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Allie Ferris and Ríonnach Gallagher, Killarney enjoying the balance bikes from Racysports in conjunction with cycling Ireland in the Killarney National Park as part of the Wander Wild Festival of outdoor, culture and wellness in Killarney (17-19th April). [www.wanderwildfestival.com](http://www.wanderwildfestival.com)  
Pic Darragh Kane

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# A Note from the **E** DITOR



In the week that Killarney wandered wild in spectacular fashion, we have a jam packed magazine for you to enjoy!

A budding Killarney artist has won a top prize in the Texaco Art Competition, the Cuckoo has landed and Killarney said a sad farewell to one of its adopted sons. A Killarney native has been selected as the 2026 Kerry Rose, Who Wants to be a Millionaire in aid of the Ian O'Connell Trust was a great success and after decades of service, the Friends of the Children of Chernobyl Charity brings its journey to a close.

Work has begun on a major public realm improvement in town, Kerry Hospice is looking for support ahead of Sunflower Day and the 2026 Rally of the Lakes has been launched.

A team from St. Brendan's are appearing on our screens in a new quiz show, Killarney Cycling Club is taking to the peaks in aid of Comfort for Chemo and Killarney Chamber of Tourism & Commerce welcomed members to a lunch at the Racecourse.

The Conference of Possibilities took place last weekend, the parish is preparing for First Holy Communions and Kilcummin Parish Church is planning to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

In sport, it's time to tee off for the Kerry GAA Golf Classic, St. Brigid's Presentation Secondary School have won a historic Munster title and Killarney Rugby Club are celebrating after a sweep of victories in their youth section.

Hope you all enjoy this week's Killarney Outlook!

*Aisling Crosbie*



*Sunday evening at Ross Castle captured by Kira Clarke*

**Picture PERFECT**

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[news@outlookmags.com](mailto:news@outlookmags.com)  
for inclusion in the Killarney Outlook.

# THIS WEEK

ALL THE NEWS FROM THE  
KILLARNEY AREA AND BEYOND

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- Anne Lucey - Talk of the town
- What Women Want - Beauty
- B Well Fitness - Fitness
- Astrid Longhurst - Wellbeing
- John O'Sullivan - Gardening
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# The Cuckoo has Landed!

**Cuach Cores Travelled from the Congolese Forests in Central Africa to Derrycunihy Woodland, Killarney National Park for the third year in a row!**



Photos: Valerie O'Sullivan



The latest data from BTO British Trust for Ornithology recorded on Monday 20th April said "Cores left Spain, and after a flight across the Bay of Biscay, came ashore in western France on Saturday. Currently on the outskirts of the town of Villeneuve-en-Retz. He is poised to head north straight into Ireland. he's pretty much on schedule!" (last year it was 22nd April).

If you're an 'early bird' and would love to hear the elusive bird. Head for Derrycunihy Church, Killarney National Park, park your car and walk in (Follow Kerry Way signs Old Kenmare Road -Incheens), pass the stream and you should hear him from the path.

We hadn't heard from Cores since last Autumn 2025 after he'd successfully crossed the Sahara, then British Trust for Ornithology (Partners with National Parks and Wildlife Service on the Cuckoo Project) "Out of the blue, BTO British Trust for Ornithology received a signal on 19 March 2026! He was in Ghana!. Presumably, he'd

spent the last four months in the Congolese forests as usual. He is now on his way with his tag functioning again for an epic journey of 9000 kilometres." On the 10th April he had entered Spain in the mountainous region close to the village of Cañadas de Cañepla.

Cuach Cores was first tagged at Incheens, Derrycunihy, Killarney National Park in May 2023

The Cuckoo, along with the Swallow and the Corncrake, has a long Irish history as a harbinger of summer, arriving in the last days of April which have often been referred to as 'the time of the cuckoo.'

Cuckoos are a summer migrant to Ireland with adult birds only being here from April to early July having spent the winter in Africa and are a unique bird in Ireland as they lay their eggs in other birds' nests and have no involvement in raising their young One of Ireland's natural migration mysteries may soon be solved as

the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) commenced a cross-channel Cuckoo tracking project with the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) to find out just where Irish cuckoos spend their winter months. It is hoped the project will also answer if Irish cuckoos undertake a different migration strategy to their British counterparts across the Irish Sea. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) linked up with the BTO Cuckoo team to satellite track four Irish Cuckoos: Three from Killarney National Park, and one from Burren National Park, Co. Clare. The birds were given names and fitted with satellite tags and their movements can be followed on the new Cuckoo page. Using local place names the Cuckoos were named to the areas they were tagged, such as 'Cuach Torc' and 'Cuach Cores' from Derrycunihy, Killarney National Park. Cuach Cores was the first Cuckoo in Ireland and UK to arrive in the Democratic Republic of Congo in September 2023.

## Killarney Student Win Top Prize In Texaco Children's Art Competition

A budding Killarney artist is one of three Kerry students to have won top prizes in this year's 72nd Texaco Children's Art Competition.

Florence Sexton (9) from Art House, Killarney won one of the top prizes along with Lauren Heavey (14) and Wiktorija Gasienica (13), both from Mercy Mounthawk Secondary School, Tralee.

All were winners of Special Merit Awards which Final Adjudicator – Irish visual artist, curator and educator – Pauline O'Connell said 'were imaginative and demonstrated high

levels of skill and creativity.'

The Texaco Children's Art Competition is popularly regarded as the longest-running sponsorship in the history of arts sponsoring in Ireland, with an unbroken history that dates back to the very first Competition held in 1955. This year, as has been the case throughout its life, it has been a platform on which young artists from Kerry and counties throughout Ireland have had their talents recognised and their creativity commended.





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The town won't be the same...

## KILLARNEY MOURNS THE PASSING OF JOE GAFFEY

Killarney has been deeply saddened by the passing of one of its most loved and familiar faces, Joe Gaffey, whose death has left a profound void in the town he called home for so many years.

There was scarcely a person in Killarney who did not know Joe. Originally from Athlone, he made Killarney his home alongside his beloved wife Julie and their sons Darren and Jonathan. Over the years, Joe became much more than a resident of the town - he became part of its heart and soul.

Known to many through his work as a window cleaner, Joe was instantly recognisable as he made his way through the streets with his cloth in hand, always ready with a smile, a joke or a friendly chat. His warm personality, kindness and charisma brought joy to countless people every day.

Joe had a special way of making people feel valued. Whether you met him on the street, in a shop or out on his rounds, you always came away smiling. His good humour and genuine interest in others made him one of the town's most popular and well-loved characters.

A keen sportsman, Joe had a lifelong love of golf and in his earlier years, he also played soccer with Fossa and enjoyed the camaraderie and friendships that sport brought him.

Joe's generosity and community spirit were evident throughout his life. On the occasion of his 60th birthday, he chose to raise funds for the Killarney branch of Multiple Sclerosis Ireland, asking for donations in lieu of gifts. Ten years later, for his 70th birthday, he once again used the milestone to help others, this time raising money for the dementia unit at



Rockmount Care Centre in Kilgarvan.

Joe was also known for embracing life and enjoying every moment. One of his proudest and most memorable moments came when he took to the stage at the INEC as part of the first Strictly Come Dancing event for the Irish Cancer Society. Alongside his dance partner Mary MacMonagle, Joe was one of the stars of the show and won the hearts of everyone in attendance.

Joe Gaffey passed away peacefully on April 20, 2026, surrounded by his loving family and in the wonderful care of the nurses and staff of Aghadoe Ward at University Hospital Kerry.

He is survived by his devoted wife Julie, his sons Darren and Jonathan, daughter-in-law

Joanne, and his adored grandchildren Katie, Olivia, Ruby, Kian and Logan. He will also be sadly missed by his sisters Joan and Mary, his brother Declan, extended family, neighbours and his many friends.

Joe was predeceased by his parents Joe and Gertie and by his brother Ray.

His passing marks the end of an era for Killarney. The town will not be the same without his cheerful presence, his kind words and the smile he brought to so many faces.

Joe Gaffey was truly one of Killarney's adopted sons, and his memory will live on in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

May his gentle soul rest in peace.

## NEW ERA FOR KERRY'S EYE

### as Media Veteran Acquires Local Newspaper

Kerry's Eye, has been acquired by Web Print, owned by Donagh and Jennifer O'Doherty, marking a new chapter in the title's long and distinguished history. The new owners are committed to preserving the paper's proud legacy of high-quality local journalism, a tradition that has served the community for more than half a century.

Donagh O'Doherty brings extensive industry experience to the role. He has held senior positions, including Managing Director of The Kerryman and of Independent News & Media's regional titles. His company, Webprint, has been a trusted printing partner to Kerry's Eye since 2017.

The Kennelly family's decision to sell was guided by a single goal: to secure the long-term future of Kerry's Eye. The family determined that a thoughtful succession plan was the right path forward — one that protects the newspaper, its staff, and the legacy built over 52 years. Kerry's Eye was founded by the late Pdraig Kennelly Senior and his late wife Joan in 1974.

Up until this purchase, the newspaper had been owned by the founders' sons, Pdraig Kennelly, Brendan Kennelly and Kerry Kennelly, as well as Financial Controller Tom MacMahon.

Pdraig and Brendan Kennelly will remain actively involved, while Kerry Kennelly will continue in his role as Picture Editor, upholding the publication's high standards of quality and visual excellence.

Pdraig Kennelly said: "Kerry's Eye has always stood for independent and

rigorous local journalism, a watchdog holding authority to account on behalf of our readers and the entire county of Kerry

"Our priority has been to find owners who would honour that tradition and protect what so many people have worked exceptionally hard to build."

Donagh O'Doherty added: "Kerry's Eye is a title with real heritage and a proud record of serving its community and the people of Kerry. We are honoured to take on the responsibility of carrying that forward and look forward to working with the talented team at Kerry's Eye to build on its success."

The Kennelly family expressed their sincere gratitude to the people of Kerry, and to the newspaper's readers and advertisers - and to the current staff and those who have worked at the newspaper over the past 52 years - whose loyal support for independent local journalism remains the lifeblood of Kerry's Eye.



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Grace will explain about Phishing, Smishing, Vishing & Quishing, and other up-to-the-minute scams, as well as the older scams that still manage to catch many people off guard!

She will provide tips and tricks on how to protect yourself from falling victim to a scam.

There will be a Question and Answer session as well at the end of the meeting, followed by refreshments & chat available after the meeting.



ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND



# Caoimhe Selected as the 2026

# Kerry Rose

Killarney native Caoimhe Lynch has been announced as the 2026 Kerry Rose. The 28-year-old, who is now living in Dublin, works as a secondary school chaplain and English teacher. In 2024, she founded The Light House Project, an initiative aimed at supporting communities experiencing poverty and social challenges. Music also plays a major role in her life and she is director of The Kingdom Gospel Choir in Killarney, which has more than 100 members. Although now based in Dublin, Caoimhe said Kerry will always be home and she enjoys returning to spend time with family and friends. Among her interests are meeting friends for coffee, travelling, especially to visit friends living abroad, and taking part in family music sessions.

Speaking to the Killarney Outlook this week, Caoimhe said:

*It was the best feeling hearing my name called out on Saturday night! I was shocked - it could have been any of the 17 ladies, they were all so fabulous, but I am just so grateful that I get to represent the county I love so much...*

*I really can't wait to represent Kerry in the Rose of Tralee festival in August - representing it's kindness, it's warmth & it's love!*

*The amount of support I've received is insane! The messages, the comments, the phone calls - my phone hasn't stopped hopping, but it is all so appreciated, and the kind words are so heartwarming!*

Her announcement as Kerry Rose has been warmly welcomed, with many expected to follow her journey over the coming year.



2026 Kerry Rose Caoimhe Lynch after being selected at the Heights Hotel Killarney. Picture by: Mark Nolan ©



2026 Kerry Rose Caoimhe Lynch pictured with Rose of Tralee Katelyn Cummins and 2025 Kerry Rose Laura Daly after being selected at the Heights Hotel Killarney. Picture by: Mark Nolan ©



2026 Kerry Rose Caoimhe Lynch pictured with her supporters after being selected at the Heights Hotel Killarney. Picture by: Mark Nolan ©



Beaming with pride..... 2026 Kerry Rose Caoimhe Lynch pictured with her mother, Siobhan, after being selected at the Heights Hotel Killarney. Picture by: Mark Nolan ©



2026 Kerry Rose Caoimhe Lynch pictured with her family after being selected at the Heights Hotel Killarney. Picture by: Mark Nolan ©



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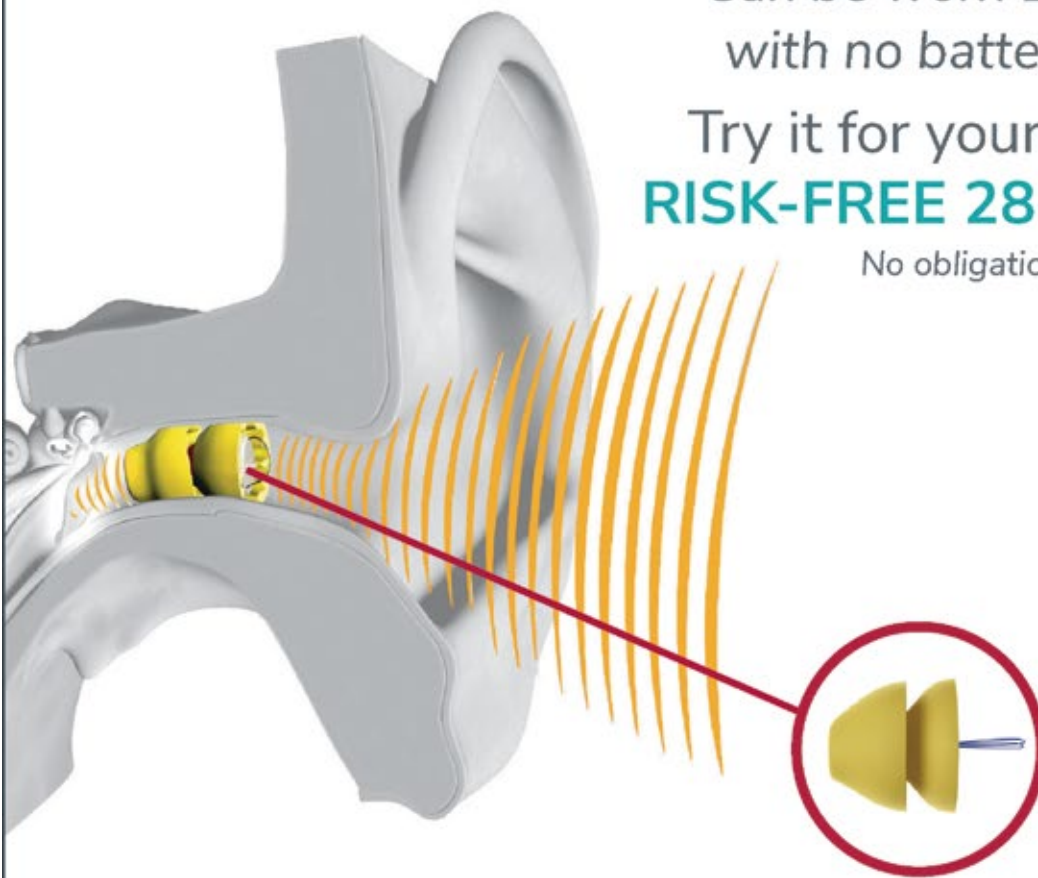
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# Kerry GAA stars on hand to launch May Festival at Killarney Racecourse



(Back L:R) Gretta Turner and Tony Moore (Time To Party), Mark O' Shea, Jason Foley, (Kerry GAA), Karena McCarthy (Killarney Credit Union), Lily MacMonagle (The MACademy), Paul Murphy, Shane Murphy, Michael Burns (Kerry GAA), William Sheahan (Killarney Town Retailers Association), Chris Davies (Killarney Racecourse) Front (L:R) Moss Shannon, Penny Lou Shannon

Live horse racing returns to Ireland's most scenic track this May for the highly anticipated Killarney Races May Festival. The three-day event blends top-tier racing with a vibrant social scene, offering something for seasoned punters, families, and visitors alike.

The season officially opens on Saturday, May 9th (12 noon start), a date that aligns perfectly with the Munster Football Final weekend. The sporting stakes are high for a bumper weekend in Killarney and if Kerry and Cork both progress through their respective semi-finals, A Kerry vs. Cork showdown will be fixed for Sunday May 10th in Killarney, positioning the racecourses opening Saturday fixture as the perfect curtain-raiser for a great weekend of sport in Killarney. The opening card features a feast of National Hunt racing headlined by sponsors TOTE, and racing action will be complemented by lively music from Nicole Lonergan and The Gallivanters.

On Wednesday evening just gone, stars from the Kerry GAA panel (pictured) were on hand to launch the Killarney races Locals' Family Day, scheduled for Monday, May 11th (4.30pm start). Sponsored by Killarney Credit Union and the Killarney Town Retailers Association, this evening shifts the focus toward the local community. Children's entertainment specialists 'Time to Party' and 'The MACademy' will host a dedicated family fun area, perfect for young families to get out on a spring evening and soak up the festive atmosphere. Accompanied by an adult ticket, all kids go free. Entertainment will include, bouncing castles, clowns, an interactive disco, carnival games and much more.

Speaking about the Locals Family Evening, sponsors Karena McCarthy of Killarney Credit Union said, "We are pleased to bring the community together for an action packed locals evening. The Credit Union is committed to supporting local initiatives, and this event is a perfect way for neighbours to gather and enjoy the fantastic festival atmosphere Killarney Racecourse offers."

William Sheahan, Chairman of the Killarney Town Retailers Association, who are also sponsoring the local's day said, "Our members are always ready to support local, and we are delighted to support the Locals' Family Day". From boutique fashion and fragrances to traditional butchers, footwear and pharmacies, Killarney retailers have an incredible amount to offer both residents and visitors, and we were delighted to come on board as a sponsor of the evening at Killarney Racecourse.

The festival concludes on Tuesday, May 12th (4.30pm start), with the Fexco Festival Finale. The final day pairs a high-quality flat racing card with some great live entertainment, ensuring the spring festival closes on it's usual high note.

Karl McCay, General Manager of Killarney Racecourse expressed his readiness for the season ahead: "We are eager to welcome the public back to the Killarney Races. Between the calibre of the racing, the community-focused family evening, and our entertainment lineup, we have curated a program that offers something for every attendee this May Festival."

**Tickets are available for just €20 via the official website:**  
[www.killarneyracecourse.ie](http://www.killarneyracecourse.ie)



L:R Tony Moore (Time to Party), Alfie Rue Buckley, Penny Lou Shannon, Aliyah Yadav, Zoya Yadav, Otis Buckley, Moss Shannon



# FAMILY FUN DAY



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**Anne Lucey** looks at the positive news happening in Killarney



## THERE IS GOOD NEWS AT LAST FOR KILLARNEY

Sure there will be pain for a few months, but at long last Killarney is getting something! €7.5million is being spent overall and the works to Main Street and Kenmare Place is phase one and is welcome news. Councillors, the council engineers and planners under former manager Angela McAllen and current Martin O'Donoghue are to be congratulated in securing the money from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) for public realm improvements.

It is not before time. Hopefully High Street and New Street, Killarney's oldest street will follow. I still regret the councillors' decision - under pressure from an online public angry with the lethargic and incompetent HSE - to vote down



the plans for the Lewis Road. I feel our TDs should have supported them in facing down the pressure.

More than me. A lot of old Killarney stock fear

we will all be looking at a derelict Aras and surface car parking in Lewis for decades to come.. Back to the good news. The 3.7m wide single lane road with improved footpaths, public realm and landscaping from the junction of the N71 at Kenmare Place to Plunkett Street junction.

The scheme will include revisions to bus set down and loading bays, a raised uncontrolled crossing and revised location of accessible parking along with associated landscaping and drainage work.

Approval had to come from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to commence. Could the council toughen things now and insist on pedestrianised Main Street after the July re-opening? I can't see why we need traffic through Main Street.

## GERNIKA - RECALLING MONDAY APRIL 26, 1937

I visited the Basque town of Gernika earlier this year to see the town behind the painting of one of the worst atrocities of the Spanish Civil War or any war. 40 years ago I had viewed Picasso's terrifying masterpiece at the Reina Sofia in Madrid. In 1985 there was comfort in how it seemed to come from a surreal world that a page had been turned on. Or so I thought.

Gernika is still as Basque a town as any - deep cafes, good coffee, and cautious people; lots of people reading newspapers. A bit like the Annals of Inisfallen and the Luna, Gernika wants Picasso's painting to be displayed in the town that begot it.

The bombing of Gernika took place on Monday 26 April 1937. The last Monday of the month is the big market day.

Gernika was a centre of support for the legitimate Republic under attack by Franco and the Falange. The last Monday of the month is the big market day.

The experiment was authorised by Hitler and Mussolini to suit their pal Franco. The planes were from the German Condor Legion alongside the Italians. The purpose was to find out how efficient large scale carpet bombing could be as a killing machine. People who tried to escape were strafed on the roads. It is still not known how

many died. Pieces of their personal belongings, shoes, clothes, jewellery were picked up and are in the museum in the town centre. It houses a dedicated peace section where Gerry Adams and the Good Friday Agreement occupy centre stage. There is a local context to this: One of the men who fought in the international brigade in Spain to preserve the republic against Franco was Michael Lehane from Morley's Bridge. Michael had attended agricultural college, had worked as a labourer and had picked up a determination for civil and workers rights and a duty to international comradeship.

I was privileged to cover the occasion of the awarding of a posthumous medal by the Norwegian Govt to Lehane on a damp May Sunday in Kilgarvan in 1997. Old comrades from the Irish International Brigade had assembled probably for the last time.

Tanaiste and Labour leader Dick Spring was there. It began to rain. As they sheltered alongside each other under the one large umbrella, Dick cracked a joke that the next Kerry South TD was the councillor on the stand alongside him - the late Jackie Healy-Rae. A month later a general election was called. And the rest, as they say, is history!

## FAMILY FIRST POLITICS IS NO PARTY FOR KERRY

A heartbroken Michael Healy-Rae displayed a defiant triumphant closed fist like Trump, following his surprise resignation the week before last. Several hours earlier he had released a video in support of the Government.

His son and ministerial advisor Jackie Healy-Rae who is also regretting the loss of a job he loved, said "the stumbling block" for his father - who is too upset to give media interviews - was the Taoiseach.

But who really stumbled and who are the real losers is my question. With Michael Healy-Rae as minister, Kerry had achieved a rare double.

No real explanation has been put forward why Michael suddenly quit. But there is a hint in the mention of his late father: family first politics.

Most people believe it was family loyalty: Michael felt obliged to follow his older brother Danny. Simple as. Minister Norma Foley went on Morning Ireland to say everyone knew the agreement was "for two". Really, I thought to myself? In the week that was in it, was Michael Martin actually going to insist on the small print of an obscure unwritten deal reached 18 months ago?

And Taoiseach Micheál, to his

credit, has said as much since - he was never going to insist on Michael resigning his ministerial role. Intriguingly, the Taoiseach felt sorry for Michael; it was a matter for Michael and Danny and there was "a bit more to it", he said. Back to the family, in other words. Michael Healy-Rae showed real talent in Government and more than farmers and machine drivers in Kerry depended on him as a rare second minister.

The tourism sector is very disappointed. I spoke to the Irish Self Catering Federation. Privately, they are devastated. They had a rare champion in short-term letting with Michael at the table of power. They had even got him to open their national conference.

The Healy-Raes have pushed out the boundaries of Irish politics with a family based, not party based alliance. A legitimate question now needs to be put: is family first politics proving even more smothering of talent than party politics? How independent is Michael Healy-Rae or Danny Healy-Rae for that matter when they insist on family first politics in a modern democracy?

With two of our five TDs now in the back benches with practically no speaking time, last week was a bad week for Kerry.



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## End of an Era:

# FRIENDS OF THE CHILDREN OF CHERNOBYL BRINGS DECADES OF SERVICE TO A CLOSE



Bro Liam of Burren Chernobyl Project (front centre) receiving the cheque from the Chernobyl Killarney Branch Mary O'Leary and Joan Buckley with (second row from left) Bernie Mullen and Rosie Byrne of Burren Chernobyl Project, Mary Nolan, Kathleen Collins, Sheila Goulding, Gillian Fitzgerald, Aisling Crosbie, Kathleen Fitzgerald (third row from left) Liz Griffin, Aoife and Francis O'Toole, Mary O'Connor, Paula Kavanagh (back from left) Ger Fitzgerald, Kieran Fitzgerald and John O'Toole at the International Hotel, Kilarney. Photo by Michelle Cooper Galvin

As the 40th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster approaches this weekend, the Killarney branch of the Friends of the Children of Chernobyl is bringing its remarkable journey to a close after decades of compassion, care, and unwavering dedication. Over the years, the organisation has touched countless lives, offering support and hope to children and families affected by one of the world's worst nuclear disasters. Its closure marks the end of an extraordinary chapter in community service and international solidarity. Founded in 1992 by the late Betty Crosbie, the Killarney branch spent almost 30 years supporting families, schools and communities in Belarus affected by the fallout from the Chernobyl disaster. Throughout those years, Betty and her committee travelled regularly to Belarus, building strong relationships with local schools, communities and a mental hospital. Their work included fundraising, organising aid shipments and arranging memorable visits for children from Belarus to Kerry. From 1992 until 2015, groups of children travelled to Kerry each year for month-long respite holidays. During their stays, local professionals volunteered their services to meet the children's medical and dental needs while

also ensuring they enjoyed a holiday experience they would never forget.

On the visits to Belarus, the Killarney committee would work in orphanages and help to improve the lives of some of the country's most vulnerable children.

However, rising travel costs eventually made the annual trips unsustainable.

"It simply became too expensive. The fares kept going up and up," Mary O'Leary, chairperson of the committee said.

In 2015, the group decided to stop bringing children to Ireland. Instead, they focused on raising money to support schools in Belarus, enabling children to attend holiday camps several times a year. "You wouldn't believe how wonderful those holiday camps in Belarus are," Mary, who made many trips to the region added.

Betty made her last visit to Belarus

at the age of 87. Up until her passing in 2021, she continued to spend her free time packing bags of aid, including clothes, shoes and bedding, to send to Br. Liam in Ennistymon, who would then arrange for the supplies to be transported to Belarus.

Betty first brought children to Killarney in 1993 and, over the years, brought happiness and hope to countless Belarusian families. Families across the Killarney area were at the heart of the charity, opening their homes every July to welcome children from Belarus into their families and communities. Many local businesses also played a vital role by sponsoring events and outings for the children during their stay. Each child returned home with bags filled with clothes, gifts and supplies for their families. This year the difficult decision to wind down the charity was made as with events in the region due to



Betty Crosbie who founded the charity in 1992.



Mary O'Leary with Interpreter Natasha Siderchuk in Belarus

outbreak of war in Ukraine, made it impossible for the committee to provide assistance.

"On behalf of the committee I want to sincerely thanks all the businesses in Killarney who supported us over the years, those who donated money to the charity but most important, the host families who, without their generous hearts, it would have been impossible for us to bring the children to Killarney", Mary O'Leary added.

This week, past and present committee members gathered at the International Hotel to present Br. Liam, who is now a citizen of Belarus, with a cheque for over €30,000, which will be used to continue supporting families in Belarus. The money was raised in various fundraisers and flag days in Killarney and will now be spent on those most in need in the region. Although the Killarney branch is now coming to an end, the work of Betty Crosbie and her committee will continue to make a difference for years to come.



A group of children singing their national anthem at a party at the Killarney Oaks Hotel, where Fr Kieran O'Brien said mass.



Frances O'Toole, Ger Fitzgerald, Gillian Fitzgerald and Betty Crosbie in Belarus in 2015



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## WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE?

## IAN O'CONNELL TRUST FUNDRAISER

*Was a Great Success at the Plaza*

A special fundraising quiz inspired by the popular TV show Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? took place at the Plaza Hotel, Killarney, on Friday, April 17th, 2026, and proved to be a tremendous success.

The event was organised in support of spa club member Ian O'Connell and raised vital funds for the Ian O'Connell Trust. Those in attendance enjoyed an entertaining evening of trivia, with full bar facilities available throughout the night. Teams of four took part at a cost of €40 per team, with friends, family, and colleagues coming together to test their knowledge and support a worthy cause. The event attracted a large crowd and created a fantastic atmosphere on the night. Ian suffered serious injuries to his neck and spine following a fall from his bike while cycling with friends in the Muckcross area of Killarney National Park. The fundraiser was organised to support his ongoing needs and recovery.

Organisers expressed their gratitude to everyone who took part, donated, and helped make the evening such a memorable and successful occasion.

*Ian with his parents Nora and Mick O'Connell**Ian's friends from SpaGAA club**Friends of Ian who came to support the quiz**Ian with committee members who organised the quiz.**Some of the winners of the quiz**Ian with family members at the quiz.*IF YOU HAVE A STORY... **Contact Aisling on: 086 0400 958**

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# A New Look...

## MAIN STREET & KENMARE PLACE TO GET A MAKE OVER

An artists impression of what Main Street will look like after the works are completed



Kenmare Place

Fund-supported scheme at Main Street and Kenmare Place.

The project represents a significant investment in the town centre and is aimed at improving the streetscape, accessibility and overall visitor experience in Killarney. It is also expected to support the continued growth of the town as a destination for residents, businesses and tourists.

Construction is due to begin on Monday, April 20, 2026, with Kerry County Council confirming that a contractor has now been appointed to carry out the works.

To allow the project to proceed, the R-878 Main Street in Killarney, from Kenmare Place to Plunkett Street, will be closed during two

separate periods: from April 20 to July 3, 2026, and again from October 5 to December 4, 2026. The street will reopen between July 4 and October 4 to accommodate the busy summer tourism season.

Pedestrian access and access for emergency services will remain in place throughout the duration of the works.

The project forms part of a wider programme aimed at improving accessibility, safety and the overall quality of Killarney town centre.

Kerry County Council has thanked the public for its patience and cooperation during the period of disruption while the essential improvement works are carried out.

