

Spring | 2013

COMMUNITY TIMES

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Connect with Respect



An Garda Síochána | Working with Communities to Protect and Serve
www.garda.ie

COMMUNITY TIMES

eNEWSLETTER

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Editorial

Welcome to the Spring 2013 edition of the Community Times eNewsletter.

As part of our service at Community Relations and Community Policing Division 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 a new interactive design feature in this edition, 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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On the Cover...

Launch of the Connect with Respect initiative on the 4th February 2013.



New Joint Booklet Launched



The “Community Crime Prevention Programmes” booklet was launched by the Minister for Justice and Equality and the Garda Commissioner on the 31st of January 2013. A Memorandum of Understanding, concerning the operation of Community Alert, was also signed by the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána and the President of Muintir na Tíre.

This booklet gives clear and concise information to the public on how to establish and maintain a Neighbourhood Watch or Community Alert scheme.

Neighbourhood Watch was established in Ireland in 1985 with the aim of increasing contact with communities and promoting crime prevention practice in urban areas. Community Alert was established with Muintir na Tíre in 1985. It is operated with the objectives of preventing crime and caring for the well-being of older persons in rural areas.

Encouraging people and communities to look out for each other was, and is, a cornerstone of crime prevention activity. These crime prevention programmes have expanded since their beginnings to become a significant presence in the crime prevention landscape with 2,343 Neighbourhood Watch schemes and 1,350 Community Alert groups established throughout the country.

The many years of participation and contribution from so many committed community members, community groups, members of An Garda Síochána and

voluntary organisations is acknowledged and deeply appreciated. However it is important to reflect on the basic tenets of Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert i.e. Opportunity Reduction and Social Cohesion.

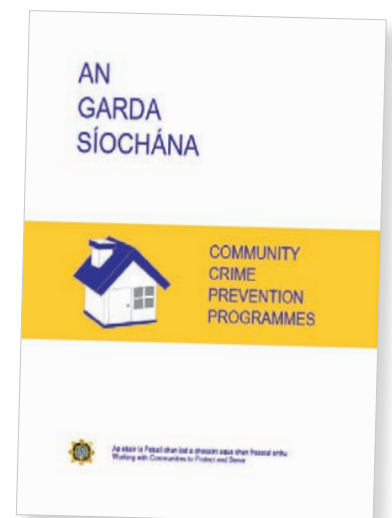
People can act in the best interest of their communities by supporting crime prevention activities and by “looking out” for each other. Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert are well placed to facilitate this and embrace active citizenship for the benefit of local society.

The Mission Statement of An Garda Síochána “Working with Communities to Protect and Serve” underlines the importance and value of partnership between An Garda Síochána, Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert. The implementation of our new Community Crime Prevention Programmes will be guided through active leadership of Divisional and District Officers.

Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert have operated very successfully throughout Ireland over the last 27 years but since that time the country has changed significantly. It is our wish that these crime prevention programmes remain as a central platform of our organisation’s policy in assisting the public with crime prevention and reduction activity. Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert remain as relevant crime prevention initiatives that can be adapted to meet local community needs.

There are many challenges facing Irish society from a policing perspective. Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert are positioned to assist in dealing with fear of crime, burglary, theft, anti-social behaviour and promoting the safety of older and vulnerable people.

The new booklet will ensure that Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert can contribute to improving the quality of life in our communities. The “Community Crime Prevention Programmes” booklet will be revised over time to reflect any new crime prevention and reduction issues identified, and to ensure that each programme remains relevant. An Garda Síochána is committed to the implementation of this programme and will undertake a continuous assessment of the programme.





Connect with Respect

The *Connect with Respect* initiative was launched by the Garda Commissioner on the 4th February 2013 in advance of European Internet Safety Day. From February 4th for a two week period members who deliver the Garda Schools Programme were encouraged to visit as many schools as possible and deliver this lesson.

Safer Internet Day is an international annual event which is organised by European Internet Safety Network (INSANE) and is co-funded by the European Commissions Safer Internet Programme. Safer Internet Day aims to promote a safer place on the internet for all users, especially for young people. The 10th Safer Internet Day took place on 5th February 2013 in many countries across the world.

Safer Internet Day is organized in Ireland by Webwise and aims to educate and raise awareness about protecting children online, so that they can responsibly enjoy the benefits of the internet, without compromising their safety and privacy.

This year's theme is centred around users online rights and responsibilities. Users are encouraged to 'Connect with Respect'.

There are two Garda Schools Programmes; one for primary schools and one for secondary schools. In the academic year from 2011 -2012, members of An Garda Síochána conducted over 6,900 visits to classrooms around the country. In addition to this there is a transition year programme managed by the Garda Traffic Bureau. This "Connect with Respect" initiative forms part of the Garda Secondary Schools Programme.

