



# YEARBOOK

The County  
The Clubs  
The Teams  
The year that was

2021



# GAA



## County news including

Champions  
Football Review  
Hurling Review  
50 years of FÉILE na nGeal  
SCÓR  
Health & Wellbeing  
Friends we lost

In the year that was

# 2021



# Football Champions 2021

Boom & Platform Hire Senior Football Champions



## BLESSINGTON



D'Arcy Sands Intermediate Football Champions



## AN TÓCHAR



Fitzgerald Kitchens Junior A Football Champions



## BARNDARRIG



# Philip Doyle Junior B Football Champions



# KNOCKANANNA



# Arklow Bay Hotel Junior C Football Champions



# KILCOOLE



# Junior D Football Champions



# ANNACURRA



# Hurling Champions 2021

## Lightning Protection Ireland Senior Hurling Champions



# BRAY EMMETS



## Lightning Protection Ireland Intermediate Hurling Champions



# CARNEW EMMETS



# Junior A Hurling Champions



# WESTERN GALES

## Junior B Hurling Champions



# AVONDALE

## Junior C Hurling Champions



# AUGHRIM



# County Football Review

## Div 3 Allianz Football League

Our first year back in Div 3 for several years and Davy Burke had the lads ready to remain there for 2022. The leagues were divided up due to Covid. We were grouped with Offaly, Limerick, and Tipperary. Unfortunately, we suffered 3 defeats and Wicklow were now in a relegation battle with Ulster Champions Cavan. The game took place in Pairc Tailteann on 12<sup>th</sup> June. The lads worked very hard and led at half time 1-5 to 0-7. We resumed for the second half and scores were nip and tuck, the lads continue to dig deep, and certainly delivered when it truly counted and won on score line 3-11 to 0-18 and secure Div 3 status for 2022.

## Leinster Senior Football Championship

28<sup>th</sup> June we welcomed Wexford to Aughrim for the 1<sup>st</sup> round of Leinster Championship. Wexford started the better team with an early goal, but Wicklow latched on 3 unanswered points, and it was level at the first water break. It continued to be nip and tuck with scores but at half time Wexford led 1-5 to 0-6. Wexford were reduced to 14 men due to a black card on the half time whistle. In the 45<sup>th</sup> Minute Wicklow levelled the game once more, and at the 2<sup>nd</sup> water break they took the lead by a point. But unfortunately, another goal by Wexford put an end to our Championship and we were defeated by 2-11 to 0-14. Davy and his management team stood down this year and we thank them for their huge commitment.

## Leinster U20 Football Championship

Kevin O'Brien continued as manager with his management of Gary Duffy, Mickey Daly, Jimmy Whittle. Our 1<sup>st</sup> game in Leinster championship saw Laois travelling to Aughrim on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Laois started very well and led at half time 2-5 to 1-5. The lads worked very hard and never gave up and a late rally to win 2-11 to 2-8. Next up was Dublin in the Quarter Final in Parnell Park on 8<sup>th</sup> July. Dublin started extremely well scoring 1-2 without reply and led at half time 1-7 to 0-5. But Wicklow started the second half a lot better and as the 2<sup>nd</sup> water break arrive there was just 2 points in this game 1-10 to 1-08, but unfortunately as play resumed, we did not get the scores required and lost out 1-12 to 1-8. Kevin and his team have stood down and we thanked them for their commitment and hard work with our players.

## Leinster Minor Football Championship

Paddy Dalton Coolkenno was announced as Minor manager for 2021. Paddy's management team is Tony Hannon Hollywood, Podge Murphy Coolkenno, Mervyn Travers AGB, Chris Brady An Tochar and David Brady An Tochar. Paddy set out his plan for the year with all players showing huge commitment. In the Leinster Championship we were beaten by Carlow in Netwatch Cullen park on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June 3-14 to 2-15. The lads work very hard throughout the game and never gave up, if we had on taken at least one of our goal chances the result would have been different. Once again we thank Darcy sands for their continued sponsorship of our Minor Football Team.



# County Hurling Review

## National Hurling League

The league proved to be a competitive campaign as we were pitted against Carlow, Meath, Offaly and Down. Wicklow made the trip to Carlow in the opening round and after a high scoring game the home side Emerged victorious on a score line of 3-19 to 0-17 up next was Meath in Aughrim and after a keenly contested game Wicklow suffered their second defeat 0-20 to 0-11, round three Wicklow played hosts to arch-rivals Down and again the home side suffered a 3-20 to 0-14 defeat. We made the long trip to Kerry for round four After a competitive game it was the men from the Kingdom who finished much stronger to inflict a 4-30 to 1-17 defeat. The final round in the league saw Wicklow play hosts to the league winners Offaly in Baltinglass which saw the men From the Faithful County give a powerful display which left Wicklow playing second fiddle for the full match with the result reading a 1-32 to 0-10 which saw the Offaly crowned league champions while Wicklow were relegated.

## Christy Ring

The opening round saw Wicklow play Roscommon in Aughrim and after a hard-fought game Eamon Scallan side made a winning start in a high scoring game 2-18 to 1-11, up next was a trip to Derry to face old rivals with two goals being the difference between the sides as the Derry men clinched victory 2-23 to 0-19. Wicklow made trip to Offaly to play the semi-final of the Christy Ring cup and not for the first time this year Offaly proved they were much too strong for all opposition that came their way in the league and Christy Ring cup which saw them run out easy winners 6-30 to 0-10 to end Wicklows campaign for 2021. Many thanks to Eamon Scallan and his back-room staff and the entire panel for their efforts and commitment during the year.

## U20 Hurling

We travelled to Meath for the opening round of the U20 competition with the number of players that had been

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## Wicklow Celtic Challenge Team 2021

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## 50 years of FÉILE na nGAEL

2021 marked the 50th anniversary of Féile na nGael, the national underage festival of hurling, camogie and handball. The first Féile competition was hosted by Tipperary who invited u14 hurling teams from each county to participate in a festival of hurling on the weekend of 16th to 18th July 1971.

The inaugural Féile competition was organised in four divisions with the parade on Sunday evening after the Division 1 final. Blackrock from COrk won the Division 1 title while Comeda (Antrim), Dungiven (Derry) and Portroe (Tipperary) won the Division 2, 3 and 4 respectively. Féile na nGael was an instant success and has become a part of the national games calendar over the last 50 years.

In 1982 Féile Peil na nÓg was established and was first held in Cavan. The 1982 Féile Peil na nÓg was run over two divisions with 20 visiting teams. In the Division 1 final Erin's Own defeated Salthill (Galway) while Clonmel Commercial (Tipperary) defeated Rathnew.

In 1971, Carnew Emmets were the Wicklow representatives at Féile. At that time Paddy O' Sullivan and Jim Darcy were training the team. and it was normal practice to load the lads into the back of the two cars and head off to play games around the county. The trip to Tipp was no different. The team piled into the two cars and headed for Templederry. On

Following good work behind the scenes by manager Dara Kissane and his selectors who did trojan work with this squad, as they moulded a Team together to become a force which saw them reach the final of the Celtic Challenge only to be defeated by a small margin after a gallant effort by all involved. The future of Wicklow rests with the underage and Paddy to everyone working at this level to support these dedicated members.

