

Kilmeena G.A.A. Club

Newsletter

DECEMBER 2024

OUR ROUNDERS AND U14
TEAMS DO US PROUD!



Chairman's Message



Hello and welcome to our annual Club newsletter.

It has been another action packed and fulfilling year on and off the pitch.

We've had some notable successes this year: our U14 boys contested three finals winning the Division 4 league and the West Mayo B Championship and narrowly losing out in the County U14 Championship. Our Minor girls had a well-deserved shield victory, the adult ladies retained their Junior A status and won the Martin Jamesey memorial cup on Clare Island in August. The Rounders club had a fantastic season, winning back-to-back All-Ireland titles, a Connacht plate win and the ladies team retained the Ulster shield played in Monaghan with the year culminating in an All-Star award for Tommy Hoban. Our U11 boys had a very enjoyable trip to Croke Park where they got to play a number of games and had a tour of the stadium. I would like to extend my congratulations and thanks to the managers, coaches and players of all our teams for their hard work and dedication during the season.

Our ladies' teams in particular are facing challenges, and it is crucial to encourage parents of the players to become actively involved. We need more coaches and administrators to help run the ladies' club and participate in club and LGFA county board meetings. This involvement is essential to ensure a sustainable future for girls' football in our community.

It is also important that as a club we remember the GAA message of 'Give Respect Get Respect'.

On the field, respect for referees and officials must be upheld by both players and supporters alike. I also want to stress that we cannot tolerate poor conduct from our coaches toward match officials. Referees are integral to the game, and it is our collective responsibility to set the standard for sportsmanship. Within the club we must help to address the shortage of referees and identify suitable people that will take up the whistle and commit to becoming referees.

Looking to the future, we must prioritise skill development. For many of our younger players, the goal is to enjoy our games improve their skills and make lasting memories with their teammates.

Coaches must improve their skills through available training and courses. All coaches are required to complete the Foundation Level course and aim for the Level 1 course while considering additional workshops.

Ensuring the safety of young players remains paramount. Up-to-date Garda vetting and safeguarding training is mandatory for all coaches to foster a safe environment for all in the club.

I'm pleased to announce that for the 2025 season, we have signed up for the Connacht Club Coaching Officer (CDO) initiative, which will provide third-level students to assist in coaching and development.

On the field our U21 team displayed impressive performances, reaching the quarter finals, while the adult men's second team enjoyed a successful season, winning the West Mayo Junior B title.

The adult men's first team faced a challenging season in the Senior tier. We promised so much potential but things didn't go our way and it was disappointing to drop back to Intermediate so quickly. However, we have a talented young team who have seen that they are not far off and while there are no guarantees must now build on the positives and apply themselves in a serious and committed way, setting the goal of getting back to Senior football. To the outgoing adult men's management team - John Reilly, Peter Carney, John Doherty, and Eoin Sweeney - thank you for your dedication and hard work during your term. Thank you also to all those who made up the backroom team and contributed so much to what was achieved.

In terms of a new management team, a sub-committee has been appointed to speak with people inside and outside the club with a view to seeing what our best options are. The committee will shortly report back to the club executive with their findings and recommendations for a management team.

During the year we hosted the U10 West Mayo Paddy Golden Blitz, the local league and Cúl Camp and participated in Scór na bPáisti. We held healthy club talks including "Ahead of the Game," a GAA-supported mental fitness program for young male and female teens, an adult Mental Health talk, a session on Drug and Substance Abuse and a Water Safety talk. On the coaching front we hosted an athletic and speed development workshop to help coaches integrate fundamental movement and running skills into their sessions and concluded the Carver, "Coaching Children in Sport" workshops.

After moving to phase 2 of the Green Clubs programme last year, we have now added the Green Club award to the Healthy Club status we previously achieved. These accreditations are now seen as important and taken into consideration when applying for GAA related funding and grants.

It was fantastic to see Kilmeena men participating in the Club All-Star team during the charity match against the Mayo Senior football team at the end of last season. John Reilly served on the management team, while Jack Carney, Darragh Keaveney, and Stephen Staunton played on the field. Well done to the players who lined out for the Mayo Masters, in particular to Pat Mulchrone, who captained the Ireland team in the inaugural Gaelic Masters International rules series. Well done also to our underage girls and boys who proudly represented the club at various county grades, development squads, and academies.

With the new season approaching, please remember that no activity on the field or in the club gym is allowed until your club membership is fully completed on the Foireann system. You will not be covered from the 1st, January in the event of injury.

In May we launched our new five-year club plan which is a necessity in providing a road map to guide us in all aspects of developing and managing the club both on and off the field. Working from this plan and funded by the CLÁR programme and a Mayo County Council, Local Improvement Scheme, we have completed drainage and resurfacing of the car park and the

driveway from the road. The final aspect to this work will be to paint car park spaces and road markings. The club has also been successful in our application for Sports Capital funding to drain and reseed the grass-based pitch including a walkway and to develop an astro turf pitch. There are also plans to refurbish the existing clubhouse dressing rooms and to build two additional dressing rooms allowing for individual male and female changing, shower and toilet facilities. This will include an administration office, gym and medical/recovery room.

While we have received grants and generous donations towards these projects, we also need to fundraise to bridge financial gaps. With this in mind the finance committee have launched the Lip Sync extravaganza, which will replace the annual dinner dance this year and promises to be a fun and entertaining event.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the club's success this year, including our officers, grounds staff, sub-committee members, county/divisional board delegates, photographers, videographers and newsletter team. I appreciate everyone who assisted and offered help in any capacity; your efforts make our club exceptional.

I would like to say a special thank you to fellow officers at the top table, secretary, Mary Slattery whose unwavering dedication and support have greatly streamlined my role and contributed immensely to the smooth functioning of our club. The commitment and hard work demonstrated by our Treasurers, Kathleen Geraty and Maura Hastings, is truly refreshing.

Thank you to Councillors Brendan Mulroy, John O'Malley, Peter Flynn and former Councillor Christy Hyland.

We are also extremely grateful to all the families, individuals, and the business community, both at home and abroad, who continue to sponsor and support the club. Additionally, I extend sincere thanks to the Club Executive for their invaluable experience and passion for our club, which I hope is never lost.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the teachers and principals of our three national and two secondary schools for their promotion and support of our games.

To ensure the growth and longevity of Kilmeena GAA, it's essential for the next generation of parents and volunteers to become actively involved in the club. Their fresh perspectives and enthusiasm are crucial for developing teams and initiatives, as well as shaping the club's culture and identity. We are all custodians of this wonderful club and the facilities it offers our community.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish Fr. Jim the very best of health and happiness in his retirement and thank him for his service to the people of the parish.

On behalf of the club, I would like to extend sympathy to the families, relatives and friends, of those in the community who passed away in the last 12 months. We remember particularly the families of Tony Mulchrone, Tommy O'Malley and Michael Feehan who was our honorary vice president. May their souls and the souls of the departed rest in peace. I would also like on behalf of the club to extend thoughts and prayers to all those who are sick in the community.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone in our club and parish and our emigrants abroad a happy and peaceful Christmas and best wishes for 2025.

John McDonald
Cathaoirleach

ELECTED CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2024

Club Patron: Fr. Jim Walsh
President: Michael Cannon
Vice President: Michael Feehan
Chairman: John McDonald
Vice Chairman: To be filled
Secretary: Mary Slattery
Assistant Secretary: To be filled
Joint Treasurers: Kathleen Geraty & Maura Hastings
Assistant Treasurer: To be filled
PRO: Caragh Ryan
Registrar/Data Protection Officer: Lucy O'Malley
Coaching Officer: Darren Madden
Safety Officer: Michael O'Grady
County Board Delegate: Kevin Barrett
West Board Delegate: Kevin Barrett
Field Caretaker: Paul Feehan
Irish Language & Cultural Officer: Róisín Carney
Development and Planning Officer: Willie Keaveney
Children's Officer: Majella O'Malley
Fixtures Secretary: Mary Slattery
Healthy Club Officer: To be filled
Injury Fund Officer: Mary Slattery
Players' Representative: Paul Groden

ELECTED BORD NA nÓG OFFICERS FOR 2024

Chairman: Peter Mortimer
Secretary: Noleen Coughlan
LGFA PRO: Rachel Keane
LGFA County Board Delegates: Mairead Durkan & Colm Barrett
Bord na nÓg County Board Delegates: Darren Madden & Pete Mortimer



NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION TEAM

Michael O'Grady, John McDonald, Noreen Johnston, Noleen Coughlan, Mairead Durkan, Majella O'Malley, Barry Murphy, Peter Mortimer, Caragh Ryan.

NEWSLETTER SPONSOR

Donal McIntyre, New York. www.wesbuilt.com

Kilmeena Cubs (U5s & U6s) Johnny Madden & Darren Madden

As 2024 comes to a close, it's an excellent time to reflect on the ongoing success of Kilmeena Cubs Academy and its significant impact on the community. This year marks another milestone for the Academy as they welcomed children born in 2019 into the club for the first time, expanding the reach and engagement of the program to even younger children.

The Cubs Academy's adoption of a child-centric approach continues to stand out, ensuring that every child is at the heart of the development process. By focusing on teaching the fundamental movement skills, the Academy provides the building blocks for children to develop sport-specific abilities later on. These skills are crucial not only for sports but also for overall physical and cognitive development, fostering confidence and a love for movement from an early age.



A major new feature of this year has been the introduction of the GAA Player Pathway F1 Nursery Program. This pathway is designed to introduce children aged 4 to 6 to the basics of Gaelic games through fun and engaging games and activities that are tailored to their specific developmental stages. This structured program is essential in helping young players learn the foundational skills in a manner that is both enjoyable and appropriate for their age, ensuring that they build a strong base that can support more advanced skills in the future.

The Academy's training sessions, held regularly on Thursday evenings at 6 pm, have seen tremendous participation, with over 50 children attending each week. The sessions are meticulously planned to follow the development of fundamental movement skills such as agility, balance, and coordination, as well as essential motor skills like throwing, catching, passing, and kicking. These skills are introduced in a playful, engaging way that encourages the children to be active while having fun, building their confidence and enthusiasm for sports.

To maximize the effectiveness of training and ensure that each child receives age-appropriate coaching, the Nursery Academy divides the children into two groups: under 5 and under 6. This allows the coaches to tailor the activities to each group's developmental needs, ensuring that every child gets the attention and



guidance they need to thrive. This targeted approach ensures that younger children are not overwhelmed and that the slightly older group can focus on more advanced elements of fundamental skills.

None of this would be possible without the commitment and dedication of the coaches who volunteer their time to help these young children develop, both as athletes and as individuals. Their role is crucial in shaping the children's experience and fostering a love for Gaelic games that can last a lifetime. These coaches provide not only skill instruction but also a supportive environment where children feel valued and encouraged to grow.

A special thanks goes to Majella O'Malley, whose tireless efforts ensure that the club maintains the highest standards of safety and child protection. Majella oversees the process of ensuring that all coaches are Garda vetted and have completed the required safeguarding courses. This is a significant requirement of the club, reflecting its strong commitment to the well-being and safety of every child involved. These precautions offer parents peace of mind, knowing that their children are in safe and trusted hands while they enjoy learning and playing the game.

As we look forward to 2025, there is much to be excited about. The continued growth of the Cubs Academy will see new children join, and with the strong foundation that has been built, the Academy is well-positioned to continue providing a positive and enriching experience for all involved. The club's commitment to nurturing young talent, fostering a love of Gaelic games, and promoting overall physical and social development will undoubtedly lead to another successful year ahead.

