamos for a competitive and sporting game, and to the referee for officiating

U14 GIRLS PREMIER

St Brendans Park 2 - 2 Killarney Athletic

Erica Moloney x2

Player of the Game Erica Moloney

MASTERGEEHA

U16 BOY'S NATIONAL TROPHY ROUND 4

Borrisokane 1 v Mastergeeha 2

Scorers Dean Reirdon & Darragh Fleming

Mastergeeha FC march on towards last 32 of the competition. A hugely competitive game with the boys having to dig deep to get a great result on the road. Goals from Dean Reirdon and Darragh Fleming put us through to next round. All played well in very tricky conditions. Well done lads

U12 BOY'S DIVISION 2

Mastergeeha C 1 v Listowel B 1

Mastergeeha U12 C Team had the honour of playing the first competitive game in Kerry in 2026 when we played Listowel Celtic B at home on Friday afternoon at a chilly Kilbreen Park. Mastergeeha started brightly and created several good chances through Ryan Dewhurst, Finn Murphy and Jamie Scanlon. We were unable to convert due to good goalkeeping by the Listowel keeper. This followed some good work on the right wing by Conor Doyle. Listowel took the lead from a corner on 15 minutes, against the run of play. Mastergeeha continued to dominate territory and possession for the remainder of the half but were thankful to our goalkeeper Jack O' Shea and our defence of Michael O'Connor, Jerry Gallivan and Jack Lucey who prevented Listowel from extending their

lead following some quick breaks. Mastergeeha regrouped at half time with Dara Reen, Jack Rogan and Maitiú Ó Móráin making an impact from the bench. The equalizer came when Maitiú Ó Móráin won back possession on the left wing, played the ball centrally to Jamie Scanlon who played a perfect through ball to put Rory Leane through one on one with the keeper. Rory scored with a composed finish from a tight angle. Mastergeeha pushed for a winner with Finn Murphy very unlucky not to score the winner for a second game in a row. Best on the day for Mastergeeha were Jamie Scanlon, Jerry Gallivan, Jack Lucey and Maitiú Ó Móráin. Jamie Scanlon ran himself to a standstill in central midfield. Jerry Gallivan was a rock at centre back and put in some great tackles and blocks and continuously drove the team forward from the back in the second half.

Captain: Jamie Scanlon

Goal Scorer: Rory Leane Assist: Jamie Scanlon

Joint Players of the Match: Jamie Scanlon and Jerry Gallivan

Thanks to Referee Tom Kerrisk and to Listowel Celtic B for a very entertaining and sporting game.

U13 BOY'S DIVISION 2 SOUTH

Castleisland B 0 v Mastergeeha B 0

Two very evenly matched teams served up an entertaining game of football on an extremely cold morning in Castleisland.

Mastergeeha shaded the first half, but chances were at a premium for both sides. The Castleisland goalkeeper and Mastergeeha keeper Zach Lenihan both dealt confidently with everything that came their way, snuffing out the few opportunities that were created.

Second Half. Excellent defending from Adrian McGuire and Shane Counihan allowed Tom Hughes, Paul Mark and Conor Murphy to dominate possession. Mastergeeha controlled much of the second half but just couldn't find the breakthrough.

A very clever corner from Thomas O'Sullivan nearly caught the keeper out, while Dara Burchill was extremely unlucky not to round the goalkeeper after a superb through ball from Jack Doyle.

Man of the Match: Shane Counihan – outstanding in defence throughout.

Thanks to Castleisland for a very fair and sporting game.

Special mention to the referee, who did a

fantastic job in blinding sunshine and on a frosty surface.

U15 BOY'S PREMIER

Mastergeeha 1 v Killorglin 2

U15 BOY'S DIVISION 3

Park B 3 v Mastergeeha B 2

LOTTO

There was no winner of our lotto on Friday 2nd January for the Jackpot of €3,600. Numbers drawn were 02,05,10,11. Consolations Prizes of €50 each to the following, Maureen Creedon Lackabane Fossa, John O'Callaghan online, Gráinne Spillane Kilbreen and Michelle Carey online. Our next draw will be on Friday 9th January at the Village Inn for Jackpot of €3,800.

KILLARNEY CELTIC

CELTIC LOTTO

Numbers drawn 3,6,13,28. No Jackpot winner. Match 3 winners received €75. Next jackpot €6,000 on Monday January 12th. Tickets available from The Dungeon Bookshop, Amber Shop (Top of Ross Road), club members and online through clubzap.

KDL PREMIER

Classic FC 1-8 Killarney Celtic

Nattagun Ryan 2, Matt Keane, Liam Carey, Chris O'Leary, Sean Lovett, Mohamad Younes Fakani, Liam Spillane

Celtic started off 2026 with a clear cut win over Classic. Celtic were clear by half time and were rewarded for their play with more 2nd half goals to claim the 3 points.

KDL CHAMPIONSHIP

Castlegregory Celtic 2-2 Killarney Celtic B

Eoghan Crowley, Oran O'Neill

In a hard fought encounter Celtic claimed a share of the points. Celtic led 1-0 at the break but Castlegregory were level on 63 minutes. Celtic regained the lead immediately but Castlegregory came back again to level and the sides had to settle for a draw. Celtic B remain top of the division.

U15 PREMIER

Killarney Celtic 1-1 St Brendan's Park

Cormac O'Sullivan

Celtic and Park played out a draw in this entertaining encounter.

U15 DIV 1

Killarney Celtic B 8-1 Ballyhar Dyn

Luke Clifford 4, Cillian Scannell, Paul McGrath, Jack Clifford, Sean Doyle

Celtic B were clear cut winners of this Div 1 clash. Celtic were in control of the game and finished off good approach play with some excellent goals.

U13 PREMIER

Killarney Celtic 2-1 Inter Kenmare

Dylan McCarthy, Maksym Opala

Celtic maintained their position at the top of the division after a hard fought win over Inter Kenmare.

U13 DIV 1

Killarney Celtic B 3-4 Killarney Athletic

Illia Pomishchuk 2, Wojtek Ziglinski

Celtic B just came up short in this local derby played on a bitterly cold morning.

Tralee Dyn 2-2 Killarney Celtic C

Eryk McGrath, Mark O'Sullivan

Celtic C shared the points with Tralee Dynamos after a fine contest.

GIRLS

KDL PREMIER WOMEN

Killarney Celtic 2-0 Inter Kenmare

Lucy O'Sullivan, Cathy Harrison

Celtic came out on top of this tight contest. Celtic led 1-0 at the break after Cathy Harrison slotted home. Celtic secured the points in the 2nd half when Lucy O'Sullivan finished to the net.

U14 PREMIER

Fenit 3-4 Killarney Celtic

Leah Mannix 3, Niamh O'Leary

Celtic continue to play themselves back into the title race after a hard fought win in Fenit.

SYMPATHY

Killarney Celtic extends its deepest sympathy to the family of Patsy Flaherty. Patsy was a player and manager in the early years of the club.

CONGRATS to Ryan Cronin U13 who made the KSBGL Team of the Week and to Seodhna O'Sullivan U14 who made the KSBGL Girls Roll of Honour. Congrats to Aidan McCarthy who made the KSBGL Boys Development League Team of the Week.

KERRY

SCHOOLBOY/ GIRL SOCCER

NATIONAL:

U12 GIRLS BOOK MUNSTER FINAL IN MIXED WEEKEND

It was a mixed day for Kerry sides in Munster semi-final action, highlighted by a superb performance from the U12 Girls who booked their place in the final with a thrilling 3-2 win over Limerick County White, Gracie Maher proving the hero with a magnificent hat-trick.

There was disappointment for the U16 Girls, however, as they were undone by a strong Waterford side who claimed a 3-0 victory in Christy Leahy Park, while the U13 Boys saw their Munster campaign come to an end after a hard-fought 3-1 defeat against North Tipperary despite a competitive showing.

KERRY TEAMS ADVANCE TO NATIONAL STAGES

It was a positive outing for Kerry clubs across the National Trophy competitions as several teams advanced through tight and hard-fought



Killarney Celtic U14

encounters.

In the U12 Girls National Trophy Round 3, MEK Galaxy secured safe passage at the expense of fellow Kerry outfit Killorglin with a narrow 1-0 victory, Charlotte O'Connor providing the decisive goal to send her side through.

Castleisland showed great composure in the U12 Boys National Trophy Round 4, battling to a scoreless draw away to Carrig Celtic before holding their nerve in the penalty shootout to win 2-0 and book their place in the next round. Killarney Athletic also progressed in the U13 Boys National Trophy Round 4 with a strong 2-1 win over Kilfrush Crusaders, thanks to goals from Rian O'Reilly and John Hegarty.

Rounding off the weekend, Mastergeeha secured an impressive away win in the U16 Boys National Trophy Round 4, coming from a competitive contest to defeat Borrisokane 2-1, with Dean Reirdon and Darragh Fleming on the scoresheet.

GIRLS:

IVERAGH CLOSE THE GAP IN 12'S PREMIER

Iveragh enjoyed a highly productive series of outings in the Maher's Meats U12 Girl's Premier, they now sit two points behind new leaders St Brendan's Park after they moved top courtesy of a walkover against MEK Galaxy.

Iveragh's schedule began a couple of days after Christmas with a 6-0 victory over Fenit as Sianna O'Sullivan struck twice alongside goals from Andrea Newell, Maisie Donovan, Niamh County and Summer Hickey. When they returned to action at the weekend, they capped off an excellent run with a controlled 3-0 win over Killarney Athletic, with Summer Hickey, Maisie Donovan and Sianna O'Sullivan again finding the net to underline a strong all-round team performance.

