

## B100DY SUNDAY 1920-2023

GREAT CHALLENGE MATCH

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OPOGRALIS

AT CROKE PARK

ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1920

MATCH AT 245 PM.

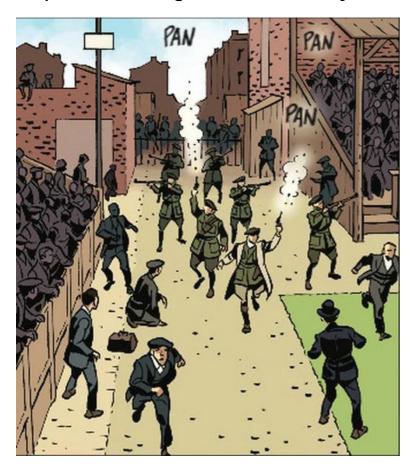
ADMISSION

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#### Bloody Sunday, 21st November 1920

In 1920 the War of Independence was ongoing in Ireland. On the morning of November 21st, an elite assassination unit known as 'The Squad' mounted an operation planned by Michael Collins, Director of Intelligence of the Irish Republican Army (IRA). Their orders were clear – they were to take out the backbone of the British Intelligence network in Ireland, specifically a group of officers known as 'The Cairo Gang'. The shootings took place in and around Dublin's south inner city and resulted in fourteen deaths, including six intelligence agents and two members of the British Auxiliary Force. Later that afternoon, Dublin were scheduled to play Tipperary in a one-off challenge match at Croke Park, the proceeds of which were in aid of the Republican Prisoners Dependents Fund. Tensions were high in Dublin due to fears of a reprisal by Crown forces following the assassinations. Despite this a crowd of almost 10,000 gathered in Croke Park. Throw-in was scheduled for 2.45pm, but it did not start until 3.15pm as crowd congestion caused a delay.



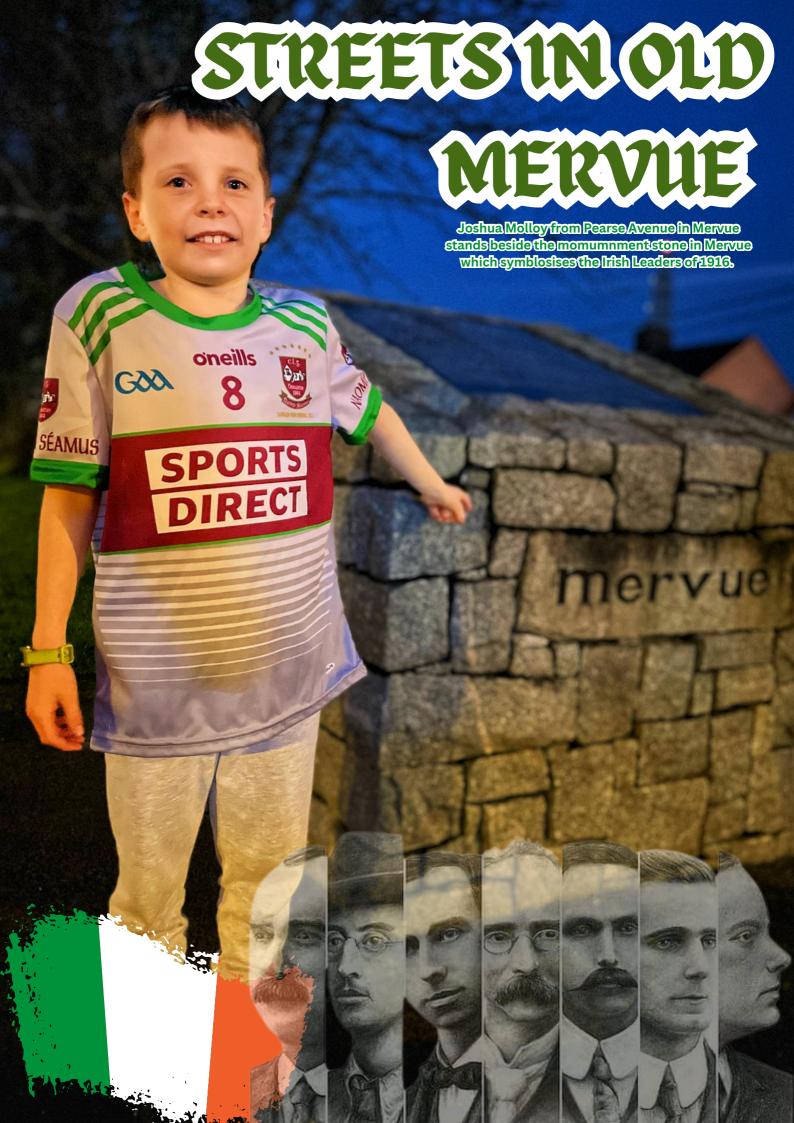
Eye-witness accounts suggest that five minutes after the throw-in an aeroplane flew over Croke Park. It circled the ground twice and shot a red flare - a signal to a mixed force of Royal Irish Constabulary (R.I.C.), Auxiliary Police and Military who then stormed into Croke Park and opened fire on the crowd. Amongst the spectators, there was a rush to all four exits, but the army stopped people from leaving the ground and this created a series of crushes around the stadium. Along the Cusack Stand side, hundreds of people braved the twenty-foot drop and jumped into the adjacent Belvedere Sports Grounds. The shooting lasted for less than two minutes. That afternoon in Croke Park, 14 people including one player (Michael Hogan from Tipperary), lost their lives. It is estimated that 60 - 100 people were injured.

