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# GAA LAUNCH NEW FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN



UACHTARÁN CHUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEIL LARRY MCCARTHY AND ARD STIÚRTHÓIR OF THE GAA TOM RYAN WITH ST FECHIN'S GAA JUVENILE PLAYERS, BACK ROW, FROM LEFT, AARON RILEY AND TOM ROCK, FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT, TOM RILEY, AOIBHINN CORRIGAN, ISOBEL WALSH, MÁIRE KEANE, DOIREANN BRUTON AND JAMES COONEY DURING GAA NATIONAL STRATEGY LAUNCH AT ST FECHIN'S GAA CLUB IN TERMONFECKIN, LOUTH.

The GAA has launched a new strategic plan entitled 'Aontas 2026 – Towards One GAA for All', to grow and sustain the Association over the next five years.

An event held at St Fechins GAA Club in Co Louth was attended by Uachtarán Larry McCarthy and Ard Stiúirthóir Tom Ryan along with representatives of the

Association where details of the plan were announced.

The strategy features a variety of

objectives to realise the GAA's vision as a sustainable community-based and volunteer-led Association where as many as possible, participate in Gaelic games and culture for as long as possible.

The stated priorities of the Association between now and 2026 are:

1. **Maximum participation among players, coaches, referees and officers**
2. **A sustainable Association with thriving Clubs at its core**
3. **Six codes, one Association**
4. **A connected and inclusive Association**
5. **Good governance among GAA units**

The headline initiatives to be pursued within these priority areas include:

1. **A major programme of investment in referees and match officials to maximise support, respect and role performance**
2. **The design and rollout of a Club accreditation programme which promotes self-sufficiency and sustainability**
3. **The development of a shared vision and roadmap to form One Association to govern all Gaelic games codes**
4. **The implementation of the Association's new communications strategy which prioritises proactive communications in a digital-first world**
5. **A review of governance structures and roles to deliver more effective and efficient support services to Clubs and Counties**

Uachtarán CLG Larry McCarthy said: "The importance of our clubs to the communities they serve was never more evident than it was during the harrowing pandemic. If the GAA is about people then it is appropriate that we have a strategic plan that delivers for everyone and after this detailed consultation

process, I believe we have a strategic plan to allow Gaelic games to face the future with confidence.

Ard Stiúrthóir Tom Ryan added: “The significant level of engagement from every level of the Association that was used in preparing this plan had a direct input into the final document and helped shape our vision for the coming years. Ensuring that Gaelic games is robust for whatever challenges are ahead and is capable of staying relevant to our members and clubs will be our priority.”

Why is it happening?

The Association’s previous strategic plan, Fís Shóiléir 2021, expired last year so the Association set about developing a new strategy in line with Larry McCarthy commencing his term as Uachtarán.

The strategy aims to give units and members direction on where the Association wants to be by 2026 and how we plan to get there. It specifically makes choices about what we will and will not do as an Association.

Who was involved?

In March 2021, the GAA’s Management Committee (An Coiste Bainistíochta) established a volunteer-based Steering Group to coordinate the planning and consultation process on its behalf. The members of the Steering Group were:

- Larry McCarthy (Uachtarán CLG) - Cathaoirleach
- Conor McCarthy (O’Donovan Rossa, Cork)
- Prof. David Hassan (St. Mary’s GAC, Banagher, Derry)
- Dr. Elish Kelly (Padraig Pearses, Roscommon)
- Pat Gilroy (St. Vincents, Dublin)



UACHTARÁN CHUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEIL LARRY MCCARTHY, LEFT, RUAIRÍ HARVEY, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, CENTRE, AND ARD STIÚRTHÓIR OF THE GAA TOM RYAN DURING GAA NATIONAL STRATEGY LAUNCH AT ST FECHIN’S GAA CLUB IN TERMONFECKIN, LOUTH.

- Paul Foley (Patrickswell, Limerick)
- Shane Flanagan (GAA Director of Coaching and Games Development)
- Tim Murphy (Brosna, Kerry)
- Tom Ryan (Ard-Stiúrthóir CLG)
- Ruairí Harvey (GAA Organisational Development Manager) - Rúnaí

This group met 14 times to guide the process and ensure that everyone had ample opportunities to have their say in shaping the Association’s future.

How did the consultation process happen?

One of the largest ever consultation

processes was undertaken to help inform the strategy. Highlights included:

- A public survey which attracted 15,300 responses
- Questionnaires and focus groups with individuals representing players, coaches, officers, and other volunteers at the Club and County levels
- Over 200 written submissions from various stakeholder groups including central committees, county committees, schools’ bodies, government bodies, the GPA, sponsors, and media to name but a few.

The process undertaken generated many insights which informed the strategy. For instance, 81% of respondents to the public survey completed in September 2021 felt

that the GAA, LGFA and Camogie Association should strive to form One Association; 9% were unsure and only 10% were against the idea. Such was the strength of support for this to happen, the overall plan is entitled ‘Aontas 2026 – Towards One GAA for All.’ This is just one example of how the views of GAA members influenced the strategy.

What happens next?

A Strategic Plan Implementation Committee chaired by the Uachtarán will oversee the implementation of the plan. This committee will also include the Ard-Stiúrthóir and four Provincial Secretaries / CEOs. They will meet on a regular basis to review progress before a mid-point review takes place ahead of February 2024 when the next Uachtarán starts his role. This review will allow the new President to refresh the specific actions to be taken.



# GAA ASKS MEMBERS TO CONSIDER ACCOMMODATING UKRAINIAN REFUGEES AS ASSOCIATION PLEDGES €100,000 TO HUMANITARIAN EFFORT

**THE GAA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE IRISH RED CROSS IS CALLING ON ITS MEMBERS TO REGISTER ON THE CHARITY'S WEBSITE ANY ACCOMMODATION SUITABLE FOR HOUSING UKRAINIAN REFUGEES ARRIVING IN IRELAND (SEE LINK BELOW).**

The GAA community across the world has rallied in response to the humanitarian crisis caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Members have organised fundraisers and collections of goods and supplies, while clubs and counties have opened their doors to welcome Ukrainian refugees that have been relocated in their communities.

However, the availability of appropriate housing remains a priority for the Irish Red Cross who are handling offers of accommodation for Ukrainian refugees. If you have or are aware of a vacant and habitable (i.e. ready to be used) apartment or house close to schools and services in your club area, can you or the owner make an offer of that accommodation to the Red Cross at <https://registerofpledges.redcross.ie>

While the Irish Red Cross is still welcoming the registration of available rooms in a family home, such offers require that all persons aged 16+ already living in the house to be vetted thereby delaying the speed at which such accommodation can be made available (unfortunately existing GAA Garda vetting is not applicable).

