



YEARBOOK

The County
The Clubs
The Teams
The year that was

2021



GAA



The Clubs of

Shillelagh Coolboy
St. Kevins
St. Nicholas
St. Patricks Wicklow Town
Tinahely
Valleymount
Western Gales

In the year that was

2021



Shillelagh Coolboy

2021 A Review

Whilst still being a very challenging year due primarily to external circumstances, 2021 from our club perspective has delivered continued progression both on and off the field over the course of the year. Due to COVID and associated restrictions the 2020 committee was tasked with continuing leadership of club into 2021 until conditions allowed an AGM being facilitated. Key highlights of 2021 were (see more details under the specific sections below)

- Increased playing and playing numbers across our juvenile teams from U7 all the way through to minor
- Fielding of 2 adult clubs in football (Junior A and Junior C)
- Continued progression and roll out of our Healthy Club initiatives and strategies
- Appointment of Paul Garrigan as club GPO
- Increase in coaching numbers at underage level and increased participation on coaching courses
- Successful fundraising events to support club activities and strategies
- We launched our on line club shop this year -go to WWW.DSSPORTS.ie or click on CLUB GEAR SHOP at www.dssports.ie/product-category/my-club/gaa/shillelagh-coolboy/

Juvenile Summary

As with any club the juvenile program is the bedrock to sustain the club long term and thankfully our club has continued to make huge strides in player attraction, development and most importantly retention. As we as increasing playing numbers, we were also able to increase the number of

Nursery:



A huge success story this year, the importance of the nursery for the club is borne out by the numbers participating at the older age groups currently. In 2021 we had on average 19 kids attend the weekly nursery program under the watchful eyes of Nathan Clemence and Catherina Behan

coaches within the club compared to last year which is another significant achievement. As always, the club is hugely thankful to all coaches for giving up their time to help prepare the underage teams in terms of training and games. In 2021 the club was able to successfully field teams in every available age group and competition from u7 through to minor level which really bodes well for the future. Off the field the biggest development in 2021 in relation to juvenile development was with the appointment of Paul Garrigan as our GPO. Paul is a highly regarded coach as everyone knows and we are delighted that he has come on board. Our GPO activities formally started in Sept 2021 and from then into 2022 the focus of GPO activities will primarily focus on sessions in the 3 local primary schools but also the club along with Paul will be developing strategies to improve coaching programs and training activities across all age groups in 2022. The appointment of Paul would not have been possible without the engagement of the whole community. GPO programs bring with them cost liabilities over the planned duration and to fund this we ran a walkathon fundraiser in June with a view to covering Yr 1 cost but incredible and thanks to the participation of all members and families in the locality we were able to raise enough funds to almost cover costs for the 2nd year of the program also. This is an initiative that we are hugely excited to see the benefits of over the coming years so on behalf of the committee a huge thanks to all supporters who made this possible. As mentioned above, on the playing field we continue to make progress at all age groups. Below is a short summary for each respective age group in the club

along with the ever keen Maddison (who will be our special coaching assistant in 2022). A bedrock of our Healthy Club initiative will be an inclusive culture within our club and this strategy is probably no more evident than in our nursery. We have made continued efforts this year (and in

previous years) with huge success to make Gaelic Games accessible for ALL children and 2022 will be no different. The ethos in our nursery is very much focused on fun and engaging with the kids as much as possible in game-based activities and teaching them key skills like listening! Some of

the kids will be moving onto U7 next year and go games and the nursery coaches wish them the best. Similar numbers are expected for next year's nursery, so we look forward to seeing what new games and activities the coaching team comes up with next year.

Under 7:



Our u7's trained every Monday and from a training perspective the group was typically split into 1st year u7's and 2nd year u7's to provide the right level of coaching for their age. The team took part in go games every second week during the summer and at these go games we were able to field 2 teams at each one with both teams continuously demonstrating the skills and techniques being learned at training.

Ethos at our go games program and training is very much based on fun and excitement but at the same time the players ably demonstrated their football ability at each of the go games too. The coaches for the u7's were Michelle Remington, Louise Dempsey, Joseph Dempsey, Ava O'Keefe, Ann Lennon and Mark Dempsey



Under 9:

Our u9's also trained every Monday and from a training perspective the group was typically split into 1st year u9's and 2nd year u9's to provide the right level of coaching for their

age. The team took part in go games every second week during the summer and at these go games we were able to field 2 teams at every go-games also. Huge thanks to the coaching team.



Under 11:



Under 11's participated in group 4 of the league in 2021 with a playing panel of 15 players. Some of these players also participated along with a number of the u9's in the u10 player pathway competition which allowed them to play against some teams that we wouldn't typically play against. At both u10 and u11 the players acquitted themselves very well against all the opposition they played against. The year

culminated in a finals match against Newtown who had defeated the team earlier in the year but after a great match with great levels of skill and determination shown to deliver a win in the final which triggered great celebration among the players to finish the year off on a high. Huge thanks to the coaching team of Francis Simpson and Gavin O'Brien.

Under 13:

Under 13's participated in group 2 of the league in 2021 with a playing panel of 15 players numbers were relatively tight but the team fulfilled all their fixtures which was a credit to them. Some of these players also participated in the under 12 and under 14 player pathway competition. Despite a small playing panel, the players put in a huge effort and put in some great performances over the course of the year. Unfortunately, the year culminated in a defeat to Baltinglass in the championship final but there is huge talent within the playing group, and we look forward to seeing how the develop over the coming years. Huge thanks to the coaching team of Paul Behan, Bryan Hutton and Daniel Behan.

Under 15:

Our u15's participated in Division 2 of this year's league and also the majority of this years 23 man strong panel were also eligible for the u14 Feile competition and the u14 player pathway competition. Due to early COVID restrictions around matches the team focused very much on training, fitness, and skills early in the year and we had great attendance at all sessions. The team were very competitive in all games they played this year and we finished in the top 4 of Division 2 which qualified us for the semi-finals. In the semi-final we came up against a very strong AGB side and unfortunately lost out on the day. As a result, we ended up in the shield final against who is turning into a regular foe at underage, St Kevin's. After a match that ebbed and flowed for the 60 mins we ultimately came out as victors by the slimmest of margins. This is a very dedicated group of players and we look forward to seeing their progression path over the coming years through minor and into adult football. Huge thanks to the coaching team of Declan Carthy, Tom Bowes and Noel Murphy

Minor:

Our minors participated in Division 2 of this year's league under the banner of Tomnafinogue with our near neighbours Tinahely and Coolkenno. The minor competition (league and championship) involved a lot of group teams and consequently the level of opposition is quite strong which is a positive thing. The lads acquitted themselves very well throughout the whole year which culminated in a final vs Micheal Dwyers which we unfortunately lost by 4 points. Neverthe-

Junior A:

After a relatively successful 2020 we approached 2021 with a renewed sense of optimism for the year ahead. Unfortunately, COVID restrictions still inhibited some elements of our prep and playing time but for 2021 we continued under the stewardship of Jon Hynes again for 2021 with Laurie Cullen and Sam O'Keefe making up the remainder of the management team. Pre-season work involved some strength and conditioning work and this coupled with work on the training field set us up well for the cup 'league' competition in advance of championship. After some very competitive matches the lads found themselves in a semi-final against intermediate side Laragh and unfortunately we came out on the wrong side of a 1 point defeat. These matches set us up well for championship where we were drawn out against Eire Og Greystones in the first round and we duly came away with a good win to set up a second-round match against championship favourites Barrandarrig. It was nip and tuck for 50 mins of this second-round match but Bandari finished strongly in the last 10 minutes to take the victory. As a result we found ourselves in knock-out match against Rathnew and unfortunately, we were defeated which left us in a relegation battle. Thankfully the lads regrouped, and we were able to navigate ourselves through these matches so we successfully secured Junior status for 2022. Given the strength of juvenile numbers coming through now and in the next few years we are confident that we have the seeds of success sown and look forward to seeing how the team can make further progress in 2022. Thanks to the 2021 management team of Jon Hynes, Laurie Cullen and Sam Keefe.