Fenit proved more resilient in their next fixture, battling to a scoreless draw with Camp in a closely contested encounter. Elsewhere, Killorglin defeated Castleisland 2-1, securing their first win of the season.

DINGLE MOVE TOP OF DIVISION 1

With the latest round of action in the Maher's Meats U12 Girls Division 1 completed, Dingle Bay Rovers have jumped LB Rovers in the standings, with Killarney Athletic also keeping their title hopes alive.

Dingle produced a clinical showing in front of

goal powering to a 6-0 win over Inter Kenmare, Meadhbh Corcoran, Eabha Devane, Aoife Ní Shúilleabháin, Bridgie Nic Gearailt and Emma Kennedy their goal scorers.

Killarney Athletic B kept the pressure on the leaders with a 2-0 win away to Tralee Dynamos, as Carolena Kelly and Jessie Doolan found the net to seal a composed performance. Elsewhere, the meeting of Ballyhar and Listowel Celtic fell victim to the conditions and was postponed due to a frozen pitch. Camp B made the most of home advantage with a 3-1 victory over Iveragh, Shauna O'Connor leading the way with two goals, while Riadh Fitzgerald added another to secure all three points.

STALEMATE KEEPS ATHLETIC TOP OF PREMIER

A dramatic draw with St Brendan's Park was enough to keep Killarney Athletic top of the O'Sullivan's Bakery U14 Girl's Premier, with neighbours Killarney Celtic just two points behind.

Park and Killarney Athletic played out an entertaining 2-2 draw, with Saoirse Moynihan and Caoimhe Field on target for Park, while Erica Moloney struck twice to earn Athletic a share of the spoils.

Fenit were involved in a thriller but came out on the wrong side of a 4-3 defeat to Killarney Celtic, despite a brilliant hat-trick from Hannah Barrett-Neziri, as Celtic's Leah Mannix also netted three times, with Niamh O'Leary also on target. Castleisland completed the round with a strong home performance, defeating Listowel Celtic 3-0 thanks to a brace from Bella Clifford and a further goal from Katie Reidy to secure all the points.

DYNAMOS AND MEK SECURE WINS IN DIVISION 1

Tralee Dynamos and MEK Galaxy both secured long awaited wins at the weekend in the O'Sullivan's Bakery U14 Girl's Division 1, while Camp Juniors climbed to joint second.

Dynamos got the better of Ballyhar with a 6-1 victory, Tia Falvey stealing the spotlight with four goals, supported by further strikes from Izzi Royle and Rosa Barrett-Gordillo. In contrast, LB Rovers and MEK served up a pulsating contest that went right to the wire, with MEK emerging 5-4 winners after an end-to-end battle.

LB Rovers kept pace throughout thanks to





Mastergeeha U16 National Trophy Jan 3.jpg



Mastergeeha Under 12 C

goals from Grainne Maher, who netted twice, along with Kate and Aoife Houlihan, but MEK's attacking depth proved decisive as Eve Halligan struck twice, with Chloe Ferris, Lile Burke and Jane Byrne also getting on the scoresheet to secure a narrow but hard-earned win. Elsewhere, Camp secured three points with a 2-1 win over Inter Kenmare, with Andrea Fitzgerald and Elena Muller on target.

PARK MOVE LEVEL IN 16'S PREMIER

St Brendan's Park are joint top of the U16 Girls Premier, MEK Galaxy join them at the top of the summit, with Park securing the three points at the weekend, with Galaxy not in action. Park ran out 6-0 winners away to Killarney Athletic thanks to a clinical attacking performance, with goals shared between Sophie Doona, Sofia Rybanska, Taylor Kate Leane, Laura Heaphy, who struck twice, and Malwina Jankowska. Camp Juniors also secured a big win, as they powered to a 7-1 win over LB Rovers, with Hollie O'Driscoll leading the charge with a superb hat-trick, while Órlaith Flynn added two more and further goals from Alison Bartley and Meabh Kennedy ensured the result, Saorise Brosnan grabbed the consolation for LB Rovers. Elsewhere, Fenit edged a tight contest in Listowel, claiming a valuable 1-0 victory over Listowel Celtic with Fiadh Nelan's strike proving the difference in a closely fought encounter.

BOYS:

IVERAGH CONTINUE TO LEAD IN DIVISION 2 SOUTH

There was a lively round of action in the U13 Boy's Division 2 South with goals, comebacks and close encounters across the board. Iveragh B made the most of home advantage with a solid 3-1 win over Killarney Athletic C, to narrowly remain at the summit. Milltown were in fine scoring form on the road as they outgunned local rivals Castlemaine 6-3, with Muiris Quirke leading the way with a hat-trick supported by goals from Martynas Kerpe, Michael O'Donoghue and Jayden Sweeney. Castlemaine stayed competitive through strikes from Kieran Sheehan, Ruben Hogan and Billy Galvin.

Defences were on top in Castleisland as the hosts and Mastergeeha B battled out a scoreless draw, but there was no shortage of drama in Killorglin where the home side edged a nine-

goal thriller, defeating Ballyhar B 5-4. Joshua Sweeney struck twice for Killorglin alongside goals from Dylan Doona, Rory Dwyer and Oisín Griffin, while Ballyhar were kept in contention by a superb hat-trick from Tadhg Fitzgerald and a further goal from Darren Foley in a breathless contest.

LISTOWEL CELTIC EXTEND UNBEATEN RUN

With six straight wins, Listowel Celtic are the benchmark in the TC Construction U15 Boy's Premier this season, as they continued their form with two big wins over Castleisland during the festive break.

Celtic enjoyed a productive first outing against Castleisland, claiming a 4-2 victory thanks to a brace from Mason Sheehy-Elston alongside goals from Joe Joy and Simon Russell, despite determined resistance from Castleisland through Dylan Downey and Sean Kerin.

Just two weeks later they completed another strong showing by overcoming Castleisland once again, this time by a narrower 2-1 margin, as Adam Kearney and Joe Joy struck the decisive goals, with Kevin Brosnan replying for Castleisland in another hard-fought contest.

Killorglin also picked up a valuable away win, defeating Mastergeeha 2-1 with finishes from Fionan Burke and Adam Fleming, while Diarmuid O'Carroll kept Mastergeeha firmly in the contest. Elsewhere, honours were shared

between Killarney Celtic and Park A in a tight 1-1 draw, with Cormac O'Sullivan and Conor Maguire on target in a well-matched encounter.

BOYS TEAM OF THE WEEK

1. Ryan Cronin (Killarney Celtic U13)
2. Jerry Gallivan (Mastergeeha U12)
4. Fionn Fitzgerald (Camp Juniors U13)
5. Artem Dzhandra (Killarney Athletic U15)
3. Sean Ireland (Castleisland U12)
6. Daire Harkin (Killorglin U15)
7. Conor Maguire (St Brendan's Park U15)
8. Cormac Lawlor (Fenit Samphires U15)
9. Robbie McCool (Listowel Celtic U13)
10. Tadhg Fitzgerald (Ballyhar Dynamos U13)
11. Ethan Stack (Listowel Celtic U15)

GIRLS ROLL OF HONOUR

1. Orlaigh O'Donoghue (Camp Juniors)
2. Mae O'Mahony (Iveragh)
4. Alannah Crossan (St Brendan's Park)
5. Izzi Royle (Tralee Dynamos)
3. Katie Reidy (Castleisland)
6. Seodhna O'Sullivan (Killarney Celtic)
8. Erica Moloney (Killarney Athletic)
7. Sianna O'Sullivan (Iveragh)
10. Hannah Barrett-Neziri (Fenit Samphires)
9. Grainne Maher (LB Rovers)
11. Hollie O'Driscoll (Camp Juniors)



Killarney Celtic U13 Boys



Freezing Fog didn't stop the fun along with over 400 hardy souls from dipping into the icy waters at this years Christmas Day Charity Dip, at the popular shoreline at Dundag, Muckross Lake, Killarney National Park. The Christmas Dip was in aid of the Charity AWARE. The event was organised by Killarney Cycling Club, assisted by Killarney Triathlon Club and Niki and David McCarthy. To date over €70K has been raised from the charity dip.

Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan



Elaine Cronin (Leader Killeentierna Youth Club) presenting a Cheque for €605 to Elenor Leane (Secretary Killeentierna Community Centre Currow) the Proceeds of the Club's Christmas Disco. The Cheque is Towards the Centre's Building Improvements Fund Raising Campaign and details of same can be found on their Facebook and Instagram Pages. Also in Picture are Liam Brosnan (Vice Chairman Killeentierna Community Centre) and Moss Leane (Leader Killeentierna Youth Club).



Champion cyclist Sean Kelly pictured with members of the DSI Kerry branch at the official cheque presentation for the 25th annual Tour de Munster charity cycle on Saturday, 20th December. This year's event, held from August 7th to 10th, raised over €570,000 in support of the Munster Branches of Down Syndrome Ireland. For more information. www.tourdemunster.com Pic: Diane Cusack



St Brendan's College students who entertained staff and residents at St Columbanas' Killarney over Christmas. *Photo: Michelle Cooper Galvin*



Recently third class at Lissivigeen National School took part in and art competition for the Pat Corcoran Memorial Trophy with the theme "How can I protect our rivers and lakes from pollution" following a major fish kill on the Cork Blackwater in August 2025 in which approximately 32,000 fish were killed. Photo. L.R Kathleen Gleeson Lissivigeen Community Alert, Christy Lehane L.A., Denis Russell L.A., Pat Kelleher L.A., Tim Corcoran, Ellen Cagney Acting Principal Lissivigeen National School Chloe Lannigan 3rd., Ailbhe O' Sullivan 1st., and Danny Shevlin 2nd.