The Irish Red Cross has also stressed the vital role that the GAA community is providing by extending a warm welcome to refugees being homed in communities across Ireland.

This was echoed by GAA President, Larry McCarthy who said: "While the shelter of a home is essential, and I encourage all members to register any available accommodation they have, the welcome we extend is just as important in helping to buffer our Ukrainian visitors from the trauma of war and displacement.

"The GAA community's response to the war in Ukraine has been heartening. If you are aware of any refugees having been housed in your community let them know that they are welcome in your GAA club."

Clubs are reminded that if games activities are involved the wearing of mouthguards and helmets (for hurling) is required as is compliance with the Code of Behaviour.

The GAA's Ard Chomhairle and Coiste Bainistíochta agreed last month to make a financial contribution of €100,000 to the work of the Irish Red Cross in supporting Ukrainian refugees.

To register available accommodation in the 26 counties please click here:

<https://registerofpledges.redcross.ie>

Offers of houses in the North can be registered here:

<https://www.gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine>



IF YOUR CLUB IS INVOLVED IN A  
SIMILAR COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO  
ASSIST UKRAINIAN REFUGEES – WE'D  
LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Write to [clubnewsletter@gaa.ie](mailto:clubnewsletter@gaa.ie)

By John Harrington

## BALLYMACELLIGOTT GAA CLUB WELCOME UKRAINIAN REFUGEES WITH OPEN ARMS

**BALLYMACELLIGOTT GAA CLUB IN KERRY HAVE LIVED UP TO THE GAA'S MANIFESTO, 'WHERE WE ALL BELONG', BY MAKING THE UKRAINIAN REFUGEES WHO RECENTLY ARRIVED IN THEIR COMMUNITY FEEL AT HOME IN IT.**

Over 300 Ukrainians are being temporarily housed in the Earl of Desmond Hotel which is only a couple of kilometres from Ballymacelligott GAA grounds.

Ballymac Healthy Club Officer, Oonagh O'Rahilly, quickly made contact with the new arrivals and invited those with children to visit the club and sample Gaelic Games and some local hospitality.

"One of the reasons that made us think it would be a nice idea is that our flag, the Ballymac flag, is the same colours as the Ukrainian flag, so straight away we had a connection there," O'Rahilly told GAA.ie

"We felt it would be nice to give the children the opportunity to come and play in a safe space. Our coaches are garda-vetted and we had everything we needed in place so a week after they arrived we invited them to come over.

"John O'Shea, who owns a local bus company, gave us his services for free to bus them from the hotel to the pitch. There were about 30 children or so with their parents and our Health and Wellbeing Committee made buns and cakes and we also gave the parents tea and coffee while the children played for an hour and a quarter.

"The weather was just beautiful, we



UKRAINIAN CHILDREN PICTURED AT A RECENT MEET AND GREET DAY AT BALLYMACELLIGOTT GAA CLUB.

couldn't have gotten a better day for it. The children loved it and the parents were delighted. There were tears and everything, they were thrilled.

"And it was so simple, it didn't cost anything, only people's time. We have the equipment and the volunteers and to be able to do it was just a real feel-good

factor."

O'Rahilly hopes to see many of the children and their parents return to the club on a more regular basis in the coming weeks and months.

"We're having another follow-up evening this evening and if anyone is interested

I'll link them in with teams then because it's no good keeping them isolated as a group, we want to integrate them into the community if they would like that.

"It's very much an evolving situation because some of the children will be going to school in Tralee and will maybe want to join a club in Tralee which would be brilliant





Ballymacelligott GAA

@Ballymac\_gaa



Friendship, Fun , Sport and Support brought 2 communities together this evening in Ballymac GAA club. The simplicity of children playing and adults chatting was a tonic for all involved. Thanks to our Ukrainian neighbours, our Health and Wellbeing Committee and John OShea buses



9:27 PM · Mar 23, 2022



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too. We just want to help them feel at home in the community, that's why we did it.

"A mother of one of the children said it's soccer he'd like to be playing here so I know a guy in the soccer club in Tralee and got on to him to arrange that. We just want to link them in with the community in whatever way we can."

Welcoming the Ukrainian refugees to Ballymacelligott is one of just a number of worthy initiatives that Ballymac's very active Healthy Club committee has carried out in recent weeks and months and they have plenty

of big plans for the future too.

"We're now starting up a GAA For All initiative to coach children with additional needs and we're also setting up a GAA for Mothers and Others," says O'Rahilly. "Last year we had social rounders which was a fantastic success.

"Next week we'll also have a One Good Adult talk in the club. We've recruited a few new people to the Health and Wellbeing committee, which is great, because you always need new ideas coming. We're hoping to build a community walking track as well soon which will be great because we can get the elderly

involved there.

"It's had a hugely positive impact on the club and you can see it shifting more towards being a community hub, it's not just that you have to be a football player to be involved. We have a lot of different nationalities now, people with all sorts of different abilities as well, and everyone brings something to the table.

"If you can't play sport you can help out in coaching or join the Health and Wellbeing committee or whatever. There's a place for everyone in the club which is what you like to see."

By John Harrington

## FINN PRAISES LIMERICK MEDICS FOR PROPER RESPONSE TO CONCUSSION

**LIMERICK DEFENDER, SEÁN FINN, HAS PRAISED THE TEAM MEDICS WHO TOOK HIM OFF THE PITCH AFTER HE SUFFERED A CONCUSSION IN THE ALLIANZ LEAGUE MATCH AGAINST CORK.**

By his own admission Finn was keen to play on at the time, but the medics took that decision out of his hands.

He knows now that had he stayed on the pitch he would have been a hazard to himself.

“It was my first concussion,” said Finn at the launch of the John West Féile.

“Very much a mild concussion at the time. Just took precautionary measures for a couple of weeks. Perfectly fine now, to be honest.

“I had concussion symptoms for a number of hours. I can see why you wouldn’t want a number of them. It’s quite serious.

“I wasn’t keen to come off the field at the time. I was trying to make up the answers to what they were asking me – I think I got them all wrong! They said the best thing was to just keep me off. I was just shook. I didn’t train for 10 or 12 days, then returned to training.