The names of those who died in Croke Park on Bloody Sunday 1920 were; James Burke, Jane Boyle, Daniel Carroll, Michael Feery, Michael Hogan, Thomas (Tom) Hogan, James Matthews, Patrick O'Dowd, Jerome O'Leary, William (Perry) Robinson, Tom Ryan, John William (Billy) Scott, James Teehan, Joseph Traynor. In 1925, the GAA's Central Council took the decision to name a stand in Croke Park after Michael Hogan. The 21st November 2020 marks one hundred years since the events of Bloody Sunday in Croke Park.











Mervue Housing Estate: Following the decision by Colonel Joyce to put the estate on the market in 1953, Galway Corporation decided to purchase the land for housing. On 7 August 1954, The Connacht Tribune reported that a tender of £396,350-1s-5d was accepted for the development of 253 houses and 12 shopping units at Mervue. It was approved by Galway Corporation on 5 August 1954. A total of eleven tenders had been submitted, but the contract was awarded to the Brennan Brothers of Naas, County Kildare. This tender pertained to the first stage of the Mervue Housing Scheme, but ultimately it was envisaged that an additional 144 houses would be built. Twenty-two sites would also be made available for the building of private houses on Monivea Road. The County Manager, C. I. O'Flynn, reported that the first stage would be built over a three-year period and would mean an increase of one farthing (quarter of one penny) on house rates. There were a number of concerns among some members on Galway Corporation as they did not agree with an increase in rates being placed on existing householders. Councillor Maggie Anne Ashe was adamant that they should build houses that would 'pay for themselves' and not be a burden on any other householders. Alderman Joseph Owens stated that many people were concerned that the business area of Galway would become derelict, with plans for over 300 families to eventually move out to Mervue. The County Manager said that it was up to the corporation members to decide whether they were going to provide housing for the people. The Mayor of Galway, Alderman Peter Greene stated that all of these issues should have been addressed before making the final decision. Eventually, Councillor T. O'Connor proposed an acceptance of the tender that was now placed before them and Councillor Fintan Coogan (Senior) seconded the motion, thus Mervue Housing Estate was to become a reality.

The building began and provided secure employment over the following years. By 1955, the first houses became available in Pierce Avenue and thus families began to move into their new homes. It was during a period of great pride in the nationalist history of Ireland and the local authorities in Galway wished to acknowledge this fact. It was decided to name all the avenues in memory of famous Irish nationalist figures. On Thursday 12 September 1957, the Bishop of Galway, Dr. Michael Browne blessed the estate and finally Mervue Housing Estate was officially opened. The Minister for Local Government, Patrick Smyth, performed the official opening ceremony. While this was the official opening, all of the houses were not completed at this time and so the building work continued. An aerial photograph was taken just prior to the official opening and it is clear the Tone Avenue and Mallin Avenue were not completed. The photograph was used on the opening invitation. Another notable feature in Mervue was the amount of trees that survived the construction. Some believe that this was requested by Colonel Joyce during his sale of the estate. Mervue at that time was considered to be out in the country and it was therefore important to try and provide employment for those living there.