## Killarney Parish Prepares for First Holy Communion



Killarney Parish is preparing to celebrate First Holy Communion ceremonies over the coming weeks, with pupils from a number of local schools due to receive the sacrament in churches across the parish.

The ceremonies will begin on May 2, when children from Lissivigeen National School and Tiernaboul National School make their First Holy Communion at 10.30am in the Church of the Resurrection.

On May 9, pupils from Presentation Monastery National School and Holy Cross Mercy National School

will celebrate the occasion at 10.00am in St Mary's Cathedral.

Two ceremonies are scheduled for May 16. Children from St Oliver's National School will receive their First Holy Communion at 10.30am in the Church of the Resurrection, while pupils from Loughquittane National School will celebrate at the same time in the Church of the Holy Spirit, Muckcross.

The final ceremonies will take place on May 23. Pupils from Gaelscoil Faithleann National School will celebrate at 10.30am in Saipéal Na h-Aiséirí, while children from Loreto Scoil Bhríde National School will receive the sacrament at 10.30am in the Church of the Holy Spirit, Muckcross.

The ceremonies are an important milestone for the children and their families and are expected to draw large congregations from across the parish.

## PRAYER GROUPS TO GATHER NEXT MONTH

Ray Browne has extended an invitation to prayer group leaders from across the diocese to attend a special gathering in Killarney next month.

The meeting will take place on Saturday, May 9, 2026, from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the diocesan rooms adjacent to Bishop's House in Killarney.

Organisers said the event will provide an opportunity for prayer group leaders from throughout the diocese to come together, share their experiences of church life and listen to one another.

Leaders are being encouraged to register regardless of the size of their prayer groups.

**Further information and registration details are available from Thady O'Connor by telephone at 087-2626187 or by email at thadyoc1@gmail.com**



## 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, KILLCUMMIN

This June Lady of Lourdes Church, Kilcummin marks its 50th Anniversary. This is a very special milestone in the life of the Parish and they look forward to celebrating it together as a community. As parishioners plan for this important celebration they would greatly welcome your input, if anyone has any ideas how they would like this Anniversary to be marked, example, special Mass, social gathering, please let us know. They would also be grateful if anyone has old photographs, newspaper clippings or memorabilia connected to the Church over the last 50 years. They have already received some pictures and are most grateful, please feel free to contact the Parish Council through the Parish Office with any suggestions or ideas.



# Lovely Beauty Suite

Located in Killarney Shopping Arcade, 95 New Street.

*“What she did was pure talent,”*

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At the prestigious Stand Out Beauty & Hair Event, held at the iconic RDS Dublin on April 19-20th, the national beauty scene witnessed a truly unforgettable moment.

In a highly competitive environment, surrounded by some of the most talented artists in the industry, one makeup artist didn't just participate - she dominated.

Taking 1st place in "Bridal Makeup" (On-Floor Competition), her work stood out for its elegance, precision, and the ability to enhance natural beauty with effortless sophistication. The look embodied the modern bride: radiant, confident, and timeless.

On the second day she continued her winning streak with another 1st place in "Creative Front Cover - Underwater Realism" (On-Floor Competition). This bold and artistic creation pushed boundaries, transforming imagination into a striking visual story. The look captured the depth, mystery, and fluid beauty of the underwater world - a true front-cover masterpiece.

As if that wasn't enough, she also secured 2nd place (Silver) in the online category "Insta Makeup - Whispers of Forest," proving her versatility across both live and digital platforms. This look brought a soft, ethereal energy - delicate, expressive, and deeply atmospheric.

In one show, she became a double champion and silver medalist, marking a powerful milestone in her professional journey.

But behind these victories lies more than technique and talent. It's about resilience, growth, and the quiet battle many artists know too well - the feeling of "not being enough." This win became something deeper: a personal confirmation, a moment of truth, and a statement - you are enough.

*Because sometimes, success isn't just about winning. Sometimes, it's about finally believing in yourself.*



If you want to learn more about us join our Instagram page @lovely.beauty.suite



or contact us 087 1607179.

The name of this talented girl Nataliia Nalyvayko from Lovely beauty suite in Killarney.

# Host A Hospice Sunflower Fun Day This June & Raise Vital Funds For Kerry Hospice Foundation

Kerry Hospice Foundation is asking Montessori's, creches, pre-schools & primary schools from across the region to host a Hospice Sunflower Fun Day this June to raise vital funds to support their services as part of the Hospice Sunflower Days campaign.

It is easy to get involved & help make a difference! Simply select a date in June to host your Hospice Sunflower Fun Day, register on the website, [www.sunflowerdays.ie](http://www.sunflowerdays.ie), receive your welcome pack and you're all set for fun! The welcome pack will include colouring pages and sunflower seeds for the children to enjoy planting during the Fun Day. Families are asked to make a €2 donation on the day, or whatever they can afford, and all funds will go directly your chosen hospice.

The initiative is running as part of Together for Hospice's Hospice Sunflower Days campaign which is now in its 36th year. Every euro raised locally, stays locally and all funds raised through the Fun Day initiative & the Hospice Sunflower Days campaign will be used to support the delivery of specialist palliative care in hospices as well as palliative home care throughout the country.

Speaking about the initiative, Jack Shanahan, Chairperson, Kerry Hospice Foundation Fundraising, commented, "We are delighted to once again run our Hospice Fun Day initiative as part of our Hospice Sunflower Days campaign. We are calling on as many schools, pre-schools and creches as possible from all across Kerry to get involved and help us make a difference to hospice care in the area."

For further information on how your school, pre-school, Montessori or creche can register to take



part and host a Hospice Sunflower Fun Day this June simply log onto [www.sunflowerdays.ie](http://www.sunflowerdays.ie)

Together for Hospice, The National Hospice Movement, represents 24 Hospice and specialist palliative homecare providers supporting patients and their families across Ireland. These services provide free-of-charge care and support to those living with a life-limiting illness, while also offering assistance to the patient's family members. Hospices nationwide need to raise approximately €20 million each year to provide their patient centred care and as our population ages, demand for specialist hospice and palliative homecare services continues to grow. Fundraised

income is used by local hospice services to fund new buildings, refurbishment of existing buildings, staff, extra comforts for patients and their families, and innovative patient care projects nationwide. Funds raised through Together for Hospice campaigns support some of the core services funded by the HSE. That is why fundraisers such as Hospice Sunflower Days are so important to hospices and homecare services throughout the country.

You can also help Kerry Hospice Foundation by supporting Hospice Sunflower Days on-street collections which will be taking place on Friday 12th and Saturday, 13th June 2026.

## Growing demand for support leads SVP to seek new volunteers in Killarney

St Vincent de Paul (SVP) South-West is appealing to people in the Killarney area to consider volunteering a small amount of their time each week to support families and individuals in need. With an increase in requests for assistance locally, SVP is currently recruiting volunteers to help meet demand. While opportunities exist across a range of roles, there is a particular need for volunteers to assist with home visitations. At present, there are approximately 18 SVP members active in the Killarney area, however, increased demand for services means additional volunteers are now required.

Vice President of SVP South-West Richard Murphy acknowledged the ongoing support of the local community and encouraged people to consider offering their time and getting involved.

"We are very thankful for the continued support we receive in Killarney. As more people reach out to us for help, we want to ensure we can respond



to everyone who needs us.

"Volunteering doesn't require any specialist experience-what matters most is having patience, common sense and a willingness

to listen. Our volunteers offer a friendly, understanding presence to people going through difficult times.

"Each home visit may seem like a small gesture, but together these acts of kindness have a significant impact across the community. It's also a great opportunity to meet like-minded people and build lasting friendships while making a meaningful difference locally," he said.

Through its home visitation service, SVP volunteers provide confidential, non-judgemental support, visiting individuals and families in their homes to listen, understand their needs and help arrange appropriate supports.

All volunteers receive full support, training and guidance from SVP, with Garda vetting and references required as part of the process.

Anyone interested in volunteering with SVP can visit [www.svp.ie/volunteer](http://www.svp.ie/volunteer) for more information.

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# KILLARNEY WANDERS *Wild...* IN SPECTACULAR FASHION



Group Photo on Carrauntoohil Hike.

## A PLAYGROUND FOR ADVENTURE, WELLNESS & CONNECTION...

The fifth annual Wander Wild Festival in Killarney has been hailed an outstanding success, with a greatly expanded programme of 153 events over the weekend - an increase from 120 last year. Strong pre-festival demand saw many events sell out in advance, while the good weather over the weekend contributed to a surge in last-minute bookings. Now firmly established as Ireland's leading outdoor, culture and wellness festival, Wander Wild attracted an estimated 5,000 attendees to Killarney, with free events around the festival's vibrant town-centre Basecamp zone adding to its programme of ticketed events over the weekend.

The festival showcased Killarney as the ultimate playground for adventure, wellness and connection. Across 26,000 acres of UNESCO Killarney National Park and the town, the festival celebrated nature, movement, and community with a diverse programme combining challenging hikes and lake adventures and immersive nature experiences with thought-provoking talks, and a vibrant mix of live music and entertainment. The stunning dome tent of the Wellness Hub, specially erected for the festival in the courtyard of Killarney

House & Gardens, was an outstanding success with hundreds enjoying a host of calming activities in the oasis of serenity. Adventure Content Creator Tadhg O'Brien's Social Summit of Mangerton was a big hit, as well as the Hidden Valley's Hike with Killarney's own Killian Buckley, and How to Gael podcast with Today FM presenter Louise Cantilon and Doireann Ní Ghlácaín. Hermitage Green delivered a memorable intimate performance in St Mary's Church of the Sloes, captivating audiences with their signature high-energy sound.

Locals and visitors embraced the town's natural amenities with Dawn Chorus Walks, Sunrise Dips and Saunas at Dundag, Stand Up Paddleboarding, Kayaking, Guided Bat Walks & Night Hikes, Fireside chats, connection cultural events with Poet and Mental Health Advocate Daragh Fleming, Plámasing host Fionn Phelan, Chris Barret, Ellie Berry and many more events across an expanded town programme across 10 venues. The pedal-powered 'Rave ar Rothar' cycle through the streets and free on-street gigs at Basecamp brought great energy to the streets. Wildlings was a real hit with a host of fun nature-based activities for young Wander-Wilders and their parents.

Wander Wild is a volunteer-led not-for-profit festival and has an extensive education

and schools programme that impacted 232 students from 9 schools. This year it gave yoga classes to students from 3 post-primary schools, collaborated with the NPWS to offer 4 primary school guided walks and brought classes from 2 schools to summit Carrauntoohil.

Kieran Kavanagh, Chairperson of Wander Wild Festival, shared his delight at the festival's success, "The atmosphere in Killarney all weekend was truly special. Basecamp became a real hub for people to gather - whether reconnecting after a day exploring the mountains and lakes, or simply enjoying the energy of the town with friends and family. What makes Wander Wild different is the sense of connection people feel here. It's not just about the activities - it's about meeting like-minded people, sharing experiences, and feeling part of something together. That's what keeps people coming back. We are incredibly grateful to our volunteers and the support of local businesses and community who help create such a unique festival feel throughout the town. The feedback from attendees has been phenomenal - they are not only inspired by the natural beauty of Killarney, but by the collaboration and spirit of everyone involved in bringing the festival to life."



Hermitage Green in St.Mary\_s Church of Ireland.



The voluntary team behind Wander Wild festival.



Denise Foy, Sarah Casey, Susan Burke, Lynsey McLean, Caroline Kelly, Mark Jennings, Susan Byrne taking part in a Sunrise Dip at Dundag in Killarney National Park as part of the Wander Wild Festival. *Picture: Valentina Puotkalyte*



Podcast hosts Doireann Ní Ghlacáin and Louise Cantillon pictured at the live recording of their How to Gael podcast in Pigs Lane. *Picture: Darragh Kane*



Orla Straub taking part in a Kids Yoga Oíge in the Killarney National Park as part of the Wander Wild Festival. *Picture: Darragh Kane*



Niamh O'Donoghue from Cork, Donie Mulcahy from Killarney, Lisa Brenock from Cork, Sarah Devane from Dingle, Tim Long and Katie Hickey from Killarney taking part a Social Summit of Mangerton Mountain with Tadhg O'Brien. *Picture: Miki Barlok*



Children enjoying a Family Folklore Walk with Barry Coleman in Killarney National Park. *Picture: Valentina Puotkalyte*



Ttaking part in a Foraging Walk as part of the Wander Wild Festival of outdoor, culture and wellness in Killarney *Picture: Darragh Kane*

# Lidl Ireland launches 2026 Green Fund with €100k in funding to support environmental projects across the nation

Kerry based Castleisland Community College was a recipient of funding in 2025

Lidl Ireland is excited to announce that applications are now officially open for the 2026 Lidl Green Fund. Following the immense success of the program's debut, the retailer is inviting community groups, schools, and local organisations across County Kerry to apply for funding to bring their environmental and sustainability visions to life.

The Lidl Green Fund is designed to champion grassroots climate action. The fund provides financial support to initiatives that promote biodiversity, sustainable resource management, and healthy, eco-conscious living within local communities.

The launch of the 2026 fund follows a landmark year for sustainability in Kerry. In 2025, Castleisland Community College was named the county winner of the inaugural fund. The school was awarded a €3,000 grant to spearhead its Sustainable School Library Restoration, a project that turned a past challenge into a shining example of the circular economy. Using the investment to restore a vital resource that had been damaged by a leak, the school created a "green sanctuary" for students. The library now serves as a calm space for learning, offering access to literacy resources and audiobooks while prioritising student well-being and environmental responsibility.

Speaking on the award, Sarah Hilliard, Teacher at Castleisland Community College, commented: "Restoring our library has been a long-held dream for the school, and to be able to do it in a way that teaches our students about the circular economy makes it even more special. This grant allows us to create a beautiful, sustainable space where



Principal Mairead Corridan with teachers Annette Steinborn and Sarah Hilliard with 2nd year students Matteo Apetrei and Maja Olszewaka from Castleisland Community College pictured in the temporary library known as the 'Book Nook' while the school restores its main library following water damage and is supported by the Lidl Green Fund.

Photo: Don MacMonagle

students can foster a love for reading and find a quiet place to unwind. We are incredibly grateful to Lidl Ireland for helping us turn this vision into a reality for our school community."

**Lidl Ireland invites applications from:  
Registered Charities**

**Primary and Secondary Schools  
Community & Youth Groups**

**Projects should focus on key environmental pillars, including Climate and Biodiversity, Circular Economy (waste reduction), and**

**Sustainable Living.**

**Lidl Ireland's commitment to sustainability was recently reaffirmed by its ranking as the Most Sustainable Retailer in the Ireland RepTrak® Sustainability Index 2025 and receiving the Repak Resource Awards Overall Award for leadership in circular design and recycling.**

**For more information on the application process and eligibility, please visit: [greenfund.abettertomorrow-lidl.ie](https://greenfund.abettertomorrow-lidl.ie)**

## More good news for construction sector in Kerry as latest data shows almost 300% increase in new home starts

261 new homes commenced in Kerry in the first quarter of 2026

The latest data released today by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage shows that the number of new homes being built in Kerry is growing, indicating building momentum in the county and nationally.

The latest figures show that since the beginning of the year, 261 new homes have been commenced in the county, an increase of 295% on the 66 units commenced during the first quarter of 2025.

Nationally, 8,408 new homes have been commenced, an increase of 184% on the 2,961 units commenced during the first quarter of 2025.

The national commencement data so far

this year builds on the figures for 2024 and 2025 when a total of 85,723 homes were commenced, representing an increase of 43% compared with the combined total for the previous two-year period (2022 and 2023).

Welcoming today's further momentum, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne TD, said:

"It's great to once again see such strong figures with regard to the number of new homes being built both in Kerry and throughout the country. To see these numbers growing month-on-month alongside positive data across other key indicators in the sector, such as the recent AIB Construction PMI survey, it really shows that momentum is building in a way that puts us on the right track to meet the goals set out under our Housing Action Plan, Delivering Homes,

Building Communities.

"I have made it very clear that, as Minister, I intend to use every lever available, to minimise red tape and maximise delivery. This will require increased public delivery of social and affordable housing, but also a serious increase in private sector home building. Today's numbers reflect the very real and sustained progress being made in this regard."

Of all units commenced in the first quarter of 2026 (January to March), 35% (2,921 units) were in the four Dublin local authorities. By Local Authority, the most units commenced this year have been in Fingal County (1,048), followed by Dublin City (721) and South Dublin County (682).

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## Presentation Castleisland Student Celebrates National Success in Sustainable Fashion Competition



A talented young student from Presentation Castleisland, Brigh Harkin, has achieved outstanding success at this year's Relove Fashion Competition, securing the prestigious Best Research award at both Southern Region and National level.

The competition, which took place at Dublin City University, brought together students from across Ireland to showcase innovative and sustainable fashion designs created from upcycled materials. Participants were challenged to transform unwanted clothing and household fabrics into original, wearable outfits, highlighting creativity alongside environmental awareness.

Brigh, a student at Presentation Castleisland, impressed judges with her project titled "Fite Fuaite", inspired by the Irish phrase meaning "intertwined." Her design featured a carefully constructed patchwork outfit made from repurposed garments and scrap fabrics, symbolising the interconnected nature of the global fashion industry.

As part of the competition, Brigh conducted in-

depth research into the social and environmental impacts of textile production, with a particular focus on what happens to clothing after it is donated. Her insightful and thoughtful approach to this topic played a key role in her success.

This latest achievement adds to Brigh's growing list of accolades, having also secured a national title in the competition last year, marking back-to-back success at the highest level.

At just 14 years of age, Brigh's accomplishment is a remarkable one, and a source of great pride for her school and the wider Castleisland community.



## Five Years of The MACademy -

### *A Night Not to Be Missed*

There's a real sense of excitement building around Killarney this week as The MACademy School of Performing Arts prepares to celebrate a very special milestone.

On Wednesday, April 29th at 6.30pm, the schools talented students will take to the stage at the Gleneagle Arena for their fifth annual showcase - and this year promises to be bigger and better than ever.

Titled *Second Star to the Revolution*, the show brings audiences on a magical musical journey through some of theatre's most loved productions. Under the direction of founder Lily MacMonagle Shannon, the performance is a celebration not only of musical theatre, but of the dedication and spirit of the students themselves.

The first half of the show features the MACJunior students, who will whisk audiences away to Neverland with a heartwarming and energetic set filled with favourites like *Me O' Bamboo*, *I'll Make a Man Out of You*, and *How Far I'll Go*.

In the second half, the MACSenior students take to the stage with a powerful tribute to some of Broadway's most iconic revolutionary musicals, including *Hamilton*, *Newsies*, *Les Misérables*, and *Billy Elliot*. Expect passion, energy, and incredible talent from start to finish.

Speaking ahead of the show, Lily shared just how proud she is of her students. 'The work they've put in this year has been incredible. From rehearsals to home practice, it's been a real team effort from all of them, and it has been so much fun. We want to extend a heartfelt

thank you to all our MACademy parents for their continued support, and a huge note of gratitude to our amazing team of teachers — those with us this year and throughout the journey. We truly wouldn't be where we are without them.'

With over 120 students now part of The MACademy family, the school continues to go from strength to strength, becoming a much-loved part of the local community. 'It has exceeded every expectation, and I've never been more proud,' Lily added.

This is truly a night not to be missed.

**Tickets from €15 are available now at [www.themacademy.ie](http://www.themacademy.ie)**





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*Agnieszka Nowak, Killarney.*

## Two local history books by law student published and available in libraries

Two recent history books by Tadgh Quill-Manley, a law student at the King's Inns, are available for free in local and university libraries both in Ireland and abroad (including Boston College, USA). They document elements of Killarney's rich heritage that may have otherwise have been overlooked. Digital versions are also available to read for free on the Internet Archive. Though made for the general reader in mind, they are penned to an academic standard.

The text 'Where the Plough Met the Stars: Workers' Activism in Killarney, 1914-1940' examines the development of organised labour in the town during a period of significant social and political change. Based primarily on contemporary newspaper reports, it looks at the growth

of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, the Killarney Catholic Workers' Union, the establishment of a local Trades and Labour Council, campaigns for better wages and housing, and events such as the forgotten sawmill "Soviet" and the formation of an Irish Citizen Army branch in Killarney. Meanwhile, 'Sochaí: Community & Culture in the Edwardian Shehy Mountains' provides an overview of life in the broader Shehy district between 1901 and 1910, with particular attention to Killarney's role as a key market town and gathering hub for the western side of the region. It covers civic activity, sports and culture, and community life. The book includes colourised period photographs.



## Kerry communities urged to Move Every Day in May for Heart Health



Representatives from Allcare, Hickey's and McCauley Pharmacies, who are part of the Uniphar Group, are proud to partner with the Irish Heart Foundation to launch the nationwide "Move Every Day in May" campaign.

Allcare, Hickey's and McCauley Pharmacies, part of the Uniphar Group, are proud to partner with the Irish Heart Foundation to launch the nationwide "Move Every Day in May" campaign, calling on communities across Kerry to get active every day throughout May while raising vital funds for heart health. According to the Irish Heart Foundation, approximately 18,000 people in Kerry are living with a cardiovascular condition, highlighting the urgent need for

awareness, prevention and support locally. With a fundraising target of €100,000, the campaign encourages people of all ages and abilities to take part in a simple, inclusive challenge: Move Every Day in May, no matter what the activity. From walking and cycling to dancing or gardening, the focus is on building small, sustainable habits that support heart health.

Participants will receive a movement tracker to log daily activity and stay motivated, while individuals and pharmacy teams can create their own iDonate fundraising pages to share with friends and family.

Throughout the month of May, Allcare, Hickey's, and McCauley Pharmacies will serve as community hubs, with a series of "Love Your Heart Days" taking place each Friday in May, where customers can make a minimum €5 donation to the campaign to receive a blood pressure check in participating pharmacies.

In addition, the Irish Heart Foundation's Mobile Health Unit will visit selected pharmacy locations nationwide throughout the month, offering free heart health checks and expert advice, making it easier for people to take proactive steps in managing their cardiovascular health.

To register or donate, visit: [moveinmay.ie](http://moveinmay.ie)





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# Minister Niall Collins visits KCYS Youth Diversion Project in Kerry

Kerry Community Youth Service (KCYS) was pleased to welcome Minister Niall Collins to its Youth Diversion Project in Kerry on Wednesday, 15 April 2026.

The visit gave the Minister an opportunity to meet staff and hear directly about the work of the Kerry Youth Diversion Project, including early intervention, family support, court accompaniment and wider youth justice practice across the county.

KCYS supports young people across a broad continuum of services in Kerry, from preventative and developmental youth work through to highly targeted interventions for young people and families facing significant challenge and complexity. The Youth Diversion Project forms an important part of that wider continuum of support.

Speaking following the visit, Seamus Whitty, CEO of KCYS, said:

"We were delighted to welcome Minister Collins to Kerry and to have the opportunity to give him a sense of the breadth and depth of the work being carried by the Youth Diversion Project here.

The Youth Diversion Project in Kerry is a strong and well-developed intervention, grounded in practice, informed by evidence, and marked by innovation in how it supports young people and families. It is part of a broader continuum of



Minister of State at the Department of Justice, Niall Collins TD, pictured during a visit to KCYS, Fairhill, Killarney on Wednesday, April 15th to meet staff and hear directly about the work of the Kerry Youth Diversion Project.

Pictured from front l-r were: Linda Kerins, Seamus Whitty (KCYS CEO), Minister Niall Collins TD, and Helena Falvey.

Back l-r were: Louise Daly, Niamh Fitzgerald, Jillian Hill, Chris Brosnan, Julie Brosnan, Johnny Joy and Brian O'Shea.

Photo: Michelle Breen Crean Photography

supports provided by KCYS, and it depends on strong collaboration across teams, services and community partners to make a real difference in people's lives.

It is also important to acknowledge the Department's continued commitment to youth justice. The policy direction in this area has been a progressive one, and that has created

space for work of this kind to develop and respond to need in a meaningful way."

The visit highlighted the scale and complexity of the work being carried by the KCYS team, and the importance of sustained investment in youth work responses for young people and families.

## St. Brendan's Team to Make their Mark on new TG4 Quiz Show

St. Brendan's College, Killarney will take on Holy Faith Clontarf, Dublin on Tuesday May 5th in a brand-new TG4 quiz show is set to transform how young people - and the broader Irish audience - experience the Irish language. Slé Anois go Cúramach is a fast-paced, funny and fearless educational quiz series that proves two simple ideas: effort matters more than perfection, and you have much more Irish than you think you have!

Slé Anois go Cúramach will be broadcast on TG4 on Tuesdays from 7.30-8.00pm from March 24th for a 10-week run. The series combines high-energy entertainment with meaningful language learning, creating a show that appeals to teenagers, families and anyone curious about improving their Irish.

Slé Anois go Cúramach is an original format by Macalla Teoranta for TG4, designed primarily with English-speaking secondary school Junior Cycle students in mind. The show creates a supportive, high-spirited space where using the Irish you have is celebrated rather than judged. The series replaces the pressure often associated with language learning with humour, quick thinking and courage, while still delivering real genuine educational value.




Each episode sees two schools go head-to-head in a series of five lively studio-based rounds that test listening skills, vocabulary, cultural knowledge and improvisation. The show is specifically created so viewers at home and in classrooms can easily play along, making it ideal for shared, intergenerational viewing as well as use as a classroom resource.

At the heart of the series is its core belief: everyone has Irish. Fluency is not required -

bravery is. Broken Irish is welcomed, laughter is encouraged and taking part is always rewarded. With its bold visual style, quick-fire format and playful spirit, Slé Anois go Cúramach positions Irish as something modern, social and full of life. The series aims not only to entertain but to help reshape attitudes towards the language, particularly in English-speaking schools, by proving that learning Irish can be loud, joyful and shared.

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# TIME TO TEE OFF FOR THE KERRY GAA GOLF CLASSIC

Kerry GAA has announced that its annual fundraising Golf Classic will take place on Friday, May 29, 2026, at Beaufort Golf Club in support of the county's inter-county teams.

Beaufort Golf Club has hosted the event over recent years and organisers said they are delighted to return once again to the Mid-Kerry venue for what promises to be a day of golf, camaraderie and entertainment. Those who supported the event in 2024 and 2025 benefited from the Flexible Ticket Package and had the opportunity to be in Croke Park to witness Kerry's victory over Donegal in last year's All-Ireland Final. Organisers confirmed that this year's Golf Classic will once again include a similar package, with each participating team receiving four complimentary stand tickets

for an All-Ireland Final involving the Kerry senior footballers. The Flexible Ticket Package also allows teams to bank their tickets over a three-year period from 2026 to 2028, increasing the opportunity to attend an All-Ireland Final should Kerry reach the decider during that time. Following Kerry's 39th All-Ireland Senior Football Championship success last year, hopes are high that the county can defend its title in 2026 and secure a landmark 40th championship crown. Organisers acknowledged that All-Ireland titles are never easily won but said there is

confidence in the quality of the current squad and optimism that, with good fortune and an injury-free season, Kerry could once again take to the field at Croke Park on All-Ireland final day on July 26. They added that by supporting the Golf Classic, participants are making a valuable contribution towards the continued success of Kerry's county teams while also giving themselves the opportunity to be part of one of the biggest occasions in the GAA calendar. Organisers expressed their appreciation for the continued support shown to the event and said they are looking forward to another successful year for Kerry's inter-county football and hurling teams.

## Community Monuments Fund to invest over €396,000 to protect Kerry archaeological monuments



Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne TD, and Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, Christopher O'Sullivan TD, have announced funding of more than €396,000 for four heritage projects in Kerry under the 2026 Community Monuments Fund, with a major allocation going towards conservation works at Castleisland Castle. The Kerry projects form part of a nationwide package worth more than €8 million which

will support 104 heritage initiatives across the country aimed at protecting archaeological monuments and improving public access. Among the largest allocations in Kerry is funding of €124,094.75 for Castleisland Castle under Stream 1 of the scheme, which provides grants of up to €100,000 for essential repairs and capital works, with exceptional projects eligible for up to €130,000. The investment is expected to support conservation and repair works at the historic

castle, helping to preserve one of Kerry's best-known archaeological landmarks for future generations. Other Kerry projects receiving funding include Ahamore Abbey, which has been awarded €128,193.55, and Kyrie Eleison Abbey, which will receive €119,999.95. Meanwhile, Killagh Priory has been allocated €23,750.07 under Stream 3 of the scheme, which supports improved access and interpretation infrastructure at archaeological sites. Minister Browne praised the work of the National Monuments Service, local authorities and heritage professionals in delivering the fund and ensuring the protection of archaeological sites. He said the €8 million allocation would help support communities and custodians while protecting archaeological heritage as a valuable community asset. Minister O'Sullivan said he was pleased to see the Community Monuments Fund increase from €7.5 million in 2025 to just over €8 million this year. He said the scheme plays an important role in supporting the restoration and protection of castles, churches, graveyards and other historic monuments that are highly valued by communities throughout the country. First introduced in 2020, the Community Monuments Fund supports conservation works, repairs and access improvements at historic sites while also helping monuments become more resilient to the impacts of extreme weather and climate change.

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# Killarney Cycling Club Announces Return of “Three Peaks Challenge” in Aid of Comfort for Chemo Kerry

Killarney Cycling Club is proud to announce the return of its much-anticipated Three Peaks Cycling Challenge, taking place on Saturday, June 6th, 2026. This year, the club is calling on cyclists of all abilities to cycle in support of their chosen charity, Comfort for Chemo Kerry.

The 2026 event features two stunning new routes designed to showcase the wild, remote beauty of our beautiful county. Riders can choose between:

- The 100km Challenge: An epic route for experienced riders through the quiet rural roads of Glencar, tackling the formidable Bealaghbeama Gap and returning via the iconic Moll's Gap.
- The 80km Option: A more accessible route around the stunning Caragh lake, one of Kerry's hidden secrets—ideal for those building confidence and fitness ahead of the Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle.