“I think it’s natural that you want to play. It’s just the competitive nature that the player has but I think it’s important that the medical team take their own initiative on it too. It was only maybe 10 minutes later where I really showed symptoms of real concussion so I probably had a delayed reaction. If I was out on the pitch 10

JOHN WEST FÉILE AMBASSADOR AND LIMERICK HURLER SEÁN FINN IN ATTENDANCE DURING THE JOHN WEST FÉILE 2022 LAUNCH AT CROKE PARK IN DUBLIN.





SEÁN FINN IN ACTION FOR LIMERICK AGAINST CORK IN THE 2021 ALL-IRELAND SHC FINAL.



minutes later I was a hazard to myself.”

Finn regards his concussion as a relatively mild one, but he still had some uncomfortable symptoms in the aftermath of the head-high tackle that forced him

off the pitch.

“Very much a loss of memory,” he says. “Just a loss of memory really. Severe headaches. But at the moment, I got up, came off the field, tried to make up the

answers. They probably weren’t clear and they probably knew that I wasn’t right but, again, it was up to them to make that decision.

“If they said, ‘You can go on, Seán’ I would

have gone on but that wasn’t the right thing to do but it was good that I wasn’t in the position to make that decision. It was important that they used their initiative even though it might be the hard call to make.

“I didn’t know where I was really. Didn’t know where my gear bag was in the dressingroom. Couldn’t remember the goals going in. Couldn’t remember the score and stuff like that and what way we were playing so to be honest after a couple of hours I came around and I was fine but I’d be a hazard to myself if I was allowed back onto that field.”

The GAA has put a lot of effort into highlighting the dangers of concussion in recent years by producing concussion management guidelines and a Gaelic Games Concussion Awareness eLearning course.

Finn admits his own experience has helped make him more aware that concussion is a brain injury that needs to be taken seriously.

“Possibly I would have been aware but I never really took much notice because I was never really affected by it so I would always say, ‘Oh yeah, concussion is a big deal’ but when it hasn’t really impacted you as such you don’t really know the extent of it.

“It was only on reflection where I saw the reaction that it’s really serious and that was very much a mild concussion. I could see if you got a serious concussion how bad it would be so yeah, it’s definitely something that... I think there’s a lot more attention towards it now.

“As I mentioned, I think it’s important that the medics do make the hard call and say, ‘Look, put the player first’.



## SUSPECTED HEAD INJURY

- Concussion is a brain injury that can be caused by an impact to a player's head or body
- Over 90% of concussions occur without a loss of consciousness, therefore recognition of other signs and symptoms is crucial

**"IT'S NOT ALWAYS A KNOCK-OUT"**

## OBSERVATION

### INITIAL SIGNS:

#### *The nature of the impact:*

- The speed of the impact / collision
- Was the player braced for impact? (Did they see the impact coming)
- Was there any rotational (twisting) motion of the head / neck caused by the impact?

### INDICATORS:

#### *Player's reaction:*

- Did they lie motionless for any period of time?
- Were they unsteady on their feet?
- Did they clutch their head?

### RED FLAGS:

#### *Urgent medical attention:*

- Possible neck or spinal injury –player should not be moved
- Prolonged Loss of consciousness
- Deteriorating conscious state
- Convulsions / Seizures
- Vomiting
- Double Vision
- Disorientation/Confusion
- Severe or increasing headache
- Abnormalities of balance or coordination
- Slurred or incoherent speech
- Weakness or tingling/burning in arms or legs

## A SIMPLE **TWO-STEP** PROCESS SHOULD BE APPLIED:

### 1. **RECOGNISE** -

the signs and symptoms

### 2. **REMOVE** -

the **player** from the **field** of play

*Remember,*

***if there is any suspicion of concussion, the player should be removed from the field of play:***

**"IF IN DOUBT,  
SIT THEM OUT"**

# FUNDING THE AMBITION AND INSPIRATION OF GAA CLUBS IS BACK OPEN FOR BUSINESS

**THE GAA DEVELOPMENT FUND IS NOW OPEN FOR BOTH DEPOSITS AND LOANS TO ALL GAA CLUBS.**

1. The purpose of the GAA development Fund is to provide finance at a reasonable cost for units of the Association that are developing facilities for the promotion of our games.
2. €2m in new loan funding is now available.
3. Club Development loans of up to €100k @ 1.9% are available for successful applicants.
4. Closing date for Loan applications is the 31st of May 2022.
5. All information can be found at the following Link - <https://www.gaa.ie/my-gaa/administrators/development-fund>



# 2022 GAA NATIONAL CLUB DRAW

**GET YOUR CLUB INVOLVED AND BE IN  
WITH THE CHANCE OF RAISING €25,000!**

Tickets have now been distributed for the 2022 National Club Draw. If your club require additional tickets or were not included in the initial allocation, please contact [stephen.lohan@gaa.ie](mailto:stephen.lohan@gaa.ie) or [nationalclubdraw@gaa.ie](mailto:nationalclubdraw@gaa.ie)

**Remember:**

ALL money raised by your club through ticket sales is retained by **YOUR** club

**Important Dates:**

- Tickets (sold/unsold) should be entered onto the Online Ticketing System and returned to your County Liaison Officer by Saturday 30th April 2022.
- The GAA National Club Draw will take place on Thursday 2nd June 2022.
- (Tickets should not be sent directly to Croke Park by any club)



2021 NATIONAL CLUB DRAW WINNER  
CHRISTY PHILLIPS RECEIVING HIS PRIZE

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CLUB

Opportunity for your GAA Club to raise up to €25,000



# ANOTHER 168 GAA CLUBS SIGN UP TO IRISH LIFE GAA HEALTHY CLUBS PROGRAMME

- **165 GAA CLUBS FROM 32 COUNTIES PLUS 3 INTERNATIONAL CLUBS PARTICIPATED IN THE NATIONAL ORIENTATION DAY ON MARCH 12TH IN CROKE PARK**
- **25 CLUBS FROM CONNACHT**
- **55 CLUBS FROM LEINSTER**
- **39 CLUBS FROM MUNSTER**
- **46 CLUBS FROM ULSTER**
- **INTERNATIONAL CLUBS**

The Irish Life GAA Healthy Club Orientation Day hosted a total of 168 clubs from 32 counties and international units, with the help of almost 400 volunteers.

The programme turns GAA clubs into hubs for health in their communities. They are supported in achieving this by Irish Life which shares the GAA's goal of building healthier communities around Ireland and announced a new four-year sponsorship of the GAA Healthy Clubs programme in January 2022. Healthy Clubs work with the club members and local communities to identify priority activities to deliver. Common themes include physical activity and social Gaelic Games; mental health; healthy eating; diversity and inclusion; working with older members of the community; youth leadership; gambling, drug and alcohol awareness; becoming smoke-free clubs; and sustainability (Green Clubs).