Healthy Club Project

Summary (2021 Achievements and 2022 plans) What are we trying to achieve? - The Healthy Club project aims to help GAA clubs explore how they support the holistic health of their members and the communities they serve. GAA clubs already contribute to the health and wellbeing of their members by providing opportunities to develop their physical, social, emotional, and psychological health. The project aims to help GAA clubs identify what they are already doing well, identify areas where they can or would like to improve, and empower them to ensure that everyone who engages with their club benefits from the experience in a health-enhancing way, be they players, officers, coaches, parents, supporters, or members of their local community. As a club we have put huge focus in this area over the last few years, in 2021 the below are some of the key highlights that was delivered by the team.

- Operation Transformation -We signed up to operation transformation and had the Fairgreen walkway lit up on those nights during January. We had 50 members took part

less, we will see progression of some of these players from minor into adult football in 2022 which is the primary target. We will be playing under the banner of Tomnafinogue again in 2022 and with a larger panel next year we have plenty to look forward too. Thanks to the coaching team of Richard Lambert, Liam Hillard and Pat Murphy for the efforts this year. As the year draws to a close we have a number of players involved in the u19 competition which is in progress.

Junior C:

As a further sign of positive developments on the playing side of things within the club, it was decided to affiliate a 2nd adult team in 2021. Primary aim was to provide a team for some of the younger players to get game time but also to provide an opportunity for some of the 'veterans' of yesterday a chance to lace up the boots again. There was a huge buzz generated from the roll-out of a second team, due to the late timing it wasn't possible to participate in the league section earlier in the year but we did participate in the championship and victory over Vallemount secured our passage into the next round of the championship, unfortunately the fixture against Ashford did not pan out as we would have hoped or planned but over the course of the 5 games we played previously the team acquitted themselves very well with a large panel of players toggling out on every occasion. With more and more younger players coming through this team will serve as a good outlet to get these younger players used to playing at an adult level so we hope we can further strengthen this area over the coming years. Thanks to the 2021 management team of James Gregan and Francis Simpson for the efforts in getting the team up and running this year and hopefully for many more years to come.

in the Irish life steps Challenge reaching a total of Nepal and back. Registration for next year's Challenge is open already on the Irish life App starting January 12th

- Walkers and Talkers, We started a group aimed at the senior members of the community in September outside the club house in shillelagh with tea coffee and cakes. This provided a forum for people to meet up for a long overdue chat over a cuppa! - we will revisit this again in the springtime when the weather warms up.

- First Aid course A number of coaches completed a first aid and defibrillator course at the start of the year.

- Mental Health- We hosted some online talks re mental health -Adult and Juvenile.

- Pound Fitness Class We held a trial class of this to get a taster. Yes - we didn't know what it was either, but it turned out to be a hugely enjoyable event based on participant feedback. We plan to hold these classes again after Christmas. See more at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-G9oojzfJAc>

- Healthy Foods - Club members took part in an on line



healthy food cookery course. We continued to provide fruit juice, milk, water and the now popular fruit and rice cakes at home go games which we managed 2 this year in what was a shorter playing season again

• Healthy Club Status – With all the great work we completed in the last 2 years we are now an accredited healthy club and were presented with a plaque and flag to mark this during the year. This will put us in a good position to apply for additional supports in the years ahead.

Healthy Club Graduation Day

We have also signed up to a number of Charters this year - These charters will help the club in some key areas

- Drug and alcohol addiction support
- Gambling Awareness
- Suicide Awareness
- The Care charter for inclusion in sport
- The GAA sign language in sport
- The young Lungs at play smoke/vape free project and made the playing and are promoting no smoking at the pitches in both Coolafancy and Shillelagh

We have built a great Relationship with a number of key partners who not only provide us with expertise but also can help us with funding for some of our projects. These include the Healthy club team in Croke Park, Healthy club team in Wicklow and Wicklow Sports & recreation partnership. Looking into 2022 we would aim to increase participation in activities such as for GAA Mothers & Others (social GAA) go-

ing along with Social Rounders. We would love to hear from people in relation to any other initiatives or activities that people would like to see us focus on so please let us know. The club was also privileged to have players represent the county over the course of the year. At adult level Wayne Kinsella was a member of the county hurling squad, Ciaran Lambert was a member of this year's minor squad and we currently have 3 players (Conor Byrne, Killian O'Keefe, and Eddie Cullen) on the U15 county football development squad and hopefully a lot more to come over the coming years. In addition we also have many members contributing to county activities be it as administrators, match day stewards and referees so thanks to Tommy Murphy, John Cullen, Mark Dempsey, Miley Keefe and Christy O'Rourke accordingly.

Obviously through 2021 and the situation and challenges we find ourselves in we also lost some members of our club and community so as a club our condolences go out to all families of people we have lost and going into 2022 for people facing struggles or battles please know the club is here to help.

To finish on a positive as we look forward to 2022, we want to thank all our supporters, our players, parents our helpers for all and every contribution in 2021 and we hope we can count on everyone again in 2022. Stay safe and we look forward to getting together again next year [www.facebook.com/ ShillelaghCoolboy](http://www.facebook.com/ShillelaghCoolboy) to keep up to date on club activities.



St. Kevins



U11

After a Covid delayed start to the year, the St Kevin's U11s kicked off the year at the end of April, with a huge panel 42 of committed players, we entered 3 U11 teams and also participated in the U10 and U12 player pathway leagues, in total the teams played about 45 matches and approx 50 training sessions. With so many teams, players and matches, we were extremely lucky to have 10 coaches who organised and ran all of the groups. With plenty of game time for all, the players really developed over the course of the year and this was really evident towards the end of the year where each of the teams finished with really strong performances.

We wish the 14 boys moving on to U13 with St Kevin's and the 5 girls who will move on to Vallemount U12 ladies, the best of luck. We look forward to seeing the 23 players, who will return to the U11s next year as they become the senior members of the team.

U13



Our under 13 panel had a successful and enjoyable year. We started off by playing the previous year's under 11 final with most of the panel. This resulted in a win for St Kevin's against a very strong Kiltegan team.

Our 33 training sessions were very well attended. The panel's discipline and dedication shown at these training sessions was a bedrock

to our strong performances in our 16 matches. The progression in both skills and tactical awareness grew steadily throughout the year, culminating in a shield win against Aughrim in early October.

On behalf of all the coaches, the complete panel have been an absolute pleasure to coach all year.

U15



The St Kevin's U15 squad this year has a tough start, losing 3 of the older players for most of the year with injury following the first match. However this great bunch of committed kids worked hard all year and ended up finishing strongly, winning their respective Feile

, they came third in the competition table and they were unlucky to be beaten in the shield final by a last minute goal. The younger U14s of this group had a great run in the PPL being unbeaten throughout.

U17



The Minor Championship kicked off on the 12 July v Michael Dwyers with a win and we also played Michael Hogans, Pearse Gaels, An Tochar, St Patricks, Tomnafinogue and Eire Og Greystones with three random rounds. The panel of 22 players played some great football with all players improving over the season to qualify for the semi-final v Michael Hogans in Ballinakill on 17th Oct. However, it was not to be their day and favourites Hogans ran out winners by four points in a very entertaining game of football. This meant that St Kevin's qualified for the Shield Final on the 30 Oct v An Tochar in Blessington. The team really showed up for this match and ended

the season on a winning note with Trevor Allen collecting the trophy and Ciaran Coyne the man of the match. The team played 15 games in 19 weeks starting on 21 June including Player Pathway games and completed 40 training sessions during the season. The team have to acknowledge the players, parents and mentors Ambrose, Norman, Derek and Matt. Thanks also to Thomas Burke, Cormac Noone, John O`Sullivan and sponsors along the way. We wish all the players moving onto adult football in 2022 with their clubs the best of luck in the future.



St. Nicholas

About St Nicholas

St Nicholas is the club serving the juvenile players from the Donard/Glen and Dunlavin area. This name was given to the combination of the two parish clubs in the early 1990's. Around this time the juvenile jerseys evolved to include the green and white of Donard and the green and yellow of Dunlavin to give us the colours worn at present. The association between the two adult clubs however goes back much further including an appearance in the county minor final in 1948.

