



# Éire Óg Club Stories



*Éire Óg stories is a new series where we will be chatting to members of the club and getting to know what makes Éire Óg special for them. Next up is Ladies Camogie team player – Fiona O' Farrell*

## *What grew your life-long love of the GAA?*



*The GAA has always been part of my life. I grew up in West Limerick. While hurling is the main sport for most of the county, our proximity to Kerry makes Gaelic football the main sport in my parish, St.Senan's. I spent much of my youth as a spectator. My Dad trained a team of u14s that won the first county A in years. We were at every match and lived and breathed every move on the pitch. My foghorn roars made many friends avoid me at matches even in my teens!! My uncle played in the 1980's for our local team.*

## *What were your first GAA memories?*

*The parish rivalry that existed between us and our neighbouring parish, Ballyhahill, allowed for year-round pre and post -match debate. The age old "Who played well, how we can improve the backs defence and the forwards chances , Whether the mid field could weather the power of the 6 foot 4 Paddy O Connor !!" kept us all glued when the matches occurred. Winning the West final and eventually the County final was the holy grail and parading through the local villages with horns blasting and the cup raised brings back happy memories, as was being allowed a bag of Taytos and a bottle of club orange in a local pub as a treat. Far cries from the daily treats of today!*

## *What motivated you to get involved in Éire Óg Greystones?*

*So, all in all my path to playing Camogie in Éire Óg was not rooted in previous experience!! I came down first to the club as I wanted my children to have similar memories of going to matches, playing alongside a solid group of friends and having fun on the side-lines too as supporters. I ended up becoming involved with my eldest daughter as an under 8 helper and it developed from there. I now am an assistant coach in under 12s and I have learned skills alongside my daughter's Ciara and Síofra.*



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## *Who inspired you to play on the ladies camogie team?*



*My running buddy Suzanne Behan had encouraged me for over two years to join the ladies' team. I eventually bit the bullet and went along to a session. The camaraderie and kindness made me stay. The ladies on the team are always so positive and even if you are having a tough game the drive to keep going for the great team around you keeps you motivated in rain, hail, wind and snow. I have found my position as a defender and would be described as a bit of a terrier and thanks to great coaching I am improving little by little. I would advise any girl to join Éire Óg*

*Camogie. You will always be encouraged and there's a place for everyone.*

**Ní neart go cur le chéile**

***There is no strength without unity***

***If you would like to nominate someone to tell their club story, please contact Olive Farrell ([farrell.olive@gmail.com](mailto:farrell.olive@gmail.com)) or Daniel English ([englishdaniel@hotmail.com](mailto:englishdaniel@hotmail.com)).***