JIMMY O'SULLIVAN-DARCY

takes a look at all things sport...

Well, a bright and shiny new year (too shiny – the world is basically frozen as I write this) but the frantic world of sport hasn't even paused for breath.

My new year's resolution (I know some people would start those words with capital letters – ah now, let's not be tempting fate) is to be less cranky. I intend to greet every new day with a big smile.

So when I say that the amount of games that are taking place at the moment is ridiculous, I say it in a cheerful manner. Don't worry about it being the first week of January and very cold. Players love that. I'd say managers were nearly demented on Christmas Day with all the players texting them to say "look, alright so, no full training session for the day that's in it, but can't we at least open up the gym?"

I didn't go to any game over Christmas. Haven't been to any yet this year. No rush, either.

BALLYMAC

I didn't even see the Ballymac game on television. Sounds like they needed that early two goal cushion to hold out for a win over a very good Grangenolvin team. I like Ballymac, always have. For me, Aidan Breen was one of the best club footballers in Kerry for the bones of a decade and Ballymac have produced some really sparkling young guns recently – one grecian vase in rude earth may be a fantastic poetry line, but several means that somebody has put hard work into planting.

AN GHAELTACHT

I did watch An Ghaeltacht against Sallins. Cracking football, to be fair. I genuinely thought a few Kerry pundits were overconfident about that one. Club football (and hurling and camogie, by the way) are a lot stronger in Kildare than their intercounty results would indicate. I'll freely admit that I was caught on the hop by their hurlers last year, but as a general rule, I believe their clubs tend to be underestimated. Kildare's senior footballers should be genuine contenders for at least Leinster every year. Should Sallins have had that equaliser by James Dalton to take it to extra-time? I genuinely don't think so. I have issues with an obvious breach being simply ignored. I know it didn't matter in the end, but what if it did? You know as well as me that there would be no justice forthcoming. Of course, you have the controversial finish to extra-time. Was it a free? Yes. Did Sallins attempt to delay the free kick? Yes. After the free is brought forward, is Éanna Ó Chonchúir allowed to bring it back outside the arc for a two pointer? Yes. Now, there is certainly an argument that the punishment is excessive to the crime. That was my initial take on frees being brought 50 metres forward but you know what? Don't do the crime and you won't need to care. I'm alright with harsh sanctions. Some of you may have forgotten some of the



The victorious Ballymacelligott Team who will vie for glory in the All Ireland Junior Club Championship final at the weekend, Photo: Ballymacelligott GAA Club

appalling borefests that I endured on GAA sidelines in recent years; I certainly haven't. My generation saw some stuff...look, you that TV programme 'Stranger Things'? You know why stuff like that only happens in America? It didn't, stuff like that happened to us all the time – we just didn't go making a song and dance about it. All Ireland semi-final, Dublin v Donegal, 2011. It's on you tube. Go on, google it. I dare you.

Yes, this game was cruel on Sallins (I thought Darragh Mangan was superb) but it was a great game of football.

Can An Ghaeltacht go all the way? I'd love it. I remember their game against Caltra. That was a tough one – my abiding memory is that they were tactically outsmarted and, worse, just didn't produce their best on the day. One of those games where you couldn't help but come away thinking "if only". I remember them against Moy as well – I think it was Portlaoise. Four of us travelled together by car. That was another tough one. Especially the finish, with Moy playing keep ball and determinedly killing off any attempt at playing football. Right tactics, I'd have done the same myself, but it was truly hideous to watch. It was 0-6 to 0-3 after 52 minutes of football. I'm not joking; it was literally that bad.

Can they finally go all the way and claim an All Ireland at the third time of asking? I don't know, I haven't seen Glenullin of Derry. But they have reached an All Ireland Final; it's not like that's ever easy. And An Ghaeltacht are carrying injuries. You need the likes of Brian, Ruaidhrí, and Cathal Ó Beaglaioich and Tomás Ó Sé in full form for occasions like this. Why are so many players carrying knocks?

Well, here's an idea. It's January and they are still playing last year's football without a decent break. I'm just throwing it out there; I don't think we need to look at any Biddy Early type of curse here.

DINGLE

Then you have the Dingle game. Yours truly can be some clown at times. I was telling people in the days before the game that I thought Ballyboden were just slightly overrated. Tight sticky defenders, very fit team, good footballers. Not necessarily great shooters. Yes, Dingle would be up against it, but I thought Geaney two pointers would see them through. Twenty minutes later I was cringing. Jaysus, they were destroyed. Ballyboden were just hoovering up ball and smothering any effort by Dingle. Frankly, it looked like men against boys. If anything, I thought Ballyboden should have been further ahead. 0-14 to 0-5 at half-time. I genuinely did check what was on the other channels. RTE One had 'Oliver Twist'. When it comes to Charles Dickens, one of the greatest humanitarians of his era despite the flaws in his persona, I incline towards Oscar Wilde's famous remark "One must have a heart of stone to read the death of Little Nell without laughing". Harsh, I know, but Dickens does lay it on thick. I have no interest in watching greedy little Oliver demanding more food, the little pork barrel. RTE Two had Kate Garraway and Alison Hammond examining their DNA or ancestry or something. Even if I knew who they were, I'd be a solid No.

I did consider going for a walk, but then I remembered that I'm not actually a masochist (early January, et cetera). So I left the game on TG4, huddled by the fire, and concentrated on a good book ('The Gaffer' by Paul Howard, about Ireland's World Cup campaign. Twasn't great, in fairness).

Dingle definitely stepped up their game. Did Ballyboden hold back a bit? I hadn't paid close enough attention. But somehow, the tide wasn't just receding, it was changing direction. Freed from the shackles of Pa Warren, Tom O'Sullivan was suddenly everywhere. So was Tadhg de Brún. Paul Geaney came on and...



The final moments of extra time as Dingle advance to the final after defeating Ballyboden St. Enda's. Photo: Domnick Fitzgerald Dingle GAA Club



A fantastic performance by Paul Geaney helped Dingle to the final. Photo: Domnick Fitzgerald Dingle GAA Club

well, this time two years ago people were talking about him retiring from the game. Arrah, there's a biblical story where people were telling Jesus that Lazarus had retired. How did that one work out?

Extra-time. Ballyboden racked up three points and I thought that might be enough. But Dingle seem to relish this kind of last ditch territory and closed it out. I mentioned earlier on about an infamous Donegal v Dublin semi-final. Did ye actually google and watch it? Oh, ye poor crathurs. You should never pay me that much attention. The final score in that game was 0-8 to 0-6. Dublin won it with a grand total of two points from play. Dingle v Ballyboden St. Enda's finished 1-26 to 1-24. I would only describe one of those as a game of football.

I'm not rehashing reports of a game that I watched on television. If you attended the game in a bitterly cold Pairc uí Caoimh, you already have a better perspective on it than I. And if you didn't even watch it on television, I think it's safe to assume that you don't particularly care – in which case, good for you.

PLAYING SCHEDULE

I don't want to harp on about a topic, but it's January, and it's cold. These games are simply being crammed into an unwieldy schedule. I have a certain sympathy for the Sigerson Cup, that's a hard one to slot in given that education is the colleges' priority and intercounty managers want their players for the league and championship.

Not, and I can't stress this enough, the McGrath Cup. Look, of course it's good that Jack O'Connor gets to run the rule over talented players like Eddie Healy, Ciarán Collins, the Darragh O'Connors.....

I don't see it as being my business, or even of interest to me. I don't think winter football in what are basically glorified challenge games (yes, I said it, and I believe it) sets any benchmark. It puts lads in the training environment. I do think these lads deserve a look, having seen their club form in the club and county championships, and I'll certainly hope to see them in the National League.

The McGrath Cup, on a Tuesday night in early

January? Don't even be talking to me. It wasn't a bad game. I watched it on clubber, because I have a subscription. Would I have been willing to pay a one-off match fee to watch it? I don't know, maybe. On a Tuesday. Not a hope if it was on the weekend.

It was a good game. I thought Tomás Kennedy (I know he won an All Ireland medal last year, but I would not call him fully established as yet; it's kind of a grey area. But he looked genuinely a cut above the other players, and even with the caveats of bad ground and early days and the McGrath Cup, that counts for something. Joe Brolly famously commented about Ulster's equivalent McKenna Cup that it was so meaningless that "even the McKenna's don't attend". Little bit harsh, but funny, and it does have a kernel of truth – when you read the stats on the Kerry greats like Seamus Moynian, Colm Cooper, Declan O'Sullivan, et cetera, the McGrath medals don't feature too highly. It's not nothing, though. I thought Charlie Keating, Cillian Trant, and Thomas O'Donnell did well too.

Look, no team can afford to rest on their laurels and of course every team will come gunning for the All Ireland champions. Absolutely right and proper. But there aren't quite as many places up for grabs as you might think. Who do you see retiring from the Kerry panel? I can name twenty players in the queue for places without even stopping to think about it. That's without even considering the Dingle, An Ghaeltacht, or Ballymac players. Then remember the lads involved with the Sigerson – I've always believed that intercounty managers should not just allow, but insist of having lads prioritise the Sigerson. You'll have plenty long enough to run the rule over them, and the Sigerson is a great test for any aspiring county player.