Over the years the St Nicholas club has had much success winning numerous underage titles including the minor championship in 1965, 1968, 1973, 1974, 1993, 2010, 2011, 2020 and 2021. The club enters teams into the Wicklow competitions at U13, U15, Minor and U19 grades. New players are always welcome, and people can contact us at our Facebook page, or they can come along to the pitch on training nights. You can find our Facebook page by searching @stnicholasjuvenileclub. The club had a very successful year with both the minor team and the U13 winning the A championship.



U13 A Champions

We had a panel of 32 players and entered two teams. The coaches were Catherine & Tom Kehoe, Stephen Miley, Jim Metcalfe and Niall Orr. Training was twice a week and we managed to have a good few friendly games between championship matches. Our second team were unlucky to

lose the semi-final in their division but they all put in a huge effort. Our first team won the A final with an unbelievable 11 match win! Big thanks to all the players & their parents for their efforts throughout the year. Thank you also to the team admin Eamonn Mahon. Congratulations to Eoin Miley for winning man of the match!

U15's

We have a panel of 25 players with an extra 2 helping for U13's. the coaches were Suzanne Toomey (admin), Brendan Coyne, James Geoghegan, Jim Humphries. Our team reached the final of their division and this was

played in Balinakill on 23rd October. It was a thrilling game which went to extra time, but unfortunately it was not our day. Thank you to all the players and parents for their commitment during the year.

Minor A Champions



We had a panel of 23 players. The coaches were Ashley O'Sullivan, Mal Sheridan, Barry Miley, Paul Metcalfe, Sean Rouse and James Geoghegan. We commenced individual strength and conditioning training in early February due to the covid restrictions at the time.

We finished top of the league with 16 pints and played Rathew in the semi final on October 17th. A very strong second half performance resulted in a deserved win by our team. The county final was played in Bray on 30th October against

AGB. St Nicks put in a powerhouse performance from start to finish, winning the game comfortably 4-10 to 2-2. This was a supreme performance by all and captain Jack Keogh accepted the cup on behalf of the team. Sean Doyle won man of the match for another outstanding display on the day.

Thank you to the players and their parents for all their efforts and also to the team admin, Glenda Potts.



St. Patricks Wicklow Town

Nursery: Little Warriors



2021 might have been a difficult year in most areas but that could not be said for the little warrior's nursery program in St Pats, basing off numbers from the previous year it jumped from 30 to over 100 kids signed up for it. For the first time the club had to run the nursery over two hours. With the increase in kids there was a big search on for coaches and the club didn't have to ask twice between parents current and ex-players from both the men's and ladies' side of the club volunteered for coaching. Over 6 months May to October every Saturday morning Dunbar was packed with kids for little nursery. The nursery catered for Football, Ladies football, hurling, Camogie and FMS, parents, coaches and especially the players all enjoyed the experience. On the last week the

club hosted a Halloween party in where both coaches and kids dressed up for the occasion, after the session the kids received a goodie bag and a little warriors jersey. I would like to thank the parents for their continued support every Saturday. The coaches for all their hard work setting up coaching and bringing a great atmosphere to each session without the coaches the little warriors could not have happened Alan and the juvenile committee for all their hard work behind the scenes, Joanne and Anne for their work as COVID supervisors and guiding parents and kids to their stations. Finally, Stephen and Eddie for making the car park as smooth as it was with the high volume of cars.

U7 Footballers



We kicked off U7 football training on Saturday the 1st of May we had 50 boys on the team.

We had brilliant numbers for training every weekend.

Our first Go game of the season was against Éire Óg on Friday the 11th of June

And we finished off the Go games on the 18th of September in Avoca. We had seven games in total six away from home and



one at home in Dunbur. With one in Kilcoole postponed due to bad weather. The turnout for all the games was great from all players, especially our home game which was a brilliant night on our pitch with a great turnout of support for the boys by parents and grandparents. Big thanks to all our up-and-coming young referees from the club who done a mighty job on the night. The lads really came on during the season and it was great to see how much they developed their skills throughout the year. All Thanks to the super work all the coaches put in. I'd like to thank all the coaches for the superb effort they put in with myself for what was a very enjoyable and successful season. John Ó Kane, John Lane, Sean ó Brien, Donal Convery

Brian Fitzsimons and COVID officer Michelle Murphy. We finished off the year in great style with a presentation / fun day on the 16th of October. All the lads delighted with their new personalised training tops. Special Thanks to Sean and Stephen from eclectic barbers for sponsorship. Best of luck to all the lads staying at u7s And looking forward to seeing everyone that's moving up to u9s next Season.

U9 Footballers



The uncertainty of Covid and how the season would play out did not deter the U9 parents and players for the 2021 season with almost 40 boys signed up for the year. The lads wasted no time after we exited lockdown as they hit the ground running with their first training session taking place on Tuesday 27th April 2021 in East Glendalough. This year it was decided that the lads would train twice a week which really paid dividends as the season progressed. Due to extension works taking place in East Glendalough the boys were relocated to their new home at Colaiste Chilmhantain and a huge thank you must go to Bosco Guinan who came to our aide in securing this magnificent facility. The boys first Go Games took place on the 11th June with a short trip to Rathnew to take on our near rivals. Following this fixture the lads played every second Friday night against Eire Og Greystones, An Tochar, Bray, Arklow, Kilcoole culmi-

nating in our final fixture when we finally got to host Newtown, Laragh and Ashford on a memorable night in Dunbur Park on Friday 3rd September. During the year, the lad's skill set improved with every session and their understanding of the game improved with every Go Games they attended. Their commitment and dedication were commendable as number rarely dipped below 20 players per session. The boys born in 2012 are well equipped to move up an age group next year to U11 while the lads staying behind will use the extra year to further develop their skill in preparation for the years ahead. Massive thanks to the coaches this year - Robert Hollingsworth, Ian O'Brien, Manus Quinn, Mike Cannon, Shane Mitchell, Naoise and Rebecca. Huge thanks also to Brian McVicar and Carol Murphy, our Covid officers.

U11 Footballers



The U11 boys have a panel of 40 players, they are divided into two teams based on the year they were born. The white is made of up boys born in 2010 and the blue team is made up of boys born in 2011. The U11 panel trained each Thursday evening and played their league games every second Wednesday evening on a home and away basis.

The coaches and mentors to this group primarily focus on skill development, enjoyment and team play at training and in matches, winning is not the focus at present this will be more of a focus as the boys get older.

Both teams played seven rounds of league games with a great turnout for all matches. Playing teams from different parts of the county gives a good feel of how the boys are developing and highlights areas that they are doing well in and areas of their games that needs to be worked on in training so they can put them in to practice in the next game. As the season moved on the coaches have worked on the boy's fitness levels to sustain their stamina for the full game.

The blue team played Eire Og and AGB home and away and played An Tócher, AGB, Blessington and Kiltegan, while the white team played Rathnew home and away, AGB, Bray Emmets, Eire Og, Kiltegan, and Blessington. In preparation for the final a mini All Ireland series was organised, the boys

were picked into four teams: Dublin, Tyrone, Mayo and Kerry. Dublin emerged winners, it was a hugely competitive tournament and was a very worthwhile exercise to really get the best out of the lads and a show case of how they had developed their skills and fitness.

The boys on the white team will be moving to U13 next season and this will be a step up for them from a physical perspective and the speed of thought process as there is less time allowed on the ball before a tackle is put in on them. We hope they are well prepared for this based on the progress they have made during the course of this season while the blue team will be the leaders of the u11 teams next year when they are joined by the boys stepping up from U9.

The season culminated in a final, the blue team taking on An Tochar and the white team playing Bray Emmet's. There will be a presentation night in the hall in Dunbur in mid-November where the boys will receive a personalised St Pats top with their initials on it. We hope to be joined on the night by a very distinguished GAA figure.

The mentors would like to thank all the parents for all their support over the course of the season and supporting the boys at the all their games.

Cul Camps

This year seen the return of two Cul Camps to the club. One

hurling and one football. Both camps were sold out with the highest numbers recorded with the hurling camp with 100 kids signed up, the football camp was sold out and had to be



reopened twice with extra spaces with such a high demand for places.

