



THE YEARBOOK

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New pitch development

The highlight of the year for our club was undoubtedly the completion of the development of pitch number two and the walking track.

We celebrated this huge milestone for our club with an official open day on Saturday the 31st of August. And what a day it was, after the official opening and a few very kind words from County Chairman Damien Byrne, all our juvenile teams from the Academy age right up to Minor got stuck in to playing blitzes and matches against our near neighbours Donard/Glen.

Afterwards we had a BBQ, drinks and ice cream, and there was even time at the very end for a Dads versus

lads kick about. All in all, it **was** truly enjoyable experience, and each juvenile player got to take home a commemorative medal to mark the day which they can hopefully look back on in years to come with pride.

The new pitch has been used continuously since the open day by our juvenile teams and it was a huge thrill for some of the teams to be able to play under floodlights for the first time.

The walking track has also proven to be a big hit, it is open to all members of our community and people have been able to use it fully during the darker evenings. It's great that our club can give back to our local community and provide people with a safe and secure place to exercise during the winter months.





UNDER 7'S

Under 7 & 9

Our Under 7 and Under 9 boys and girls took part in 14 Go-Game blitzes during the season. Training sessions on Saturdays and Wednesdays were really well attended with all players continuing to develop the skills of the game

Under 10 & 11

We enter a team in the Under 10 Player Pathway league this year and enjoy some great games. Our Under 11 team played in Division 3 this season and really stepped up the challenges that the division brought. The Under 11 squad were represented brilliantly by Iarlaith Kelly County Skills Challenge in Aughrim during the summer.

Ray Daniels Cup (Under 12)

Our Ray Daniels Cup team, comprising of Under 12 players successfully retained the trophy on the 11th of November with a brilliant final win against Blessington Gaa in Blessington.

Juveniles

Once again, our juvenile players and coaches had a hugely enjoyable and successful year in 2024. With almost 100 boys and girls enjoying Gaelic football each week on our juvenile teams, the future is very bright for our club. We thank all parents and club members for their continuing support. We would also like to thank all our coaches, referees and Juvenile Club Committee members.

The following is a brief report on each of our juvenile team activities over the 2024 season.

Academy 2024

Our academy players (4-6 years old) trained each Saturday morning and enjoyed a great introduction to football.



STRATFORD GRANGECON UNDER 9'S



STRATFORD GRANGECON UNDER 10'S

This is a competition which Stratford/Grangecon have really enjoyed playing in over the years and this season was no different. A performance of teamwork, power and plenty of flair brought this team to victory under lights in Blessington.

Under 13

Our 13 team had a fantastic year, with only one defeat in sixteen games. Despite have a small squad, with some Under 11 players playing up a grade, this talented team training hard and developed a never say die attitude that is to be admired.

This was never more evident that in our in the final against Kilcoole. Coming back from a thirteen-point deficit at half time to win a tension filled final, showed the belief and skills that this team has developed throughout the year.



STRATFORD GRANGECON UNDER 11'S



UNDER 12'S - RAY DANIELS CUP WINNERS 2024



UNDER 13'S WINNERS 2024

40 Years of hard work achieves the dream

Tinahely celebrate winning Senior Football Championship.

The entire community of Tinahely celebrated the conclusion of a 40 year odyssey in search for the Miley Cup. For the last four decades families, players, trainers and the close community they come from have supported and worked for Tinahely GAA to achieve the joy of 2024. The pictures attached only begin to show the delight and the meaning that this years win means for all involved in our GAA family. Combined with our Ladies Club achieving an unprecedented 10 consecutive Senior Championship, Tinahely GAA has never been in a healthier and strong position and as we transition to the one club status a new era of growth in our gaelic games and culture beckons. The joy and enthusiasm shown to our juvenile members by all our senior players on both Mens and Ladies teams is a tribute to not only their characters but to the caring culture of our community and club.

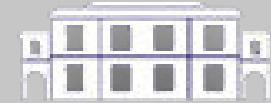
The Club has also been successful off the pitch also with the conclusion of our training pitch and main pitch improvements, the granting of planning permission for match play lights and the awarding of a Sports Capital Grant for the installation of the lighting system. We also held an amazing inclusive fundraiser involving both the ladies and men's clubs with our Lipsync which was a spectacular night for the entire community.