The 2022 National Orientation Day was the first step for the 168 clubs on their Healthy Club journey. They enjoyed inspiring keynote speakers and educational discussions, including case studies from existing Healthy Clubs on topics including Diversity & Inclusion, Social Games, and Smoke



**GAA COMMUNITY AND HEALTH MANAGER COLIN REGAN ADDRESSING THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE GAA HEALTHY CLUBS AT THE ORIENTATION DAY**

Free Clubs. The clubs have 18 months to complete the necessary steps involved in becoming an accredited Irish Life GAA Healthy Club.

Speaking at the National Orientation Day, Declan Bolger, CEO Irish Life, said: "At Irish Life, we help people build better futures, so we are extremely pleased to see so many GAA clubs taking part in the Irish Life GAA Healthy Clubs programme. Having been involved with the Healthy Clubs programme since 2015, we know that the

entire community benefits when a local club is provided with the skills, information and guidance to improve their health and wellbeing. Two Irish Life Healthy Clubs Steps Challenges provided 40,000 participants across 700 GAA clubs with a fun-focused way to stay active and connected while our population was locked down. Together they recorded over 7.7 billion steps!

"I'm so happy to see how this programme has gone from strength to strength since our initial involvement, and I'm excited

to welcome the new GAA Clubs into the programme. I am really looking forward to seeing all of the good that comes from expanding this programme, as we move towards almost 500 clubs."

Also speaking at the National Orientation Day, Aoife O'Brien GAA National Healthy Club Coordinator, said: "I am delighted to see the programme grow and evolve year on year and it's inspiring to have so many new clubs involved in this current phase. Personally, I've experienced the positive



impact of the project when living in a new area over the past few years and joining the local Healthy Club, Ballyhaunis in Mayo. The range of alternative activities offered included walking initiatives and Gaelic for Mothers & Others which was great for me as a new mother living in a new area. We want to see as many people as possible benefiting from Healthy Clubs activities in their communities and hope that the case studies at the National Orientation Day will inspire the new clubs to expand their offerings and get more people active, connected, and involved. ”

Since launching as a small pilot involving just 16 clubs in 2013, Irish Life GAA Healthy Clubs has to-date engaged 300 clubs and tens of thousands of participants. Thanks to Irish Life's extended partnership, an additional 168 clubs commenced their Healthy Club journey in February 2022 while a further 200 clubs will join the growing movement in January 2024. The goal is for all GAA clubs to become Irish Life GAA Healthy Clubs. The Irish Life Healthy Clubs programme is also supported by Healthy Ireland, the National Office for Suicide Prevention, and the Tomar Trust.

for more information on the Irish Life GAA Healthy Clubs Project visit <https://www.gaa.ie/my-gaa/community-and-health/> or contact Aoife O'Brien, GAA National Healthy Club Coordinator [aoife.obrien@gaa.ie](mailto:aoife.obrien@gaa.ie)



IRISH LIFE ANNOUNCES FOUR-YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH GAA HEALTHY CLUBS. TO DATE, GAA HEALTHY CLUBS HAS ENGAGED 300 CLUBS AND WITH THE SPONSORSHIP, THEY EXPECT TO SEE AN ADDITIONAL 375 CLUBS JOIN THE GROWING MOVEMENT BY JANUARY 2024. PICTURED AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT CROKE PARK IN DUBLIN ARE, MEATH LADIES FOOTBALLER NIAMH O'SULLIVAN, LEFT, AND GRACE BIRCH, A MEMBER OF LUCAN SARSFIELDS GAA CLUB, AND A GAA HEALTHY CLUB.



By Colin Regan

## DADS & LADS PUT SOCIAL FOOTBALL AND HURLING ON THE MAP



THOMAS DAVIS, DUBLIN DADS & LADS

### 300 PLAYERS FROM 20 TEAMS PARTICIPATED IN A NATIONAL 'GAA FOR DADS & LADS' BLITZ

The large gathering of 'GAA Dads & Lads' took place in the National Games Development Centre in Abbotstown on Saturday, April 2nd.

Also known as social footballers and hurlers, the population of this once endangered athlete species has grown steadily in recent years. About 300 of the genus migrated to Abbotstown for a

National Blitz event where they reenacted many of the sporting rituals that were once part of their weekly existence. These included the liberal application of Deep Heat, excessive slugging, a rediscovery of long-forgotten muscle groups, and a palpable sense of camaraderie and fun.

A total of 20 teams participated in the National Dads & Lads Blitz in Abbotstown (see full list below). Each played four games of 15 minutes in duration. While competition is inherent in us, these are non-competitive events (there is no



CUALA, DUBLIN

national blitz winner). Games were 9-a-side with two games to each full-size pitch. Squads of 15 allowed for roll-on, roll-off subs (more rolling off than on by the end of game four) with no management teams. Abilities varied as much as ages (ranging from late 30s to mid 60s) but the spirit of the blitz was universal: fun and participation with an emphasis on the skills of the game and injury avoidance – only incidental contact is permitted. (As with 5-a-side or Tag Rugby, players participate at their own risk. The games are not covered under the GAA Player

Injury Fund).

This was the second national blitz hosted by the GAA Community & Health department, which in addition to running the Irish Life GAA Healthy Clubs programme, GAA for All, youth leadership initiatives, and the Green Clubs programme, promotes the growth of social Gaelic Games, a movement that includes social Rounders and Handball (the latter also experiencing a significant growth in participation over the pandemic period).





As with working from home and a renewed appreciation for Ireland as a holiday destination, the pandemic also acted as a catalyst for the growth of GAA Dads & Lads as an appreciation for meeting up with friends and outdoor activities with a healthy twist took on new significance. Across the Association, former players – both recently retired and long-time lapsed – have been picking up hurls and dusting off boots to reconnect with the games they love and reestablish a social circle that only team sports can provide. They have been joined by many men who never tried Gaelic Games but are drawn to give them a go.