The football camp was held first was held the 19th of August. It was an absolute scorcher of a week for the camp. Overall the camp went very well, the coaches were top class and brought good positive attitude to the camp each day which created a good atmosphere within the camp, I would like to thank the parents that provided parasols and gazebos on the Wednesday of the camp which was the hottest day of the summer and with very little shade the club put out the call and like always the parents stood up to the call which help us provide shelter from the sun when it got really hot as we had to look after the safety of the kids

The hurling camp was held on the 9th of August, this year seen the highest number of players attending the camp with 100 players toggging out. Just like the football camp we had super coaches which provided a safe fun environment for all the players, there was a good few new player taking up hurling for the first time and enjoyed themselves so much that after the camp they joined the club.

U13 Footballers



The season commenced back in June 21 after a long season without football. We had 30 children registered with an average of 22 at training most weeks. We entered 2 teams this year one in Division 1 and Division 4. The division 1 side played 8 matches and won 4 but just missed out on a semi-final championship spot due to a 3-way playoff. We ended up in a shield semifinal v AGB which we won comprehensively and set up a final with Rathnew. The final game v Rathnew

U15 Footballers



I would like to thank the club for helping set up for the camps, Eddie for coordinating the car parks in the morning, to all the coaches for both camps especially the coaches from the club Molly, Cian, Mark Lucy, Naoise, and Luci and also to Caroline Kelly who ran the shop during the camps

St Pats Club Camp

This year's club camp was held on the 16th of August for three days for 4-11 year old's, over the 3 days 83 kids attended the camp, all the kids really enjoyed themselves over the three days and go a good range of activities from hurling to football and fun FMS games, this camp would not have such a success if it wasn't for the hard work behind the scenes by Stephen, Alan and Patrice. All the coaches were excellent as well and did a brilliant job coaching and you could see that all players really had a good time, I'd like to thank all the coaches. Emer, Kate, Kirsty, Laura, Lucy, Medh, Orfhlaith, Sinead, Leanne and Shay



didn't take place due to a difficulty in agreeing a date and time to play. Next was our div 4 side who had a very good season and just falling short in the final game of their championship final v AGB. They did their best in the final against a very strong AGB team. The season was short but had a lot of games in a tight packed season. The intensity of the drills and activities in training brought the skill levels up on the children. The children enjoyed the activities at training.

Management Team Kevin Czwalina Joseph Quinn Stephen Duffy Eddie Leonard We had a very enjoyable year with the team managing both Div 1 and Div 3 - Our Div 1 panel finished as Shield winners with our Div 3 team having some great games with development the main priority- the full panel put in a great effort this year and we have no doubt a number of these players will be lining out with the Senior panel - Joseph Quinn and Stephen Duffy deserve a special mention for giving up their time.

Minor Footballers



Our u17 team regrouped in April of this year to commence training for the Minor B Player Pathway. In this competition we faced St Kevins, Michael Hogans and Pearse Gaels. Our training began with a season record of twenty-three in attendance, these numbers however would quickly dwindle to show an average turnout of 10 players. While training sessions proved difficult number-wise we were able to field a team throughout the season calling on u15 players to assist if required.

In the league and championship, we were grouped against Eire Og, Roundwood, Michael Hogans, Michael Dwyers, St Kevins, Pearse Gaels and Tomnafinogue. In each of these games the team performed to their ability and grew in confidence as the season progressed. With results not going our way the core group of players excelled and put in some great team and individual performances. The team finally broke its losing streak with an away win in Ashford against Pearse Gaels, this win was well deserved with players and coaches celebrating together at the final whistle.

The confidence the win had on the players was seen over

the remaining fixtures with more great performances and results to be shared. The season finished with us losing our semifinal to Tomnafinogue, a game we played our best football in.

The team was given the opportunity to work with quality coaches who provided great training sessions and insight into the game, namely Niall Donnelly, Aidan Dunne, Ciaran McGettigan and Gary Jameson.

This year's management team was John Smith, Bryan Doyle and Colin O'Brien.

Players that represented the club during the season were: Conor Luddy (capt), Matthew Harbourne, Darragh Cahill, Alex Sinnott, Fionn Greene, Ryan McConnell, Eamonn Goddard, Cormac Byrne, Sam Culleton, Rory Hannon, Kyle Corrigan, Aaron Wynne, Chris Bouchier, Denis O'Brien, Alek Richardson, Joseph Neilan, Tom Phelan, Tom Hodgkinson, Billy Joe Connors, Matt Gleeson, Adam Ralph, Mark Hodgkinson, Jordan Twomney, Bob Hastie, Keelin Darcy, James Fagan, Tiernan O'Brien, Ross McCrea, Jack Noble.

Junior A Footballers



The 2021 Junior A final started in mid-June at home to closest rivals Rathnew in Division 3. An incredibly young team, with many making their adult football debuts, suffered a heavy defeat to a very experienced Rathnew side. Unfortu-

nately, a 9-point defeat followed against Arklow Geraldines, leading to the third game against Enniskerry being a must win. What followed was 5 performances that completely changed the course of the season. It's easy to win games

when you're on a winning streak and confidence is high, but this predominately young team somehow pulled out stunning performances against Enniskerry, Eire Og Greystones, Tinahely and Ballincor twice. As a result, the lads found themselves in the Division 3 final but falling short to Rathnew in Rathnew.

The championship started on a poor footing, on a wet miserable day in Aughrim the lads had their style of football grinded down, once again losing to Rathnew by 6 points.

This set up a must win game against Aughrim, a win would be the Quarter Finals, a defeat would mean a relegation play off.

The lads found themselves 6 points down after 15 minutes and management can reveal "We thought the gig was up".

The lads however had other ideas, a stunning 2nd and 4th Quarter performance got them over the line as the de-

Junior B Footberrers

We once again had a Junior B football team this year under the management of Paul O'Brien and John Gill. It's great to be able to field three football teams at senior level. We won the Junior B football league which was a great success how-

servingly won by 2 points (in a game many people still talk about). This led to a quarter final against Barndarrig, this was a team who were at a different stage of the GAA journey. Their age, physicality and experience told as they ran out comfortable winners, eventually going onto win the championship comfortably.

Management would like to thank all the squad, not just for their performances on match day but commitment on the training field. Training sometimes taking in 24 lads on a Wednesday night. Thanks to all, with a particular emphasis on those who came up from minor this year. The focus for the squad must be to get out of division 3. Playing a higher standard of football week in, week out will only benefit the players and the club.

Ken, Mick, Barry and Keith

ever, we were in a tough group in the Junior B Championship, which included finalists Avoca who knocked us out of the Championship. It was great to get a victory over old rivals Rathnew in the group stage in what was the highlight of the Championship,

Senior Footballers



2021 was a condensed season which saw the league completed first and then the championship. Our league form got us a top four finish where we lost out to eventual Dunne Cup winners AGB in the Semi-final. The Senior Football championship started with the pre-liminary round against Eire Og in Aughrim on the 29th August. A positive win on a score line of 16 points to 9 set up a round 1 game against Newtown. Having defeated Newtown, we faced AGB in the next round. A victory over AGB sent us to the quarter-finals where we faced Avondale. Another good performance sent us to the Championship semi-finals to face old foe Baltinglass. On a day when opportunities were spurned, we exited the championship losing by a point.

Senior Football Panel 2021: Aidan Dunne, Bryan Doyle, Calum Kelly, Cian O'Brien, Ciaran Doyle, Ciaran McGettigan, Conor O'Brien, Dean Healy, Dylan Kavanagh, Fionn Luddy, Ian Murphy, Jack Dunne, Jack Fox, James Kavanagh, John Crowe, Ken O'Grady, Luca Rampersaud, Mark Evans, Mark O'Brien, Matthew Traynor, Niall Delahunt, Niall Donnelly, Paddy O'Keane, Padge McWalter, Pdraig Higgins, Paul Earls, Paul Marah, Paul O'Brien, Ronan Murray, Ryan Kavanagh, Sean O'Brien, Shane Doyle, Shane Murley, Simon Bouchier, Stephen Duffy, Tommy Kelly, Wayne Doyle

Management: Casey O'Brien, Gary Duffy, Damien O'Brien, Ronan Connolly, Adam Quinn, Chico Murphy and Alan O'Brien

All in St Patricks GAA Club acknowledge the great work that Casey O'Brien and his management team have done with the Senior Footballers in the last five seasons. Casey along with his coaching team of have decided to collectively step down from their roles in 2021.