Both routes promise breath-taking views of Ireland's most spectacular landscapes, warm camaraderie, and plenty of support along the way. The day will conclude with a celebratory BBQ for all participants at the Killarney Racecourse.

For those looking for a shorter distance, the club is also hosting a family-friendly route starting from the Racecourse, ensuring the whole community can get involved.

This year's beneficiary, Comfort for Chemo Kerry, has been a tireless advocate for cancer patients in the region. Their years of campaigning have



Pictured at the announcement are Noel Ryan KCC, Fiona O Donoghue, Paul McCarthy Comfort for Chemo Kerry, Lisa Hill Barton KCC, and Kevin Murphy KCC,

successfully secured a new oncology unit in the recently announced development of University Hospital Kerry.

“We are honoured to support these dedicated individuals,” said a spokesperson for Killarney Cycling Club. “While the government has committed to the building, Comfort for Chemo Kerry continues to fundraise to ensure the unit is equipped to a state-of-the-art level. Our goal is to help them create a space that provides dignity, comfort, and world-class care for everyone receiving oncology services in Kerry.”

Killarney Cycling Club prides itself on being an inclusive community, catering to everyone from beginners to elite racers. Beyond the road, the club offers a mentorship programme for adults new or returning to cycling, as well as strength and conditioning, yoga, and expert-led workshops.

#### Event Details:

- **Date:** Saturday, June 6th, 2026
- **Start/Finish:** Killarney Racecourse at 9.30am
- **Routes:** 100km, 80km, and Family Route

Further information and link to online registration on:

[www.killarneycyclingclub.com/three-peaks-challenge](http://www.killarneycyclingclub.com/three-peaks-challenge)



Pictured from left: Doreen Killington (Geography & Irish teacher), Michael Curran, Ciara Kerins, Amy Crowley, James Barry & Máiréad Corridan (Principal)

## Castleisland Community College Donates Sports Shoes to Charity

The school community of Castleisland Community College has stepped up once again to support children in need, donating 66 pairs of high-quality sports footwear to the charity Our Shoes. The collection included runners and football boots that were in excellent condition but no longer fit the students who owned them.

Our Shoes is an organisation dedicated to sending preloved sports footwear to children living in South African townships. The charity's mission is simple yet powerful: to bridge continents through individual acts of kindness. By giving a second life to shoes that would otherwise go unused, the initiative restores dignity, sparks hope, and opens doors to opportunity for young people who often lack access to proper sports gear.

This project also aligns closely with Castleisland Community College's

commitment to sustainability. Rehoming footwear not only reduces waste but also demonstrates how small, thoughtful actions can have a meaningful global impact.

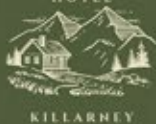
According to the charity, each donated pair helps empower a child to walk with confidence, pursue their sporting passions, and take steps—literally and figuratively—towards a brighter future. The connection forged between Irish students and South African communities shows how generosity can transcend borders and uplift lives.

The school community's contribution reflects a spirit of compassion and global citizenship that continues to define Castleisland Community College. ‘With every pair donated, students have helped create a ripple of positivity that will be felt far beyond their own classrooms,’ concluded Doreen Killington (Geography & Irish teacher).



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#### Warm Brie

Red Onion Jam, Toasted Brioche & Cherry Tomato Compote €13.95

#### Classic Atlantic Prawn Cocktail

Chiffonade Baby Gem, Avocado, Marie Rose, Smoked Paprika, Lemon €16.00

#### Rozzers Famous Seafood Chowder

Spillane Fish & Shellfish, Baby Spinach & Pastis €12.50

#### Caesar Salad

Baby Gem, Herb Croutons, Parmesan, Anchovies €14.95

#### Mushroom en Croute

Sautéed Wild Mushroom, Sourdough, Asparagus Shavings, Pepper & Mushroom Velouré €14.95

#### Cassolette of Glenbeigh Mussels

Xipister Sauce €15.50

### Main Courses

#### Seafood Mornay

Lemon & Herb Crust, Creamy Garlic Potato, Parmesan & Dill Cream Sauce €32.00

#### Roasted Supreme of Irish Chicken

Smoked Pancetta, Sweet Potato Purée, Tomato Mushroom Chasseur €30.00

#### Fillet of Irish Beef 8 oz

Potato Croquette, Parsnip Purée, Mushroom Duxelles and Pearl Onion Jus €42.00  
Make it Surf & Turf add Prawns €52.00

#### Cauliflower Steak

Chimichurri, Crispy Shallots & Shallot Purée €23.00

#### Lemon Sole

Meunière, Garlic Cream Spinach, Sautéed New Potatoes €36.00

#### Rack of Kerry Lamb

Mint Crust, Potato Fondant, Thyme & Red Wine Jus €36.00

#### Chateaubriand

Prime Fillet of Irish Beef, Selection of Vegetables, Pepper Sauce, Béarnaise Sauce €80.00

#### Confit Duck Leg

Braised Red Cabbage, Cherry & Orange Red Wine Jus €34.00

### Desserts

Classic Brandy Chocolate Mousse  
Raspberry Coulis €13.00

#### Pistachio Panna Cotta

Chocolate Sauce €13.00

#### Bread & Butter Pudding

Crème Anglaise & Vanilla Ice Cream €13.00

#### Vanilla Crème Brûlée

Shortbread with Vanilla and Lemon zest €13.00

#### Eton Mess

Strawberries, Meringue, Vanilla Ice Cream, Cream €13.00

Selection of Artisan Ice Cream & Sorbet €12.00

#### Selection of Irish Farmhouse Cheeses

Quince Jam, Damsel Crackers €16.00

## Bar Menu

### Starters

Chef's Soup of the Day (Ask your server) €9.00

#### Rozzers Seafood Chowder

Star's Fish & Shellfish, Baby Spinach & Pastis €11.95

#### Crispy Chicken Wings

Celery Sticks, Blue Cheese Dip, Hot Sauce or BBQ Sauce  
Starter €12.95 Main €17.95

#### Bread Crumbed Prawn Tacos

Pickled Onion, Chipotle Mayo, Salsa & Lime Dressing €16.00

#### Classic Caesar Salad

Lardons, Parmesan €14.95  
Add Chicken or Prawns €18.95

#### Loaded Fries

Tex-Mex Chilli Con Carne, Cheddar & Southwest Sauce €12.00

Chorizo & Prawns with Lemon & Garlic Aioli €12.00

### Main Courses

#### Crispy Buttermilk Chicken Burger

Dipped in Hot Sauce, Baby Gem, Tomato, Rainbow Asian Style Slaw with Fries & Side Salad €21.95

#### Prime Cronin's Irish Beef Burger

Crispy Bacon, Smoked Cheese, Baby Gem, Tomato, Gherkins, Kimchi Mayo, Fries & Side Salad €21.95

#### Beetroot & Halloumi Burger

Halloumi, Baby Gem, Tomato, Sriracha €18.50

#### Seafood Linguine

Parmesan Cream, Herb Oil, Mixed Seafood, Creamy Garlic Sauce €28.00

#### Grilled Hereford 8oz Striploin

Sautéed Mushrooms & Onions, Vine Tomato  
Garlic butter or Brandy Peppercorn Sauce €34.00

#### Golden Beer-Battered Atlantic Cod

Tartar Sauce, Pea Purée €23.00

#### Thai Green Curry

Sugar Snap Peas, Roasted Veg Riz Pilaf €21.00  
Add Chicken or Prawns €26.00

### Desserts

Sticky Toffee Banana Pudding  
Butterscotch Sauce €11.00

#### Warm Chocolate & Orange Brownie

Chocolate Sauce, Vanilla Ice Cream €11.00

#### Apple Strudel

Crème Anglaise & Vanilla Ice Cream €11.00

#### Cheesecake of the Day

€11.95

#### Selection of Artisan Ice Cream

Tuile €10.95

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# Businesses have to be more reactive and agile

It is difficult to predict what will happen in the Kerry tourism industry as a result of the Middle East conflict but tourism generally lags geopolitical shocks with bookings already made for the current year, business leaders in Killarney have been assured.

While the uncertainty has been exasperated by local issues in the last few weeks, the real effects will probably only begin to show later in the year, Liam Hession, a managing partner with highly-regarded audit and advisory firm BDO told a Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce lunch.

He said before the commencement of the conflict and for the first two months of 2026, versus the same period in 2025, international arrivals and spending were up with a 30% rise in visitors and 31% in spending.

He noted that Fáilte Ireland expects tourism demand to remain stable for 2026 but forward bookings for 2027 are currently behind last year's comparable levels.

"If the conflicts are to last into the longer term, this will give rise to rising travel costs which would result in fewer long-haul visitors and budget conscious tourists delaying or cancelling travel trips, meaning businesses will have to be more reactive and agile," Mr Hession told 85 Killarney Chamber members at the lunch gathering in Killarney Racecourse.

On the positive side, he noted, Ireland may benefit from substitution effects and being a safe welcoming and stable destination. This is already been seen currently with cancellations in Cyprus tourism due to conflict proximity.

"Again, with higher airline costs, Irish residents are more likely to holiday at home but this may mean booking later and choosing shorter trips.

"This increased volatility and risk exposure, together with our own national issues, means more unpredictable demand cycles with a greater need for diversified markets and flexible pricing and marketing," said Mr

Hession whose company, BDO is a multi-disciplined professional services firm providing a range of services to a wide range of sectors, including hospitality.

Commenting on tourism, he said previously it was word of mouth, leaflets and recommendations at reception that dictated but now it is Instagram, bloggers and reviewers that are determining where we choose and where we go.

"Information is more freely accessible and your business is much more in the spotlight," he said.

Mr Hession said while the natural beauty of Killarney National Park and the lakes will always remain a constant and will always attract and be enjoyed by people, Killarney cannot afford to be static. "The same family can be your guests for over 20 years but what they need at each stage is quite different and expectations are constantly changing and how people are accessing local landmarks and how they want them incorporated into their schedules is becoming relevant," he said.

BDO advises many five-star resorts across the country and, he noted, this part of the industry has performed particularly strongly since the pandemic.

Factors that must be taken into consideration by the five-star resorts include how are local landmarks been protected from a sustainability viewpoint, what is their business doing to help with this and what authentic experiences can be linked to their business and integrated with the guests' itinerary?

"While many businesses were fighting just to get back to 2019 levels, a number of Ireland's top end resorts not only recovered quickly but they have, in many cases, exceeded their prepandemic performance.

"They've managed to grow average rates, attract high spend guests and sustain strong demand in a very challenging operating environment," he said.



Austin Hickey (BDO), Diarmuid Hendrick (BDO), Johnny McGuire (Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce President), guest speaker Liam Hession (Managing Partner of BDO Limerick) and Patrick O'Donoghue (Gleneagle Group CEO) at the Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce members luncheon in The Panoramic Room at Killarney Racecourse. Picture: Eamonn Keogh

There are two reasons this matters and they are, firstly, these properties are important national flagships that shape international perceptions of Ireland as a premium destination and they influence the kind of visitors who then explore regions.

Secondly, and more practically, they offer useful lessons.

"You may not all be running five-star properties or large resort estates but many of the principles behind their success can be adapted by ambitious three and fourstar hotels, restaurants and local destinations," Mr Hession told the local business leaders.

He said coming out of the lockdown, there were big shifts in consumer behaviour and several forces lined up:

- People had pentup demand for travel and, in many cases, extra savings.
- They were looking for space, nature and safety and not crowded city breaks.
- There was a strong "treat yourself" mentality – especially for the first big trip back.
- Ireland benefitted from a reputation as safe, scenic and relatively uncrowded – which fits perfectly with highend resort product.

Difficulties encountered included labour, food, energy and insurance costs have risen sharply for everyone, highend service roles are hard to recruit and retain, from chefs to frontofhouse leaders, luxury guest expects credible sustainability, holistic wellness, and seamless digital service as

standard and the competition for highspend travellers is global with Mediterranean resorts, city luxury, other nature destinations all targeting the same segments.

Leading resorts are now paying above average for critical staffing roles and offering clearer benefit packages, developing or leasing staff accommodation, providing transport where local housing is tight and investing in leadership and culture so they are known locally as employers of choice.

"The wider lesson is if you want to protect standards and reputation, HR has to be treated as a core strategy, not an afterthought," Mr Hession told the Killarney gathering.

He advised those present to:

- Think in experiences, not inventory.
- Treat staffing and workplace quality as a business strategy.
- Start or accelerate your sustainability journey – cut waste and energy, source locally and tell that story credibly.
- Use dynamic pricing and better data. Even modest improvements in rate management and cost control can make a big difference.
- Recognise some things are best tackled working together where hotels, restaurants, attractions and the Chamber build joinedup offers which will enhance an already resilient destination brand.
- Continue to look at local sustainability standards



Killarney Race Company directors Aine O'Donoghue, Terence Mulcahy and Kate O'Leary with Karl McCay (Killarney Racecourse Manager) and Martha O'Loughlin (AIB Bank) at the Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce members luncheon in The Panoramic Room at Killarney Racecourse. Picture: Eamonn Keogh



Neil Grant and Alice Thompson (The Brehon Hotel) and Chris Davies (Killarney Racecourse Sales & Marketing Manager) at the Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce members luncheon in The Panoramic Room at Killarney Racecourse. Picture: Eamonn Keogh



Donald O'Sullivan and John Foran (FDC Group) and James O'Brien (O'Brien Coffey MacSweeney Accountants) at the Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce members luncheon in The Panoramic Room at Killarney Racecourse. Picture: Eamonn Keogh



Enda Walshe (Quills), Johnny McGuire (Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce President) and Diarmuid Leen (AIB Bank) at the Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce members luncheon in The Panoramic Room at Killarney Racecourse. Picture: Eamonn Keogh



Carol Dempsey (Killarney Chamber Vice-President), Mike Jack Cronin (Thermohouse) and Norma O'Regan (Killarney Chamber CEO) at the Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce members luncheon in The Panoramic Room at Killarney Racecourse. Picture: Eamonn Keogh



Chris Davies (Killarney Racecourse Sales & Marketing Manager), guest speaker Liam Hession (Managing Partner of BDO Limerick), Johnny McGuire (Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce President) and Karl McCay (Killarney Racecourse Manager) at the Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce members luncheon in The Panoramic Room at Killarney Racecourse. Picture: Eamonn Keogh



Ciaran Cronin (Gleneagle Group CFO), Damian Clifford (CSG) and Diarmuid Leen (AIB Bank) at the Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce members luncheon in The Panoramic Room at Killarney Racecourse. Picture: Eamonn Keogh



David Moran (CSG), Johnny McGuire (Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce President), guest speaker Liam Hession (Managing Partner of BDO Limerick) and Tommy Walsh (Orbitus) at the Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce members luncheon at Killarney Racecourse. Picture: Eamonn Keogh



Ciaran Cronin (Gleneagle Group CFO), Damian Clifford (CSG) and Diarmuid Leen (AIB Bank) at the Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce members luncheon in The Panoramic Room at Killarney Racecourse. Picture: Eamonn Keogh



Dominick Grattan and Shauna Dalton (Energywise Ireland) with Johnny McGuire (Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce President) at the Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce members luncheon in The Panoramic Room at Killarney Racecourse. Picture: Eamonn Keogh



Johnny McGuire (Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce President), Breffni Ingerton (Gleneagle Group Director of Business Tourism) and guest speaker Liam Hession (Managing Partner of BDO Limerick) at the Killarney Chamber of Tourism and Commerce members luncheon in The Panoramic Room at Killarney Racecourse. Picture: Eamonn Keogh

# The McRae name returns to Killarney as the 2026 Assess Ireland International Rally of the Lakes is launched

Excitement is at fever pitch in Killarney, as the 2026 Assess Ireland International Rally of the Lakes was officially launched yesterday (Sunday) in the rally headquarters, The Gleneagle Hotel. A large crowd of rally fans, competitors and organisers gathered in the Kingdom, with the entry list reveal gathering massive interest ahead of the event, which takes place from May 1 to 3. Clerk of the Course Tim Clifford revealed the 170-strong entry list on the night, which includes a big name in rallying circles, as Max McRae will compete in Killarney for the first time. The 21-year-old nephew of Colin McRae will compete in a Skoda Fabia Rally 2, 21 years to the weekend since his uncle lit up the Killarney roads. Leading out the crews to Moll's Gap on Saturday morning will be the Derry and Killarney pairing of Callum Devine and Noel O'Sullivan. The duo are looking to secure an unprecedented five Rally of the Lakes crowns in a row, so there will be plenty on the line heading into the loop of 14 stages. Former Killarney winner Josh Moffett seems back to his winning ways in 2026. The championship leader will be second on the road alongside his Limerick co-driver Andy Hayes, with Kilkenny man Eddie Doherty, winner of last year's Circuit of Kerry Rally, still looking for his first Irish Tarmac Rally Championship round win, starting from third. Killarney co-driver Shane Buckley was the winner of the last round at the Circuit of Ireland Rally, and he starts fourth beside Donegal driver David Kelly.

In all, 17 RC2 drivers make up the top end of the entry, including the three Boyle family members Declan, Michael and Matthew, former modified winner Kevin Eves, Ryan Loughran, Cork's Daniel Cronin and Sam Touzel, who makes the trip to Killarney from the Channel Islands. There is a strong Kerry feel to the modified section. Multiple champion Rob Duggan will face a battle from fellow Killarney man Conor Murphy. Kenmare's Vincent O'Shea will be the leading Darrian on the road, while the likes of Rodney Wilton, Brian Lavelle and Cian Walsh might be looking to upset the local party. Twelve cars will battle out for historic honours. Donegal man John O'Donnell will lead the crews out with local drivers like Fergus O'Meara, Mark Falvey and Paul Ahern eager to stamp their local knowledge on the event.

The juniors will compete on Saturday, a unique twist in their Killarney itinerary. Cork's Darragh Walsh will be first on the road. The sole all-Kerry crew is Conor Horgan and Aaron O'Halloran in



At the launch of the Assess Ireland International Rally of the Lakes at The Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney on Sunday were front from left, Lisa Foley (Rally secretary), Alexandria Kiely, Tim Clifford (Clerk of the course) and Conor Deasy (Assess Ireland CEO). Back from left are Dan Keane (Deputy CoC), Michael O'Shaughnessy, Rebekah Kiely and Ronan O'Sullivan (Elite Signs), Diarmuid Cronin, Thomas Randles (Killarney & District Motor Club Chairman), Dylan McCarthy, Cllr Niall O'Callaghan, Brian Glover (BG Motors), Siobhan O'Shaughnessy, Denis McCarthy, Ivan Hurley, Joe McCarthy, Mike Woods and Jadwiga Surmiak (Gleneagle Hotel). Picture: Eamonn Keogh



At the launch of the Assess Ireland International Rally of the Lakes at The Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney on Sunday were Elaine Doonan, Denis Doolan and Caroline Neenan (Autism Friendly Killarney) with Tim Clifford (Clerk of the course). Picture: Eamonn Keogh

their Citroen Saxo, while Darragh Lynch navigates for Dylan Sheehan of Cork. Class 25 will bring history back to life on the famous Killarney roads, with former WRC cars running competitively against each other for the first time in their post-competition days in Killarney. Highlights here include Austin McHale in the Ford Focus and Stephen Greaney in the Toyota Corolla. It will be a competition not to be missed for rally fans making the journey to Killarney for the weekend. The rally kicks off on Friday, May 1, with a ceremonial start celebration in the heart of Killarney town from 7 pm. The crews then tackle eight stages on Saturday, with a run up Moll's Gap before moving east for stages in the Rathmore area, with the mid-day service halts in the former Eurovision host venue, The Green Glens Arena in Millstreet. Sunday consists of six classic stages: Moll's Gap, Ballaghbeama and a new extended

version of Shanera run twice with service in between in Liebherr. Speaking at the launch, 2026 Assess Ireland International Rally of the Lakes Clerk of the Course Tim Clifford said, "Planning has gone really well, we are looking forward to the event now. We appreciate the work that has been put in by a huge team of volunteers; without them, the event couldn't happen. I'm very happy with the route, it's a good mix of old & new, as well as some stages not run in over 20 years. Keeping the event localised and compact is really important to the competitors and spectators alike. The entry is really strong, so you can expect a great battle up and down the list. I hope everyone has a great weekend. As always, the message is keep the race in its place, spectate responsibly and obey what the marshals tell you; they are there for your safety."

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# Rathmore student wins Rotary Youth Leadership Competition

A secondary school student from Rathmore, Tommy O'Connor is one of just 20 teenagers from all over the island of Ireland who was presented with a Rotary Youth Leadership Development certificate at Europe House in Dublin recently. The competition, which Rotary Ireland has been running for over 30 years, rewards young people with clear leadership potential based on their extra-curricular activities. Run in conjunction with the European Parliament Liaison Office in Dublin, the winners enjoy an all-expenses paid week-long trip to Belfast, Dublin and Strasbourg. Tommy, who is a fifth-year student at Scoil Phobail Sliabh Luachra, received his certificate from Rotary Ireland District Governor, Michael Fleming, and Fearghas Ó Béara, Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in Ireland.

The itinerary for the students' trip included visits to Belfast, Dublin, and Strasbourg.

This year The Rotary YL Winners' Trip differed to other years with everybody meeting on the Monday for registration, welcome and lunch at the Stormont Hotel Belfast. An excellent session was had with parents and family joining before it was time for goodbyes. The group then moved on to Stormont Buildings where Rotary had organised a Tour. The students met several politicians and also listened in on some debates from the visitors' gallery.

On Tuesday, at the 'Europa Experience' visitor centre in Chatham Street, Dublin, they immersed themselves in all things EU related including a 360-degree cinema presentation. The students heard some very interesting presentations on the EU and particularly the European Parliament's role and powers, as well as about traineeships which are available with the EU institutions.

After being presented with their leadership certificates, the students embarked on tours of the Seanad and Dail where they met several Ministers, TDs and senators.

Early the next morning they flew out to Strasbourg where they visited the famous Notre Dame Cathedral and enjoyed a private tour of the European Court of Human Rights.

On the penultimate day of their stay, they went to the European Parliament where they and students from all over Europe were welcomed by Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament. The highlight for the students was taking part in Euroscola, a simulation of the work of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) in a debate and vote on the EU's actions to tackle disinformation.

Tommy is a member of Kerry Comhairle na nÓg and the youth branch of the Rathmore Social Action Group. As part of the latter, he is involved in activities like gardening, painting local amenities and visiting the Rathmore Day Care centre. He has also been involved in organising fundraisers for people affected by war and famine in Gaza, Ukraine and Somalia.

He loves acting and singing and has been a member of the Killarney Musical Society for over



Tommy O'Connor receiving his Rotary Youth Leadership Development Competition award from Fearghas Ó Béara, Head of European Parliament Liaison Office in Ireland and Michael Fleming, District Governor of Rotary Ireland, at an event at Europe House in Dublin recently.

Photo: Ger Holland Photography

four years, appearing in shows like Evita and All Shook Up.

One of Tommy's greatest interests is politics and he said he learnt a huge amount on the trip.

"I have learned so much about politics both in Northern Ireland, the Republic and in Europe. It has shown me how politics affects our daily lives and the functions each parliament has. I loved being able to explore the parliament buildings in the different cities. I also learned more about myself as a person."

"For me the highlight of the week was meeting fellow teens from all over the island of Ireland and learning about their lives. They were so kind and so much fun to talk to. I definitely believe I have made new lifelong friends. Another highlight was the visit to the Dáil."

He said he would highly recommend the competition to young people.

"I think that this is such an amazing experience and you don't have to be interested in politics. I have developed so many personal skills including communication and public speaking, meeting so many politicians and making so many new friends. I will never forget this experience!" Michael Fleming, District Governor of Rotary Ireland praised the students' enthusiasm and willingness to engage with the programme.

"I have to compliment Tommy and all of this year's winners on three counts. Firstly, for the wide range of artistic, sporting and community-based activities they are involved in. Secondly for the level of knowledge, they displayed on a wide range of topics, including European affairs. And thirdly for the extremely high standard of their contributions throughout the week of this trip."

"Tommy and the other students are a credit to themselves, their families, their schools and their communities. It was wonderful to watch this group work and socialise together, and we hope the bonds they formed this week will endure for a

long time to come."

"I would like to thank all the teachers and Rotarians who helped us along the way to plan and organise this trip and I would urge as many young people as possible from every part of the island to take part in next year's competition" Mr Fleming concluded.

Fearghas Ó Béara Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in Ireland said;

"I was delighted to welcome this talented group of young leaders from across the island of Ireland to Europe House in Dublin before they set off on their journey to our Euroscola event at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. These students really made the most of their visit to our interactive 'Europa Experience' visitor centre, delving into the wealth of materials on the European Union and striking up lively discussions between themselves, and with our guides, about EU policies and actions."

"Their level of engagement and enthusiasm is impressive, and I really enjoyed my own exchange with them about Europe as a project of peace and reconciliation, and Ireland's place in it, especially given the many current geo-political challenges to our freedoms and democracy. I was impressed by how eloquently they expressed their views, and the relevance of their questions."

"The European Parliament Liaison Office in Ireland is delighted to continue our partnership with Rotary Ireland and offer a prize for their Young Leaders competition of a sponsored visit to Strasbourg. I feel confident that our future is in safe hands with such socially engaged and politically curious young people like these winners."

The Rotary Youth Leadership Development Competition is open to 16 and 17-year-olds who are living on the island of Ireland. For more information go to [www.rotary.ie](http://www.rotary.ie)

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## RATHMORE | GNEEVEGUILLA PARISH

By Michael O' Mahony

### GNEEVEGUILLA ATHLETES

Big push on this week for training attendance at the track at An Ríocht Castleisland, this coming Saturday morning at 11:30am. This is a great opportunity for all our athletes from all categories to train at the competition grounds. County Championships are fast approaching, early May!

### LOTTO

No winner of last weeks Lotto, Jackpot for this coming Friday April 24th, €11,400 + Bonus draw for €1000

### CLUB 301 RATHMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

Limited Numbers Left!! BUY Before End April '26. MONTHLY PRIZES OF €1,000. 1 X €500.00 & 5 €100.00. €150.00 A TICKET FOR NEXT 18 MONTHS. Congratulations to March Winners: €500 Karen O'Sullivan, Behaunagh, Headford. €100 Róisín Houston, Rathbeg. €100 Dylan & Lottie Murphy, G-guilla. €100 Ann Carolan, Shinnagh. €100 Aoife & Kieran Fleming, Rathmore. €100 Reens Family, The Crescent, Rathmore.

### APPLICATIONS TO THE 2026 COMMUNITY SAFETY FUND (CSF).

wish to advise that the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, Jim O'Callaghan, has opened this year's nationwide funding call for applications to the 2026 Community Safety Fund (CSF).

The Community Safety Fund is managed by the National Office of Community Safety, an office of the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration.

Applications are invited from community safety initiatives as well as groups co-funded with local authorities, NGOs and community organisations working on issues relevant to community safety and youth justice.

Applications may be submitted by individual organisations, or by a consortium involving two or more organisations where the lead partner is a community organisation, not-for-profit, social enterprise or similar with a remit relevant to community safety and/or youth justice. Applications will be open from 13 April until 5pm on 18 May 2026.

Community, Climate Action and Operational Services, Kerry County Council, County Buildings, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Tel: 066 7183678 | 087 4188291

### MCCARTHY INSURANCE GROUP CO. FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVI 1 ROUND 4

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**SYMPATHIES** To Noreen Murphy, Aeneas & family on the death of Noreen's mother Kitty Commane whose funeral took place in Castleisland on Friday the 10th April. May Kitty rest in peace

### SHARE THE BUCKET

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

### NOTES

if you would like to add to the notes please email Michael O'Mahony (momahony14@gmail.com) or ring or text 087- 6676817 Before 6pm

## BEAUFORT PARISH

By Bridget Hartnett

### LOTTO

The next Draw for a Jackpot of €10,800 on Sunday next, 26th April. Tickets available from usual sellers, local shops, bars and restaurants.

It can also be done online <https://beaufortgaa.clubforce.com/products/lotto/beaufort-gaa-club> It's quick and easy, with options for Quick Pick, buying for a friend and more. Your support is greatly appreciated.

### MEMBERSHIP 2026

To Beaufort GAA Club members and new members, Membership is due for payment. It can be paid through [foireann.ie/login](https://foireann.ie/login) or <https://beaufortgaa.clubforce.com/products/membership> Cash is also accepted and Club Officers are happy to help.

### RESULTS

Beaufort B 4-12 Austin Stacks C 2-8

U14 girls Development team lost to Listowel Emmets 5-18 to 5-7

U14 girls lost to Southern Girls in Group stage

U14 boys beat Scartaglin 5-8 to 4-4

U16 boys beat Currow 4-17 to 4-13

Senior ladies lost to Cromane 4-14 to 1-7

Senior Men lost to Spa 0-19 to 1-14

Our Feile team failed to come out of their Group in the Competition

### FIXTURES

U14 boys home to Gneeveguilla on Tuesday 21st at 7pm

U10 boys Go Games Beaufort away to Ballymac on Wednesday, 22nd April

U16 boys home to Na Fianna on Thursday 23rd at 7pm.

Senior B home to Spa B on Friday, 24th April at 7.30pm

Senior team home to Kenmare Shamrocks on Sunday, 26th April at 2pm.

U12 boys home to Cordal on Sunday evening at 6pm

All support welcome.

**BEST OF LUCK** to Lily Kearins and Lori O'Connor who are involved with Kerry Senior B team. They play Clare on Tuesday, 21st April and Cork on Saturday 25th April.

**WELL DONE** to Adam Galvin and Luke Foley who played with Kerry South against Galway recently. Best of luck in the remainder of your games.

Well done also to Laoise O'Keeffe and Clionagh Coffey who were victorious with Kerry U16's v Limerick on Saturday in the Munster U16 Championship Sharon O'Keeffe B Final.

### TRAINING

Welcome back to all our underage players from age 6 to 10 both boys and girls on Sundays at 10am. Any queries to Jason 087-1328718

**GAELIC FOR MOTHERS AND OTHERS** are back training on Monday nights from 8-9pm with Dads and lads on Tuesday nights from 8-9pm.

