

Winter Edition  
Dec 2024 – Feb 2025



# NEWSLETTER



# CLG Cheathrú Aodha Dhuibh

Activity Update : December 2024 to February 2025

CLG Cheathrú Aodha Dhuibh



***Dia daoibh a chairde,** welcome to the first edition of our Newsletter in the 2024-5 playing season.*

*In this season's edition you will meet a few new members of our Executive Committee. We were delighted with the turn-out to our AGM back in November and I am honoured to have been voted in as your Chairperson for another year. It was particularly heartening to witness the amount of silverware on display at the AGM, not least of which was our award for Down GAA Club of the Year 2024, an honour which we are humbled to receive but is testament to all who make this club the success that it is.*

*Surprise guests at our AGM this year were our Scór na nÓg participants. Our novelty drama production - which won the County award and reached the Ulster finals - is worthy of a special mention, managing as they did to embody the spirit of the GAA and the rivalry of neighbouring clubs with humour and great insight. As well as this, our very talented instrumentalists opened our AGM this year. My thanks in particular to Suzanne Waring for her support and expertise which made this a memorable occasion for all involved.*

*In another excellent end to the year, and in a repeat of last year's success, our Minor Ladies once again won the Ulster championship on a biting cold December day. The ladies produced a very convincing performance and with tremendous skill on display were more than worthy winners. The weight of the win carries a particular poignancy as it was one of the last outings for our former coach and member Delia McCarron, at which she also witnessed her youngest daughter Isa accept Player of the Match. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam uasal.*

*As has now become an annual event, we enjoyed a glimmer of light in our Ireland Lights Up walks through the darkness of January and February and I'm personally overwhelmed with the enthusiasm with which our members and wider community continue to rise to this challenge. It will be excellent preparation for getting up extra early in May for our Darkness into Light Walk which we encourage everyone to attend. As an event to highlight mental health and suicide awareness it has a relevance to almost every family.*

*In the same vein we were privileged to have been approached by the Bergin family who, in memory of their son and brother Eddie, supported Lighthouse in sponsoring our U14 hurlers jersey. To further enhance the importance of seeking and offering support, we have also produced an awareness raising video with the support and acting skills of some of our younger players. Thank you to the Bergin family and to all who helped in any way. Reach out, ask twice. Watch the video here: <https://carryduffgac.com/ask-twice-its-ok-not-to-be-ok/>*

*Finally, our volunteers, particularly the youngest among them, continue to do us proud and we have had no fewer than 14 of them awarded a Bronze Sports Inspire Award for offering 50+ hours of voluntary service to the club. Of course we have many, many volunteers among our adult membership and it is worth once again stating that we are only ever as successful as our combined efforts. So please, help out when you hear the call, as much as you can for as long as you can, it all adds up.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BOS', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.



**Breandán Ó Sluáin**  
**Cathaoirleach**  
**Chairperson**

# Topping the Table in 2024

**BEST IN CLASS!**



## **Down LGFA Administrator of the Year 2024 – Sandra Hughes**

And at yet another awards night, club Secretary, Sandra Hughes, took home the award for her administrative support to the LGFA through her role.

Congratulations also to Noel Napier – senior Ladies head coach who was nominated for LGFA Coach of the Year. Well done to them both.



## **Down GAA Club of the Year 2024 - Carryduff GAC**

Determined not to rest on our laurels following achievement of Gaelic Life magazine's Ulster club of the year in 2023, we were delighted to be present at the O'Neill's Down GAA County Dinner in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry on Saturday 16th November, to be awarded the 2024 Down GAA Club of the Year.

The club was recognised for its inclusive and community focused approach and its significant efforts to continue to develop additional codes. Congratulations also to James Guinness who came home with a footballing All-Star and to Daniel Guinness, John McGeough, Conor Cassidy, Conor McAlister and Darragh Goodwin on their All-Star nominations for football and hurling respectively.

Proud Chair Brendan Sloan (left) holding the trophy, is pictured with a range of Committee and club members at the celebration event.

## **Carryduff GAC Club Person of the Year 2024 – Maria Gray**

Having introduced the All-Stars programme for children and adults with additional needs to the club in Spring 2024, Maria has enthusiastically committed herself to their continued enjoyment.

Although appointed to the Executive Committee just months before, Maria was quick to make her mark by establishing what we hope will be a lasting legacy.

Well done on your club person of the year award Maria!

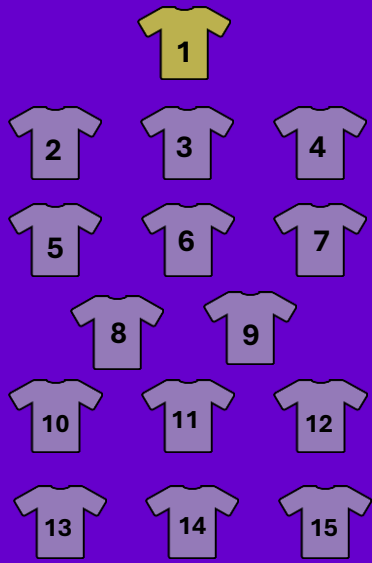
**Down  
Club  
of the  
Year  
2024**

CLG Cheathrú Aodha Dhuibh



# PLAYER ACTIVITY

## LGFA Minors - Ulster Champions



1. Caoimhe Lavery
2. Ashling Wojcieszak
3. Roisin McKenna
4. Eimear McReynolds
5. Maria McLornan
6. Niamh Napier
7. Anna McArdle
8. Maebh Napier (C)
9. Sophie Kerr
10. Grace Loughran
11. Isa McCarron
12. Ciara McLornan
13. Eimear Napier
14. Cara Donnelly
15. Ellie Sergeant

It was a wonderful day for players and supporters alike when our minor ladies completed a back-to-back success by retaining the Ulster title for a second year. Well done girls and management team – Gerard Sergeant, Noel Napier, Stephen McArdle, Paula Gibney, Maura Moran and Claire Milburn!