All in Tinahely GAA look forward to the coming year with renewed optimism and enthusiasm for our games and the bonds of community that our club engenders in all.



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Pairc Naomh Caoimhín





Adult Football

Our Division 5 lads were grouped in the league with Ballymanus, Aughrim, Annacurra, Shillelagh/Coolboy, Stratford/Grangecon and Tinahely where they placed 5th by the end of the league. They were in Group 2 of the Junior D Championship with Bardarrig, Aughrim, Annacurra and Tinahely. Thanks to Anthony, Andy and Aislinn for looking after the team for the year.

Our Division 3 lads competed in the league and finished 6th on the league table, thereby securing their place in the Division 3 League for the coming year. They played in the Intermediate Championship playing 5 games and finishing 5th on the table, avoiding relegation. It was a tough year with players away and injuries but they still managed to fulfil all fixtures. Thanks to Derek, Larry and Steven for



looking after the team for the year.



Cul Camps 2024

The Vallemount camp took place from 1st-5th July. We had a great attendance this year for our Cul Camps. All the children seemed to enjoy their week and we are looking forward to holding a camp again next year. Thanks to Cormac Noone and all the coaches who looked after the children and made it a fun week for them.

Go Games

Vallemount Go Games was a big success this year. The kids enjoyed their big day out in Croke Park to watch the All-Ireland Semi-finals. Thanks to all who

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went along and helped supervise. Big thanks to everyone who helped out throughout the year and we hope to see ye all in the New Year. Huge thanks to Kilsaran who sponsored new gear for the Go Games children this year.



Lotto

The club continues to run its bi-weekly lotto. Congratulations to Liam Miley who won our jackpot of €7300 back in September. Thank you to all who support us by buying tickets and to those who sell tickets. We are now also selling tickets online, so check out our social media platforms to purchase your tickets. A big thanks to the regular few lads & ladies who run the lotto draw every fortnight, your dedication is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to our CE workers who keep the clubhouse and grounds in great condition. Big thanks to Jack Paton who mows the field and takes care of the bins. A big thank you to all managers, trainers, selectors and mentors who have looked after all our teams during the year.

Our Walkway lights got a much needed upgrade this year. Great work was carried out, huge thanks to all who made it happen. Huge thanks, as always, to Aislinn who works tirelessly in the background as she secured a grant towards the work.

Our training pitch is coming along nicely and will hopefully be ready for seeding in the New Year. It is a huge job and it is managed by Aislinn.

We had a 5km Sponsored Walk on Saturday 14th September which was a great success. The walkers finished the walk back at the clubhouse where they enjoyed burgers, hotdogs and refreshments and mini games for the kids. Thanks to everyone who made it happen and to everyone that took part on the day, it created much needed funds for the day-to-day running of the club. Huge thanks to Kenny's Supervalu, Blessington for the support

The front gate got a mini makeover where the Tarmac was done by Ballymore Tarmacadam. Thanks to councillor patsy Glennon who secured funding for this project.

We now have a sign showing the entrance into the pitch. This sign was made and donated by Gerry O



Neill, which we appreciate.

Our new Coffee dock was supplied and erected by Ambrose Durcan and his team. As we have no shop in the village, it has been a great asset to the club on match days and hopefully it will grow in popularity in the future.

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 Valleymount 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.

Club Officers 2024

Chairman: Michael Nolan

Treasurer: Brendan Hughes

Secretary: Aislinn Nugent Reid

Fixtures: Liam Kavanagh

PRO: Caoimhe Nolan



Ladies Football

What a year it has been for Vallemount LGFA! In a small but mighty club like ours, fielding teams at Under 12, 14, 16, Minor, and Ladies is no small feat. It's a testament to the unwavering dedication of our coaches, mentors, and supporters who give their time and energy to help our girls shine.

Our Under 12s set the tone for the season by fulfilling all their fixtures with determination and enthusiasm. The year culminated in Ballinakill at the Football Festival, where every girl proudly received her medal. It was a joyful day that celebrated their hard work and set the foundation for future success.

The Under 14s battled fiercely in a tough Division 2 and made it all the way to the B Shield Semi-Final. A remarkable achievement! Many of these talented players also stepped up to support the Under 16s, gaining invaluable experience along the way.

Our Under 16s continued to impress in a competitive Division 2, reaching the Shield Final. In a thrilling encounter against Coolkenno, they narrowly missed out, with a final score line of Coolkenno 3-09 to Vallemount 2-08.