In closing, the achievements of the Kilmeena Cubs Academy in 2024 have been remarkable, and with the dedication of the coaches, parents, and the community, the future looks incredibly bright for the young stars of tomorrow. Here's to another year of growth, learning, and fun at Kilmeena Cubs Academy!



Kilmeena Cubs (U8s) Hugh Kelly & Darren Madden

Spring 2024 brought the return of the Kilmeena Cubs to St Brendan's Sports Park. Now in its second year, the Kilmeena Cubs Academy aims to develop the children's physical literacy through enjoyable drills that incorporate Agility, Jumping, Throwing, Co Ordination and Balance, along with developing the players' basic football skills such as the Solo, Kick, Hand Pass, Bounce and Body Catch. These two distinct developmental areas are set out in enjoyable and well-structured sessions and are designed for the girls and boys to learn and grow.

The first match of the 2024 season for our team was at home to Belmullet. The sun was shining and both teams played 4 x 10 minute matches against mixed teams of boys and girls. It was a great start to the season and introduced our younger players to the Go Games structure. All games at this age level are played under the Go Games rules. This promotes full participation and fair play whilst catering for the developmental needs of the participants, in a fun, learning and safe environment.

Our second match was an away game versus Claremorris, Alan Feeley Park. The wet weather did not dampen the spirits and the girls and boys enjoyed another 4 Go Games against a competitive Claremorris team. The highlight of the day for the Cubs was the bus journey to the match and the treats after the game. For our third game, we welcomed Ballintubber to St Brendan's Park. Ballintubber came with a large group, but we still managed to balance the numbers to enable all the kids to play at the same time. At this young age, participation is a key element of the Cubs Academy and the coaching group aim to have all children playing on the pitch at the same time, where possible.

Kilmeena Cubs had a total of 25 girls and boys tog out for our fourth game, a home fixture with Claremorris. The players' skill and movement progression since their first match was evident to all who attended and



this lead to an enjoyable and exciting game for all involved. The Cubs also made a trip to Islandeady and we hosted our local neighbours, Burrishoole for our final home game of the year.

The highlight of the season for the players and coaches was playing in the Under 8 County Blitz in the Connaught GAA Centre of Excellence. This event gave our players the opportunity to compete against clubs from all over the County that we wouldn't usually play against. We were grouped with Mayo Gaels, Bonniclonon and Ardnaree Sarfields. The teams were mixed, comprising girls and boys. The hard work and dedication of the players paid off as they displayed great ability and teamwork and represented the club at the C.O.E. with great pride.

The coaching group would like to take this opportunity to thank the businesses who supported the Cubs this year, Market 57, Bourke Waste, Joyce Electrical and Smurfit Westrock. Sincere thanks also, to all the parents for bringing their girls and boys to training and matches and to our amazing Cubs Academy Coaches for giving their time and enthusiasm to the club.

Throughout the season, a mix of over 40 boys and girls attended training every Thursday evening, these players are the future of the club, and the future is very bright.



U10 Boys Sean Kelly

The boys began the 2024 season on the astroturf in March. The focus was to work through the basic skills of the game such as kicking, catching, hand pass, solo, bounce, pick-up and tackling, to provide a good foundation for the season ahead. There were several boys who had moved up from under 8 the previous year and we ensured that they were integrated successfully into the under 10 setup.

The first grass trainings sessions started in April and we were located on the training pitch for the season. In each training session we had drills to develop the key elements of football and finished each session with a game.

The County Bord na nÓg established a fixture schedule for the season which included individual games every two weeks and a mini blitz once a month. So, there was no shortage of football! We started the season away against Parke, in early May. During the year we contested games against Achill, Westport, Louisburgh, Castlebar Mitchels, The Neale, Charlestown, Balla, Belmullet, Burrishoole, Islandeady and Tourmakeady. We hosted a mini blitz and travelled to Shrule and Parke for other blitzs.

We had a team outing at the end of August doing foot-golf in Aghagower followed by a meal in the hotel. The boys had a terrific day. In early September, the team travelled to Began for another blitz and the boys were delighted to get the opportunity to play in the Dome. In the same month, the boys took part in the local league and the Paddy Golden blitz. The boys competed well in all games while demonstrating great skill and passion for the game.

We finished the season in early October by completing the skills challenge again to assess their development and all the kids and coaches had ice creams to round off the year.

We would like to thank the boys for their attendance during the year at training and games. A special mention to the parents & others for bringing the boys to training along with their support during the games.

Coaches for 2024: Adrian Cawley, Pat Mulchrone, Declan Ryan and Seán Kelly.



Kilmeena U10 Boys 2024

Back row, left to right: James Sheridan, Ciarán Kelly, Noah Walsh, Matthew Gormonly, Rowan Goggins, Zac Walsh, Ruairí O'Malley, Aodán Gildea, James Cawley, Oisín Corcoran, Callum Coughlan, Evan Gilger, Eamonn Óg Coyne, Finbarr Dempsey.

Front row, left to right: James Lawless, Gary Feehan, Cian Joyce, Ollie Joyce, Jack Sheridan, Faolan Loftus, Reuben Coughlan, Conor Henry, Aran Cawley, Jack Cawley.

Absent from photo: Josh Moran, Jack O'Malley and Kian McGlynn.



U12 Boys Brian McManamon

The Under 12 boys commenced training on the 24th of February. They completed six weeks on AstroTurf in Westport before returning to the grounds in Kilmeena. The Spring league started soon after and we had sufficient numbers of boys registered to field two teams. There were five teams in our group and all had similar number to us. As a coach it was great to see two Kilmeena teams running out on the pitch every time we played a game. It also meant that the boys got loads of game time to improve their skills and self-esteem. The league allowed us to experiment with players and try them out in different positions.

The Kilmeena Club was selected to take part in a “Play and Stay Day” held in Croke Park on the 3rd of April. It was a fantastic opportunity for some of our boys who played three twenty-minute games against other clubs from Connacht. They also received a tour of the stadium and a trip to the gift shop. It was a long but memorable day for all who travelled.

After a successful spring league and finishing second on the table, we were graded to play in Division 2 for the Summer League. There were eight teams in our group, some from the larger clubs in the County. The boys were competitive in all of their games and lost some by only small margins making them very exciting to watch. The boys played with confidence in their abilities and had a steely determination throughout. They produced some fantastic performances and again proved to be a super bunch of footballers finishing joint second with Ballintubber.

On the 21st of July the boys had a day out at Aughagower Hotel. They completed a round of Foot-golf and enjoyed a Sunday dinner too. It was an opportunity for the boys to have some fun, away from the training ground and to build a real sense of camaraderie.

We enjoyed many loud bus trips with the boys this year. Pat Chambers never needed to turn on the radio as the boys had their own speaker system and somewhat unusual taste in music. We had lots of fun and memorable days out. As coaches we were delighted to be a little part of the journey these boys are on. They are a terrific bunch and we were thrilled with the progress they made this year.

Special thanks to the coaches, Declan Hastings, Andrew Olsen, Declan Duffy, Liam Gilger, Liam McDonnell, Rian Kilcoyne and Brian McManamon.



Back row, left to right: Declan Duffy, Brian McManamon, Jay Joyce, Joe Durkan, Zander Gibbons, Bobby Lane, Max Keane, Evan Ryder, Oisin Martin, Cody Coughlan, Ruairi Ryan, Charlie Walsh, Finn Sheridan, Sam McDonnell, Liam Gilger, Declan Hastings. Front row, left to right: Brendan Smyth, Dylan Duffy, Rory O'Donnell, Oskar Dziubinski, Keelan McLoughlan, Patrick Scott, Theo Bronkal, James Hastings, Oran McManamon, Conor Olsen, Keegan Heritage, Jack Molloy, Jamie Cawley. Coaches absent from photo: Andrew Olsen, Liam McDonnell and Rian Kilcoyne.



U14 Boys Michael Gavin

We started back training on 15th of January and finished the year on the 19th of October. We completed a total 78 sessions which included 25 games (combined U13 & U14 grades). We had a panel of 26 boys, which was a large group to form one team but not large enough to run two teams. We enjoyed a really successful year that allowed for players development and we won some competitions along the way.

Our first competition was the Division 4 league. We were in a group comprising of nine teams. There was a good standard of football. In the final, we overcame Louisburgh (after extra time) on a scoreline of 6-16 to 6-08.

Our second competition of the season was the West Mayo B Championship. We got to and were victorious in the final, again beating Louisburgh.

Our third and last competition for the 2024 season was the County U14 Championship. We again reached the final only to be beaten by St. Jarlaths (a merger of Ballyhaunis and Eastern Gaels at underage levels) in a double period of extra time.

The three finals that we participated in went to extra time. This gives an indication of just how competitive these games were.

Many thanks to the dedicated group of coaches - Darragh Keaveney, Adrian Gormonley, Padraic Walsh, Mick Gavin.

Thanks also to Maxol, Westport for their support and sponsorship of jerseys for the lads.





Kilmeena Boys U14 2024

Back row, left to right: Ryan Cannon, Sam McDonnell, Rian McManamon, Fionn Lavelle, Jacob Chambers, Lorcan Holland, Jason Lawless, Luke O'Donnell, Finn Mulchrone, Eoghan Smyth, Charlie McLoughlin, Alan Heanue, Donnachta McGauley, Michael Gannon.
 Front row, left to right: Ryan Walsh, Billy Lane, Alex Fahy, Michael F. Gormonley, Liam Quinn, Darragh Mulchrone (captain), Noah Coughlan, Bailey Browne, Jack Ivin, Lorcan Lane, Paul Joyce, Charlie Geoghegan.

U13 Boys Michael Gavin

We came together as the U13 group on the 5th of September and our season finished on the 19th October. We completed fifteen training sessions and competed in four games. We also participated in a blitz in Achill 19th October, to round off the season.

Overall, the coaches' observations are that these two groups (U13 and U14) have worked really hard all year and they are making steady progress. This group of players has demonstrated a good skill-set, so the future looks bright for Kilmeena football.

Many thanks to the dedicated coaches involved with this group - Darragh Keaveney, Adrian Gormonley, Padraic Walsh, Mick Gavin.

U13 players that competed in the West Mayo Skills Test were Fionn Lavelle, Paul Joyce, Mikey Gormonley and Charlie McLoughlin.



Kilmeena Boys U13 2024

Michael Gavin, James Heanue, Fionn Lavelle, Jaye Joyce, Ryan Walsh, Charlie McLoughlin, Eoghan Smyth, Paul Joyce, Michael Gannon, Rian McManamon, Oisín Martin, Sam McDonnell, Adrian Gormonley, Vinnie Gibbons.
 Front row: Rory Ryan, Fionn Sheridan, Alex Fahy, Bailey Browne, Bobby Lane, Zander Gibbons, Charlie Walsh, Evan Ryder, Michael F. Gormonley,



U16 Boys Barry Murphy

2024 was a challenging year for this U16 group and while we did endure many disappointing days out this season, we did enjoy some good ones too.

Due to timetable pressures on the clubhouse gym in February, we decided to start our strength and conditioning training in the community centre.

We were placed in Division 3 of the League. Our first game away to Tourmakeady on 16th March ended in defeat. We were also beaten by the other teams in our group - Swinford, The Neale, Naomh Padraig, Carras and Kiltimagh but the lads gave it their all in each game.

Due to low numbers in the Kilmeena Minor squad, a number of our players made themselves available for the Minor games, which were scheduled for Tuesday evenings. Also some of our players were involved in other sports on other days during the week and this meant that we couldn't train collectively as the U16 squad for the second part of the season. Notwithstanding this challenge, we managed to team up with the Minors' squad on Sunday mornings and this afforded many of our players the opportunity to train collectively with their own age group.