Kevin Barry was born in 8 Fleet Street, Dublin on 20 January 1902. His father died when he was six years old and the family moved to Tombeagh, Hacketstown in County Carlow. Kevin returned to Dublin when he was fifteen and attended a number of schools, including the O'Connell School at Rathmines and Belvedere College. He then when on to study medicine in University College Dublin. He was first introduced to the independence movement when he attended a Manchester Martyr Commemoration Concert in the Mansion House, Dublin. Following the concert he joined the Fianna Eireann movement. However, it was the death of Thomas Ashe from forced feeding while on hunger strike in October 1917 that finally led him to take action. He joined the First Battalion, Dublin Brigade of the Irish Volunteers and became an active member during the War of Independence. On 1 June 1920 he took part in a raid on the King's Inn and later moved back to Carlow where he was involved in the attack and burning of Hacketstown Barracks. This was one of the first attacks of its type in the country and was part of a concerted effort by the Irish Republican Army to the drive the Royal Irish Constabulary out of rural Ireland. By 20 September 1920, Barry was back in Dublin where he was to sit for an exam that same afternoon. However, that morning he took part in an ambush near Church Street, Dublin. Its purpose was to capture arms from a military escort guarding bread for the Collinstown Barracks; it is now the site of Dublin Airport. He took a leading role in the attack in which three British soldiers were killed. Barry's gun jammed and while trying to free the mechanism his comrades retreated and he was captured. On 20 October 1920, he was brought under military escort from Mountjoy Prison to be court marshalled in Marlborough Barracks (now McKee Barracks). He was charged under the Restoration of Order (Ireland) Act, and was the first person to be tried for this capital crime. He refused to recognise the court, stating that he was a soldier of Ireland and regarded all his actions as an act of war and did not request a defence. On the morning of 1 November 1920, Kevin Barry was hanged in Mountjoy Jail and was buried in the grounds of the prison that afternoon. None of his family or friends were allowed to attend the funeral. (On 14 October 2001 his remains were exhumed along with nine other men hanged in Mountjoy prison in the cause of Irish freedom. After a state funeral, his remains were interred in Glasnevin Cemetery.



Major John MacBride was born on 7 May 1865 in Westport, County Mayo. During the Boer War 1899-1900 he fought gallantly on the side of the Boers against the British forces. In 1903, he married Maud Gonne, a lady just as volatile as himself and also dedicated to the cause of Irish freedom. She was once described as the most beautiful woman in Europe. She was a friend of the renowned poet, William Butler Yeats, who was very much in love with her, but she never Although Major McBride was a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, it is not known for certain just how McBride became involved in the rebellion. One source indicates that while he was on his way to the wedding of a relative on Easter Monday he became aware of the rebellion and immediately took his place in the ranks of the Jacobs Factory Garrison as second in command to Thomas McDonagh. During his court martial he said that he took part in the rebellion because he always detested British rule in Ireland. Thanking the officers of the court for a fair trial he went on the say: 'I have looked down the muzzles of too many guns in the South African War to fear death, and now please carry out your sentence.' When the soldiers arrived in his cell to take him to his place of execution, he asked them not to tie his hands and he would remain perfectly still, but his request was refused. He also asked not to be blindfolded, but this was also reused. He was executed, alone on 5 May 1916, as he was the only rebel shot that morning. His son, Sean McBride, was also a revolutionary, and a politician and became the first Irishman to win the Nobel and Lenin Peace Prize.



Patrick Henry Pearse, teacher, writer and revolutionary, was born on 10 November 1879 in Dublin. His father was an Englishman and his mother was from County Meath. Pearse is often described as an idealistic dreamer because of his political views. He once swore an oath to his younger brother William that he would somehow free Ireland or die in the attempt. He totally abstained from drinking and smoking. Despite all the rumours regarding Pearse's sexuality, the one great love in his life, a student girl who was tragically drowned. It was his interest in the Irish language that led him to join the Gaelic League and he became editor of its paper An Claidheamh Soluis. Pearse was a moderate in his political views, supporting Home Rule for Ireland. However, he soon conceived the idea of total independence and believed that this could only be gained by force and sacrifice. He founded St. Enda's School in Rathfarnham, Dublin. It was the model for a new educational system, teaching his pupils through Gaeilge in an atmosphere of cultural learning and nationalism. The school is now a museum. In 1913, he was sworn into the Irish Republican Brotherhood and was soon to become one of its most prominent members. He was also a founder member of the Irish Volunteers and founded the newspaper An Barr Buadh (The Trumpet of Victory). In 1915, Pearse wrote and read the famous oration over the grave of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rassa, an extremely well written manuscript which ended with perhaps some of the most inspiring words ever written regarding Irish nationalism: 'Life springs from death; and from the graves of patriot men and women spring living nations. ...They think that they have foreseen everything, think that they have provided against everything; but the fools, the fools, the fools! - they have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace.' He wrote most of this oration in Rosmuck County Galway, and finished it while travelling to Dublin for the funeral. He was Commander-in-Chief of the Irish forces during the 1916 Easter Rebellion and President of the Provisional Government. It was Pearse that read the Proclamation on the steps of the General Post Office and when he finished, James Connolly stepped forward and shaking hands with him, said: 'Thank God that I have lived to see this day.' They held out for almost a week and his decision to surrender was made after witnessing some civilians being killed. Following the surrender he was court-martialled and executed in Kilmainham Jail on 3 May 1916. In a letter to his mother, Pearse said that he thanked God to: '...die a soldiers death for Ireland and freedom... people will say hard things of us now, but later on will praise us.' His brother, William, was executed the following day for his part in the rebellion.