**Player of the Match**  
**Isa McCarron**

### 2024 Minor Panel

Caoimhe Lavery	Assumption Grammar School
Ashling Wojcieszak	Assumption Grammar School
Roisin McKenna	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Eimear McReynolds	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Maria McLornan	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Niamh Napier	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Anna McArdle	Aquinas Grammar School
Maebh Napier	Queen's University, Belfast
Sophie Kerr	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Grace Loughran	Assumption Grammar School
Isa McCarron	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Ciara McLornan	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Eimear Napier	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Cara Donnelly	Assumption Grammar School
Ellie Sergeant	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Cara Cassin	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Lara Deegan	Assumption Grammar School
Eve Bradshaw	Assumption Grammar School
Shauna Cooney	Aquinas Grammar School
Sarah Ella	Trinity College Dublin
Caoimhe Sherry	Assumption Grammar School
Eylessa Brennan	Assumption Grammar School
Rose Horisk	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Lily Meehan	Assumption Grammar School
Orla Hughes	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Rebecca McDonnell	Aquinas Grammar School
Hannah Cassin	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Cara Connolly	Assumption Grammar School
Ellen Farrell	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
Evie McHugh	Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock

**Carryduff 3-9 (18) An Clochan Liath (Dungloe) 1-3 (6)**

## Handball and Camogie

Handball Season runs until early March

One Wall training for primary school age takes place at 4.30pm on Sundays at the Parish Hall and will complete for the season on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March

Very well done to Aoife McGarry and Sean Holland (right) who beat Virginia of Cavan in the Gael Linn U13 mixed team in Kingscourt.

Although eventually beaten by a strong Carrickmore duo they did the club proud in its first entry to this competition. Great work kids!



U16 Camógs playing in Antrim Winter series (Feb 2025)



### ULSTER HANDBALL FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS ACADEMY

#### Session Schedule

3 Weeks

Skills included: Serves, Backwall, Roof Shots, Side Arm and more...

#### Player Criteria

U12&U13 Age Group

Entered in County Championships 2025

Can't have won an Ulster Championship title

#### Further Details

Minimum 4 players per county

Max 8 players per session (2 courts)

Delivered by Ulster Development Officers  
Fiona Shannon & Eilise McCrory

fiona.shannon.ulster@gaa.ie  
eilise.mccrory.ulster@gaa.ie

ULSTER GAA

As its popularity continues to grow, we were very proud to have a number of our Handball players attend Ulster GAA's Fundamental Skills Academy for Handball in January



# 2025 Down County Panels – rising stars

## PLAYER ACTIVITY

### LGFA

- Seniors** Aisling Cull, Meghan Doherty, Claire Milburn
- Minors** Cara Donnelly, Maria McLornan, Isa McCarron, Anna McArdle (all pictured right)
- U16s** Hannah Cassin, Olivia Dean, Abigail Hanvey, Niamh Napier, Evie McHugh
- U14s** Caoimhe Daly



### Football

- Seniors** Daniel Guinness, James Guinness, Owen McCabe, John McGeough
- Minors** Joseph Kerr, Owen McHugh (pictured left)
- U15s** Decision pending

### Camogie

- U16s** Catriona Blaney, Caitlin Bradshaw, Abigail Hanvey, Lucy Dumigan, Cara Holland
- U14s** Caoimhe Daly, Aoife Gray, Emma Hodkinson, Aoife McGarry (pictured right)



### Hurling

- Seniors** Ronan Beatty
- U20s** Lorcan Cooney, David Morrissey, Liam Blaney
- U17s** Fionn Dougan, Tom Hickson, Ben Neal, Daire O'Neill, Conall Vaugh, Aodhan Young, Sean Young
- U16s** Ethan Connolly, Rory Keenan, Ben Neal, Sean Young
- U15s** Phelim Cooney, Ronan Milligan, Fionn O'Neill, Osian Woods

A special word of congratulations to Cara Donnelly (above), Ulster Ladies Gaelic Post Primary School 2025 football All Star for Assumption Grammar



Our Minor Ladies recently attended a very beneficial CPR training session.

They also later attended a talk to raise awareness about ending violence against women and girls.

All of these events were made possible through Ulster GAA's Club Engagement Programme.

## Events and Activities

## PLAYER ACTIVITY



The Minor boys also kept busy during the quieter winter months, attending an invaluable workshop with NIFRS on road safety, followed by another on gambling awareness and finally a very important 'One Punch can Kill' information session.

## Player Development – Personal Health and Well-Being and First Aid





# Club Insights

“ We have been hearing a lot about how important it is to fundraise for the club. Why do we need more money – doesn't our membership cover all our needs? ”



It is a key part of the role of the Chair and the Treasurer to ensure the club has sufficient funds to operate effectively.

We are very fortunate to have a strong membership and are grateful for the income that this brings to our club. However, our running costs includes such things as heating, lighting, pitch maintenance costs, affiliation fees for our players and rental costs for additional facilities to meet the ever-increasing demand for space. Unfortunately, income from membership only covers about 65% of these costs. We need to generate additional income by other means to make up the shortfall. This is where our fundraising is used in the first instance. We encourage and expect teams to play their part in generating funds through events. We also depend greatly on our club and team sponsors; all of whom are advertised in the back pages of each quarterly newsletter and through our website and social media platforms. I'd personally like to thank all the businesses who sponsor, advertise and donate to our club. We strongly encourage you, our wider membership, to support those who support us - their financial support is vital to meet this funding gap - as is your ongoing support as members.

We had our highest ever return from our fundraising efforts last year and the importance of this to the club can't be overstated. As a bonus, many of the fundraising activities involved social events that lots of people could get behind and we want to encourage everyone to make a big effort this year to attend just one more club event. It's a small cost to you as an individual but it all adds up to make a huge difference to your club.

But all of this is short-term, it is literally about keeping the lights on; keeping the day-to-day cogs turning. It is important but it is not enough. I have huge ambitions for this club which includes taking a more long-term strategic look at our financial security. We need to be able to maintain the stable position we have brought the club into financially while also 'saving for a rainy day'. And that is all before we even think about developing our facilities, doing more, offering more, creating a legacy.