All the supporters had plenty of reasons to celebrate over the years with two Senior Championships in 2018 and 2019 and three Dunne Cups. In 2019 the lads progressed to the Leinster Quarter Final where they narrowly lost on penalties. In the last two years they were quite unlucky losing in two very tight games in the quarter final after extra-time against Tinahely in 2020 and the semi-final vs Baltinglass this season.

They along with the players have given us many great days over their tenure. We extend our gratitude to the Players, Casey O'Brien, Gary Duffy, Damien O'Brien, Ronan Connolly, Adam Quinn, Chico Murphy and Alan O'Brien and wish them all the best in the future.

U7 Hurlers



We started training on the 27th of April and on average we would of had 21 at our sessions and in total we had 29 boys who took part this season. We had 6 Go Games which were attended very well and you could see the progress that the boys had made come the end of the season.

I would like to thank my fellow coaches for the massive effort that they all put in throughout the year. John Lane, John O'Brien, Liam Theo, John O' Kane and Donal Cavery. Big thank you also to our Covid Officer, Emma Rafter. Sean O'Brien.

U9 Hurlers



The U9s took part in 8 Go Games up to the end of September. We fielded at least two teams and sometimes 3 teams at the Go Games. Participation numbers were high for our Wednesday evening training sessions and we attracted a lot of new members. About half of the group will remain with the U9s next year and the other half will move up to the U11 team.

Many thanks from the coaches for the commitment given by the boys and especially to the parents for bringing them to training and to our many Go Games fixtures. The attached photo was taken at our last Go Games of the season in Eire Og Greystones.

U11 Hurlers



This was our second year, as we all know to work within the Covid Return to play guidelines.

Firstly, the coaches in our group and myself would like to commend the boys in the group for their resilient attitude in dealing with the last two seasons and 18 months of Covid 19. The way they adapted to the circumstances and the ever-changing scenarios over the last 18 months is a lesson to us adults. The positivity they bring and the smiles they portray would and did cheer us up on our training sessions and matches when we got together, as some days we all needed cheering up ...

We had circa 30 kids in our group when we got back on the pitch, an even mixture of 2011 born and 2010 born boys, they integrated well as there was a different level of ability and size within the group.

We looked to build a team spirit for all, by ensuring if we separated for matches, that during our training sessions all were involved. It worked well and the younger 2011 boys looked to pitch themselves against the 2010 boys, which resulted to some cracking training matches.

The group as a whole progressed during the year and the 2011 boys grew in confidence, we really tried hard not just to work on their skills, but also their confidence "to play with their head up and chest out". A huge part of the success last year with our Under 11 group was to play for each other, always try their hardest no matter the opposition, the conditions or the score. We had a motto that "Like a wolf pack' we never give up"

This stood to us when it came to our fixtures, we split the squad

into a 2011 group and a 2010 group.

2011 group really had to dig in some of their fixtures. They did everything we could have asked of them, especially when they played teams in their group that, let's just say, should be playing in higher group levels... But there was never a whinge, a moan and they came back to training looking to go again. As we went through the season, the skill levels improved along with the super team spirit.

2010 group had a good year again, this their last year @U11, they lost only a few games and made it to the B final in our Group 1 table. They deservedly won the final for the second year in a row, whilst not pushing the win at all costs, they showed some great skills, scoring, hooking, blocking and the near forgotten art of ground hurling !!They were the original Wolfpack from last year! 5 of the 2010 U11 group played with our U13's throughout the season and not only held their own contributed to their season also.

Some of our 2011 boys played in a U12 player pathway league with the 2010 group also.

So, all in all, we had a good year, our skills improved, our attitude stayed positive, their support for each other was immense and we would hope they enjoyed the year. We must also thank the parents too, away fixtures, ref's subs, Covid Declarations and everything else that goes into the background to have their boy at training and fixtures.

U13 Hurlers



Team: David Burke, Josh Callery, Luke Connolly, Ben Currie, George Connor, Danny McCoy, Samuel Downey, Jack O'Leary, Senan Shorthall, Tiernan Shorthall, Louis Phillips, Sean Kelly, Christy Moorehouse, James O'Brien, Ben O'Leary, Tommy Morrissey and Bill Guian.

Coaching /mentoring: Gary O Leary, Peadar Dehora, John O'Brien
The 2021 season got off to a late start due to COVID restrictions but once the restrictions were lifted, we held weekly training sessions every Thursday night from 7-8pm in the CCM school grounds and some Saturday evening Sessions in Dunbur. The team was made up of 17 Players, 6 of which came from the U11 team as we didn't have the numbers to field a team of U13 players. We

had an average turn out of 12 players for the Thursday sessions. We tried to concentrate the Saturday sessions more on the fitness side of things as we could see this is where the team needed improvement.

The team got off to great start when the games started with 2 wins from 2. With summer holidays in full swing, we were down a few players for next few games resulting in some very narrow defeats. We competed well with all the teams and really should have finished in a higher position. We ended the season in late October with a Trophy Final against Kilcoole in which the team won in style.

U15 Hurlers



Our u15 hurlers had a successful 2021 season competing in a very competitive league / championship where we played 9 rounds, a semi-final and final. We also participated in the county hurling feile against Eire Og and Carnew. We got off to a great start in the league where wins over Kilcoole, Michael Dwyers, Luke O' Toolles, Bray Emmets and Glenealy meant we were unbeaten after 5 rounds. Next up was a top of the table clash with championship favourites Eire Og who were also unbeaten. After a great battle in a game that could have gone either way, we lost out narrowly on a scoreline of 3-12 to 3-10.

Our next game was at home to the recent county feile winners Carnew where arguably we put in our best performance of the year and came out on top on the night in a great team performance. Competition was getting tight to make the top 4 and qualify for the "A" championship semi-finals, and we now had to travel to another contender Western Gaels. On the night Western Gaels were better than us, and we were beaten by 2-12 to 2-7. Our final game was in Ballinacill against Arklow Rocks where we need at least a draw to avoid a play off for the top 4. In the second half we found ourselves 7 points down, and it seemed we were heading for the playoffs, however the boys dug in and we launched a comeback which ended with us pulling the Arklow lead back to secure a draw and the 1 point we needed.

A rematch with Carnew was now on the cards for the semi-final. On the day a more clinical Carnew took their goal chances and we left ourselves with too much to do by half time. The boys never gave up but were second best on the day. The consolation for the team was that we would have a chance to redeem ourselves a few days later in the "A" Shield final against Western Gaels.

Once again, we got off to a bad start and found ourselves 11 points down at the first water break. To the boys credit they never give up, and we chipped away at the Western Gaels lead, taking the lead near the death, and eventually winning on a scoreline of St. Pats 7-6 Western Gaels 6-7. The Shield was presented to Ciaran Mathews while Johnno Moorehouse was a deserving man of the match.

Many thanks to the parents for their support throughout the year and to sponsors Codling Wind Farm, Autocare, and Kellys Fruit & Veg.

Mentors: Alan Lawlor, James Phelan, David Delaney, Michael Doyle, Jim Browne, Paddy Culleton

Panel: Liam Delaney, Liam Phelan, Mathew Leonard, Jim Stafford, Ciaran Mathews, Joe Culleton, Tadgh Keating, Aaron Nugent, Alfie Doyle, James Curry, Luca Coppola, Senan O' Donovan, Johnno Moorehouse, Bill O' Brien, Bill Connors, Alex Dunne, Eoin Lawlor, Michael O' Brien, Jack Neville, Miley Connors, Kieran Armstrong, Adam O' Brien, Arthur Curran.

Cill Mhantáin

Minor Hurling



The Minor Hurlers joined forces with Glenealy for the 2021 season under the name of GlenPats. Due to the competing demands for space in Dunbur Park, Glenealy GAA generously agreed to host the team's training sessions and matches during the season. The Minor Hurling championship included 5 teams and was structured on a home and away league basis. During an impressive championship campaign GlenPats won 7 out of their 8 matches played, finishing top of the division. This qualified the team for the A Championship Semi Final V Bray Emmets. A strong performance in Ballinakill saw the team win the semi convincingly on a scoreline of 5-13 to 1-5, qualifying for the Minor A Final. The final versus Western Gaels took place in Aughrim on the October Bank Holiday Monday. It was the first time that many of the players had played in the county grounds and it was a great experience for them to march behind the band on county final day. Hopefully it will be the first of many times! In the first half GlenPats played with a strong wind and went in at half time with a 5-point lead.