KERRY'S PROSPECTS

My take on last year is that we picked up a soft enough National League (I am adamant that a lot of the contenders didn't want an extra game so close to championship), and started off well on a road that has been artificially elongated in the championship. Good Munster campaign – Cork rattled us hard twice, and that's no

harm. But bodies were taking on knocks – I have been opposed to the 'Super 8's or 'group stage' or whatever people want to call them. They are rubbish. I think tiredness and injuries caught us against Meath more than anything. I thought the main reason that we won the All Ireland was actually our load management. Key players got enforced rests and came back fresh just as other teams (Dublin, Meath, Cork, Galway) began to run out of steam. After that, our quality told.

Which is a long-winded way of me saying that players running themselves hard on bad ground in winter is not at all helpful in terms of winning an All Ireland. Frankly, I'm not that bothered by the National League. Yes, I do know Jack's record of winning leagues and championships together. I still believe that it's a case of 'post hoc, ergo propter hoc', i.e. just because one thing follows another doesn't mean that it caused it. I only know the phrase because it was the title of an episode of 'The West Wing', an old TV series where the US actually had a President. God be with the days, hah?

Can we pull it off again? I don't see why not, but that said, Cork are getting closer to us all the time (while somehow failing to really produce at underage) and I do believe that we caught a few teams on the hop who will have taken lessons on board. In many ways, you are dealing with a whole new game, or at least a complete change in game dynamics. The game is much more attack-minded now (for which I will gladly sing 'alleluia!') and the long schedule of games.....look, I still think that crowded schedule is a ticking time bomb.

SOCCER

To be honest, I'm very sceptical about this third tier in League of Ireland. Best of luck to those involved, but frankly, you already have a colossal gap between the Premier and First Division. This is going to be expensive for any team outside of Dublin – they have far fewer overnights or travel expenses than other teams, simply because so many LOI teams are based in or near the capital. I think it's a bit of a disaster for Kerry – I can't see a strong enough foundation to support two teams. They will

be competing for sponsorship and players and, great cup run aside, Kerry FC's league results just aren't getting them into anything like contention. They need to start hitting mid table. I don't know enough about their new signings but I really think that they will regret losing Ronan Teahan to Dundalk. Mind you, he might end up with regrets himself – Dundalk claim to have stabilised after two years of absolute turmoil – but Dundalk have made a lot of spurious claims in that same two years.

AFCON

The African Cup of Nations is coming in for criticism as well. Why can't it be played at a time more convenient for everybody...except Africa Wow. Do yourselves a favour – read a history book. Maybe they should have to pay reparations for taking the players away to another continent.....oh, wait. I changed my mind. Please don't ever read a history book.

I took one quick glance at the format of the European Cup (call it what you will) and decided that I wasn't going to care until it got down to at least the last sixteen. Except that by the time it reached that point, I was already well past caring. It's just far too long and far too many teams who just aren't elite quality.

WORLD CUP

Which brings me neatly to the World Cup. Will we get there? I reckon it's a 50/50 chance. Which is brilliant going, because up to recently I'd have said absolute zero. This Irish team aren't world-beaters

in any sense of the word, but they have proven character. Will Troy Parrott ever have a week like that again? Will Ireland supporters?

I was actually at the last World Cup in the USA. In fairness, it's not as daft a venue as Qatar. Mind you, the dark side of the moon would be a better venue than Qatar. That was a truly awful World Cup. Yes, it was a brilliant final, and winners Argentina losing early on in the group stage did give a temporary sense of intrigue, but overall the hype merchants had to earn their corn.

Will the USA be much better? I'd be very worried. First of all, soccer has grown in the USA, but if you actually watch MSL, the standard is not great. The Club World Cup was an embarrassing shambles. Really bad. And some factors, such as the weather, simply can't be avoided. Public transport in the US is notoriously poor. I'm actually told that it's much better in Mexico, which is where Ireland would be based early on (I've never been to Mexico, but Maradona in '86 and the Mexican wave are my first conscious memories of soccer on TV).

USA, Canada, and Mexico. Co-hosting. To listen to US republicans, you'd assume it would be a Fentanyl Convention, but no, apparently not. How big an issue will getting entry visas be? I don't actually think that will be a huge stumbling block. American tourism is already



hurting fairly badly. Have you noticed the advertisements for J1 visas? For almost my entire lifetime, they had absolutely no need to advertise them; young people were queueing up for J1s. I suspect that America will actually be trying to entice people to visit. I know Trump has blustered about changing venues per his whims, and we know exactly how willing Gianni Infantino is to stand up to FIFA's first Peace Prize winner, but the US is smart enough to know that their international standing has declined very sharply and this can be a shop window for them. No, I think ICE, those defenders of life, liberty, and the pursuit of...well, just general pursuit, will be told to cool their jets. Well, depending on how soon Trump declares a State of Emergency and suspends democratic elections.....I suspect that he will hold off on that until next year and take the inevitable hit on the Midterms.

The biggest issue, I think, is money. FIFA, never altruistic (are you kidding me?) have gotten ever more greedy. Ironically, it was American probity that eventually exposed Sepp Blatter's rank corruption, but that was a very different America. Ticket prices for this World Cup are already preposterous, even with all of the extra games, and it's going to get a lot worse. Soccer always billed itself as the game of the common people, the modern equivalent of Roman bread and circuses. I don't know how many common people will be able to afford this. Mind you, sports events are becoming exclusivised anyway.

Once upon a time sports was very much confined to the gentry. Jousting, polo, foxhunting, horse-racing, golf ("gentlemen only, ladies forbidden" is just an urban myth, however true the sentiment behind it, a 'gouf' was a small Scottish club)....basically, you owned land and equipment. It was a status symbol.

Athletics, of course, has an ancestry that surely goes back to when homo sapiens were asking neanderthals for dates, but a strict amateur ethos managed to exclude all those awkward peasants who might want actual prizes or be seen eating crude peasant fare like lobster or artisan sourdough. Yes, those were considered peasant dishes unworthy of nobility, who would instead wonderful fare like jellied eels. Have you ever seen jellied eels? Because I promise you, the name is literal.

Anyway, my point is that the peasant, awkward devils that they could be, kind of invented a game of their own about contesting for animal bladders. It wasn't played on horseback. It was played on foot. Hence, it became known as 'football'.

The Industrial (and less appreciated Agricultural – quick shout out to Jethro Tull) Revolution effectively created a regulated working week, urbanisation, more leisure time, and the ability to travel. Organised sport absolutely flourished. 'Football' may have come to mean different games in Britain, Ireland, the US, and so on, but the basic principle still applied. They could be played 'on foot'. You didn't have to be wealthy to participate or attend.

I'm beginning to suspect that is something that has almost turned full circle.

Oh, yeah. Remember my New Year's resolution to be less cranky? That went out the window fairly fast.

ACROSS THE WATER

Is soccer reaching a point of saturation? Not domestically – LOI attendances rose 11% last year from an already record 2024. But across the water the standard appears to be declining rapidly. Yes, Erling Haaland may well be the best striker in the world, but when you look at Liverpool, Chelsea, Arsenal, and purely for old times' sake let's pretend that Man United are still up among that bunch, even though they patently aren't, they all seem to lurch from crisis to crisis. Part of that is media-driven – no offence to tiktokkers and youtubers and other such idiots, but could we have some criteria for credentials? As for the jokey 'hail fellow well met' and 'here's a gas story I remember from a decade ago when I was actually god at the game; - jaysus, Roy Keane has become a parody of himself and will someone tell Micah Richards that it's only okay to bray with laughter at your own jokes if any of them are actually funny? Which doesn't ever seem to have happened. As for Simon Jordan? Ah lad, you'll never be the most annoying little pomposity of television, Piers Morgan has that title well sewn up.

BOXING

Speaking of tiktokkers and youtubers....ah, no, let's leave boxing out of it. Best wishes to Tyson Fury on his brave decision to come out of retirement...I think this is the sixth time? Maybe we could do a tag team event. Tyson and Conor McGregor against Logan and Jake Paul.

When you read the soccer in the sports section of most newspapers nowadays, you have maybe half a page on the League of Ireland and about three pages on the English Premiership, plus a syndicated piece about Lionel Messi or (increasingly rarely, understandably) Cristiano Ronaldo. And most of it will be gossip about managers. Who has been fired and who is just about to be. Amorim has finally departed Man United – that was a long and dismal saga. At some point the club have to look at their own structure and stop looking for stop gap solutions. They did give Amorim time, to be fair, but what's the point in firing him at the start of January? Exactly what miracle are you hoping for over the next couple of months? To be fair, the legendary class of '92 constantly carping in the media doesn't help, but that's not the problem and shouldn't be used as an excuse. How many hundreds of millions will the next attempt at a quick fix cost?

I personally think that Martin O'Neill has made a mistake taking back the helm at Glasgow Celtic. He did an incredible job as interim manager earlier this year. If he can work that magic again, he will be a god in that city. But the thing is, he already was a god in their mythology. What happens if he fails, which is likely enough given the starting point at his time? I think he is at risk of tarnishing his own legend.

LEGION ENJOY FESTIVE FOOTBALL AT THE O'MEARA CUP

Christmas week is renowned for bringing many sporting occasions to the fore. Whether it's Grade 1 horse racing at Leopardstown or Kempton, Darts at the Ally Pally, crunch soccer games cross channel or NFL season deciding games in the States, the period between Christmas and New Years gives the sports fan seasonal cheer.

It is no different in Gaelic football, when all eyes in Killarney were on the much coveted O'Meara Cup, played on a beautiful pitch one carpet in Direen over Christmas.