## Interview with the Chair

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

“ So, aren't there other ways to source money, like grants and loans that we can utilise for development work? ”

Unfortunately, the well of external funding is drying up. There was a time when EU money may have been an option but there are very limited opportunities out there any more and when a funding call opens the field is always very competitive. That said we have done much better than many clubs over the last few years with support from the Landfill Communities Fund (via Eastwoods Envirowaste) contributing massively to our development activity and more recently with a significant capital funding commitment from Lisburn and Castlereagh Council which will help us with our development Masterplan - provided we can match their contribution pound for pound.



I am very aware of the need to develop and improve our facilities but often funding opportunities emerge which require a club contribution in place to even allow us to apply. We need to make the club 'oven ready' and the projects 'spade ready' if we are to have any chance to meet future needs around facilities such as a club house. It is a longer-term ambition but I am totally committed to starting now even though these efforts may take many years to come to fruition.

“ Ok, so you seem to be saying that there needs to be something that sits in the background almost like a savings account in case we get an opportunity to develop something? ”

Yes, something like that. Those with long memories will recall the old 'Club Carryduff' fund which we recently wound up. It supported a huge amount of development activity. However, we believed it needed a refresh to be ready for newly emerging opportunities. So, what we need, and what is in place in many other clubs, and indeed at County level, is a sustainable fund that all members can buy into. It will operate in the background until we need to access the funding pot to avail of an opportunity to develop our facilities. It won't ever be used for day to day running costs because that is absolutely not its purpose, but this investment will be vital to improve facilities, which will in turn enhance team performance, foster a more vibrant community and attract more members.

And it should appeal equally to people who have a strong life-long affiliation to the club as well as those who are just starting to find us. It is the youngest members who have the most to gain from investing early in our future.



# DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## Interview with the Chair

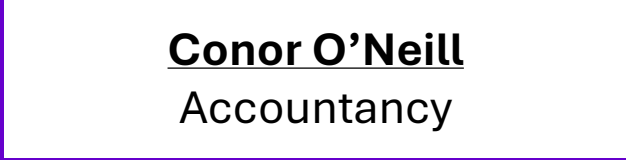
“ And is there something already in place we can contribute to? ”

Yes, we have spent a lot of time planning this. We launched our new Sustainable Development Fund - Cairde Carryduff - at the end of last year and have already had significant interest. There is lots of information about this on our Website but what is important about it is that it can be tailored to match affordability. From as little as £10 per month up to £50 per month for the business option, there is an opportunity for everyone to get involved and invest collectively in our future success. We would really appreciate people signing up and also availing of the various benefits it brings. I am very happy to talk to anyone about how the Scheme works so would welcome a call at any time.



To find out more visit...[Cairde Carryduff - Carryduff GAC](#)

### Cairde Carryduff Businesses – they’re in, are you?



## Status Update

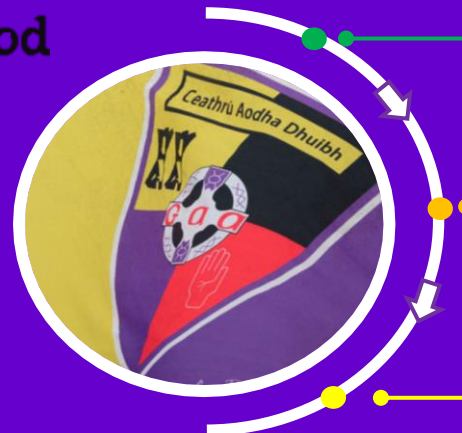
- Complete
- Progressing on target
- Progressing with some delays
- Delayed

### 2003/2024 Activities

1. Purchase and install LED lights for 4 lighting columns on Pitch 2 <b>STATUS - COMPLETE</b>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
2. Purchase and install benches and bins around the walkway and new bicycle pods on the grounds <b>STATUS - COMPLETE</b>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
3. Design and develop Pitch 3 (junior pitch) with the aim of it being playable for at least 9 months of the year <b>STATUS - COMPLETE</b>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
4. Utilise additional £40k provided for through Eastwoods and the LC Fund to complete site works at the south side of Pitch 3 <b>STATUS - COMPLETE</b>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>

### 2024/2025 Activities

1. Develop a Master Plan for best use of remaining site space <b>STATUS - COMPLETE</b>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
2. Host a Members' engagement evening to inform membership about upcoming plans <b>STATUS - COMPLETE</b>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
3. Await outcome of planning applications submitted in relation to Masterplan <b>STATUS - COMPLETE</b>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
4. Identify and secure funding sources to support Masterplan Phase 2 costs approx. £580k of which we have now identified a significant proportion <b>STATUS - PROGRESSING ON TARGET</b>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>



**Site Masterplan – Phase 1 Completed**  
Works completed up to June 2024 will be referred to as Phase 1 works  
This includes completion of the walkway and pitch 3 development

**Site Masterplan – Phase 2 In development**  
Development Sub-Committee has produced a high-level plan – approved by the EC - to address the club's training and playing needs in the immediate future. These include:  
- Floodlights at Pitch 3  
- Fencing at Pitch 2  
- Surface Improvements at Pitch 2  
- New additional 3G facility at top end of Pitch 3

**Site Masterplan - Phase 3 To be Agreed**  
On completion of Phase 2 remaining site needs will be reviewed by the Development Sub-Committee and proposals submitted to Executive Committee for approval  
  
At the same time, we will continue to identify additional funding sources to complete these and other works.  
  
This will include plans and planning approval for a new club house for which specific funding opportunities will need to be identified

### Phase 2 Status :-

We are now waiting on our formal Letter of Offer from Lisburn & Castlereagh Council which will allow us to continue the works planned in this Phase.  
We have just begun the procurement process to appoint a design team to consider how best to take forward the Phase 2 plans so as to maximise all available space while minimising disruption during the works.  
Hopefully you will see some activity beginning to happen over the summer months.



## School Liaison Officer

## YOUR COMMITTEE

Since joining the club 4 years ago Fiona has been heavily involved in coaching underage, from Nursery to U8.5s and this year moving up to U10.5s. She has two young children who are both also involved in the club.