Two well matched teams battled it out during the second half and when Michael Og O'Neill sent over a free to put GlenPats 2 points up heading into injury time, it looked like it was going to be GlenPats day. However, sport can be very cruel and a long hopeful free from Western Gaels sent into the square evaded the GlenPats defence and landed in the back of the net, leaving Western Gaels the winners on a scoreline of 1-14 to 1-13. As devastating as the result was, the lads can be very proud of their performances during the year and will have learnt many vital lessons from final and the whole campaign.

The panel consisted of Billy Joe Connors, Sam Culleton, Johnno Moorehouse, Denis O'Brien, John O'Brien, Matt Gleeson, Cormac Byrne, Lorcan Byrne, Alex Kavanagh, Michael Og O'Neill, Sam Smyth, Kyle Byrne, Daniel Browne, Andrew Lynch, Kian Conlon, Jake Nally, James French, Emmet Ronan, Aaron Devlin, Kenzie O'Connor
Management: Brian Gleeson, Paddy Culleton, Michael Anthony O'Neill, Pat Lynch, Tony Doyle, Seamus O'Neill.

Junior Hurlers



Junior A Hurling, under the management of Michael Neary, Paul O'Brien and Jim O'Brien. This team went all year without being Beaten, we won the Junior A hurling League. We beat Avondale in the semi-final of the Championship. We came up against a very strong Western Gaels team in the Final and it wasn't to be our Day.

Senior Hurlers



Senior Hurling, under the management of Michael Neary, Paul O'Brien Nial Hanton. We played 5 total games in the hurling league, we won 2 and lost 3. We picked up a lot of injuries within the Year and it made us very weak. We didn't make it out of our group in the senior hurling Championship.





Tinahely

U-7



David Dillon and Darren Dunne were over the u7's this year. The team played 8 games in blitz go games and the kids progressed well and showed great improvement throughout the year. We also had the mini all Ireland in Tinahely which was a great success. Training continues one night a week

over winter in the community hall to continue development and is going very well. Pictured below in new training tops subsidised by some kind donations.

U-9



The U-9's were trained by David Blake, Daniel Ging and John Byrne. We had 18 players altogether during 2021. We had 8

blitzes during the year and completed very well in all of them with two teams entered at most of the blitzes.

Mini All-Ireland

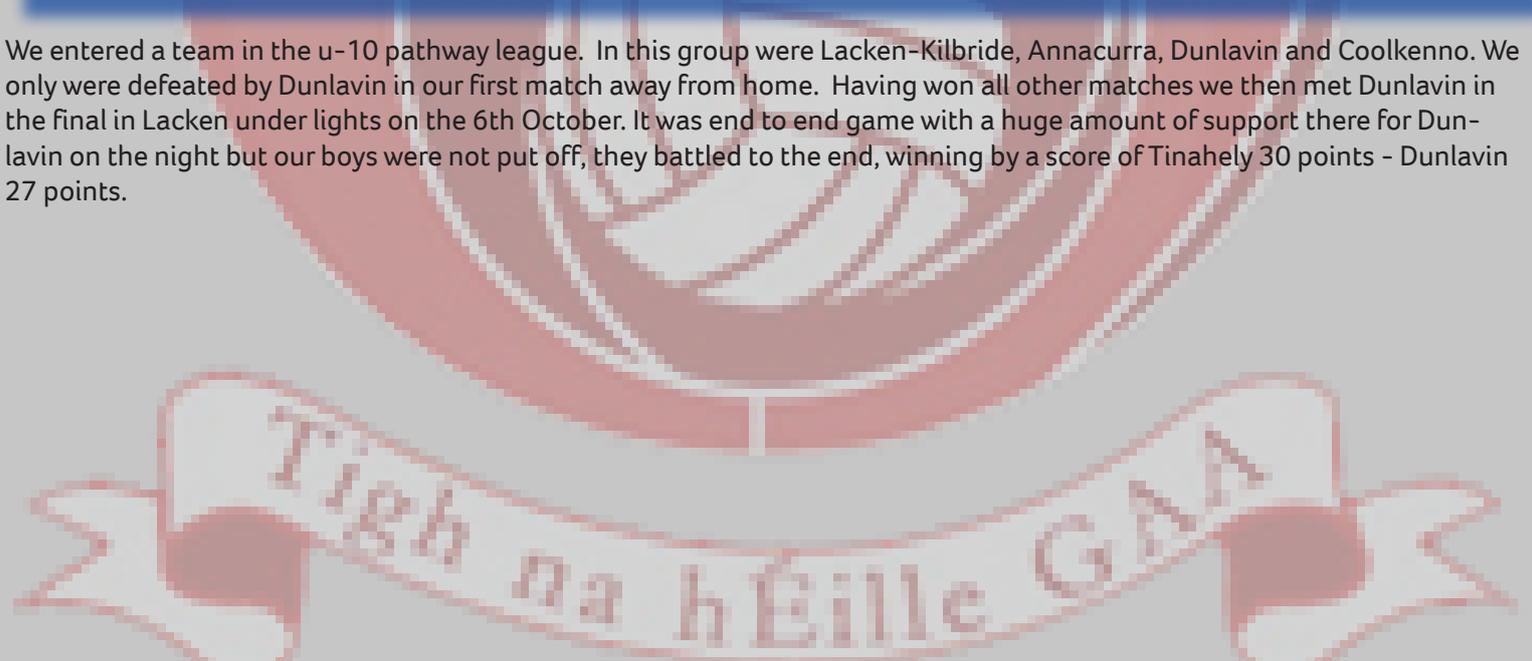
As part of his role as coaching officer, David Blake organised a mini All-Ireland with a piper to march the kids around before-hand. This was for our boys teams aged u7, u9 and u11 and our girls teams u8, u10 and u12. Kerry were the

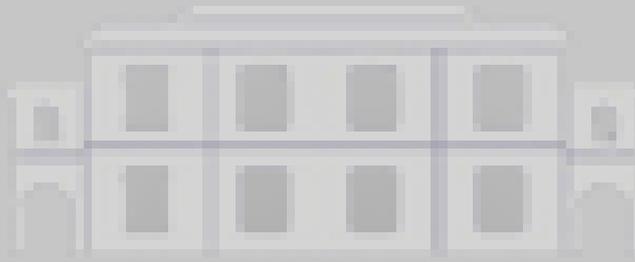
winners of the younger section with Roscommon taking the older section. A very enjoyable BBQ was had afterwards and many thanks to all the helpers on the day including coaches, referees and chefs.

U-10



We entered a team in the u-10 pathway league. In this group were Lacken-Kilbride, Annacurra, Dunlavin and Coolkenno. We only were defeated by Dunlavin in our first match away from home. Having won all other matches we then met Dunlavin in the final in Lacken under lights on the 6th October. It was end to end game with a huge amount of support there for Dunlavin on the night but our boys were not put off, they battled to the end, winning by a score of Tinahely 30 points - Dunlavin 27 points.





Pairc Naomh Caoimhín

U-11



What a super little bunch of boys!! Throughout the year they trained hard and their improvement was immense. They were assigned to division 4 group but were subsequently moved up to division 2. We had a rocky start playing Baltinglass and St Kevin's firstly before finding our rhythm. After this we were unbeatable. We managed wins in all our remaining games playing Dunlavin, Aughrim and Annacurra both home and way. We then played Baltinglass and St Kevin's again and convincingly beat them this time around. We drew second in the table with St Kevin's. The score difference had us playing

Annacurra in the final in Avoca. A strong performance on the day ensured that they were bringing the silverware home to Tinahely.

Both the U-10 and U-11 teams have improved a lot and were dedicated to training and playing hard and giving it their all. Thanks to the senior lads who helped out with training, it was very much appreciated by the team and the mentors. Also a big thanks to the parents who are committed to travelling the length and breadth of Wicklow to support these boys and their love of the GAA.



