

Summer/Autumn | 2013

# COMMUNITY TIMES

COMWONILLY LIWEZ



National Job Shadow Initiative



**An Garda Síochána** | Working with Communities to Protect and Serve  
[www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

# COMMUNITY TIMES

eNEWSLETTER

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## Editorial

Welcome to the Summer/Autumn 2013 edition of the Community Times eNewsletter.

As part of our service at the Garda Community Relations Bureau, we publish a quarterly eNewsletter for the information of our partners representing such crime prevention initiatives as Community Alert, Neighbourhood Watch, Joint Policing Committees and Local Policing Fora.

This will keep you up to date with important developments, news and events happening in the area of Community Policing.

We continue to celebrate our engagement with the communities in which we serve, through information and articles of interest as well as examples of good practice from around the country.

We acknowledge all of the hard work by those engaged in community policing who have displayed motivation and commitment to initiatives that have benefitted our communities. Without their personal drive for making things happen and achieving results, a host of successful initiatives that support and protect the community would not be achieved.

We have included an interactive design feature in the eNewsletter, you will notice a number of links to useful websites and materials. When a hand appears over text, just click to follow the link.

### About this eNewsletter

We would like to thank everyone for comments and good practice material sent in.

THIS NEWSLETTER HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO BE READ ONLINE. PLEASE DO NOT PRINT.

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Garda Niall Phelan with Dylan Nelson who participated in the National Job Shadow Initiative.



# Supporting Safer Communities



The 'Supporting Safer Communities Campaign' was held from Tuesday 28th May 2013 to Tuesday 4th June 2013. It was officially launched by Commissioner Martin Callinan.

The main objective of this campaign was to engage with and raise awareness within our communities of initiatives aimed at:

1. High Visibility Policing
2. Burglary / Crime Prevention and Reduction
3. Road Safety
4. Supporting Victims of Crime

A successful 'Supporting Safer Communities Campaign' is achieved by visible, accessible and proactive Garda involvement, in the various community partnerships and crime prevention initiatives operated in their local areas.

The campaign offers an opportunity to actively engage and work with, all sections of the community, to achieve a common purpose of improved crime prevention and community safety.

The Commissioner was eager that we give out a multi-disciplinary message to our community. We should endeavour to analyse the needs of

our communities at local level and provide them with the information that they need across the spectrum of keeping yourself safe during the coming months.

An Garda Síochána 'Supporting Safer Communities Campaign', 28th May to 4th June 2013 affords An Garda Síochána another valuable opportunity to Support Safer Communities by enhancing relationships with communities and encouraging more frequent formal and informal contacts.

The key to achieving this is being more accessible and looking at the Community as our partner with a view to preventing and reducing crime, and decreasing road deaths.



Garda Derek Halligan, Garda Ashling O'Connor, Reserve Garda Jessica Maguire and Sergeant Dave Campbell at the Garda stand in Ashbourne.



Garda Jamie McKeon and Garda Tony Brady at the Garda stand in Navan Shopping centre as part of the Supporting Safer Communities Campaign.



Garda Aoife King was also in Kells at the Garda stand as part of the Supporting Safer Communities Campaign.





# Metal Theft

**M**etal theft is not a victimless crime. Metal theft strikes at the very heart of the community. Metal Theft is considered a serious security and safety concern for An Garda Síochána, businesses, utility providers, rail transport and members of the public.

As well as the interruption of services and utilities provided to customers, there are a number of other implications associated with metal theft such as economic costs, security concerns, environmental impact and health and safety risks to personnel and the public.

Following extensive research into the significant increase in incidents of metal theft crime, the Garda Síochána Analysis Service identified recurring crime patterns and trends. The worldwide demand for scarce metal resources and rising commodity prices has made this crime more prevalent and lucrative.

The increase in incidents involving the theft of copper cable and metal demanded a coordinated response from An Garda Síochána and all relevant stakeholders.

Examples of metals stolen include copper wire, live networked electricity cable, manhole covers, copper,

aluminium, brass, lead and bronze, public motorway art, beer kegs, farm gates and machinery.

An Garda Síochána responded by facilitating the establishment of a National Strategic Metal Theft Forum with proactive involvement of the various stakeholder groups affected by metal theft, both commercial and government. These include ESB, Eircom, BT, Irish Rail, LUAS, Irish Farmers Association, Meteor, Vodafone O2, UPC, Diageo, Electrical Recycling Groups, Scrap Metal Dealers, Environmental Protection Agency, An Post and Department of Environment.