*“It is a pleasure to accept the School Liaison Officer role this year. My two children attend St Ita’s Primary and I am keen to bring Gaelic games to all schools in the Carryduff area. Having experienced it myself, it’s wonderful to watch my children begin to develop enduring friendships through participation in Gaelic Games.*

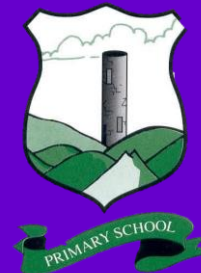
*In my capacity as School Liaison Officer, I hope to encourage other children and their families to get involved and experience the opportunities and sense of community the club has to offer. I have met with many of the schools already and hope to continue to build the connection between schools and the Club over the year.”*

Building awareness about the social, cultural and health and well-being opportunities that playing Gaelic games can offer to schools will be beneficial to all parties.

If anyone has any ideas about how to further enhance and strengthen these school/club relations, please contact Fiona on the e-mail below.

[schoolliaison@carryduffgac.com](mailto:schoolliaison@carryduffgac.com)

## SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT



Excellent and well-established relationships with St. Ita's and St. Joseph's Primary Schools

New relationships forming with Millenium and Cairnshill Integrated Primary Schools.



**Fiona Keary**



# Development Officer

Ryan McCauley has been involved with coaching his son's hurling and football teams at Carryduff for many years. Having last year joined the Development Sub-Committee, he upped the ante this year to accept the role of Club Development Officer.

As Deputy Director of Health Estates and Head of the Health Estates Procurement Standards branch at the Department of Health – which is responsible for the strategic planning, procurement, design and delivery of construction and estates related projects for the Department and its arms length bodies - Ryan brings a wealth of relevant experience to the role.



**Ryan McCauley**

The Development Sub-Committee makes recommendations to the full Executive Committee and as the club's primary Development Officer, Ryan's duties will include overseeing implementation of the club's Masterplan which includes a programme of pitch improvements and, in the year ahead, the procurement of a new 4g playing facility to allow our teams to train year-round.

We all look forward to a productive and successful year ahead.

**TBC Contact via chair email**

# Health and Safety Officer

Lisa McGovern joined the Committee this year, accepting the role of Health and Safety Officer.

A solicitor who has been involved with coaching her daughter's teams for many years, Lisa first dipped her toe in the management side of the club when she joined the Events sub-committee last year.

*"The Health and Safety Officer role is crucial as it ensures the well-being of players, coaches and supporters. The position requires an understanding of health and safety legislation, a proactive approach to risk management, and a commitment to maintaining a safe environment for all Club activities. Volunteering in the Events sub committee gave me an insight to the diligent work of the Committee and the work which goes into every single event. The Club is an amazing community hub and its success lies with the members and brilliant volunteers."*



**Lisa McGovern**

Lisa will also continue to work closely with the Events team to ensure the continued success of our Club activities.

**healthandsafety@carryduffgac.com**

## Volunteer Call – can you help out?

We are always delighted to avail of the skills of members and encourage you to get in touch if you'd like to get involved.

To join our Volunteer Heja Group, where we often post requests for help, please download the [Heja app](#) and enter code **WN-499547**

## CULTURAL ACTIVITY

### 2024 Scór na nÓg

Carryduff GAC returned to Scór na nÓg in style this year.

Our talented soloist Ella reached the semi-final while instrumentalists Eimear and Kate did extremely well to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Heats to win a place in the County Final.

Our extraordinary quiz masters also did us proud later in November.

On top of all that our amazing novelty (drama) act excelled to take 1<sup>st</sup> place in the County . They were later defeated in Ulster by a Fermanagh act that went on to win the All-Ireland title.

Perhaps most tellingly, and importantly of all, the club was awarded the prestigious Moya McCormack Cup which recognises the Spirit of Scór.



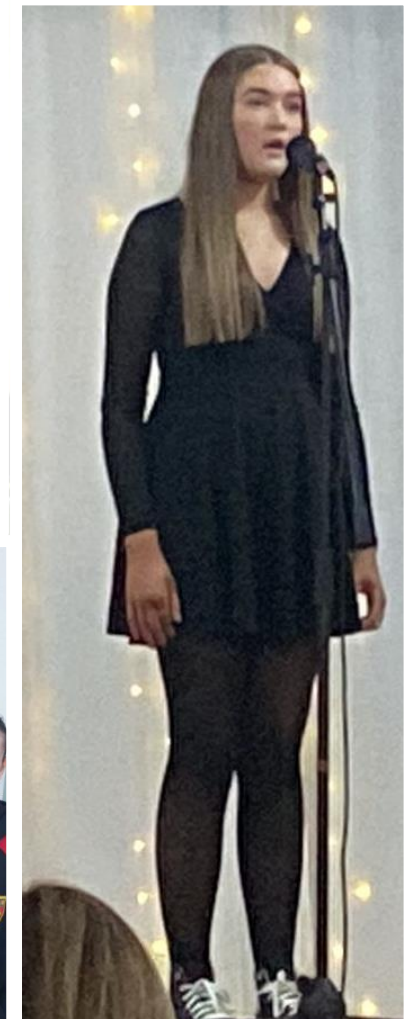
**Novelty Act** – Eilbhe Byrne; Cara Waring; Annie Mackell; Selma Collins; Fiadh Waring



**Instrumental** – Eimear McGreer and Kate McAtamney



**Quiz Team** – Oisín Byrne; Annie Mackell; Torin Deeny; Ciaran O’Loinsigh



**Soloist** – Ella Coey

## Culture and Language



Thanks to the experts who helped us celebrate Christmas and St Brigid's Day by teaching us all a few crafty new tricks - plenty of fun for our younger and older members!



Our culture and language calendar remains as busy as ever and helps greatly to bring us over those dark winter nights when weather and light impedes our sporting opportunities.

As well as our increasingly popular Irish language classes, we've enjoyed singing circles, book clubs (with an Irish theme), Christmas wreath making, St Brigid's cross masterclasses and great fun practicing for the Scór na nÓg with our younger members.