The Minors also gave us plenty to cheer about, reaching the Shield Semi-Final. Their battle against Bray showcased their resilience and skill, with a nail-biting finish of Bray 3-07 to Vallemount 3-04.

The crowning glory of 2024 was the triumphant return of our Ladies team. After a year's break, this young and hungry squad, led by Larry O'Brien and Stephen Burke, made an unforgettable comeback. Capturing both the Junior C Cup and the Junior Shield, they capped off the year in spectacular style. Their victories weren't just wins on the pitch—they were a symbol of perseverance and teamwork.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible effort of our entire Vallemount LGFA community. To our helpers, FLOs, mentors, and coaches: thank you for your boundless energy, expertise, and commitment to advancing our club. As we close the chapter on a memorable 2024, we look forward with optimism to another successful year. The future is bright for Vallemount, and together, we will continue to grow, inspire, and celebrate this incredible journey.









WESTERN GAELS U7 HURLING TEAM 2024

Western Gaels U7 Hurling Team:

The U7 team had a great year with plenty of matches in the Kildare and Wicklow league. We had a lot of kids move up to the U9 team and as a result started off with smaller numbers at the start of the year. This grew and grew over the year and, with members joining from the academy group, we were over 20 kids at the training sessions towards the end of the year. We were focused on building ground hurling skills, tackling, staying in position, blocking and having fun! We finished off the year with a fun game session. Thanks to all parents who tirelessly taxied the kids around to training, matches and blitzes.

Coaches: Cormac Styles, Niall Keogh and Con Ring.

Western Gaels U9 Hurling Team:

We had great year with U8s and U9s, watching them improve every training session and every match. We had a very successful year with our games as well in regard to attendance, results, and of course lots of fun. Such a great group of children and parents to work with. Thanks to all and looking forward to next year.

Coaches: Orla Dolan and Paul Wright.

Western Gaels U10 Hurling Team:

Our U10 team had a busy season this year with the Kildare and Wicklow league. While we were a small squad, our team had mighty games and improved throughout the season especially after attending our hurling camps. Every game we were tested and the players pushed on to win most matches. We have a terrific team of players who not only try to advance on their skills but have great determination and pride in their team. We look forward to seeing them all play next season.

Coaches: Will Harrington, Paul Wright, Caitriona McKeon and Orla Dolan

Western Gaels U11 Hurling Team:

Our under 11 hurlers played 14 games in Wicklow this year with great battles throughout the county. This group have given great commitment in 2024 and the improvement in each one has been immense. A big thanks to Conor Daly and the county board for the opportunity to play at half time in the Christy Ring fixture against Sligo which was thoroughly enjoyed by the entire group. Well done to Cian Harrington on winning the Wicklow u11 Skills competition for 2024 in Echelon Park, Aughrim in June. Thanks to Matt, Sandra, Anne, James and all the parents for their continued support throughout the year. Also, to Keith



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Gaeil an Iarthair

Cumann Luthchleas Gael



WESTERN GAELS U9 HURLING TEAM 2024



WESTERN GAELS U10 HURLING TEAM 2024

Nolan at KN Electrical for sponsoring a new set of jerseys for the under 11 group. Much appreciated. Looking forward to 2025. Western Gaels Abu.

Coaches: Will Harrington, Sam Cullen and Gary Birchall.

Western Gaels U13 Hurling Team:

We started off the year with 16 players. We were in division A, and we found the first few matches hard going. But the lads never gave up. They improved greatly with every match. We had the Kildare League at the start of the year. Every player gave 100%. It really helped them in the Wicklow games. When it came to the championship, we had a hard-fought game in Ballinakill against An Tocher. We came through by a point with a last second goal by Fionn Cummins. In the final it was a terrible night for hurling. It was a very tough game but unfortunately, we came out losing by 3 points to St. Pats. Every player left everything on the field that night, and we were all so proud of their performance and their dedication to each other. We also had the opportunity of heading



WESTERN GAELS U11 HURLING TEAM 2024



away to Waterford for a weekend. Here the lads got to show the Waterford Senior County players on how we hurl in Western Gaels during a training session on the beach. We also got the opportunity to play local team, who were very impressed with the standard of hurling from this team. And were wondering afterwards how a Wicklow team could beat them by 11 points. We wish the lads all the best in u14.

