

TOWN TATTLER Vol 5 - Issue 7





Tadgh O'Dwyer

This month, we catch up with Tadgh O'Dwyer, former underage player with the club, who's now making waves on the Irish music scene as frontman of local band BYRO (formerly known as Coolboy). From kicking ball in Rathleague to headlining gigs and appearing on RTÉ, Tadgh chats to us about his musical journey, the band's rapid rise, and why he still holds a soft spot for the Town.

A bit about yourself.

My name is Tadgh and I'm 20 years old. I'm a musician and a proud member of Portlaoise GAA.

What are your earliest memories of being involved with the club?

I was sort of a late bloomer when it came to sports if I'm honest. I joined Portlaoise GAA when I was around 12 years old playing both hurling and football, having never played either before. I suppose I joined because I had mates playing. Also my dad (Ed) has always been stonewall mad about GAA (particularly hurling) which definitely made me want to play it that bit more.



Tadgh and his dad Ed post Minor 'B' Hurling Championship win - Oct 2022

Do you remember your first time pulling on the club jersey?

I can't say I remember exactly the first time but the earliest time that sticks out to me was in the U12 'B' football final against Castletown. It was in the LOETB Centre of Excellence on the second pitch. I remember how much bigger and stronger they were compared to us and how terrified I was of them at the time. We did end up winning the game and had a feast in Supermacs afterwards.

Who or what has the biggest influence on your music?

In general I take inspiration from so many different people, places, things. I think when writing the most important thing is to be observant in your daily life. When you're taking in what's going on around you there's never a scarcity of things to write about. When it comes to the music side of things it's genuinely just years of practice and listening to great music growing up (thanks to dad for that).

Your band recently featured on the RTÉ Irish language programme An Ghig Mhór, how did that opportunity come about?

That opportunity was presented to us by the wonderful people at Music Generation Laois. I was a student there for years and I owe them everything really. If I hadn't joined them chances are I wouldn't be in the band today. We had a few meetings with the team at RTÉ and they came down to see us practicing etc. Within a month of our first time meeting we were already filming and planning our hometown headline show.

The show had a strong focus on Gaeilge. What's your own relationship with the Irish language?

The Irish language is something I always have been and always will be extremely proud of. I did all 15 years of schooling from pre school to leaving cert through Irish and still to this day speak it regularly. It's a skill that's gotten me so many opportunities and opened so many doors for me. I really do think it's a special thing to be able to converse with

other people in your mother tongue and it's something that's thankfully being done more and more nowadays.

For those who haven't heard you yet, how would you describe BYRO's sound?

Our sound is a concoction of all of our favourite artists. Imagine throwing artists like The Strokes, Radiohead, Fleetwood Mac and Nirvana into a big witches cauldron. That's pretty much what you're getting with us, a genuine mixture of all of our favourite things about music. I think the most important thing for us is that we have a sound that's recognisable. It's something we've been working on tirelessly for the last 18 months and are now really confident in.

Who are the other members of the band and how did you all come together?

I've been friends with Fionn (lead guitar) for years. We bonded over guitar and started playing together in our bedrooms one summer. From there we reached out to two great Mountrath men who I knew were music mad and the rest is history really. It just worked from the start.

What's been the highlight for you as a band so far?

We're extremely lucky to have had so many cool things happen in such a short period of time. If I had to choose one thing I reckon it would be the show we put on in Kavanagh's, Portlaoise last August. I don't think there's a word to accurately depict how that night felt. It was right off the back of our first single release and the whole room screamed every single word back to us. Dancing, mosh pits, crowd surfing and all sorts. A really special moment for us all.

Is there a dream venue or festival you'd love to play?

As a man from Laois, headlining Electric Picnic is something that I've wanted to do since the first time I attended the festival. I was lucky enough to play at it in 2019 when I was 14 on a smaller stage, however I still have hope that the



main stage slot is going to happen. Another dream of mine is to play in O'Moore Park. I'm not sure if that's even something that can be done but it's something that I want and I don't plan to stop until it happens. Anything outside of those two is a bonus really.

