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COMMUNITY TIMES

COMMUNITY TIMES
PUBLIC EDITION



Working With Communities



An Garda Síochána | Working with Communities to Protect and Serve

COMMUNITY TIMES

eNEWSLETTER

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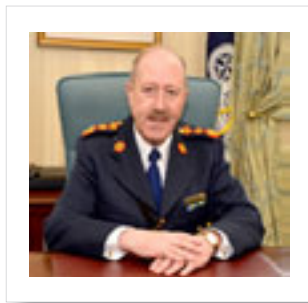
Garda Ian Leslie

Ms Jacqueline Martin

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.



I am delighted to welcome you to the first issue of the Community Times eNewsletter.

Every day members of An Garda Síochána, and the community, work together to improve quality of life and to make people feel more secure in their homes and on the streets. Together in partnership, we are committed to the prevention and detection of criminal activity.

As part of the service of Garda Community Relations and Community Policing, we are producing this quarterly Newsletter, CommunityTimes, to keep our community informed of new developments and initiatives in the area of community policing, such as Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch. I wish to acknowledge the tremendous work and efforts made by the volunteers, scheme coordinators and Garda liaison officers, whose commitment and dedication is absolutely vital to the successful running of such schemes.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and all those you care for, a healthy, happy and safe New Year.

Martin Callinan
Commissioner of An Garda Síochána

Editorial

Welcome to the Winter edition of the CommunityTimes eNewsletter.

As part of our service at Community Relations and Community Policing Division we are publishing 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.

It 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.

These innovative examples of good practice in crime prevention initiatives, submitted by Garda members involved in Community Relations duties and activities, will be added to a permanent database of 'Good practice Initiatives' to be utilised by Community Policing Units nationwide.

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On the Cover...

Picture taken at a launch of An Garda Síochána Supporting Safer Communities Campaign at the National Ploughing Championships.



Working With Communities



You are very welcome to the Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch section of the Community Times newsletter. Each quarter we will be presenting articles highlighting examples of good practice, crime prevention information, current news and events.

Community Alert & Neighbourhood Watch Signs

These signs are an integral element of every Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch scheme. They have a number of uses:

Internally – these signs help remind all residents that they are part of a scheme and will assist in prompting people about crime prevention.

Externally – the signs are a visible reminder to visitors that this community has an organised crime prevention programme in operation and is not a soft target for crime.

At this time of year it is useful to examine Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch signs to ensure that they can be seen and are in a good state of repair. Perhaps some thought could be put into their location and new ones erected in a better location or damaged ones replaced, if need be.

Information on Community Alert signs is available at www.muintir.ie.

Community Alert & Neighbourhood Watch Stickers

The Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch stickers are a highly visible reminder that your house and community are part of the scheme. A new Neighbourhood Watch sticker was designed in autumn of 2010 which allows the user to insert useful contact numbers on the back of the sticker. These stickers have been issued to each Garda Division for local distribution to schemes.



Social Network Tools

Social networking tools are being used to keep people informed and connected. An Garda Síochána already uses Facebook, Flickr and YouTube to provide information about policing, major incidents and crime prevention advice. The majority of households have access to computers and the internet, which is becoming even more accessible with the increased use of handheld devices, tablets and smart phones.

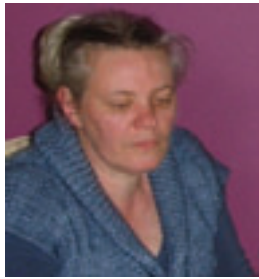
The social media phenomenon has now extended to Neighbourhood Watch in Ireland. Currently some Neighbourhood Watch representatives are using Facebook to assist with their scheme.

The use of social media can provide great opportunities for engagement at all levels and reaches an audience ranging from young persons to those who are young at heart!





Working With Communities



Community Alert Development Officer Profile

Title: Community Alert Development Officer

Name: Vanessa Clarke

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Email: veeceeze@hotmail.com

Vanessa is one of five Community Alert Development Officers working with Muintir na Tíre and An Garda Síochána who support and develop Community Alert Groups around the country. Vanessa has worked in this role for the last 15 years and has witnessed significant change in rural Ireland during this time. With specific responsibility for the counties of Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan and Monaghan Vanessa also brings vast knowledge on Community Development issues to the table. There are in excess of 160 Community Alert Groups in these counties and each Development Officer is always available to support enquiries in relation to starting a new Community Alert Group.