The National Strategic Metal Theft Forum has met on six occasions to date; 30th May 2011, 13th Sept 2011, 7th December 2011, 23rd March 2012, 3rd July 2012 and 26th April 2013.

All the key Stakeholders involved with the Metal Theft Forum have contributed to the formation of the Garda Metal Theft Crime Prevention & Reduction Plan by gathering information and becoming proactive in tackling the problem that affects everyone. An improved information sharing network has been created, leading to cooperation in resolving the issue of metal theft and sharing best practice concepts.

The Metal Theft Crime Prevention & Reduction Plan is aimed at preventing / reducing metal theft. An Garda Síochána is committed to work through this strategy with the cooperation and collaboration of all stakeholders to provide a safer and more secure living and working environment for both the public and business community.

The plan provides guidance and direction to senior Garda management and operational policing units as to how these measures can be delivered. It focuses specifically on the problem and recommends workable solutions to successfully detect, reduce and prevent metal theft.

The Garda Metal Theft Crime Prevention & Reduction Plan was formally launched by Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan on 6th February 2013 and is published as an internal Garda operational document on the Portal identifying specific policing actions required. A public version of the plan is published on the Garda web-site to inform victims and members of the public of An Garda Síochána's targeting this crime and raising public awareness.

A number of targeted Garda operations have been highlighted to the National Strategic Metal Theft





## Metal Theft continued from page 2

Forum as examples of successful investigations into metal theft and associated crime. These include 'Operation Wigeon' targeting metal theft in the South Eastern and Southern Regions and the national 'Operation Fiacla' focused on burglary.



### RECENT SUCCESSES

In February, as part of an Operation into the activities of an Organised Criminal Gang, Gardaí attached to the Organised Crime Unit conducted a search at a storage facility in County Kildare. As a result of this investigation 4 people were arrested and are presently before the courts. During the course of this search 240 beer Kegs were discovered.



In the South Eastern Region, 'Operation Wigeon' involved a multi-agency approach carried out between An Garda Síochána, Revenue, Customs, County Councils, Environmental Protection Agency and Garda Air Support targeting this type of crime.

A collaborative national media awareness campaign involving stakeholders and An Garda Síochána educating the public and businesses on the dangers of metal theft and raising the profile of this growing area of crime has been included on Crimecall which is broadcast to approximately 400,000 viewers. This has led to increased detection and intelligence gathering.

In April, the Organised Crime Unit assisted by the Garda National Immigration Bureau carried out a number of searches for stolen empty beer kegs in the Kildare & Meath area. A further 50 Beer Kegs were recovered in total at concealed sites.



In May, the Organised Crime Unit targeted the export of stolen empty beer kegs to a destination in Eastern Europe. Following a search of a van at Rosslare Europort, Co. Wexford, a further 48 empty beer kegs were recovered. One man was arrested and detained at Wexford Garda Station. He was subsequently charged with possession of stolen property and convicted at Gorey District Court where he received a 9 month suspended sentence and was given 48 hours to leave the country and ordered not to return for a period of 2 years.



## Before Going on Holiday... Secure Your Home!

**W**ith the clocks going forward and peoples' thoughts turning to 'getting away' for weekend breaks and holidays it may be timely to remind people of the need for vigilance in securing their property when going away. The following are some tips you may find useful in giving you peace of mind and hopefully adding to your enjoyment of your break!

- Inform a trusted neighbour or relative of your travel arrangements, intended destination and contact details. Do not unwittingly advertise your travel arrangements to others.
- Invite neighbours to make use of your driveway for parking.
- Arrange to have your lawn mowed, particularly when absent for long periods in summer.
- Cancel your milk, paper deliveries etc.

- Arrange for a neighbour or relative to collect your mail or use Mailminder from An Post.
- Make full use of light timing devices and do not have curtains drawn during the day time. Your neighbour may oblige with this duty.
- If you have a domestic alarm – inform your monitoring centre of your absence and ensure any nominated key holders will attend promptly to any activation.
- Be aware of any insurance limitations on vacant premises.
- Notify your local Gardaí of your absence from home.

- Invest in a quality safe for any valuables left in your home.
- Carry out a 'housekeeping' exercise around the grounds of your home and remove and secure any unsecured items.