Next up was the Antrim representatives Comeda. This game was refereed by Tipperary star Len Gaynor. After a tough battle Carnew came out on the losing side of this game. Comeda went on to win the Division 2 final on Sunday. On the trip home Paddy and Jim bought the whole team a choc ice, a great finish to a brilliant weekend.

Panel: Eddie Cumiskey, Eamonn Doyle, Mick Doyle, Paddy Doyle, Mick Hall, John Joe Hennessey, Kevin House, Batt Kenny, Joe Kilbride, Billy Molloy, John Molloy, Mick Molloy, John Osborne, Mikey Osborne, Jim O' Sullivan. *(Please note a record of the full panel could not be found, apologies for any omissions.)*

Wicklow Féile winners 2021:

Hurling: Group 1: Carnew Emmets, Group 2: Michael Dwyers, Group 3: Western Gaels

Football: Group 1: Eire Óg Greystones, Group 2: AGB, Group 3: Michael Dwyers Group 4: St. Kevins Group 5: Kilcoole



# SCÓR

## 2020 Scór Sinsir All-Ireland Finals

The 2020 Scór Sinsir Competition reached its conclusion on Saturday evening the 20th of November 2021 in the salubrious environs of the Air Dome, Connacht GAA's Centre of Excellence in Clonacurry, County Mayo.

For the first time in a number of years, Wicklow GAA had a participant in the finals. Blessington GAA's Sheila Naughton was crowned Leinster Champion in October which meant she would fly the club, county and provincial flag in the finals of the Aithriseoireacht/Recitation competition.

In Saturday's final, Sheila faced tough competition from the other provinces, particularly from Munster, whose champion, Tipperary's Nollaig Seoige, was looking for a 4th All-Ireland title.

Sheila was first to tread the boards, and gave a great recitation of her piece, 'Our News'; displaying a great stage presence and an impeccable sense of timing. 'Our News' is a humorous take on the age-old classroom staple of infant classes writing about their 'news'.

Sheila received a rapturous applause from the large crowd gathered in the Dome, and when all four competitors had performed, the consensus was that she was right in the mix to be announced as the winner.

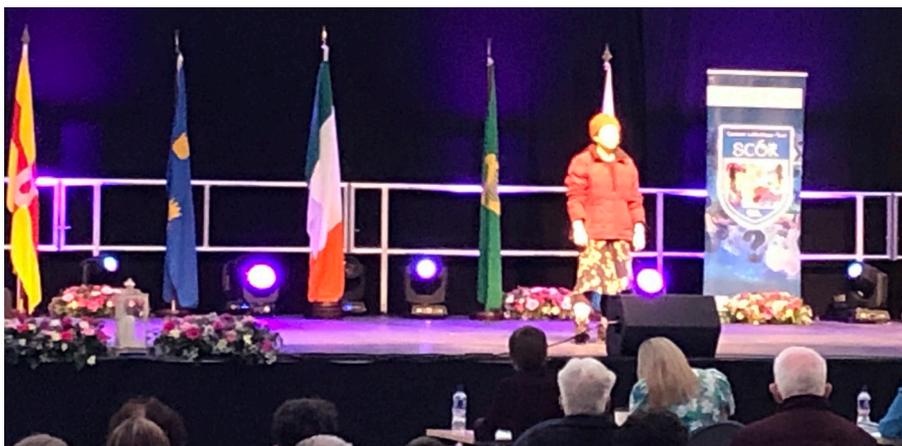
The long wait for Sheila then commenced as the winners would be announced when all of the other comórtais were completed, among them the Nuachleas/Novelty Act, a competition which Carnew Emmets won in 2000 and 2003, the last time a Wicklow GAA act annexed All-Ireland honours.

At around 8:15pm, to a hushed audience, Bean an Tí Aileen Ní Chinnéide, opened her envelope and announced the winner of the comórtas Aithriseoireachta. Unfortunately, from a Wicklow and Leinster perspective, it was from the Munster and Tipperary contingent that the whoops and hollers of victory came. JK Bracken's Nollaig Seoige had won his fourth title, a victory which makes him the most decorated competitor in the 52-year history of the competition.

For Sheila, there was, of course, some disappointment. Pride, however, was the overriding emotion. "Hearing 'Wicklow' being called out on stage at an All-Ireland was a proud moment for me, and, I hope, Blessington." She's also hopeful that her success will go on to inspire other people to get



involved in Scór in the future. *"I love Scór and there's so much talent in the county. I hope this will truly put Scór on the map and see it grow to the level it's at in other counties."*



# Health and Wellbeing

HEALTHY BODIES

HEALTHY MINDS

HEALTHY CLUBS

On behalf of the Wicklow GAA Health and Wellbeing Committee I present this snapshot of our activities for 2021. I want to take this opportunity to thank our committee members for their hard work and dedication and congratulate them for their efforts to promote Health & Wellbeing throughout our county.

The continued issues surrounding COVID-19 caused a major shift in what we knew as normal. The challenges of safely opening grounds to games and latterly including spectators, the re-opening of dressing room facilities and running meetings online all provided logistical challenges. I am proud to say that the GAA members, clubs and county committees all proved how well we as Irelands biggest sporting and social organisation were able to meet these challenges head on. Many members and clubs stood strong in their communities providing support and assistance to the most vulnerable. I really hope that at some stage in the near future we can take the opportunity to record and celebrate the fantastic work by our members.

## Committee 2021

Chairperson: David Murray (*Healthy Club Officer Tutor*)

Frances Stephenson (*County Children's Officer*)

Dr Brendan Cuddihy M.D. (*Eire Og Greystones GAA Club*)

Clair Dornan (*Gambling Awareness and Healthy Club Officer Tutor*)

Shauna Kelly (*Youth Representative*)

Lisa Jackson (*Gambling Awareness Tutor and Diversity & Inclusion*)

Rebecca Drew (*Enniskerry GAA, Healthy Club Representative*)

Culm Carty (*Member of County PRO Committee*)

In addition, we have been supported by the following people who have given their time to assist our committee in building capacity in our health & wellbeing roles and providing valuable training and support to our clubs.

Clara Jenkinson (*County Wicklow Sports Partnership, Disability & Inclusion Officer*)

Mylin Bass (*Smoking Cessation & Healthy Food Made Easy Officer, County Wicklow Partnership*)

## County Board and PRO Support

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## Healthy Club Programme

The GAA Healthy Club Programme continues to go from strength to strength. 2021 saw the completion of phase 4 of the National Healthy Club Programme. I am pleased to report that ***Eire Og Greystone's, Aughrim, Shillelagh/Coolboy and Blessington*** GAA Clubs have all successfully completed the programme and join ***Annacurra, Bray Emmetts and Enniskerry*** GAA clubs in being awarded Healthy Club status.

## Healthy Club Project Phase 5

Application for Phase 5 of the National Healthy Club Programme has recently closed. The following Wicklow GAA Clubs have been successful in their applications.

An Tochar GAA Club, Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney GAA Club, Ballymanus GAA Club, Donard Glen GAA Club and Newtown GAA Club will join our existing clubs on the program.

Phase 5 also heralds the arrival of the new gold, silver and bronze awards for Healthy Clubs. We look forward to seeing some if not all of our clubs achieve the highest possible honours.

## Critical Incident Planning



Critical Incident Planning is the process of planning and documenting the steps that your club will take if a critical incident were to occur in your club or community (a critical incident is defined as a situation that overwhelms one's natural capacity to respond).