### FOOTBALL CAMP

As part of our Healthy Club Initiative the Club will be hosting their annual very successful Football Camp from 6th-10th July. All enquiries Mary 096-0640065 or Tara 087-6032774. Open to ages 4 years to 14 years. Time from 10am to 2pm. Cost: 1 child €65, 2nd child €60, 3rd and subsequent €55. Open to all members and non-members.

## LISTRY PARISH

Written by: Colette Leslie

### LOTTO

April 19th 2026 Jackpot €4,350 .Numbers Drawn: 01, 03 06 ,13. No Winner. €100 Jackie Clifford, Faha. €50 Rebecca Clifford Castleisland. €50 John O Donoghue, Lissivane. €25 Edel Greensmyth, Faha. €25 James Grady. Jackpot next weekend 26 April 2026 €4,500

### U12

Under 12s away to Firies Sunday 26th April at 6 pm.

### U14

U14A team are at home to John Mitchels on Tuesday 28th April at 7pm .

### U16

U16 team are away to Dr Crokes Thursday the 30th April at 7pm

### SENIOR

Listry senior team are home to Na Gaeil Sunday 26th April at 2pm .

### SENIORS DAY

Tuesday April 28th in Listry Community Centre from 1pm to 3pm. Special Guest Owen O Shea Historian and writer. Please let us know if you can make it and if you require transport. Ciara 086 1997535. Community Centre 064 6624919.

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BER B3



9 Castleross Cottages, Killarney V93 V82F  
Guide Price: €185,000



BER G



20 The Crescent, Greenfields, Feries V93 R688  
Guide Price: €280,000



BER B3



10 Chapel Place, Chapel Lane, Killarney V93 DW61  
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BER C3



20 Cuil Na Carrig, Ballymakeera P12 FH50  
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SPA PARISH

By Leanne Cronin



Ian O'Connell with Family & Friends at last weeks Fundraiser



Volunteers of the Spa Box 7 Coffee Dock

**SUPER SUNDAY FOR SPA SENIORS**

It was a successful weekend for Spa's senior teams, with both the men and ladies recording impressive victories on home soil. The men secured their first league win of the campaign with a hard-fought two-point triumph, showing resilience to withstand a second-half challenge before key scores down the stretch saw them over the line. Earlier in the day, the ladies continued their excellent form with a dominant performance, building a strong first-half lead and maintaining control throughout to make it three wins from three. A great boost for both panels as their seasons gather momentum.

**SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER FOR IAN O'CONNELL TRUST**

A recent fundraiser in support of club member Ian O'Connell proved to be a resounding success, with a full house creating a fantastic atmosphere on the night. The novel event was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance, adding to what was a memorable and worthwhile occasion. A huge word of thanks goes to Brendan O'Connor from Dublin and John Courtney from Mitchelstown, who generously volunteered their time and made the journey to Killarney to run the event, helping ensure everything ran smoothly.

**MINOR BOYS THROUGH TO LEAGUE FINAL**

Spa's minor boys have qualified for the East Kerry League Division 3 final following a draw with Fossa in their final group game last Monday night. The result leaves them with an unbeaten record of two wins and a draw from their three league outings. They will now meet Fossa again in the league final, with fixture details to be confirmed and shared on the club's website and social media channels.

**SPA U15S MARCH INTO FÉILE COUNTY FINALS**

Spa U15s travelled to Rathmore for the annual Féile competition and quickly adapted to the shortened format, opening with an impressive 2-7 to 1-2 win over Legion. A fast start laid the foundation, with two early goals setting the tone. Their second outing against Fossa proved a tighter affair, but strong defending ensured a half-time lead before Spa pushed on to secure a three-point victory. Solid performances throughout the team helped seal two wins from two, with Spa now advancing to the county finals.

**PROUD DAY FOR ANNE MAI O'DONOGHUE**

Congratulations to Anne Mai O'Donoghue on her selection to represent

Kerry on the Primary School team. Anne Mai will have the special honour of lining out at half-time during the Kerry v Clare Munster Senior Semi-Final on Saturday, April 25th in Cusack Park, Ennis. We wish her the very best of luck and hope she enjoys every second of this memorable occasion.

**SPA BOX SEVEN COFFEE DOCK**

A reminder to all club members and supporters of the fantastic service provided by our Box Seven Coffee Dock, which is open every Saturday morning during the Academy, as well as at senior and selected underage matches. Run entirely by a dedicated team of volunteers, all proceeds go directly to Coiste na nÓg, supporting the development of the next generation of Spa players. Each cup served plays a part in investing in our young stars. New volunteers are always welcome to join the friendly team, with even an hour of help making a valuable difference.

**WEEKEND FIXTURES**

Senior Men – McCarthy Insurance Group County League Division 1, Dr Crokes v Spa, Sun 26th April at 3pm in Dr Crokes Park

Minor Ladies – Minor County League Division 7, Ballymac v Spa, Sun 26th April, 4:30pm in Ballymac.

Junior Men – McCarthy Insurance Group County League Division 7B, Beaufort B v Spa in Beaufort. Fixture not confirmed at time of print, check our website for details

Keep an eye on our social channels, website [www.spagaa.com/fixtures](http://www.spagaa.com/fixtures) and via the Games Tab on the ClubZap app for details on any changes.

**KEEP UP TO DATE**

Stay connected with everything happening in Spa by visiting our website at [www.spagaa.com](http://www.spagaa.com), where you'll find the latest news, fixtures, and results. You can also keep up to date on the go through the News and Games sections on ClubZap, our official club app. Download it today to make sure you never miss a moment.

**CLUB LOTTO**

Spa Lotto 20/04/2026 Results. Numbers drawn: 4, 11, 12, 22. No jackpot winner. Lucky Dips €50 each: Noreen O'Sullivan, Jack O'Leary, Grace & Lily O'Shea, Mary Mangan, Christy & Mary Lehane  
Next week's draw will be on Monday 27 April for a jackpot of €5,400. Play online via [www.spagaa.com/draws](http://www.spagaa.com/draws)



Spa U15 Boys who took part in Féile Competition last week



Spa Player Anne Mai O'Donoghue Selected for Kerry Primary Schools Team

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**Agent:** ● Property Partners Gallivan ● 16 College Square, Plunkett Street, Killarney V93 HW4F  
 ● Tel: **064 6634177** **www.propertypartners.ie**

**Price Region: €280,000** BER B3

**KILCUMMIN PARISH**

Written by: Helen Moynihan

**KILCUMMIN CHURCH WEBCAM SERVICE**

Please NOTE that the Live Streaming in the Kilcummin Church will be turned on at Mass Time Only, this is due to GDPR requirements and Protocol. There will be no Live Streaming during the day so as to protect and honour the Sacred Building of the Kilcummin Church and to allow one's own individual's privacy, prayer and adoration. Family funerals, Weddings and other Celebrations: Going forward we will need to request Permission from Family Members only to turn our Live Streaming so those, who are unable to attend the Funeral Mass, Wedding or any other Celebration in the Church, can view the ceremonies on line.

**SAVE THE DATE**

Saturday, 9th May 2026 from 10.30am to 12.30pm, Bishop Ray warmly invites all Prayer Group leaders from across the diocese to a meeting at the diocesan rooms adjacent to Bishop's House Killarney. This presents a real opportunity for all of us to gather as one, to share our experience of church, and listen to each other. We invite you to register no matter how big or how small your prayer meeting is. To register and for more information, please ring Deacon Thady O'Connor, Diocesan Chaplin to Prayer groups on 087-2626187 or email: thadyoc1@gmail.com.

**LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH**

This June our Church marks its 50th Anniversary. This is a very special milestone in the life of our Parish and we look forward to celebrating it together as a community. In preparation for this occasion our Church has been painted and decorated both inside and out and it's looking particularly well. As we plan for this important celebration we would greatly welcome your input, if you have any ideas how you would like this Anniversary to be marked, example, special Mass, social gathering, please let us know. We would also be grateful if anyone has old photographs, newspaper clippings or memorabilia connected to the Church over the last 50 years. We already have some pictures given to us and we are most grateful, please feel free to contact the Parish Council through the Parish Office with any suggestions or ideas.

**KILCUMMIN GAA**

**MCCARTHY INSURANCE COUNTY LEAGUE DIV 1**

**KENMARE SHAMROCKS 2-14 KILCUMMIN 2-10**

Played in Kenmare this was a good quality game but the hosts proved too strong for our lads despite a determined courageous effort. A Gary O'Leary goal added to points from Kieran Murphy (3) and Paul O Shea (2) saw us trail at half time 1-05 to 2-05.

The second half saw Kenmare take control over a fifteen minute period that saw them extend their lead to eight points at one stage. However our lads showed considerable courage and points from Mark O Shea and Mikey Casey and a Philip O Leary goal brought us within four points. Kenmare held out for a deserved win and we now turn our attention to the next game against Gneeveguilla in Kilcummin this Saturday evening at 7pm.

**MCCARTHY INSURANCE COUNTY LEAGUE DIV 6**

**ST. MICHAEL'S/FOILMORE 4-10 KILCUMMIN 2-25**

Kilcummin played St Michael's /Foilmore on Sunday last in the Division 6



**Golf Classic Launch**

Front Left: Donal Dwyer, Claire Stagg Enda O Sullivan Marie Murphy (Chairperson) Paul O Shea

Back Left: Mike Riordan, Barry Duggan, Joe Collins Dermot O Sullivan Tim Ryan

of the county league and had a comprehensive win on a score line of 2-25 to 4-10. Paudie Moynihan accounted for 2-04 while Gavin Cronin (0-6) and Aaron Buckley (0-3) were the main scorers in a good overall team performance. Next outing is against Firies this Sunday.

**KILCUMMIN GAA GOLF CLASSIC**

Kilcummin GAA are heading to Kenmare Golf Club on Saturday, May 9th for their annual fundraiser Golf Classic. Again this year it will honour the memory of Anthony "Skinner" O Sullivan of Ballinamanagh and his family and friends in Australia have got together once again to support the event. According to Mike Riordan PRO this event, as well as being a great community day out is a vital fundraiser for the club in its efforts to provide necessary facilities for its ever growing membership. He is quick to acknowledge the great support they have got over the years from individuals and businesses in the local community and abroad but recognises the challenges clubs face to maintain standards on yearly basis. Teams of 3 players: €180. Tee Box sign: € 80. Contacts: Muiris Healy 086 1614136, Mike Riordan 087 6258642.

**LOTTO**

There was no winner of our lotto on Monday 20th April for the Jackpot of €7,750. Numbers drawn were 11,12,14,23. Consolation prizes of €50 went to Aileen Moriarty, Lyno, Noel O'Mahony, Eamon John O'Donoghue. Our next draw will be on Monday 04th May for Jackpot of €8,000. Thank you for your continued support.

**MASTERGEEHA FC LOTTO**

There was no winner of our lotto on Friday 17th April for the Jackpot of €6,600. Numbers drawn were 3, 5, 15, 26. Consolation prizes of €50 went to Anne Doran Allmans Terrace, Ciara Nagle Mastergeeha Kathleen O'Leary, Milleen, 0872037395 C/o Post Office. Our next draw will be on Friday 24th April for Jackpot of €6,800.

**GLENFLESK PARISH**

Written by: Sean Daly

**LGFA COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS**

Senior County League Division 1 Round 4: Gneeveguilla 1:09 Glenflesk 0:16.

Senior County League Division 6 Round 4: Glenflesk 1:09 Firies 0:11.

Ladies Donal Curtin Cup Division 2: Glenflesk 2:03 Laune Rangers 2:11.

**COMMUNITY GAMES**

Glenflesk area Athletics competition will take place on Thursday May 14th in Killarney Valley AC from 7 to 9pm. All children living in Glenflesk parish are welcome to attend. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for further information.

**LOTTO**

There was no winner of Glenflesk Lotto which took place on 13th April. Jackpot €6,400. The numbers drawn were: 5, 10, 12, 18. Consolation Prizes of

€50: Peter O'Donoghue, Salmon Leap, Clonkeen, Sean O'Donoghue, Sellers Prize, Joan & Paudie O'Leary, Coracow, Wendy Garrett, Shronedraugh. Next draw will take place 27th April. Jackpot €6,600.

**CÚL CAMP**

Cúl camp in will run in Glenflesk from the 6th to 10th of July. Registration is now open and can be booked online. <https://www.kelloggsulcamps.gaa.ie/>

**FANTASY GOLF**

Congratulations to the three winners of the Fantasy Golf competition. 1st Paul Sheehy, 2nd Dylan Bowler and 3rd Tim Murphy. A big thank you to everyone who took part and supported this fundraiser, your support is greatly appreciated!

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



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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](mailto:info@dermotcronin.ie) or 0646622775 or 0872893649.*

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<p>€4 NON REAL REWARDS PRICE</p> <p>WAS €5.29</p> <p><b>€3</b> REAL REWARDS PRICE</p>  <p>McCain Home Chips Chunky 1kg</p>	<p>€6.50 NON REAL REWARDS PRICE</p> <p>WAS €8</p> <p><b>€5</b> REAL REWARDS PRICE</p>  <p>Felix As Good As It Looks Pouch 12 Pack Selected Range 85g Non Real Rewards Price: €64.71/kg Real Rewards Price: €58.82/kg</p>	<p>€5.50 NON REAL REWARDS PRICE</p> <p><b>€4.50</b> REAL REWARDS PRICE</p>  <p>Cushelle Original 6 Roll</p>	<p>€13 NON REAL REWARDS PRICE</p> <p><b>€10</b> REAL REWARDS PRICE</p>  <p>Ariel XXL Mega Pack/Fairy Non Bio 63 Wash 1.953ltr Non Real Rewards Price: €6.66/ltr Real Rewards Price: €5.12/ltr</p>
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# Make a clear action plan for the final weeks before the State Exams

## TIME MANAGEMENT

As exam candidates settle into the final term before the State Exams begin on the 3rd June, they have already banked a fair amount of work. Many exam candidates have worked diligently throughout the year. Others may have been less focussed as they travelled the road to next June's exams. But the fact remains that every exam candidate has a foundation of work, however solid or precarious, on which to build over the next few weeks. Efficient and careful use of the remaining weeks will be enough to get you safely over the finish line. No matter how little work you have done, you can still achieve a worthwhile result in your exam if you put your best effort into the final weeks. It's also important to appreciate that you know a great deal more than you realise.

## SMART GOALS

The immediate priority now is to reassess your goals and make a plan of action. The time for procrastination has well and truly passed. It's essential to have clear goals and an action plan to help you to be successful. If you are to achieve your academic goals, they will have to be SMART – specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-lined. Your focus must now be on your total readiness for June's exams. Avail of all the help at your disposal during the next few weeks to ensure that you are in tip top shape for the challenge of the exams.

## ATTEND

The subject teacher at school, who after all is the expert, will guide you through the last few weeks in revision, exam techniques and overall subject strategy. Attend school regularly during the final term and maintain a diligent work schedule to give yourself every possible chance of achieving your goals. Be clear in your own mind as to what exactly your goals are. Have confidence in your ability to achieve them. Have a plan to accomplish your aim and, critically, execute your plan by doing the necessary work.

## REVIEW

Carry out an honest review of your exam

programme straight away. Make a decision about the level – higher, ordinary or foundation – of the paper you will answer in each subject. Set a target grade in each subject. Convert each grade to CAO points and add up your six best scores. Now you have a target grade in each subject and an overall points' target to help motivate you. It's vital at this late stage to set realistic goals. For example, if you feel you may not be able for a higher-level paper in a particular subject, are you not far better off taking an ordinary level paper in that subject where you may achieve a decent grade?

Consider what you would like to do after the Leaving Cert exam. A singular determination to achieve enough points to get a place in your course of interest is a great motivator. Perhaps, your primary motivator should be to do yourself justice in the exam and to achieve results that reward your ability and effort. Having clear and focussed goals will make your last term more productive and rewarding.

## CHALLENGE

Regard the next few weeks and the actual exam as a challenge that you will meet headlong and with determination. Approach it with confidence and belief in yourself. Take total control of your life and channel your energy in a positive direction. Every time you have a doubt or a negative thought about yourself replace it with a positive one. You will feel better about yourself if you are in control of your situation. To assume that control set aside some time to make out a plan of action. Decide what topics you need to revise between now and the exam. Make out an overall time schedule, a weekly schedule and a daily schedule. Make out that plan of action over the next few days.



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit  
State Examinations Commission

## CHECKLIST

- Every exam candidate has already done a fair amount of work
- Proper use of the remaining weeks will get you safely over the line
- Procrastination is the thief of time
- You know much more than you give yourself credit for
- It's essential to have clearly set goals in the final term before the exam
- Set SMART goals – specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-lined
- Put a clear plan in place to accomplish your goals
- Have confidence in your ability to achieve your goals
- Implement your plan by doing the necessary work
- Avail of all the help at your disposal
- Regular attendance at school during the final term is vital
- Set a target grade in each subject to help motivate yourself
- Set an overall CAO points' total to help motivate you.
- Your primary motivator should be to do yourself justice in the exam
- Regard the exam as a challenge that you will meet headlong
- Exam timetables are available on [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie)
- CAO closing date for late applications at €65 fee is 5pm on 1st May
- CAO online change of mind facility (free) opens at 12.00 noon on 5th May
- Applications for a SUSI Grant are open since 1st April 2026
- The priority closing date for renewal applications for a SUSI Grant is 11th June
- The priority closing date for new applications for a SUSI Grant is 9th July

Billy Ryle is a Career Guidance Counsellor and Educational Commentator  
Email: [rylebilly@gmail.com](mailto:rylebilly@gmail.com)  
Tel: 087 9808979

*Ciara O'Sullivan, was honoured at the All Ireland Scholarships Awards Ceremony on the 4th of April in University Concert Hall, University of Limerick.*

*In attendance at the ceremony was All Ireland Scholarships Sponsor, JP McManus, Guest of Honour and Double Olympic Champion, Kellie Harrington, Deputy Willie O'Dea TD, and Head of the Skills and Education Group for the Department for the Economy NI, Louise Watson, as well as the family, friends and school representatives of the scholarship recipients.*



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# Presentation Castleisland Marks 10th Annual Awards Night

Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland, marked a significant milestone on Tuesday, April 14th with the hosting of its 10th Annual Awards Night, celebrating a decade of recognising student excellence, achievement and contribution to school life.

The event brought together students, staff, parents and invited guests for an evening of celebration and acknowledgement. Proceedings opened with a musical performance of "Dreams" by The Cranberries, performed by the school choir under the direction of Ms. Whiston, setting an appropriate tone for the occasion.

Principal Mr. Pierce Dargan welcomed those in attendance and spoke of the importance of recognising not only academic success, but also the values of commitment, resilience and personal development demonstrated by students throughout the year. The theme of this year's awards, "The Journey from Dreams to Reality," reflected the ambition and dedication evident across the student body.

A keynote address was delivered by past pupil and current Kerry Rose, Laura Daly, who spoke warmly of her time as a student in the school. She reflected on the challenges she experienced during her school years and acknowledged the support and encouragement she received from her teachers. Emphasising the importance of wellbeing, she encouraged students to find someone they can rely on and to develop a positive outlet, highlighting her own passion for dance as a key support in her journey.

A wide range of awards were presented across academic, sporting and cultural areas. Among the principal award recipients were Aine Walsh (CEIST Award), Brid Curtin (Sister Clement Award) and Fiona McSweeney (Seamus Falvey Award). The Seamus Falvey Award was presented by Gobnait and Marie Falvey, adding a special significance to the occasion. Academic excellence was further recognised through the presentation of the Junior Cycle Silver Medal to Leah Griffin and the Leaving Certificate Gold Medal to Emily Walsh. Edel O'Donoghue received the award for Best Attendance.

In sport, Amelie Kerin was named Senior Sports Award recipient, while Eibhlin McCarthy received the Junior Sports Award. The sporting awards also highlighted the importance of continued participation in sport throughout the teenage years, recognising not only achievement but commitment, teamwork and perseverance. Katie Crowley, Lauren Coffey and Erin O'Connor were honoured with Basketball Awards while Maryanne O'Shea and Laura McShane were the recipients of the Football Awards.

Awards recognising achievement in specific subject areas included Tessa Reidy and Oliwia Gruszka (STEM), Saoirse Collins (French), and Máiréad Ní hIarlaíthe and Nancy Ní Chonchúir (Gradam na Gaeilge). In the arts, awards were presented to Sarah Lenihan and Aine Walsh (Music), and Orla O'Connor and Wiktoria Brzozka (Art). Student of the Year awards were presented to Elainah Hickey (1st Year), Aine O'Sullivan (2nd

Year), Katie Crowley (3rd Year), Jessie O'Keefe (Transition Year), Faith Bradley (5th Year) and Nancy O'Connor (6th Year), while Morena Bottone was named International Student of the Year. The Webwise Awards were presented to Saoirse Collins and Gracie Mills.

The school was honoured by the presence of a number of distinguished guests, including Laura Daly (Past Pupil and current Kerry Rose), Daniel Jokubaitis of Tralee Warriors Basketball, Darragh O'Regan of FAI Kerry Girls Soccer, Julia Curtin, past pupil and member of the Kerry Senior Ladies Football team, and Fiona Brosnan of Sliabh Luachra Camogie Club. The Presentation Sisters were also in attendance, marking their 10th year supporting the Awards Night, a presence greatly valued by the school community. Members of the Falvey family, the Board of Management and the Parents Forum were also in attendance.

The event was organised by Ms. Dayna Hurley, Leader of School Events, and was compered by Mr. Batt Donnell, who guided proceedings throughout the evening.

The ceremony concluded with a closing performance of "Viva La Vida" by Coldplay, delivered by the school choir, bringing to an end a successful and memorable occasion. The Awards Night continues to play an important role in recognising the achievements and contributions of students and in reflecting the values and ethos of Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland.



Sixth Year student of the year Award, Annette Leen and Nancy O'Connor.



Laura Daly and Emily Walsh (Leaving Certificate Gold Medal Award winner).



TY student of the year Award, Karen Finnegan and Jessie O'Keefe.



CEIST Award winner Aine Walsh and Laura Daly.



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SCAN TO BOOK

# Conference of Possibilities Takes Place in Killarney

The Conference of Possibilities took place on Saturday the 18th of April, in the Brehon Hotel during which over 20 stalls of organisations who work with young people displayed their resources and presented on their work.

In attendance were Alpha, ChristLife, Radio Maria, Killarney Faith Camp, Knock Youth Hub, Net Ministries, Prayer Spaces, to name but a few.

The Conference, organised by the Diocesan Pastoral Team, also launched two exciting innovations:

The first one is The Spirit Youth Programme: Is a Personal & Spiritual programme which is aimed at 15/16-year-olds. Will commence in Tralee, Killarney, Spa, Milltown, Ballyduff and Rathmore. Youth Leaders are already being recruited for the next tranche of training to cover the Kenmare and Beara Pastoral Areas. The Pope John Paul II Awards Programme is the second innovation which was launched. This will be embedded into the Spirit Youth Groups and will motivate and enable young participation in parish communities. The Knights of Columbanus have generously agreed to fund the programme and were there in force on the day to lend their support.



Colette O'Doherty and Fr Mark Moriarty are joined by Albert Galea of Christlife.



Fr Kerian O'Brien (Killarney Parish), Fina Golden (Fr Peyton Centre) and Bishop Ray Browne at the Conference of Possibilities.



Bishop Ray, Fr Mark Moriarty, Fr Jim Leihan and Colette O'Doherty joined by some of the Spirit Youth Leaders at the launch of the Spirit Youth Programme (Conference of Possibilities).



Kiltallagh National School Fundraising Raffle Prize Winners pictured with three generations of Wharton family connected to the school. The raffle was organised by Moira Wharton of the Parents Council towards funds for the school Back row (left to right): Evan Wharton, Naomi O'Neill, Eric Wharton, Christian Wharton, Moira Wharton and Liam Wharton. Front row: Ivanna Doroshenko and Noise O'Connor at Kiltallagh National, School recently. Photo by Michelle Cooper Galvin



Kiltallagh National School Fundraising Raffle Prize Winners pictured with three generations of Wharton family connected to the school. The raffle was organised by Moira Wharton of the Parents Council towards funds for the school Including in the photo Evan Wharton, Naomi O'Neill, Eric Wharton, Christian Wharton, Moira Wharton and Liam Wharton. Front row: Ivanna Doroshenko, Noise O'Connor and pupils of the School at Kiltallagh National, School recently. Photo by Michelle Cooper Galvin

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**Ladies' Crafting Group**

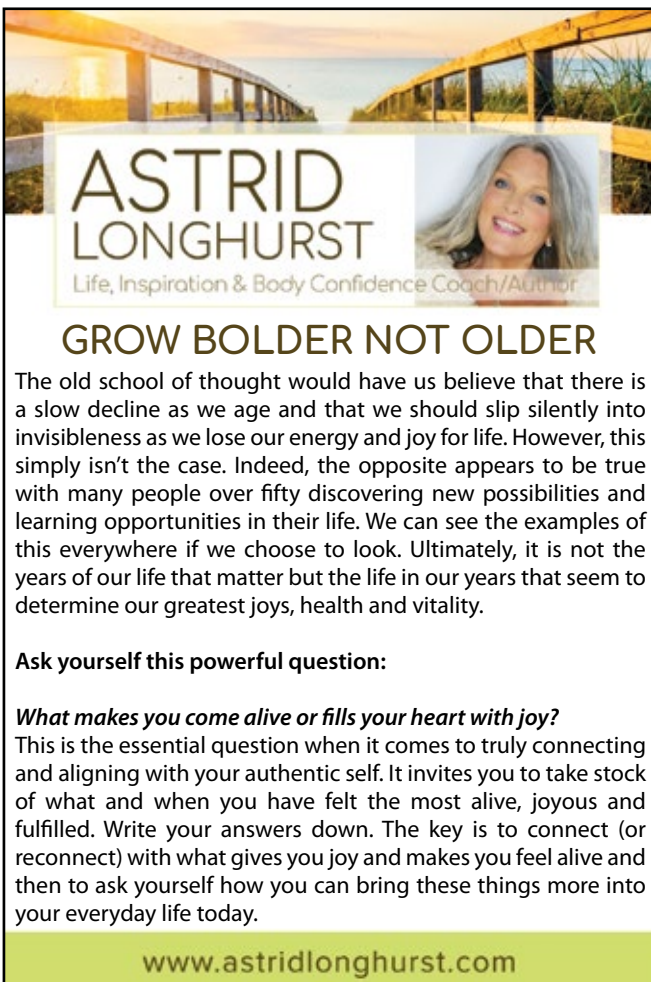
**When:** Monday, 27th of April at 10.30am-12.30pm, we'll be meeting on the 4th Monday of each month after that.

**Where:** Chime unit 1b Park place, High Street Killarney V93 CDP9

**Contact:** 064 6620052 or 0860105200

This group is for women who are hard of hearing, and offers a fun, supportive, and inclusive space to learn new skills, enjoy great conversation, and make connections. Come along for company, creativity, and a cup of tea!

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**ASTRID LONGHURST**  
Life, Inspiration & Body Confidence Coach/Author

**GROW BOLDER NOT OLDER**

The old school of thought would have us believe that there is a slow decline as we age and that we should slip silently into invisibility as we lose our energy and joy for life. However, this simply isn't the case. Indeed, the opposite appears to be true with many people over fifty discovering new possibilities and learning opportunities in their life. We can see the examples of this everywhere if we choose to look. Ultimately, it is not the years of our life that matter but the life in our years that seem to determine our greatest joys, health and vitality.

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This is the essential question when it comes to truly connecting and aligning with your authentic self. It invites you to take stock of what and when you have felt the most alive, joyous and fulfilled. Write your answers down. The key is to connect (or reconnect) with what gives you joy and makes you feel alive and then to ask yourself how you can bring these things more into your everyday life today.

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**WHY LOW-IMPACT, LONGEVITY-FOCUSED TRAINING IS THE FITNESS TREND YOU SHOULDN'T IGNORE IN 2026**

If there's one fitness shift that has truly taken hold in 2026, it's the move toward low-impact, posture-focused training—with Pilates leading the charge. More people are stepping away from punishing, high-intensity routines and turning toward workouts that build strength, mobility, and resilience without leaving the body feeling battered. It's not about doing less; it's about training smarter so your body feels good today, tomorrow, and ten years from now.

Pilates has become the go-to method for anyone who wants to improve posture, strengthen their core, and move with more ease in daily life. Whether you're sitting at a desk all day, lifting kids, or simply feeling the effects of modern life on your back and shoulders, Pilates offers a structured way to realign the body. The controlled movements target deep stabilising muscles that often get ignored in traditional gym workouts, helping you stand taller, move better, and reduce the risk of injury. What's driving this trend is a growing awareness that longevity isn't just about living longer—it's about living better. Low-impact strength training, mobility work, and posture correction routines are helping people maintain joint health, improve balance, and stay active well into later life. These workouts are accessible to beginners yet endlessly adaptable for those who want a challenge, making them ideal for a wide range of ages and fitness levels.

(continued next week)

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## BLEPHARITIS

### WHAT IS BLEPHARITIS?

Blepharitis causes eyelids to become red, swollen and inflamed. It doesn't normally cause serious damage to the eyes, but it can be very uncomfortable. It tends to be a long-term condition, which means you're likely to need ongoing treatment. Severe cases do have a risk of causing long-term damage, but fortunately these are quite rare.

### TYPES OF BLEPHARITIS

There are two main types of blepharitis – anterior and posterior.

#### Anterior blepharitis

When the front (anterior) part of the eyelids becomes sore, this can be caused by an infection, allergy or a general sensitivity to bacteria present on the eyelids. It can also be associated with some scalp conditions, such as very dry or oily skin and dandruff.

#### Posterior blepharitis

Also known as meibomian gland dysfunction (MGD) is when the glands that make the oily part of your tears become blocked. Both types of blepharitis can cause dry eye or make it worse if you already have it. Many people will have a combination of blepharitis, meibomian gland dysfunction and dry eye.