The u-15 panel consisted of 21 players. This year was a difficult one and many missed training through injuries, illness and for other reasons. The majority of the players playing at this grade will be eligible again next year.

We started in Division 2 but were subsequently moved to Division 4 where we got off to difficult start with a loss to

Kilcoole. However we soon found our feet and competed in the division and ended up playing the U15D shield final which we came back from a 12 deficit to win against a good Michael Dwyer's team.

Team Management: Eamonn Byrne, Willie D'Arcy, Pauric Hennessy and Jonathan Cronin.

U-17

Our u17 joined up with Shillelagh / Coolboy this year and we played under the name of Tomnafinougue .We had four mentors over the team, Patrick Murphy , Bernard Kinsella, Liam Hilliard and Richard Lambert. We trained Wednesday evenings in Shillelagh and Friday evenings in Tinahely and played

our league matches between the 3 clubs. We played 12 games between league and championship and eventually lost the B Final by 5 pts to Michael Dwyer's. Over all we had a very successful year and management from both clubs were more than happy with the progress made during the season. Congratulations to Larry Kinsella who

represented the club at county level and were narrowly beaten by Carlow in the first round of the championship. We wish all our players who are moving up to play senior football next year the best of luck and we know they will strengthen any panel they join at senior ranks.

Junior C

The junior C team had a challenging year with respect to results, however the team was able to field for all games in both the league and championship and put in some strong performances along the way. The Championship campaign was beset by fixture chaos with 2 teams eventually pulling out of the competition meaning that the first game in the Junior C championship was not played until 1st November in a wet Ballinakill against Ashford to decide the group winners. Ashford won a tough game leaving a quarter final against Kiltegan to be played in Knockannana. Kiltegan started the stronger but the Tinahely lads got back into the game in difficult conditions but could not overhaul the lead. It should be a credit to a club the size of Tinahely that they can field 3 adult teams over the year. Throughout the year

50 players got football with the junior teams. At the start of the year there was a confidence that a championship was (and is) possible with the group of players available, however some inconsistency in performances meant it was not to be this year.

While the role of the Junior team is to support the Senior team, the infrequent opportunities to train, in particular the Junior B panel, as a full squad of players did not help in gaining those consistent performances required. We would suggest that the new committee and senior management team review options around this next year.

Thank you to all those who came and supported the team through the year. A special word of thanks to David Blake for taking on the training duties through the year and to Shane Kenny and Ken Mutton for stepping in to help with the Junior C's.

Junior B

Management Team: Jim D'Arcy, Thomas Murphy, Ken Mutton, Conor Doran, Shane Kenny

Trainer: David Blake

The league campaign got off to a slow start with a couple of early defeats but the team rallied and some good results at home to Blessington and Knockanna but most notably away to Aughrim. These performances saw the team through to the quarter final away to St Pats. Unfortunately

defeat to St Pats ended the league campaign and the focus shifted to the Championship. With only 3 teams in the group for the league section of the championship, a good win against Carnew and a defeat to An Tochar saw the side through to a quarter final against Knockanna. On a wet night in Ballinacill it was a well disciplined and organised opposition team that won out closing the season on the Junior B competition. 11 games were played over the year including 2 challenge games against Clonmore and Rathvilly.

Pairc Naomh Caoimhin

Senior

After reaching the County final in 2020, expectation levels were high among the players, club members, club committee and the management team for 2021.

Not for the lack of trying, the year overall, turned out to be a frustrating one in many respects with COVID 19, injuries to key players at various different stages over the course of the season, which left some struggling to regain full fitness, and inconsistency in some of our individual and collective performances leading to an earlier championship exit than we had anticipated. After a slow start in the league the team began to find their stride and put a number of solid wins together beating Avondale last year's County Championship Semi-Finalists and Senior County Champions, Baltinglass, along the way to reach the Dunne Cup League semi-final narrowly losing out after extra-time and penalties to Rathnew. After a bright start in the championship opener, it was disappointing to lose to Blessington by two points in the end. Dunlavin then beat us by three points in the next game. We avoided relegation by beating Newtown and Éire Óg in the Keating Cup and we now look forward to a brighter 2022.

Established

1961

Tír na hÉille GAA



Valleymount

Adult Football

In 2021 Valleymount GAA fielded two adult men's teams, Intermediate and Junior C.

The Division 5 lads reached the Wilson Buttle Cup Final this year but lost out to AGB. They played 3 games in the Junior C Championship but were unfortunate not to get out of the group stages.

The Division 2 lads qualified for the League Cup Semi-Final but had to pull out due to injuries. They were beaten by the bare minimum in the Quarter-Finals of the Intermediate Championship by Kilcoole.

A huge thank you from all at Valleymount GAA to our Intermediate Management for the last two years Jason, Seamus, Billy and all the backroom team. Jason said his farewells to the team after the quarter final out in Ashford. He has been a pleasure to work with and has brought out the best in the lads, leading them to victory last year with a win in the Final of the Junior A Championship. At our first year at Intermediate we reached the Quarter-final stage of the Championship, which was no mean feat as we had suffered all year with injuries. We wish Jason the very best in his own GAA path and with his future endeavors. An honorary Valleymount man you shall always be and you have made many friends for life.

St. Kevin's

Well done to the Division 2 U11 St. Kevin's team who beat Kiltegan and also well done to the second St. Kevin's U11 team who won against Lacken/Kilbride in the 2020 Division Final.

Well done to the St. Kevin's Minors who won the B Championship Shield. They beat An Tochar. The final score in the match in Blessington was 2-9 to 4-6.



Well done to the St. Kevin's squad who won the U13 B Football Shield Final in Stratford v Aughrim. Well done to the 2020 U13 team who won the B Plate Final against Carnew Emmets.

Western Gaels

Western Gaels had a great year. The Minors won the A Championship beating Glen/Pats in the Final. Well done to the Western Gaels U13s team who won U13 B Hurling Championship Final. They beat Barndarrig by two points in a very challenging game. The adults fielded 2 teams this year, one in Junior A and one in Junior B. They won the Junior A Hurling Championship Final beating St Pats. They are now looking forward to playing Intermediate hurling in 2022.





Lotto

The club continues to run its bi-weekly lotto whilst adhering to strict Covid restrictions. To date there have been no jackpot winners this year, so make sure to keep buying tickets to be in with a chance of winning. Thank you to all who support us by buying tickets and to those who sell tickets. A big thanks to the few regular lads who run the lotto draw every fortnight, your dedication is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to those who helped out with Go Games throughout the year. It was a great success. Big thanks to Seamus Miley who mows the field. A big thank you to all managers, trainers and selectors and mentors who have looked after all our teams during the year.

We would like to thank Declan & Steven Cahill, from Cahill Construction, who sponsored a new set of jerseys for our Intermediate men's team at the start of the year.

Due to the restrictions this year we did not get to run any fundraisers. Instead, we ran an online zoom quiz at the start of the year. It was a huge success and a big thanks to everyone who organised it and to all who took part. We would like to thank all the businesses that supported Vallemount GAA by placing an advertisement on our directory.

Thanks to all who have supported us throughout the year and we look forward to your continued support in the coming years. It does not go unnoticed!

Finally, we at Vallemount GAA would like to extend our deepest sympathies to all club members who have lost loved ones in the past year. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.





Western Gaels

U7 Hurling - Coach Alan Fagan

Our Under 7's had a fantastic year, we started the season with a panel of roughly 10-14 players and finished the year with a panel of nearly 30 players who we recruited mainly by word of mouth. We focused our training efforts primarily on the basics of the game as we had really enjoyable and hopefully next year we will be able to attend more games.

U9 Hurling

A great year for our Western Gaels under nines hurling team. With a panel of thirty players we played five games in Wicklow with Kiltegan, Bray Emmets, Aughrim, Knockanna, and Avondale providing the opposition. A great group of boys and girls who made super progress throughout the year and are improving with every session. As coaches we have seen all your skills develop and it's great to see how much you are enjoying your hurling. A special thanks to both our COVID officers Aine and Orla for keeping everyone safe throughout the year and to all our parents for your continued support. Best of luck to all players who are moving up to under tens next year. Keep up the practice. Mentors: Greg Doolan, Gareth McGrane, Aiden Maguire, Owen Clery, Donncha Crotty, Alan Fagan, Will Harrington, Eoin Roddy, Caimin Kiely.