The movement is driven at grassroots level and is taking a variety of forms. The majority of the 150 Dads & Lads teams now registered with the GAA Community & Health department are members of a single club. St. Patrick's GAA club in Donagh, Fermanagh, are a case in point. We visited the club when formally launching the Dads & Lads initiative last year to get a feel for what it looks like on the ground: <https://www.gaa.ie/news/gaa-for-dads-lads-initiative-launched/>

Other teams are more motley in nature,

such as the modestly named Half Pace hurlers in Belfast. Club allegiance matters not, and all are welcome to their weekly game at a central venue in the city. Amongst the pioneers of the social hurling scene, the Half Pacers epitomise the values that underpin GAA for Dads & Lads: fun, friendship, and participation. Like many other Dads & Lads teams, they're open to a road trip and have travelled for social games to other clubs and teams.

Under the steer of local Games Development Administrator, Colm Crowley, Cork Social hurling and football is thriving at the impressive venue of Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Another of the pioneers of the scene, Cork Social GAA are welcoming of all and research into the demographics attending highlight lots of non-native rebel participants, with lads who moved to the city keen to be part of a new network. Read more here: <https://www.gaa.ie/hurling/news/turning-back-the-clock-with-social-hurling/>

Back in the other capital, social hurling even managed to make it onto national television with RTE's Operation Transformation shining a light on the adventures of the 'Dads & Lads' from



Kevin's Hurling & Camogie Club and St. James' Gaels in Dublin. <https://fb.watch/cmCXjXoa-z/>

The movement has gone international, with Herts Social GAA flying in from Hertfordshire for the National blitz. They have evidently inspired others across the water to take up the challenge with the latest kids on the block Warrington Social Hurling producing this phenomenal video which aptly captures what social Gaelic Games are all about: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TB5rsSz0\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TB5rsSz0_o)

If there is appetite for a social hurling or football team in your club or county visit <https://learning.gaa.ie/dadsandlads> for guidelines and resources. Or contact [collette.coady@gaa.ie](mailto:collette.coady@gaa.ie) for more information.

If you have already formed a social football or hurling team and would like to register with GAA Community & Health for updates and links to other teams and activities click on the link below:

GAA DADS & LADS TEAM REGISTRATION



County	Dads & Lads Team Name	Code
Antrim	Halfpacehurlers	Hurling
Armagh	Cuchulainns (Mullagh-bawn, Armagh)	Football
Down	Ballygalget	Hurling
Down	CLANN NA BANNA (Down)	Football
Dublin	Towers (RT Clondalkin, Dublin)	Football
Dublin	St Judes	Hurling
Dublin	Naomh Olafs	Hurling
Dublin	Cuala Social Hurling	Hurling
Fermanagh	St Patricks GFC	Football
Herts	Herts Social GAA	Football & Hurling
Kildare	Leixlip	Football
Kildare	Naas Masters	Hurling
Limerick	The Killeedy Boys	Football
Louth	Geraldines	Football
Louth	Fechins	Football
Meath	Cilles Gaelic4Dads & Lads	Football
Westmeath	Westmeath Social Hurling	Hurling
Dublin	Thomas Davis Gaelic for Dads and Lads	Football
Dublin	The Parish Gentleman (Erins Isle)	Football & Hurling
Armagh	Éire Óg	Football

## DERMOT EARLEY GRADUATES ANNOUNCED



**SOME 148 YOUNG MEMBERS OF GAA CLUBS FROM ACROSS THE ISLAND OF IRELAND GRADUATED FROM THE DERMOT YOUTH LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE, WHICH IS AN ACCREDITED PROGRAMME BY UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND GALWAY (NUIG).**

On Saturday the 2nd of April they were awarded a Foundation Certificate in Youth Leadership and Community Action at the first in-person graduation since 2019.

The Covid-19 pandemic meant the young people participating in the programme participated exclusively virtually, but this done little to dim the enthusiasm of those taking part.

The initiative, a tribute to Dermot's lifetime

of sporting and professional achievements and his commitment to community service, is brought to life through a partnership between GAA, Foróige, and NUI Galway. The programme empowers young people to enhance their leadership capabilities to better enable them to reach their full potential and have a positive impact on the world around them.

The clubs that drove the programme within their communities were: Cuala, Dublin; Kilmacud Crokes, Dublin; Clonad, Laois; Celbridge, Kildare; Craobh Rua, Armagh; Deel Rovers, Mayo; St Johns, Sligo; Lucan Sarsfields, Dublin; Newtown Blues, Louth; Padraic Pearses, Roscommon; Scotstown, Monaghan; Strabane Sigersons, Tyrone; Termon, Donegal

An Uachtarán CLG, Larry McCarthy, said: "The GAA's greatest strength is the people who we have volunteering and driving the Association in clubs, and schools, and in our counties, provinces and national committees. The calibre of the young people who are attracted to and invested in this Dermot Earley Youth Leadership Initiative gives us great confidence in the strength of the GAA leadership that is needed to drive us towards our 150th anniversary in 2034 and beyond.

"I congratulate the graduates, I commend the organising committee at national and local level for an initiative that is a lasting tribute to the outstanding leader and inspiration that was Dermot Earley Senior."

Séan Campbell, Foróige CEO said "Every year we witness the remarkable difference the

Dermot Earley Youth Leadership Initiative makes to young people and communities right across Ireland. Foróige is immensely proud of the programme, our partnership with the GAA and NUI Galway and of the facilitators who deliver it. But today is all about the graduates and I congratulate each and every one of you for your immense achievement - I can't wait to see where your leadership journey takes you from here"

Leona Conroy, DEYLI Facilitator with Clonad GAA said "A massive congratulations to the Dermot Earley Youth Leadership Class of 2020/2021."

For more information on how your club can get involved with the DEYLI contact

[blanaid.carney@gaa.ie](mailto:blanaid.carney@gaa.ie)



## UPDATED GAA DEFIB GUIDELINES

**IN 2021 WE SAW THE LAUNCH OF THE HUGELY SUCCESSFUL GAA COMMUNITY HEARTS PROGRAMME. A HIGH PROFILE CAMPAIGN SAW 54 CLUBS FROM ALL FOUR PROVINCES PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAMME, RAISING A TOTAL OF €129,000 COLLECTIVELY, ALL OF WHICH WENT TOWARDS SECURING MODERN AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AEDS) FOR THESE CLUBS.**

The programme encouraged clubs to “A.C.T.” when faced with an emergency – that is to ensure that an AED is Accessible, Charged and there are enough Trained responders in the club who can operate the AED should a situation arise.

The bespoke Community Hearts fundraiser platform has now closed; however, the association remains committed to providing clubs with up-to-date information on the role of defibrillators and guidelines across key areas such as acquisition, accessibility, storage, training, and maintenance of AEDs.