Do you see yourself writing or performing anything as Gaeilge?

I have written as Gaeilge before and it's definitely something I plan to do for future projects. At the moment we're doing the bulk of our writing through English but that's not to say we won't dabble in some Gaeilge in the future. For any

Electric Picnic goers keep an eye out on our socials (@byro.band), we might just make an appearance at this years festival.

What's next for BYRO, any gigs, new music, or big plans we should keep an eye out for?

We've been really busy the last few months working on new music and we hope to have something out for everyone to sink their teeth into soon. We're playing a lot of shows next month so keep your eyes peeled for show announcements and definitely come and see one if you can. Every single bit of support helps us four eejits so much.

Last but not least, where do you see the future of Portlaoise GAA Club heading?

Honestly I think the future of the club has never looked brighter. I've seen so many plans that are undoubtedly going to send the club in a positive direction and I'm seriously excited about what the future holds. Regardless of anything else I always have been and always will be a proud Portlaoise man.





CLG PHORT LAOISE

LAOIS MINOR 'B' HURLING CHAMPIONS - 2022

Thursday, 6 October 2022 - LOETB Centre of Excellence



Portlaoise 2-8 v 1-9 Park Ratheniska/Timahoe

Back (l. to r.): Michael Luniscak, Odran Maher, Paddy Reddin, Tadgh O'Dwyer, Sean Devitt, Conor Raggett, Conor Ging, Davin Dunne, Eoin Murphy, Daniel Moore, David Whelan, Eoin Carey;

Front (l. to r.): Shane O'Sullivan, Conor McCausland, Jack Byrne, Rio LaCumber, Liam Conroy, Brochan O'Reilly, David Brown, Jake Byrne, Shane Walshe, Cian Bailey, Evan Bergin, Ryan Scully;

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Our Portlaoise GAA All Stars team, a group of amazing children with additional needs, trains every Sunday morning, and we're looking for kind, committed volunteers to help us make each session as special as it can be.

This is a hugely rewarding opportunity, especially for those studying or working in education, childcare, or special needs. You'll gain hands-on experience, develop your skills, and make a real difference, all while having great fun.

✓ Garda Vetting and Child Safeguarding required
(we'll help guide you through the process).

✦ Looks fantastic on your CV and will be viewed favourably by future employers.





Donal O'Séil Memorial Shield



Congratulations to Portlaoise based community Garda Ronan Maher who captained Tipperary to an unbelievable All-Ireland win this month in Croke Park. Ronan was superb in the final as he was all year, and he is a front runner for hurler of the year. Well done Ronan. From everybody in Portlaoise GAA Club.



Donal O'Neill Memorial Shield

What a brilliant game in Rathleague earlier this month as both Edenderry and Portlaoise battled it out in the annual Donal O'Neill Memorial Shield game.

Edenderry led for large parts of the game but the Town lads never gave up and manage to claim the spoils with a late score to seal this very special shield win by the narrowest of margins.

After the game Donal's brother Peter - our own clubman - presented the shield to Kevin Swayne, town captain on the night.

This special fixture honours the memory of Donal O'Neill, a hugely respected figure in Offaly and Edenderry GAA, and brother of our aforementioned clubman and former Laois GAA Chairperson Peter O'Neill.

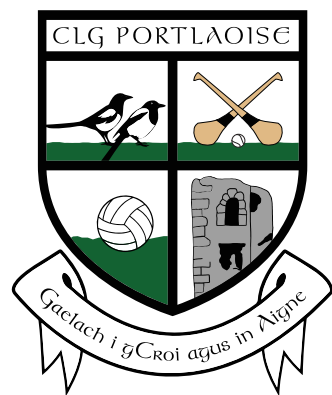
Donal sadly passed away in October 2023 after a short illness. His impact on the game was immense. He won two Leinster U21 titles with Offaly in 1986 and 1988, and went on to help the Faithful county beat Cavan in the 1988 All-Ireland U21 final.