In addition, you'll have noticed the plaques dotted around the grounds with QR codes which you can scan with your phone while out walking to learn more about our ancient Celtic festivals. The recordings were completed by pupils at St Joseph's primary school. Thanks to them and their teachers for all the hard work and to the Community Foundation and the Ultach Fund for funding the project.





# SOCIAL ACTIVITY



Carryduff All Stars had a fantastic afternoon pizza making courtesy of Ciaran Kelly and James Woods at Pizza Crew Lisburn. Thank you to our sponsors Pizza Crew for their ongoing support.



Our Camógs were honoured to have former Camóg, and current Olympian, Ciara Magean drop into the Hub to offer words of sporting wisdom and advice.



Festive fun at Christmas time for the Carryduff All Stars and their families



A fantastic night had by all the Carryduff GAC representatives celebrating 120 years of Camogie, at the Official Down GAA Gala dinner



# SOCIAL ACTIVITY

## 2024 Christmas Elf Walk

Our third annual elf walk proved another huge success as hundreds of families gathered to enjoy the pre-Christmas festivities and a chance to meet the Big Man himself!



## Ireland Lights Up 2025



2025 - Krasnoyarsk Krai Mountains, Siberia



### Where in the World did we walk to?

Together we walked a total of 52,977km during the 6-week challenge. If we were to set off East in a straight line – assuming we could also walk on water (!) - we would have circumnavigated the globe after 40,075km. If we continued at the same latitude as Carryduff on the map for the additional 12,902km we would end up at the Krasnoyarsk Krai Mountains in central Siberia (photo included)! **Let's try for somewhere more tropical next year!**

### Carryduff GAC 2025 Leaderboard

Name	2024 Total	2025 Total
Brian Lamont	835.2km	895.9km
Paul Proctor	-	837.8km
Richard Doherty	-	735.3km
Marius Mulligan	852.8km	681.6km
Sean Latimer	915.8km	640.6km
Johnny Bradshaw	575.4km	623.4km
Claire Proctor	-	609.4km
Eamonn McKeever	-	605.9km
Brendan Gallagher	-	596.6km
Fiona O'Rawe	-	588.3km
Top 10 travelled	6,967.8km	6,814.8km
<b>Carryduff walkers- total</b>	<b>67,998.8Km (353 walkers)</b>	<b>52,977.2km (224 walkers)</b>
	<b>1<sup>st</sup> in Ulster 2<sup>nd</sup> in Ireland</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> in Ulster 2<sup>nd</sup> in Ireland</b>

Ireland Lights Up/Steps Challenge ran from Monday 6th January for 6 weeks and 224 walkers (members and the wider community) signed up to have their steps counted with Carryduff GAC.

In another hugely successful Steps Challenge Carryduff GAC finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Ulster and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Ireland out of upwards of 1000 participating GAA clubs!

**Well done to one and all!**



# Awards and Accolades

In an outstanding reflection of the dedication of our youth volunteers, Carryduff GAC have no fewer than 14 young people due to receive the Sports Inspire Bronze Award which is jointly administered by Ulster GAA, IFA and Ulster Rugby to young people who complete at least 50 volunteer hours each at their clubs.



**Congratulations to:**

- ✓ Aidan Caughey
- ✓ Cara Connolly
- ✓ Orla Cooney
- ✓ Patrick Fowler
- ✓ Conor Gilmore
- ✓ Orla Hughes
- ✓ Lochlann McCaffrey
- ✓ Aisling McCaul
- ✓ Ronan McCullagh
- ✓ Thomas McGarry
- ✓ Evie McHugh
- ✓ David Morrissey
- ✓ Eimear Napier
- ✓ Niamh Napier

Awards Ceremony to be held in The Mac on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Well done to the U16 girls from Our Lady and St Patrick’s College, Knock on winning the Ulster Post-Primary School final - A division - on 29<sup>th</sup> January.

We are so proud of Ellen Farrell, Evie McHugh, Orla Hughes, Fiona O’Neill, Orla McReynolds, Emer Heverin, Rhea Fitzgerald, Hannah Cassin, Rose Horisk, Anna Tinnelly, Niamh Napier, Abigail Hanvey, Cara Holland, Catriona Blaney and Isa Mc Carron who was assisting on the sidelines. We wish every success to the girls in the next stage of the competition – AISF Mar 5<sup>th</sup> 2pm at Louth Centre of Excellence.



## Well done Sean!

**Lisburn & Castlereagh Council Sports Person with a Disability of the Year – Club member, Sean McCartan.**  
Sean was a member of the Ulster Special Olympics squad that took part in the Irish Winter Games where he stormed home with a Gold in the intermediate slalom and a bronze in the intermediate giant slalom. (Sean is pictured with his parents Mark and Joan)



Presented monthly to young volunteers whose efforts best demonstrate the volunteering ethos and community spirit of the GAA, we are super proud of our Minor footballer **Maria McLornan (left)** who was awarded the Translink Ulster GAA Young Volunteer of the Month award for October 2024.

## Maith thú Maria!

## Reaching Out



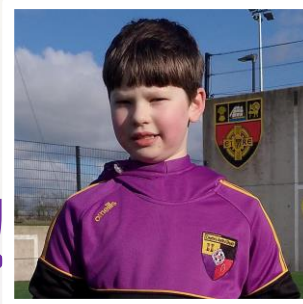
The recently opened £1.7m pitches facility at Lough Moss

## New Shared 3G Facility at Lough Moss

The new floodlit facility boasts a full size G.A.A. pitch – which will give the club an additional state-of-the-art venue for training and matches; a huge help with the challenges of finding space for our ever-increasing numbers.