### RISK FACTORS

Blepharitis is more common in people over the age of 50, but anyone can develop it. This is often because the glands

that make the normal tears, particularly the oily part of the tears, tend to become less effective as you get older.

### SYMPTOMS

Blepharitis can cause crusting and white scales may stick to the roots of eyelashes. Your eyelid edges may become red and your eyes will feel gritty, burning, sore or itchy. If you experience these symptoms, make an appointment with your optometrist.

### TREATMENT

There is a range of products designed especially for treating blepharitis, such as sterile pads, individual moist wipes and separate cleaning solutions.

As part of the treatment, you need to remove all the crusting and debris from the edge of your eyelids and from between your eyelashes. You should use a special lid cleaning product. Treatment of blepharitis is a long-term procedure. You may not see any improvement for several weeks.

Continue the treatment twice a day for at least one month, then less often as it starts to get better. You will probably need to continue to clean your lids at least twice a week to help prevent the blepharitis from returning.

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Mayor of Killarney, Cllr. Martin Grady, has warmly welcomed confirmation that works on a long-anticipated project At St Olivers National School are set to commence in the coming months.

Cllr. Grady described the development as a significant and positive step forward for the community.

"I am very pleased to see that works are now due to begin in the coming months. A key element of the project will be the prioritisation of a much-needed drop-off and set-down area, which Cllr. Grady has repeatedly highlighted as essential for improving access, safety, and traffic flow for parents of students, school staff and residents in the area.

It will make a real difference for families, commuters, and visitors, ensuring safer and more efficient movement in what is a very busy part of the town."

"I have raised this matter on three occasions through formal motions, and I want to acknowledge the full support I received from my colleagues on the Council. He concluded by expressing optimism that the project will deliver lasting benefits for Killarney and its residents.



# WELCOME FOR WORKS AT ST. OLIVERS

## GNEEVEGUILLA BURIAL GROUND

Kerry Fianna Fáil TD, Michael Cahill has again raised the fact that Gneeveguilla Burial Ground is almost at capacity with Kerry County Council.

"I have been in contact again with Chief Executive, Fearghal Reidy, Paul Neary, Director of Services, Peter Bradley, C/O Burial Grounds and Sandy McSwiney, Senior Executive Engineer in regards to this important matter for the residents of Gneeveguilla. Notwithstanding that the Burial Ground in Gneeveguilla is owned by the Church, Kerry County Council has confirmed to me that they will facilitate an extension to the Burial Ground if the adjacent land was available for purchase or indeed suitable lands in the vicinity of the village" said Deputy Cahill.

"The Council has made a number of approaches to landowners in Gneeveguilla, who have land suitable for use as a Graveyard, but they confirmed to me that those lands are not for sale. The Council has also confirmed to me that they will examine any parcels of land in the vicinity of the Church or the village that maybe going on the market in order to ascertain its suitability" stated the Fianna Fáil Spokesperson for Older People.

"This is very upsetting for residents of Gneeveguilla and the surrounding

areas, a number of whom have contacted me, as it could well mean that land suitable for graveyard use may have to be sourced outside the Parish, rather than in the vicinity of the present location on the grounds of the Church of the Holy Rosary. Our people wish to be laid to rest either with or in close proximity to loved ones" stated Deputy Cahill.

"There is now growing concern in Gneeveguilla that loved ones may have to be buried outside the Parish. It is absolutely crucial that land is sourced in or around the village or the Church for a Burial Ground and in that context I am again calling on Kerry County Council to make every effort to acquire a suitable bit of ground" said the Kerry Teachta Dála.

"I wish to again call on any landowner who may have suitable lands in Gneeveguilla to make contact with either Kerry County Council or to contact me directly if they so wish" stated Deputy Cahill

"A similar issue arose in Beaufort not too long ago and thankfully I was able to facilitate meetings there between all the stakeholders involved, eventually bringing a positive solution. I wish to assure the people of Gneeveguilla that I am at their disposal, to act as an intermediary or facilitator on their behalf, on what has now become an extremely urgent matter" added Michael Cahill TD.

## COUNCILLORS AGREE SCHEME OF PRIORITY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The members of Kerry County Council have agreed and adopted a Scheme of Priority which will be used in the allocation of homes under the Affordable Housing Scheme. The scheme has been accepted by the Department of Housing and Kerry County Council is currently assessing five submissions from developers for the scheme in Tralee and Killarney.

Kerry County Council is required to prepare a Scheme of Priority which sets out how applicants will be assessed and the order of priority to be given to eligible applicants when demand exceeds supply of the number of affordable homes available for purchase.

Under the Affordable Purchase Scheme local authorities make newly built homes available at a reduced price for first-time and other eligible buyers. It is designed to help purchasers bridge

the gap between what they can afford to pay and the price of the new home.

Under the agreed policy, if demand exceeds availability, 70% of the dwellings will be allocated based on the applicant's household size and suitability for the property. Priority will then be given to the eligible applicants in the date and time order that their applications were received.

For the remaining 30% of the dwellings, these will be prioritised based on household size and suitability for the property. Priority will then be given to eligible applicants based on the applicant being resident within the administrative area of the Municipal District, of the relevant affordable scheme, for a minimum period of five years on the date of application. In December 2025, Kerry County Council

published an open call for developers to provide affordable homes in the settlements of Tralee and Killarney. A total of five submissions were received: two in Tralee and three in Killarney and these proposals are currently being assessed.

In February 2026, the Council's Housing Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) agreed the Draft Scheme of Priority and referred it to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and ministerial approval has been received.

Councillors, who agreed the Scheme of Priority at the meeting of Kerry County Council on Monday, will continue to be updated by Council management on the progress of the scheme and when the submissions which have been received are assessed.



# DANNY HEALY-RAE TD



**Cllr MAURA HEALY-RAE**

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### **Danny Healy Rae TD - Monthly Clinics**

<b>1st Monday</b> 8.15 PM 8:30 PM 9.00 PM 9.30 PM	<b>Rathmore &amp; Gneeveguilla</b> Top of the Hill, Rathmore Bridge Bar, Rathmore Dennehy's Bar, Rathmore Richie McAuliffe's, Gneeveguilla	9.45 PM	Sportsfield Bar, Brosna
<b>1st Wednesday</b> 8.00 PM 8.30 PM 8.45 PM 9.00 PM 9.30 PM 10.00 PM	<b>Killarney Area</b> Torc Hotel, Lissivigeen The Village Inn, Kilcummin The Club, Kilcummin Old Killarney Inn, Aghadoe The Golden Nugget, Fossa The Faha Court, Faha	<b>3rd Friday</b> 7.30 PM 8.00 PM 8.15 PM 9.00 PM 9:30 PM 10.00 PM	<b>Castleisland Area</b> River Island Hotel, Castleisland The Kingdom Bar, Castleisland The Crown Hotel, Castleisland Hughes Bar, Cordal Lyon's Bar, Scartaglen Flemings Bar, Scartaglen
<b>1st Thursday</b> 8.30 PM 9.00 PM 9:30 PM 10:00 PM	<b>Glenflesk &amp; Barraduff</b> The Kerry Way, Glenflesk Spillane's Headford Murphy's Bar, Barraduff Corner Bar, Barraduff	<b>4th Thursday</b> 7:00 PM 7.30 PM 8:15 PM 8.30 PM 8.45 PM 9.15 PM 10.00 PM	<b>Killorglin Area</b> Golden Nugget, Fossa Galvin's Bar, Beaufort O'Grady's Bar, Killorglin Francie Sheahan's Bar, Killorglin Clifford's Tavern, Killorglin The Plough, Milltown Griffins Bar, Castlemaine
<b>1st Friday</b> 8.45 PM 9.00 PM 9:30 PM 10:00 PM	<b>Kenmare, Tuosist &amp; Lauragh</b> Roughty Bar, Kenmare O'Connors Bar, Kenmare Sailors Bar, Killaha West Helen's Bar Kilmacalogue	<b>4th Friday</b> 8.30 PM 9.30 PM 10.30 PM	<b>Kenmare &amp; Sneem Area</b> The Roughty Bar, Kenmare Riney's Bar, Sneem Blackwater Tavern
<b>3rd Monday</b> 8.30 PM 9.00 PM 9:30 PM	<b>Knocknagoshel &amp; Brosna</b> O'Connor's Bar, Knocknagoshel Walsh's Bar, Knocknagoshel Kate Pat's Bar, Brosna	<b>Last Monday</b> 8:00 PM 8:30 PM 9:00 PM 10.00 PM 10:15 PM	<b>Farranfore Area</b> Ulick's Bar, Farranfore James Daly's Bar, Farranfore Cunniffe's Bar, Currow Butlers Bar, Furies John Hendersons, Furies

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# Government announces changes to Planning Exemptions Regulations



Changes proposed will free up planners and will give homeowners greater freedom to adapt their homes to changing needs

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne TD and the Minister of State for Local Government and Planning John Cummins today brought an update to Cabinet on the proposed Exempted Development Regulations for Residential Dwellings.

The changes are based on the Government's Programme for Government commitment to lift the regulatory burden on homeowners and their families while also enabling planning authorities to focus their resources on more complex projects that merit greater examination.

Exempted development regulations have not been substantially updated in almost 25 years and their revision is part of the implementation of the Planning and Development Act 2024.

The changes are also motivated by the practical need for homeowners to maximise the efficient use of residential space through enhancements, expansion or adaptation if they wish to do so with their homes.

The proposed changes follow input from a comprehensive public consultation process

undertaken in 2025 which received almost 1,000 submissions.

## Detached exterior dwellings

The changes being introduced include a new exemption for an auxiliary habitable dwelling which will allow for the addition of a detached habitable accommodation linked to the services of the principal house – between 32sqm and 45sqm in floor area.

To facilitate this particular measure, the Residential Tenancies Acts 2004-2026 will be amended to provide that auxiliary dwellings developed in accordance with the Exempted Development Regulations, which are rented, will not be within the scope of the Residential Tenancies Acts 2004-2026.

The Tanaiste and Minister for Finance will consider the tax arrangements for auxiliary dwellings and how it interacts with the "Rent-a-Room" tax relief as part of the normal Budgetary process and will bring forward any necessary amendments that he considers appropriate in the Finance Bill.

## Additional Exemptions

### Other proposed changes include:

A new exemption for sub-division of the

principal dwelling which will allow for the creation of up to 1 additional self-contained unit within the existing building envelope, with a minimum floor area for each subdivided unit of 32 square metres.

A new exemption will provide for extension via the addition of a dormer roof box and/or roof light on the principal dwelling.

The existing exemption for extension of the principal dwelling will be increased from 40 square metres to 45 square metres.

The existing exemption for a structure in the back garden (such as a shed, store, home office or gym) will be increased from 25 square metres to 30 square metres.

In all cases, all relevant Building, Building Control and Fire Regulations, including those for habitable dwellings where applicable, will apply.

These Regulations are being made under the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and are currently undergoing the relevant environmental assessment. Once the environmental assessment is complete, they will then proceed for formal ratification by resolution of both Houses of the Oireachtas, following referral to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing.

The exact timing of the introduction of these regulations is dependent on the completion of the environmental assessment, but it is intended that they will be signed as soon as approved by resolution of the Houses of the Oireachtas.

**Further details, including the full conditions that will apply are set out in the full text of the draft Regulation, which will be published in due course as part of the Oireachtas ratification process.**

**A review of the exemptions will take place 18 months after the regulations are in operation.**

## WELCOME FOR MORE SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORTS

Fianna Fáil TD for Kerry, Michael Cahill, has welcomed a number of key measures outlined in the Government's latest update on special education describing them as "important and necessary steps in responding to the rapidly increasing demand from families and schools."

Deputy Cahill pointed in particular to the record €3 billion investment in special education for 2026, the continued rollout of new special classes and school places, the securing of additional funding today for same and the introduction of a National Therapy Service in special schools as significant developments that will directly benefit students and their families.

"Over recent years we have seen a very substantial increase in the number of special classes at both primary and post-primary level, along with the opening of new special schools and expanded supports within existing schools," he said.

"The scale of this investment and expansion reflects the reality on the ground, demand for special education supports is growing and it is essential that Government continues to respond in a proactive and timely way."

Deputy Cahill also welcomed the sanctioning of hundreds of new special classes this year, noting that earlier approvals provide greater certainty for families and allow schools more time to plan, recruit staff and prepare

facilities.

The Kerry TD highlighted the importance of the increased number of Special Education Teachers (SETs) and Special Needs Assistants (SNAs), as well as the introduction of inclusive special classes which will offer greater flexibility for schools experiencing capacity pressures.

"These inclusive classes are a practical and innovative solution, particularly in areas where space constraints make it difficult to open entirely new classrooms. It is encouraging that they are being introduced following engagement with schools and stakeholders," he added.

Deputy Cahill emphasised that, despite the progress being made, challenges remain.

"My office continues to have a significant number of schools in contact with us regarding special education provision amongst many other issues like funding constraints and the need for refurbishments of older school buildings, reflecting the very real pressures that still exist in our schools locally. I will continue to work closely with schools, parents and the Department to ensure that Kerry receives its fair share of resources and that every child has access to the supports they need."

**Cllr  
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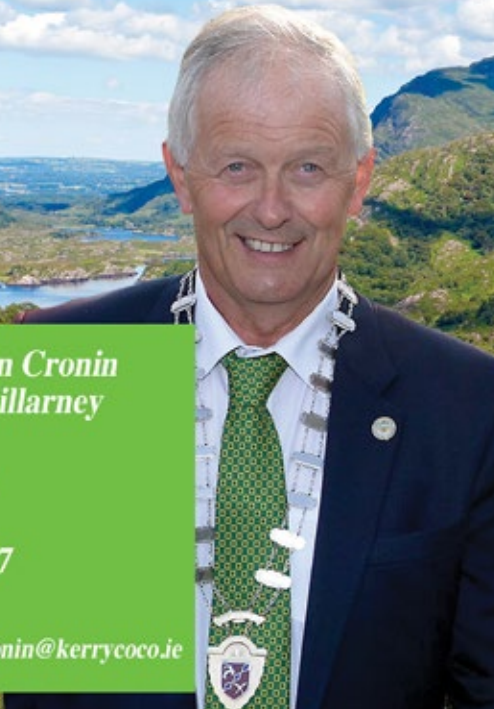
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# Historic Munster Title for Presentation Killarney U15 Soccer Team

St. Brigid's Presentation Secondary School, Killarney, is celebrating a landmark achievement after their U15 girls' soccer team were crowned FAI Schools Munster Cup Champions (Large Schools "A" Cup) following a superb 2-0 victory over a strong Middleton side in Mallow last week. In what is believed to be a historic first, no girls' team from Kerry has previously claimed a Munster title at this level, making the achievement all the more special for the school and the wider community. The team's journey to the title has been nothing

short of outstanding. Competing against 33 schools from across Munster since the competition began last autumn, Presentation Killarney have been in exceptional form, scoring an impressive 22 goals while conceding just once throughout the campaign. Attention now turns to the national stage, where Presentation Killarney will face Leinster champions Meán Scoil Mhuire, Longford Town, in the FAI Schools National Cup Semi-Final this Thursday, April 23rd. The match is set to take place at Nenagh AFC, with a 1pm kick-off.

With a place in the All-Ireland Final in May at stake where the winners will meet either the Connacht or Ulster champions-the Killarney side will be aiming to continue their remarkable run. There is a real sense of excitement and pride surrounding this talented group, and the entire school community will be firmly behind them as they look to make even more history. Best of luck to the team as they take the next step on their incredible journey.

The U15 Team.



Captains and officials at the match.



## Musicians Join Forces To Help One Of Their Own



Musicians who will take part in the fundraiser.

Musicians from Cork, Kerry, Limerick and Tipperary will join forces for a terrific fundraising dance at the CYMS Hall in Newmarket, Co. Cork on Friday, May 1st. Monies raised on the night will go to Charleville musician Dermot Lyons who is currently dealing with serious health issues. Dermot, originally from Caherconlish in Limerick, is

married to Martina and the couple have four young children. Prior to becoming ill, 41 years old Dermot was employed at MD O'Sheas and was also well known on the music circuit throughout Ireland. "Last November, I went into heart failure and am living with just 10% of heart function, my recovery is very slow and I've had some bumps on the road so far. I'm so grateful to the staff at the wonderful Cardiac Unit

in UHL for their superb care and to my colleagues in the music world for all their help" Dermot said. Meanwhile, over the past four months, musician friends have organised numerous fundraising events all around Munster for Dermot and his family. The benefit event in Newmarket is organised by Knocknagree native John Joe Herlihy who is well known to dancing audiences throughout Munster. Recent Glór Tíre contestant Dee Morrissey will make the journey from Tipperary to take part, Marian Kirby from Limerick will be on stage, Eddie Lee and Jake Coffey from Kerry are on the bill, as well as Sheila Fitzgerald from Ballydesmond, Pat Daly from Middleton and Michael Twomey who is a native of Baile Mhúirne. John Joe Herlihy said he is hoping



Dermot Lyons.

for a record attendance in Newmarket. "Dermot Lyons is a young husband and father, until a few months ago he was out doing gigs and entertaining the public all across Munster. His sudden illness reminds us of how fragile our health can be. We are delighted, with the help of all our musician friends, to be able to help Dermot and his family, at least financially, at this very difficult time" While admission on the night is just €10, those attending are welcome to give whatever amount they wish. Doors are open at 8pm, music and dancing will commence at 8.30pm. Further information can be found on John Joe Herlihy's Facebook Page.



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<b>€20,000</b>	<b>€141</b> per week	<b>€109</b> per week	<b>€90</b> per week
<b>€25,000</b>	<b>€176</b> per week	<b>€137</b> per week	<b>€113</b> per week

💡 Figures shown are for guidance only and subject to approval and terms.



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## BEAUFORT GOLF CLUB (MEN'S)

**RESULTS OF OUR MEN'S STABLEFORD COMPETITION HELD ON SAT 18/SUN 19 APRIL. Sponsor – The Killarney Plaza Hotel**  
**White tees (16 holes in play)**

1st: Dan O'Connor 34 points (16)  
2nd: Mikey Fitzgerald 32 points (22) last nine holes  
3rd: Ciaran Kennedy 32 points (17) last nine holes

**Yellow Tees (16 holes in play)**

1st: Anthony O'Sullivan 33 points (23) last nine holes  
2nd: Mike Gleeson 33 points (8)

**MEN'S COMPETITION ON SUNDAY 26 APRIL**  
– 18 Hole Stableford – Exchange Day at Dooks Golf Club, Yellow Tees  
Sponsor - Men's Club

## DEERPARK PITCH & PUTT CLUB

**COUNTY MATCHPLAY**

Well done to Eileen McCarthy on her victory last week in the Ladies event as our Secretary Damien Fleming reached the final of the Senior Mens event before being defeated in the final by Tralee's Jamie Blake.

**MUNSTER MATCHPLAY**

Best Wishes to our club members taking part in these Qualifiers which take place in Tralee on Sunday morning. Reminder the event is dress code throughout.

**UTILITY TRUST SCOTCH FOURSOMES MATCHPLAY**

We are currently taking names for this event which will be beginning in the month of May. Further details in the weeks ahead.

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

Following on from our previous announcement as regards Membership Applications for 2026, the Committee has further reviewed the situation and decided that no further Family or U16 Applications (renewing or new) will be accepted for the remainder of this year.

## ROSS GOLF CLUB (GENTS) ON APRIL 18TH AND 19TH WE HELD THE THIRD ROUND OF THE M D O'SHEA SPRING LEAGUE.

**This was a stableford competition and was kindly sponsored by C&C Lifting Ltd**

The winners were :-

1st: John Fleming 37 (21)  
2nd: Derek Mc Allister 35 (15)

**Division One**

1st: Michael O'Keeffe 31 (10)  
2nd: Donald McSweeney 31 (8)

**Division Two**

1st: Rolandas Bendikas 34 (14)  
2nd: John Cuskelly 34 (12)

**Division Three**

1st: John Hurley 32 (21)  
2nd: Tim Ryan 31 (24)

**ROSS SENIORS**

**On Thursday April 16th the Ross seniors held their weekly competition.**

The winners were :-

1st: Dermot O'Connor 16 pts

2nd: Ambrose O'Donovan 13 pts

3rd: Donal Doherty 13 pts

4th: John Joe Healy 13 pts

**FIXTURES**

Our Seniors Gents meet every Thursday and must be ready to play golf at 12.45pm.

On April 26th we will hold the final round of the M D O'Shea Spring League with a stroke play competition. Going into the last round of the Spring League there are many teams in with a great chance to win it.

**CLUB MATCHPLAY CHAMPIONSHIP**

In addition the top 32 finishers on April 26th will qualify for the Killarney Medal & Trophy Centre sponsored Club Matchplay

## KILLARNEY GOLF CLUB (LADIES)

**RESULTS 18 HOLE SINGLE STABLEFORD CATEGORIES COMPETITION HELD ON KILLEEN COURSE**

**Kindly sponsored by The O'Donoghue Ring Hotel Group**

Overall Winner: Sharon Ormond (15) 38pts

**Division One**

Winner: Mege Dalton (10) 37pts  
Runner up: Mary Kearney (14) 36pts

**Division Two**

Winner: Maureen Creedon (19) 32pts back 9  
Runner up: Mary A. Cronin (20) 33pts

**Division Three**

Winner: Winnie Ryan (27) 31pts back 9  
Runner up: Kayleigh Kerrisk (29) 31pts

**WINNER OF THE 11 HOLE SINGLE STABLEFORD COMPETITION**

**sponsored by O'Donoghue Ring Hotel Group**  
Kate Anu Culloty (15) 21pts

**NEXT GOLF COMPETITION** is the Professional's Prize 18 Hole & 13 Hole Singles Stableford. This will be held on April 25th /26th on Mahony's Point Course.

## ROSS LADIES GOLF CLUB

**RESULTS SATURDAY 18TH APRIL 2026**

**18 hole Single Stableford**

Winner: Ailish Mulcahy 24 points (9)

**9 hole Single Stableford**

1st: Muireann Hayes 22 pts (19)  
2nd: Jennifer Nash 20 pts (20)  
3rd: Therese O Keeffe 19 pts (17)  
4th: Emir Coffey 18 pts (20)

**COMPETITION**

Saturday 25th April 2026 9 & 18 - hole single Stableford competition. Enter via the BRS App

**WEDNESDAY MORNINGS MEET & PLAY**

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

**GOLF LESSONS**

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

## BEAUFORT GOLF CLUB (LADIES)

**STABLEFORD COMPETITION PLAYED ON SATURDAY 28TH MARCH.**

**The competition was very generously sponsored by Woods Electrical, Killorglin.**



*Deerpark's Pitch & Putt Club's Eileen McCarthy who won the County Ladies Matchplay in Tralee last Sunday.*

1st: Maeve Quirke (21) 27 pts  
2nd: Joan O Sullivan (27) 27 pts  
3rd: Rita Kelleher (24) 26 pts

## KERRY PITCH & PUTT COUNTY MATCHPLAY

THE effect of the weather in the middle of last week forced last Sunday's County Matchplay Championships to be moved to Tralee from Castleisland. The County Board thanks the Tralee club for taking the event late on as the club completed a double at Mens Senior and Intermediate level. Indeed, fresh from his Munster Mixed Scotch Foursomes success the previous week, Tralee's Jamie Blake continued his recent form by winning the Senior Mens event for the first time.

After both Deerpark's Damien Fleming and himself defeated Jason O'Regan and Mike Conway respectively in the semi-finals, the stage was set for the final between the pair. Fleming took an early lead but Blake was superb in the second round of the match, shooting 13 under par for the 17 holes played second time around as he won 2&1. Jamie previously won the Senior Strokeplay but now completed the County double for himself with last Sunday's win. The Intermediate Mens event saw Mark Lucey retain his title after defeating his club-mate Reece Sugrue in the final.

Lucey defeated Danny O'Leary in an all Tralee semi-final as Sugrue got the better of Listowel's Ger Guerin in his semi-final. 5&3 was the margin of victory for Mark in the decider this year as the host club last Sunday were denied the clean sweep in the other two grades played. 2022 National U16 Strokeplay winner Ajay Barrett of Listowel won the Junior Mens event defeating John Lynch in the decider by 3&2 after Ajay had defeated Castleisland's Adam Ricken in the semi-finals and John was a winner over Alan O'Connor in the other semi-final.

The Ladies event meanwhile saw Charlotte Blake denied the chance to retain her title as Deerpark's Eileen McCarthy got the better of her in the Final. Eileen defeated Bernadette O'Regan in the first semi-final while Charlotte was victorious over Catriona O'Connor.

This weekend sees us return to Tralee for the Munster Matchplay Qualifiers for the Mens grade. The Board will confirm full details of the event to clubs later in the week.



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Fossa Members of Killarney Judo Club at the Irish National Development Squad training in Dublin.



## KILLARNEY JUDOKA ATTEND NATIONAL SQUAD TRAINING

On Sunday, 19th April, five members of Killarney Judo Club attended the Irish National Development Squad training in Dublin. This provided an opportunity to train with some of the best judoka from across Ireland, as they work towards earning a place on the national pathway with the goal of representing Ireland internationally.

For three of the athletes, the session formed part of their preparation as they work towards achieving their black belts. For the two youngest members, it offered valuable experience and a chance to see the next step in their development. The club continues to place a strong emphasis on developing players of all ages and abilities, with many of those currently progressing through the ranks having started in the beginner classes. Attention now turns to upcoming competition, with the Munster Closed Championships taking place in Cork in two weeks' time. Looking ahead, eight young members of the club are also preparing to travel to Bath in July to take part in the West of England International Training Camp.

Killarney Judo Club welcomes new members throughout the year, with beginner classes available for younger children starting out in the sport.

## KILLARNEY VALLEY ATHLETIC CLUB

Congratulations to all the athletes and parents who travelled to the Limerick Athletics Club in Newcastlewest to participate in an Interclub

match with West Limerick AC at their fantastic track facility in beautiful sunny conditions. Athletes from under 9 all the way through to senior level participated in a hotly contested challenge with Killarney Valley coming away with the Challenge Cup on this occasion. All events were electronically timed using our timing equipment and many new PBs were earned.

We look forward to West Limerick AC athletes travelling to Killarney for a rematch and thank them for their collaboration and warm welcome.

For anyone wishing to join the club you can email us at [killarneyvalleyac@gmail.com](mailto:killarneyvalleyac@gmail.com).

## FOSSA BRIDGE CLUB

### AGM

Our AGM is being held next week, the 30th April at 10am sharp. Bridge will follow after. The results for President Margaret's prize which was held on the 16th & 23rd April will also be announced.

## KILLARNEY PICKLEBALL CLUB

At the Connacht Open last weekend there was success again for Michael Lyne, winning Gold in the men's doubles over 60 section. He was playing with his regular partner, Tommy McCarthy (70 year old!) from Castlegregory. Next month he is hoping to pass on his knowledge to beginners. The club is running a FREE beginner's course for over 60s starting 8pm Thursday 7th May. The course will take place at the Aura Leisure Centre every Thursday evening in May, 4 sessions in total. Anyone wanting to take part need to book a place by emailing [killarneypickleballclub@gmail.com](mailto:killarneypickleballclub@gmail.com)



Michael Lyne, who won Gold in the men's doubles over 60 section pictured with his partner Tommy McCarthy (70 year old!) from Castlegregory

or phoning 083 805 5016. Equipment will be supplied.

## FOSSA ROWING CLUB

### WELL DONE LAURA

A huge well done to our Chairperson and ladies crew member, Laura Whelton on representing the Killarney Regatta at the Kerry Rose selection last Saturday night in Tralee. A fantastic turn out from the club cheered Laura all the way and a fantastic night was had by everyone. Laura was amazing and represented the club and Killarney regatta with huge pride. We are all so proud of you, Laura!

### BACK ON THE WATER

Last Sunday we finally returned to the water. With the recent poor weather delaying our return, it was a glorious day that awaited us and it was great to see so many people out on the water. Here's to another fantastic season ahead.

### DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

We are looking forward to holding our darkness into light rowing event on Saturday the 9th of February next. The plan is to meet up for 4:5am but keep an eye on our socials for more information closer to the date.

## KILLARNEY RFC

### WHAT A FORTNIGHT FOR THE CLUB!

What an unbelievable couple of weeks it has been for Killarney RFC! From a phenomenal sweep of victories for our youths in their finals to our Minis gracing the hallowed turf of the Aviva Stadium, it's a very proud time to be involved with the club. Here is a look back at all the action and news.

**YOUTH FINALS SUCCESS: A CLEAN SWEEP!**  
Our youth teams have been absolutely flying, bringing home incredible results across



The Fossa crew who attended the open day on Sunday



Fossa underage crew in the Killarney six for the first time on the water this season, bringing great excitement.

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the board in their respective finals. A massive congratulations to the players and their coaching staff for all the hard work put in on the training pitch this season.

**U18.5 Boys:** In a thrilling encounter at Aghadoo on Wednesday, April 15th, our U18.5 boys secured a fantastic victory against a tough Killorglin RFC side. The lads put in a stellar performance to come out on top, finishing 36 - 22.

**U16 Boys:** Our U16S travelled to Craigeens on Saturday, April 11th, to take on Tralee RFC. In a dominant and clinical display of rugby, Killarney secured the win with a final scoreline of 24 - 3.

**U14 Boys:** Also in action on April 11th, our U14 boys travelled to Ballymalis to face Castleisland RFC. In an absolute nail-biter of a match that showcased fantastic heart and determination, the Killarney lads edged out a high-scoring thriller, winning 36 - 29.

Congratulations to all three squads on these brilliant wins!

**MINIS LIGHT UP THE AVIVA STADIUM**

It was the trip of a lifetime for our Killarney RFC Minis, who recently travelled to Dublin to participate in the National Aviva Mini Rugby Festival at the Aviva Stadium!

Following our proud hosting of the Munster provincial festival earlier this season, our young players were thrilled to be one of only 20 clubs selected nationwide to play on the famous pitch. Over 340 children took part on the day, with the core ethos focused on fun, friends, and rugby.