Our next campaign was the West Mayo C Championship and we were placed in Division D. This competition is run on a knock-out format. In our opening game, we were away to Burrishoole. A gritty performance and a win against our near neighbours ensured that we progressed to the semi-final. Our semi-final opponents in a home fixture would be Islandeady. It's amazing what a win can do - confidence and optimism surged within the group. The semi-final was a bruising affair but our boys prevailed and set up a final against Achill, to be played in Burrishoole.

A poor opening quarter for the Kilmeena lads, left us chasing the game. However, with five minutes to go before full time, we were back within three points of Achill. Alas, it was not to be and our boys could not close the gap. The result aside, the second half performance from the Kilmeena lads was heartening and the lads exited the competition with their heads held high.

Our final competition of the season was the County D Championship. We lost to Bonniconlon in the first round, on July 25th. A fantastic performance by the lads in the second round against Louisburgh left us in contention for a win, only to be denied by a free conceded in the last play of the game. We won our final game against Shrule/Glencorrib. Finishing third in our group meant we had a Shield to play for next. Our opponents in the semi-final, Burrishoole, couldn't field a team and therefore we progressed to the final. The final was played in Newport and our opponents were Islandeady. In our last game of the season, we came out second best.

We'd like to thank, Dave O'Malley, Sean Barret and Sean Ryder for so generously giving of their time to help coach the boys.

Management: Jim Cannon, Mike Slattery, Dave O'Malley, Sean Barrett, Sean Ryder and Barry Murphy.



Kilmeena U16 Boys 2024

Back row, left to right: Jim Cannon, Eoghan Cannon, Logan Heraty, Tadhg Daly, Jamie Durcan, Sean Keane, Robbie Murphy, Tom Cox, Kyle Mulchrone, Brendon Witzl, Alan Gannon, Alan Heanue, Kevin Hastings, Dave O'Malley, Sean Barrett, Barry Murphy. Front row, left to right: Mike Slattery, Sean Ryder, Jason Lawless, Felix Zeray, Dara McDonnell, Cian Moran, Adam Moran, Eoghan Smyth, Finn Mulchrone, Cormac Slattery, Jason Feehan, Alan Mortimer. Absent from photo: Tiernan Aherne and Lorcan Holland.



Féile 2024 Barry Murphy

On Saturday 11th May, in glorious sunshine, Kilmeena hosted a round of Group B games for Féile 2024. Kiltimagh and Burrishoole were our opponents on the day. After Burrishoole narrowly beat Kiltimagh in the first match, it was clear that Burrishoole was the team to beat if we were to have any chance of winning the group and therefore progressing to the County semi-final the following day in Began. Our first game was against Kiltimagh and right from the whistle our boys stamped their authority on the game, comfortably beating them 3-5 to 1-3. Next up were the neighbours, Burrishoole, and both teams knew that this was essentially the group 'final' - the winner of this game would progress to the semis. In a fiercely-contested game, Kilmeena were dogged in their defending and forward play and eventually emerged as winners on a scoreline of 1-2 to 0-3.

On Sunday in Began, we were drawn against Belmullet in the semi-final. We knew this was going to be a tough encounter and so it proved. Belmullet raced into an early lead, and after a couple of points from Kilmeena we trailed by three points at half time. Kilmeena levelled with an early goal in the second half but two quick breaks from Belmullet resulted in a goal and a point and from there we were chasing the game. One more point from Kilmeena meant we needed another goal to draw level again but time was simply not on our side and Belmullet emerged as winners with a three point margin - 1-2 to 1-5. Our boys were bitterly disappointed at the final whistle knowing that they hadn't reached the standards they had set for themselves the previous day. However, each and every member of the squad should be incredibly proud of their efforts and performances after a fantastic campaign. Their coaches (Jim Cannon, Dave O'Malley, Sean Barret and Barry Murphy) were delighted with them - well done lads!



Kilmeena Féile 2024 team

Front row, left to right: Billy Lane, Lorcan Lane, Liam Quinn, Lorcan Holland, Darragh Mulchrone, Felix Zeray, Cian Moran, Donnachta McGawley, Dara McDonnell, Eoghan Smyth, Noah Coughlan.

Back row, left to right: Barry Murphy, Ryan Cannon, Finn Mulchrone, Jim Cannon, Jason Feehan, Robbie Murphy, Tadhg Daly, Kevin Hastings, Tom Cox, Jamie Durkan, Alan Heanue, Dave O'Malley, Sean Barrett.



U15 Boys Barry Murphy

The first match of the U15 Grading League took place just one week following completion of the U14s' and U16s' season. With such a tight window between the competitions, we had only one training session to prepare for our first game against Achill at home. It was an easy victory for us, which in hindsight may have led to some complacency going into our next two games.

In our second game, a rescheduled fixture against Islandeady, we lost by three points. Two days later, we faced Tourmakeady. A poor first half performance by the Kilmeena lads left us with too much ground to make up in the second. Despite outscoring Tourmakeady by six points in a good second half, we lost the game by five points ensuring we would progress no further in the competition.

On the face of it, this was a disappointing campaign. However, there was enough evidence of the positive attitude and performances of this bunch of young men to suggest that they can make their mark in next season's U16 campaigns.

Management: Pat Coughlan, Kevin Lawless, Jim Cannon and Barry Murphy.



Kilmeena U15 Boys 2024

Front row, left to right: Jack Ivin, Darragh Mulchrone, Lorcan Holland, Billy Lane, Liam Quinn, Noah Coughlan, Cian Moran, Tom Cox, Lorcan Lane, Eoghan Smyth, Ryan Cannon.

Back row, left to right: Pat Coughlan, Jim Cannon, Finn Mulchrone, Jamie Durkan, Tadhg Daly, Robbie Murphy, Felix Zeray, Kevin Hastings, Alan Heanue, Jason Feehan, Jason Lawless, Donnachta McGawley, Kevin Lawless, Barry Murphy.

Absent from photo: Luke O'Donnell

U17 Boys Mike Slattery

The U17 boys commenced training in early September, following the conclusion of the U16 and U18 campaigns. We were placed into Division 4 of the Homeland U17 Grading League alongside Gaeil na Daibheadaí (an amalgamation of Mayo Gaels and Davitts), Charlestown Sarsfields and Swinford.

In our first outing, we were at home to a strong Gael na Daibheadaí side. A strong first half showing from the visitors left us with an insurmountable deficit. Despite a solid second half showing from the Kilmeena lads, the visitors came out on top on a score line of 3-5 to 5-10.

In the second round, we travelled to east Mayo to play Charlestown Sarsfields. We were without a number of our regulars for this encounter. In a game that ebbed and flowed throughout, we came up just short as it finished 2-12 to 2-8 in Fr. O'Hara Park. Special mention to Charlestown for the amazing newly developed pitch which was the finest surface the lads probably ever played on.



In our final group match, we once again ventured up the N5, this time to play Swinford. Kilmeena put in a strong performance on this outing, where everything seemed to click and we cruised to victory, on a fulltime score line of; 2-8 to 4-10.

Having lost our opening two games in the competition, we were of the understanding that we would not be progressing from the group. However, following Charlestown's loss of their final group game to Gael na Daibheadaí, there was a twist in the story. There was in fact a three way tie for second place in the group with Swinford, Charlestown and Kilmeena all on two points. A playoff was required to determine which team would take second place in the group.

We were drawn to face Swinford once more, just five days after our previous eight point victory over them. This game was played in Kilmeena, giving us home advantage. The winner of this game was then set to play Charlestown.

Under the lights in Kilmeena, a remarkable swing occurred as Swinford turned the tables and handed us a defeat on a score line of 1-10 to 4-11. The result meant that our season had drawn to a rather disappointing close.

A special mention must be given to the U15 lads who helped us out greatly, especially when our numbers were low at times due to injuries and other absences!

A big thanks to the all the lads for their dedication throughout this short campaign. We enjoyed working with them and fingers crossed we can build upon this next year, at the U18 grade and push on. Onwards and upwards!



Kilmeena U17 Boys 2024

Back row, left to right: Conor O'Malley (coach), Brendon Witzl, Patrick Feehan, Rory Kilcoyne, Kyle Mulchrone, Alan Gannon, Louie Corcoran, Alan Mortimer, Dean Staunton, Cormac O'Malley, Eoghan Cannon, Shane Lavelle, Padraig Moore (coach).

Front row, left to right: Mickey Murray (coach), Cian Moran, Darragh O'Grady, Aaron Murray, Kevin Hastings, Adam Moran, Cormac Slattery, Sean Keane, Alex Kenning.

Missing from Photo, Jamie Durkan, Robbie, Murphy, Logan Heraty, Mike Slattery (coach).



U18 Boys (Minors) Padraic Moore

Our Minors commenced training in mid-February, in preparation for the upcoming league division campaign.

Our first round game was away to Breaffy. In an evenly contested game, the spoils were shared on a final score line of 1 - 10 a piece. Round 2 was a home fixture, versus Ballintubber. This was a low scoring, rather dour affair, with the away side prevailing on a final score of 1-5 to 1-0. In the next round we travelled to Killalla to face Naomh Padraig. In what was a relatively high scoring game, we came out on the wrong side at the final whistle on a score line of 0-17 points to 1-17. It was in round 4 at home to Aughamore that we produced one of our best performances of the season to date. Unfortunately, we lost by the narrowest of margins on a score line of 2-10 to 2-09. Next we made the short journey to Newport to face the neighbours Burrishoole and produced a real gutsy performance where we won on a score line of 1-11 to 0-10. A home game versus Moy Davitts in round 6 was a pulsating encounter. Again, we were just piped at the final whistle, losing by 2 points (2-11 to 2-09). We lost our final (round 7) game away to Swinford, which ended our league campaign. We were however without a number of players for this fixture.

Naomh Padraig defeated Aughamore in a closely contested game, to win the league final.

In the West Mayo Minor Championship, we were drawn away to Ballintubber in the semi final and in a game that ebbed and flowed, it took extra time to separate the teams and we came away with a 3-13 to 0-20 win. A week later we faced a highly fancied Breaffy side. This was a highly entertaining clash and we produced our best performance of the season but still came up short on a score line of 1-12 to 2-07.

The final competition for our Minors was the County Championship. In round 1 we secured a solid victory at home to Hollymount Carramore on a scoreline of 2-15 to 0-09. Round 2 delivered a disappointing defeat against Ardnaree, on a scoreline of 1-15 to 2-05. The final group game was conceded by Erris St. Pats which meant we qualified for the County semi-final as runners up in our group. A County semi-final away to Belmullet turned out to be our last competitive game of the season. In a game that ebbed and flowed, we were always in contention, but we never fully took control of this contest. Ultimately, Belmullet ran out winners on a score line of 3-10 to 2-09.

In all our competitions, it was a case of what might have been as we were very competitive throughout the season.

Panel: Louis Corcoran, Rory Kilcoyne, Luke Durkan, Michael Regan, D.J. Keane, Dean Staunton, Alex Kenning, Declan Moore, Aaron Murray, Cormac O' Malley, Danny Cannon, Evan O'Grady, Aodhan Feehan, Patrick Feehan, Darragh O'Grady, Alan Mortimer, Kyle Mulchrone, Brendan Witzl, Cormac Slattery, Alan Gannon, Kevin Hastings, Logan Heraty, Eoghan Cannon, Sean Keane.

Management: Padraic Moore, Conor O' Malley, Mickey Murray.