Michael McHugh was born in Caherlistrane County Galway in 1873. He began working for the Tuam Herald as a teenager and later, about 1900, McHugh worked as a compositor and printer for the Freeman's Journal in Dublin. He was a fluent Irish speaker and was employed as a part time teacher of the language. He joined the Gaelic League and other nationalist organisations through which brought him into contact with some of the leading Republicans of the period. Michael married Lizzie O'Dowd in 1912. He joined the 1st Battalion Dublin Brigade Irish Volunteers in 1913. He was a member of 'C' Company saw action during the 1916 Rising in the North King Street and Church Street areas. After the rebellion McHugh continued working in the newspaper industry. He was also a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB). He worked for their intelligence network and was part of Michael Collins 'Inner circle'. One of his assignments was to recover weapons guns from Dublin Castle after they were taken by the British in a raid. However, time was running out for McHugh. On 30 November 1920 as the War of Independence raged McHugh was travelling on a tram on North Frederick Street when it was stopped by the Black and Tans. He was arrested and taken to the North Dublin Union where he was imprisoned in harsh conditions. As a result of being imprisoned he contracted pleurisy and pneumonia. Although he was released after ten days, the damage to his health was serious. Michael McHugh never fully recovered and died of T.B. in 1924.



attended college at Cambridge between 1865 and 1869. In 1874, Parnell sought election as a democratic candidate of Isaac Butt's Home Rule League, rather than with the two main parties the Liberals and the Conservatives. On 21 October 1879, he co-founded the Irish National Land League along with Michael Davitt. In 1880, he became chairman of the Irish Parliamentary Party, and transformed it into a strong effective force within Parliament. In July of that year he met Katharine (Kitty) O'Shea, the estranged wife of Captain William O'Shea, and a relationship developed between them which caused serious problems in his political life. In 1886, he addressed an election meeting at Eyre Square Galway and after a second meeting managed to gain much support in the west. Parnell was an excellent speaker, and made many memorable statements during his speeches, and one of his most famous was that: '...no man has the right to fix the boundary to the march of a nation.' However, his relationship with Kitty O'Shea eventually led to his own downfall. He lost the support also of the Catholic Church and the British Prime Minster. Both tried to pressurise him into resigning as leader of the party, and his refusal to do so caused a split in his party. He founded the Irish Daily Independent, it was later merged with Daily Nation to become the Irish Independent. His affair with Kitty O'Shea continued and on 25 June 1891, the couple were married at Steyning near Brighton. By autumn of that year, Parnell's health had deteriorated to an alarming degree. Nevertheless, he insisted on travelling again to Galway where he addressed a meeting at Creggs on 27 September 1891. Both the journey and meeting had a serious effect on his health and upon returning to his home he was confined to bed for a time. Late on the evening of 6 October 1891, Parnell opened his eyes and asked his wife to kiss him, saying: '...and I will try to sleep a little', these were his last words, Kitty O'Shea later stated that he was dead before the kiss was cold on her lips. His funeral was one of the greatest spectacles ever witnessed in Dublin and it made its way to Glasnevin Cemetery through pouring rain before an estimated 200,000 people.



Michael Mallin was born in 1874. During the 1916 Rebellion he was the Commandant who led a section of the Irish Citizen Army into St. Stephen's Green. His second in command was Countess Markievicz. Action began in this part of the city as the rebels were taking control of the Green; the Countess shot dead a police constable attempting to enter the park after he had refused to leave the area. Mallin then had barricades erected in the surrounding streets. He made no attempt to occupy the Shelbourne Hotel, which would have given him a commanding view of the street, an error he later regretted. Instead the British took control of the hotel overlooking rebel positions. Following sharp exchanges with the military, Mallin was forced to retreat to the College of Surgeons. It was there that he finally surrendered to Major de Courcy Wheeler of the British army. Mallin was unarmed at the time of surrender, and the only object he had in his possession was a walking-stick, which he presented to the major as a memento. However, it was later stolen. During his court martial he paid tribute to the major for his kindness to the prisoners under his control. Similar to all of the other executed leaders, his last letters to his family make very poignant reading, however, they also show the courage of these men in the face of certain death. The following is a short extract from his last letter to his wife: 'My darling Wife Pulse of my heart, this is the end of all things earthly; Sentence of Death has been passed, and at a quarter to four tomorrow the sentence will be carried out by shooting and so must Irishmen pay for trying to make Ireland a free nation, Gods will be done.' He was executed on 8 May 1916 for his part in the 1916 Easter Rebellion. Other leader executed that morning included Eamonn Ceannt, Sean Heuston and Con Colbert.