The Garda Secondary Schools Programme consists of a series of lessons and discussions given to the school children by local Community Gardaí who are specially trained. These lessons have been developed in conjunction with the Department of Education and Skills aim to supplement lessons already taught in Secondary Schools surrounding the SPHE (Social Personal and Health Education Modules) of Substance Use and Personal Safety. Members of An Garda Síochána who will be delivering this lesson have already received training in the Garda Secondary Schools Programme- a 2 day training course.

Children and young people form a very important part of

our community. On account of this, their age and vulnerability, An Garda Síochána recognises that there is an even greater onus on us to ensure their protection and to ensure that they can be safe in their day to day lives. Part of children's daily lives now involves learning and communicating through what has come to be known as the social media and while this presents an incredible opportunity for young people it also presents certain challenges and dangers.

Today's teens use technology more than ever before. Most have high-speed internet access, mobile phones and portable devices, which they use to send instant messages to their friends, keep personal profiles on social media websites, share photos, and more.

Unfortunately, this technology has allowed some teens to take to





Connect with Respect

bullying online. However, as well as the bully and the victim, bystanders play a role too and it's important that they are encouraged to intervene should they witness a situation.

An Garda Síochána recognises the challenges and dangers which advances in social media has brought to young people. It is because of this recognition of the issues that we have presented this programme entitled 'Connect with Respect' as part of the Garda Secondary Schools Programme. The lesson aims to help students to understand the impact that cyberbullying can have on different people and aims to enable students to respond effectively if it does occur.

The Connect with Respect lesson is aimed at Junior Cycle Students in Secondary School. The lesson takes approximately 40 minutes to deliver. It is aimed that the lesson will be delivered by local Community Gardaí. The talk aims to change the attitude of bystanders to make them more likely to intervene positively and effectively in online bullying situations. It also aims to help students to understand the impact that cyberbullying can have on different people, and to recognise that cyberbullying is not acceptable. The lesson aims to provide opportunities for reflection

and discussion on the effects of cyber bullying and to enable students to develop responsible decision making when they witness it taking place.

The pack contains a booklet which is designed to give members important information in relation to class preparation and various follow up activities. The centre piece of the lesson is the 'Lets fight it Together' film. It is a short film (7 minutes) based in a composite view of real events developed by Childnet International. It depicts the story of a teenager who becomes the target of bullying via the internet and his mobile phone. The film shows a number of ways cyberbullying can occur, who it involves, and how it can affect different people.

Over the coming weeks and months it is envisaged that Gardaí will be visiting hundreds of schools throughout the country and talking to thousands of children, working alongside school teachers to educate children to the dangers of the social media and to discuss with them their responsibilities around their own behaviour when using the internet or mobile phones. Communication has gone to all Divisional and District Officers seeking support and the initiative has also been highlighted on the Garda Portal.

It is important to recognise the invaluable work, support and expertise of Mr. Simon Grehan of the PDST (Professional Development Service for Teachers) and Mr. Pat Courtney of SPHE (Social Personal Health Education) in the development of the material for this initiative. It is acknowledged and appreciated by An Garda Síochána.

Working in partnership with agencies like the Department of Education and Skills is central to providing a quality service to our young people and to ensure that their safety is paramount. An Garda Síochána is committed to this initiative and to using this lesson in promoting safer internet use among our young people.





Lock Burglars Out!

Lock Burglars Out is a joint crime prevention initiative between An Garda Síochána, 'Safer Blanchardstown' Policing Forum, Fingal County Council and Blanchardstown Local Drug Task Force.

Lock up, and lock burglars out – that's the message community organisations and local Gardaí are putting across to local residents in a bid to reduce burglaries in the area of Blanchardstown.

'Safer Blanchardstown' and Gardaí in Blanchardstown have developed the 'Lock Burglars Out' initiative to urge people to lock all their windows and doors before leaving their homes, making it harder for burglars to target their properties.

Philip Jennings of 'Safer Blanchardstown' has said that one third of all burglaries are preventable, and so the initiative targets this.

"People are not taking the time to check their home security. They are rushing out the door to get a pint of milk, collect the kids from school, and are not locking up properly."

"Burglaries are up all over the country, not just in Blanchardstown, and that is an important point to stress. Every home is a potential Aladdin's cave for a burglar who can get in."

"People buy phones and electronic items which are very manoeuvrable. Burglars bring in a haversack or a sports bag and off they go."

'Safer Blanchardstown' and Garda representatives were recently in the Blanchardstown Centre and Superquinn in Blanchardstown Village to promote the initiative and give advice on locking up.