Kilmeena Minors 2024

Back row, left to right; Padraic Moore, Cormac O'Malley, Luke Durkan, D J Keane, Micheal Regan, Kyle Mulchrone, Danny Cannon, Louie Corcoran, Dean Staunton, Alan Gannon, Patrick Feehan, Logan Heraty, Rory Kilcoyne, Brendon Witzl, Conor O'Malley.

Front row, left to right; Eoghan Cannon, Aaron Murray, Sean Keane, Kevin Hastings, Cormac Slattery, Evan O'Grady, Alex Kenning, Aodhan Feehan, Declan Moore, Mickie Murray.



U21s John Doherty

At the end of the year our Under 21s embarked on their campaign in the U21 B Championship. This was a young squad with many of the team still around next year. The team had a good sprinkling of players who were Senior first team regulars with many from the Minor squad filling out the panel.

Ultimately the team were to reach the quarter final having played 4 games, which was a good return of games.

We started off with a fairly straightforward win at home to Burrishoole. It was a game where we took some time to get on top, but when we did, a flurry of scores eased the Kilmeena lads to a comprehensive win. This brought us to another home game against Erris St Pats. The game was played in conditions which gradually deteriorated throughout the game. It was a tough battle against a physically powerful team with Erris winning out by 3 points in the end.

This brought us into the back door where we met Breaffy again at home. This was a real ding dong battle with little between the teams throughout the game. Towards the end of normal time, it looked like Kilmeena had done enough to win but a spirited Breaffy fightback led to 3 points in injury time to bring the game to extra time. A flurry of points in the second period of extra time saw Kilmeena run out comfortable winners. Our quarter final away to Aghamore was once again a tight affair with some good football on display from both teams. Midway through the second half Aghamore scored two crucial goals to open up a gap which Kilmeena couldn't bridge.

This campaign was a really good run out for this group of players, and their performances throughout the championship augurs well for the pool of talent coming through into senior ranks



Kilmeena U21s 2024

Back row, left to right; Brian Durkan, Evan O'Grady, Darragh Slattery, Sean Gallagher, Ben Lennon, Cormac O'Malley, Evan O'Donnell, Chris McGlynn, Josh Browne, Conor Kilbane, Donal Hastings, Dean Staunton.

Front row, left to right; Alex Kenning, Micheál Regan, Conor Feehan, Aaron Murray, Ciarán Kilcoyne, Colin Hastings, Liam Moore, Luke Durkan, Jack Mulchrone, DJ Keane, Keelan Corcoran.

Seniors John Doherty

For this group of players and for the club, this year was to be the first foray into the top tier of football in Mayo in both league and championship. An excellent season in 2023 had been rewarded with a place in the Senior Championship and in Division 1B of the League. Ultimately it was to be a season of some disappointment with relegation in both League and Championship, but there are so many positives to be taken from this year's campaign.

The first team squad is already brimming with exceptional youthful talent and the likes of Luke Durkan, Ciaran Kilcoyne, Liam Moore, Jack Mulchrone, Darragh Slattery, Colin Hastings, Conor Kelly, Evan O'Donnell and Ronan O'Donnell who all made huge strides this year in cementing down places in or near the first team.



The likes of John Ryan, Sean Ryder, Jack Carney, Stephen Staunton, Keith Joyce, Johnny McGlynn, and John Keane all provided huge leadership on the pitch. They are all by no means veterans and still have their best years ahead of them. Paul Groden, Darragh Keaveney, Neilly Duffy and Caolach Halligan brought their great experience to bear, and made a huge contribution to the team. Add in then all the additional talent within the Squad, everything is indeed in a very healthy position going forward.

The season could be categorised as a season of what ifs or maybes. Of course, we had our share of bad luck, but senior football can be cruel. And maybe on too many occasions, that inexperience of senior football just caught up with us. We can easily list the days and games where we just came up short for example conceding the last minute goal against Moy Davitts in the league, the width of a goalpost in the penalty shoot out against Mayo Gaels in the Championship, the tremendous fight back against Ballintubber in the Championship only to be thwarted at the death.

These and many more examples are illustrations of the dice not falling our way, but in those games and on other occasions, we had opportunities when on top, to kill those games off, and we didn't do it.

However, there are so many other highlights throughout the year which over the Winter will bring a warm glow to the heart. The excellent performances in the league against Kiltane and Balla were demonstrations of the collective ability in this team. Who will ever forget our opening Championship tilt away to Breaffy in front of a huge crowd, where the sense of having arrived with the major powers had arrived. The performance that day showed so much promise as did our first half against Aghamore and our second half comeback against the might of Ballintubber only to fall short at the end.

If anyone doubted our ability to dine at the top table, the match against Mayo Gaels surely assuaged those sceptics. A game where we showed tremendous character and belief, and go toe to toe with a seasoned team over 80 minutes and beyond, demonstrated the huge character in this squad of players.

By the time we played Belmullet in the play off final, we had exhausted our resources, and were defeated on the day by a more wily and experienced team.

The final whistle brought the curtain down on a topsy turvy season and indeed on four glorious years. However, a return to Intermediate ranks awaits, and while there are no certainties, there is one truth in that this group of exceptional footballers will once again tilt their heads into the challenge ahead and give whatever they can for the parish and the jersey.



Kilmeena Men Seniors 2024

Back row, left to right: Niall Feehan, Tomás Gill, Kevin Ryder, Evan O'Donnell, Jack Carney, Paul Groden, Caolach Halligan, Stephen Staunton, Colin Hastings, Liam Moore, John Keane, Neil Duffy.

Front row, left to right: Conor Kilbane, Darragh Slattery, Luke Durkan, Ronan O'Donnell, Darragh Keaveney, Sean Ryder, John Ryan, Keith Joyce, Jack Mulchrone, Ciarán Kilcoyne.



Senior B John Doherty

The highlight of the year for this group was winning the West Mayo Junior B title. We had made it to the previous two finals, but on this occasion we would go one better. The campaign started off with our old rivals Parke where we had a handy enough victory. This was followed up by another big win over Tourmakeady, and a walkover against Breaffy ensured we topped the group section.

This brought us to a semi final against Burrishoole where we won out with another good win. History was to repeat itself with another final pairing with Parke. This time we were to lift the trophy with a six point victory, and just reward for this group of players.

Our County Championship campaign saw us placed in the Junior B Championship. We managed to go all the way to the Semi finals losing to a very strong Parke team.

On the way we powered through the group section with wins against Mayo Gaels, Burrishoole, and Belmullet. This brought to us a quarter final against Balla where in a high scoring game we eased through by two points.

In our Cusack Cup campaign, we started off with a 6 point victory away to Parke B team. This brought us to a semi final against Tourmakeady first team which we lost by 6 points.

In the league, we were placed in a very challenging Division 3A. In this division we were up against 7 clubs who would be fielding their first teams. In the campaign we had a good win over Moygownagh, and a battling draw against Ballintubber B. We lost out by narrow margins to Northern Gaels, Tourmakeady, Ballycroy, and Westport B.

We entered a relegation play off against Balla , which we won to maintain our Div 3 status for next season. This league campaign was a highly creditable campaign given the fact that for most games, many regulars were pulled into the Senior team on a number of weekends.

The focus of the B team is always on the development of the younger players in the team, and giving them the opportunity to ease into adult football. For many of the squad they are in their first few seasons of adult football, so these experiences are vital in their development as senior footballers.



U10 Girls John Moore

It's been all go for our U10 girls since we started out on a cold damp April evening. We had 24 girls attending the first evening of training and we had 24 for our last training session in early October. Our first few weeks involved a mixture of working on the basic skills such as catch, kick and fist passing and some fun games to see what the skill levels were. It was clear from the start that we had a very enthusiastic bunch of kids that enjoyed the training sessions. The girls provided us with positive feedback and suggestions throughout the year, on additional fun games and drills we could introduce, to make training more enjoyable and fun while also developing the fundamental skills.

Our first game was a mini Blitz where we hosted Burishoole and Islandeady. We fielded two teams to ensure all the kids got full game time. It was some of girls' first time wearing the Kilmeena jerseys so they were all very excited to wear the club colours. We were competitive in all the games and the girls learned lots and improved with each game. It was fantastic to see a few of the girls that appeared very quiet in our first few training sessions getting stuck in and really involved in the play.

Over the course of the season the girls got to play in 14 blitz games. We fielded two teams on most of the match days, which involved playing three or four short games. As the season went on, the group really developed as a team with every game. With regular games against Burishoole, Westport and Islandeady, the rivalry was evident even without the scores been kept! The girls had many highlights over the season, the Connacht blitz probably being the high point. Our two teams got to play games against teams from Silgo, Leitrim and Roscommon. They were all buzzing getting to play in the Dome. Swapping training for a pizza evening was also a big hit.

On behalf of the coaches I would like to thank all the parents that helped throughout the year and ensured the girls attended training sessions and matches.

U10 Coaches 2024: Sheila Bohan, Mags Ryder, Niamh Martin, Claire Mongey and John Moore.



Kilmeena U10 Girls 2024

Back row, left to right: John Moore, Sheila Bohan, Lily Rose Cawley, Holly Hastings, Sabhdh Martin, Clíodhna Ryder, Cara Ivin, Sofie Hopkins, Grace Moore, Erin Hughes, Annie Mullarkey, Emma Mongey, Katie Mc Kenna, Mags Ryder.

Front row, left to right: Molly Joyce, Lucy Bourke, Annie Cawley, Iris Kaye, Lilly Sheridan, Ava Bourke, Kayla Armstrong, Orla Gallagher, Aoibheann Cawley, Shauna Mullarkey.

Missing from photo: Aoibheann Hyland, Zara Cullen & Róisín Goggins.



U12 Girls Richie Goggins

The Under 12 girls began training on Wednesday 13th March with nine players. As we cast the net wider to bolster our numbers, we ended up with a squad of 17 as the year progressed.

Some of our early games fell foul of the awful weather and had to be postponed. We finally got going, in an away fixture versus Tourmakeady. Following a Titanic battle, a stronger Tourmakeady side came out on top. This was followed by a trip to Ballindine to play against Davitts on a scorching hot evening where the home side used their large panel to great effect. Next up was a home tie with Kilmaine followed by a home game with Achill and our hard work in training delivered a well-deserved win against Achill.

Our next games took us to Tooreen to face Aghamore. This was followed by a home tie with Ballyhaunis. Our final competitive game of the season pitted us against Davitts once again, this time in the luxurious surrounds of the Connacht COE in Bekan for the LGFA Under 12 Finals weekend. Our final outing of the season was an exhibition match at half time during the LGFA Junior Championship game. This was a great experience for our girls to play in front of a large crowd!

Throughout the season the focus has been on improvement and equal participation for all of our players. This philosophy has served our group well and has seen a great improvement in participation and skill levels.

A huge thank you to Lesley, Trish and Sinead for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year and a massive thanks to Sinead who organised the sponsorship of fantastic tops from the Castlecourt Hotel for our players. Thank you to the parents who travelled all over the county to support our young footballers.



Kilmeena U12 Girls 2024

Back row, left to right: Ellen McDonagh, Kate Cawley, Ella Cawley, Éabha Feehan, Eleanor Munro, Amy Joyce, Sheena Cawley.
Front row, left to right: Éabha Goggins, Lauren Munro, Sadhbh McGauley, Aoife Durkan, Grace Cunningham, Millie Chambers.



Under 12 Girls pictured in tops sponsored by The Castlecourt Hotel, Westport.