**If you have any concerns in relation to home security contact your local Community Garda**





## Smart JPC - Theft of Smart Phones

On Monday 8th April 2013 the Dublin City Joint Policing Committee launched a leaflet addressing the current problem of thefts of smart phones in Dublin city.

The theft of smart phones has increased significantly. Statistics from An Garda Síochána shows that nearly 8,000 were reported stolen in the first six months of 2012.

The Dublin City Joint Policing Committee is a forum consisting of councillors, TDs, Senators, Gardaí, council officials and representatives from the community/business sector. Its focus is to develop an integrated approach to policing and safety in the city.

Part of the committee's work is to assist in the sharing of crime prevention advice.

Four issues have been selected for attention;

- Burglaries in the Home (November 2012)
- Theft of Mobile Phones (April 2013)
- Night time economy issues
- Public disorder

On Monday 8th April 2013 the Joint Policing Committee published an information leaflet on the theft of smart phones.

Commenting, the Chairperson of the Committee Councillor Gerry Breen said:

"Stories of stolen smart phones abound and the ordeal for victims is considerable. The theft often happens in broad daylight when people are walking along the street using a smart phone.

Dublin City Joint Policing Committee continues to work hard for the benefit of citizens in the City and strongly promotes a joint approach to safety. Crime prevention needs our full attention and shouldn't be nor cannot be solely left to the Gardaí".

Chief Superintendent Michael O'Sullivan from Pearse Street says:

"analysis of crime trends in 2012 indicates that a mere 15% of mobile phone owners had their IMEI number available when reporting the theft incident. Operation Aughrim was initiated in the Dublin Metropolitan Region in an effort to prevent and detect the commission of mobile phone related offences and in an effort to restore recovered mobile

phones to their rightful owners. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight and improve awareness around the need for personal safety when using your mobile phone in public, the importance of recording your IMEI number and alerting your service provider to block the handset if lost or stolen".

The launch of this leaflet took place on Monday 8th April 2013 at Dublin City Hall, Dame Street, Dublin 2 for additional information or a copy of the leaflet contact [dublincity.ie](http://dublincity.ie)





## Garryowen Project Grand Slam

**G**RAND Slam-winning full-back Niamh Briggs is using her rugby skills to help children.

Ireland's Six Nations top scorer spends her day job working as a Community Garda in Ballinacurra Weston, one of Limerick's large regeneration areas on the south side of the city.

The 28-year-old Waterford woman was recently honoured for her team's success at a reception in Roxboro station, Limerick, where she is based.

Speaking after the event, which was attended by senior Gardaí, including Assistant Chief Commissioner Tony Quillter, she said she's determined to get as many young people as possible involved in rugby through the Garryowen Project.

The initiative involves bringing children from Southill and Ballinacurra Weston to Garryowen Rugby Club twice a week where they play sport and socialise.

"It's great to get them out of the environment that they are used to, out of their comfort zone and bringing them together playing sport," said Garda Briggs.

"It is about taking them away from

the things they are used to and that circle that they are in. They love it. At the start they were big soccer heads, I couldn't get a rugby ball into their hands."

"If we can just keep boosting the numbers, we are looking to get as many kids as possible involved and the only way that I know how is by playing sport."

She said the children involved are all boys aged between 8 and 15 but she is determined to get girls involved.

"We tried to get girls involved but I couldn't get any out, but it's definitely something I will target in the future," she said.

Garda Briggs said she was "overwhelmed" by the presentation by her colleagues. She was told that Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan is a big fan, and plans to meet her later this year.

"I have great colleagues and they are the reason that I am able to stand here today with this trophy," she said.

She said she hopes the

publicity surrounding the Grand Slam victory will inspire more young girls to play rugby.

Former rugby international and mayor of Limerick, Gerry McLoughlin, and former Munster, Ireland and Lions back row forward David Wallace were also in attendance along with her parents Mike and Geraldine.





# Around The Country...



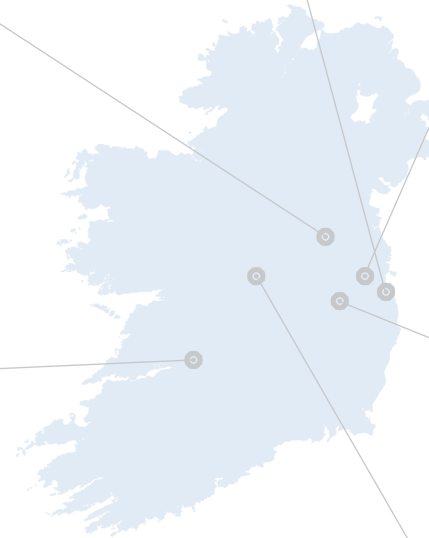
Newly appointed Community Garda for Glencullen and surrounding areas, Garda Pat Cullen met with the Active Retirement Group where the message of the Garda Clinics held there and at Lambs Cross was highlighted. This rural area was covered by Stepside Garda Station until it closed on 14 March 2013.