Dublin Neighbourhood Watch Regional Committee

This committee was formed to support and develop Neighbourhood Watch in Dublin in 1988. Neighbourhood Watch is a partnership programme and this committee is made up of an elected District Neighbourhood Watch Representative from each of the city's Garda Districts. The committee is currently chaired by Mr. Patrick Walsh (R District – Coolock, Malahide and Swords) and meets several times a year. The committee have made very important contributions to a number of national policy initiatives, including;

Lord Mayors Commission on Crime

Neighbourhood Watch – The Challenge for the Future

Department of Justice and Equality – White Papers on Crime

National Model of Community Policing

This is an idea that could be adopted anywhere in Ireland.

For more information, contact:

Sergeant Denis Beakey

Garda Community Relations & Community Policing

01 666 38 09





New Look CrimeCall

The 8th Series of CrimeCall commenced on Tuesday the 27th of September 2011 and will continue through to June 2012.

The programme provides a huge interface for An Garda Síochána to engage with the public on matters such as the investigation, detection and prevention of crime.

The previous series of CrimeCall enjoyed its highest audience since 2007, attracting an estimated audience of over 535,000 viewers. It achieved an audience share of 37%.

Each month CrimeCall features reconstructions, CCTV footage and live studio appeals. This enables viewers to provide vital information which can help solve the crimes featured. Calls to the programme have assisted with numerous

investigations over the previous seven series.

Two new presenters, Gráinne Seoige and Philip Boucher Hayes, were welcomed to the new series, which also features a newly designed set.

The September programme highlighted a number of serious crimes. The information received from viewers in relation to these features has assisted in the progression of many of the cases.

The crime prevention segment included advice in relation to burglary prevention. This received an excellent response from the public.

Over the years the programme has played a valuable role in Garda investigations. CrimeCall also keeps the public informed on safety issues and crime trends.

The transmission dates for the rest of CrimeCall Series 8 are as follows:

- 20th December 2011
- 31st January 2012
- 28th February 2012
- 27th March 2012
- 24th April 2012
- 22nd May 2012
- 19th June 2012





Farm Security Booklet Launch

On 22nd September 2011, Deputy Commissioner Nacie Rice, launched a 'Farm Security Booklet' in Castlefinn in Donegal.

The booklet was originally developed in collaboration with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) in 2010 and was produced, to assist in preventing farm related crime. This event represented the Southern launch of the project. This initiative is being rolled out initially on a 'pilot' basis within the Donegal Division.

Speaking in Castlefinn, Deputy Commissioner Rice said: "Rural communities in Ireland make an enormous contribution to the social and economic life of our nation. Unfortunately, however, people in these communities can be just as vulnerable to crime as those living in cities. Farm security is an imperative for An Garda Síochána, particularly in our endeavours to curb metal theft crimes from being committed around the country".

Deputy Commissioner Rice recognised the contribution of the PSNI and welcomed members of the PSNI to Castlefinn for the launch. A special word of gratitude went to Constable Caroline Hill from the PSNI and Sergeant Paul Wallace, the

local Garda Crime Prevention Officer, who together were instrumental in developing this particular initiative. The presence of the PSNI was particularly significant in reflecting the positive ongoing collaboration between An Garda Síochána and the PSNI within the joint 'Cross Border Policing Strategy'.

Senior officers present at the launch included Assistant Commissioner Kieran Kenny, Chief Superintendent Terry McGinn and Superintendent Vincent O'Brien. The event was also attended by Inspector Niall Featherstone and Sergeant Alan Roughneen from the National

Crime Prevention Unit, in addition to members of the Irish Farmers Association (IFA) and 20 local farmers. Deputy Rice acknowledged the assistance of the IFA for their dedication and support for this initiative, which coincided with Garda Supporting Safer Communities Week.

At the Launch, members of the IFA and An Garda Síochána unveiled a new overt marking / identification system for items of farm machinery, tractors and quads etc. This unique marking initiative is intended to act as both a crime prevention deterrent and a detection measure, enabling Gardaí to more easily trace items back to their owners.

Deputy Rice said: "We recognise that a lot remains to be done, but I firmly believe that the availability of this Farm Security Booklet will support all of our endeavours in preventing, reducing and indeed detecting Farm related crime".





Seasonal Safety Tips

Safe Driving Over Christmas

Unfortunately Christmas holiday breaks are just the time when people take fatigue-related risks.

People tend to take on too much driving to reach holiday destinations a few hours earlier.