Back row, left to right: Kate Cawley, Éabha Feehan, Eleanor Munro, Amy Joyce, Lauren Munro, Caoimhe Creaby, Holly Fortune-Cribbin, Ellen McDonagh.
Front row, left to right: Ella Cawley, Éabha Goggins, Sadhbh McGauley, Sheena Cawley, Grace Cunningham, Millie Chambers, Bethany Staunton, Faith Duffy.
Missing from photo, Aoife Durkan,



U13 Girls Mairéad Durkan

The U13's began their 2024 season on 22nd July with 23 girls in the panel. This was a lengthy competition designed as a grading league for the U14 2025 season. It was divided into three stages consisting of nine games in total, followed by the knockout stages.

We were very competitive through the stages. We won most of our games and this qualified us for a home semi-final versus Aghamore. The semi-final was possibly the highlight of our season, proving to be our best performance of the year. The girls played brilliantly in the lovely Autumn sunshine, with a combination of free-flowing attacking football and support play and their work rate was a joy to watch.

Our reward was reaching the Final, where we would play Achill. The Final took place at COE Began, an early morning fixture on Saturday 18th October. This was always going to be a tough assignment and so it proved. Both teams went at it hammer and tongs. Kilmeena had the lion's share of the possession but at times we struggled to break through Achill's defence. The game was nip and tuck throughout. Kilmeena hit the net in the second half putting us up by 2 going down the home straight. However, Achill answered with one of their own on the other end.

It was a frantic contest where we tried desperately to forge out that crucial equalising point but unfortunately, we ran out of time and Achill brought home the silverware on this occasion!

The disappointment was immense - which is a testament to the conviction and determination of these young ladies!

On reflection we are very happy with the season, we played a total of 27 games.

A huge thanks to the girls for an enjoyable season and their commitment throughout the year.

Thanks also to the parents for their support in facilitating all the training sessions and games.



Kilmeena U13 Girls 2024

Back row, left to right: Kate Cawley, Eleanor Munroe, Éabha Feehan, Lauren Munroe, Aliesha Malone, Freya Higgins, Emma Gannon, Florence O'Toole, Shauna Durkan, Rachiel Feehan, Chloe Monaghan, Layla Staunton Creaby,
Front row, left to right: Éabha Goggins, Ella Cawley, Sheena Cawley, Aisling Lawless, Emily Fahy, Molly Mulchrone, Muirinn Mulchrone, Cailín Mc Philips, Aoife Durkan, Faith Duffy and Holly Fortune.



U14 Girls Mairéad Durkan

The U14's started their season on March 4th, with 20 girls registered. There was a great commitment to training, with superb turnout and punctually at all sessions.

The league started on 18th March. Our games were scheduled for every second week. We were reasonably competitive throughout the league campaign, falling just short in our Semi-Final, suffering a home defeat to Louisburgh.

As the weeks rolled on, the benefits of the training were becoming more evident. Our championship began on 21st June. We competed very strong in Division 4 winning all our games. This gave us a home Semi-Final on 12th July against Kilmoremy B. On the day we were without a few of our players but, this did not deter these young Kilmeena ladies and they rose to the challenge on hand.

The girls took this game on with their usual gusto and determination and played some fine football, battling hard in all areas of the field. The speed and pace of the game was evident and we got hit with some early goals. However our girls never gave up and fought valiantly.

Ultimately, Kilmoremy held the stronger hand and prevailed on this occasion.

We trained for two futher sessions after the Semi-Final, before turning our attention to U13 and U15 campaigns.

Coaches: Mairéad Durkan, Perer Mortimer and Paul Fahy.



Kilmeena U14 Girls 2024

Back row, left to right: Cara Mongey, Ellie Mai Keane, Tegan Muldoon, Grainne Feehan, Muirinn Mulchrone, Shauna Durkan, Katie Moran, Layla Staunton-Creaby, Emma Gannon, Rachiel Feehan.

Front row, left to right: Cora Hughes, Florence O'Toole, Aisling Lawless, Emily Fahy, Molly Mulchrone, Aliesha Malone and Chloe Monaghan.

Missing from photo: Caillin McPhillips, Freya Higgins and Niamh McNally.



U15 Girls Mairéad Durkan

Our U15 squad was made up predominately of U13 and U14 girls. We competed in Division 5 of a mini-league. This mini league campaign consisted of 5 games. These were played on Friday evenings beginning on 2nd August.

We played Kilcomman, Kilmoremy B, Westport C, Kiltimagh and Castlebar A in a competition that involved a lot of away games and associated travelling!

We were quite competitive and won 3 out of our 5 group games. This put us through to a Semi-Final away to Kiltimagh.

Having played them earlier in this league we were very aware it was going to be a tall order to get a result here. So, on a very wet Friday evening we made the trip to Kiltimagh. The young Kilmeena team struggled to contain an older physically stronger Kiltimagh side and Kiltimagh ran out deserving winners. However, neither the rain nor the loss dampened the traditional Friday evening sing song on the bus trip home!

Coaches: Mairéad Durkan, Peter Mortimer and Paul Fahy.



Kilmeena U15 Girls 2024

Back row, left to right: Shauna Durkan, Grainne Feehan, Rachel Feehan, Emma Gannon, Muirinn Mulchrone, Julie O'Grady, Katie Moran, Leah Gavin Walsh, Niamh McNally, Chloe Monaghan, Tegan Muldoon.

Front row, left to right: Layla Staunton Creaby, Aisling Lawless, Emily Fahy, Molly Mulchrone, Florence O'Toole, Caillín McPhilips, Cora Hughes.

Missing from photo: Ellie Mai Keane, Cara Mongey and Freya Higgins.



Minor Ladies Lucy O'Malley

2024 was a challenging year for the Kilmeena Minor Ladies. The team were a bit shy on numbers but with no U16 team for 2024, we had younger girls chomping at the bit for some competitive football.

During the league, the players took on Ballyhaunis, Knockmore and Islandeady in the group stage. They advanced to the semi-final, but Carnacon proved too strong for the west Mayo girls.

The team and management regrouped for championship. They battled Louisburgh, Ballinrobe and Kiltimagh in the group and moved on to the shield final. With the loss of our full forward Amy Carney late in the group stage, the girls would have to rally to pull this one out of the bag!

The Shield Final was scheduled for The Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence in Began. They say goals win games and this was true for our minor ladies, who kept their cool against Kiltimagh to win comfortably on a scoreline of 7-09 to 2-09.

Thanks to all the girls for their effort and commitment during the year. Special thanks to the younger girls who stepped up to the challenge, without whom we would not have been able to field a team.

Management team: John O'Grady, Dave Ingham, Michelle Gavin, Lucy O'Malley.



Kilmeena Minor Ladies 2024

Back row, left to right: Michelle Gavin, David Ingham, Lisa Hastings, Emma Barrett, Katie Moran, Áine Gallagher, Éabha Carney, Aoife Gannon, Siofra Hughes, Catherine Lawless, Laura Ingham, John O'Grady.

Front row, left to right: Meadh McNally, Eva Mulchrone, Laura O'Grady, Katie Moran, Julie O'Grady, Leah Walsh, Ciara Kelly, Ruby Lane.
Missing from photo: Cara Mongey, Amy Carney.



Junior Ladies Lucy O'Malley

Training got underway in April and the ladies used the Frank Kelly Memorial League to shake off the Winter cobwebs.

Things heated up in the League with the girls winning all their group games which included Ballinrobe, Tourmakeady and Claremorris B. However, it was not to be for the women in the semi-final against old rivals Kiltimagh.



The Junior Ladies take team bonding very seriously, and this year we got off to a 'cracking' start, with an Easter-themed egg and spoon race and a visit from the Easter Bunny. With early starts on Sunday mornings, regular breakfast mornings were a welcome treat. We were also treated to John's cooking for a lovely BBQ at the Buckfield Inn. Everyone lived to tell the tale! On the August Bank Holiday weekend the girls travelled to Clare Island for the Martin Jamesy Memorial Cup, where they took on Clare Island and Roger Casements to bring

home the cup!

In September, the squad turned their focus to the championship, where they were kitted out in a new set of jerseys, kindly sponsored by local business, Beirne Express. With the welcome return of Lisa, Abby and Ciara, hopes were high.



The team played Parke KC, Breaffy and Cill Comain in the group stage of the championship and progressed to the Championship Shield Semi-Final. The team battled hard in the semi-final against their closest rivals, Westport B on home turf, and came out on top with a 1 point victory, securing their Junior A status for 2025. Unfortunately, we were on the wrong side when the final whistle was blown in the shield final, and we were defeated by a strong side, The Neale.

A huge thanks to our management team this year, John O'Grady and Philip Leyden. Also, a special shoutout to our team mascots, Réalta and Faolán Loftus!

Last but not least, the team would like to thank Beirne Express for their continued support to our ladies team over the last number of years. It is really appreciated.



Kilmeena Junior Ladies 2024

Back row, left to right: John O'Grady, Emma-Jane Gill, Amy Carney, Katie Hogan, Mags Ryder, Síofra Hughes, Susannah Horgan, Julia Szejner, Katie Moran, Éabha Carney, Annie Morrin, Sheila Bohan, Sinéad Hughes.

Front row, left to right: Aoife Gannon, Lisa Hastings, Ruby Lane, Laura O'Grady, Leah Walsh, Réalta Loftus, Ciara Kelly, Julie O'Grady, Eva Mulchrone, Laura Kelly, Lucy O'Malley, Rachel Keane, Laura Ingham



Cúl Camp 2024



Kellogg's Cúl Camp returned to Kilmeena GAA Club in late July this year. It's that time of year when thousands of children flock to GAA grounds around the country and immerse themselves in gaelic games for an entire week. From sporadically organised camps run by pioneering GAA clubs to anticipated annual events, Cúl Camps have become a national phenomenon.

The camps are designed to be a pleasant experience which encourages children to achieve goals, creates a sense of community and friendship, improve well-being, and contributes to the participants' overall development, while taking a gaelic games-based approach.

Since the 1980s, GAA Cúl Camps have been the staple of Irish summers for thousands of children. The week-long camps are an important form of organised GAA activity for children and their popularity has increased steadily. Providing a summer camp experience that coincides with the growth of the GAA itself is a consistent challenge not only because of an increasing market of summer activities for children but also because it must satisfy the expectations of participants and parents alike.

This year we had 135 children attend Cúl Camp in Kilmeena. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Eoin Sweeney and Emma-Jane Gill (Camp Co-ordinator) who put in a huge amount of work to make sure the week ran smoothly. We would also like to extend a huge thank you to all the other coaches and assistants who were brilliant with the children. Last but by no means least, thank you to our special guest, Mayo GAA star, Fergal Boland. Fergal was extremely kind and patient with all the children answering questions and signing autographs, which was very much appreciated.

Kilmeena Rounders Report Stephen Cox

2024 was an exceptional year for Kilmeena GAA Rounders, marked by historic victories, growth across all age groups, and an unwavering commitment to the sport. In just our third year of competition, we achieved significant milestones with teams in four major competitions. Our Mixed Intermediate team claimed their second consecutive All-Ireland Championship, our Junior Ladies clinched the Ulster Junior Cup for the second year running, and our Intermediate Men's team reached the All-Ireland semi-finals. Add to this our expanding youth programme, and it's clear that Rounders is thriving in Kilmeena.

Strategic Goals for the Future

At the start of the year, we embarked on a long-term strategic plan to ensure sustained development and success. Our top priority was to elevate our Mixed team to Senior Championship status, a goal we proudly accomplished with our All-Ireland win this year. The strategic plan focuses on developing our Ladies Championship team, increasing underage involvement, and expanding membership under the GAA Healthy Clubs initiative, with the assistance of rounder's expertise to boost the performance of our adult teams. These goals will guide us as we continue to grow and strive for excellence.