This annual Christmas festival of football, which celebrates the legacy of the O'Meara family in the club, is always a fun day out and bring a unique occasion where senior men, senior ladies, minor players, coaches and legends tog out together for bragging rights.

The game was an exciting affair between the Elves and the Santas with both teams putting on a tremendous display of footballing skills, hard work, intelligent link up play and cynical fouling.

The Santa team was cleverly managed by Orla Culloty who brought to bear many of the great tactical nuances of her late father. The Elves were managed by Martin O'Shea who had stacked team of minors, senior and ladies players at his disposal, but also had the handicap of having to field ladies senior coach John McCarthy both as a goalkeeper and as an outfield player.

Fittingly the final was refereed by new Chair John Keane, who ensured a free flowing game by leaving his whistle in the car.

Senior players Finbar Murphy, Sam Benson, Peter McCarthy, Podge O'Connor and Sean McCarthy were having to work off the Xmas excess with the energy brought by our senior and minor ladies, with Laura, Aine and Lauren catching the eye early on.

Minors Jake & Ronan - both unlucky to not be in the Kerry Minor panel after Minor, East Kerry, Frewen and u16 trophy wins last year were standouts throughout with fielding, tackling and mobility alongside fellow minor Sean Pierce.

In contrast, the veterans / legends were showing zimmerframe movement, skills amnesia and cynical play; Ted Healy was wasteful in front of goal for the Elves, John McCarthy was porous as a goalkeeper and mobile as a garden gnome outfield, and Brian Looney butchered not just one but 2 golden goal chances to win it for the Santas.

Last laugh went to the Elves with a great team goal to win it.

Xena Shine collected the ladies OMeara Cup from Michael Bernard O'Donoghue with a fine energetic display on the right wing, with Jake Coffey picking up the men's trophy with a polished midfield performance.

Thanks to all involved - players, organisers, pitch liners, tea makers and supporters. A great club day out and great craic. An Léigiún Abú!



Killarney Legion Members pictured at Direen for the O'Meara Cup. All photos: Maria O'Sullivan



DR. CROKES

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.

MEMBERSHIP IS NOW DUE

Membership can be paid through the club app. Download today <https://member.clubspot.app/club/dr-crokes-gaa/fundraisers>

CONGRATULATIONS to James Fleming and his fiancé Sinead on their engagement.

FR. PADDY'S CARDS return on Wednesday 7th January at 8pm in the clubhouse.

LOTTO took place on January 5th. Numbers drawn were 4, 6, 12, 17. Jackpot of €16,700 was NOT WON. 27 patrons matched 3 numbers and receive €25 each. Jackpot for draw on January 12th will be €17,000. Play online by following the link below and follow instructions attached <https://member.clubspot.app/club/dr-crokes-gaa/fundraisers>

CONDOLENCES to the Fleming family on the passing of Toni Fleming and to the Jones family on the passing of Sheila Herlihy. May they rest in peace.

Condolences to John, Stella, Evan, Jackie and the Looney family on the passing of Michael and to the Gleeson family on the passing of Jamie. May they rest in peace.

NOTES

If anyone has anything they want to add to our club notes please email communications. drcrokes.kerry@gaa.ie

EAST KERRY NEWS

ALL STARS

On our All Star Award's night, sponsored by Gleneagle Killarney Gleneagle Leisure The Kerryman, Friday January 9th, 2 great men will be honoured. Our Personality of the Year is

A SPECIAL WEEKEND OF AIB CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP ACTION AWAITS AS THE ALL-IRELAND INTERMEDIATE AND JUNIOR CLUB TITLES WILL BE DECIDED IN CROKE PARK

The AIB GAA Football All-Ireland Intermediate and Junior club finals on Sunday January 11th AIB, proud sponsors of the AIB GAA All-Ireland Club Championships, marks the culmination of another thrilling season of Intermediate and Junior club action. Joining AIB are the players who will contest this weekend's All-Ireland finals in Croke Park, each a testament to the dedication and community pride instilled within their clubs throughout the season.

The AIB GAA Football All-Ireland Junior club final takes place on Sunday at 1:30pm when Clogher Éire Óg take on Ballymacelligott. Clogher Éire Óg booked their place in the decider with a comfortable win over Kiltimagh (Mayo) on a scoreline of 2-13 to 0-09. Ciaran Bogue's two goals proved decisive for the Tyrone club. Goals were equally important in the other semi-final when Ballymacelligott beat Grangeltown (Kildare). Two goals inside the opening five minutes from Niall Collins and



Fionn Fitzgerald, winning captain with Kerry in 2014, his wife Claire and family welcome back Sam & Santa to Dr Crokes' Park

Donie O'Leary of Dr. Crokes GAA while our Hall Of Fame inductee is John O'Leary of Spa Gaa.

Donie, as well as player, has held many roles at the club, including being a selector on their historic All Ireland winning team of 1992, and chairman for their 2000 County Championship win. He has also been a delegate to the East Kerry Board for many year's.

John was a player and secretary for Spa for many year's. He then moved on to be East Kerry Board PRO and onto Kerry GAA PRO with great success, winning the Gaelic Writer's Association PRO of the year in 2015.

Congratulations to both on their well deserved accolade's.



The Kavanagh family meet Santa & Sam



Pictured is AIB ambassador Daire Keane (Ballymacelligott) ahead of the AIB GAA Football All-Ireland Junior Club Championship Final between Clogher Éire Óg and Ballymacelligott.
Photo Credit ©INPHO/Dan Sheridan

Adam Sheehy helped the Kerry club on their way to a 2-13 - 0-16 win.

The AIB GAA Football All-Ireland Intermediate club final will finish off the weekend's club action on Sunday with throw-in at 3:30pm for the match between Glenullin and An Ghaeltacht. Glenullin were able to overcome Strokestown (Roscommon) in their semi-final despite a tit-for-tat first half which saw the sides level at half time. The Derry club were able to pull away from their opponents in the second half to eventually win by a nine-point margin. An Ghaeltacht and Sallins GAA (Kildare) produced a thrilling affair in their semi-final. The game finished level and was decided in extra time with a two-pointer from Éanna Ó Conchúir giving the Kerry club a one-point victory. This season marks AIB's 35th year supporting the AIB GAA All-Ireland Club Championships.

Citizens Information

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

CLAIMING THE RENT TAX CREDIT

What is the Rent Tax Credit?

If you pay rent, you may qualify for the Rent Tax Credit. The tax credit reduces the income tax you owe by the amount of the credit. You can claim it for rent payments you made in previous years by making an income tax return. You can also claim the tax credit for payments made in 2025 if you are a PAYE taxpayer. It was announced in Budget 2026 that the tax credit will be extended for a further 3 years, to the end of 2028.

How much is the Rent Tax Credit?

For 2024 and 2025, the amount of the credit is 20% of your rent payments in the year, up to a maximum credit of:

- €1,000 for an individual
- €2,000 for a couple who are jointly assessed for tax

If a smaller amount would reduce your income tax to zero, that amount is the maximum credit you can get. For 2022 and 2023, the credit was €500 for an individual and €1,000 for a couple.

Can I claim the Rent Tax Credit if I live in shared accommodation?

If a number of tenants pay the rent for a property, each individual or couple can claim the Rent Tax Credit for the rent they pay.

You cannot claim for payments for:

- A security deposit
- Repairs or maintenance
- Board, laundry, utilities or other services

Who is eligible to claim the Rent Tax Credit?

You can claim the credit for rent payments you have made for:

- Your home
- A second home in Ireland that you use to take part in your work or an approved course
- A property that is used by your child to take part in an approved course, if they are under 23 at the start of the year in which they begin the course

The rent payments must be for a home that is in Ireland.

You cannot claim for rent payments on a property that you get housing support for, including:

- The Housing Assistance Payment
- Rent Supplement
- The Rental Accommodation Scheme
- Cost rental housing

This is the case even if you make a top-up payment in addition to the housing support you get.

Your tenancy must be registered with the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB), unless it is a type of tenancy where this is not required, called a licence arrangement.

This means that if you are sharing with the owner in a rent-a-room or digs arrangement, the tenancy does not have to be registered to claim the tax credit.

The Rent Tax Credit is not available for rent-a-room or digs accommodation if you and the landlord are related.

When your tenancy is registered by the landlord, the RTB sends you the Registered Tenancy (RT) number. You will be asked for the RT number when you apply for the tax credit. If you cannot provide the RT number when you apply, Revenue may ask you for it later.

When you apply, you will be asked to provide information about your landlord including:

- Their name and address
- Their PPS number or Tax Reference number
- The property's Local Property Tax number

If your landlord prefers, they can give this information to Revenue directly through myEnquiries. They should also give the Registered Tenancy number.

How to claim the Rent Tax Credit

If you are a PAYE taxpayer, you can claim the tax credit for rent paid in previous years in myAccount. You can also claim for rent paid this year if you are a PAYE taxpayer.

If you are registered for income tax self-assessment, you can claim the credit for previous years by completing your annual Income Tax Return (Form 11) in Revenue Online Service (ROS).