There is no club who has not at some time swung into action to assist their members or the wider community when a critical incident has occurred. The devastation and trauma that can result from a sudden unexpected bereavement or injury can have a huge effect on your club and parish. Having a club Critical Incident Plan in place can help you and your members to plan and prepare for such incidents. How you cope, where you can go for help or advice, who will take charge are all worth thinking about. Even items as mundane as providing refreshments or organising car parking for a funeral or wake have to be planned.

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## Mental Fitness

### GAA and the Samaritans

The GAA have formed a link with The Samaritans and people can call and talk in complete confidentiality.

Contact the Samaritans on 116 123.

### Talk to Tom Arklow

We also have links with a local suicide prevention and support organisation "Talk to Tom" <https://www.talktotom.ie>

### Suicide Prevention

We continue to promote the HSE, Living-works START Level 2 suicide prevention alertness skills programme. We are hopeful to have participants to take safeTALK and the two-day intervention skills workshop ASIST when they can be

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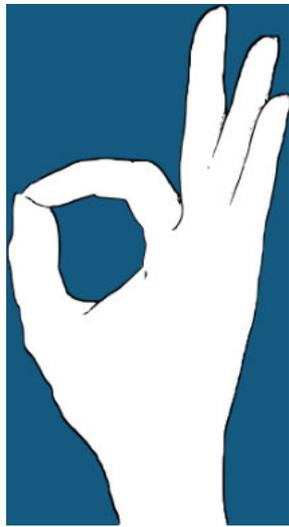
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# Friends we lost in 2021

## Jim Hamilton, Avondale

It was a cold December day in 2020 when we laid to rest Jim Hamilton in Bardarrig Cemetery. It was with deep regret we learned of his death and the news was received with widespread sorrow by all who knew him. Jim Hamilton had a lifelong interest in all G.A.A activities but his greatest loyalties lay with his Club. As a player he had a long and illustrious career and wore the green and white jersey of Avondale with pride and dignity. Jim loved the game of hurling. He learned his love of the game in the fields of Avondale where he played along with his brothers Jack and Mike and many of his neighbours. He developed his own skill and craft over the years. In the final of 1960 played in March 1961 Avondale defeated Kilcoole, he played in the half backs in that game with his brothers Jack in goals and Mick in the corner. He later moved into the corner back position where he excelled in the final of '64. On that occasion his brother Jack manned the goals. Avondale were back in the final of '66 when Carnew Emmet's now a rising force in hurling was the opposition. Jack moved out to his old position of half back and again proved his worth in a game that was won by the narrowest of margins 1-6 to 1-7. Due to the Covid19 virus and current restrictions only a small number were able to attend his funeral. However the Avondale club formed a guard of honour within the guidelines of social distance and former club chairman Victor O' Shaughnessy gave a grave side oration. Jim was a dedicated family man and to his wife Mary, sons James and Pat along with his extended family members and friends we extend our sincere sympathy.

*Ad dheis Dé go raibh a anam.*

## Colm Maher, Annacurra/ Aughrim

It was with deep regret that we learned of the sudden death of Colm Maher. The large and representative gathering complying with social distance for the removal of his remains and subsequent burial in Killaveney cemetery bore ample testimony to the popularity and esteem in which Colm and his family are held. Colm, though gone to his eternal reward, will live vividly in the minds and hearts of his legion of friends with whom he shared the joys of living. He served both Annacurra and Aughrim clubs loyally for many years, from juvenile up to senior, was an outstanding sportsman and holder of three county championship medals. Along with his late brother Sean he was on the Annacurra team that defeated Bardarrig 0-15 to 1-11

after a replay and extra time to bring the championship to the "Derry Village". On that occasion he scored four vital points at crucial times in the game. In 2010 he was again part of the clubs Intermediate team's success. He was a member of the Aughrim Hurling clubs winning side of 2019 when they captured the junior "B" hurling championship defeating Arklow Rock Parnell's in the final. Colm also wore the Blue and Gold of the county when he played with the minor hurlers. Colm's passing has left a void in the lives of his many friends none more so than his devoted family. To his partner Tanya, children Cillian, Caoimhe and Shauna and to his family members and friends we offer our sincere sympathy.

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.*

## Sean Crowley, Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney

With the death of Sean Crowley in January Arklow lost one of its most committed community campaigners. Sean was a native of Fermoy Co. Cork. Having worked in his native Fermoy, Thurles Rosslare Harbour and Bray he came to Arklow in the late fifties to work as chief clerk with Irish Rail at Arklow Railway Station. On the retirement of the then station master Mr Grogan, Sean was appointed station master. In his position as station master he was diligent in his duties and most obliging to the many people travelling from Arklow station. When he first came to Arklow he joined the Arklow Geraldines club. Here he made a huge contribution to its progress and development. After playing with the Geraldines for a short while he joined the club committee. At the clubs annual meeting in 1962 he was elected treasurer. It was a position he would hold for the next six years. During this time the club witnessed many changes not least the sale of Pearses Park on the Wexford Road and the purchase of the Greyhound Stadium on the Vale Road now Pearses Park. Sean played a major role in those transactions and during those years was a hard-working treasurer for the club. He also participated in the Scor and was a member of the Arklow Geraldine's question time team that won county honours for four years running, particularly in the centenary year of the Association where along with fellow members Willie Heaney and Mary Byrne they reached the All-Ireland final to be beaten by two points. A pioneer all his life he captained the Arklow Pioneer quiz team that won the Leinster championship. His contribution to the community life of Arklow was outstanding. He was a founder member of the Arklow Credit Union and served as its first Treasure/Manager for almost

25 years He was instrumental in reviving the local Pitch and Putt Club that was enjoyed by many locals and tourist alike. He was a member of the Central Council of the Pitch and Putt Union of Ireland. An astute Bridge player he played each week in the local Bridge Club. He served as tournament director in both the Apollo and "68" Bridge Clubs. Sean was also involved in local politics and in the 70's was a candidate in the local elections. His involvement in the Arklow Boxing Club and later at Provincial and National level is legendary. His commitment to the progress and development of the local club was exceptional. He was a former vice chairman and chairman of the club. He later progressed to become the Leinster secretary of the Leinster Council of the I.A.B.A. before moving to the national stage where for many years he was the voice of Irish Boxing. He held the position of general secretary of the I.A.B.A. for over 20 years and acted as MC and timekeeper at the national stadium. A proud Cork man his contribution to his adopted town was special and will long be remembered by a grateful community. Due to Covid19 restrictions his funeral mass was private. The cortege on its way to St. Gabriel's' cemetery passed by the Arklow Boxing Club where their flag flew at half-mast and members lined the footpath along with a guard of honour to pay their final respects to a man who contributed so much to the club, the sport and the local community. To His daughters Geraldines, Irene and Son Alister along with extended family members we extend our deepest sympathy.