Sean MacDermott was born on 28 February 1884 at Kiltyclogher, County Leitrim. As a youth he worked as gardener in Glasgow, Scotland and later as a tram conductor. He also worked in the publican trade for a time. He became a great friend of Thomas Clarke and proved himself an intelligent and articulate speaker. Some say that his greatest asset was his simple charm for which he was continually remembered for many years after his death. After returning to Ireland he went to Belfast where his talents as a strong nationalist was recognised and he was invited to join the Irish Republican Brotherhood. He was a founder member of the Irish Volunteers in 1913. MacDermott travelled countrywide speaking on the aims of Sinn Fein and the I.R.B., which enabled him to appoint many members of the latter organization to prominent positions within the volunteer movement. Through his efforts that effective units of volunteers were set up around the country and it was these units that later made up the nucleus of the Irish Republican Army. During his travels, MacDermott developed polio, he suffered crippling pain from time to time, and was forced to walk with the aid of a walking-stick. He was one of the leading figures of the 1916 Easter Rebellion and although he held no formal military rank, he fought throughout Easter week in the General Post Office. In the final hours of the battle, he fled the burning and gutted Post Office building with the others, and was involved in the meeting at which it was decided to surrender. It seems that after his arrest he was singled out for special ill-treatment. His walking stick was taken from him and when he informed the British commanding officer that he could not walk without the aid of his stick. The officer replied: so the Sinn Feiners take cripples in their army', to which MacDermott promptly replied: 'You have your place, sir, and I have mine. You better mind your place.' Once his court martial had taken place, he knew that the only outcome was execution and while awaiting his fate, he spent his last few hours scratching his name into coins and trinkets as souvenirs for his family and friends. He was executed on 12 May 1916.



Robert Emmet was born in Dublin on 4 March 1778. He was the youngest son of Dr. Robert Emmet, physician to the Irish Viceroy. Robert Emmet was the leader of the failed rebellion of 1803. His older brother was Thomas Addis Emmet, a United Irishman who was involved in the 1798 rebellion. The same year, Robert Emmet was expelled from Trinity College because of his outspoken views on Irish politics. He traveled to France to meet with Nepoleon Bonaparte who assured him that he had plans to invade England. With this in mind, Emmett returned to Ireland where he started plans for a rebellion. When war broke out between England and France in 1803, Emmet's plans intensified. However, a premature explosion in his bomb factory forced him into action sooner then he had planned. On 23 July 1803, Emmet led about one hundred undisciplined followers to attack Dublin Castle. On their way to the castle, they came across the Chief Justice, Lord Kilwarden and his nephew Rev Richard Wolfe, who were then dragged from their coach and killed. The rebellion was crushed within hours and Emmet fled to the Dublin mountains, where he was captured a month later. He was engaged to Sarah Curran, the daughter of John Philpot Curran, a lawyer and strong advocate of Catholic emancipation. However, Curran refused to defend Emmet as he was not in favour his daughter's relationship with rebel leader. Emmet's housekeeper was Anne Devlin, was also arrested after the 1803 rebellion and was imprisoned in Kilmainham Jail for two years. She was totally committed to the rebel cause even prior to meeting Emmet. She suffered terrible hardship while in prison because her loyalty to Emmet. Emmet was tried and sentenced to death on 19 September 1803. His famous speech from the dock ended with: 'When my country takes its place among the nations of the earth, then, and not till then, let my epitaph be written.' On 20 September 1803, Robert Emmet was publicly hanged in Thomas Street, after which his body was decapitated.









## LEE VAHEY, DAN MCNULTY, JACK FOLAN & KEVIN HOURGIAN



# JIMMY NEWELL STEPS DOWN



#### AGM 2023

After spending nine years at the helm of the club, chairman of St. James GAA, Jimmy Newell steps down. Newell has been an intangible asset to the club and he was the leading light in the formation of St. James' GAA in 1994. Jimmy was there from the very beginning and spent six years serving the different roles at the top table and these included; chairman, secretary and treasurer. He managed the Jimmies in the early years and gave outstanding service as a volunteer.

Newell succeeded former chairman Peter Bennett in 2015 and went on to lead the club close to a decade. In those years, he paved the pathway to success. He implemented strategic planning and set prompt targets (short term and long term goals) for the club. We thank him for all his time and effort with the club. No doubt Jimmy will be greatly missed but his expertise will still used as he serves on sub committees in the club.

At the AGM, the following officers were elected:

Chairperson: Olga Concar Murphy

Vice-Charmain: Dave Henry

Secretary: Pat Burke

**Treasurer: Tony Hanley** Assistant Treasurer: Des O'Dowd

PRO: Dave Henry & Denise Shaughnessy

Registrar & Insurance: Peter Bennett

**Culture Officer: Jim Cotter** 

**DLP: Gary Casey** 

Children's Officer: Shane Igoe

Healthy Club Officer: Alan Cheevers

Club Delegate: Sean Connor

Other positions to be filled include; Coaching Officer, Assistant

Secretary, and Assistant Registrar.