If you need further information about any of the issues raised here or have other questions, you can drop-in to your local Citizens Information Service in Tralee, Killarney or Caherciveen – opening hours are listed on our website www.citizensinformation.ie

You can also contact us by telephone or email:

Tralee Tel: 0818 07 7860 Email: tralee@citinfo.ie | Killarney Tel: 0818 07 7820 Email: Killarney@citinfo.ie | Caherciveen Tel: 0818 07 7780 Email: caharciveen@citinfo.ie

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MAGAZINES

DOMINOS WOMENS SUPERLEAGUE | SUNDAY DECEMBER 28TH

KILLARNEY SPORTS AND LEISURE CENTRE

Utility Trust St Pauls 95 SETU Waterford Wildcats 93 After one period of Over Time

Report by Enda Walshe

If you were looking for drama, thrills and spills, the Killarney Sports and Leisure Centre was the place to be as two sides served up a high quality encounter with a finish that would be hard to match. This was two top quality Superleague sides going at it hammer and tongs with every ball and call contested. St Pauls were superb in the first half especially in the second quarter which helped them build up an eleven point lead. But the Wildcats, in a testament to the side that they are, came roaring back in the second half and actually led by ten, 84-74 and looked likely winners with just over two minutes to go. They were still seven clear with a minute on the clock but the drama was only starting.

Sanija Brikmane had missed two free throws to extend out the lead and in the next attack Tara Cousins drained a three following crucial offensive rebounds by Maisie Burnham and Lovisa Hevinder. That cut the gap to four and then St Pauls succeeded in forcing both a turnover and foul on the Wildcats next offence. Up stepped Burnham to nervelessly score both and reduce the gap to two, 85-83. You could cut the tension with a knife in the gym as James Fleming's side went in search of an equaliser.

With sixteen seconds on the clock they had possession and the ball found its way to Cousins again. She had been effective at cutting to the basket and so she did again, putting up a shot with four seconds to go. It seemed to dangle for an age over the rim, contemplating whether to go in or not before eventually sinking to the roars of the partisan crowd. There was still 2.1 seconds to play and the Wildcats would have possession. But with too short a time span the shot was forced and the game entered over time. But truth be told there would only be one winner in added time as all the momentum was

with the home side.

Lorraine Scanlon and Tiarra Brown exchanged early baskets before Burnham nailed a couple of free throws. That set the scene for the winning moments as Leah McMahon and Lovisa Hevinder hit two massive outside shots, and Brown on the bench fouled out also. Ahead by eight, 95-87, you would have thought the game was safe but Alyssa Frescas hit two threes of her own to squeeze up the game. But as it had been throughout overtime the home side defence stood strong with Burnham leading the resistance. With other results going their way, St Pauls now sit in second again, just a game behind Killester, who suffered defeat to the Liffey Celtics. It's all to play for heading into 2026.

Despite Tara Cousins opening the game with a three it was the visitors who settled in quicker with Sarah Hickey, Brown and Frescas all on target. Lorraine Scanlon was getting into gear inside though and alongside Burnham and McMahon they tied up the game at 15-15. The level of the outside shooting went up a notch in the remaining minutes with Hickey and Burnham on song and that left the Wildcats 24-23 ahead at the end of the first.

St Pauls played their best basketball in the second quarter with Hevinder showing her form and Burnham excellent inside and out. Leah McMahon having her best outing of the season was superb in defence but also netting in offence. Midway through it was tied at 35 a piece before St Pauls started to unleash. Burnham and Hevinder may have been the architects of the scoring run but Scanlon and McMahon were rampant also and it meant St Pauls were 48-37 clear at half time.

But the Wildcats and their coach Jillian Hayes know the ropes better than anyone else and slowly but surely they started to claw their way back into it. Hevinder was excellent in this period, actually helping her 58-43 clear but Sanija Brikmane and Brown were all busy chiseling away at the lead which had shrunk to 64-61 by the end of the quarter. St Pauls



Player of the Month Maisie Burnham who scored 26 in the game v Wildcats is presented with her award by Enda Walshe.

tried to knock that momentum on the head with Scanlon and McMahon netting early but Sarah Hickey was leading the Wildcats charge and with assistance from Frescas the lead was wiped out at 70-70. For the next few minutes the lead changed hands before Brown hit a big three to push her side four clear, 78-74. Hickey made it a six point game, soon to be eight and then Brikmane made it a double digit lead. Lovisa Hevinder hit a long range three to cut the gap to seven but you would still have got big odds on a St Pauls comeback. But that failed to take into account their fighting spirit and no little skill. A memorable afternoon for all those present.

Maisie Burnham had 26, Lorraine Scanlon and Lovisa Hevinder 22 each, Tara Cousins 14, Leah McMahon 11.

For the Wildcats Sarah Hickey was best with 28, Tiarra Brown 23, Alyssa Frescas 13 and Sanija Brikmane 11.

Utility Trust St Pauls play their first game of 2026 when they entertain the Portlaoise Panthers this Saturday January 10th at 4pm in the Killarney Sports and Leisure Centre.

Dominos Mens National League | Saturday December 27th | Kingfisher Gym

Utility Trust St Pauls Lakers 76 Moycullen 64

Report by Enda Walshe

Utility Trust St Pauls Lakers made it five wins in a row and a second win over Galway opposition when they accounted for Moycullen in the Kingfisher Gym on Saturday night. The home side made a strong start to the first quarter but Jack O Sullivan continued his recent good form by giving his side a leg up and that helped them into a 22-19 lead. They went to win or at least gain parity in the remaining three quarters and for the most part they were relatively comfortable.

Point Guard Stephen Kelly again led the St Pauls effort, his 26 points / 11 rebounds / 8 assists may have been agonisingly short of a treble double but it's that kind of form that helps a team win games. And while not every shot fell for Sam Grant he still recorded a double double and his threes were well timed. His rebounding was central to quelling any Moycullen second chances and in this regard Eoin Carroll was also outstanding. When you factor in 16 points it was another good night in the office for the Lakers captain. Minus Rui Sariava, Marko Bencic and Pablo Murcia the full strength of the squad was needed and the 2 Adams, Whitty and O'Neill, again saw court time. As is their usual Mark Sheehan and Oisin Spring put their shoulders to the wheel, the former with six points and rebounds and the latter with his

usual gusto. The win sees the Lakers in playoff territory heading into 2026 and Coach Luke O'Hea must take serious credit for the way he has shape shifted his side in recent weeks.

As stated Moycullen were first out of the traps with Jack Hackett and Antonio Molino accurate and when Grant Ollson hit a three there were 8-2 to the good. Jack O'Sullivan had the Lakers sole reply but the next few minutes saw the Lakers accurate from outside with Grant, O'Sullivan and Kelly tightening up the game to 14-12. When Mark Sheehan hit another three the Lakers were in front, and indeed it was a lead that they were never to relinquish. Eoin Carroll was weaving his way in the paint and despite points from Ivan Basic and Liam Moloney the Lakers were 22-17 to the good.

Grant hit a three early in the second period to give his side more daylight and even though the impressive Ollson was on song for Moycullen, Carroll continued his good work and with the help of Kelly they were now 34-21 clear. Dylan Cunningham did initiate a mini spree for the hosts with Ollson and Hackett following suit and the game poised at 37-30 with a minute to go in the half. But a lot can happen in a minute and good work from Grant and Kelly meant the Lakers would now be 41-30 in front heading to the break.

Cunningham gave his side a fast start to the third period but Sheehan again landed from three point land to settle the Lakers in. Kellys drives to the basket were paying dividends all night and try as they might, Moycullen couldn't

reduce the deficit. Ollson thought he was making headway but Jack O Sullivan popped in another three which was soon followed by a similar Kelly effort. James Loughnane had a three and with the home crowd sensing a bit of momentum they got involved. Ivan Basic had trimmed the lead down to 8, 57-49, but Kelly produced a vital three point play which served to temporarily deflate the home crowd.

But Ollson and Loughnane soon had the crowd involved again, their early threes cutting the gap to five early doors. But that spurred the Lakers to go on an 8-0 scoring run, with Kelly, Carroll and O Sullivan supplying the bullets. O Sullivans basket particularly was the product of intelligent game management, using the 24 second shot clock to full effect. With a 68-55

lead and four minutes to go, it would take a Devon Loch moment for the Lakers to lose the points now. But there was no fear of that as Grant hit an overdue three and followed it up with a smooth bucket. Despite the best efforts of Grant Ollson, Moycullen never threatened again, with the Lakers running out stress free 76-64 winners.

Steve Kelly had 26 points, Eoin Carroll shot 16, Jack O Sullivan and Sam Grant 14 and Mark Sheehan 6.

Grant Ollson was best for Moycullen with 27, Antonio Molina 9, Dylan Cunningham 7, James Loughnane, Ivan Basic and John Hackett 6 each. No action for the Lakers again until Saturday January 10th when they face the Titans.

Warriors pass UCD test to secure Cup final ticket

Dominos Mens Super League Semi Final

Garvey's Tralee Warriors 86 UCD Marian 74

For the second time in their short history Garvey's Tralee Warriors are through to a Super League National Cup final after seeing off the challenge of UCD Marian by 86-74 in the semi-final played at Neptune Stadium last night. Marian were without the services of two of their pros in Tanner Graham and Mihael Linde but the Warriors went about their task in business-like fashion to secure a place in the Cup final for the first time since 2022. The win sets up a mouth-watering decider against keen rivals Ballincollig in the season's showpiece event at the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght on Saturday 17th January.

Both sides started the contest well with the Warriors shading the early exchanges with Daniel Jokubaitis firing in the first two scores and when Jordan Perkins and Cian Sullivan opened their respective accounts the Tralee side led 9-4 with UCD Marian's response coming from Zach Hinton and new signing Bruce Saintilus. Saintilus was in range again from inside and outside either side of a Sean Fitzpatrick basket to edge the Dublin college side ahead but Iggy Hunte drove up the lane to give Warriors a one point lead midway through the quarter. James Connaire and Hinton struck from distance for Marian but at the other end Perkins and Jokubaitis replied in kind before an 'and one' from Cian Sullivan put four between the teams with 2'00" on the clock. Perkins knocked down his second major of the night before team captain Eoin Quigley added to give Warriors a 28-23 lead at quarter time.