*I measc na Naomh, go raibh a anam uasal.*

## **Fr. Dermot Kavanagh, Rathnew**

Over the years the contribution of the clergy to the G.A.A has been invaluable and on a cold day in January the Gaels of Rathnew laid to rest in Rathnew Cemetery the mortal remains of great Gael and an excellent priest, a tremendous follower and supporter of the "Game of the Gael", in particular of his club Rathnew of which he was a former player and current President. Fr Dermot Kavanagh was born in Rathnew on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1930 to Elizabeth and Thomas Kavanagh. He had five sister and six brothers. He was born into a family that treasured Irish culture and values, in a village where the youth of the locality spent most of their spare time playing hurling and football. It was into that environment that Fr Dermot was born and his love of football and hurling was nurtured in the local playing field in the company of his brothers, sisters and neighbours. He attended the local national school and played underage football and hurling with the local club. Here he garnered his love of Gaelic games, of Irish culture and his loyalty to the "Village". It was to hold him in good stead in the many years that was to follow. He was also a prolific Irish dancer and won many medals attending Na Feiseanna throughout the county –something he would later teach when in the USA. When he entered the congregation he went to

Rockwell College and later to the novitiate in Kilshane and was professed in 1954. He was ordained in 1960. His first appointment was to Nigeria. He was in Nigeria during the civil war and was credited with saving many of the churches records and artefacts. In 1971 he was appointed as pastor to St Joseph's Parish, New York. He would go on to work in Dakota and Texas before being pastor of St. Dunstan's Millbrae in California. During all those years abroad he never forgot his roots or his family ties to the local Rathnew club. His father wore the green and red jersey, his brothers and sisters also represented both club and county. His brother John captained the Rathnew team to win their last senior hurling championship in 1948. His sister May, Aggie and Kathleen were outstanding camogie players, May was inducted in to the camogie Hall of Fame as one of the best camogie players of all time. When her husband Joe "Dane" Byrne who was a member of the Rathnew team that won three in a row ('1941,'42,'43) died in 1996, Fr Dermot came from the U.S.A to officiate at the funeral and mass. When Fr. Dermot retired he came back home to the "Village", the place where it all began, where he loved and where his heart was. He attended all the Rathnew games and would be seen regularly up in the pitch attending the training sessions. When he died the local community were limited in their expressions of sympathy due to Covid19, However the Gaels of Rathnew led by the Club Chairman Bobbie Dignam formed a guard of honour and marched alongside the cortege from the church to the graveyard where club man Pat Mitchell gave an oration. To his family and friends we extend our sincere sympathy.

*"I measc Na naoimh go raibh a anam dilis".*

## **Harry "Har" Donnelly, Offaly / Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney**

It was with deep sorrow we learnt of the death of Har Donnelly. While Har had been unwell for some time never the less his demise was received with great regret. Har was a free kick specialist and captured the imagination of a generation with his place kicking. In 1961 he played in the "Pantheon of the Greats" when Offaly met Down in the All-Ireland football final. Har Donnelly was born in Kilcormac Co. Offaly where he grew up until he was seven when the family moved to Athlone. Har represented Westmeath at U14 level and won All Ireland Vocational School honours with his adopted county. He joined the Air Corps and it was there he made his mark as a footballer of excellence. Playing with the Air Corps he won two Dublin County senior league medals and contested two Dublin county championship finals 1960 and '61 against the great St Vincent's team. He was noticed by the Offaly selectors who selected him on the team to play in the Leinster championship of 1960. Offaly won the provincial title that year. Har's contribution played no small part on the road to victory. Offaly retained the

provincial crown the following year and again Har's contribution to that success was crucial. He was the top scorer for Offaly in the Leinster championship. The team moved on to reach the All-Ireland final of 1961 where the up and coming Down team was the opposition. It was a thrilling game from start to finish and eventful in many ways. The crowd was the biggest ever to attend an All-Ireland final over 90,000. On that faithful day Offaly came up short by one point 2-8 to 3-6. On the day Har was the top scorer with six points. In 1960 and '61 Har was the top scorer in Ireland. In 1961 he scored 5-90. Coming to work in Arklow he worked in NET and trained teams both Arklow Geraldines and Ballymoney clubs. Har also trained Ballymanus to reach the Intermediate final of 1984. Harry made many friends, his sincerity, his earnestness, his melodious voice and his rich sense of humour endeared him to many. Har loved to tell stories of games past. He was a great raconteur. However, for all his love of the GAA, he was first and foremost a family man and his passing is a great loss to his wife Sheila sons, Ronald, Colm and daughter Karen their family's his sisters and brother and a wide circle of relatives and friends. To all we extend our sincere sympathy.

*Ar dheis laimh Dé go raibh anamnacha Na Anraí.*

## **Paddy McCrudden, Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney**

In mid-February the death took place after a long and debilitating illness borne with great bravery and fortitude of Paddy McCrudden. His death brought back many memories to the older generations as regards his exploits on the Gaelic fields of Wicklow and beyond- exploits that caused him to be regarded as one of the most outstanding young players of his time. He played hurling and football at under age and adult level for the club. As a fledgling player he played in the local street leagues. It was not long until he was playing on the club teams. In 1952 he was on the Geraldines under 14 team that defeated St Patricks Wicklow to win the county championship. In 1955 he played a key role in Geraldines bringing home the county under 16 hurling title when they defeated Avondale. The same year he won his first "Dublin Wicklow Men's" cup medal after a thrilling county final with De La Salle Wicklow. The following year 1956 he captained the Under 16 team in the final. Defeating St Joseph's Kilcrouney he scored 1-1. During the game, going up for a high ball he received a bad ankle injury and was taken to hospital. On returning to Arklow the team paraded to his home with the cup to give three cheers and acknowledge the part he played as captain of the team. He was back playing with the club the following year. In 1958 the club reached the county minor semi-final when they were defeated by St. Patricks Wicklow. In this game he was joined by his brother Brendan who would also go on to wear

the Blue and Gold of the county. In 1958 Paddy had moved on to the senior team and was a member of the side that was defeated in the memorable championship game against Forestry College. He was on the senior panel in 1959 when Geraldines defeated county champions Baltinglass in the championship quarter final. He represented the county at minor level for three years. His first appearance was against Meath in the Leinster Semi-Final of 1955. The following year 1956 he played against Carlow. He was centre forward in 1957 when Laois defeated Wicklow in the Leinster championship. Paddy will long be remembered by his contemporaries who had the pleasure of playing with him and happy memories of this great sporting hero from St. Peters Place. To his wife Marie, sons John, Alison, Niall and daughter Aisling, brother Brendan and sister Mary along with extended family and friends we offer our sincere sympathy.

*Ar dheis lámh De go raibh anam uasal, Pdraig.*

## **John Martin Heaphey, Blessington**

The death of John Heaphey in January was received with great sadness in the Blessington and Kilbride area. John resided in the locality from many years before he went back home to his native Kerry. He was a solid supporter of the Blessington GAA club. Active on the committee for a number of years he served as Chairman of the club for three years in the seventies. He was a member of the County Board for a number of years. His contributions were always constructive, delivered with the sincerity for which he was renowned. He was also involved with many of the club teams and was always willing to offer a bit of constructive criticism when he saw fit and more often the important words of encouragement when things may not have gone so well. John was a devout Christian, was proud of his Kerry roots and of Irish traditions and culture. We extend our sympathy to his wife Pat, children Susan, Maria, Eileen, John, Geraldine, Anna, Sheila and oral along with his extended family and friends.