As if playing at the Aviva wasn't enough of a thrill, the kids were treated to a very special surprise when Irish international scrum-half Jamison Gibson-Park dropped in to meet the teams, take photos, and pass on some words of encouragement.

A massive thank you to Aviva and the IRFU, as well as our coaches and travelling parents, for making this unforgettable experience happen.



*Killarney Rugby Club U16 Boys with the West Munster Cup*



*Killarney Rugby Club U11 Minis team at the Aviva Stadium.*

**MINIS END OF SEASON AWARDS & SUMMER BREAK**

Back on home turf, last Saturday marked the final mini rugby session of the season at Killarney RFC. The morning was filled with great rugby, teamwork, and plenty of smiles, concluding with our annual end-of-season awards and medal presentations.

It was fantastic to see the pride on the faces of our young players as they were recognised for their hard work, improvement, and dedication over the past few months.

We want to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to the players, our dedicated coaches and volunteers, and the parents and guardians for cheering from the sidelines in all sorts of Kerry weather!

As we pack away the tackle bags for a few months, we wish everyone in the Killarney RFC family a fantastic, restful, and sunny summer break. We look forward to welcoming you all back to the club later in the year, refreshed and ready for the new season.

**€21,470 Investment in Castleisland Playground**

Fianna Fáil TD for Kerry, Michael Cahill, has warmly welcomed the allocation of €21,470 under the Capital Grant Scheme for Play and Recreation for an inclusive upgrade to Castleisland Playground.

The funding forms part of a €600,000 nationwide investment aimed at improving play and recreation facilities for children and young people across the country.

"This is a very welcome investment in Castleisland Playground and will make a real difference to children and families locally. The focus on inclusive upgrades, including level access play equipment ensures that children of all abilities can enjoy these facilities together in a safe and welcoming environment," he said.

"The Capital Grant Scheme for Play and Recreation continues to deliver meaningful improvements in communities right across the country. It is particularly encouraging to see a strong emphasis on accessibility and inclusion in this year's projects."

Deputy Cahill also acknowledged the role of Kerry County Council in securing the funding and progressing the project.

"I commend Kerry County Council for their work in preparing and submitting this application and for their continued commitment to enhancing community amenities. Investment in playgrounds

and recreational spaces is an investment in our children's wellbeing encouraging active lifestyles and strengthening community bonds."

The scheme requires local authorities to provide at least 25% matched funding, ensuring that projects are delivered to a high standard and meet the needs identified within each community.

Deputy Cahill concluded: "This funding will ensure that Castleisland Playground continues to be a vibrant and inclusive space for children and families for years to come. I look forward to seeing the project progress."



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## KILLARNEY CELTIC

### CELTIC LOTTO

Numbers drawn 2,3,18,23. No Jackpot winner Match 3 winners received €75. Next jackpot €9,000 on Monday April 27th. Tickets available from The Dungeon Bookshop, Amber Shop (Top of Ross Road), club members and online through Clubzap.

### U16 TROPHY SEMI FINAL

#### Iveragh 6-3 Killarney Celtic B

*Derry O'Gorman 2, Yasin Saifullaiev*

Celtic B came up short against Iveragh in the Trophy Semi Final. Celtic pushed hard to regain parity as they trailed 4-3 but Iveragh counter-attacked to secure the win.

### U14 PREMIER

#### Killorglin AFC 1-7 Killarney Celtic

*Jack Clifford 2, Cillian Scannell 2, Sean Doyle, Conor Doherty, Ryan Lynch*

Celtic A were clear cut winners last weekend to stay in contention for the league. Celtic were dominant from the off and finished off some good play with goals.

### U14 CUP

#### Killarney Celtic 5-2 Killarney Athletic

*Jace Flynn, Paul McGrath, Jack Clifford, Cillian Scannell, Josh O'Donoghue*

In a Cup meeting between 2 of the league's top sides, it was Celtic who took the honours. An early Celtic goal settled the nerves and enabled the team to continue their good recent form with an impressive win to qualify for the Cup semi finals.

### U14 SHIELD

#### Killarney Celtic B 4-2 Killorglin AFC

*Eoin Murphy 2, Jack Kissane, Aodhan O'Halloran*

Celtic B qualified for the Shield Final after a good win over Killorglin. Celtic's strength in depth proved crucial in this well contested tie.

### U14 TROPHY

#### Killarney Celtic C 0-2 St Brendan's Park B

In a tight encounter it was Park who gained the advantage to steer them through this tie.

### GIRLS

### U14 CUP

#### Killarney Celtic 3-1 St Brendan's Park

*Elsie Clifford, Seodhna O'Sullivan, Leah Mannix*

Celtic went forward in the Cup after a win over St Brendan's Park. Celtic's attacking play gained the day in an entertaining game.

**OUR U10 GIRLS** Green and U10 Girls White squads played in their finals last weekend. Both sides performed with credit against good



Killarney Celtic U10/11 Girls Squads

opposition.

**CONGRATS** to Majd Khaleel who made the KSBGL Team of Week and to Molly Philpott who made the Girls Roll of Honour.

## MASTERGEEHA FC

### GIRL'S CUP

#### U12 DOMINIC SCANLON PERPETUAL CUP S/F

#### PARK 2 V MASTERGEEHA 4 AET

*Goal Scorers on the Day were Gracie Maher (2) & Annie Mai O'Donoghue (2)*

There is very little that hasn't already been said about this fantastic group of girls. In a titanic battle with St. Brendan's Park, Mastergeeha came out on top, producing a powerful finish in the second half of extra time to secure a memorable victory.

The Park started brightly and created a great chance inside the opening minute. Mastergeeha settled quickly, however, and took the lead through an excellent finish from Gracie Maher, following great pressing from Mia Burke. St. Brendan's Park responded well and equalised with a superb strike into the top corner. The second half followed a similar pattern. Ellie Fleming made a series of excellent saves to keep things level, but Mastergeeha edged ahead again when Anniemai O'Donoghue picked up the ball on the edge of the box and fired an unstoppable shot into the bottom corner. Once again, The Park showed their quality and responded with another equaliser, despite more fine stops from Ellie in goal. Extra time saw The Park apply heavy pressure, but the Mastergeeha defence stood strong. Player of the match Mia

Burke worked tirelessly, constantly closing down the opposition and driving her team forward. In the second half of extra time, Mastergeeha found the decisive breakthrough. Gracie Maher did what she does best, latching onto a through ball and finishing coolly. Anniemai O'Donoghue then eased any late nerves with a well-taken free kick in the closing minutes.

Credit to the referee on the day, and a huge thank you to St. Brendan's Park for such a hard-fought and sporting game.

#### U14 EVE O CALLAGHAN PERPETUAL CUP / TROPHY

#### MASTERGEEHA 3 V CAMP 1

*Scorers on the day were Anabelle Casey, Ruby Moynihan & Eabha Moynihan*

A very entertaining game on Saturday against a strong and competitive Camp side.

Goals from Anabelle, Ruby and Eabha secured a deserved win and booked our place in the next round, where we face Dingle Bay Rovers. Huge credit to Camp for a very sporting contest – we wish them the very best for the rest of the season. Thanks also to referee Tom O'Sullivan for helping ensure a high-quality game throughout.

### BOY'S CUP

#### U13 BOY'S JOHN -JOE NAUGHTON TROPHY S/F

#### KILLARNEY ATHLETIC B 0 V MASTERGEEHA A 3

*Scorers on the day were Warren O'Boyle, Matthew O'Riordan & Callum O'Connor*

Man of the Match: Eoghan O'Leary

A good performance by our boys in Woodlawn this afternoon secured safe passage to the final of the trophy competition.

We took the lead inside 8 minutes when



U14 Mastergeeha Girls



U14 Mastergeeha Girls

good inter play between Luke O'Sullivan and Donnacha O'Callaghan created the opportunity for Warren O'Boyle who scored a cracker from outside the box. We stayed on the front foot for the remainder of the first half with Callum O'Connor, Leo Barry and Ronan Casey all going close to extending our lead.

Daniel McNeer was giving good direction to his defence who were solid throughout and in particular Eoghan O'Leary was superb with some strong tackles and excellent distribution. We stayed on the front foot throughout the second half and a great strike from our captain Matthew O'Riordan on the 47th minute extended our lead to 2-0. Matthew gave an excellent performance throughout in the centre of midfield. One of our best interplays of the day led to our third when a superb ball from Eoghan O'Leary found Leo Barry wide right and Leo pulled the ball back for Callum O'Connor to make no mistake from inside the box. Thanks to all our supporters today who were in Woodlawn in great numbers. Thanks to the referee and to Athletic for a good game and for the refreshments afterwards.

### BOY'S LEAGUE

#### U12 BOY'S DIVISION 1

**PARK B 2 V MASTERGEEHA B 0**

#### U12 BOY'S DIVISION 2

**KILLORGLIN C 4 V MASTERGEEHA C 3**

Mastergeeha U12 C team made the trip to Killorglin on Saturday morning.

Killorglin started well and were first on the scoresheet when they got in behind the Mastergeeha rear-guard and finished well. Mastergeeha responded quickly when Ben O'Leary volleyed a Jack Lucey corner to the net. Killorglin scored 3 quick goals to leave the half-time score 4-1 to Killorglin.

Mastergeeha didn't drop their heads and started the second half on the front foot.

Ben O'Leary finished well from a through ball by Jerry Gallivan, to start the fight back.

Ryan Dewhurst scored following good play by Rory Leane and Conor Doyle.

Jack O'Shea had to be sharp in the Mastergeeha goal to deny Killorglin on a couple of quick counter attacks. Late on, Jack Lucey almost scored the equaliser the boys deserved but his free kick hit the cross bar. Thanks to the referee Brian O'Sullivan and to Killorglin for a sporting and competitive game.

Joint Captains: Jack O'Shea and Ben O'Leary  
Goal Scorers: Ben O'Leary (2), Ryan Dewhurst (1),  
Assists: Jack Lucey, Jerry Gallivan, Rory Leane.  
Player of the game: Ben O'Leary

#### U12 BOY'S DIVISION 3

**Tralee Dynamos B 4 V Mastergeeha D 0 17/4**

#### U13 BOY'S DIVISION 1

**Mastergeeha 2 V Ballyhar A 2**

### ACADEMY NEWS

Our under 7's had their final get together at a blitz in Woodlawn thanks to Killarney Athletic A.F.C. Thank you for hosting us. Everyone really enjoyed it!

### CONGRATULATIONS

Super well done to St Bridget's College (Pres) on their fantastic victory in the U15 Munster Schools Final in Mallow, winning 2-0 against a very strong Middleton side. A special mention to our three Mastergeeha representatives



Kerry U15 Girls All Ireland

Anna Lenihan, Ella Kate Piggot, and Isla Cronin a brilliant achievement, ye did the club proud. They march onwards now to an All-Ireland semi-final next week — best of luck girls.

### SFAI U14 IRISH ASSESSMENT CALL-UP

Absolutely incredible achievement by Shauna O'Riordan on her third SFAI U14 Irish Assessment call-up. A massive moment for Shauna and a hugely proud day for everyone in Mastergeeha F.C. a true reflection of her talent, dedication and hard work.

Best of luck in the trial, Shauna we're all right behind you!

### MASTERGEEHA LOTTO

There was no winner of our lotto on 17th April 2026 for the Jackpot of €6600. Numbers drawn were 3, 5, 15, 26. Consolation Prizes of €50 each to the following, Anne Doran Allmans Terrace, Ciara Nagle Mastergeeha Kathleen O'Leary, Milleen, 0872037395 C/o Post Office. Our next draw will take place on Friday 24th April at the Village Inn for a Jackpot of €6,800.

## KILLARNEY ATHLETIC AFC

### U17 PREMIER RESULT

**Killarney Athletic 4 - 6 St. Brendan's Park**

Leo Allen x 2, Ryan Kissane x 1, Adam Moynihan x 1  
Our U17's welcomed Park to Woodlawn Sunday evening and left empty handed. We started slow and found ourselves 2-0 early in the game, Leo pulled one back before Park added two more before the break. HT: 1-4. Park came out in the second half and added another before Adam, Ryan and Leo hit 3 unanswered goals. While pushing for an equaliser, Park got a 6th late on to seal the points. To be honest, Park deserved the 3 points for their first half performance alone, where our boys never got going and made some poor mistakes for some of the goals. Only for Dylan in goal, things could have been worse. The second half was a much better performance however, the lads left too much to do in the second half. No rest as it's Mastergeeha up next Wednesday in Woodlawn for a Killarney derby. Thanks to Park for a very sporting game and Tom Kerrisk for letting the game flow.

### BOYS U15 A PREMIER RESULT

**Killarney Athletic A.F.C 5 - 1 Mastergeeha**

Shéa Driver x 1, Sean Quill x 1, Artem Dzhandra x 1,

Max Moynihan x 1, George Lenihan x 1

A strong performance for our U15s today in difficult conditions. Thanks to Mastergeeha and the referee for a good, sporting game.

### BOYS U12 DIVISION 3 RESULT

**Killarney Athletic D 5 - 3 Castleisland C**

Liam Kiely x 2, Carlos González x 2, Marc Moynihan x 1

A great battle in Woodlawn this evening as we hosted Castleisland. Our lads started the stronger and took control early, going in 4-1 up at half time after some excellent attacking play. Castleisland rallied in the second half and pulled two goals back to make it a very competitive game, but the boys showed great character to respond. A well-taken goal by Liam Kiely with 5 minutes to go sealed the win and put the game out of reach. Great effort from all the lads.

Thanks to Castleisland and the referee for a very entertaining and competitive match.

MOTM - James Glynn

**KILLARNEY ATHLETIC U12B VS BALLYHAR U12A**

**Athletic 6 - Ballyhar 2**

A glorious day for a football match this afternoon, a fantastic team performance, each & every blue played superbly.

Our back three were immense & Darren in goal made some crucial saves. Our midfield set the tempo for the game, workrate & skills were on show this afternoon, our strikers worked tirelessly & showed some fancy footwork & hit the back of the net. Thanks to the referee & to Ballyhar for a very sporting match.

Goals: Alex Doolan x 1, Ross Griffin x 2, Filip Niedzialek x 1, Mac Dara O Sè x 1, Alex Durbala x 1

## KERRY SCHOOLBOY/GIRL SOCCER

### NATIONAL

**KERRY 15 GIRLS ADVANCE TO FOURTH SUCCESSIVE ALL-IRELAND FINAL**

The Kerry U15 girls are through to their fourth All-Ireland Final in a row following a superb 3-1 victory over South Belfast in Christy Leahy Park. Eilidh Cregan opened the scoring, before a penalty from Lillian Slattery had Kerry 2-0 up, a lead they took to the break. Cregan broke through once again in the 43rd minute and finished confidently for her second of the game

to make it 3-0. While South Belfast pulled a goal back, Kerry held firm to secure safe passage.

### **DINGLE BAY ROVERS REACH NATIONAL CUP FINAL AFTER SHOOTOUT DRAMA**

Dingle Bay Rovers booked their place in the U14 Boy's National Cup Final after a dramatic penalty shoot-out victory over Newcastle West Town.

The sides could not be separated at half time, normal or extra time, finishing 1-1, with Tommy Ó Súilleabháin finding the net for Dingle in a tightly contested semi-final.

With the game going to penalties, Dingle held their nerve to win 5-4, converting all five spot-kicks through Liam Mac Gearailt, Conall Ó Sé, Jaic Bobby Ó Sé, Tommy Ó Súilleabháin, and Donncha Ó Murchú.

### **ATHLETIC AND CASTLEISLAND BOW OUT IN NATIONAL TROPHY SEMI-FINALS**

There were disappointing results for local sides in the U13 and U15 Boy's National Trophy semi-finals, as Killarney Athletic and Castleisland both saw their campaigns come to an end in heartbreaking fashion at the semi-final hurdle.

In the U13 semi-final, Killarney Athletic were edged out 1-0 by Knocklyon United after extra time. It was a tight and hard-fought contest, but the late goal saw Athletic's impressive run come to an end at the penultimate stage.

In the U15 semi-final, Castleisland were defeated by Westport United 7-1. Yevhennii Momontov grabbed their goal, as their impressive campaign came to a tough end.

### **GIRL**

### **MASTERGEEHA THROUGH TO DOMINIC SCANLON CUP FINAL AFTER EXTRA-TIME BATTLE**

Mastergeeha booked their place in the U12 Girls Dominic Scanlon Perpetual Cup Final following a hard-fought 4-2 victory over Park after extra time.

In a closely contested semi-final, it took extra time to separate the sides, but Mastergeeha found the edge when it mattered most. Annie Mai O'Donoghue and Gracie Maher both delivered standout performances, each scoring twice to secure the win to secure their passage.

### **BIG WINS AND HAT-TRICKS IN U14 EVE O'CALLAGHAN CUP**

There was plenty of action and goals in the U14 Girls Eve O'Callaghan Perpetual Cup/Trophy, with several standout performances across the ties.

Killorglin delivered an impressive 6-1 victory over

LB Rovers, with Chloe Falvey and Niamh Murphy both scoring twice, while Siomha Clifford and Róisín Henken also got on the scoresheet in a dominant display.

Listowel Celtic were equally convincing, recording a 6-0 win over MEK. Goals came from Emer O'Sullivan, Samantha Lyons, Katelyn Joy, Aisling O'Connor, Orla Lyons, and Olivia Kissane in a strong team performance.

Mastergeeha secured a solid 3-1 victory over Camp, with goals from Ruby Moynihan, Eabha Moynihan, and Annabelle Casey, while Aoibhinn Lyon replied for Camp.

The closest game of the round saw Dingle edge Fenit 3-2, with Lucy Keane scoring a hat-trick. Hannah Barrett-Neziri struck twice for Fenit, but Dingle held on in an entertaining contest.

### **KILLARNEY CELTIC BOOK QUARTER FINAL SPOT IN EVE O'CALLAGHAN CUP**

Killarney Celtic secured their place in the semi-final of the U14 Girls Eve O'Callaghan Perpetual Cup with a 3-1 victory over Park.

Goals from Seodhna O'Sullivan, Elsie Clifford, and Leah Mannix ensured a strong performance from Celtic, Caoimhe Field pulled one back for Park, but it was not enough to change the dynamic of the tie.

### **PARK BOOK FINAL SPOT IN MARY LYNE CUP**

Park secured their place in the U15 Girls Mary Lyne Cup Final with a strong 4-2 victory over Fenit in the semi-final.

Goals from Saoirse Moynihan, Arina Sucaci, Alannah Crossan, and Caoimhe Field sealed an impressive win, with Park showing their attacking quality throughout the contest. Fenit battled well and found the net twice, but Park's clinical finishing proved the difference as they advanced to the final in confident fashion.

### **BOYS**

### **PARK ADVANCE AFTER PENALTY SHOOTOUT DRAMA**

Park booked their place in the U12 John Murphy Boy's Cup semi-finals after a thrilling penalty shoot-out victory over Listowel Celtic.

The sides played out a 2-2 draw after extra time, with Shane Hegarty and Eoin Barrett on target for Listowel Celtic, while Iarlaith Clifford and Darragh Counihan replied for Park in a closely fought encounter.

With nothing to separate the teams, the tie went to penalties, where Park held their nerve to win 5-4, sealing their progression after a dramatic

contest.

### **PARK EDGE INTO FINAL IN JOHN-JOE NAUGHTON CUP**

Park secured their place in the U13 Boy's John-Joe Naughton Cup Final with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Listowel Celtic A.

Goals from Tadhg Gilligan and Kyle O'Flaherty proved decisive in a closely contested semi-final, as Park showed composure to see out the win. Listowel Celtic battled throughout and kept the tie competitive, but Park's clinical finishing ensured they progressed to the final.

### **EXTRA-TIME THRILLER SETS UP TOM HAYES TROPHY FINAL**

The U14 Tom Hayes Boy's Trophy semi-finals delivered drama and goals, with one tie going all the way to extra time before a winner emerged.

LB Rovers edged a thrilling 6-5 victory over Park C after extra time in one of the games of the season. Jack Kissane was the standout performer with four goals, while Michael Pierce and Tiernan O'Brien also found the net in a remarkable attacking display.

In the other semi-final, Park B secured a 2-0 win over Killarney Celtic C, with goals from Sam Zazai and Darragh Murphy ensuring a composed performance and a place in the final.

The results set up an exciting final between LB Rovers and Park B after a semi-final stage full of quality and drama.

### **BALLYHAR AND KILLARNEY CELTIC SET UP TOM HAYES SHIELD FINAL**

The U14 Tom Hayes Boy's Shield semi-finals saw Ballyhar and Killarney Celtic B book their places in the final after two strong performances.

Ballyhar secured a solid 2-0 victory over Castleisland B, with goals from Reuben O'Leary Griffin and Jack Duggan ensuring a composed display and a clean sheet.

In the other semi-final, Killarney Celtic B defeated Killorglin B 4-2. Eoin Murphy led the way with two goals, while Jack Kissane and Aodhán O'Halloran also found the net in a strong attacking performance.

Both sides now advance to the final after impressive semi-final wins, setting up an exciting decider.

### **MEK EDGE EXTRA-TIME BATTLE TO REACH FINAL**

The U16 Boy's Tucker Kelly Trophy semi-finals produced a mix of drama and decisive results, with finalists now confirmed.

MEK A came through a tight encounter against



Killarney Celtic U14 Girls



Mastergeeha U12 Girls Semi Final



Ballyhar Dynamos u10 girls, Padraig Hartnett memorial u10 Bowl, Kerry schoolgirl winners.



Ballyhar Dynamos FC U13s who played out a 2-2 draw away to Mastergeeha FC in Division 1 of the schoolboy league.

Killorglin, winning 3-2 after extra time. Harry O'Mahony was key with two goals, while Shane O'Neill added the other. Cathal Clifford scored both goals for Killorglin in a strong effort, but MEK just edged it to progress.

In the other semi-final, Park A advanced with a 3-0 walkover victory over Killarney Athletic B, booking their place in the final without taking to the pitch. The stage is now set for the final, with MEK A and Park A set to battle it out for the trophy.

**IVERAGH AND DYNAMOS SET UP TUCKER KELLY SHIELD FINAL**

The U16 Boy's Tucker Kelly Shield semi-finals produced two competitive encounters, with Iveragh A and Tralee Dynamos B advancing to the final.

Iveragh A delivered a strong attacking display to defeat Killarney Celtic B 6-3. Matthew Murphy was in outstanding form, scoring four goals, while Cian Morrisey and Dominic Courtney also found the net. Derry O'Gorman struck twice for Celtic, with Yasin Saifullaiev adding another, but Iveragh's firepower proved decisive.

In the second semi-final, Tralee Dynamos B edged a tight 2-1 victory over Camp A. Hlib Koutou and Marcos Benito Martínez scored for Dynamos, while Stephen Enright replied for Camp in a closely fought contest. Both sides now look ahead to the final after impressive semi-final performances.

**BOYS TEAM OF THE WEEK**

1. Daniel McNeer (Mastergeeha U13)
2. James Glynn (Killarney Athletic U12)
4. Donncha Ó Murchu (Dingle Bay Rovers U14)

5. Ben Clifford (Tralee Dynamos U16)
3. Rory Moynihan (Killarney Athletic U15)
6. Kyle O'Flaherty (St Brendan's Park U13)
8. Ryan O'Donoghue (Castleisland U12)
10. Majid Khaleel (Killarney Celtic U16)
7. Jack Kissane (LB Rovers U14)
9. Oscar Curran (St Brendan's Park U15)
11. Zach Griffin (Killorglin U12)

**GIRLS ROLL OF HONOUR**

1. Orlaigh O'Donoghue (Camp Juniors)
2. Addison Mulcahy (Killarney Athletic)
4. Kate Kirby (St Brendan's Park)
5. Alana Walmsley (Castleisland)
3. Laura Breen (Mastergeeha)
6. Kaja Wolska (Listowel Celtic)
8. Ella Clerkin-Sayers (Fenit Samphires)
7. Niamh Murphy (Killorglin)



Milltown FC's recent wins in the Kerry Schoolboys League Finals U10 Bowl Winners v MEK and U11 Plate Winner v Dingle

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**SSE AIRTRICITY MEN'S FIRST DIVISION**

**MATCHDAY 11**

**Kerry FC 1-1 Treaty United**

Words by David Moriarty

Kerry FC were back in Mounthawk Park on Friday night as they took on Treaty United in Matchday 11 of the SSE Airtricity Men's First Division. Both sides sat at the bottom of the First Division Table with just one win each, meaning that the Munster Derby had some added meaning on the night.

Kerry FC hoped that last week's late equaliser against UCD AFC would give them a boost coming into a tough run of fixtures. Longford Town, Athlone Town and Finn Harps all coming up in the next three Fridays, including a May Bank Holiday Monday game against Cork City, meant that there was no time to waste in the hunt for more points to climb up the table.

Treaty United's game last week against Cork City being called off meant they had extra preparation going into the game in Tralee. A good crowd showed up in MHP for what was sure to be a huge grudge match.

**FIRST HALF**

Both sides contested a tightly fought opening period at Mounthawk Park, with the visitors edging ahead before the interval. The hosts began on the front foot, and in the sixth minute, Cian Bargary delivered a high ball into the area that was punched clear by Jack Brady. The loose ball fell to Vince Borden on the edge of the box, but his effort sailed over the crossbar.

The game's first major turning point arrived in the thirteenth minute when Treaty United were awarded a penalty. Samuel Aladesanusi appeared to execute a well-timed tackle on Ben Feeney inside the area, winning the ball cleanly in the eyes of many, yet the referee pointed to the spot. Cian Curtis stepped up and converted his strike, slipping into the bottom left corner just beneath the arms of Harvey Mangan, who was unfortunate not to keep it out.

Treaty United nearly doubled their advantage in the eighteenth minute when Steven Healy struck from just inside the area, forcing a save from Mangan. The rebound fell invitingly for Ben Feeney, but he failed to connect, allowing the Kerry goalkeeper to gather at the second attempt.

Kerry FC responded with a series of attacking moments as the half progressed. In the thirty-third minute, Arran Healy swung in a free kick from thirty-five yards on the left wing. The ball was cleared only as far as Cian Bargary, whose powerful and precise strike was comfortably caught by Brady. Two minutes later, Bargary again provided quality delivery from the right, but there was no Kerry player positioned to capitalise.

Despite Kerry's attacking intent, Treaty United continued to threaten. In the thirty-sixth minute, Cian Curtis tested Mangan from distance, though the effort was dealt with routinely.



Sean McGrath battles two Treaty United players.  
Photo: Konrad Pytowski

Curtis came close again in the forty-first minute with a free kick from the edge of the area that flashed narrowly wide of the right-hand post. Discipline became a factor late in the half, as Jonas Häkkinen was shown a yellow card in the forty-fourth minute. Treaty United maintained their narrow advantage into the break, leading 1-0 after a competitive and at times, contentious first period.

**SECOND HALF**

Kerry FC made a change at the interval, with Sean McGrath replacing Vince Borden, and the impact was immediate. In the forty-sixth minute, straight from the restart, the hosts found an equaliser. A corner delivered from the right by Sean O'Connell was met emphatically by Ryan Kelliher, who rose highest to power a header into the net, marking his first goal at Mounthawk Park since the 11th of April last year.

The goal injected renewed energy into the contest, though it also brought an increase in physicality. Jason Folarin Oyenuga was booked in the forty-eighth minute, followed by Niall Brookwell in the fifty-second minute as both sides battled for control. Treaty United had an opportunity to restore their lead in the fifty-fourth minute, but Ben Feeney fired wide from the edge of the area.

Kerry introduced further fresh legs in the fifty-ninth minute, with Ewan Lee replacing Arran Healy, as they pushed for a winner. Kilian Cantwell was cautioned in the sixty-third minute, reflecting the growing intensity of the encounter.

A significant chance arrived in the sixty-sixth minute when Sean O'Connell played a ball down the line to Cian Murphy, who broke in behind the defence. Cutting inside, Murphy aimed a shot towards the bottom right corner, but a crucial block from the Treaty defence denied what looked like a certain goal.

Treaty United remained dangerous, and in the seventy-third minute, Harvey Mangan was called upon to deal with a half-chance inside the six-yard box, reacting well to prevent any

further danger. Kerry continued to press, and in the seventy-eighth minute, Cian Bargary shot wide of the right-hand post after being pulled back by Ben Lynch.

Moments later, in the seventy-ninth minute, Ewan Lee saw a deflected effort from range loop over for a corner, which Treaty subsequently cleared. Kerry came close again in the eighty-second minute when a quick throw-in found Sean McGrath. Despite being tripped, McGrath managed to get his shot away, forcing a save that resulted in a corner, though once again Treaty defended resolutely.

As the match entered its closing stages, further bookings were issued to Cian Bargary in the eighty-third minute and Ben Lynch in the eighty-sixth minute. Kerry FC had two glorious opportunities to snatch victory late on. In the eighty-eighth minute, Jack Brady produced an excellent save to deny Bargary in a one-on-one situation from a tight angle after a well-worked move. Then, in the ninetieth minute, Cian Murphy's header clipped the bottom of the left-hand post and went agonisingly wide.

With one minute added at the end of normal time, neither side could find a decisive breakthrough. Ryan Kelliher's early second-half header ultimately ensured the spoils were shared, as the contest finished 1-1 after a hard-fought and evenly matched encounter at Mounthawk Park. Kerry now looks ahead to three weekends in a row on the road, with the first coming next Saturday evening in Bishopsgate as they take on Longford Town. Kerry FC Team: Harvey Mangan; Kilian Cantwell (C), Sean O'Connell, Ryan Kelliher (GOAL '46), Cian Murphy, Jonas Häkkinen, Samuel Aladesanusi, Vince Borden, Niall Brookwell, Arran Healy, Cian Bargary.