Olaf Michalczyk heralded his arrival on the court early in the second with a quickfire double but Saintilus was again on the mark for Marian a minute later to leave six between the midway through. Saintilus from beyond the arc and a double from Hinton kept Marian in touch but at the other end the Warriors were finding the UCD basket with some ease and Perkins, Michalczyk and Steven Bowler with an and one

combined to give Warriors a ten point lead at 44-34 up with a minute on the clock. However a Zach Hinton effort with the last score of the half pared the lead back to 44-36 as the halftime buzzer sounded.

The third quarter saw Warriors continue to pick off scores with Jokubaitis adding early from either side of the three point line and with Perkins, Dan Bowler and Quigley all on the mark their lead remained intact. However, Marian's offence moved up a gear with Hinton and Jack Kehoe finding the time and space to knock down two three pointers each and with Saintilus again finishing under the board the sides were suddenly all square with 1'30" left on the clock. Team captain Eoin Quigley stepped up to the mark to land the final score from play with a cracking major effort to help Warriors to a 60-55 lead turning down the stretch.

The outcome of the contest remained very much in the balance early in the final quarter as Steven Bowler and Quigley added before a sensational finish from Perkins kept Warriors in front. However Saintilus and Hinton continued

to dominate the UCD scoring and combined for eight points from play and the free throw line to maintain the Marian challenge. But in what were the decisive moments of the game Daniel Jokubaitis lit the arena up with a devastating volley of scores that added 10 to the Warriors tally. Sean Fitzpatrick struck back with a major score for Marian before Iggy Hunte slammed in a dunk to push the Warriors lead out to 79-66. The Warriors rearguard stood tall late on and crucially denied the Dublin outfit a score for a full two minutes before Hinton and Sean O'Flynn chipped in consolation scores as the clock ticked down. Jordan Perkins calmly swished two free throws in the final seconds to seal the deal and book the Warriors ticket to Tallaght in two weeks time.

Scorers:

Garvey's Tralee Warriors: Daniel Jokubaitis 27, Jordan Perkins 18, Iggy Hunte 10, Eoin Quigley 10

UCD Marian: Bruce Saintilus 30, Zach Hinton 27, Sean Fitzpatrick 7



Warriors captain Eoin Quigley tips in

The Board of Management of St. Brigid's Presentation Secondary School Killarney invites applications for the post of School Secretary

Position:

School Secretary - 30 hours per week (Tuesday to Friday).

This position is subject to the Department of Education and Youth salary scale set out in Circular 0020/2025. Salary Scale and Conditions of Service will be in accordance with the regulations of the Department of Education and Youth.

How to Apply:

Email CV with cover letter to recruitment@sbk.ie by **1pm on Monday 26th January 2026**. Applications received after this time will not be considered. Only applicants who are shortlisted for interview will be contacted.

More Information including full details and job specification are available at
<https://stbrigidskillarney.ie/vacancies/>



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WANTED



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with Killarney Outlook

by John O'Sullivan

HEDGING

Hedges can make a much more natural background to a garden than a wall or a fence. They can provide shelter and are cheaper and require a small amount of maintenance. Because a hedge allows the wind to filter through it reduces its velocity. Tall or low growing, clipped or informal, there is a hedging plant for every purpose. One thing to remember about a hedge is that it is intended to be a permanent feature in the garden so therefore should be chosen with care and planted in well prepared soil. to choose the right hedge for your garden here are a few pointers to think about

1. The type of soil you have.
2. How exposed the garden is, i.e. what direction is it facing.
3. The eventual height and width the hedge will be.
4. Does it need to be evergreen.

When you have chosen the type of hedge that you want it is time to prepare the soil. start preparing the soil by digging thoroughly and forking in some well rotted farmyard manure. Hedges can be planted all year around, but the ideal time is between November and March as all hedging plants will be dormant at this time. What that means is when you go to buy your hedging plants they are lifted straight from the ground and are called bare-rooted hedging. This enables you to replant straight back into the ground when you get them home. Just make sure when planting that the roots are spread out well as this will encourage them to root quickly when the growing season starts. Now is the perfect time to plant hedging, however if you wish to wait until the end of March you can plant container grown hedging all year around. Next week I will focus on trees.

JOHN O'SULLIVAN, FOUR SEASONS GARDENING
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Freezing Fog didn't stop The Morgan men, Eoin, Paul and Sean, along with over 400 hardy souls from dipping into the icy waters at this years Christmas Day Charity Dip, at the popular shoreline at Dundag, Muckross Lake, Killarney National Park. The Christmas Dip was in aid of the Charity AWARE. The event was organised by Killarney Cycling Club, assisted by Killarney Triathlon Club and Niki and David McCarthy. To date over €70K has been raised from the charity dip.

Photo: Valerie O'Sullivan



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A Word of Victory

"Therefore, let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe" (Hebrews 12:28).


Welcome back dear student, warmest wishes for a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year! There's certainly lots happening in the world. All around us Biblical prophecy is being fulfilled - we shouldn't be surprised. Spiritual battles are raging between dark and light, between good and evil. People who don't know God are confused and deceived - even mad at God. Our foe is not God, but the powers of darkness - Satan and his demons are stealing, killing, and destroying at every opportunity (John 10:10). It's easy to blame God rather than investigate and face the Truth. Complacency and lack of knowledge of God's Word contribute to the problems. The enemy comes dressed as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14). What better way to fool your prey than to hide your existence? A modern trojan horse, causing destruction, fear, and defeat. But for those who will believe in the Lord Jesus, humbly repent of sin, and accept Him as Lord, the outcome is much different. "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:8). No matter what's going on, God's Word proves true, outlasting all opinions! The Lord Jesus was born, grew up, died on the Cross, and was raised from the dead, fulfilling every prophecy about God's promised Messiah. The Word of God is the testimony of Jesus; His life and teaching are the heart of prophecy (Revelation 19:10 Amplified Bible). We must not fear what's transpiring in the world. We should only fear God.

Jesus asked... "what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, if he loses His own soul?" (Matthew 16:26; Mark 8:36). Life is a rollercoaster - mountain top experiences one day, and down in the valley the next. But relationship with Jesus keeps one stable. "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High will remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty, whose power no foe can withstand" (Psalm 91:1-2 Amplified Bible). The enemy is active and cruel, but his power is nothing compared to God. Jesus defeated him at the Cross (Colossians 2:13-15). The joyous message of the Gospel is - God so loves each and every human being that He gave His Only Son to die in our place, taking our sin and curse, enduring such pain, suffering, sickness, and torment so that we could be healed and made whole, forgiven and reconciled to the Father through His sinless Blood (John 3:7-16; Romans 5:6-11).

Folks watch romantic movies dreaming of true love. Yet the 'Greatest Love' of all is available for us all to receive freely (Matthew 10:8). The Friend who sticks closer than a brother. The Shepherd who tends all our needs. The Giver of every good and perfect gift. The Author of Life; Prince of Peace; Wonderful Counsellor. His Name is Jesus, the Son of God. He loves you friend. He gave everything for your deliverance and freedom! God doesn't try to buy our love - He has given each one of us a free will to accept, or not. But He longs for us to choose Him. To Believe in Him. To live for Him, in obedience to His Word, following His lead - walking in Love. There is a high call upon our lives (John 15:16). Yes, the world is unstable, but everything is - without God. It's time to return to Him and begin this year right. Don't settle for 'the same old...same old'. Seek God's purpose and plan for your life! Listen to our latest podcast episodes 'Vision For 2026' on Spotify for more.

Bible Study and Prayer every Sunday @ 11am and Thursday @ 7.30pm at Word of Victory Christian Fellowship Killarney V93V6X4

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EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Church of the Resurrection 5pm - 9pm Tuesdays
St Mary's Cathedral Wed 11am- 5.30pm
Wednesday
Muckross 4pm-6pm Thurs followed by Mass at 6pm for the Holy Souls
Franciscan Friary 2pm -7pm Fridays Holy Hour
Sundays @ 6pm

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE DECEASED OF 2025

There will be a special concelebrated Mass on Monday 26th January at 7p.m. in the Cathedral in memory of all those who died in our Parish in 2025 (i.e. January

1st to December 31st 2025 inclusive) There is No 6.15 pm Mass that evening. We invite family, relatives, neighbours and friends to join us for this Mass. Parishioners whose loved ones have died, and whose funeral took place outside the parish and whose family would like them to be remembered, please submit their names to the Parish Office before Monday 19th January.

DATES TO TAKE NOTE OF:

Confirmation March 6th at 11.00am & 2.30pm

1st Holy Communion Dates

2nd of May Lissivigeen NS & Tiernaboul NS
Church of the Resurrection - 10.30am

9th of May Holy Cross Mercy NS - 10.00am, St Mary's Cathedral & Presentation Monastery NS - 12noon

16th of May Loughquittane NS, Muckross Church 10.30am

16th of May St Olivers Ns , Church of the Resurrection 10.30am & 12.30pm

23rd of May Gaelscoil Faithleann, Church of the Resurrection 10.30am

23rd of May Scoil Bhride, Loreto , Muckross Church 10.30am

YOGA CLASSES

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AL-ANON

Help and hope for the families and friends of alcoholics. MEETINGS Every Tuesday at 8.00pm commencing the 6th of January at St. Claire's House, Beech Road, Killarney (Enter via small gate on the left of Islamic centre) Website- al-anonuk.org.uk Helpline- 01-873-2699

POLISH MASS

The Polish community would like to thank Fr. Szczepan for his two months service. Polish masses are celebrated every Saturday at 6.30pm in the Resurrection Church. More information about other services can be found on the Polskie Duszpasterstwo w Kerry page

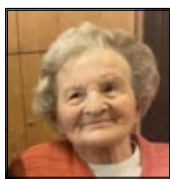
KILLARNEY PARISH CALENDARS

The Killarney Parish Calendar is available at all the Churches and the Parish Office

BINGO IN ST MARY'S PARISH HALL: every Thurs at 8.30pm.