## Poc Fada!



Fionn Mc Cool

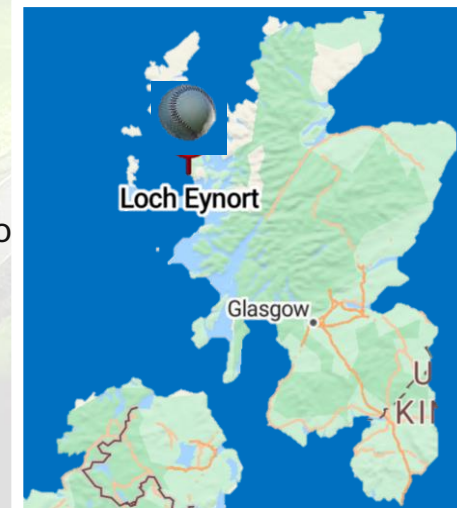


We might have collectively walked to Siberia, but surely no-one has ever pucked a sliotar from Donegal to Scotland – until now!

Eight-year-old Fionn O'Neill (above) was delighted to be reunited with his lost sliotar in February 2025, eight months after he last played with it on the beach in Donegal. While walking along the coast near his home in Loch Eynort in Scotland, Donald Mac Isaac (right) found the hurling ball with a name and the crest of Carryduff and decided to find out where it came from.

As a fluent Scottish Gaelic speaker, he instantly recognised the Irish Gaelic and set to work, making contact with Carryduff and ultimately reuniting a delighted Fionn with his ball. The uplifting tale made the BCC headlines in both regions.

If you can beat that story we'd love to hear from you!



## Membership – Sign Up

**2025 Club Membership**

Application for Membership remains open all year

Membership for all codes runs from 1st January through to 31 December.

Anyone wishing to train, play or coach must have their 2025 membership in place before commencing.

**Players of all ages are reminded that they are not covered by the GAA Injury Fund if they do not have 2025 membership at the time of any injury incurred.**

Instalments are available to spread the cost.

Adult players and families who took their membership out before the 28/2/25 received a free Down Draw ticket worth £120.

Please visit our [website](#) for further information

**Gym Membership**

If you are 12+ and wish to join the gym please contact Maria  
[healthandwellbeing@carryduffgac.com](mailto:healthandwellbeing@carryduffgac.com)

Membership options include

- i. £100 upfront annual payment or
- ii. £10 per month direct debit

Options can be found on [klubfunder](#)

Opening times 6am-midnight

You will receive a fob to enable entry at your own convenience within those hours.

**Club Lotto**

Many thanks to the hundreds of Club members who participate in our weekly Lotto Draw in the hope of winning up to £150 by matching 3 numbers, or of taking home the Jackpot – which currently stands at the maximum permitted £20,000!

Since October 21,600 Lotto tickets have been sold, representing a 27% increase on the same period last year. So far this year we have given out £3,150 in prizes and added a further £7,683 to our Jackpot Fund.

If you don't already play the Lotto, why not start today by scanning in the QR code above or clicking on the link below  
[https://www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Carryduff\\_GAC/lotto](https://www.klubfunder.com/Clubs/Carryduff_GAC/lotto)



# What's Coming Up – Save the dates!

## NEWS



Event	Date & Time	Location
Singing Circle (weekly on Wednesdays)	To end March	Carryduff GAC @ The Hub (for 5 weeks)
Book Club (monthly on Thursdays)	Last Thursday	Carryduff GAC @ The Hub
Seachtain na Gaeilge (events tbc)	10-17 <sup>th</sup> March	Watch out for details on social media
Drámaíocht & Dreolín (age 7+)	Sat 7 <sup>th</sup> March 6pm	St Josphe's Hall, Carryduff
St Patrick Day celebrations	Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Carryduff GAC @ The Hub (10-12noon)
World Book Day book Sale	Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Carryduff GAC @ The Hub
Darkness Into Light Walk 2025	Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Carryduff GAC @ The Hub

Join Carryduff GAC's Occasional Book Club focusing on books or authors with an Irish connection.

Last Thursday each month @ the Hub

Contact [AnaMarie](#) for more information

For more details about any of our events please contact [events officer@carryduffgac.com](mailto:events officer@carryduffgac.com)

For Irish language and cultural activities please contact [cultural officer@carryduffgac.com](mailto:cultural officer@carryduffgac.com)



### HURLING & CAMOGIE NURSERY & P1

Starting: Sunday March 2nd  
9:15 AM @ 3G PITCH EVERY SUNDAY

- Learn the game in a fun, structured, and safe environment
- All boys & girls aged 4 welcome (must turn 4 before July 2025)
- Hurls provided with helmets available to rent/buy from the hub
- Club membership covers both football and hurling
- Everyone is welcome regardless of ability
- Join Heja for more details [heja.io/download/10555280](https://heja.io/download/10555280)

Scan Me

### Nursery and Primary 1 children – Saturday and Sunday mornings

GAA FOOTBALL NURSERY 2025

GAA FOOTBALL NURSERY ACADEMY  
**SATURDAY 5TH APRIL 9AM START**

FUN-BASED GAMES TO DEVELOP MOVEMENT & SKILLS FOR CHILDREN AGED 4-5 YEARS. FOOTBALL FOCUSED. TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.CARRYDUFFGAC.COM](http://WWW.CARRYDUFFGAC.COM)

### All welcome to Carryduff GAC's Singing Circle

Wednesdays @ the Hub  
6:30-7:30pm  
Until End March  
No expertise required!

# What's Coming Up – Training

# NEWS



Training Opportunities	Date & Time	Location
Award 1 Football	Sat. 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Carryduff GAC (contact Coaching Officer)
Award 1 Hurling	Sat. 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Carryduff GAC (contact Coaching Officer)
Safeguarding	Wed. 5 <sup>th</sup> March @7pm	<a href="https://learning.gaa.ie/node/290024">https://learning.gaa.ie/node/290024</a>
Safeguarding	Tues. 11 <sup>th</sup> March Carryduff @7pm	<a href="https://learning.gaa.ie/node/289468">https://learning.gaa.ie/node/289468</a>
Award 1 Football	Sat. 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Carryduff GAC (contact Coaching Officer)
Safeguarding	Tues. 18 <sup>th</sup> March St Paul's, Hollywood @7pm	<a href="https://learning.gaa.ie/node/289848">https://learning.gaa.ie/node/289848</a>
Safeguarding	Fri. 28 <sup>th</sup> March @ 7pm	Virtual (TBC contact Children's Officer)
Award 1 Hurling	Sat. 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Carryduff GAC (contact Coaching Officer)
Safeguarding	Mon 31 <sup>st</sup> March @ 7pm.	Virtual (TBC contact Children's Officer)
Snr. Ladies Easter Camp	Thu. 24 <sup>th</sup> and Fri. 25 <sup>th</sup> April 10am-1pm	TBC (contact Coaching Officer)