Winter League Campaign

The 2023/24 Winter League proved a gruelling test of endurance, with games played in freezing conditions from November to February. We kicked off the league with a thrilling 18-17 win over Michael Glaveys (Roscommon) in November, followed by a dominant 10-0 victory against Mayo Gaels in January. February was a mixed month, as we narrowly lost 12-11 to Kilmore (Roscommon) before bouncing back with a 25-21 win over Elphin (Roscommon). In the semi-finals, Kilmeena defeated Galway City Rapparees, last year's Junior All-Ireland rivals, to reach the final. Unfortunately, we lost to Breaffy in the delayed final in late June, but the experience gained in such a challenging competition was invaluable. Michael Sheridan was the stand-out player of the day with impressive fielding and batting success earning him Player of the Match in the final.

Intermediate Mixed Team - All-Ireland Champions

The highlight of our season was undoubtedly the Intermediate Mixed team's second consecutive All-Ireland Championship victory at the Meath Centre of Excellence. This is only our third year competing in the Mixed Championship, making the achievement even more remarkable. Led by captain Pat Coughlan, who passionately led from the front, the team showed exceptional skill and composure throughout the season. The campaign kicked off with a resounding 32-5 win over Erne Eagles (Cavan) in May, followed by a 37-12 victory against Athenry (Galway). Later that month having secured our spot in the semi-finals, we overcame Emo (Laois) to book our place in the final.

In a hard-fought All-Ireland final against Raheen of Wexford, Kilmeena once again displayed their grit, winning the match 10-8, bringing the coveted cup home across the Shannon, and returning to bonfires and celebrations across the parish. Pat Coughlan was awarded Player of the Match for his impressive scoring and fielding in the finals to bring Kilmeena over the finishing line victorious. This victory not only capped a remarkable season but also secured Kilmeena's place in the fiercely competitive Senior Mixed Championship next year, where we will face the best teams in the country.

Junior Ladies Team - Ulster Junior Cup Winners

Led by the driving force of captain Catriona Olsen, the Junior Ladies team had a standout debut championship season, with wins over Kilmore and Elphin of Roscomon, the ladies made it to the All-Ireland quarter-finals, where they were narrowly defeated by eventual champions Emo (Laois). The highlight of the season was crowned by their second consecutive Ulster Junior Cup win where they secured three wins





Mens Intermediate Team 2024



Junior Ladies Ulster Cup Winners 2024



Tommy Hoban, Intermediate All Star 2024

in the group stage against three strong opponents: Drumhown GAA and Inniskeen GAA from Monaghan, and Carryduff GAA from Down. In the semi-final, they battled St Treas of Derry in a nail-biting game that ended 8-7 in our favour. In the final, they recorded a second win against Inniskeen with an impressive display of batting and fielding, winning the final 15-1. Irene Kaye was awarded the Player of the Match award for her impressive display of fielding and outwitting the opposition with her batting in the final. This back-to-back victory in the Ulster Cup is a testament to the dedication, skill and potential of our Junior Ladies.

Intermediate Men's Team - All-Ireland Semi-Finalists

Our Intermediate Men's team also had a remarkable season, reaching the All-Ireland semi-finals in only their second year. The team started their campaign in May with an 18-11 victory over Galway City Rapparees. In July, a hard-fought 11-6 win against St Clares (Cavan) secured their place in the semi-finals. Unfortunately, they were narrowly defeated by Fenagh of Wexford in a tough contest. Nonetheless, the men's team has shown significant growth, and we are excited to see how they will build on this success next season.

Underage Development - The Future of Kilmeena Rounders

One of the club's most exciting developments this year was the start of our underage programmes. Several "Try Rounders" sessions attracted enthusiastic young players, and our Under-14 boys entered the Connacht Cup, securing their first-ever match win. The growth of underage rounders is a key part of our long-term vision, and we are confident that these young athletes will form the foundation of future Kilmeena teams. Nurturing the enthusiasm and talent on display among our younger players will ensure that the future of rounders in West Mayo is bright.

Connacht Cup Victory and More Silverware

Our last major event of the season saw Kilmeena bring home more silverware from the Connacht Cup in October. Our Mixed team emerged victorious, beating Kilmore (Roscommon) in the Plate Final after strong wins over Athenry (Galway) and Elphin (Roscommon). A great performance from Joanne McTaggart on the day saw her win a well-deserved Best Female Newcomer award. A tough loss to Galway City Rapparees kept us out of the Cup Final, but it was a great way to round off the season.

Tommy Hoban's All-Star Award

The icing on the cake came when our very own Tommy Hoban was recognised for his incredible performances throughout the year by winning the All-Ireland Men's Intermediate All-Star award! Tommy's exceptional bowling, batting, and leadership have been instrumental in our success, and this accolade is a testament to his hard work and talent. The award, presented at the GAA Rounders All-Star ceremony in Cavan, was a proud moment for Tommy and Kilmeena.

Thanks and Welcoming New Members

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who has supported Kilmeena Rounders throughout this incredible season. Special thanks to our sponsors, WestNet Broadband, who generously provided a new set of white jerseys for our three teams, allowing us to take to the field in style, especially for the days playing multiple games in inclement conditions, and Sheridan's Centra, Newport who provided much needed match-day food and drinks to sustain us during the season. We also extend our gratitude to the players, managers, selectors, committee members, supporters, and parents for their commitment, and to Kilmeena GAA club for their continued backing and belief in rounders as an integral part of our Gaelic games community. Special thanks go to Fionnuala Lynch from Breaffy GAA Rounders, whose expertise and support have been invaluable.

As we look forward to 2025, we welcome new members to join us. Whether you're an experienced player or just curious about rounders, we encourage you to get involved through our open-door policy and "Try Rounders" sessions. Kilmeena GAA Rounders is more than just a club—it's a community. We look forward to an even more successful season next year as we continue to grow, compete, and strive for excellence in every aspect of the game. Ní neart go cur le chéile - there is no strength without unity. Here's to more exciting times ahead for Kilmeena GAA Rounders!



Bord na nÓg Presentations Photos by Martin McIntyre



U14 Division 4 County League and Division 3 West Mayo Championship Winners 2024

Back row, left to right: Adrian Gormonley, Alan Heanue, Liam Quinn, Lorcan Holland, Rian McManamon, Donnachta McGauley, Jacob Chambers, Fionn Lavelle, Noah Coughlan, Finn Mulchrone, Eoghan Smyth, Charlie McLoughlin Jason Lawless, Padraic Walsh.
 Front row, left to right: Michael Gavin, Paul Joyce, Ryan Walsh, Michael F. Gormonley, Darragh Mulchrone, Jack Carney, Michael Gannon, Lorcan Lane, Sam McDonnell, Billy Lane
 Missing from photo: Ryan Cannon, Charlie Geoghegan, Bailey Browne, Luke O'Donnell, Jack Ivin, Alex Fahy



The event was held in the Domne Suite of the Castlecourt Hotel on November 10th



Local League Mulloy Cup Winners

pictured with Jack Mulloy and their manager Sinéad McGauley
 Left to right: Kate McKenna, Emma Mongey, Amy Joyce, Rachel Feehan, Kate Cawley, Sadhbh McGauley, Aleisha Malone, Emily Fahy.
 Missing from photo: Molly Joyce.



Local League Mulloy Cup Runners Up pictured with Mags Sheridan
 Left to right: Lauren Munroe, Layla Staunton, Faith Duffy, Eleanor Munroe, Éabha Goggins, Emma Gannon, Grace Moore, Aoibhinn Hyland.
 Missing from photo: Orla Gallagher.



Local League Sean Kelly Cup Winners pictured with their manager Rachel Gibbons
 Left to right: Kayla Armstrong, Holly Hastings, Aoife Durkan, Ella Cawley, Cailín McPhilips, Shauna Durkan, Lily Sheridan.
 Missing from photo: Lily Rose Cawley, Caoimhe Creaby.



Local League Sean Kelly Cup Runners Up pictured with Shelia Bohan
 Left to right: Muireann Mulchrone, Sophie Hopkins, Annie Cawley, Bethany Staunton, Holly Fortune, Freya Higgins, Chloe Monaghan.
 Missing from photo: Ava Bourke, Annie Mullarkey, Zara Cullen.



U10 Boys pictured with Jack Carney and their managers Sean Kelly, Pat Mulchrone and Declan Ryan



Local League U10s Ryan Cup Winners pictured with manager Declan Ryan and representing the sponsor of the Ryan Cup, Paul Ryan
Sitting, left to right: Aran Cawley, Ollie Joyce, James Lawless, Faolán Loftus, Jack Cawley, Ruairi O'Malley.
Front, left to right: Cillian Cox, Lorcan Monaghan and Ronan Hyland.



Local League U10s Ryan Cup 2nd Place pictured with their manager Pat Mulchrone
Left to right: Jack Sheridan, Cian Joyce, Conor Henry, Callum Coughlan, Aodán Gildea, James Sheridan, Noah Walsh.
Missing from photo: Jesse Lee Durcan.



Local League U10s Ryan Cup 3rd Place pictured with their manager Frank Sheridan
Left to right: Ethan Armstrong, James Moore, Zac Walsh, Josh Moran, Gary Feehan, James Cawley, Ciarán Kelly. Missing from picture Finbar Dempsey and Kian McGlynn.



Local League U10s Ryan Cup 4th Place pictured with their manager Sean Kelly
Left to right: Jack O'Malley, Oisín Corcoran, Rowan Goggins, Matthew Gormonley, Evan Gilger, Cillian Mongey.
Missing from photo; Reuben Coughlan, Eamonn Óg Coyne, Keegan Heritage.



Local League U13 Quinn Cup Winners pictured with manager Liam McDonnell and Abbi Quinn, representing the Quinn family
Left to right: Paul Joyce, Fionn Lavelle, Ruairi Ryan, Cody Coughlan, Patrick Scott, Jamie Cawley.
Missing from photo: Oisín Martin, Alex Fahy and Keegan Heritage.



Local League U13 Quinn Cup Runners Up pictured with manager Brian McManamon
Sitting, left to right: Michael F. Gormonley, Ruairi O'Donnell, Jack Mulloy, Rian McManamon, Evan Ryder, Bobby Lane.
Front, left to right: Charlie Walsh, Oran McManamon, Joe Durkan.
Missing from picture Theo Bronkal and Jamie Hopkins



Boys U13 Local League Declan Gibbons Memorial Cup Winners pictured with the sponsor Austin Gibbons and manager Liam Gilger
Left to right: Jacob Chambers, Jaye Joyce, Ryan Walsh, Eoghan Smyth, Zander Gibbons, Lochlann Mulchrone, Brendan Smyth, Conor Olsen, Tommy Cannon.



Local League U13 Declan Gibbons Memorial Cup Runners Up pictured with manager Brian McManamon
Left to right: Oskar Dziubinski, Michael Gannon, Sam McDonnell, James Hastings, James Heanue, Caolan McLoughlin, Finn Sheridan.
Missing from picture Charlie McLoughlin, Thomas Griffin, Bailey Browne.