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.*

## **Sean O'Toole and Bríd O' Toole, Baltinglass**

The early days of the New Year claimed the life of Sean O' Toole who gave great service to Baltinglass club all his life. Sean had a life-long interest in all G.A.A activities but his greatest loyalties lay with his parish and his club. Both as a player and club official he had a long and illustrious career. At the club annual general meeting of 1947 Sean O'Toole was elected to the committee. It was an association that would last until he passed to his eternal reward in January of 2021 when he was then club president. Having served on

the committee for a number of years he was unanimously appointed treasurer at the general meeting of 1953. It was a position he would retain for over 32 years. During those years' the Baltinglass club would witness many challenges, big changes and see great days. Sean witnessed them all. He was involved in the purchase and development of the clubs present grounds. In 1953 with the club in the process of purchasing its own grounds he was instrumental in organising a raffle for a motor car. The raffle made a profit of £1,100. Sean brought a new awareness to the club of good financial management; this was to prove beneficial as the years progressed with many new ground improvements. As a player Sean was to play with Baltinglass in both Intermediate and senior finals. He was a member of the team that lost out to Roundwood in the Intermediate final of 1951. He was again on the losing side in 1953 when Baltinglass lost out to Annacurra in one of the lowest results of any county final 0-2 to 0-1. He was corner back on the team that was defeated after a replay by St Patricks Wicklow in the final of '58. Sean ran a successful grocery business in the town was married to Bríd a school teacher who hailed from the West of Ireland. It is sad to state Bríd passed away just hours after Sean. Ahead of the funeral service both the hearses were brought to Weavers Square where they had the grocery shop for up to 50 years. The streets were lined with members of the local club along with members of the local community all paying their respects to a couple that had served the community in so many ways for so many years. To their sons John and Martin and extended family members a friends we offer our sincere sympathy.

*Ar dheis laimh Dé go raibh a anama.*

## **Joe Clohessy, Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney**

It was with sadness the members of the Arklow Geraldines club learned of the death of Joe Clohessy. It was in the late sixties when as a young man he arrived in Arklow from his native County Clare. He hailed from Cahetfeenick, Creegh in the "Banner County". When he arrived in Arklow he joined the local Arklow Geraldines club. A player of great ability he was a regular on the club teams for many years. He played midfield on the successful Geraldines team that defeated Blessington in the county minor final of 1972. In that game he was inspirational with his high fielding dominating the midfield position with John Murphy. A larger than life person Joe loved a game of cards along with a chat where he would recall the exploits and fortunes of the Clare hurlers. Joe immigrated to London in the late seventies. He passed to his eternal reward on 17<sup>th</sup> February. To his family and friends we extend our sympathy.

*Go ndéana Dia trócaire ar a anam.*

## **Pat Corrigan, Dunlavin**

The death occurred in April of Pat Corrigan. Pat first came to prominence as a member of a group of juveniles in the Dunlavin club in the late fifties when he was playing with the under 14 team. His talents and football ability saw him promoted to the junior championship team of 1961. The same year he was also on the minor team defeated by Blessington in the West District final. In 1965 he was on the Intermediate side that played St Patricks (Wicklow) and Carnew Emmets in the championship. In 1966 Dunlavin were back in the junior ranks. Pat was a member of the side that was defeated by Hollywood in the second round of the championship, but brighter days were on the horizon. In 1967 he was a member of the team that won the West Junior championship. In 1968 he was a member of the team that won the Corcoran Cup. In 1970 he played a key role in Dunlavin winning their second county junior championship defeating Laragh 1-10 to 0-5. Having reached the senior final of 1972 when they were defeated by Baltinglass, it was a historic occasion for the club reaching the final for the first time. While the result was not in Dunlavin's favour playing at full back Pat was superbly on his game from the throw in and foiled Baltinglass attacks time and time again. Pat also wore the Blue and gold for the county. In later years Pat was a very competent gofer and was formerly past President and Captain of Craddockstown Golf Club. When friends sit around warm firesides on cold winter nights to reflect and tell stories of the greats of Dunlavin football Pat Corrigan will be high up on their list for it was players like Pat that laid the foundations for the great successes that were to follow. To his wife Enda, sons Emmet, Owen, Patrick and Daniel along with extended family members and friends we extend our deepest sympathy.

*Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dilis.*

## **John (Sean) McGuirk, Laragh**

The local community of Laragh and its surrounds were saddened when news came through in late April that John McGuirk had died. John who resided in Artane in Dublin for the past number of years was in his young days a prolific footballer with the Laragh club. He wore the Laragh colours from the early sixties for over a decade. He witnessed some great days playing with a club that was and still is the soul of the community of Laragh and Glendalough. In the 60's and 70's Laragh was a strong force on the Gaelic fields of Wicklow. John McGuirk was a member of the team panel that was defeated by Kilbride after a replay in the senior final of 1962. The same year he did win a Dunne Cup medal when Laragh captured the trophy for the first time. John was in goal when the club won the County Handball Shield for senior football in 1970. In 1972 Laragh won the Intermediate championship for the first time defeating

Valleymount in the final. On that historic day Sean's exploits in the goal were crucial to that championship success. In Dublin he was a member of the Craobh Chiaráin GAA Club. He was also a keen golfer being a member of the Skerries Golf club. Although he was domiciled in Dublin he never forgot the club he gave such sterling service too for so many years. To his wife Josephine, daughters Jenny and Niamh, sons Johnny and Colin along with his extended family members we offer our deepest sympathy.

*Go ndeanáí Dia trócaire Ar a nanam dilis.*

### **Thomas (Tom) McManus, Bray Emmets**

When news filtered through on May 25<sup>th</sup> of the death of Tom McManus, it was greeted with a deep sense of sadness by the people of Bray. While he was in failing health for some time, his demise left a yawning void in the community. Tom was born in Co. Co Roscommon. He came to Bray as member of the Garda Síochána. He was highly respected and was always supportive of the local community. He was an outstanding sportsman. A member of the Bray Emmets club for many years he shared in their great successes in particular in the 70's. In 1972 Bray Emmets won their second "Schweppes Cup" defeating Enniskerry by 4-11 to 1-9. Tom McManus played centre forward on that occasion. The following year 1973 was a historic year for the club when they captured the county Intermediate championship defeating once again, Enniskerry 1-10 to 2-5. Playing in the half forwards Tom's contribution on that day was crucial to "Emmets" winning their first Intermediate Club football championship. Tom was also a very keen golfer. He was a member of Bray Golf club for many years. Tom McManus was a warm, humble and sincere man. He served his country as a member of the Garda Síochána with honour. To his family and many friends we extend our sympathy.

*Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dhilis.*

### **Pat Doran, Carnew Emmets**

Although in failing health for some time the death of Pat Doran was met with genuine sadness by the people of Carnew and surrounding areas. Pat served the people of Carnew and South Wicklow as a county councillor for 35 years. He was the quintessential community person. He served many organisations in the town with boundless energy, that included the Carnew Emmets GAA Club where he served as treasurer and board delegate for nearly two decades. His contribution to the Carnew Emmets GAA club will long be remembered and the passing years will never diminish his contribution to that club or to the Carnew community. His contribution to the "Emmets" club will long be remembered and the passing years will never dull or

lessen his great involvement. His connection with the Community Care project in Carnew was dear to his heart where he served as chairman, along with his work for the Wicklow Hospice reminded us of his great passion to help and support the people who needed support. The huge crowd that lined the pathway to Tomacork cemetery bore testimony to respect that Pat Doran was held within the community. Pat Doran left a giant footprint in the sands of time. Carnew and South Wicklow mourned a great Christian man whose enthusiasm and leadership brought great benefits to many. To his James, Patrick, Kevin, Colette and Brian along with his extended family members we offer our sincere sympathy.