"People thought it was a great idea... Some people may think their doors are locked, but one lock isn't always enough," explained Mr Jennings.

"People have alarms and they don't turn them on. That's one thing – use them – because burglars don't like noise. I know some people may say: 'No-one responds to the noise when my alarm is going off' but the burglar responds – he runs away."

Mr Jennings went on to advise residents that if they have doubts that they have locked up, to go back and check: "It can really make the difference between someone getting into your house or not."

He also advised not to leave items on display. "Burglars look in, see it, they knock, no-one answers and they try to get in. If they see a window open they will just take the opportunity, jump in and take it."

Superintendent Heller, NCPU, states that for the first time in nearly five years burglary is trending downwards. This is good news, however we cannot be complacent. Coordinated community response with our partners, Community Alert, Neighbourhood Watch, Joint Policing Committees etc., can reduce the impact of these crimes even further.

Remember to put on your alarm and lock

your door when taking a trip to the shop or school.

For tips about burglary prevention as well as general crime prevention advice, log onto: www.saferblanchardstown.com and www.garda.ie



Notice Board



The redesigned crime prevention leaflet, *Security for the Older Person*, has recently been delivered to every Garda Divisional headquarters. A supply of the leaflet is available through your local Garda station.

The first Supporting Safer Communities Campaign of 2013 will take place from Tuesday 28th May to Tuesday 4th June.

This campaign will focus on the crime of Burglary, with particular emphasis on prevention and reduction through High Visibility Policing, Community Engagement, Road Safety Education & Enforcement, Crime Prevention, and Garda Service to Victims.

This event will incorporate Bloom in the Park Festival and an AGE focused Garda consultation day.

Street Thefts, in particular theft of mobile phones, can be prevented. The following crime prevention leaflets are available at www.garda.ie:

- Mobile Phone Theft Prevention Advice
- Mobile Phone Theft Prevention Tips

The Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan launched the Garda Síochána Metal Theft Crime Prevention & Reduction Plan on Wednesday, the 6th February, 2013 at the Garda Officers Club, Garda Headquarters, Phoenix Park, Dublin 8.

The Commissioner said, "The Garda Síochána have collaborated with key stakeholders to develop a robust Metal Theft Crime Prevention and Reduction Plan, in order to prevent and reduce metal theft, thereby providing a safer living and working environment for the public and business community."



A Memorandum of Understanding, concerning the operation of Community Alert, was signed by the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána and the President of Muintir na Tíre on the 31st January 2013.



Fair Play Soccer Tournament

On the 15th of November 2012, Community Policing Gardaí from Raheny and Clontarf Garda Stations, in conjunction with the FAI and Dublin City Council, carried out a Fair Play Soccer Tournament at the all weather Pitches, Fairview.

The primary aim of this Community Policing initiative was to engage positively with local young people in a socially inclusive event.

Over 420 fifth Class Students from nine Primary schools from the Raheny and Clontarf area participated in the tournament. In total, there were twelve boys teams and nine girls teams

The event was the conclusion to a

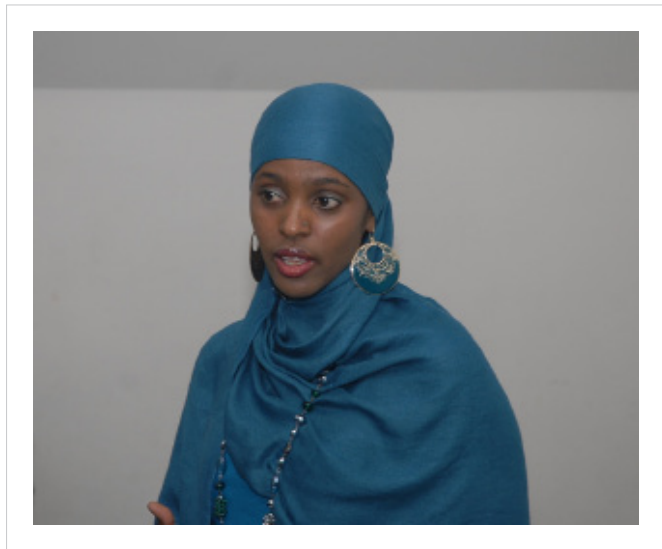
Programme covering Fair Play, Anti-Bullying and Anti-racism which included talks being given by Gardaí and FAI coaches on these topics over the past month to fifth class pupils. FAI coaches also delivered a 'skills session' for each fifth class in each school as part of the program.

Winners on the day for the Boys competition were Belgrove SBS and the Girls competition was retained by Scoil Áine.

Presentation of Medals and Trophies at the conclusion of a great day was conducted by Deputy Commissioner Nacie Rice.