Bord na nÓg Presentations

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



Girls U12 Player of The Year 2024 Lauren Munroe pictured with Jack Carney (Mayo Senior Player)



Girls U13 Player of The Year 2024 Cailín McPhillips pictured receiving her trophy from Mayo Senior Player Jack Carney



Girls U14 Player of The Year 2024 Gráinne Feehan pictured receiving her trophy from Mayo Senior Player Jack Carney



U15 Girls Player of The Year 2024 Katie Moran receiving her trophy from Mayo Senior Player Jack Carney





Boys U12 Player of The Year 2024 Finn Sheridan pictured with Jack Carney (Mayo Senior Player)



Boys U13 Player of The Year 2024 Paul Joyce pictured receiving his trophy from Mayo Senior Player Jack Carney



Boys U14 Player of The Year 2024 Alan Heanue pictured receiving his trophy from Mayo Senior Player Jack Carney



Boys U15s Player of The Year 2024 Cian Moran pictured receiving his trophy from Mayo Senior Player Jack Carney



Boys U16 Player of The Year 2024 Brendon Witzl receiving his trophy from Jack Carney Mayo Senior Player



U17 Player of The Year 2024 Dean Staunton receiving his trophy from Mayo Senior Player Jack Carney



Local Leagues 2024

Our boys and girls local leagues were played in September after everyone had returned back to school and while the weather was still favourable. The boys had eight teams which were split into two groups of four, one group of U10's and the other U13's. Games were played in a round robin format over two evenings with the finals played on the second evening.

The Declan Gibbons Memorial cup was won by the Yellow Team who were managed by Declan Duffy. The Willie Quinn Memorial cup was won by the Red team who were managed by Liam McDonnell. The Ryan Cup was won by the White team who were managed by Declan Ryan.

The girls local league had four teams and was played on a Saturday afternoon in a round robin format, followed by two finals. The Padraic Mulloy Memorial Cup was won by the Black team who were managed by Sinead McCauley. The Kelly Memorial Perpetual Cup was won by the Red team who were managed by Rachel Gibbons.

The conclusion of both local leagues were followed by ice cream for all involved, which was thoroughly enjoyed. A huge thanks to all who set up the pitches, managed the teams, refereed the games and to the parents who came to support. Particular thanks goes to our sponsors who came down to present the silverware to the winning captains. We are so appreciative of your support and generosity.





KILMEENA GAA CLUB DINNER DANCE 2024

Photos by Conor McKeown



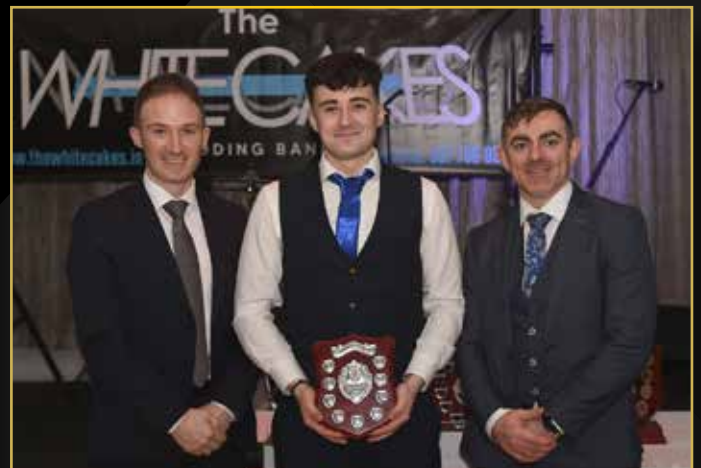
Alan Dillon TD presenting Kilmeena LGFA Senior player of the year to Maureen Joyce with Peter Mortimer, team manager



Alan Dillon TD presented Players' Player of the Year to Jack Carney with team manager John Reilly



Alan Dillon TD presenting Kilmeena LGFA young player of the year to Lisa Hastings with Peter Mortimer team manager



Alan Dillon TD presenting Kilmeena Most Improved Player of the Year Award to Conor Kilbane with John Reilly, senior team manager



Anto Browne presenting Minor player of the year Award (Alan Browne Memorial Award) to Keelan Corcoran with Pdraig Moore team manager



Kevin Barrett presenting Young Player of the Year to Ciarán Kilcoyne with special guest Alan Dillon TD



Alan Dillon TD with Julia Szejner, Ladies' Player of the Year and Pete Mortimer, team manager



Alan Dillon TD presents Men's Senior Player of the Year to Stephen Staunton with manager John Reilly



Carmel Kilcoyne, Club Person of the Year, with, from left, Mary Slattery, Ian Dillon TD and John McDonald



Pauline Golden, Community Person of the Year, being presented with her award by Alan Dillon TD



Kilmeena mixed rounders team celebrating their All-Ireland success

Club Plan 2024-2029



Kilmeena GAA launched its Club Plan 2024-2029 on Thursday 30th May 2024 in Kilmeena Community Centre. A huge amount of work went into the formulation and production of the plan. The club wishes to thank all those who participated in the development of this plan. We acknowledge the people who attended the planning workshop, all who completed the online survey, club members, schools and sponsors and all who reviewed the draft plans and made suggestions and comments.

Thank you to the following contributors to the focus groups: Cormac Feehan, Majella O'Malley, Mike Slattery, Kevin Barrett, Lucy O'Malley, John Moore, Mary Slattery, Michael Ryan, Darren, Madden, Seán Barrett, Ruth O'Malley, Padraic Moore, Noreen Johnston, Tomas Gill, Julie Moore, Sean Ryder, Kathleen Geraty, Maura Hastings, Richie Goggins, Mickey Carney, Martin McIntyre.



Kilmeena Takes Over NYC!

Kilmeena was wonderfully represented in The Big Apple this year as Mayo GAA took on New York in the Connacht Senior Football Championship quarter-final in early April. Members of our parish flew over to support our own club member, Jack Carney, as he graced the sun-drenched grounds of Gaelic Park. Jack operated in the middle third on the day and contributed 0-02 points from play, while Mayo secured an impressive victory with a scoreline of 2-21 to New York's 2-06. Many fans stayed on long after the final whistle in Gaelic Park for pictures and a chat with fellow club members. We are extremely proud of Jack and thrilled to see so many people travel to the states to show their support for him.





Running & Speed Development Workshop

Gerard O'Donnell, a high performance coach specialising in running and speed development, held a workshop on Friday evening in the clubhouse and later on the pitch. The idea was to demonstrate to coaches how, with a little tuition, they could introduce practical acceleration skills into their regular coaching sessions. It was most informative and hopefully everyone took away a lot from the evening.



Relay For Life

Relay for Life is a global movement that empowers communities to fight against cancer and raise much needed funding for research, treatment and many other services that are provided free to cancer survivors. Today more people than ever before are living with or surviving cancer.

Relay for Life is a twenty four hour event and under the stewardship of John McDonald and Padraig Moore, Kilmeena GAA Club entered a team in this year's Relay for Life. This

involved finding enough volunteers to walk every hour of the twenty four hours of the Relay and commence getting sponsorship and organising fundraisers.

Kilmeena Folk Choir held a very successful fundraiser in The Buckfield Inn which was generously supported and was a most enjoyable night. A coffee morning was held at Carraholly National School, which saw a large turnout from every part of the Parish. With people saying it was like having a "community stations" where they could catch up with neighbours and friends over a cuppa and some cake. Kilmeena GAA Club and Parish can be very proud of their significant contribution to the €80,000 which was raised at Relay For Life Westport 2024.



Car Park and Driveway Resurfacing Works

The car park resurfacing was funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and Kilmeena GAA Club under the CLAR programme. The works were carried out by Butler Tarmacadam from Kilmaine.

The main driveway into the club was funded by Mayo County Council, Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) and Kilmeena GAA Club.



Paddy Golden Blitz 2024



The annual Paddy Golden Blitz was held on a beautiful Saturday in September this year. Following a new directive from Croke Park, clubs are not allowed to keep scores, have finals or present trophies to teams U12 years of age. This new approach has pros and cons, and there was much scepticism on how it would be received. 14 boys teams and 12 girls teams had registered to take part in the blitz.

Once play got underway, nobody seemed to notice that scores were not being kept and all of the boys and girls were just enjoying playing football. At the end of the blitz, medals were presented by the Golden family to every child that took part. All players and sponsors were ushered into the stand for a fantastic photo, this created a brilliant atmosphere with all teams chanting and singing at one another.

A huge thanks to all the volunteers who helped with pitch set up, traffic control, refereeing, pitch co-ordination, umpires, tuck shop, registration etc. which ensured that this day was successful and proceeded as smoothly as ever. As always, the club could not host an event like this without a huge amount of help. We have had many clubs complementing us as such a well run event.

A special word of thanks, as always, to our sponsors, the Golden family.

Charity Match Fundraiser



The Mayo senior football team took on the Club All-Star team in a charity match on Saturday December 30th in the Connacht GAA COE Air Dome. The charity match was in aid of the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association.

The Club All-Star team was managed by Carraholly's John Reilly, Niall Heffernan (Ballina Stephenites) and Eddie Conroy (Lahardane MacHales).

Kilmeena were represented on the Club All Star team with Jack Carney, Darragh Keaveney and Stephen Staunton all playing a part on the day.

Aidan O'Shea captained the All Star selection which was made up of club players who made starring roles for their clubs throughout the 2023 club championship in senior, intermediate and junior competitions.

It wasn't to be for the Club All Star team at the final whistle, however, it provided great entertainment for all and raised much needed funds for the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association, who rely on 85% of their income annually from donations and fundraising.

Scór na bPáistí Mhaigh Eo Róisín Carney



The annual West Mayo branch of the Scór na bPáistí competition took place in Lecanvey Community Centre on Thursday 22nd of March. The competition takes place every year and it is a wonderful opportunity for young club members to represent the club in a different capacity. Kilmeena GAA had representatives in both the solo singing (Emma Mongey, Myna NS) and instrumental group (Rachael Feehan, Lauren Munroe, Emily Fahy, Rían McManamon, Michael Gannon, all Myna NS) categories.

Emma performed a beautiful rendition of the classic Irish ballad 'Molly Malone', while the instrumental group performed a medley including 'Saco's Jig' and 'Out on the Ocean'.

With almost 50 acts performing on the night, and only 2 acts advancing to the county final in each category, the standard at the competition was extremely high.

Kilmeena GAA would like to extend their congratulations to all the children who participated in the competition and for representing the club at such a high standard. We also wish to extend our thanks to their parents and teachers who aided them in their preparation for the competition.

We would encourage any children within the club who enjoy Irish music, dance, singing, recitation or drama to consider participating in the 2025 competition, it is always sure to be a fantastic night of music and entertainment!



Gaelic Masters International Rules Report Pat Mulchrone

Ireland v Australia

In March 2024, the Aussies came to Ireland with three AFL Masters teams - the over 40's Ladies team and an over 40's and over 50's Men's teams - to play Irish teams. There were two test games for each group and these were played on the 9th & 16th of March.

In preparation for the Aussies' tour to Ireland, one player from each County was picked for each Irish squad. I was lucky enough to be picked for the over 50's squad. We started a training programme pre-Christmas (2023) and met every second week thereafter for pitch sessions.

The first test matches were played in Curry, Co. Sligo and Charlestown, Co. Mayo. When the teams were named, I was delighted to be named at full back and absolutely honoured to be given the privilege to captain and lead the Irish team out onto the pitch for this game. The second test matches were played in the Denn, Co. Cavan and I was again named at full back. All three Irish teams won their games. It was a great experience.



Gaelic football in Warsaw

Áine Regan

Warsaw GAA club was set up back in 2009 and has since had immense success dominating the European Gaelic scene. Warsaw is a hotspot for young aspiring Irish veterinarians (like myself). The GAA club offers a fantastic opportunity to socialise and meet like-minded people - helping you feel a little less far from home!