At club level, Donal won multiple Dowling Cups with Edenderry between 1995 and 2001. He represented his county at minor, U21 and senior level, and remained committed to the sport throughout his life. He later coached Maynooth and Kildare underage camogie, where his three daughters played.

We were delighted to welcome Edenderry to Rathleague for what was a meaningful and competitive evening of football in memory of a great GAA man.



Peter O'Neill presenting Kevin Swayne with the Donal O'Neill Memorial Shield



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Donal O'Neill Memorial Shield





Donal O'Neill Memorial Shield



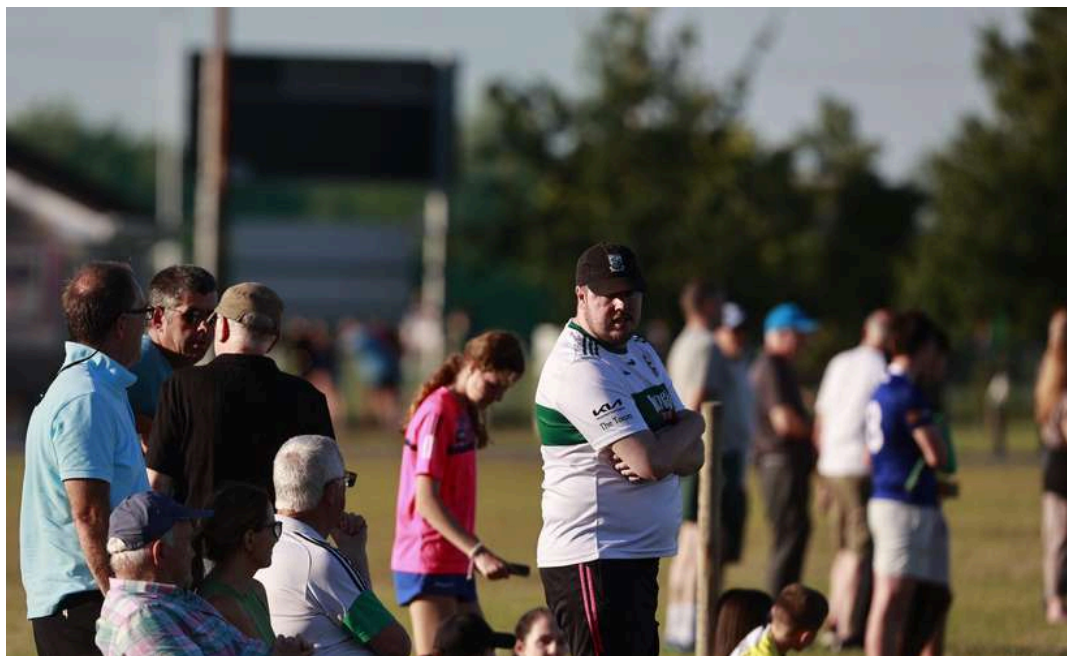


Donal O'Neill Memorial Shield





Donal O'Neill Memorial Shield





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Donal O'Neill Memorial Shield



Photos: David 'Crocky' Maher



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Donal O'Neill Memorial Shield