CARRYDUFF GAC 2025 COACH EDUCATION



**Award 1 Youth Football and Hurling Courses**  
 HURLING AND FOOTBALL THEORY - SATURDAY 1ST MARCH  
 FOOTBALL PRACTICAL - SATURDAY 15TH MARCH  
 HURLING PRACTICAL - SATURDAY 29TH MARCH

If you are aged 16+ and wish to volunteer *in any capacity at a GAA club* it is a requirement of the GAA that you complete a Safeguarding course (see dates above) **and** secure Access NI clearance. For more details about any of our safeguarding opportunities or requirements please contact [childrensofficer.carryduff.down@gaa.ie](mailto:childrensofficer.carryduff.down@gaa.ie)

**For more details about any of our coaching opportunities please contact**  
[coachingofficer@carryduffgac.com](mailto:coachingofficer@carryduffgac.com)

# YOUR COMMITTEE

## Playing Contacts 2025

### Heds of Code 2025



**Hurling**  
Ronan McCaughey  
[hurling@carryduffgac.com](mailto:hurling@carryduffgac.com)



**LGFA – Ladies Football**  
Stephen Magorrian  
[carryduff.down@LGFA.ie](mailto:carryduff.down@LGFA.ie)



**Male Football**  
Paul Dougan  
[malefootball@carryduffgac.com](mailto:malefootball@carryduffgac.com)



**Camogie**  
Maeve Holland  
[secretary.carryduff.down@camogie.ie](mailto:secretary.carryduff.down@camogie.ie)

### Supporting Officers



**Snr Players' Representative – all codes**  
Ronan Lawlor  
[playersrep@carryduffgac.com](mailto:playersrep@carryduffgac.com)



**Coaching Officer - all codes**  
Orla Napier  
[coachingofficer@carryduffgac.com](mailto:coachingofficer@carryduffgac.com)

### Head Coaches 2025

	Hurling	Camogie	Male Football	LGFA*
<b>Senior</b>	Michael Ennis	N/A	Finnian Moriarity	Noel Napier
<b>Reserves/Intermed.</b>	Niall Watson	N/A	Rory McGrath	Paula Gibney
<b>Minor</b>	Peter Murray	N/A	Paul Hickson	Damian Horisk
<b>Under 16</b>	James Byrne	Michael Holland	Barry Donnelly	Stevie Cassin
<b>Under 14</b>	Damian Caughey	Conor McGarry	Gerry Collins	David Garvin
<b>Under 12</b>	John McCaffrey	Mark Graham / Phil Waring	Eamon O'Neill	David Kelly
<b>Under 10.5 / P6</b>	Fiona Keary	Brendan Cawley	Ryan McCauley	John Mackle
<b>Under 9.5 / P5</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	John Conlon
<b>Under 8.5 / P4</b>	Mark McGinley	Aideen Devlin	Garret Greene	Maura Moran
<b>Under 7.5 / P3</b>	Padraig Bolger	Ruairi McKay	Gareth Moore/Johnathan Strain	Ruari McKay
<b>Under 6.5 / P2</b>	Ruairi Boyle	Roisin McAlister	Davin Hanlon	John Hearty
<b>Nursery Academy</b>	Caoimhin Graham / Donal Rooney		Myles McCann	

Each code has a representative on the Executive Committee. These people work with your team managers to ensure effective two-way engagement between managers and the Committee.

Our Players' Representative is there to represent the needs of all our senior playing members – across all codes.

Our Coaching Officer helps to organise appropriate and current training and support for our full cohort of coaches and players.

Should you have any issues with regard to training or matches please speak to the relevant Head Coach (see table to the right) in the first instance and, if necessary, raise with the relevant Head of Code (above).

Child/Vulnerable Adult welfare issues should be raised with the Children's Officer

\*G4MO coach – Bronagh Papenfus





## Safeguarding

## YOUR COMMITTEE

### Children's Officer

Hilary White



- Safeguarding is a key focus of all organisations that deal with children and vulnerable adults and the GAA is no exception.
- Safeguarding protects the most vulnerable of our members but also protects our volunteers by offering clear guidance to ensure they always follow correct procedure
- County Boards offer training on safeguarding continually through the year and **it is a requirement of all volunteers in Carryduff that they complete Level 1 safeguarding as a minimum. They must also have current Access NI (police checks) clearance in place**

[Childrensofficer.carryduff.down@gaa.ie](mailto:Childrensofficer.carryduff.down@gaa.ie)

Chairperson of Carryduff GAC and

### Designated Liaison Person (DLP) Brendan Sloan



- Your Children's Officer – to whom concerns can be raised in the first instance – is Hilary White. Chairperson Brendan Sloan acts as the club's Designated Liaison Person with responsibility for issues that are escalated and require additional interventions including, potentially, social services or police involvement. Club Secretary Sandra Hughes is deputy DLP in the event of any conflict of interest. All three officers have been fully trained for their positions and you should have no hesitation coming forward if you have a concern about any abuse or risk of abuse (physical, emotional, sexual or other)

[Chairperson.carryduff.down@gaa.ie](mailto:Chairperson.carryduff.down@gaa.ie)

Secretary of Carryduff GAC and **Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL)**

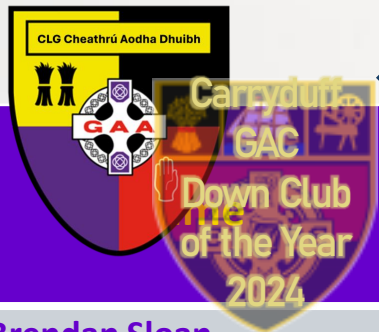
Sandra Hughes



- All conversations will be restricted to these individuals and information shared will remain strictly confidential
- Our Safeguarding Statement is available on our website and is positioned at various locations around our premises