## OLGA CONCAR MURPHY TAKES THE TOP SEAT





As part of the New Junior Cert Cycle, Dylan Moran who lives on McHugh Avenue in Old Mervue completed his CBA (Classroom Based Assessment) on the club. Dylan focused on the history of the club and how it was set up in 1994. Moran plays on the St. James' U14 team and his father Christy, also played with the club. He attends school in St. Joesph's College "The Bish".





St. James' U13 player Oisin Scanlon recently completed his CBA (Classroom Based Assessment) and presented a PowerPoint presentation at St. Joesph's College "The Bish". The CBA is worth 10% of the New Junior Cert Cycle Award. Oisin covered a number of areas relating to club activity and historical facts and roots. Oisin father, Kenneth, played for Mervue GAA growing up and won many underage titles.



## JUVENILE CLUB OF THE YEAR









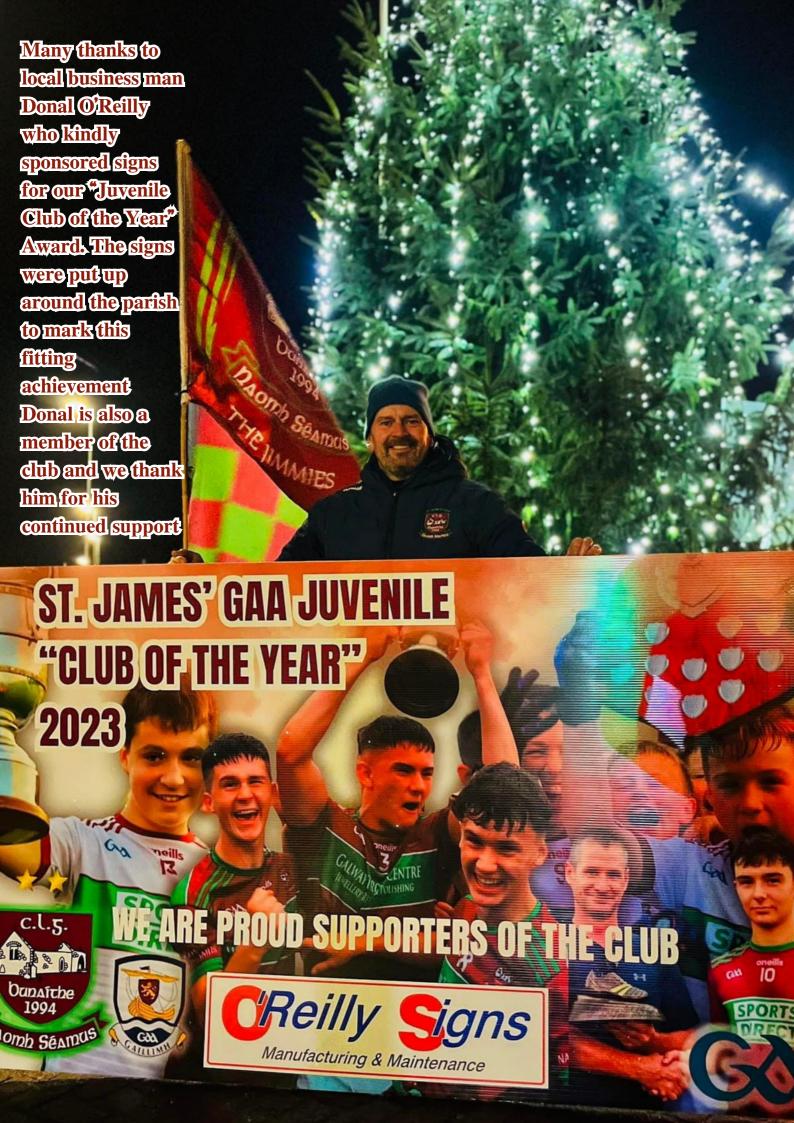
St. James' GAA received "Club of the Year" in the Claregalway Hotel on December 14th. This is a testament to all the hard work been done in the club. On the night Coiste Chairman Michael Ryder had the following to say about us.

"St. James' was formed in 1994. Mervue and Renmore joined forces and the aim was to give players the opportunity to play adult football at a competitive level. The club is based on the Eastside of Galway City and the juvenile club was formed in 2007. The register up to 500 members at juvenile level and are a senior club. They have a ladies section in their club which is run by the LGFA. The club have an Academy every Saturday morning and boys from U6 to U10 learn the basis skills of Gaelic football in a fun friendly and safe environment. The juvenile club fielded three U12 teams this season and two U13 teams. The U12 teams done well in their divisions and achieved sliver-ware along the way. Their U13 team won the U13 "A" County title in Pearse Stadium this summer. A great game against Oranmore/Maree it was. St. James' also fielded teams at the U14-15-16 and minor grade and got to the minor B county final. The club lost a stalwart and big supporter in Alfie Holwey and it a fitting tribute by the U13 captain Liam Murphy when lifting the cup aloft he said and I quote "This one is for Alfie". The juvenile club chairman is Dave Henry and it is a great achievement for the jimmies to receive this award tonight. Well done everyone involved".