Photos: David 'Crocky' Maher



Donal O'Neill Memorial Shield





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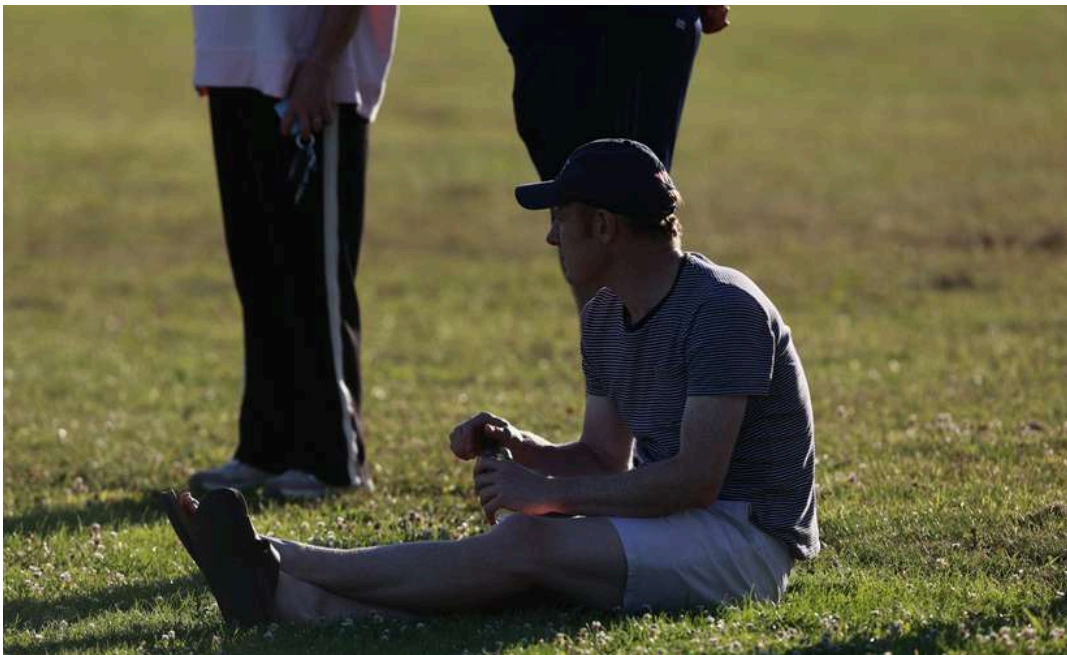
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Donal O'Neill Memorial Shield



Photos: David 'Crocky' Maher



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**SUNDAY 10TH AUGUST
1.00PM
CROKE PARK**

**CAMOGIE
PREMIER JUNIOR
ALL-IRELAND FINAL
2025**



**BEST OF LUCK
SUSIE,
KIRSTEN
AND LAOIS**



SUNDAY 3RD AUGUST
1.45PM
CROKE PARK



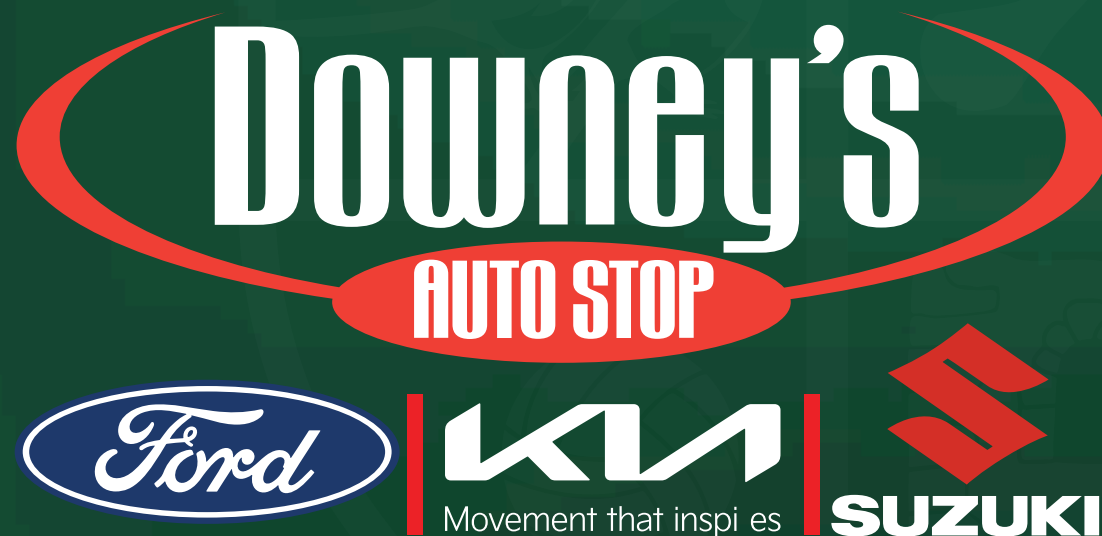
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LGFA