U10 Hurling - Coaches Eoin Roddy & Caimin Keily

The Under 10's Western Gaels team had a very successful year, taking part in the player pathway league in Wicklow, where we had a great win against Glenealy and a close fought battle against Bray. In the Kildare hurling league we had some great games against teams such as Maynooth, Celbridge and Sallins. Overall a super year and great progress was made. Some Under 10s also played with the Under 11's on their way to Cup glory.

U11 Hurling - Coach Jack Whelan

A great year for Western Gaels Under 11 team, every time the pressure came on us every player stepped it up a gear. We had some cracking games against Avondale, Bardarrig & Aughrim but luckily we came out on top in all, going unbeaten all year. We had 4 new players joining this year who never played Hurling before and what assets they proved to be, showing it's never too late to pick up a hurl. We were beaten finalists for the last two years in Under 11 so it was a really special day to get over the line this year, the team really deserved it. Thanks to all the parents for your support throughout the year and I'm really looking forward to doing it all again in 2022.

U13 Hurling - Coach Sean Dempsey

Our hurling u13's did us very proud this year by winning the B Championship. The commitment and determination was incredible to see. Thanks to all the support from mentors and parents. Thanks to all the newcomers who joined dur-

ing the year, goes to show how our club is only going from strength to strength. We're looking forward to next year's competitions. The only thing we have asked as coaches this year was to improve each game and boy we did. The lads gave it everything in training and matches and the winning of the cup was icing on the cake. I would like to thank Thomas and the two Mick's for all their help throughout the year, Sinead for keeping tabs on Covid issues and Sandra for keeping us posted re matches and rules. It has been a great year for these lads and wish all the best to the lads stepping up to u15s and this year's u11s who stepped up to help us throughout the season. Many thanks.

U15 Hurling - Coach Martin Walsh

Despite a small squad in number the U15's had a very entertaining and competitive year's hurling - with some great league wins, Feile Group win in August and finishing in the championship top 4 out of 10 teams - qualifying for the semi-final in October. The delayed start to the 2021 matches after the 2020 competition was played out had the championship start on Jun 23th where we had a good win over neighbours Michael Dwyers, soon followed by a Glenealy win away, other notable wins were against Bray in a really close game in Dunlavin, ARP, and St Pats in Hollywood. The lads played some great stuff and guys improving game on game. The league finished with us having 6 wins from 9, in a very competitive league and results ended with us attaining 4th which qualified us for the A semi-final against the unbeaten Eire-Og. In a really competitive semi-final match, which had everything, goals, injuries, penalties and 11 mins injury time and despite a good lead into the last quarter - a couple of conceded late goals, the last of which deep in injury time, saw us end up on the wrong side of a 1 point margin. It was a memorable game and the lads played their hearts out but faded a bit in the last quarter in a high tempo encounter. The squad have progressed from division 2 winners in 2019 at U13 and the league was a great competition, great progression to be right in the mix. The Feile group consisted of Bray, Glenealy and Kilcoole and started with another tight encounter with Bray where we pulled ahead in the last quarter and close wins in the remaining 2 matches saw us win all three 30 minute contents and David Peppard collect the Trophy.

Special mention to the U13's who played up and helped us field team and to the lads who are late converts to hurling whose improvement and ability have come on leaps and bounds and hopefully a bright hurling future available for these lads. Thanks also to the Parents for support and Cleary Fuels for sponsorship during the year. Finally to Coaches - Bernard Higgins, Arran Keogh, Thomas Geoghegan and to Sandra Cleary and Matt Byrne for all their help during the year.



JUNIOR A CHAMPIONS 2021



MINOR A CHAMPIONS 2021



U15 FEILE CHAMPIONS 2021



Western Gaels
Hurling Club



Thank you to all of our wonderful Supporters.



U13 GROUP B HURLING CHAMPIONS 2021



U11 GROUP 2 FINAL WINNERS 2021



U9 SQUAD 2021



U7 SQUAD 2021

U17 Hurling – Coach Pat Brennan

What a year it's been for the Western Gaels Minor hurlers. After the huge disappointment of last year's semi-final defeat to a well drilled Bray side, this was the opportunity to step up and follow through on the real potential that existed with this group of players. 2021 was also the first year in which our new found club had entered a juvenile team into a Wicklow minor championship. In recent years the players had played for Michael Dwyer's who are a neighbouring club. Our first club game was against Carnew in Blessington where we recorded a narrow 5 point victory after a tough battle. Throughout the early stages of the league we were plagued with injuries to many of our players but still managed to gain victories against Bray and Northern Gaels. We then hit a bit of a rocky patch as the school year commenced. We came up against a very strong Glen/Pats side, who are a combination of the two senior clubs of Glenealy and St Pats, in our fourth game in what was a bad tempered affair and were fairly comprehensively beaten. This followed up with another close loss to a dogged Carnew side which left us third in the table and not looking great for fulfilling our promise. These losses turned out to be the turning point in our season. We had a chat together as a group, ironed out some issues and discussed how we were going to improve going forward. In our next game against Glen/Pats, this time in the large field of Blessington, we got the reaction we needed with a fantastic 5pt win against the league leaders in what was a very skilful and highly entertaining game. This was followed up with wins against Bray and Northern Gaels and secured second place in the league and a tasty semi-final pairing against Carnew. This game was played on a cold, blustery night in Balinakill in what was a cagey affair. The game was largely tit-for-tat but WG dug deep to pull away in the end with a five point hard earned victory. This now meant that we were through to the county final in our first year together as a club. Our opponents were Glen/Pats who recorded a facile victory in the other semi-final. This was quite a fitting way to end our juvenile careers as we had encountered them in many county finals through the years. All roads led to Aughrim on the bank holiday Monday at the end of October. With both sets of players having played both against each other over the years at club level and with each other on the county squads, this was always going to be a tight and tense affair and so it proved. Western Gaels started the better and were 3 points up at the first water break and playing well but despite having the better of the exchanges up to half time, a rather fortuitous goal and some quality free taking meant that Glen/Pats had a 5 point lead at the half way stage. WG with the wind now in their backs worked really hard to narrow the gap with some excellent point taking only to be thwarted by a dogged Glen/Pats outfit who managed to stay ahead until the last 2 minutes of the game. With two minutes remaining and two points behind Western Gaels won a free out past the 65m mark and the resulting free went the whole way to the net. This was the bit of luck that the team needed and from the resultant puck out, with WG's winning most of the ruck ball, the team won a free again on the 50m line and so were now two points ahead moving into added time. Within 2 minutes Western Gaels were County Champions for the first time in their history. The Cup was presented to Austin Brennan, the WG Captain

much to the delight of the large and loud travelling support from West Wicklow. Roars of Gaels Abu echoed throughout the evening as the victory was celebrated throughout the night. Final Score WG 1-15, Glen/Pats 1-13.

Junior Hurling

For the Western Gaels Junior team, 2021 was one of those years that clubs, players and mentors remember for a long time. Not only did this dedicated bunch of players win the 2020 Junior B title but because of the pandemic they also managed to win the 2021 Junior A title and so earned the right to play in the Intermediate grade in 2022. In 2021 a second adult team was also fielded in the Junior championship which was also an achievement in its own right. For all the players of varying abilities and age profiles that toggled out to play hurling, Western Gaels tried to facilitate them and one advantage of the Junior grade is that there are plenty of matches played regularly on a Wednesday evening throughout the summer with an aspiration to play in a final at A,B or C level thereby being competitive and trying to improve along the way. With this review of 2021 it would take four pages to mention all the players individually but mention has to go to the joint captains of the Jnr A team MJ Moran and Finn Crawl who both led from the front and to the Captains of the Jnr B team Mikey Phelan, Jamie O`Toole and Tom Davis. To the younger players who hopefully enjoyed the year and will be back to push on in 2022. The mentors and committee members who tried to develop each player but who also tried to make it enjoyable. Final acknowledgement to the clubs of Western Gaels for the use of their club facilities and pitches during this unprecedented time for training and matches and in particular the patience and assistance of your pitch coordinator is much appreciated.

Bring on 2022.

Western Gaels Gael