

# Clifford's a class act!

**KERRY FOOTBALLER** David Clifford proved he's as much of a class act off the pitch as on when he made the day of a fan just hours before his man-of-the-match performance at the Super 8s on Sunday.

BY MAJELLA O'SULLIVAN

Helen Hegarty was enjoying an outing with her care workers, Chris Grayson and Regina Byrne, on the grounds of the Dunloe Hotel when she was approached by the corner forward who presented her with his jersey.

Helen, who's a long-time resident of St Mary of the Angels in Beaufort, was as taken aback by the encounter as her carers were.

"We were sitting out enjoying the sunshine and having a lovely relaxing time when we saw the Kerry team coming in one by one and then, out of the blue, David Clifford walked up and said, 'I have a gift for this lady' and gave Helen one of his jerseys," said Chris, who's been looking after Helen for the past few years.

"It was just remarkable and an amazing act of



Helen Hegarty pictured with Kerry footballer David Clifford and his signed jersey which he presented to her on the grounds of the Dunloe Hotel on Sunday hours before the match.

kindness. What a wonderful, beautiful man. He really is a superstar."

The senior squad were staying in the five-star Dunloe Hotel on the eve of their clash against Mayo, which they went on to win by 1-22 to 15 points, with seven of those points coming from Clifford.

The Fossa man, who's hailed as one of the best proponents of Gaelic football, was subsequently named 'Man of the Match' after his performance at Fitzgerald Stadium.

Chris said Helen's family

were also delighted when they heard about Clifford's kindness but no one was more surprised than Helen herself. He also signed the jersey and happily posed for photographs.

"Helen is a lovely lady, who lives in St Austin's Unit and loves being outside and Kerry football. We were enjoying a day out and this just topped off a lovely, lovely morning and made Helen's day," added Chris, who's worked at St Mary of the Angels for the past seven years and describes it as an amazing place to work.