TG 4 **INTERMEDIATE**
ALL-IRELAND FINAL
2025

BEST OF LUCK TO
FIONA, CIARA,
DEIRDRE, DENIS,
AND THE LAOIS PANEL



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Junior C Football Championship Round 2: Portlaoise 2-8 v Kilcotton 3-15



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Junior C Championship : Portlaoise 2-13 v 2-13 Borris-in-Ossory Kilcotton



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Junior C Championship : Portlaoise 2-13 v 2-13 Borris-in-Ossory Kilcotton



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Junior C Championship : Portlaoise 2-13 v 2-13 Borris-in-Ossory Kilcotton



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Junior Championship Round 1: Portlaoise 0-11 v 0-17 Camross



Crocky Maker
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Junior Championship Round 1: Portlaoise 0-11 v 0-17 Camross



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SHC Round 1: Portlaoise 2-22 v 5-13 Camross



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SHC Round 1: Portlaoise 2-22 v 5-13 Camross



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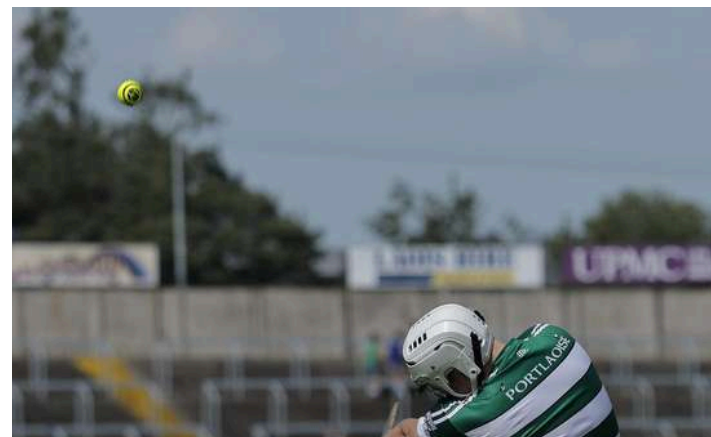
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SHC Round 2: Portlaoise 2-19 v 1-19 The Harps



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SHC Round 2: Portlaoise 2-19 v 1-19 The Harps



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SHC Round 2: Portlaoise 2-19 v 1-19 The Harps



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LADIES GAEIL FOOTBALL

Division 1 Semi Final: Portlaoise 3-10 v 1-5 St. Conleth's



Crocky Maher
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Photos: David 'Crocky' Maher

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LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

Division 1 Semi Final: Portlaoise 3-10 v 1-5 St. Conleth's



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Division 1 Semi Final: Portlaoise 3-10 v 1-5 St. Conleth's



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LGFA
LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

Division 2 Final: Portlaoise 3-12 v 0-13 St. Conleth's



Crocky Maher
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LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

Division 2 Final: Portlaoise 3-12 v 0-13 St. Conleth's



SHC Round 2: Portlaoise 2-19 v 1-19 The Harps

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Division 2 Final: Portlaoise 3-12 v 0-13 St. Conleth's



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LADIES GAEIL FOOTBALL

Division 2 Final: Portlaoise 3-12 v 0-13 St. Conleth's



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LAOIS LGFA DIVISION 2 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS - 2025

Sunday, 20 July 2025 - LOETB Centre of Excellence



Portlaoise 3-12 v 0-13 St. Conleth's

Back (l. to r.): Amy Walsh, Sophie Deegan, Tory Byrne, Charlie Walsh, Sarah Fleming, Aine Cuddy, Aoibheann Dalton, Rebecca Keane, Sarah Corrigan, Faye Byrne, Aoife Morris, Shauna Dooley, Grainne O'Reilly, Aisling Keegan, Rachel Byrne;