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé, is maire a chuimhne buan le fada an lá.*

### **Luke Wadden, Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney.**

Arklow was saddened this year at the sudden and untimely death of Luke Wadden from Rory O' Connor Place. Coming from a great Arklow seafaring family Luke sailed the seven seas. Before he went to sea he was a member of the Arklow Geraldines club. He played all through his teens and was a member of some of the great Starlights teams of the 50's. In 1958 he was a member of the u16 team that contested the county final with Ashford. He attended Belcamp college and played with the college team during that time. Luke's world travels and escapades left many of us both envious and a little in awe. His composed demeanour mixed with genuine warmth were appreciated by all who knew him. His loss, obviously, is felt greatest by his family. To his wife Rosaleen, children Luke, Karin and Allison and sister May along with extended family members we offer our deepest sympathy.

*Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.*

### **Jimmy Stafford, Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney.**

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June Jimmy Stafford passed to his eternal reward following a prolonged illness which he bore with great fortitude. Jimmy came from a respected Arklow family steeped in the seafaring traditions. He commenced his sporting career playing in the local street leagues, it was not long before his talents were discovered when he was brought on to the Geraldines Club team. He commenced his career playing in goals. From there he moved out to centre field. It was here he would play most of his football. Over the many years playing with the club success was limited and no county championships came his way. However there were

some great days. In particular reaching the county senior final of 1963 when the Geraldines lost out to a late minute goal to Baltinglass. Jimmy played at centerfield that day where he put in a heroic display. Jimmy also wore the Blue and Gold for the county. Jimmy Stafford was a gifted footballer, strong, talented and direct, a beautiful kicker of a ball with left or right foot. His talents were only matched by his modesty and dedication to Gaelic football. After his retirement he was a regular attender at club and county games throughout the county. He was proud of his grandson Cal Kelly, of his performance in winning two minor championships with the club plus an intermediate championship where in the final he scored the winning goal plus his elevation on to the senior team to centerfield, a position he himself held so many years previous. Though first and foremost a G.A.A man, Jimmy was never found wanting as a family man, as a neighbour or as a friend Jimmy will be remembered as a great footballer, a gentleman on and off the field, a great supporter of his club AGB, a sincere friend of everybody's and above all a great family man to whom we extend our sincere sympathy. The esteem with which he was held throughout the town was evident by the huge crowds that attended the removal of his remains from the funeral home to S.S. Mary & Peters Church. A guard of honour of past and present players of the Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney club marched with the cortege to the Church. To his wife Breda, family members Sandra, James, Lucy, Margaret, John, to his grandchildren along with his sister Carmel along with his extended family members and friends we offer our sincere sympathy.

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.*

## **Paddy Maher, Coiste Chontae Iarbunscoileanna Chill Mhantain.**

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June Paddy Maher passed to his eternal reward following a prolonged illness, which he bore with great fortitude. Paddy was a special person. A teacher in the Abbey Community College Wicklow he was a great supporter of everything Irish. He loved the "Game of the Gael" and in particular camogie where his coaching talents excelled. The teams he coached created records that have yet to be broken. The Abbey Community College junior camogie team were undefeated for nine years winning the championship from 1976 to '83. He was also coaching the senior college side and their success was equally impressive winning the senior title in 1977 '79, '82 '83 '84, and 1985. His crowning achievement was in 1982 when the college won the senior, Junior, and First Year as well as U15 and minor shields. The Junior team progressed to the Leinster final where they defeated Presentation College Kilkenny. The senior team went on to defeat Banagher Vocational school in the Leinster Colleges Senior Final. The College was then crowned Senior and Junior Champions of Leinster. Paddy

was also an excellent administrator. He was chairman of the County Vocational Schools Board from 1972 to 1992. He was P.R.O from 1977 to 1985. Paddy Maher will long be remembered as an untiring and dedicated teacher, his influence extended far beyond the classroom. He instilled in his pupils a belief in themselves and supported them until they achieved their goals. Paddy's personality shone through on all occasions. He was enthusiastic about everything Irish. Bhi Fíor grá aici don teanga nádura. Paddy Maher will be missed by many, non-more so than by his wife Irene, children Cliona, Emer, John and Declan to whom we offer our sincere sympathy.

*Is fíor a rá ná beidh a lethidí arís ann.*

## **Patrick (Paddy) Delaney, Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney**

On Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup> news came through that Paddy Delaney had died. It was received with great sadness throughout the town. In his young day's Paddy was a good footballer and gave sterling service to the local Arklow Geraldines club. He played on all the under-age teams. In 1956 he played in goals for the u16 team when they won the county championship and Dublin Wicklow Men's Cup for the third year in succession. Paddy worked in Eircom, was a great singer and keen golfer. He had a gregarious personality. He was an engaging man in whose company it was a delight to be, and he had a gift of being able to lighten the weightiest situations by his original observations. His greatest joy was his family to whom he was a loving husband, father and grandfather. To his wife Lil, Daughter Fiona and son Patrick and sisters Betty and Peggy along with his extended family and friends we offer our deepest sympathy.

*Leaba I measc na Naomh di.*

## **Myles Fortune, Arklow Rock Parnell's.**

The death occurred of Myles Fortune on 15<sup>th</sup> June after a long illness borne with courage and fortitude. His death was received with a deep sense of sorrow throughout the area. Myles Fortune was a great sportsman. He played football and hurling with the Arklow Rock Parnell's club. It was a golden era for the "Rocks" in the seventies and eighties. During that period Myles was an integral part of the teams that brought glory to the club. With the club football team he contested two county finals. The Intermediate final of 1976 against Kiltegan and the final of '81 when they were defeated by neighbouring side Ballymoney. He won the first of his three-county senior hurling medals in 1977 when "Rocks" defeated Glenealy. In 1981 he was on the losing side when the Rocks were defeated by Carnew Emmets in a thrilling encounter. In 1982 the "Rocks" had their revenge

when they defeated Carnew. Myles played a key role that day playing in centre field. Playing in the corner forward position he won his third senior medal in 1985 when the club defeated Kilcoole. In 1981 he was a member of the "Rocks" team that captured the county Senior Hurling Sevens. He also wore the county jersey and was on the successful team panel that annexed the 1981 NHL. Myles was a popular member of Telecom Eireann staff where he gave exemplary service over a long period of years. On his final journey from the funeral home to SS Mary & Peters church and later to St Gabriel's Cemetery, his former team mates and fellow members of the Arklow Rock Parnell's marched beside the cortege in a guard of honour with the green and white jersey draped on the coffin. Myles was a dedicated family man, his commitment to his family was total and his loss to his wife Rosemary, Son Tim and Daughter Jennifer along with his sisters and brother is incalculable. We tender them our sincere sympathy.