Coaches: PJ Grace and Eoin Roddy.

Western Gaels U15 Hurling Team:

2024 was a great year for Western Gaels u15, we started off slow but got stronger as the season progressed, beating Arklow in the final. A great bunch of lads who enjoy their hurling always give their best when they put on the jersey.

Coaches: Jack Whelan and Sean Dempsey.

Western Gaels Minor Hurling Team:

We started out with a promising view in February last, entering the player pathway with a panel of 18 U17's and potentially 5 U15's, giving us a real chance of competing against any team.

The pathway didn't go well as we had 6 county players, meaning our numbers were down, this resulted in us not been able to field a team, thus having to bow out.

First game of the championship saw us playing 13 v15 against st Pats. Going forward I thought this would have had a negative effect on the players... but no. They pulled themselves together and with a few courageous U15's playing up, we were very competitive...just losing out on games by 2 points here and 3 points there.

There was some amazing hurling played most



notably against Michael Dwyers where we lost by just a goal and the last v Carnew by a goal too, who went on to win the B final.

Once again, we must note the amazing attitude all these young adults had despite not getting an award at the end. It was a pleasure looking after these players and their parents should be very proud of the way they went out and represented the club each week.

To the players going forward to adult hurling: the best of luck even though you won't need it as you will have no problem fitting in and contributing positively. Thanks again to everyone who helped throughout the year. It never goes unnoticed

Coaches – Thomas Geoghegan, Aaron Keogh, Bernard Higgins and Gerry Phibbs.



WESTERN GAELS MINOR HURLING TEAM 2024

Western Gaels Intermediate Hurling Team:

The 2024 season saw our intermediate men's team reinvigorated with several minors making the step up to adult hurling. This fresh intake of young hurlers brought a new energy to our adult team. They had fire in their belly and were looking forward to simply getting out on the pitch and mixing it up with hurlers who have been around the block. We also welcomed on board a new hurling coach for the season, Ciaran Breen, who brought plenty of enthusiasm and drive every time he took the lads for a session. Ciaran is from a hurling stronghold and wasn't long about showing us his passion for the game. This poised for the season ahead to be a very enjoyable and productive one.

The league got underway on St. Patrick's weekend. We were at home to Kilcoole in Round 1 in Hollywood GAA Club. This was an interesting test for the Gaels as Kilcoole had a few Dublin league games under their belt already coming into this fixture. It was a competitive game from the off with some very good

hurling played for the time of year. Goals win matches, however, and Kilcoole came out on top winning 3-11 to 1-11.

Unseasonably wet weather in early April caused headaches for the fixtures committee. Several matches around the county were cancelled including our Round 2 fixture against Carnew Emmets. Both clubs failed to find a suitable date for the game to be refixed as a backlog was beginning to develop in both codes, which was disappointing.

Round 3 saw us head to Arklow Rock Parnells. Credit must be given to the pitch committee in the Rocks who always have their field in excellent condition. It is arguably the best playing surface in the county. It was the end of April, and the weather had become more favourable. This was the first time both teams had met since the game of two halves in a windy Aughrim the previous summer. The Gaels were hungry to overturn the previous result. ARP started the quickest and were given a gift of a goal in the opening 5 minutes after a poor clearance on the full back line saw the sliotar find its way into the back of our net from an ARP strike. We eventually settled into the game and got a few scores on the board. It was a physical encounter with both teams going hell for leather. The Rocks were flying after recent victories down in Wexford, but we were managing to stay within touching distance. Try as we might though, we

were unable to bridge the gap and ARP took the victory in this battle, winning by seven points. Senan Gardner was one of the minors who made the step up this season and he had a powerful game at corner back. Meithéal Cleary was also superb for us in this game, keeping us in it with some brilliant saves.

Avondale were our next league opponents in Hollywood GAA Club for Round 4. They were everyone's favourites to win out the 2024 championship and we knew a staunch challenge lay ahead of us. The teams were evenly matched in the opening 10 minutes with both teams exchanging points. The Dales started to find their groove though and picked up the pace. Quick ball into their full forward line was causing us difficulties. They bagged themselves three goals which put us on the back foot going into the half-time interval. We knew we were capable of much better and dusted ourselves down for battle in the second half. The scoreline was put to one side and our attention turned to playing more attacking hurling. The introduction of Rory Martin at half-time really spurred the Gaels on. Ciaran Traynor and Conall Byrne were causing Avondale difficulties when they ran at their defence. We eventually found our rhythm and had tightened the Avondale supply of ball into their full forwards which had caused us issues in the first half. Unfortunately, we failed to overturn the half-time deficit, but we put in a mammoth effort in the second half which gave the lads great confidence with the championship just around the corner.