[Secretary.carryduff.down@gaa.ie](mailto:Secretary.carryduff.down@gaa.ie)





# 2025 Executive Committee

## YOUR COMMITTEE

### Role(s)

### E-mail Address

<b>Brendan Sloan</b>	Chair / Designated Liaison Person - safeguarding	<a href="mailto:chairperson.carryduff.down@gaa.ie">chairperson.carryduff.down@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Sandra Hughes</b>	Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary.carryduff.down@gaa.ie">secretary.carryduff.down@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Conor O'Neill</b>	Treasurer / Head of Finance	<a href="mailto:treasurer.carryduff.down@gaa.ie">treasurer.carryduff.down@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Niall McCullagh</b>	Registrar	<a href="mailto:registrar.carryduff.down@gaa.ie">registrar.carryduff.down@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Philip Loughran</b>	PRO	<a href="mailto:pro.carryduff.down@gaa.ie">pro.carryduff.down@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Eamon Rooney</b>	Assistant Secretary (pitch booking, fixtures and transfer activity)	<a href="mailto:assistantsecretary.carryduff.down@gaa.ie">assistantsecretary.carryduff.down@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Ronan Lawlor</b>	Players' Representative	<a href="mailto:playersrep@carryduffgac.com">playersrep@carryduffgac.com</a>
<b>Orla Napier</b>	Coaching Officer	<a href="mailto:coachingofficer@carryduffgac.com">coachingofficer@carryduffgac.com</a>
<b>Hilary Whyte</b>	Children's Officer	<a href="mailto:childrensofficer.carryduff.down@gaa.ie">childrensofficer.carryduff.down@gaa.ie</a>
<b>AnaMarie Magorrian</b>	Culture and Language Officer	<a href="mailto:culturalofficer@carryduffgac.com">culturalofficer@carryduffgac.com</a>
<b>Paul Dougan</b>	Head of Male Football / Compliance and Insurance	<a href="mailto:malefootball@carryduffgac.com">malefootball@carryduffgac.com</a>
<b>Maria Gray</b>	Health & Well Being Officer / Head of GAA All Stars	<a href="mailto:healthandwellbeing@carryduffgac.com">healthandwellbeing@carryduffgac.com</a>
<b>Maeve Holland</b>	Head of Camogie / County Rep Camogie	<a href="mailto:secretary.carryduff.down@camogie.ie">secretary.carryduff.down@camogie.ie</a>
<b>Fiona Keary</b>	School Liaison Officer	<a href="mailto:schoolliaison@carryduffgac.com">schoolliaison@carryduffgac.com</a>
<b>Stephen Magorrian</b>	Head of Ladies Football / County Rep LGFA	<a href="mailto:carryduff.down@LGFA.ie">carryduff.down@LGFA.ie</a>
<b>Ryan McCauley</b>	Development Officer	TBC via <a href="mailto:chairperson.carryduff.down@gaa.ie">chairperson.carryduff.down@gaa.ie</a>
<b>Ronan McCaughey</b>	Head of Hurling	<a href="mailto:hurling@carryduffgac.com">hurling@carryduffgac.com</a>
<b>Lisa McGovern</b>	Health & Safety Officer	<a href="mailto:healthandsafetyofficer@carryduffgac.com">healthandsafetyofficer@carryduffgac.com</a>
<b>Claire Morris</b>	Events and Fundraising Officer	<a href="mailto:eventsofficer@carryduffgac.com">eventsofficer@carryduffgac.com</a>



Go raibh maith agaibh  
Please support those who support us

# TEAM SPONSORS



Senior Male Football



Senior Hurlers



Senior Ladies Football



Senior (PR) Male Football



Minor Male Football



Minor Ladies Football



U16 Male Football



U16 Ladies Football



U14 Male Football



U14 Hurlers



U14 Camógs



U12 Ladies Football



U12 Camógs

**Team Sponsorship Opportunities available in All codes**



**Ladies Football - Intermediate, U14**  
**Hurling - Reserves, Minors, U16**  
**Camogie - U16**

To sponsor a team please contact  
**Brendan on 07710063925**



G4MO

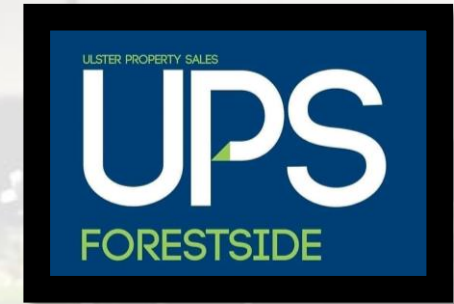
Dads And Lads

To sponsor a team please contact Brendan on 07710063925

Go raibh maith agaibh

Please support those who support us

# TEAM SPONSORS





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 To advertise your business at our pitches please contact  
 Brendan on 07710063925



  
**AHEAD in SHEDS**



THE  
**IVANHOE**  
HOTEL

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Brendan on 07710063925

 **Carryduff**

**AXIS**  
NURSING AGENCY

 **circet**

**MIS**  
GROUP



ULSTER PROPERTY SALES  
**UPS**  
FORESTSIDE

**PTS**  
Plumbing Trade Supplies

**WOODLAWN**  
GARDEN ∞ LIFESTYLE

**My-T- Sharp Barbers**  
**P.B Proctor**  
Electrical Ltd.



**Heaney Heating**  
Limited

**LAVERY'S**  
BELFAST

 **AEM**  
BUILDING & JOINERY

 **JP CORRY**

**FACTOR 1**  
DAY SPA

**MacBlair** 

**BAIZE CRAFT**

**FIREFLY**   
FOOT & ANKLE CLINICS

**KNOCKBRACKEN**  
**FUELS** 

**H&J**  
**MARTIN** 

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*Small enough to care, Big enough to cope!* 

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PROPERTY MANAGEMENT  
LIMITED