*Go ndeana D'ia trocaire ar a anam.*

## **Thomas J. Doyle, Annacurra**

Widespread expressions of regret were voiced when it became known that T.J. Doyle had passed away. He died peacefully in St Vincent's Hospital Dublin after a long and fruitful life. He came from an agricultural family and was a respected member of the farming community. His family were immersed in the traditions of Gaelic and Irish culture. It was here in the family home he would hear the storeys of the legendary Annacurra teams that forged their place in Gaelic history and folklore in the early days of the G.A.A in the County. He was devoted to his club Annacurra. From a young age when he played for his club he loved to see the Green and Gold being successful. However it was not on the playing field he would make his mark with his club. He was an outstanding administrator. He was a committee member for many years and was also a former chairman of the club. He witnessed some great days with his club. His influence and contributions played no small part in the club's progress and standing within the county. He was a member of the old South District Board for many years along with being a member of the County Committee where his contributions were always sincere and helpful. He loved the company of football men, past and present, and was never as happy as discussing the finer points of the games with his many colleagues and friends. T.J. as he was known to his friends was a kind and generous neighbour, a caring husband and proud father. T.G.'s loss to the Annacurra is great but much greater loss to his wife Josie his daughter Linda sons Tom and Michael, sisters', brothers and wider family members and friends. A great Gael he will be sadly missed. We offer our sincere sympathy to all the family.

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.*

## **Johnny Kenny, Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney**

Johnny Kenny died in Asgard Nursing home in July. Johnny hailed from a highly respected old Arklow family. A family that cherished its heritage along with a love of all things Irish. Johnny himself loved the game of the Gael and was one of AGB clubs and Wicklow's greatest supporters. He travelled along with his late sister Biddy the length and breadth of Wicklow supporting the local teams. When Wicklow were going strong in the 50's he would along with his sister would be the first on Noel Kenny's bus travelling to support the Blue and Gold. Johnny was a man of exceptional character, who was most caring and kind neighbour in the Fair Green area where he lived for most of his life. He will be sadly missed by his family and all who knew him.

*Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.*

## **Pat Murray, Tinahely**

In June Pat Murray passed to his eternal reward. In declining health for some time he fought his illness with the same bravery and dignity he displayed throughout his life. Pat came from a family that was immersed in the Gaelic code. From a young age he showed great promise on the Gaelic fields of Wicklow. In a sporting career that would see him wear the Red and White of Tinahely with great pride and success winning a junior, senior, three u21, and two minor championship medals and many league and tournament trophy's. In the late seventies and early eighties Tinahely football was at its height. It started in 1969 when they won their first junior championship and blossomed in 1978 winning their first minor title. In 1981 Tinahely won their second junior title. In '82 they defeated Baltinglass in the minor and St Kevins in the u21. On all occasions Pat Murray in the half back line gave outstanding displays. In 1984 he was to collect a senior medal when Tinahely defeated Vallemount in the centenary final. He wore the Blue and Gold for the county at minor, U21 and senior level. Pat Murray was a true gentleman both on and off the field. At his funeral at St. Kevins Church large numbers gathered, many his former team mates, to pay tribute to a man who contributed greatly to both the GAA and his local community. A great Gael with a lifelong interest in the G.A.A he will be sadly missed by many especially his wife Margaret, sons Jack and Kevin. Brother Mick sisters Nancy and Joan extended family and friends to them we offer our sincere sympathy.

*Ar dheis láimh De go raibh anam uasal Pdraig.*

## **Frank Fee, An Tochar**

The large and representative gathering for the removal of the remains and subsequent burial of Frank Fee bore ample testimony to the popularity and esteem in which he was held. A native of Multyfarnham Co. Westmeath he was an official in the Department of Forestry. Having worked for the Department in Carheciveen and Ballycastle he was sent to Roundwood where he became immersed in the local club An Tochar. He served the club in many capacities working with the young players teaching them the skills of the game and as a club administrator where he excelled. He was on the committee for many years and had two terms as Club Vice Chairman. He was a fluent Irish Speaker and supported all things Irish. Frank Fee was a man of the highest integrity who valued honesty and uprightness above all else. He was an exemplary Christian and a dedicated family man. To his wife Gertie son Tom, daughters Joan, Martha, and Michelle along with extended family members we offer our deepest and sincere sympathy.

*Go déanaí Dia trocaire ar a anam.*

## **Tom Whelan, Knockananna**

Another great Wicklow Gael passed to his eternal reward this year in the person of Tom Whelan of Knockananna. He was one of Knockananna's greatest Gaels. Serving his club as player, team selector, committee man and finally as club president. The South District was a strong force on the football scene in the late fifties with teams reaching and winning county championships. In 1956 the Knockananna club were a rising force reaching the county junior final. In a thrilling game they were beaten by three points by Dunlavin. Tom Whelan playing at full back gave an outstanding display of defence football. Knockananna emerged again as South District champions in 1958 and went all the way to the county final where they met another emerging force from the West Kilbride. Knockananna came out losing the final by three points. However Tom Whelan playing at full back was heroic and was the most outstanding player on the field. On the playing fields playing in the full back position Tom had few equals. He wore the red and white for his club on the playing fields of Wicklow for over two decades. When he retired from playing he threw himself in to team management. He was a selector with the teams who captured county honours in '87, '89 and 2016. As a committee member he worked unstintingly for the club. He was honoured with the club presidency a position he was proud of and well deserved. A guard of honour by club players and members during his funeral mass and removal to the cemetery was afforded to one of Knockananna's most loyal members. His family has lost a loved father; his community a Christian man and his club a tireless worker. "Lives of good men all remind us We can make our lives sublime and departing leave behind us Footprints on the sands of time".

*Ar dheis De go raibh a anam naofa.*

## **Paddy Dennehy, Arklow Geraldines Ballymoney**

Paddy Dennehy passed to his eternal reward in October and left a void in our community. Paddy's contribution to Arklow and the sporting life of the town was enormous. An all-round sportsman he excelled in both hurling and football. He was also a top-class tennis player and a very skilled golfer. In the forties the Arklow Geraldines organised the famous street leagues and it was here that Paddy first tasted success on the playing fields when in 1949 he captained the local "Starlights" from Rory O' Connor place to victory over the "Fishermen's Pride". Over the years he went on to represent the "Gers" in both hurling and football in every grade. While success in those years was not to be Paddy was one of the clubs most loyal players. He played on the senior team that reached the county final in '63 and in '65 on hurling team that contested the senior final. He wore the Blue and Gold of the County with both pride and distinction. He served on the club committee for many years. When he retired from the playing fields he continued to support both the Geraldines and Arklow Rock Parnell's organising golf classics each year. He was also a committed community activist where he supported and worked to enhance the lives of the local community. He pioneered many projects in the town. He was one of the main motivators and organisers in developing a swimming pool for Arklow. Paddy Dennehy was a devoted parent, a diligent worker, and a true sportsman. Fittingly people came from many parts of the county to Arklow to pay their final respects to a man whose gentlemanly ways, cheerful disposition won him the respect and esteem of all who crossed his path. Arklow Golf Club where he served both as captain and president provided a guard of honour from his removal to S.S. Marys and Peters Church. To his Sons Frank and Mark, daughters, Lorraine and Helena brother John and sister Pattie along with extended family we offer our sincere sympathy.