On 12th March 2013 H.E. Mr Marcin Nawrot and Second Secretary Grzegorz Jagielski visited Kevin Street Garda Station to meet with the three Polish Gardaí who are stationed there. Gardaí Paulina Szramowska, Tomasz Bialowski and Marta Radzuil have been stationed in Kevin Street Garda Station for the last few years. The meeting was arranged when the Polish Ambassador became aware of the work done for the Polish Community in the Kevin Street District by the three Polish Gardaí. Regular meetings are held with the Polish Community at St. Audeons Church after the Sunday Mass.



Great work done by Garda Ronan Murtagh and everybody in the Drumconrath Community Alert in organising a successful Home Security Exhibition on the 7th April 2013 in Drumconrath. Thank you to Evelyn who did a fantastic job in offering everyone attending complimentary tea, coffee, sandwiches and treats. Well done to everyone again.



The Annual Lee Strand / Garda Youth Achievement Awards Winners 2012 were presented with their awards by the General Manager Lee Strand John O'Sullivan, Chairman Lee Strand Brendan Walsh, Assistant Garda Commissioner Tony Quilter and Chief Supt Pat Sullivan at the Ballyroe Heights Hotel on the 15th February 2013. Included are: Distinction Award Winners and over all winner Edel O'Shea. Over 250 people from across the county of Kerry attended the night. Chief Superintendent Pat Sullivan said "An Garda Síochána believes that young people who carry out voluntary work in the community should be acknowledged and we are delighted to have an opportunity to do so once again this year".



On Sunday the 20th January at Athlone Springs Hotel, the annual Older Persons Party was held. This is an event run solely by Community Gardaí from Athlone. Over 300 persons attended and a great day was had by all who attended.



The Age Friendly Town project was recently launched in Naas. This is an exciting project which offers the residents of Naas an opportunity to share their views and experiences at the information evening. Age Friendly communities benefit people of all ages. Secure neighbourhoods are safe for children, young people, women and older adults. Accessible buildings and streets enhance the mobility and independence of both younger and older people with disabilities. The whole community benefits from older people in voluntary or paid work and activities. This Project is an initiative of the Ageing Well Network and the Kildare Age Friendly County Programme and is recognised by the World Health Organisation.





# Leitrim Age Friendly County

**R**TE Midlands Correspondent and community activist Ciaran Mullooly officially launched the Leitrim Age Friendly County Initiative on Tuesday, 29th of January 2013 in the Bush Hotel, Carrick on Shannon.

The launch will kick start a county wide consultation and awareness raising exercise which will inform the development of an Age Friendly County Strategic Plan for Leitrim.

The aim of the Leitrim Age Friendly County Initiative is to ensure that all agencies work together to promote and maintain the best possible health and well being of older people and to make County Leitrim itself a great place to grow old in.

The initiative is being spearheaded by a newly established Alliance Board chaired by Leitrim County Manager, Jackie Maguire and has representation at the most senior level from Leitrim County Council, Leitrim County Development Board, Health Service Executive, An Garda Síochána, Leitrim Development Company, County Leitrim Vocational Education Committee, Leitrim County Enterprise Board, National University of Ireland Galway, the Irish Farmers Association and an Older Person's Representative. The launch will have guest speakers Professor Eamon O'Shea, of the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology NUI, Galway as well as Eva Beirne of the Louth Age Friendly County Initiative who will speak about the way in which Louth has become Age Friendly and in particular

the development of its county wide Older People's Forum and its achievements to date. Catherine Mc Guigan, North East Regional Manager for the National Age Friendly County Programme and Leitrim County Manager and Chair of the Alliance Board Jackie Maguire will also speak at the launch.

On the day a comprehensive consultation of older people and their advocates will take place which will gather vital information on what matters to older people in County Leitrim. This feedback will be used to inform the development of an Age Friendly Strategy for the county.