1ST ANNIVERSARY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
SHEILA PIGOTT



ROCKFIELD, TRALEE RD,
KILLARNEY.

For my Auntie

*I'll miss your kindness and your love,
I'll miss your happy smile,
And I promise that every single day
I'll remember for a while.*

*We shared something truly special,
Something that can never be replaced.*

*A bond that the years can never fade,
Memories that time cannot erase.*

To lose you brings such sadness,

But know that you live on,

In my heart and in my memory,

Shines the guiding light you shone.

So sleep softly, angel,

In your eternal rest.

To have called you my Auntie,

I was truly blessed.

From your loving niece
Maguerite Brosnan & Pat.

Anniversary Mass will take place in
Kilcummin Church on Saturday, January
10th at 7.30pm.

13TH ANNIVERSARY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
**MAUSIE
COURTNEY**



LATE OF CURREAL GLENFLESK
AND DEERPARK KILLARNEY

WHO DIED ON THE
31ST OF DECEMBER 2012.

We will always have memories

To cherish and to hold

Of a wonderful mother

More precious than gold.

A laugh, a joke, a time to care

A wonderful nature, warm and true

These are the memories we have of you

Always loved and never forgotten

Your son Johnny, daughter-in-law Evelyn
and grandchildren Shane, Dayna
and Katie.

†

21ST ANNIVERSARY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF A DEAR
FATHER, GRANDFATHER AND
GREAT GRANDFATHER

JOHN JOE LYNE



KNOCKLEBEDE, KILCUMMIN

WHO PARTED FROM US
SUDDENLY ON
JANUARY 13TH 2005
AGED 58

Memories Of You Dad

It's been the hardest thing to lose you

You meant so much to me

But you are in my heart Dad

And that's where you'll always be

I know that Heaven called you

But I wish you could have stayed

At least the memories I have of you

They will never fade

I did not want to lose you

But you did not go alone

Because a part of me went with you

When Heaven called you home

So just remember one thing

We are not apart

You're with me in my memories

And in my broken heart

Lovingly remembered by
Tina, Noel, Grandsons Evan and Aaron
and Great grandson Timothy xx

8TH ANNIVERSARY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF A
MUCH LOVED FATHER
AND GRANDFATHER

**DAN
CROWLEY**



INCHES, RATHMORE
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
ON THE
5TH JANUARY 2018

*If we could write a story
It would be the greatest every told
Of a kind and loving father and grandfather
Who had a heart of gold*

*We could write a million pages
But still be unable to say
Just how much we miss you
Every single day.*

*To us you were someone special,
So good, so kind, so true
You will never be forgotten
For we thought the world of you*

*Deep in our hearts
Your memory is kept
To love, to cherish and never forget.*

Sadly missed and always remembered by
your daughters Eileen, Breda and Margaret,
Sons in Law and Grandchildren

NOVENA TO ST. CLARE

IN THANKSGIVING

Novena to St. Clare. Ask for
three favours, one business, two
impossible. Say nine Hail Mary's for
nine nights with lighted candles.
Pray whether you believe or not.
Publish on ninth day. Powerful
novena.

Say may the Sacred Heart of Jesus be
praised, adored glorified and loved
today and everyday throughout the
whole world now and forever. Amen

Your request will be granted no
matter how impossible it may seem.

NOVENA TO ST ANTHONY

O wonderful St. Anthony, glorious on account
of the fame of your miracles, and through the
condescension of Jesus in coming in the form of
a little child to rest in your arms, obtain for me of
His bounty the grace which I ardently desire from
the depths of my heart. (State your intention)
You who were so compassionate toward miserable
sinners, regard not the unworthiness of those
who pray to you, but the glory of God that it may
once again be magnified by the granting of the
particular request (State your intention) which I
now ask for with persevering earnestness. Amen

Pray one Our Father,
one Hail Mary, and
Glory Be to the Father, in honor of Saint Anthony.
Saint Anthony, pray for us!

PRAYER TO THE LITTLE FLOWER ST THERESE

O Little Therese of the Child Jesus, please
pick for me a rose from the heavenly
gardens and send it to me as a message of
love. O Little Flower of Jesus, ask God
to grant the favors

I now place with confidence in your
hands . .

(mention in silence here)

St. Therese, help me to always believe as
you did in God's great love for me, so that
I might imitate your "Little Way"
each day.

Amen

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10TH ANNIVERSARY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
CATHERINE
O'LEARY



LATE OF KNOCKLEBEDE,
KILCUMMIN, KILLARNEY
WHO DIED ON THE
8TH JANUARY 2016.

*You were always there
when we needed you
No task too great or small
With loving heart and helping hands
For us you did it all.*

Lovingly remembered by your husband
Patie, daughters Marie & Kayleigh and John,
Son Ian, son-in-law John, daughter-in-law
Aileen, grandchildren Aimee, Rhea-Kate,
Noah & Freddie

36TH ANNIVERSARY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
PETER D.J.
O'SULLIVAN



ANNAGHMORE, HEADFORD,
KILLARNEY, CO. KERRY WHO
DIED ON JANUARY 7TH, 1990

*Two calloused hands from work are stilled,
A million Jobs undone.
At rest, at last, in Gods Own House,
Content, at Peace, At One.*

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam
Always remembered
by your loving wife Philomena & family.

6TH ANNIVERSARY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MIKE JOHN
MOYNIHAN



ON YOUR 6TH YEAR AWAY
FROM US

GULLANE, GNEEVUILLA,
RATHMORE, CO. KERRY.
WHO PASSED AWAY
ON THE
06/01/2020.

Goodnight, God Bless
*Without your kind and gentle smile
And sweet familiar face
A treasured life is missing
And the world's a sadder place*

*You lived your life so graciously
You always did your best
And now you're with the angels
And it's time for you to rest*

*As peace surrounds you everywhere
In heavenly skies above
Here on earth you're deeply missed
And thought about with love*

*We see the stars at night time
Shining bright and clear
And as we say goodnight, God bless
We know that you are near*

Loved and missed always by your wife
Eileen, daughters Michelle and Aoife,
sons in law Frankie and Kevin and
grandkids Evie, Fionn and Grace.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & 1ST ANNIVERSARY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
KEVIN O'SHEA



LISSIVANE EAST, MILLTOWN
WHO PASSED AWAY ON
10TH JANUARY, 2025.

As we lovingly remember Kevin on his 1st anniversary, we, his family wish to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the many expressions of sympathy, kindness and support shown to us following our very sad loss, especially our extended family, friends and neighbours.

A sincere thank you to all who called to our home, attended the rosary, removal, Requiem Mass and burial. We are grateful to those who sent floral tributes, Mass Cards, perpetual enrolments, sympathy cards and letters, text messages and online condolences.

We wish to acknowledge and thank everyone who helped out during Kevin's illness, sending cards, text messages, offering prayers and to those people who took him to Cork for his many appointments. He really appreciated the goodwill shown to him.

We are deeply grateful to Kevin's amazing work colleagues in Aghadoe Heights Hotel where they kept in touch with him on a regular basis. This meant so much to Kevin. A special mention to Fr. Danny Broderick and Deacon Conor Bradley for celebrating Kevin's Requiem Mass and to Neily O' Connor and Sean Treacy for the beautiful music and singing.

Heartfelt thanks to Listry G.A.A. Club, Listry Golf Society and Aghadoe Heights Hotel for the guards of honour provided. It was very moving to see so many sending Kevin off on his final journey.

We would also like to thank Flynn's Undertakers for their kindness, professionalism and guidance at such a difficult time. To Dr. Ann Cronin, Killorglin, Dr. Eileen Kelliher and her wonderful team in the Bon's Secours Hospital, Cork, the staff at the Pallative Care Unit, U.H.K., and to the Kerry Pallative Care Community team, we will be forever thankful for the loving care, compassion and kindness you showed.

We would also like to say thank you to O'Sullivan's Pharmacy, Killarney for their dedication and efficiency during Kevin's illness. We are very grateful.

Finally, we want to thank Sean O'Mahony and his staff at Killarney Country Club for looking after us so well.

As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our heartfelt gratitude for your kindness and support. Your thoughtfulness will be forever remembered.

*"A golden heart stopped beating,
Hardworking hands at rest,
It broke our hearts to see you go,
God only takes the best"*

Forever missed and never forgotten by
his wife Siobhan, daughter Orla and sons
Keven and Darragh.

First Anniversary Mass for Kevin will take
place on Saturday, 10th January at 6.00pm
at Church of the Immaculate
Conception, Listry.

PRAYER TO PADRE PIO

O Jesus, full of grace and charity, victim for sinners, so impelled by Your love for us that You willed to die on the Cross, I humbly beseech You to glorify in heaven and on earth Your servant, Padre Pio, who generously participated in Your sufferings, who loved You so much and labored so faithfully for the glory of Your Heavenly Father and for the good of souls. With confidence I ask You to grant me, through Saint Padre Pio's intercession, these special requests... (Mention here).

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