*Ar dheis láimh Dé go raibh a anam uasal*

## Johnny McDonald, Rathnew

It was with deep regret and profound sorrow that we learned of the death of Johnny McDonald from Rathnew. Johnny died in early November. Johnny had a life long interest in all G.A.A activities but his greatest loyalties lay with his club Rathnew. As a player he had a long and illustrious career and wore the Red and Green with pride and dignity. In 1964 at the young age of fifteen he was on the Rathnew minor team that captured the county minor football championship and Old I. R.A cup. He was a key player in 1966 when Rathnew defeated Dunlavin to regain the minor championship. At senior level he contested five senior final winning two. He was full forward when Rathnew defeated Carnew in 1970. Eight years later he was corner forward when the "Village" defeated Kiltegan 4-3 to 0-4. On that occasion Johnny scored 2-3. That was a proud day for Johnny playing a pivotal role along with his three brothers in bringing Rathnew their 21<sup>st</sup> Senior title. In 1970 he was a member of the Rathnew junior hurling team that defeated Carnew Emmets to win the '69 championship. Johnny also played for the county and was a member of the junior team that defeated Kerry to win the All-Ireland home title in 1969. Johnny also played hurling with the Glenealy club when Rathnew did not have a hurling team. Johnny McDonald was a true sportsman both on and off the field of play and whenever Rathnew football is talked about his name is sure to be spoken of with pride and joy. And of course as far as his beloved Rathnew Club is concerned his name will ever be a monument to its special place in Wicklow's football story. To his wife Marie, daughters Natasha, Nicola and son John. We offer our deepest sympathy.

*I measc na Naomh go raibh a anam dilis*

## Eamonn "Fitch" Moules, Annacurra

The death of Eamonn "Fitch" Moules in November marked a major passing in the history of the G.A.A. not only in the parish of Annacurra but throughout the county and beyond. "Fitch" as he was known to all had a lifelong association with the G.A.A as a player, administrator and as a referee where he gained national prominence. "Fitch" was born into a tradition in which land religion and culture were important. It was a culture that Eamonn "Fitch" Moules embraced both on and off the field. As a young boy growing up in Annacurra he was to witness great deeds by the men wearing the Green and Gold. He was only seven years old when Mick Carthy led the Annacurra team to victory in the senior championship of 1931 played in '32. It was to leave an enduring impression on the young "Fitch" Moules. In 1942 he tasted success when he was a member of the Hacketstown minor team that won the Wicklow Championship. Four years later he won a county junior hurling medal playing with Kilmacoo. In 1950 He was playing in the half forwards when Annacurra had to give best to Kilcoole in the Intermediate final. Three years later he was corner forward when Annacurra defeated Baltinglass to win the Intermediate championship. In 1955 he was corner back when Annacurra were defeated in the senior final by St Patrick's Wicklow. When he retired he immersed himself into administration and was secretary of the South District Board for over a decade. He was also the County Groundsman in Aughrim. He commenced refereeing in the South District but it was not long before his services were sought south after the length and breath of the county. Within the county he was to officiate at finals in every grade and in both codes. He was in charge of 12 senior football finals and one senior hurling final. At intercounty level his first game was the Leinster minor hurling final replay of 1955. He later went on to take charge of provincial finals in both Leinster and Connaught. He was the man in the middle for the All-Ireland senior football finals of 1962 and '63. He also was appointed to referee two National League finals one in the Gaelic Grounds New York. In the presence of a large crowd when his remains were brought to St. Bridget's Church the Annacurra Club formed a guard of honour where the Annacurra flag was draped on the coffin. The Club formed a guard of honour as his remains were brought to the graveside where former chairman of the County Board Jimmy Dunne delivered a fitting oration. Eamonn "Fitch" Moules will be remembered for his contribution to the Association and in particular the pride and joy he gave to his Club and all Wicklow Gaels during his time as a top referee. To his sons John and Billy, daughters Patty and Eilish we extend our sincere sympathy.

*Go ndeana D'ia Trocaire ar a anam.*

## **Paddy Behan, Shillelagh**

Old soldiers never die, they say, they just fade away. Paddy Behan from Shillelagh was one of the oldest who finally faded away to the great green pastures in the sky in May. Paddy who was 92 years old was born in April 1929 at Quarry Street Shillelagh. Over the years he had a life long interest in all G.A.A activities but his greatest loyalties lay with his parish and club. He wore the Shillelagh jersey for many years and helped lay the foundations for the many successes the club had in later years. When he finished on the playing field he served on the club committee for many years. He also was a former secretary of the club. He represented the club on the old South District Board where his contributions were always respected and valued. He was later appointed president of the Shillelagh-Coolboy GAA club. Over many years he worked hard to raise fund for both club and parish. He competed in the Tops of the Town on many occasions. He was also a keen golfer and was a member of Coolattin Golf Club. In his private life he worked in Coolattin Estate. He was a valued member of the parish committee for many years. The large attendance at his funeral indicated more eloquently than words the standing of Paddy Behan and his family in the community. To his wife Lil sons Paul, Martin, Tony daughters Lilly, Frances and Sarah we offer our deepest sympathy.

*Go thugadh Dia trocáire ar a anam.*

## **Vincent Blake, Shillelagh**

It was with extreme shock and deep sadness we learned of Vincent Blakes death. Born in Mullinacuffe into a family that are immersed in all things Irish and in particular the Game of The Gael. Vincent was involved in Gaelic games from the time he was able to walk. He played in all grades for his club and had the distinction of playing on the Shillelagh team that captured the County Championship, Swan Cup and County League in 1993. His position on the field was half back where he was tough and resolute. Besides his involvement on the field of play when he retired he was always supportive of his club and county. Moving to Dublin he was co-founder 16 years ago of E- Frontiers, a company specialising in the IT sector. The company provided the County Board with sponsorship for many projects including the county minor team and the academy development. On the playing field and in his work, Vincent was a very popular person and was noted for his generosity of spirit, for the whole heartedness of his efforts and for his ability to radiate enthusiasm and optimism. While Geaeldom mourns his passing at his comparatively young age our sympathy goes, in this time of grief to his wife Mai, sons Hugh and Fionn, parents Tom and Marie, sisters Ann Marie & Deirdre, brothers Kieran, and Dermot and a wide circular of friends.

*Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.*

## **George King, Kilmacanogue**

In November widespread sympathy along with a great sense of loss was felt in Kilmacanogue and especially among GAA followers when we heard the sad news of the Death of George King in hospital in Dublin. George who had been sick for most of the year bore his illness with the great courage and dignity he had displayed all his life. George was an outstanding sportsman and he demonstrated that on the playing field over two decades for his club Kilmacanogue. Over many years George playing for the club the team had little success until however all that was about to change. In the seventies the club had a very good combination of players that captured the Schweppes Cup, Wicklow People Cup along with the North District League. George and his brothers was an integral part of those successes. In 1981 having defeated Greystones in the semi-final Kilmacanogue reached the junior final. It was an exciting game with the Western representatives Stratford. On that occasion George King along with his brothers Christy and Paddy were on the losing side, Stratford won on a score line 0-12 to 1-5. Greystones got their revenge in 1982 when they defeated Kilmacanogue in the semi-final. The following year Kilmacanogue were back again in the final and on this occasion, they were pitted against a strong and emerging Shillelagh side. In this final Kilmacanogue were not going to be denied victory, George playing corner back along with his brothers Christy and Paddy playing outfield brought home Kilmacanogue third championship title and their first since 1966. George had unwavering loyalty to his club. Reflections of his many fine performances will stay in the mind, accompanied by the many fond memories of a true sportsman both on and off the playing field. To his wife Maria, family Christian, Gillian, Justin, and Kilian and extended family we offer our sincere sympathy.

*Go ndeana Dia trocáire ar a anam.*