## JUVENILE CLUB OF THE VEAR 2016





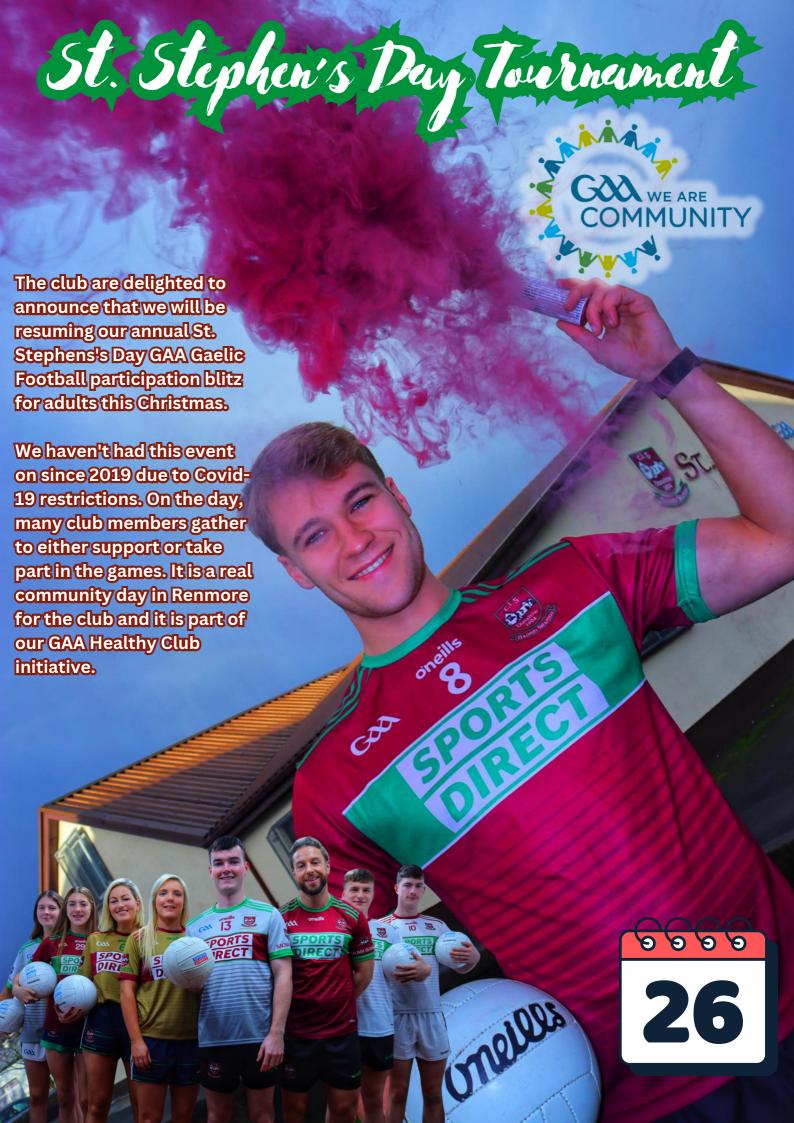






Currently, a number of players have been drafted into the Galway senior squad and development panel. Among them are the O'Neill brothers; Jack & Sam, Eoin Finnerty James Egan and Cian Hynes. They are joined by veteran Paul Conroy and learning their trade of inter county in Loughgeorge. Keep and eye out for them in the upcoming FBD league.