*Subs Used: Sean McGrath, Ewan Lee  
Treaty United Team: Jack Brady; Ben Lynch, Steven Healy, Cian Curtis (GOAL PEN '14), Ben Feeney, Eric Yoro, Jason Folarin Oyenuga, Darren Nwankwo, Robbie Lynch, Mark Murphy, Raphael Ohin.*

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## LEGION GAA

### LOTTO

Lotto Results: 6,10,12,23. Bonus 13. Lucky dips: Norann O Connell, Lyno Rest staff c/o Lake Hotel

### SENIOR LADIES

Our senior ladies travelled to Spa this morning for R3 of the D2 Donal Curtin Co League. On a beautiful morning spa played with the aid of the breeze in the first half and led at HT 2-07 to 0-04. The 2nd half began with our ladies getting the first 2 scores but we found it hard to push on from there against a physically strong Spa side. Goals win games and spa took theirs at crucial times which proved the difference in the end with the home side taking the points on a scoreline of 4-12 to 0-09.

We wish the spa player a speedy recovery from a shoulder injury sustained during the game.

### U 16 LADIES

On a wet Thursday evening with tough conditions underfoot, our EK Div 2 - Round 2 fixture between Legion and Currow demanded grit from the outset.

Legion were slow to start, lacking intensity in tackles and distribution, and Currow took full advantage, building a strong lead. Legion were held scoreless in the first half as Currow went in ahead 3-5.

The second half saw a transformed Legion side. With greater urgency and determination, they dug deep and showed their true potential, battling back to 2-8 while holding Currow to just three points after the break. Despite the comeback, Currow held on to win 3-8 to 2-8.

Thanks to the referee for a free-flowing game and to Currow for a sporting contest.

A special mention to Esme O'Sullivan, Lillian Slattery, and Raegan Browne, who also became Munster champions on the same day after winning the U15 Munster Schools soccer final. Best of luck to them in their All-Ireland semi-final next week.

### SENIOR MENS B TEAM

#### County League D6

#### Ballylongford 3-9 Legion B 1-9

Legions last road game was to South to Beara and this week a trip North to the Banks of the Shannon was the destination for our high mileage Senior Bs.

Ballylongford were table toppers and unbeaten in their opening 3 games, racheting up some big scores so a big test awaited the Legion lads, who mixed returning experience with youth.

Legion started well enough but shot a couple of wides before the hosts raised the first white flag of the day.

Legion then turned a Bally attack into a counter attack which saw returning James O'Donoghue arrive at pace from the left to rifle home a low shot for a goal.

The lead didn't last long and Ballylongford got two quick goals in the 14th minutes to take control.

Legion shot 5 wides before their first point from play and other than an issue winning kickouts, they were competitive in the game, even when Ballylongford got a fortuitous third goal.

James O Donoghue with a nice pointer and 2 points from play closed the half well for Legion who trailed 13 points to 8.

Legion had a good 3rd quarter taking the game to the hosts and went close to a goal on a couple of occasions and had 2 pointer efforts from Tom Moriarty and Brian O Shea go agonisingly close, but the hosts held on for a deserved win.

### SPEEDY RECOVERY

Best wishes to our U17 player Mícheál McElligott all the best for a swift and full recovery following a break he sustained in last weeks minor game. Mícheál has been one of the stand-out performers for our minors this year and we look forward to seeing him back in training and games in due course.

### U14 BOYS

Our under 14 boys continued with round 3 of the division 1B league with both our Green and White teams playing Northern Gaels.

On Tuesday Northern Gael's visited Derreen and our green team provided the opposition. Northern Gaels started strongly in very wet conditions and played good direct football. Our boys replied with some good scores and phases of play. In the second half northern Gaels were starting to pull away but the home team did not leave the visitors have it all their own way. In the end a single point separated the teams with the visitors Northern Gaels prevailing in a close encounter. Thanks to Northern Gael's for travelling and playing good football in a very sporting manner.

Thanks also to Referee Maurice Murphy for excellent refereeing

### U 14 BOYS WHITE TEAM

U14 boys white team travelled to Coolard to take on Northern Gaels on Thursday last In Division 12 B of the county league.

Playing against the wind in the first half our lads had to be at their best to keep the bear minimum between the 2 teams with Northern Gaels just shading it at half time. Second half with the wind to our backs we started to dominate around the middle and allowed for scoring opportunities up from . We ran out winners on the night in what was a very sporting game excellently refereed by Timothy Murphy

A special acknowledgement to the mentors and players of Northern Gaels. We lost a player early in the first half due to injury and had no substitute to replace him and Northern Gaels insisted they would take off a player for the remainder of the game. A real sporting gesture and great to show that example to young guys playing a competitive sporting fixture.

Speedy recovery to our injured player hopefully we will see you back soon.

### MINOR BOYS

#### East Kerry league. D 1. Round 2

#### Legion 2-10 Crokes 1-13

The Crokes were the visitors to play us in round 2 of the east Kerry minor league last week.

We were up 0-2 to 0-1 early on but a quickly taken free from the Crokes saw them score a goal. The lads responded well and we went up 1-5 to 1-2.

Unfortunately we lost Micheal who was having a fine game through injury and the Crokes scored 0-4 to lead 1-6 to 1-5 at 1/2 time.

Again disaster struck when Jake had to go off early in second half and the Crokes started to gain control around the middle third and enjoyed plenty of possession. They increased

their lead to 1-11 to 1-7. Our lads never gave up and scored a great team goal to leave a point in it. A couple of more points were exchanged in the closing moments and with the last kick we scored a free to level the game.

Thanks to the Crokes for the game and to John Purcell and his umpires for officiating

### MINOR BOYS

#### EAST KERRY LEAGUE. DIVISION 1. ROUND 3

#### Legion 2-14 Kilcummin 0-8

Our lads got back to winning ways with a solid performance from start to finish. This win was based on some great defending, which lead to turnovers from which the lads kicked some great scores.

This was a very good team performance which hopefully we can kick on from now. It was great all the lads on the sideline supporting their team mates. The dug out looked like a hospital waiting room with all the slings. Thanks to the Kilcummin for the game and to Donal Casey for refing.

### U16 BOYS

#### U16 East Kerry League Div 2

#### Firies B 2-10 Killarney Legion B 1-12

Our U16B Team travelled to the new pitch in Firies to take on the locals in Round 2 of the East Kerry League. An excellent 13 a side game was played out between the 2 teams. We led 1-6 to 1-5 at half time. The game was in the balance till the last kick. In the end Firies prevailed by a point.

Well done to all the boys who gave their all throughout the game. It was great to see both Joey O'Callaghan and Darragh Lucey back with the team and both played excellently.

Thanks to Firies for a great game.

### SENIOR MEN A TEAM

Our A team drew with Dingle last Thursday evening 1-11 v 0-14

### FIXTURES

Senior A game v Glenflesk Friday 8 pm at home  
Senior. B game v A stacks B Sunday 9.30am at home

### SYMPATHIES

The club extends its deepest sympathies to Sharon and the O'Grady family on the death of her mother. May she rest in peace.

## EAST KERRY

### EAST KERRY MINOR LEAGUE

Listry 2-11 Kilcummin 0-08

Killarney Legion 2-10 Dr Crokes 1-13

Glenflesk 4-19 Rathmore 3-07

Firies 2-15 Beaufort 1-12

Na Fianna 0-09 Kenmare 0-13

Fossa 5-17 Gneeveguilla 0-9

### ROUND 4 FIXTURES OF THE EAST REGION MINOR LEAGUES

First team named is at home

#### Div. 1 (15 a side)

Dr. Crokes V Kilcummin, Listry V Rathmore, Legion V Glenflesk

#### Div. 2 (13/15 a side)

Cordal V Na Fianna, Beaufort V Kenmare, Firies bye

#### Div. 3 Final (13 a side)

All above games are Monday 27 th April at 7pm, unless stated otherwise.

### ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP

Best of luck to the Kerry Team in the Munster Championship semi final against Clare.

## FOSSA GAA

### LOTTO

The numbers drawn on 19/04/2026 for a jackpot of €7,800 were 8, 10, 15, 24. There was no jackpot winner. The €40 consolation prize winners were; Olive Sheehan, Wioletta Kubasiewicz, Niall Griffin, Michael O'Keefe, Liam Flemming.

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

### SENIOR COUNTY LEAGUE DIV. 3

Our seniors lost out to Na Gaeil in Tralee on Sunday in a real ding-dong encounter. Ted O'Gorman opened the scoring in the second minute, Na Gaeil responded and were two ahead after thirteen minutes of play. David Butler pulled back a point, then in the 20th minute, Emmett O'Shea intercepted a short kick out and even though he had a lot of work to do, he hit the back of the net for a fine goal. Harry Buckley kicked a lovely point soon afterwards following a quick break from defence but Na Gaeil kept the scoreboard ticking with two points of their own. Emmett O'Shea put Fossa two ahead with time almost up in the first half but the Na Gaeil goalkeeper, Keith O'Leary kicked a great free to leave the sides all square at the break, 1-5 to 0-8.

Again, Fossa started the second half well, Rian Colleran got our first score and Ted O'Gorman kicked two beautiful points to put them ahead in the 12th minute. Na Gaeil were dangerous in attack and kicked three scores without reply to take the lead in the 20th minute. A Tadgh O'Shea free and a two pointer from Emmett O'Shea had Fossa one ahead by the 27th minute but Na Gaeil finished stronger and kicked the last couple of scores to run out winners, Fossa 1-11, Na Gaeil 0-16.

### DIV 5 COUNTY LEAGUE

#### Fossa B 1-15 Valentia 0-18

Fossa B travelled to Valentia for this Co League Div 5 clash. Playing with the breeze in the first half, Fossa started slowly going 3 points behind early on. We had a big 15 mins before half time with Rocco kicking 3 big 2 pointers and Mikey Dwyer hitting the net to leave us in front at half time 1-10 to 0-7. Valentia started the 2nd half very strong and were level after 10 mins. Thereafter it was a real battle to the end with Valentia going 1 or 2 points ahead and Fossa clawing it back each time. Valentia kicked a huge 2 pointer with time almost up to go two ahead. Fossa worked the ball up the field and were awarded a free just outside the two point arc. Against the breeze, the mighty Rocco held his nerve to drill the ball between the posts for a deserved draw for Fossa. Of the 1-15, Rocco kicked a remarkable 13 points, 4 two pointers and 5 ones. Mikey Dwyer added 1-1 with the other point coming from Ryan Sheehan.

### EAST KERRY MINOR LEAGUE

Fossa recorded a good win over Gneeveguilla on Friday evening in the East Kerry League. They had the better of the opening exchanges

and were ahead by four points after fifteen minutes with scores from Donnacha Vaughan, Harry O'Connor and Luke Clancy. Gneeveguilla replied with two scores but Fossa finished the half strongly with scores from Sam O'Leary, Jack Spillane, Jack Hallissey and a goal from Shay McCormick to lead at the break, 1-8 to 0-3. Fossa dominated the second half for the most part with a brace of goals from the impressive Jack Hallissey along with goals from Eoin Bennett and Ben O'Sullivan. There were many great performances on the night but Conor O'Mahony was outstanding in defence and capped a fine performance with a lovely point in the finish. It finished, Fossa 5-17, Gneeveguilla 0-9.

### U-16 BOYS

Fossa welcomed Kilcummin for their second outing in Division 1A, in what proved to be a competitive and entertaining contest. At the back, Kevin Breen and Charlie O'Meara were solid, keeping the Kilcummin attack well contained.

Up front, Ross O'Gorman, Eoin Bennett and Luke Rennie posed a constant threat for the home side, while Donnacha Vaughan and Luke Clancy worked tirelessly around midfield. Despite their efforts, Fossa trailed at the break on a scoreline of 1-9 to 0-7.

Fossa came out strongly after half-time and showed great determination to fight back. A well-taken penalty from Luke Rennie, followed by a free from Johnny Myers, brought the sides level with around ten minutes remaining. Johnny Myers was particularly influential at midfield, winning plenty of possession, with strong support from Shea Driver, Fionn O'Donovan and Oisín Cryan.

Kilcummin, however, responded well and regained control with a crucial goal to move three points clear. Fossa battled hard to get back into the game, but despite their best efforts, they couldn't close the gap. A late third goal from the visitors sealed the result, 3-14 to 1-14.

Although it ended in defeat, Fossa can take plenty of positives from the performance, showing great spirit and producing some excellent football.

### U14 COUNTY LEAGUE RD. 3

#### Fossa 1-12, Renard/Valentia/St Marys/Dromid/Waterville 2-08.

Tuesday night football returned to Fossa this evening when our Under 14's put their unbeaten record on the line against the combination team from South Kerry who had the pick of 5 clubs.

It was a dark miserable evening with a constant drizzle throughout the game which led to most testing conditions for all.

The South Kerry boys had a dream start kicking 4 early points to race into an early lead. Fossa eventually got off the mark with a Ryan Lynch score but it was quickly followed by a goal from the visitors. Fossa were now behind by 6 points and facing an uphill battle. But the home side did finish the half a lot stronger with some excellent points from Eoin Murphy, Aaron O'Sullivan and Sean Doyle and would trail at HT by 0-06 to 1-05. Fossa started the 2nd period with renewed endeavour and commitment

with Eoin Murphy scored a brilliant goal which brought the home side right back into the contest. Fossa were now on top with Aaron O'Sullivan kicking one from his left and another off the right to give Fossa a two point lead with 10 mins left on the clock. Disaster would strike however as the South Kerry raiders struck for their 2nd goal to race into a one point lead. The home side now dug really deep in front of their vocal supporters with Mark O'Connor kicking the equaliser from an acute angle and this was quickly followed by the match winning score from the right by the attacking wing back George Nomikas. The South Kerry lads attacked in waves in the closing minutes but the excellent Fossa defence stood solid with David Kennelly outstanding throughout. When referee Grainne Sands blew her final whistle, it was Fossa who won an epic by the narrowest of margins.

### SENIOR LADIES

Fossa Senior Ladies welcomed Finuge/St Senan's for R4 of the Killarney Credit Union Donal Curtin Cup. The numbers were tight, we played 13 aside and the team again produced a strong and committed performance, going in ahead at half time after an excellent opening spell. From the throw-in, the girls showed great intensity and discipline, working hard all over the pitch and taking their chances well to build a deserved lead at the break. There was a real hunger in the first half, with excellent work rate, strong tackling and some well-constructed attacking play.

The second half proved more challenging, with scores harder to come by as the tempo never eased. Despite this, the players continued to battle for every ball, showing great resilience throughout. The effort levels remained high right until the final whistle, but we just ran out of legs in the closing stages and were narrowly beaten by two points.

Considering the number of players unavailable, and with another two players making their senior debuts (Molly & Alicia) and players in some new positions this was another very solid team performance and a real credit to those who took to the field. The commitment and attitude were excellent, with players stepping up and taking on added responsibility when it was needed most. There were plenty of positives to take from the game, and the performance shows the depth and character within the squad.

While the result didn't go our way, the effort and fight shown was outstanding and something to build on as the season continues. Well done to all involved.

## DR CROKES

### SFL DIV. 1

#### Dr. Crokes 1:10 Austin Stacks 2:22

We were defeated by Austin Stacks in a competitive County Senior Football League clash in Tralee on Sunday last. A slow start and a number of early wides allowed the home side to take control, with Stacks' 20th minute goal proving a key score. We responded well through points from Alex Hennigan and Cian McMahon to stay in touch at the break, trailing 0:04 to 1:09. Stacks came out strong in the second half,

scoring a point and two 2-pointers within the first 3 minutes of play. We resopinded well, kicking 3 points without reply but a stacks goal in the 10th minute proved crucial and halting our momentum. Stacks capitalised to push ahead again and maintained their advantage in the closing stages. Despite a determined effort, we were left to question missed opportunities as the Tralee side held on for the win. We now face Spa on April 26th at 2pm in Dr. Crokes Park

**U14 EAST KERRY LEAGUE**

We played Kilcummin last Tuesday night and after a hard fought battle we unluckily went down by 5 points in the end. We opened brightly with Sean Quill bagging a hat trick of goals in the first half to help us lead by 3-7 to 2-6 at half time. At the back Rob Young, Adam Arthur, Andrew Blokhvost and Thomas Mulvihill defended valiantly with Evan & Senan Prendergast winning lots of possession in midfield. We led going into the final 10 minutes but couldn't hold out as Kilcummin dominated the latter stages to defeat us by 5 points in

the end having got 3 goals to our 1 which was excellently taken by Wojtek Zglinski.

Our B team had 2 great games against Listowel and Kilcummin also over the past fortnight and having led in both games going into the last 5 minutes lost both games by a point in both. This a young team with a lot of the boys underage again next year with quite a few under 12s also playing

**FIXTURES**

With a busy few weeks ahead keep an eye on all social media platforms for upcoming fixtures.

**CROKES CUBS AND ACADEMY** take place every Saturday. Hurling from 10am-11am and football From 11:15am-12:15pm. All new members welcome.

**KATHLEEN'S GENTLE EXERCISE CLASS** continues on Tuesdays from 11am in the clubhouse.

**GENTLE YOGA** for both Men and Women take place on Thursdays from 6:15pm-7pm. It is €40 for 4 weeks, valid for 5 weeks.

**LOTTO** took place on April 20th Numbers

drawn were 4, 6, 13, 20. Jackpot of €5,300 was WON. Jackpot for draw on April 27th will be €5,000. Play online by following the link below <https://member.clubspot.app/club/dr-crokes-gaa/fundraisers>

**BINGO**

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

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Chantel Doolan and Michael Cotter on the birth of their baby boy MJ.

**CONDOLENCES** to the O'Donoghue, O'Sullivan and O'Carroll Families on the passing of Frances O'Sullivan. Frances is a sister of the late Fr. Paddy O'Donoghue and grandmother to club players, Neil, Laura and Mark O'Carroll. May she rest in peace.

**NOTES**

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

# Munster LGFA u16 A Championship Final

## Cork 3-9 Kerry 1-11

By Michael Heverin

A superb first half, after which they led Kerry by 2-7 to 0-3, proved to be the springboard for Cork to power on and claim the Munster LGFA u16 A Championship title at Banteer Community Sportsfield on Sunday, April 19th.

Goals proved crucial for Cork, two in the first half from Isabelle O'Callaghan and Shauna Keane, and a third late in the game from inspirational captain Orla O'Brien as Kerry threatened a comeback. O'Brien had to be replaced with just minutes remaining following a head injury but she had led from the front for the preceding sixty minutes.

If the goals were decisive then so was the contribution of midfielder Niamh O'Connor whose four points from play kept the scoreboard ticking over. O'Connor and her Ballincollig clubmate Ella O'Sullivan shaded midfield in a game where the Rebels never trailed.

The two Lucys, O'Brien and Kelleher, were also dominant in the central defensive roles, and crucial in transitioning play from defence to attack. Maria Humphreys also had a licence to roam forward, with the local Banteer player scoring a fine point, before having to go off with a leg strain late in the game.

Cork's blistering start stunned Kerry who struggled to get to the pace of the game in the first half. However, the Kingdom were much better in the second thirty minutes when they outscored Cork by six points, 1-8 to 1-2, with the outstanding Casey Shanahan leading the revival.

The Southern Gaels player converted a stunning penalty that would have graced any game at any level, as well as kicking four points in a row, three from frees and one a superb score from play. Máire Eilís Nic Gearailt, Taylor

Kate Keane and Ellen Barry were also creating more room upfront than they had in the first and Kerry ate into the Cork lead.

After a difficult first half, the defence also tightened up, with Danni O'Sullivan, Sarah Chute and Sophie O'Shea putting in big games. The sides shared the first four points as it looked like a tight contest was about to unfold. Cork gained possession from the throw-in, and following quick inter-passing between Niamh O'Connor and Aoife Harte, Shauna Keane slotted over the opener in just twenty seconds. O'Connor doubled the lead in the next move before Kerry replied with two scores of their own, from a Taylor Kate Leane free and Nic Gearailt from play with Ellen Barry and Leane involved in the build-up.

But Kerry were to score only once more in the half as Cork racked up 2-5 in an exhibition of attacking football. Isabelle O'Callaghan restored their lead and then O'Connor doubled it before they struck for their first goal in the 12th minute. The defence was cut open with sublime play from O'Connor, Keane and Evie McMahon before a looping shot from O'Callaghan deceived Kerry keeper Maebh Kennedy and nestled in the net.

The play was all towards the Kerry goal as Cork followed up with three points on the bounce – Maria Humphreys kicking over following good work from O'Connor – who appeared to be involved in all of Cork's best moves – then O'Connor herself following a quick break from defence and Abbie Ní Scannláin to make it 1-7 to 0-2 six minutes from the break. They maintained the pressure and a move started by Lucy O'Brien in defence was finished by Shauna Keane to the net for an eleven points lead, 2-7 to 0-2. A late free from Casey Shanahan cut that to ten points at the break.

Kerry made two changes for the second half, Anna Mangan and Mary Anne O'Shea replacing

Aideen Duffy and Sadhbh Dowling. They knew the urgency for a quick start and Aideen Power pointed an early free. Shauna Keane cancelled that out with a Cork free before a goal after eight minutes energised the Kerry revival. A Kerry forward was brought down in the square following a goalmouth scramble, and Casey Shanahan's penalty into the top left hand corner was unstoppable.

Niamh O'Connor replied with a Cork point, her fourth of the game, before a Kerry purple patch brought them right back into contention. The pressure on the Cork goal was relentless, with Shanahan, Nic Gearailt and Leane leading the charge, and the Cork defence was forced into fouling.

Shanahan duly punished that with three pointed frees, and followed up with another from play after great work in the build-up from Mary Anne O'Shea. When Nic Gearailt kicked another point, it left just one goal between the sides, 2-9 to 1-9, with ten minutes left to play. The momentum was very much with Kerry but against the run of play, Cork struck for their third, and decisive, goal. It was a well worked move, with substitute Nell Kinsella providing the final pass for Orla O'Brien to rattle the net.

Kerry came back with points from Aideen Dwyer and Ellen Barry but couldn't get through for the second goal that they really needed.

Referee Patrick Smith's final whistle led to rapturous celebrations from the Cork players, subs, management and supporters, as they proved to be the province's best with a thrilling u16 A title win. Team captain Orla O'Brien was fully recovered from her late knock and accepted the cup from Munster LGFA president, Lorraine Royle

# KERRY SECURE HARD FOUGHT VICTORY

## Kerry 2-8 Limerick 1-6

By Anthony Newman



Kerry won the Sharon O'Keeffe U16 B final following a hard-fought win over Limerick at Banteer on Saturday.

The Kingdom were made to battle all the way by Limerick who kept going to the end and never gave up. The game was close at half time, with the winners in front by a point. But in the second half huge credit must go to their defence who stepped up their game and made life difficult for the Limerick forwards.

For the winners the likes of Aisling Quirke, Holly Costello, Edie Corkery and Aoife Wright were in top form, but this was an overall impressive team display.

Limerick gave it their all, with Eve Egan, Ciara McCarthy and Loren Healy the pick of their side. But the difference over the hour were the two goals that Kerry got, both from long balls in that deceived the Limerick defence.

Costello put Kerry in front early on, with Lucy Collins replying for Limerick, both scores coming from frees. Costello got her second to put Kerry in front before Limerick were awarded a penalty. Egan put McCarthy in on goal, but she was fouled, with the former taking the penalty. Her effort went just over the bar, to make it 0-2 apiece after 14 minutes.

Corkery pointed for the winners, with Egan replying to see the sides level again. With 17 minutes gone Egan took on the Kerry defence, beating several defenders before finding the back of the net, to make it 1-3 to 0-3.

McCarthy added a point to increase their lead, before Amy Moriarty replied for Kerry.

With 25 minutes played Kerry were back on level terms when a high ball in from Emma Ni Ruairc deceived everyone and ended up in the back of the net, to make to 1-4 each.

McCarthy put Limerick back in front, but late points from Moriarty and Ni Ruairc saw the Kingdom leading by 1-6 to 1-5 at half time.

Scorers were scarce at the start of the second half, and it took until the 43rd minute for the



Action from the Sharon O'Keeffe game. Photos: Munster LGFA



first to arrive, with Wright scoring for Kerry.

Three minutes later they got their second goal, from another high ball in from Wright dropping to the back of the net, to make it 2-7 to 1-5.

Clionagh Coffey added a point to increase their lead, before Keelin Williams got Limerick's only score of the second half as Kerry ran out deserving winners.

Scorers for Kerry: H Costello 1-2 (1f), E Ni Ruairc 1-1, A Moriarty 0-2, E Corkery, A Wright, C Coffey 0-1 each.

Limerick: E Egan 1-1, C McCarthy 0-3 (0-1 pen), L Collins (f), K Williams 0-1 each.

KERRY: V O'Neill; E Kelliher, R Ni Ógáin, C Moore; A Noonan, A Quirke, L Lawlor; A Wright, L Crushell; C Coffey, H Costello, E Ni Ruairc; S McHugh, E Corkery, A Moriarty.

Subs: L Sheehy for E Corkery (37), C Crodubh for E Kelliher (42), E Piogoid for L Crushell (55), L O'Keeffe for E Ni Ruairc (59), S Hussey for A Moriarty (60).

LIMERICK: E Reidy; N Reidy, L Healy, E Murnane; E Dowling, K Riall, M Kitson; S Hanley, L Healy; L Collins C McCarthy, S Collins; R Farrell, E Egan,

M Conneely.

Subs: A O'Kelly for S Collins (ht), A McNamara for L Collins, E Halley for M Conneely (both 48), K Williams for M Kitson (50), C Young for S Hanley (58).

Referee: David Grogan, Tipperary.

### FIXTURES

**Saturday 25th April**

**Munster Minor Championship Round 5**

**Waterford vs Kerry**

**Venue: Waterford TBC. Throw in: TBC**

**All Ireland U14 Series Stage 1**

**Munster Senior B Championship R2**

**Cork vs Kerry**

**Venue: Páirc Uí Rinn**

**Throw in: 4:30pm**

**Sunday 26th April**

**TG4 Munster LGFA Senior Championship R1**

**Kerry vs Waterford**

**Venue: Austin Stack Park – Throw in 2pm**



JIMMY O'SULLIVAN-DARCY

## takes a look at all things sport...

### CHRISTY RING CUP

**Kerry 5-18 Donegal 2-22**

I was getting a bit antsy during the week. I've had a good few people say to me that Kerry should definitely be winning the Christy Ring Cup. The general consensus seems to be that Kerry are a McDonagh side who slipped into the lower grade because they were missing too many players.

Ah, lads. I know there are plenty of people following Kerry hurling a lot longer than me – but any clown coming out with a consensus that Kerry are a McDonagh Cup grade team in general is following Kerry hurling an awful lot less. Would you have a glance at our history? This narrative about Kerry have a plethora of young talent about to join the senior panel is an old chestnut and one that has never blossomed. We laboured for years to win the Christy Ring Cup. And I do mean laboured. Good hurlers like Tom Murnane, the older Boyles, James McCarthy, John Egan struggled for years before reaching the finish line. The Boxer Slattery played for Munster in the Railway Cup. But there wasn't a Christy Ring Cup for the likes of him to play for most of his career, it only started in 2005 as a replacement for the B Championship. But why replace it? Well, frankly, hurling desperately needed a middle tier between the top and second grade. I remember when Kerry were either winning Division Two comfortably.... or getting hammered in Division One. A yoyo wasn't moving up and down as often as we were and it felt like an endless cycle. We were either winning easily or losing badly; no middle ground where games were close enough to be hard-fought.

Yes, Kerry are favourites and rightly so, especially with a few players back in harness (don't ask me about Fionán Mackessy next year; I genuinely just don't know). But I was really worried about complacency as they headed up

to Donegal.

I have watched Donegal. Yes, they have a very, very small playing base. I'd argue that Donegal is the only county outside Dublin where soccer is the second sport to gaelic football, ahead of both rugby and hurling. But they have steel, fitness, and an awful lot of pride. I knew – and this isn't me talking wise after the event – I knew full well that Donegal would give us a real battle. In many ways, this is their biggest championship game of the year; this is where they want to lay down a marker. And they did. Gerard Gilmore had three points to his name (1f) before Kerry got going at all. Evan Murphy, who in fairness has been a revelation since being moved out the field, opened Kerry's account.

Much good it did us. Kevin Kealy landed another Donegal point and then Josh Connolly McGee struck for a goal. 1-4 to 0-1, and an uphill climb already.

That did wake Kerry up and they started pressing on Donegal. That was where you could see the little bit of inexperience by Donegal. They coughed up a lot of fouls that were far more clumsy than ill-intentioned, allowing Ronan Walsh to pick off five frees on the trot. Jordan Brick was Kerry's terrier, while a red card for midfielder Danny Cullen (a wild challenge on Gavin Dooley) didn't help Donegal's cause. In the 20th minute Tom Doyle got just our second point from play, but it meant that Kerry were level, 0-7 to 1-4. Kerry in their stride now. Ronan nudged us in front with a free. Jordan Brick with a point from play. Gerard Gilmore trimmed it back to a one point game with a free but Ronan replied in kind. Peter Kelly from play and Gilmore with another free levelled matters, 0-10 to 1-7. But the pendulum had very much swung back in Donegal's favour. Three Gilmore frees sandwiched scores from play by Ritchie Ryan and Conor O'Grady. 1-12 to 0-10. Last

play of the half....Kevin Goulding, goal! Lads, we desperately needed that one.

Pádraig Boyle on at half-time. He was only back against Meath and you could see the rust, but this time out he is raring to go. He hit the net almost straightaway and Tom Doyle added a point. Kerry's turn to be two in front. Gilmore notched two Donegal points (1f) but Boyle split the posts to keep Kerry ahead. Gilmore and Walsh exchanged scores. This was a serious battle now; every ball counts. Donegal won the next one and Brian McIntyre made it a one point game again. Michael Slattery was playing superly with fairly limited possession and clipped over a point but Ritchie Ryan replied. Gilmore with a free. John Keady shot over and Donegal were back in front and smelling blood. The home crowd are loving it.

But so does Pádraig Boyle. A Donegal defender scoops a dangerous ball away but hasn't time to aim it. It finds a Kerry player (Slats, I think) and it's into Pádraig Boyle to do what he does best. Another green flag. 3-14 to 1-18, and Jordan Brick extended the lead.

Gilmore with a free but Kerry are (at last) rising to the challenge and Kevin Goulding scores his second goal. Time to put this to bed....