June was spent preparing for our opening championship game against Glenealy. It was important that we got off to a winning start in Aughrim if we were to make any impression on the intermediate championship. Summer vibes had the players in good form and the lads were arriving to training with a pep in their step, looking forward to getting the hurl in their hand.

July 6th flew around. We knew Glenealy had a point to prove after we beat them in the 2023 championship, so it was expected that they had nothing but a win on their minds as well. Both teams traded points in the opening minutes. We were creating plenty of chances up front but frustratingly, we were unable to find the sticks on several occasions. Our shooting remained rusty in front of goal in the second half, and we were unable to pull away from Glenealy. An Alan Conyard goal brought the reds level with us heading into the final few minutes. The game was on a knife edge. We

continued to attack and were rewarded with a free just beyond the 65m line looking towards the wall end of the grounds. It wasn't a straightforward chance, but we had great confidence in seeing Luke Byrne stand over the free. Luke connected sweetly with the sliotar to sail it between the posts. The final whistle blew from the resulting puck out to give us a delightful opening win. Western Gaels 1-16 Glenealy 2-12.

Kilcoole were our opponents in Round 2 of the championship. We have been slowly closing the gap between ourselves and Kilcoole in the last couple of years. We knew we were underdogs going into this game, but we were confident that we could put in a solid performance. It was another competitive affair with neither team giving an inch. Our shooting was much better than it was in the opening round against Glenealy but there remained room for improvement. We were putting it up to Kilcoole in what was an entertaining game for the neutral. We went into the dressing room a point behind. The second half was as pulsating as the first, with both teams trying to make an impression. Kilcoole had us on the back foot entering the last few minutes and we needed a goal to take victory. We made several attempts to try and break through the Kilcoole defence, but it was not to be. Kilcoole ran out 2-point winners on a 1-15 to 2-10 scoreline.

We had a BYE for Round 3. Arklow Rock Parnells lay ahead for our third championship game in Echelon

Park. The sun was splitting the stones on August 18th, as a large bulk of the team were travelling back by bus from Electric Picnic. The festival vibes were left on the bus however, as the squad knew a win was a must if they were to continue to play a part in the 2024 championship. The Gaels started with a serious intent racking up a considerable early lead. ARP were not gone away though, and they managed to narrow the gap after dispatching a 20m free to the top corner. We took a 5-point lead into the break. Western Gaels came out and took things up a notch. Their shooting in front of goal was improving all the time and they were enjoying playing with a sense of freedom. The Moran brothers were scoring for fun up front, while James Sinnott and Rory Corrigan were starving their opponents of possession at the back. The Gaels ran out 2-23 to 2-11 winners at final whistle.

It all boiled down to the final group game against Avondale. Only a victory over the Dales would be enough for us to go through ahead of Kilcoole. We were competitive in the opening half, absorbing quite a lot of Avondale pressure. A small bit of frustration may have been creeping into their play in the second quarter, but they had a well worked goal on the brink of half-time which settled them down. We went in at half-time 4 points down but still confident. We managed to stay with Avondale for much of the second half before they eventually found a weakness in our defence to nab three late goals to cement their victory and top the group.

Avondale would go on to be deserving championship winners, beating Aughrim in the final. The rest of the teams in Wicklow can gain confidence from looking at the super run of form both Avondale and Bray Emmets went on in the Leinster championship. It goes to show that there is plenty of untapped potential in Wicklow hurling that needs to be harvested with proper resources.

Although we did not take away any silverware, it was quite a successful season for Western Gaels. We managed to win two championship games, go close in another, compete well across the entire season and expand the squad. Most of all lads were playing with a spring in their step again and enjoying their hurling. Progress was made in 2024 and hopefully that stream of progress can continue into 2025.

A big thank you to Ciaran Breen, Matt Byrne and Sandra Cleary for your commitment and dedication to the intermediate team this season.