Their ability to drive safely is reduced even further by combining fatigue with alcohol

Drivers are at risk when driving at times when they would normally be sleeping, so those 3am starts for a holiday destination can be risky.

Fatigue-related accidents can occur at any time of day, but they're particularly common in mid-afternoon and between midnight and dawn, so be particularly careful at these times.

Alcohol is a major factor in crashes that lead to death and injury.

Even small amounts of alcohol affect your judgement and ability to drive. There is no reliable way to tell how much you can drink before you exceed the legal limit.

Staying Safe When Out Shopping

Take extra care when using a cash point or chip and pin.

Don't let anyone see your pin number, never write down your pin number.

If you carry a handbag, keep your purse at the bottom.

Never keep your wallet in your back pocket.

Keep your handbag zipped at all times – crowded shopping areas are very popular with pickpockets.

Don't leave your handbag in the shopping trolley while you shop.

Stay alert when using your mobile phone. It's very easy for someone to snatch it out of your hand.

Always put shopping and parcels in the boot of your car when driving.

Don't return to your car to leave purchases in the boot before continuing with your shopping, as thieves may watch car parks.

Don't leave valuables on the seat of your car - they attract thieves.

Keep the car door locked, even when travelling.

Don't leave your house keys in your car.

Secure your Sat Nav - hide it when not in use, don't preset your exact home address into it.

Staying Safe On A Night Out

Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be home.

Carry your mobile phone (charged!).

Drinking - if one of the group has too much to drink - ensure they get home safely!

If out with a group - watch out for one another - safety in numbers.



Safety Tips continued on page 6



Going Away For The Festive Holiday

Make your home look like someone is living in it.

Cancel any newspaper or milk deliveries.

Trusted neighbours may be able to help you by collecting your post, opening and closing curtains and they could park their car in your driveway.

Avoid discussing holiday plans where strangers may hear details of your absence from home.

Leave important documents and valuable items with other family members or a bank. Alternatively lock them in a safe.

Do not put your home address on your luggage when you are travelling to your holiday destination. A work address will suffice if you want to label your luggage.

If you normally leave valuable bicycles or similar items in your shed, consider putting them in the house.

Make sure that you lock all outside doors and windows and set your house alarm if you have one.

At Home

Lock and bolt your doors and windows.

If you are expecting a parcel, make sure someone is there when it is delivered, or ask a neighbour to take it in. Avoid having it left on the door step.

Keep keys, mobile phones, purses, wallets and other valuable items locked away out of sight.

Don't leave your keys in the door at any time.

Never leave keys in view of the windows or doors.

Put presents under the Christmas tree early on Christmas morning.

Once you've opened all your gifts, don't leave the boxes on view outside to advertise your good fortune to criminals.



Around The Country...



Garda clinics are being operated by Sligo Community Policing unit both as a stand alone initiative and in partnership with other state and NGO agencies.

These include residential, business and campus communities as well as specially themed clinics.



Garda Richard Owens, Tracey Flynn - NYP Project, Mary Cullen - NYP Project, Superintendent James Smith at the presentation of medals to children for successful completion of a course on the Garda Mounted Unit, on the 26th August.

This course was conducted jointly by An Garda Síochána and the HSE.



The Longford Cycle Tour took place on Sunday the 4th September 2011, organised by Longford Sport Partnership along with Community Policing Longford. The event comprised of a 50K cycle and a 15K cycle.

It was a huge success and an opportunity for Longford Community Police to engage with the Community and help encourage fitness and a healthy lifestyle.



Earlier this year Roscommon Community Policing Unit, in conjunction with Roscommon County Council, organised a Poster Competition open to 5th and 6th class pupils from primary schools in the Roscommon Garda District.

Pupils were asked to design a poster to make the public aware of the importance of Road Safety.

There was huge interest in the competition and a total of 416 pupils from 24 primary schools participated.



Superintendent Jim O' Connor welcomed everyone to an open day at Tralee Garda station on Saturday 24th September 2011, for the Supporting Safer Communities Campaign.

It was a great success, with a staggering 2,000 people attending the event.



Cork City got a taste of World Cup excitement recently when it hosted an international 5-A-Side soccer tournament.

It was organised by the Garda Community Policing Unit in Anglesea Street and featured 16 teams representing countries from Europe, Asia and Africa including Ireland, Poland, Ukraine, Congo, Togo, Sudan, Romania, Persia, Nigeria, Ghana, Eritrea, Angola, Afghanistan, Somalia, Cameroon and the Ivory Coast.