The purpose of the Leitrim Age Friendly County Initiative is to increase the participation of older people in the social, economic and cultural life of Leitrim for everyone's benefit, improve the health and well being of older people in the county and show how services and supports for older people can be made more responsive, caring, professional and accessible through imaginative and cost effective partnerships.

The Irish Age Friendly Counties Programme is a national initiative aimed at developing an 'age friendly county programme' in all Local Authority areas in the country.

For further information on the event please contact Ann Flynn, Leitrim County Council on 071 96 20005 ext 543.

*Pictured at the launch of Leitrim Age Friendly County programme were:*

*L - R back: Joseph Gilhooly Director of Services, Leitrim County Council, Joe Lowe CEO, Leitrim County Enterprise Board, Catherine Mc Guigan, National Age Friendly Programme, Ciaran Mullooly, RTE Midlands Correspondent, Ann Flynn Leitrim County Council, Gerry Mc Govern Co. Leitrim VEC, Tom Lavin CEO Leitrim Development Company, Francis Nugent, IFA, Damien Mc Callion, HSE Area Manager, Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan.*

*Front Row Seated, Left to Right: Professor Eamon O' Shea, NUI Galway, Chief Superintendent Michael Clancy, Jackie Maguire, Leitrim County Manager and Chair of the Alliance Board, Patricia Flanagan, Older Person's Representative, Cllr. Siobhan Mc Gloin, Chair of Leitrim County Development Board. Missing from the photo Martin Fallon A/CEO Co. Leitrim VEC. at The Bush Hotel In Carrick On Shannon.*





## Rannóg na Gaeilge - Looking back and looking ahead

**R**annóg na Gaeilge was established as an Irish language section to coordinate the development of the Irish language in An Garda Síochána in 1922 and has been maintaining a record of the Oral Irish Proficiency Test in An Garda Síochána from that time on.

Bord na Gaeilge was set up under the Bord na Gaeilge Act 1978 for the purpose of promoting the Irish Language and in particular, extending its use by the public as a living language. Similar to other State bodies, Rannóg na Gaeilge, An Garda Síochána coordinated action programmes across Garda Divisions to preserve and extend the Irish language services in An Garda Síochána.

*"These action programmes were developed by An Garda Síochána on direction of Bord na Gaeilge and fostered our language, culture and heritage by expanding bilingualism and improving services from public offices such as service by correspondence and service on the telephone to the Gaeltacht community and to the Irish language community", Sergeant. Joseph R. Enright.*

There has been a Sergeant in charge

of the section from 1993 and he introduced the availability of Irish support material, computerisation of all documents, and trained staff on translation work in Rannóg na Gaeilge.

Irish material includes policing forms, stationery, information leaflets, publicity material, PR material, advertising, annual reports, documents, signs and maps.

The Role and approach of the Section:

The role of the section is to progress the work of An Garda Síochána through the medium of Irish in an effective, efficient and timely manner and to give direction to the actions of service on the authorisation of the Garda Commissioner.

It's aim is organisational communication in addition to the assessment of members in the promotion process to the rank of sergeant, as well as giving advice to members of An Garda Síochána regarding the

implications of current legislation.

The purpose of Rannóg na Gaeilge is to ensure that members who want to learn the Irish language are facilitated in a training and lifelong learning environment. This in turn equips members with the skills necessary to carry out their policing duties through the medium of Irish. In practice, Rannóg na Gaeilge offers practical help, support and resource material to any member of the organisation interested in improving their competency in Irish.

*Visitors to the Garda College with Joseph R. Enright and close friends of Christopher Enright, deceased*





## Rannóg na Gaeilge - Looking back and looking ahead

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### Role of Rannóg na Gaeilge in context

An Garda Síochána, as a public sector body, is bound by the requirements of the 2003 Language Act which entitles each citizen to have their business conducted through either of our two languages. The Garda organisation has designated officers with duties specific to this requirement by way of the 50 - 60 Garda Inspectors – Liaison officers who attend to language matters.

Rannóg na Gaeilge is a support service to the organisation whose role is to advise, train and assess members on matters relating to the language. It also has a research function to analyse the needs of members in relation to these requirements.

An Rannóg is concerned with implementing the Language Rights of the public and of raising awareness among members of the existence of such rights.

A central and ongoing role of Rannóg is in developing training programmes for both new entrants and those members who find themselves challenged in mastery of the language as it pertains to the requirements of their interaction with the public. The customising of learning materials to the requirements of members,

especially in the area of legal matters is the challenge faced by training staff as there are no ready-made text books in this specialised area. The sergeant in charge of Rannóg has done much work in this regard in the shape of Foclóir Gaeilge an Gharda Síochána which is an invaluable reference tool in such a specific area.