An AED is a portable device that checks heart rhythm. If needed, it can send an electric shock to try and restore a normal rhythm. AEDs are used to treat sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). SCA is a condition in which the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating and can cause death if not treated within minutes. Cardiovascular disease is Ireland’s biggest killer, with in the region of 10,000 deaths each year.

Sports clubs and organisations are among those that can play a role in ensuring they are equipped and prepared to respond in such situations. There is significant evidence to suggest that early defibrillation can have a major impact on survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest.

GAA defibrillator programmes are overseen by the Association’s Medical, Scientific and Welfare Committee and AEDs are currently available at all GAA county grounds. The GAA aims to continue to create awareness on the importance of AEDs and has rolled out several Defibrillator Schemes.

Many clubs have availed of the schemes outlined above, with other clubs opting to purchase AEDs independently and through their own resources, all providing a valuable resource for our members and wider communities should a cardiac arrest situation occur, and an AED is needed. We know, in recent years, that 42 lives have been saved with the assistance of GAA AEDs, and believe there have been many more occasions where lives have been saved by GAA AEDs.

An updated GAA defibrillator guidance document will be sent to all clubs during April to ensure this important issue remains to the forefront of volunteers’, parents, players and coaches minds moving forward.



**ANTRIM AND CUSHENDALL STAR HURLER NEIL MCMANUS WITH HIS FATHER HUGH AND AN AED UNIT SIMILAR TO THE ONE WHICH WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING TO SAVE HUGH’S LIFE WHEN HE HAD A CARDIAC EPISODE IN HIS HOME AND THE PRESENCE OF A COMMUNITY AED WAS VITAL IN ASSISTING HIM UNTIL AN AMBULANCE ARRIVED.**

# TRANSLINK LAUNCH SEARCH FOR OUTSTANDING YOUNG GAA VOLUNTEERS

**TRANSLINK AND ULSTER GAA ARE CALLING ON CLUBS ACROSS THE PROVINCE TO NOMINATE YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THE TRANSLINK ULSTER GAA YOUNG VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH AWARD.**

The award celebrates the outstanding contribution made by young members to their clubs and communities. Each month throughout the 2022 season a winner will be selected who best represents the volunteering ethos of the GAA.

This is the sixth year of the award and at the end of the season, one person will be named 'Volunteer of the Year', which last time, was won by 17-year-old Oisín Coleman from Patrick Sarsfield's GAC, Belfast. As part of his prize package, Oisín won a set of jerseys for his club's youth team.

Clubs are encouraged to nominate young people aged 16-24 years for the accolade. Entries are welcome for volunteers who positively contribute to every aspect of community life – from coaching and mentoring, to fundraising and committee membership.

Encouraging the GAA community to seize the opportunity to celebrate its young people, Stephen Montgomery, Service Delivery Manager at Translink said:

*"Young people play such an important role in their communities and these awards are a*

*fantastic way to encourage and acknowledge the great volunteering efforts delivered by young GAA members across Northern Ireland. We're proud to support this initiative and we're looking forward to hearing about the inspiring young volunteers"*

Ulster GAA President Ciaran McLaughlin said:

*"Volunteerism is at the heart of everything that happens in the GAA across the province and we are delighted that our initiative with Translink recognises the positive impact that our youth members have with their clubs and communities, through a wide range of volunteer activities, including coaching, well-being schemes, fundraising and committee membership."*

*"I would encourage all of our clubs to showcase their own young leaders by nominating as often as they can for the monthly awards."*

To nominate a young person for this award, visit [ulster.gaa.ie/youngvolunteeraward](https://ulster.gaa.ie/youngvolunteeraward).

The nomination process opens on the first Monday of each month and closes on the 20th of each month, after which a judging panel will select the winner. Monthly winners will receive a commemorative certificate, an item of Ulster GAA merchandise, and a set of Enterprise tickets, provided by Translink.



PICTURED AT THE LAUNCH OF THE TRANSLINK ULSTER GAA YOUNG VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH AWARD AT PATRICK SARSFIELD'S GAC BELFAST, STEPHEN MONTGOMERY, TRANSLINK SERVICE DELIVERY MANAGER, DANIEL MCKERNAN, SARSFIELD'S AND ANTRIM HURLER, AND DIARMAID MARSDEN, ULSTER GAA HEAD OF CLUB AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.



Le Jamie Ó Tuama

# BÍODH GACH SEACHTAIN INA SEACHTAIN GHAELIGE LE #GAAGAEILGE

**TÁ FÉILE SHEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE DÍREACH THART ACH NÍ HIONANN SIN IS A RÁ NACH FÉIDIR LINN ÁR GCUID GAEILGE A CHLEACHTADH ARÍS GO DTÍ MÍ MÁRTA NA BLIANA SEO CHUGAINN! ÁBHAR BRÓID DON CHUMANN AN MÉID BALL, CLUBANNA, CONTEATHA AGUS CÚIGÍ FUD FAD NA CRUINNE A GHLAC PÁIRT SAN FHÉILE I MBLIANA, AR BHEALACH AMHÁIN NÓ AR BHEALACH EILE, AGUS GHLAC GO LEOR PÁIRT SA CHOMHRÁ AR LÍNE AG #GAAGAEILGE, FREISIN. NÁ CUIRIMIS DEIREADH LEIS AN GCOMHRÁ ANOIS! COINNÍMIS ORAINN AG CUR CHUN CINN NA GAEILGE INÁR GCUID CLUBANNA AGUS INÁR GCUID POBAL. BÍODH AN GHAELIGE AG CROILÁR ÁR GCLUBANNA AGUS ÁR GCUMAINN!**

Cheap Coiste Náisiúnta Gaeilge CLG Paul Conroy mar Ambasadóir Gaeilge do CLG le gairid agus tá muid ag súil go mór le gabháil i mbun oibre le Paul sa bhliain amach romhainn.

Tá Fondúireacht Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonncha lárnach i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge sna clubanna agus bhí os cionn 200 club cláraithe leis an scéim seo anuraidh. Scéim í do chlubanna CLG atá á riar ag Glór na nGael i gcomhar le Cumann Lúthchleas Gael. Tá gach eolas faoin bhFondúireacht ar fáil anseo: <https://www.glornangael.ie/cig/>. Mara bhfuil do chlub cláraithe, cláraigh go beo iad!