When I first moved to Poland in 2022, everything was very strange and different to Ireland. As you can imagine, I jumped at the chance to play ball again. I arrived at the first training session, on a pitch with long grass and many holes - but it didn't matter. Once we started kicking the ball it felt like home.

My debut for the Warsaw senior ladies was in Vienna for the Eastern European football championship. Since then, we have won five European trophies and have gotten the chance to travel Europe. We have trekked to the Netherlands, Czech Republic, France, Belgium, Spain and Austria.

Our team is incredibly unique. Made up of vet students who were either footballers, converted camogie/soccer players, ex-county players or who had never touched a ball before. When we play together it is still the same competitiveness and fire in the belly as back home. The bond and atmosphere reminds me of the special group of girls I miss playing with in the black and white jerseys.

It amazes me that no matter where you go, Gaelic football brings Irish people together. For many of us living abroad, it's more than just a sport; it's a heartfelt reminder of home.



Hi from Melbourne

Sarah Hogan & Fiona Groden

We joined the Wolfe Tones Club in Melbourne which has been a great way to meet loads of new Irish people. Fi plays in midfield. She was player of the match in the championship semi final last year but unfortunately lost the final. Sarah played in the forwards and backs last year.

There are six clubs in Melbourne that play in the league and championship throughout the summer, starting in November and ending around May. The highlight of the year is the 7s, 9s and 11s tournaments which draw big crowds from all over Australia. Our team, which Fi played on, won the 7s tournament earlier this year, beating different teams from across Australia!



Cubs Table Quiz Fundraiser

Johnny Madden

The Cubs Academy organised a table where participants had a wonderful opportunity to bond and enjoy themselves during a social event and fundraiser held on June 28th. Hosted in the Clew Bay Hotel, the evening featured a lively quiz, with Quizmaster Brendan Donovan challenging the attendees' general knowledge. It was a fantastic occasion for parents to mingle and get to know one another, especially for those who are new to the community. Congratulations to the winning team: Deirdre and Sean O'Brien, Trish Behan and David Hickey!

Kilmeena & Fahy Parish Celebrates Fr. Jim's Retirement

Noreen Johnston

Kilmeena & Fahy Parish celebrated Fr Jim's final masses for Kilmeena and Fahy in July and the parish later came together to provide a social function and to wish Fr Jim well in his retirement.

We all extend heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Jim for his remarkable service and dedication over the past three decades. Since his arrival in 1994, Fr. Jim has profoundly enriched the spiritual life of our community, guiding us through countless significant moments, baptisms, communions, confirmations and marriages. His unwavering support during both joyous and challenging times has been a cornerstone of our parish life. Fr. Jim's care has always extended beyond the church walls, encompassing our three parish schools and Pilgrims Rest Nursing Home. His pastoral visits to the sick and elderly, as well as his hospital visits, have provided comfort and solace to many families within our parish.

Known for his kindness, goodwill, and care, Fr. Jim has touched the lives of both young and old, leaving an indelible mark on our hearts. As he steps into retirement, Fr. Jim takes with him our deepest thanks, love, and prayers. We wish him good health and happiness in this new chapter of his life.

Fr. Jim, we are confident that your garden will be the envy of the parish, just as your dedication has been an inspiration to us all. Enjoy every moment of your well-deserved retirement, knowing you leave behind a legacy of love and service that will be cherished forever.



Left to right: Alan Mortimer, Sean Keane, Kyle Mulchrone, Felix Zerry, Jamie Durkan, Robbie Murphy

TY Coffee Morning

Well done to the transition year students who hosted a coffee morning in Kilmeena Community Centre.

Special thanks goes to Tricia Keane for helping the lads with the organisation of the event.

They raised a whopping €1,834.12 for Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation. Bualadh bos lads!

Healthy Club 2024 Emma Jane Gill



As 2024 draws to a close, we look back on another busy year for Kilmeena GAA Healthy Club. In January we kicked off with Ireland Lights Up weekly walks. This year we had two different walking routes on offer; a 5km loop and a shorter, flatter 2km walk. We had a great turn out each week with walkers of all ages braving the cold and getting their steps in together. This year the club, once again, took part in the Irish Life Every Step Counts challenge. Over 6 weeks the people of Kilmeena walked 14,500km!!

Kilmeena was selected as a Phase 1 club for the GPA Movember Ahead of the Game workshops. Our u14 boys attended the workshop facilitated by Mayo Hurling's Adrian Phillips and Galway Camogie's Niamh Hannify. Adrian and Niamh returned later in the year along with Sligo GAA player Finnian Cawley to facilitate a workshop for our u15 girls. Kilmeena GAA became one of the first clubs in the country to receive a second visit from the GPA and Movember!

We welcomed many other visitors to the club this year: Sean Smith from Westport Order of Malta provided a First Aid and CPR course for some of our underage coaches, Lianne from Mayo Mental Health Association delivered an informative mental health talk to the adult members of the club, The Western Drugs and Alcohol Task Force facilitated a workshop on drug and alcohol awareness, and as weather improved and swimming season started, we hosted Finn from the RNLI who delivered an all important water safety talk for our underage players.

This year also saw the continuation of many of our ongoing activities and initiatives; weekly physio-led fitness classes, 25 card games, social rounders, and we are now one year into being a Smoke and Vape Free GAA Grounds.

Thanks to Mayo GAA Health & Wellbeing, Westport Order of Malta, The GPA, RNLI, Mayo Mental Health Association and many more for their support this year. A special thank you to the Healthy Club Committee for their hard work and to each and every one of who joined us throughout the year.

Keep an eye out for new initiatives in 2025 and if you have any ideas or questions don't be afraid to get in touch! (kilmeenagahealthyclub@gmail.com)

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!!



Playing it Social - PRO Report 2024 Caragh Ryan



As we approach the festive season, it is a wonderful time to reflect on our achievements over the past year and share our ongoing journey as a tight knit community. It is safe to say that this newsletter has done just that! Together, we have fostered not just a love for Gaelic Games but also a spirit of camaraderie and support that represents the heart of Kilmeena GAA.

Part of my role as our club PRO is to promote the club to the local community and beyond using all available methods of communication. In the digital age, maintaining a strong social media presence is vital for promoting our club and engaging with members at home and abroad. We have seen a significant growth on our social media platforms in recent years and we encourage everyone to follow and interact with us across all our social platforms—Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and of course our club website. These channels serve as the backbone of our communication strategy, where we share match updates, training schedules, fundraisers and exciting announcements on upcoming events. By growing our followers and audience, we strengthen our voice in the community, allowing for increased participation in club / community activities and it is also enhancing greater visibility for our sponsors.

As we step into a new year let's continue to strengthen our online presence. By engaging with our posts, sharing stories and encouraging your friends to follow us, we will reach a wider audience and keep everyone informed about the heart and soul of Kilmeena GAA.

Last but not least, thank you for your continued support and for being part of Kilmeena GAA's growing online community.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. Here's to a fun-filled 2025 as we continue to support our players and each other, both on and off the field!

Onwards and upwards!

The Green Club Project Noreen Johnston

Killmeena GAA Club continues to be part of the Green Club Programme which was established to support GAA clubs in taking sustainability action within their grounds and as part of their activities. The Programme is structured around the themes of Energy, Water, Waste, Biodiversity and Travel & Transport and is designed to promote sustainability awareness and action in GAA clubs communities.

The Club is pursuing the aim of making our club and grounds more sustainable. Signage is now in place pointing out the outdoor taps and there bins in the club house to segregate waste.

There will be ongoing changes under each theme. Many thanks to Mayo County Council and GA Green Clubs for their assistance with this initiative.

The installation of the new LED flood lighting has provided the club with an opportunity to install two EV chargers on the grounds. This is a work in progress and will be a welcome addition. A club wide energy audit has been carried out.

Efforts continue to enhance the biodiversity within our grounds with the planting of trees and reducing the cutting of the grass verges and hedgerows.

If you would like to contribute to this project in any way please contact any Club Officer who can advise you further.



President of the GAA Jarlath Burns presenting Noreen Johnston, Kilmeena GAA Green Clubs Officer with the Green Clubs Award for 2024

Kilmeena GAA Club Lip Sync Fundraiser

Kathleen Geraty & Maura Hastings, Club Treasurers

In line with our new Club Plan 2024-2029, a Finance and Fundraising Committee was put in place to support the continuing development of the club. One of the tasks of the Committee was to explore the feasibility of running a major fundraising event. After looking at options it was agreed with the Executive that the club would run a Lip Sync Battles event with Croí as our charity partner. Lip Sync is miming the words to a song with dance moves included. The club engaged the services of Lip Sync Battles Ireland, a company specialising in such events, and a specific committee was put in place to manage all aspects of this event.

The launch night was held in the clubhouse in early September and the Committee was delighted with the turnout. Since then, nine acts from the club and community have signed up to perform their chosen songs on the night. Each of these acts are organising their own individual mini-fundraisers. Please support these ongoing activities which promise to be great fun for all.

The Committee, along with the acts and other club members, have also been contacting businesses with a suite of sponsorship options which will contribute significantly to the overall financial success of Lip Sync.

To date, we are thrilled with the response we have received from everyone within the club and wider community. Funds raised will go towards the development of the club's facilities as shown in the illustration below.

The Lip Sync event takes place in the Castlecourt on Sunday 2nd February at 8pm. We look forward to seeing you all there for a night of surprises and great entertainment!





KILMEENA GAA CLUB



CRÍ

Fighting Heart Disease & Stroke



SUNDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2025

THE DOME SUITE, CASTLECOURT HOTEL

at 8pm

Obituaries

Michael Feehan



It was with deep regret that we heard of the sudden passing of Michael Feehan, current Vice President of Kilmeena GAA Club. Michael was a true son of Buckfield, Kilmeena, where he grew up and developed his love for Gaelic football. From a young age, he donned the Kilmeena jersey, becoming a prominent figure on the team from 1968 to 1976.

In 1989, Michael emigrated to London, but he never forgot his roots. He remained deeply connected to Kilmeena and had a steadfast interest in the club and county over the years. His unwavering generosity towards the club will always be deeply appreciated.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



Tommy O'Malley

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Tommy O'Malley, a cherished member of our community and a true stalwart of Kilmeena GAA.

Tommy's life was one marked by kindness, dedication, and an unwavering love for his family, friends, and his local community.

Tommy grew up with a deep connection to the community and in 1963, when Kilmeena GAA was reformed, Tommy was one of the first to answer the call. He played during those challenging years for the club, bringing skill, heart, and leadership to the team.

A natural full back, Tommy's defensive prowess was legendary, but his versatility allowed him to also thrive as a full forward in other games.

Tommy hung up his boots in 1967, but his love for Kilmeena GAA never faded. In 1982, he returned in a team management role, serving as a club selector, further contributing to the growth and success of the club.

He remained a loyal supporter, always following the fortunes of the club up until his illness.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Tony Mulchrone



Kilmeena GAA were saddened to learn of the death of Tony Mulchrone, formerly of Drunnagh, Kilmeena who passed away in Chicago.

Tony was a dedicated Kilmeena clubman and player in the 1950's and was selected on a West Mayo team comprising of players from clubs along the coastline to compete in the Mayo Senior Championship during his playing career.

Sadly emigration took its toll on the club during those years and Tony, amongst many others, left his beloved Drunnagh for England and later settled in Chicago with his late wife Kathleen and raised his family. Tony continued to play football in Chicago and played on the Chicago all star team.

We wish to extend our sympathy to his family and friends at home and abroad and in particular to his brother Jackie in England.

Rest in peace.