Since it is a requirement of The Official Languages Act 2003 that all publications appear bilingually, translation work on Community Policing matters, complaints from members of the public about poor service provision in this area and various other correspondences, both within the organisation and beyond, is a central service provided by the Section.

“Rannóg na Gaeilge creates language awareness and provides leadership development in Irish to members of An Garda Síochána within a policing environment. Members of An Garda Síochána in turn use the Irish language to communicate with the community they serve”, Sergeant Joseph Enright.

Up to 9495 members in An Garda Síochána returned themselves as Irish speakers while 4235 members returned themselves as non-Irish speakers in Census 2011. The ongoing

challenge is to promote the use of the Irish language on a one-to-one basis on the phone, on patrol, in stations and in the community.

### Vision of the Section

The Section would like to extend the Irish Language and its daily use to each division and sector associated within the organisation, and improve services on active offer and on demand through the medium of Irish.

*Submitted by John Heneghan*

Photo of Sergeant Joseph R. Enright, Dr. John Heneghan, Seán Uasal ó Maoilmhíchil and Máire Uí Riain, Uasal





# National Job Shadow Initiative

**N**ational Supported Employment Week took place from the 22nd to the 28th April 2013 with the key highlight of this event being Job Shadow Day on April 24th. Like many other businesses and companies throughout Ireland, An Garda Síochána played their part in supporting people with disabilities through this worthwhile national initiative, representing the organisations fifth year of involvement.

Job Shadow Day is part of an overall campaign by the Irish Association of Supported Employment, designed to raise awareness about the skills and abilities of people with disability throughout Ireland.

The job shadow experience provides people with disabilities the opportunity to shadow a person in their workplace through a normal working day and is designed to allow the participant to explore the world of work, while at the same time promoting and encouraging an inclusive workplace.

Job Shadow Day 2013 came under the auspices of Assistant Commissioner Fintan Fanning, HRM and successfully engaged the participation of over 40 Garda stations and offices nationwide. The Initiative is co-ordinated in An Garda Síochána by Adrienne McGill, Disability Liaison Officer (DLO), Garda Civilian HR Directorate.

**BLANCHARDSTOWN**  
Garda Niall Phelan

"My own experience of Job Shadow Day is reflective of the views of many

members and staff in An Garda Síochána who participated in this initiative. I was accompanied by 19 year old Dylan Nelson (pictured above) who is a wheelchair user. Dylan accompanied me throughout the day as I attended court and then later when I carried out various station duties. He also met with many of the Gardaí and civilian staff at Blanchardstown and spoke to each about their various roles within the operation of a busy Garda district. Dylan toured the station and was briefed on a range of equipment and procedures used by An Garda Síochána on a daily basis. Dylan expressed his strong interest in exploring career opportunities within the organisation and also provided us with excellent advice on the accessibility to our Garda station complex."

"Participation in the Job Shadow Initiative allowed me to look past the wheelchair and see the person; to focus on the ability, not the disability; to view the positive, not the negative; and to realise the immense contribution that people with disabilities can and do make in workplaces across the country. For me, the Job Shadow Initiative was a most rewarding, positive and fulfilling experience. It would be my strong recommendation to members who have not already participated in this initiative, to get involved and to support the Job Shadow Initiative in 2014."

"It is important for An Garda Síochána to engage with disability groups in their communities through giving talks and guidance on how to protect themselves, while also building positives relationships and trust between these groups and

members of An Garda Síochána."



**BANDON**  
Garda Lisa O'Sullivan

Bandon Garda Station hosted two adults from the Brothers of Charity organisation in conjunction with the Job Shadow Initiative Day. Mary O'Brien and Francis Burke who both have a learning disability, spent an hour in the station to observe how the Gardaí work and what the station is like.

Mary and Francis were given Garda attire during their tour of duty and were given a tour of the station. They met a large number of Garda and civilian personnel and were given jobs to do in the Divisional Office and the Public Office. Mary and Francis carried out a speed check outside the station, and used the tetra radio to communicate with the station and observed Gardaí in the public office dealing with the public.

Mary and Francis were presented with Garda pins by Superintendent MacEoin.