Front (l. to r.): Jasmine Burke, Faye Brown, Ellen Bergin, Sarah McDonald, Faydagha Dunne, Doireann Brennan, Anna Mulligan, Ailbhe Carroll, Emma Dunne, Amy Byrne, Leah Brophy, Leah Brennan, Ella McNulty;



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MFC Round 1: Portlaoise 4-18 v 0-15 O'Dempsey's



Crocky Maher
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MFC Round 1: Portlaoise 4-18 v 0-15 O'Dempsey's



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MFC Round 1: Portlaoise 4-18 v 0-15 O'Dempsey's



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Camogie in Rathleague this Month



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U12 Camogs Impress at Camán to Leinster Blitz

Well done to our U12 Camogie team who took part in the Camán to Leinster Blitz in Netwatch Cullen Park, Carlow this month.

The girls put on a brilliant display, taking on teams from Wexford, Carlow and Westmeath and doing the Town proud.



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 8



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 8



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 8



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 9



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 10



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 10



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 10



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 10



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 10



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 11



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 12



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 12



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 12



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 12



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 12



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 13



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 13



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 15



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 15



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 14



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 14



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 15



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 15



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 16



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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 16



Crocky Maker
PHOTOGRAPHY

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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 17



Crocky Maher
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Juvenile Scene This Month - Under 17



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Summer Water Safety

Adult supervision is crucial to keeping young people safe in, on and around the water, but have you ever thought about whether the colour of your child's swimwear could make a difference in preventing drowning?

If the worst does happen, being able to quickly find a child in the water could save vital seconds and make the difference between a fatal and non-fatal incident.

How many of us pick our children's swimwear based on how it looks, their favourite colours or who their number one character is right now?

The colour of the swimwear makes a huge difference as to whether they can be seen even on the surface of the water, let alone if they are underwater.

Look around the poolside next time you're at your little ones' swimming lessons – blue, white, and red will be seen in large numbers.

Then pay particular attention to what happens when they are swimming along, and even when they dive to the bottom to reach for a sinker.

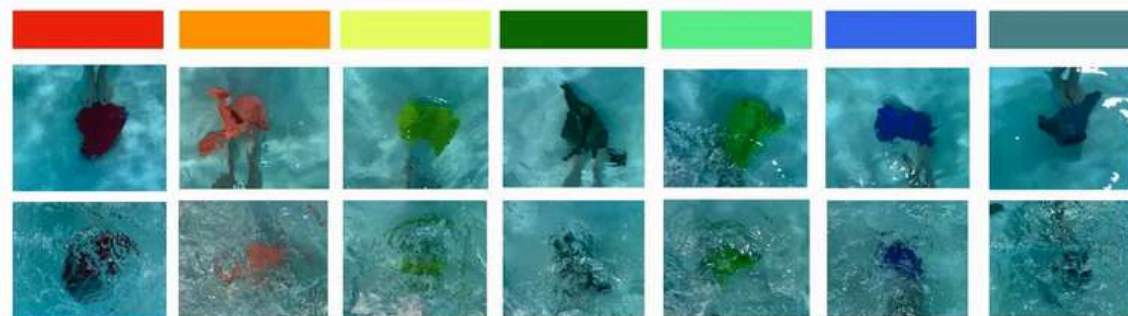
The child almost vanishes before your eyes!

The safest colours for swimwear

The colour of the bottom of the pool will make a difference BUT neon colours – orange, green, pink and yellow – will always be easier to see in a swimming pool than the colours mentioned above.