Bíonn an Ghaeilge le feiceáil ar ardáin chumarsáide CLG ar bhonn laethúil agus is féidir teacht ar an nuacht is deireanaí #GAAGaeilge ar shuíomh idirlín CLG anseo: <https://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/cultur-agus->

[gaeilge/cultur-agus-gaeilge](#). Leanfar ar aghaidh ag cur podchaoltaí Gaeilge ar fáil i gcomhar le Cian agus Carthach ón An Spota Dubh. Bíonn 'Cuaille' – iris Ghaeilge an Chumainn – ar fáil uair sa ráithe agus bíonn ailt rialta le feiceáil i Nuachtlitir na gClubanna gach mí.

Bíonn turais ar Pháirc an Chrócaigh ar fáil do ghrúpaí móra ach iad a lorg ó Mhúsaem Pháirc an Chrócaigh. Bíonn comórtas scríbhneoireachta Gaeilge á reáchtáil ag an Músaem gach bliain, freisin. Bíonn iarratais Ghaeilge – idir amhráin, nuachleasanna agus scéalaíocht/aithriseoireacht – ag babhtá de chuid Scór. Eagraítear na comórtais seo go dátheangach agus bíonn go leor Gaeilge le cloisteáil ag Scór i gcónaí. Tugtar rogha do gach dalta idirbhliana a dhéanann an clár 'Ceannairí don Todhchaí' nó 'Future Leaders' é a dhéanamh go hiomlán trí Ghaeilge. Tá an scéim folláine do bhunscoileanna, Ag Dul go Maith, ann - <https://goingwell.ie/ga/mar-gheall-ar-go-maith/>.

Bíonn Cúl Camps ar fáil trí Ghaeilge ach an t-éileamh a bheith ann ó chlubanna. Tá acmhainní cóitseála Gaeilge, 'Céim Ar Aghaidh' ar fáil do mhúinteoirí agus do chóitseálaithe anseo: <https://learning.gaa.ie/gaeilgepeceim>

Bronntar Gradam Mhic Con Mídhe don phíos iriseoireachta Gaeilge is fearr a bhaineann le cúrsaí CLG gach bliain. Bronnann Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael 'Gradam Gaeilge an Uachtaráin' ar dhuine a bhfuil éachtaí saoil déanta acu i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge sa Chumann gach bliain, freisin.



FÓGRÓIR STAIDE PHÁIRC AN CHRÓCAIGH, JERRY GROGAN, UACHTARÁN CHUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL, LABHRÁS MAC CARTHAIGH, AGUS CATHAOIRLEACH CHOISTE NÁISIÚNTA GAEILGE CLG, GRÁINNE MCELWAIN, AG SEOLADH 'LÁMHLEABHAR FHEAR/BHEAN AN TÍ' I BPÁIRC A CHRÓCAIGH

Ní féidir gabháil go Páirc an Chrócaigh ar lá mór cluiche gan an Ghaeilge a chloisteáil ó Jerry Grogan, fear tí Pháirc an Chrócaigh ar laethanta cluichí. Ní féidir gabháil ann gan ailt Ghaeilge a léamh sa chlár oifigiúil, gan Ghaeilge a léamh i dTeachtaireacht an Uachtaráin agus gan í a fheiceáil i gCúinne na nÓg sa chlár. Tá comharthaíocht dhátheangach le feiceáil ar fud na staidhe agus ar an scáileán mór – gan trácht ar shúil an tseabhaic. An bhfuil sé/sí thar an trasnán? 'Tá' nó 'Níl'!

Ceaptar Oifigeach Gaeilge i ngach contae gach bliain agus bíonn áit ag an té a cheaptar ar Bhord an Chontae. Bíonn Oifigeach Gaeilge le ceapadh i ngach club,

freisin. Cuirigí aithne orthu! Bíonn Coiste Náisiúnta Gaeilge CLG ag obair ar chlár leathan oibre ó cheann ceann na bliana.

Tá blaisín beag de na rudaí a dhéanann Cumann Lúthchleas Gael chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn le feiceáil thuas. Coinnímis orainn ag cur na Gaeilge ag croilár ár gCumann. Eagraimis ócáidí agus imeachtaí Gaeilge ag leibhéal an chlub, an chontae, an chúige agus go náisiúnta ó cheann ceann na bliana. Déanaimis ceiliúradh ar ár dteanga náisiúnta, ní hamháin le linn Sheachtain na Gaeilge, ach le linn na bliana ar fad. #GAAGaeilge abú!

Labhraimis í agus mairfidh sí!

By Cian O'Connell

# SARSFIELDS SUCCESS SPANS THE GENERATIONS

**HURLING AND CAMOGIE DOMINATE THE AGENDA IN BULLAUN AND NEW INN. A NUMBER OF DECORATED FAMILIES HAVE ENJOYED MEMORABLE DAYS WITH SARSFIELDS AND GALWAY. THERE IS ALWAYS ANOTHER CHALLENGE TO EMBRACE WITH SARSFIELDS READY, WILLING, AND ABLE TO REMAIN RELEVANT.**

To claim a second AIB All-Ireland Club Senior Camogie victory illustrates the enduring passion that exists. In March Sarsfields defeated Oulart-The Ballagh as Croke Park provided the backdrop for Sarsfields' latest national triumph.

These are particularly exciting times for Sarsfields and the desire for sport is being passed through the generations. The Ward family has contributed handsomely to the Sarsfields story. Laura Ward is an influential figure for the team and

acknowledges that history matters. "When you hear stories from when they won years ago it is absolutely unbelievable," she says.

"You hear about the McGraths and the Cooneys, the girls would be talking about when the lads won, stories from Dad when they won. It is just magical, it brings such a lift to the community when things like that happen. It is just a magical thing for a community to be able to win."

In the Ward household training and matches are always on the schedule. Tony Ward has occupied a central coaching role with Galway camogie teams, inspiring many players to glory.

"We barely see each other, Dad is gone every second evening with teams, I'm gone every second evening, Alan with Sarsfields and Kevin is training us for the last two years,"

she laughs. "So I suppose I see a bit too much of him, Ciara is there too with us.

"We just live it really. I do feel sorry for poor Mam, she is dragged out the door every weekend to every match. She wouldn't have it any other way, but my nieces and nephew have nearly been raised on the sideline at this stage." Sarsfields claimed All Ireland Club hurling titles in 1993 and 1994 – so the local people appreciate the success and the work that went into producing high quality performers.

"It is brilliant, you wouldn't have it any other way," Ward says. "We are so lucky in a way, the way our community and our club is. The hurlers are really strong and in the camogie, both compete really well at senior level.