Donegal aret having any of it. Goalkeeper Luke White strikes a superb penalty and it's a two point game again. Brian McIntyre with his second point. Just one between them again, 4-15 to 2-20.

Gilmore with a '65. Big moment, he made it look easy.

Padraig Boyle with a free. Ivan Conway, not long on the pitch, added a score from play. Donegal are beginning to tire now. Another Kerry break, a clear pull down, and Pádraig Boyle stepped up to smash the penalty home and claim his hat-trick. Michael Leane with a point. Luke White's free was the last score of an exciting game, more exciting than a lot of Kerry



Action from the Christy Ring Cup Kerry V Donegal at Austin Stack Park, Tralee. Photos: Orla Coyne, Kerry GAA Fans



Action from the Christy Ring Cup Kerry V Donegal at Austin Stack Park, Tralee. Photos: Orla Coyne, Kerry GAA Fans

supporters seemed to expect. 5-18 to 2-22. Not a fair reflection, by any means.

Kerry: Conor Bohane, Eric Leen, Seán McGrath, Kyle O'Connor, James O'Connor, Jason Diggins, Michael Leane (0-1), Kevin Goulding (2-0), Hugh Lenihan, Jordan Brick (0-2), Evan Murphy (0-1), Tom Doyle (0-2), Michael Slattery (0-1), Gavin Dooley, Ronan Walsh (0-8, 7f). Subs: Pádraig Boyle 3-2, 1-0 pen, 1f (for Gavin Dooley, half-time), Adam Segal (for Hugh Lenihan, 53 mins), Ivan Conway 0-1 (for Ronan Walsh, 61 mins), Niall O'Mahony (for James O'Connor, 72 mins) Donegal: Luke White (1-1, 1 pen, 1f), Oisín Kelly, Ciaran Bradley, Steven McBride, Conor O'Grady (0-1), Kevin Kealy (0-1), John Kealy (0-1), Danny Cullen, Brian McIntyre (0-2), Declan Coulter, Ronan McDermott, Gerard Gilmore (0-13, 9f, 1'65), Peter Kelly (0-1), Richie Ryan (0-2), Josh Cronolly-McGee (1-0) Subs: Ryan Hifferty (for Peter Kelly, 49 mins), Conor Diver (for John Kealy, 69 mins), Caolan O'Neill (for Josh Cronolly-McGee, 70 mins), Dan Donnelly (for Declan Coulter, 70 mins).

Referee: Nicholas O'Toole (Waterford)

## KERRY MINOR PANEL NAMED

It's the first, most important, and by far and away the hardest task for any inter-county manager. The filtering process begins long before that manager ever appears on the scene. Every manager will tell you that they do assess players who didn't make Development Panels. And to be fair, they do actually do that. But I've watched Kerry minors for a long time, and I can guarantee you that is a very rare bird indeed. The potential Kerry minors have a lot of work put in long before the final panel is picked. And it's hard, very hard, to tell players who have put in everything, that unfortunately, they didn't make the cut. But that is the job. You can't dilute training over a hundred players. Ask any primary school teacher; the more pupils in your class, the less attention each one is getting. That's the practical reality. When it was U18, I'd have generally had a fair idea who is knocking around the Kerry minors.

You'd have seen players at U12, U14, and U16. District Championships. The schools – granted, there was always a bit of a six month lacuna between Frewen Cup and minor. There would be a few names I wouldn't recognise, but not many.

Nowadays? I recognise a good few of these names, and no question, they should be in thee. But there are plenty that I don't. It's not a secret that as far as I am concerned, the switch from U21 and U18 to U20 and U17 has been an absolute and unmitigated disaster. Utterly opposed by the grassroots, and with very good reason. It was snuck in during covid. Not the worst decision that the GAA have ever made – dear God, I still haven't forgiven them for the embarrassing nonsense of a Sky TV deal – but a very strong second.

Regardless, that's not Marc Ó Sé's fault – I wouldn't put Marc in a position of asking him outright, but I suspect that he feels the same way as me about it, like the vast, vast majority of GAA supporters. This is the panel he has selected. As always, there's a few I thought might make it that didn't and there's a nice few names I know nothing about, but the names I do recognise...lot of talent there.

Kerry open their campaign away to Waterford. It's a drive with a lot of gorgeous scenery but lads, it's a long drive. No harm. Waterford are coming in off the back of three good wins in phase one – e.g. the Munster counties without Cork or Kerry. Is that format a disadvantage to the top two teams? Absolutely, of course. We are coming in cold against a team who have played three hard games.

Good. No, I'm not wearing a Kerry hat on this one. I remember when the likes of Waterford were drawn against Kerry in the opening round and hammered. That was that. Year over, after months of effort. This way, they have a chance to build something. Remember 2012 and Tipperary scoring those two goals against the run of play to beat Dublin in the All Ireland minor final? That was a massive boost, not just for Tipperary, Michael Quinlivan, Colin Riordan et al, but for every other county as well. They beat us well along the way. If you go back to it, Waterford had actually had us on the rack that year as well but simply hadn't the self-belief to

bring it home.

Is the format completely fair to Kerry at either U20 or minor? No. And I am genuinely fine with that. Rising tide, all boats, etc. Yes, I do expect the Kerry minors to beat Waterford but I expect them to have to work for it. Good.

Seán Sargent John Mitchels, Christian O'Donnell Tarbert, Jack Collins Ballymacelligott, Cathal Corduff An Ghaeltacht, Cian Stack Kilcummin, Cillian Moynihan Rathmore, Cillian O'Donoghue Listry, Conor Clifford Dr Crokes, Conor Lynch Dr Crokes, Cuán Ó Fiannachta An Ghaeltacht, Daithí Laide Finuge, Daniel Cronin Furies, Daniel Lane Austin Stacks, Danny Kingston Na Gaeil, Danny Murphy Listry (captain), Darragh Keane Kilcummin, Darragh McMahon Ballymacelligott, Eoin Mangan Austin Stacks, Fionn O'Dowd Daingean Uí Chúis, Jan Ziobar Milltown, John Breen Listowel Emmets, Killian Fitzgerald Listry, Lúic MacGearailt An Ghaeltacht, Maidhc Ó Sé An Ghaeltacht, Michael Somers St Senans, Mikey Corridon Ardfert, Noel O'Neill Templenoe, Odhran Buckley Beale, Podge O'Sullivan Furies, Samuel Scroope Legion, Seán Clifford Listry, Timmy Kennelly Listowel Emmets, Tom Lenihan Churchill, Tom Slattery Na Gaeil.

The Kerry minor hurling panel has also been named. Kerry's minor hurlers are usually in a position similar to Waterford, very up against it. Why don't they have a group stage of the weaker teams in Munster, similar to the footballers? Well, outside of Kerry, which of the credible Liam McCarthy contenders are you thinking of? Even allowing for the heroics of Tralee CBS, it is what it is.

Aaron Donovan Abbeydorney, Aiden Beirne Crotta O'Neills, Alan O'Connor Kilmoyley, Ben Lynch Ballyduff, Ben O'Connor Ballyheigue, Billy Moriarty Causeway, Darren McElligott Crotta O'Neills, David Cullinan Tralee Parnells, Declan Conway Kilmoyley, Fionn Hannon Crotta O'Neills, Garry Parker St Brendan's, Jason Gaynor Ballyheigue, Joseph Field Abbeydorney, Luke Hanafin Tralee Parnells, Matt Cronin Crotta O'Neills, Matthew O'Flaherty Lixnaw, Micheál Donegan Causeway, Noel O'Sullivan Furies, Paddy Cronin Crotta O'Neills, Pádraig McElligott Lixnaw, Ruairi Walshe Causeway, Ryan Carey



Causeway, Seán Barron Ballyduff, Sean O'Connell Abbeydorney, Seán Óg O'Connor Tralee Parnells, Sean Ross Ballyduff, Shay Barrett Ballyheigue, Stephen Harty Ballyheigue, Stephen Shanahan Crotta O'Neills, Tadhg Diggins Kilmoyley, Thomas Scanlon Ballyduff

## SOCCKER

### Women's European Championship Qualifiers

#### Ireland 3 Poland 2

First off, RTE commentators could have chilled out a little bit about the state of the pitch. I'm not saying it was great, but it really sounded like getting excuses in early, to be honest. And, look, I have nothing against the man, but you have Louise Quinn and Nimah Fahey, who know the game inside out, in the RTE studio, and you have Tony O'Donoghue, who....has a lot of personal charm, pitchside. Have RTE ever considered switching that? I don't think it's any kind of chauvinism, I really don't, but it's a kind of Montrose mentality. Put it this way, without being mean. I'd love Jimmy McGee's thoughts from pitchside, not George Hamilton's, and Tony is a lot more George than Jimmy. Just different kinds of talent.

I'm not going to dwell on the game, it's quite a while back by the time you read this. Ireland opened with a strong press and it worked as they had Poland under pressure from the off. In the 12th minute McCabe found the lively Denise O'Sullivan, who slipped it on to Marissa Sheva, who in turn found Emily Murphy. Nice slick passing, and a shot low and right towards

the corner. Look, I honestly thought the keeper should really have done better, it lacked power, but it's a goal. 1-0 to Ireland.

Still Ireland on top. Good pressure as Poland scramble it clear, but only as far as McCabe.... stunning volley. That belongs on any highlights reel. 2-0. Right, now put it to bed.

Nope. Suddenly it's Poland putting on all the pressure. In fact, they strung together some great moves, but lacked any real potency and Courtney Brosnan saw most of their chances fly well over her head. One great move opens it up for the deadly Ewa Pajor, but Patten makes a world class tackle. Ireland holding on well. Until shortly before half-time, when Poland swung in a cross and Pawollek (yes, of course I googled the spelling) got a great head on it. Honestly, as good a header as it gets. I would put that on a par with McCabe's in that both were brilliant. 2-1 at half-time. Hard to argue. Ireland had dominated the first quarter comprehensively, but Poland had been almost as dominant in the second.

Second half, and another good start by Ireland. Abbe Larkin wins a corner but McCabe's inswinging cross is punched clear by the keeper.

Fifteen minutes gone. Good hassling by O'Sullivan and the defender accidentally passes it to Mannion. A nicely weighted flick on to Murphy, who tees up Marissa Sheva, great finish. Very good goal all round. 3-1.

High ball in to Ewa Pajor. Bit of a hit and hope, there are two defenders on her. Except that an absolutely brilliant first touch leaves them both for dead, and then she just lobs it over a hapless Courtney Brosnan. Katie McCabe's goal

was world class. That one, in fairness, was even better. Frankly, you can watch every game in the English Premiership for the next month (possibly as a penance for something) and you won't see a better goal.

Just two minutes later Ireland win a penalty and a chance to put the game to bed. Up steps Katie, but for once, she couldn't quite keep it down.

Nervy finish as Poland push for an equaliser. Thankfully, Ireland hold out.

#### Ireland 1 Poland 0

Home ground. Make it count. Astonishingly, RTE have no negative comments about the pitch.

Early chance for Poland after Denise O'Sullivan was a little bit too casual, but it balloons away over. Poland have one world class striker.... but I'm getting the real impression that they don't have any half-decent ones. Katie McCabe floats an inviting free into the Polish square, but it's cleared. Both sides are playing well on the ball but actual goal chances are few and far between. Poland are stringing good moves together along the left wing – Patten is defending well but she'll need a bit of help if this keeps up.

Great work by Carusa to win possession and she finds O'Sullivan, who cuts it across. Emily Murphy at full stretch gets a boot to it.... crossbar! Two inches lower and Ireland would have been in front. No fault to anybody, Murphy did well to get anything at all on it and that was brilliant by Carusa. Marissa Sheva belts the rebound but to no avail.

On the half hour mark Ireland have another chance, Mannion on the end of McCabe's cross, but it's headed off the line. Good attacking by Ireland, but you have to credit the Polish defending as well. Neither team is really world class, but they are both well organised and defiant.

Booking for O'Sullivan. Can't complain; that's a yellow all day. She'll miss our next game. Pity, because she really does bring a good edge to our midfield.

41 minutes. Emily Murphy manages to get on the end of another long ball (a la Jack Charlton, though purists won't thank me for saying it). That's a fairly thankless job and in fairness, she always gives it everything. She's able to make it stick up there and that's exactly what she does. That brings Connolly and Mannion into the play and they combine to find Carusa, who sends in a low cross. The keeper gets a hand to it....if anything, I think that might actually have made it easier for a sliding Marissa Seva to tap home at the back post. 1-0.

Ireland make a great start to the second half as well. In fact, Denise O'Sullivan shows a great bit of control before lashing a shot....that, too, comes back off the crossbar. Great play, really elegant control by the multi-talented Cork native. Deserved a goal....as Clint Eastwood pithily observed in a very good movie "Deserve's got nothing to do with it".

Mind you, Poland have a decent shout for a penalty denied soon after. I've definitely seen those given; I'd say we'd be aggrieved if it was

the other way around. But again, I refer you to Mr. Eastwood....

Booking for Murphy. Jersey tug. I'd say a bit of a misjudgement due to tiredness; nobody has covered as much ground as her. But that means that Ireland will be without O'Sullivan and Murphy for the Netherlands game. Whoop de do, like it wasn't going to be hard enough.

Both sides are tired now. Fifteen left. Dangerous ball in, Courtney Brosnan does well to fist it away. Takes a bang and needs treatment. That's alright, Courtney. You take your time. And then take a little more time, if you can.

Cynical? I'd definitely be doing it.

She's down again soon after. We might be milking it a little bit too much at this stage, to be fair.

Two minutes left....Pajor with a real chance.... couldn't connect properly! A real let-off, I had visions of her burying that, and we know she is usually capable of it.

That was their last chance, though, and Ireland survive. Two wins in the bag. Third place in the bag. If we beat the Netherlands.....ah, look, that's a massive 'if'. We beat France well in Pairc uí Caoimh, though. No harm in hoping.

## ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP

I used to follow it reasonably closely. Somewhere along the way it just became more soap opera than sport for me. I certainly have no time for all the ex-player pundits. I'll exclude Thierry Henry, on the few occasions where he is actually allowed to analyse a game he tends to provide actual insight. No-one else. Roy Keane has become a parody of himself, with Gary Neville playing the straight man in his act. Neville has made millions off it though, so fair

enough. I don't eat fast food either but people have every right to enjoy these things.

It's coming very close to the endgame and that will be vaguely entertaining. I find it fascinating how people assume that professional players automatically assume tribal loyalties. If you play for Celtic, you must hate Rangers. Shout out to Mo Johnston, the fall of the Berlin Wall was only the second biggest story of 1989. Players, who actually interact with each other, get on fine. They have professional attitudes. But everything plays to the fanbase, with the ultimate goal being to empty their pockets. And when it comes to top and bottom of the Premiership table, there is literally billions involved. Hence the entertainment.

Have Arsenal let it slip? Is their confidence brittle? Man City weren't great, by any means, but they did enough to win 2-1. Havertz had a chance to make it a draw but couldn't take it. So now City are just three points behind and have a game in hand. Arsenal have Newcastle, Fulham, Burnley, West Ham, and Palace left. As well as the European Cup games with Atletico – those are the stingers. The fact is that Arsenal actually need to win a Premiership far more than they need to win a European Cup. Genuinely. Always the bridesmaid, never the bride.....the bottlers tag....cheap and easy labels to throw around, but I really think that if they let this one slip it will haunt them.

At the time of writing, Man City have Burnley (ye'll know the result by the time you read this – Haaland should be filling his boots), Everton, and Bournemouth. They could do it. And let me address the elephant in the room. Of course I want Arsenal to win the Premiership. Or Villa or Liverpool to make a sudden charge and be awarded seven points for every win. Even Man United to win it; much as it pains me. Anybody but City. Because some teams were docked

points for overspending and underdeclaring (I have no problem with that) and other teams laughing at the whole process with 115 charges 'pending'. Man City are a disgrace, simple as that.

Can Aston Villa hold on in the top four? I hope so. They aren't a traditional glamour team, but I've always had a bit of a soft spot for them. I like Birmingham in general, Britain's most multicultural city. Their game with Liverpool will obviously be crucial.

The other end is even more interesting. It always is. It's about survival, not glory. Obviously Wolves are gone. My sympathies, but we could see it coming from a long way out. I can't see Burnley surviving either. Decent team, but this is elite level and ye just didn't do enough.

Spurs....yes, they are one of the traditional powers. The last time they were relegated, an awkward farmboy from Tattooine was in the cinemas making a romantic rescue of a space princess....who turned out to be his sister. That actually sounds incredibly sinister when you actually stop to think about it.

Look, I'd say it's either Spurs or West Ham. It's not like the London club don't have a proud history.....Bobby Moore, Geoff Hurst, Billy Bonds.....

Could they pull Notts Forest into the relegation mix. Absolutely. But I think it'll be Spurs. West Ham took a point off Palace. Not what they wanted, but not nothing either. Spurs – and I am extrapolating a lot here – don't look up for a fight. And if they don't get back up at the first attempt (which they should) then they could be down there (among mere multimillionaires rather than billionaires; let us not shed all that many tears for them) it could be a long, long time.




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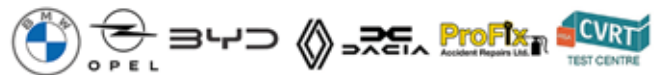


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06

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**OLD SCHOOL TABLE MANNERS**

By Nicky Barry

I had an old aunt Anna May, who is now dead and gone,  
 But everything she taught me, is still living strong.  
 She had old school manners, and was a total stickler,  
 Supervising protocol, as to how I ate my dinner  
 She taught me meticulously, how to hold a knife and fork,  
 Knowing it would last a lifetime, and indeed it worked.  
 I had to nibble portions, which were not too big,  
 And not to gobble dinner, like a greedy pig.  
 She pointed out the table spoons, for soup and dessert,  
 And to say excuse me, if perchance I made a burp.  
 To this day I am horrified, watching diners on First Dates,  
 As they manhandle cutlery, like ill-mannered apes.  
 They talk with their mouths full, and worse again  
 they laugh,  
 With a flash of tonsils, which truly makes me gasp.  
 Sometimes they feed each other, a bite with their  
 own forks,  
 Etiquette for which my aunt,, would have deducted marks.  
 Then there's the ignoramus, who's inclined to lick his knife,  
 For he had no aunt to tell him, that it just wasn't right.  
 I try to teach my grandchildren, the art of table manners,  
 But they all just laugh at me, and say it doesn't matter!



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## HYDRANGEAS

Hydrangeas are a very popular garden shrub with delicate heads of flowers that come in shades of white, pink or blue and they flower from late Spring to Autumn. The mophead or lace cap Hydrangeas are well known for the ability to change colour in different soils.

Hydrangeas thrive in moist but well drained soil, in the cool, semi shady part of the garden. Try to avoid dry sunny situations and east facing areas. Feeding your Hydrangeas once in late Winter and early Spring is probably enough for the year as too much feeding will only encourage too much soft leafy growth and this will lead to the Hydrangeas not developing a lot of flower buds.

Pruning your Hydrangeas is usually done in late Winter or early Spring, although the climbing Hydrangeas should be pruned after flowering in Summer.



JOHN O'SULLIVAN, FOUR SEASONS GARDENING SERVICES, KILLARNEY 087-2787160.



*Spirit Youth Leaders Carmel Casey & Olivia Coleman enjoying a well deserved cup of coffee at the Conference of Possibilities Killarney*



# A Word of Victory

*"The Lord is a Shelter for the oppressed, a Refuge in times of trouble"  
(Psalm 9:9 NLT).*

Welcome back dear student, last week we saw God instructing us to ask Him for His ancient paths to find rest for our souls. There's an epidemic of anxiety, depression, and mental health issues. These things are often made worse by people taking comfort in other substances or habits, leading to dependency, and disassociation from reality. Fear is a demonic manifestation from the kingdom of darkness. The enemy uses fear to hold folks bound like prisoners without parole. You can't medicate a demon: pills won't solve the matter – only creating holding patterns. We must understand where we have come from to know where we are going, to receive wholeness. Burying sin or past hurts is not good, for the enemy uses what's hidden to afflict. Equally, hanging on to unforgiveness from the past, going over and over the same things constantly is destructive, for that keeps the cycle of torment ever present. Both the secret and the cycle need to be broken to walk in freedom. We can take-up new habits: they may work for a while, but that may result in only replacing one addiction for another. What's required is new spiritual identity. I'm not talking about transgenderism, but the root of the confusion that many are enduring is misunderstanding their identity, which creates a playground for the enemy to torment, bombard, and enslave. There is Good News however, in understanding Redemption - that newness of life is possible in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

God brought Salvation down Himself so that we could be forgiven by the sinless Blood of Jesus Christ, and made whole by the release of curse, which He took upon His own Body for us to be healed (1 Peter 2:24; Galatians 3:13). This is what the Son of God was doing at the Cross. The devil did not overpower or catch Jesus out. It was part of God's plan of Salvation through Messiah Jesus: that He who had never sinned, would pay the price for the sins of every man, woman, and child who believe in Jesus (Isaiah 53:2-10). This was made possible by Jesus laying down His life, His Divinity, and His right-standing with God, and then gifting His Righteousness to believers. So, an exchange took place at Calvary! It was an altar of sacrifice where the Lamb of God gave His Blood, and His Body, for us to be forgiven of sin, cleansed of iniquity, and redeemed from curse and separation (Zechariah 9:11). In this Jesus defeated Satan in a way the forces of darkness never expected, and Righteousness was purchased for humanity – now accepted by God as if we had never sinned, because of the Blood of Jesus. This gift is not to be treated with contempt by using Him, but to be accepted with thanks by following Jesus.

There's a beautiful worship song called 'The Blood' by Bethel that details the path of redemption through faith in God. Believers who trust in Jesus for Salvation, obey His Word, and live for Him, can rest understanding our new identity in Christ (Ephesians 2:1-10; Colossians 3:3). This isn't a witness protection programme like the movies. It's a completely new life – walking, talking, and living differently – now for the Glory of God: no longer pleasing the carnal sin nature, or the habits and lusts of the flesh. It's true freedom from the past, true identity change to a sanctified life, and true eternal peace. God says... "stop at the crossroads and look around. Ask for the ancient paths and walk in the good way. Travel its path, and you will find rest for your souls" (Jeremiah 6:16 NLT). Seek God for the way to your new life friend!

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

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## WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS CELEBRATIONS 2026:

For those in our parish who are celebrating a significant anniversary this year, e.g. 25th,30th, 35th 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th or 60th, you are invited to renew your marriage vows at the 6.15 pm Vigil Mass on Saturday May 30th. Please spread the word also to those who were married in our parish and are now living elsewhere. You might kindly contact the Sheila or Betty in the Parish Office with the details of your Anniversary before the 22nd of May.

**TULLIG GROTTO MASS ON FRIDAY 1ST OF MAY AT 7.00PM;** Rosary to be prayed every evening for the Month of May. All Welcome

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP** in St Brigid's Chapel in the Church of the Resurrection every Sunday at 11.00am Mass. All Welcome

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK;** Coach leaving St. Mary's Cathedral at 7.00am on Saturday the 22nd of August , cost is €25 pp. Places limited. Please Contact Sheila at the Parish Office to register with payment in person to secure the booking

## EVENTS OVER THE COMING MONTHS

St. John's Cemetery Mass: Monday 1st of June @ 3pm  
Corpus Christi Procession: Thursday 4th of June after the 6.15pm

Mass.  
Novena to the Sacred Heart: Begins on the 4th June and concludes with

the Feast of the Sacred Heart on the 12th of June  
Inisfallen Island Mass: Friday 19th of June. Boats leaving Ross Castle

from 4pm onwards, Mass on Island at 6.30pm.  
Killarney Burial Ground Mass: Monday 29th of June 7pm.

Muckross Abbey Pilgrimage and Cemetery Mass: Monday 5th of July,

pilgrimage at 6.30pm with Mass at Abbey Graveyard at 7.30pm.

New Cemetery Mass: Monday 3rd of August at 7pm

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS COMMENCE NEXT WEEKEND IN OUR PARISH.

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

Presentation Monastery NS & Holy Cross Mercy NS 10.00am 9th May St Mary's Cathedral

St Oliver's NS 10.30am 16th May Church of the Resurrection

Loughquittane NS 10.30am 16th May Church of the Holy Spirit, Muckross

Gaelscoil Faithleann NS 10.30am 23rd of May Saipéal Na h-Aiseirí

Loreto Scoil Bhríde NS 10.30am 23rd May Church of the Holy Spirit, Muckross

## PRAYER GROUPS AND PRAYER GROUP LEADERS:

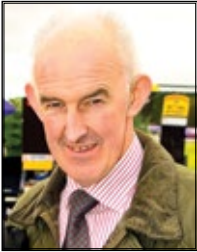
Bishop Ray warmly invites all Prayer Group leaders from across the diocese to a meeting at the Diocesan Offices, Killarney Saturday May 9th from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

This presents a rare opportunity for all of us to gather as one, to share our experience of church, and listen to each other. We invite to register for more information, please ring Deacon Thady O'Connor 087- 2626187 or email: [thadyoc1@gmail.com](mailto:thadyoc1@gmail.com).

**KILLARNEY ALZHEIMER CAFÉ:** A welcoming community initiative aimed at supporting people living with dementia and their families will take place in Killarney every third Wednesday of the Month at The Killarney Alzheimer Café 11am to 1pm , located at Coill na Darrach Community room at the entrance to Killarney Nursing Home, more info contact Lynda 087 3556508

14TH ANNIVERSARY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
**STEPHEN  
KENNEDY**



LAHARD, BEAUFORT  
WHO PASSED AWAY ON  
APRIL 24TH 2012

*I'd like the memory of me  
To be a happy one  
I'd like to leave an after glow of smiles  
When life is done.*

*Id like to leave an echo  
Whispering softly down the ways,  
Of happy times and laughing times and  
Bright and sunny days.*

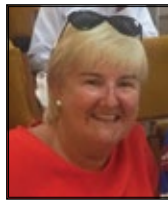
*Id like the tears of those who grieve  
To dry before the sun  
Of happy memories that I leave  
When life is done.*

Lovingly remembered by Mary, Jackie,  
Kieran, Aoibhinn and Sarah, Paul and Paula,  
Kieran, Laura, Neillidh, Róise and Calan.

7TH ANNIVERSARY

REMEMBERING WITH LOVE

**CARMELLA  
SHEEHY**



LINN DUBH, AGHADOE,  
KILLARNEY  
WHO DIED ON  
APRIL 24TH 2019

*If roses grow in Heaven,  
Lord please pick a bunch for us,  
place them in Carmella's arms  
and tell her they're from us.  
Tell her we love her and miss her,  
and when she turns to smile,  
place a kiss upon her cheek  
and hold her for a while.  
Remembering her is easy,  
we do it every day,  
but there's an ache within our hearts  
that will never go away.*

*Ní imithe uainn ach romhainn.*

Forever in our hearts  
Eddie, Dáire, Triona, Éamonn and Amy

*Anniversary Mass will be held on Friday  
April 24th at 7.30pm in The Prince of Peace  
Church, Fossa.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
& 1ST ANNIVERSARY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
**JOHNNY PAYNE**



43 ST. BRENDAN'S PLACE,  
KILLARNEY  
WHO PASSED AWAY  
26TH APRIL, 2025.

As we lovingly remember Johnny on his first anniversary, we, his family would like to thank all those who supported us on the passing of our lovely dad and grandfather. We would like to thank Dr. Keoghan and the staff at the Reeks Medical Centre for his care and support over the years. We would also like to thank the Palliative Care team who were a great support to us in Johnny's final days. Our thanks to Anthony and staff at O'Sullivan's Pharmacy, New Street, thanks to Fr. Joe Begley for Johnny's beautiful Requiem Mass. Thanks to O'Shea's Funeral Home for their professional service along with the gravediggers in Aghadoe. We would like to thank O'Callaghan Coaches who provided transport for the family to attend Johnny's Cremation. Our sincere thanks to everyone who called to Johnny's home on his passing, our wonderful neighbours and good friends and those who sent flowers and mass cards. As it would be impossible to thank everyone individually, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.*

Johnny's First Anniversary Mass will take place at St. Mary's Cathedral on Saturday, 25th April at 6.15p.m.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
& 1ST ANNIVERSARY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
**MARY PARKER**



14 O' SULLIVAN'S PLACE,  
KILLARNEY  
WHO DIED ON  
24TH APRIL 2025.

As we lovingly remember Mary on her first anniversary, we, her family, wish to express our appreciation for the sympathy and support shown to us on our great loss. Thank you to all who attended the removal, Requiem Mass and burial, and those that joined the Mass online. We are grateful to those who sent floral tributes and those who sent Mass cards, perpetual enrolments, sympathy cards and letters, text messages and online condolences. Our sincere thanks to Father Begley for his prayers and guidance and also for celebrating the Requiem Mass. Thanks to all the priests who sympathised with us and also to those who concelebrated the Mass. Thanks also to Maura and Anita for the beautiful music and singing at the Mass. Thanks to Tadghie Fleming the sacristan for his support and help on the day. Thanks to all the wonderful neighbours Mary had in O' Sullivan's Place who were a great support to her over many years.

We would like to thank Dr. Gary Stack and the staff of Park Medical Practice for the wonderful care and kindness shown to Mary over the years. Thanks to all the staff of Killarney Nursing Home on Rock Road, who lovingly looked after Mary for the last 3 years of her life and thanks to the many residents of Killarney Nursing Home who became dear friends of Mary during her time there. We would like to acknowledge and thank the many Home Help carers who supported Mary in the years before she entered the nursing home. Thanks to the team at O'Shea's Funeral Home for all their advice and professionalism. Thanks to the staff of the Gleneagle Hotel for the lovely meal after the funeral.

As it is impossible to thank everyone individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our deepest gratitude. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.

IN MEMORIAM

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POWERFUL NOVENA TO  
THE SACRED HEART

O my Jesus, you have said:  
"Truly I say to you, if you ask anything of the  
Father in my name, he will give it to you."

Behold, in your name, I ask the Father for the  
grace of...

(Mention your Intention Here)

Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
I place all my trust in you.

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