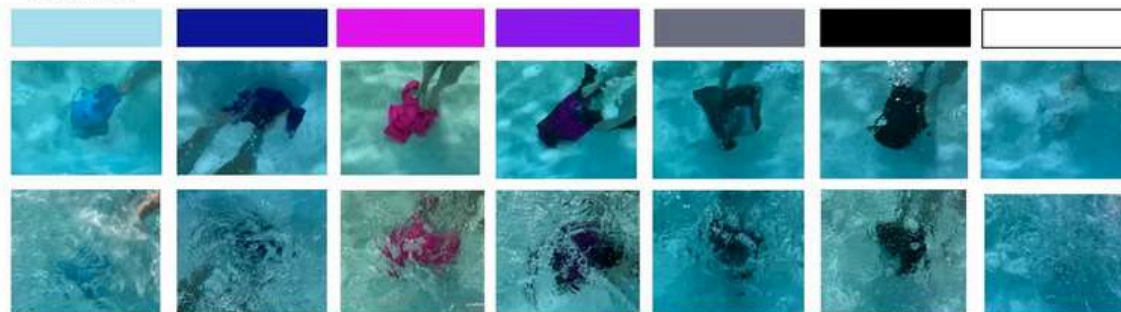
If you're going swimming in an outdoor setting, the results are the same. The caveat for this is that open water settings, such as beaches and rivers, also come with various hidden dangers such as tides and currents which need to be considered when making your choice.

So now you know, when buying your child's swimwear, think bright, neon, contrasting colours.

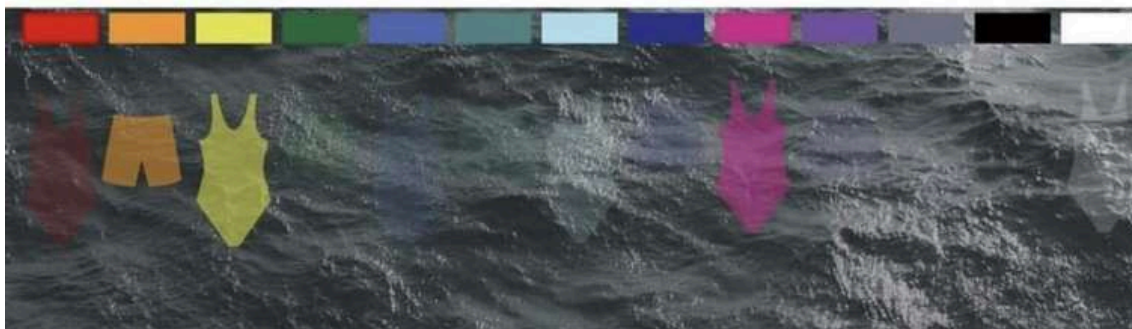


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SWIM SUIT COLOR TEST RESULTS



In the Lake



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Nach bhfuil an lá go h-álainn?
Isn't it a lovely day?

Tá sé brothallach/Tá sé ina bhrothall!
It's roasting!

Tá sé meirbheach/Tá meirbh ann!
It's humid!

FRÁSAÍ SAMHRAIDH *SUMMER PHRASES*

Tá an ghrian ag scoilteadh na gcloch.
The sun is splitting the stones.

Go máire sé!
May it last!

Bain sult/taitneamh as do laethanta saoire.
Enjoy your holidays.

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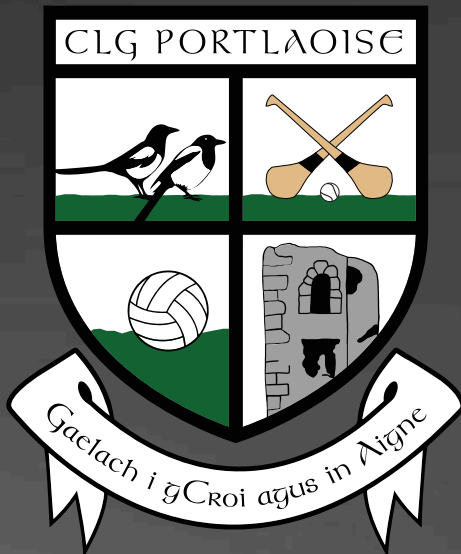


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Thanks to everyone who supports our fundraising efforts through the Town Lotto (day to day running costs), and Club Bingo (development). It is greatly appreciated.

If you have any feedback in relation to the newsletter, or if you would like to contribute to it, please contact info@portlaoisegaa.ie