# Job Shadow Day

April 24th, 2013



## National Job Shadow Initiative

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Garda O'Sullivan presented them with Certificates in honour of their day in the station.

"It was a successful event which Mary and Francis both enjoyed and I received great support from staff in the station. I have arranged a further Road Safety Talk with their organisation for Thursday the 2nd of May 2013. I believe it was a worthwhile experience and I hope to see it carried out in the following years also."



### WICKLOW

The Gardaí at Wicklow Garda Station hosted Connie Byrne from Glenealy, Co. Wicklow as part of the IASE job shadow day. Connie spent time in the Garda stations in Ashford and Wicklow where she saw first hand the role of a Garda

as well as going on patrol in the official Garda car.



### CASTLEBAR

Gardaí at Castlebar Garda Station facilitated Stephen Jordan on his Job Shadow Placement. Stephen is pictured with Garda Ciaran Brett.

### RAHENY AND CLONTARF

The Community Policing units at Raheny and Clontarf had the pleasure of hosting Stephen, Emma and Lucy from the Central Remedial Clinic, Clontarf at Clontarf Garda Station as part of the Job Shadow Initiative. This is the second year Raheny and Clontarf Community Policing units has taken part in this initiative.

Garda Lisa Martin and Garda Colm Tracey gave participants a tour of the station, played out a mock arrest which brought participants through the process of entering the station, completion of custody records, detentions and finally a mock interview. Participants were also shown Garda equipment and given demonstrations on its use. They were finally given a tour of the incident room and details on how major investigations are carried out. A good day was had by all.





## Garda Racial, Intercultural & Diversity Office

**T**he Garda Racial, Intercultural and Diversity Office (GRIDO) was established in April 2000. The GRIDO has responsibility for co-ordinating, monitoring and advising on all aspects of policing in the area of ethnic and cultural diversity. It is a policy advisory office within the Garda Community Relations Bureau which is located in Harcourt Square in Dublin. It acts as an advisory resource to Garda Management, serving Gardaí, and members of the public.

The GRIDO is staffed by four persons. It is led by Sergeant Dave McInerney who has supervised the work of the unit for over a decade. He is ably supported by Garda Jonathan O'Mahony and Garda Darren Coventry-Howlett. The day-to-day administration of the office is the responsibility of Clerical Officer, Mr. John O'Hara.

In 2002 the Garda Commissioner authorized the appointment of Garda Ethnic Liaison Officers (ELOs) in order to establish a national network of trained Gardaí to engage with intercultural matters arising at the local district level.

Between 2002 – 2010, GRIDO has helped to train this network of Garda ELOs in intercultural policing matters. Later the network expanded to include trained officers in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender fields of diversity. Hence the presently used, abbreviated title of ELO/LGBT. The GRIDO acts in an advisory capacity to the network. Each ELO/LGBT Garda officer, acts under the direction of

their respective district officer. In recent years the work of the office has expanded to include other areas of the diversity spectrum within Irish society.

One of the main functions of the GRIDO office has always been to meet directly and engage with the representative organisations, personnel and leaders of a wide spectrum of communities within Ireland. These communities include ethnic minority groups, traveller groups, elderly, disabled, gay, lesbian and transgender groups. Each community is represented by many different organisations.

The strategy of the GRIDO in 2013, has been to increase the face-to-face engagement with its stakeholders in order to maintain well established networks, but also to develop new possibilities for social engagement with persons from other strands of diversity.

The GRIDO has continued to be particularly active in the intercultural field, attending over 60 meetings/events weekly with minority organisations and groups. This is in order to meet and reassure new national communities who have established themselves as part of Irish society of An Garda Síochána's continued commitment to support for diversity in these challenging times.

Garda Darren Coventry-Howlett has been appointed as the national LGBT coordinator and has made efforts to meet and engage with as many persons and organisations as possible in this area. In particular he has hosted meetings

with the Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI) and Outhouse - Dublin's community and resource centre for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people.

Garda O'Mahony has been appointed as the National Disability Liaison Officer. He attends weekly meetings with organisations in the field dealing with issues ranging from mental health to access difficulties in order to expand the competence and know-how of GRIDO beyond the intercultural area.

The staff of the GRIDO continues to act as an information resource for both members of An Garda Síochána, the public and other agencies on matters of diversity. The strands of the diversity spectrum are forever changing and evolving and the Garda Racial Intercultural and Diversity Office seeks to learn and keep pace with these changes.

*Submitted by Garda Jonathan O'Mahony*