"We wouldn't have it any other way, it is brilliant too having that kind of support

from the community. We look up to the lads that won the back to back All-Ireland's with Sarsfields, that was an absolutely outstanding achievement. It is where you want to be and it is what you want to be doing."

Sarsfields have now contested five All-Ireland Camogie deciders since 2017, winning two. It is a remarkable achievement. Every Sarsfields team, regardless of the level or age group, carries hope and expectation.

"When you come from the same area as the Joe Cooneys, Michael McGraths, Padraig Kellys, sport is everywhere you go," Tony Ward said when in charge of Limerick club Doon in 2020. "Even outside Mass on a Saturday evening it is sport that is talked about all of the time in the area."

The stirring Sarsfields success story continues.

LAURA WARD, SARSFIELDS



By John Harrington

## CROSSMAGLEN'S GAA FOR ALL SESSIONS OFF TO A FLIER

**CROSSMAGLEN RANGERS IN ARMAGH HAVE JOINED THE GROWING NUMBER OF GAA CLUBS TO OFFER A WEEKLY GAA FOR ALL TRAINING SESSION FOR CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS IN THEIR LOCAL AREA.**

The first such session took place last Saturday and was a huge success with 12 children taking part.

It's just the latest worthy initiative in a long line of them by the very active Crossmaglen Rangers Healthy Club Committee.

"A local teacher, Sarah Cairns, is a player with the club and she decided that she'd spearhead it with directions from the GAA's Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Geraldine McTavish," says Crossmaglen Rangers Club PRO and Healthy Club Officer, Róisín Murtagh.

"She went to St. Peter's GAA club in Warrenpoint, Co. Down to see how they roll out their own GAA For All initiative and then she organised a coaching team here in the club and got them all vetted.

"A number of the coaches are ex-players and a number of them were managers before so it's really taken off well and they're now in the process of buying more equipment.

"It was a fantastic day. We had 12 kids and we're now in the process of getting them jerseys. We had a couple of enquiries since from Monaghan clubs so we'd hope to have more than 12 next week. I think once the word spreads it'll grow and grow.



COACHES AND CHILDREN WHO TOOK PART IN CROSSMAGLEN RANGERS' FIRST GAA FOR ALL TRAINING SESSION.

"It's a great outlet for kids who can't take part in conventional games and it wasn't just kids from our own club who took part. We had kids from across South Armagh and North Louth. Crossmaglen Rangers are spearheading it with our own coaches, but we're welcoming children from right across the border region and a number of

clubs were represented on Saturday.

"The kids had a brilliant time and all of them really took part in it. We had it in the main field so the parents could watch from the stands because obviously they would be anxious how their child with additional needs would adapt to a new environment.

"I also shared the pictures of the coaches who would be involved beforehand with the families taking part so the children would already be familiar with the faces before they arrived and we would have let the parents know too exactly what would be taking place.

"It just all fell into place really well, the





CROSSMAGLEN RANGERS GAA FOR ALL COORDINATOR, SARAH CAIRNS, PICTURED WITH SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS AT LAST SATURDAY'S INAUGURAL COACHING SESSION.

sun was shining, and everyone had a great time. Hopefully we can build on that now."

Crossmaglen Rangers are one of the best known clubs in the country for all they've achieved on the football pitch, but they're now also quickly earning a well-deserved reputation for being very proactive in their community off the pitch too.

Their Healthy Club Committee has rolled out a number of really well received

initiatives that have made an appreciably positive difference to the lives of many people in the community.

"It's just been fantastic," says Murtagh. "During the lockdown everyone in the club really embraced the Healthy Club initiative. We quickly identified what the needs were in the community and we had a This is Your Life event with Oisín McConville as the host and a number of famous people as guests. An awful lot of

people logged in from home to watch that.

"Then we had a colouring competition for the wee ones at home. Then we had a 'Rangers has Talent' show. People couldn't go out and socialise so they performed at home and sent in the videos and I'd share them on a Sunday night.

"The Healthy Club Initiative has just taken us on a great journey. The most successful initiative we had was an addiction

awareness evening that Oisín McConville and myself organised and Oisín was the host. (Offaly footballer) Niall McNamee took part, and we had two ex-players who spoke of their own experience with addiction as well as representatives from Cuan Mhuire (Addiction Treatment Centre).

"We got Armagh TV to video it and it went out live and we had something like quarter of a million hits on it. Our following on Facebook has gone up an awful lot. In the last 28 days we've reached 400,000 people. So as well as being known for what we achieve on the field, we're also beginning to be known for what we do off the field as well because we're such a community oriented club.

"A number of people have reached out for help since that evening so we're delighted with that."

The club continue to put a big effort into enhancing the emotional health of their club-members by partnership with organisations such as Samaritans and the Magnet Young Adult Centre.

"We have the Magnet Youth services coming in every week for seven weeks and each team at underage level will go and have a session that covers areas such as drug awareness, alcohol addiction, and mental health problems," says Murtagh.

"We have also partnered with the Samaritans and will have a Mental Health talk later in the year and we're also taking part in Darkness into Light. So we're extremely busy, but it's all good. The need is there in the community for support, especially after Covid.

"We've noticed an awful lot of children were quiet, even children who weren't quiet previously. They seemed to lose some of their social skills and it's great to have them back out on the field."



## 'FARNEY ARMY ACTIVITY BOOK' LAUNCHED FOR YOUNG MONAGHAN SUPPORTERS

**MONAGHAN LIBRARIES HAVE COME UP WITH A GREAT IDEA TO ENCOURAGE CHILDREN IN THE COUNTY WITH A PASSION FOR GAELIC GAMES TO DEVELOP THEIR LITERACY SKILLS.**

They've developed an excellent literacy activity book with a Monaghan GAA theme called 'The Farney Army Activity Book'.

1,300 copies have already been distributed to sixth class students across the county, and Monaghan Libraries hope to make them more widely available once all schools have received them.

You can check out the online version of 'The Farney Army Activity Book' here - [ow.ly/kYvy50llgto](http://ow.ly/kYvy50llgto)



MONAGHAN LIBRARIES PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR, AMANDA MCCARVILLE, CENTRE, PICTURED WITH MONAGHAN FOOTBALLERS ELLEN MCCARRON, LEFT, AND RYAN MCANESPIE, RIGHT.

## MÍLE BUÍOCHAS

Thank you to all of those who have contributed to this month's edition of the GAA Club Newsletter. Your feedback is welcome and any comments, suggestions or queries should be directed to **[clubnewsletter@gaa.ie](mailto:clubnewsletter@gaa.ie)**.

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