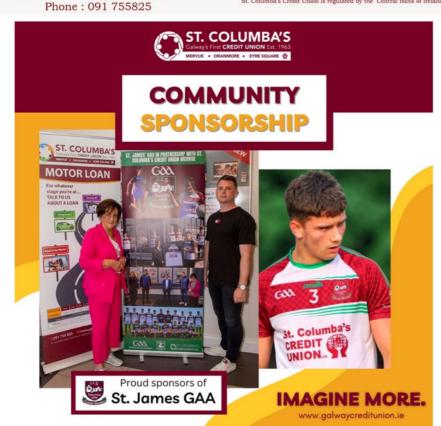








#### BETTER TOGETHER

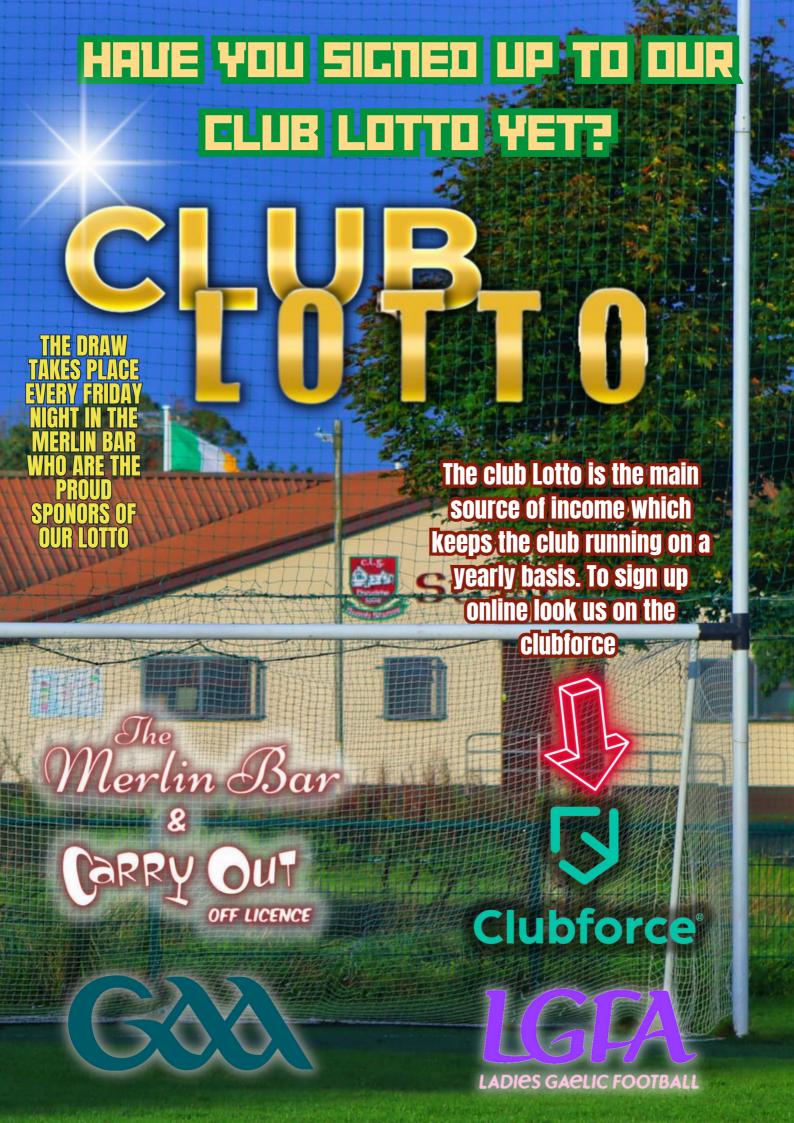


St. Columba's Credit Union celebratedlocal 60 years in existence. St. Columba's Credit Union play a big part in community life and we are glad to be in partnership with them over the years. We encourage all our club members to become members of your local CC. It is very convenient when applying for loans for a car, college and mortgage.











## MEMBERSHIP

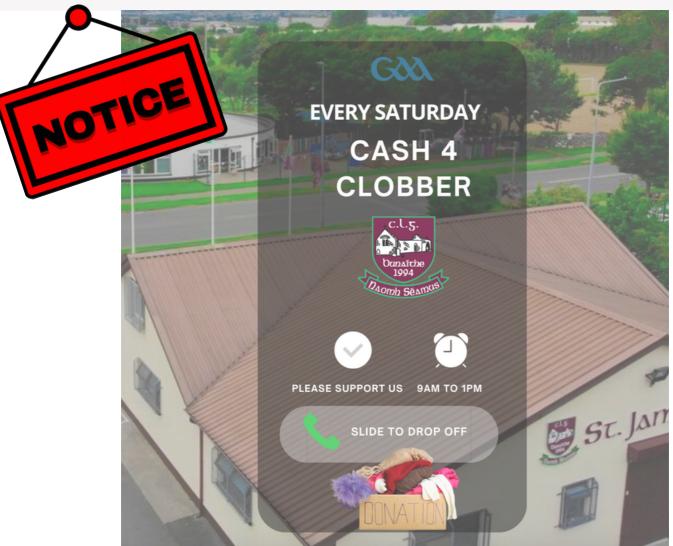
### ST. JAMES' GAA/LGFA GALWAY





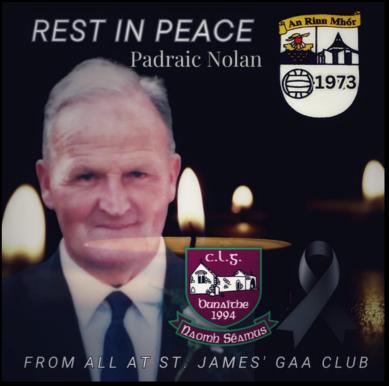






## REST IN PEACE - RIP







### REST IN PEACE

Fiona Morrissey

Beloved wife of St. James' GAA former senior player Mark Kelly



### **REST IN PEACE**

**Dermot Moloney** 

Father to club coach Fergal Moloney