This event proved to be another excellent Garda Community Policing activity which was successful in fostering positive relationships between An Garda Síochána and young people.





United Youth of Ireland

Prior to the most recent meeting of the Garda Síochána Diversity Board on the 6th December 2012 at the Officers Club in Garda HQ, Ms Ifrah Ahmed from the organisation 'United Youth Of Ireland' addressed the members of the board.

The board facilitates individuals and organisations working within the area of diversity, with specific policing needs, to make presentations regarding those needs.

The acting secretary of the board, Garda Jonathan O'Mahony from the Garda Racial Intercultural and Diversity Office, introduced Ms Ahmed to the board.

Ms Ahmed, founder of 'United Youth of Ireland', is a campaigner against the practice of 'female genital mutilation' (FGM). Garda O'Mahony spoke in relation to Ms Ahmeds positive working relationship with An Garda Síochána. This has been particularly in the areas of integration and Garda community relations, and helping young people from Ethnic minority backgrounds meet Gardaí, and access services. He briefly outlined her achievements since her arrival in Ireland as a refugee from Somalia less than 6 years ago.

Ms Ahmed arrived in Ireland without English, and was unable to read or write. She was recently granted Irish Citizenship, and through her campaigning work and tireless efforts has been a major driving force behind the introduction of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2012.

Amongst other achievements, Ms Ahmed has addressed United Nations conferences and other events on FGM, and hosted major fashion events to promote self esteem among victims of FGM in addition to producing an anti FGM video. She has lobbied for change in relation to the passing of legislation in Ireland against this practice. She was invited by President Michael D. Higgins to attend an awards ceremony in Áras an Uachtaráin during the summer of 2012, honouring young people who have made exceptional contributions to Irish society.

Ms Ahmed introduced herself and her work in promoting integration and her campaign against FGM. She showed her anti FGM video to the Diversity Strategy Board and explained the importance of having An Garda Síochána help combat the practice. She remarked on her pride in becoming a citizen of Ireland, and was also proud that An Garda Síochána was her police service. She expressed

her delight that Ireland now had very robust legislation in force against FGM.

Following Ms Ahmeds presentation she took questions from members of the board. She finished by requesting the assistance of the board, and remarked that she looked forward to working with An Garda Síochána. To that end, she finished her presentation by expressing her desire to see as many members of An Garda Síochána attend her workshop on FGM in February 2013.

On behalf of the Board, Deputy Commissioner Rice stated that he had been deeply impressed by the presentation, and expressed thanks for Ms Ahmed taking the time to address the board.





Montpellier and O'Devaney Striding Together

M.O.S.T is a Garda Youth Diversion project that works with 12 to 18 year old young people from the Northwest Inner City of Dublin covering predominately the Bridewell Garda District.

The goal of the project is to divert young people away from the Criminal Justice System and to build relationships with members of An Garda Síochána. The governance of the project is guided by a board made up of Gardaí from the Bridewell District, Inspector Tony Healy, Sergeant Dave Finnerty, the Juvenile Liaison Officer Martin Moloney, Youth workers representatives of the Probation Service, Care workers and the Schools Attendance Officer.

All of the young people are accepted into the project as either primary or secondary referrals, each individual is assessed by a referral committee in advance to determine their suitability. The majority of the young people involved in the programmes come from severely disadvantaged backgrounds, and have come to the attention of the Gardaí as offenders or at risk of offending.

The project currently works with 35 young people. The yearly plan for the project is closely tied in with the

policing goals set out in the Bridewell District Policing Plan. In addition to this, the M.O.S.T programmes are aimed at addressing crime issues that are of concern to the District. The project has recently been involved in a number of projects. The most recent are:

Film Project

The participants of this project were encouraged to lead the with their own ideas and create the story line. With the support of M.O.S.T staff the young people involved wrote, acted in, and produced this film. The film was shot in the flat complex of O'Devaney Gardens and in the Bridewell Garda Station, with members of the Bridewell Gardaí Garda Liam Reynolds and Peter Ryan acting in the film itself.

The result of the project was a seventeen minute film that was premiered in the Lighthouse Cinema on the 28th of November 2012. All of the young people involved, their families, and guests were invited to view the film. The project was an outstanding success and gave the young people involved an opportunity to work on an equal basis with the Gardaí from the Bridewell in a positive manner.

Bicycle Project

This project was aimed at individuals that had come to the attention of the Bridewell Gardaí for their involvement in bicycle theft. Eight young people were involved in this programme.

At the outset of the programme Garda Michael Lennon Community Policing Unit Bridewell and the two youth workers from M.O.S.T were trained in bicycle maintenance. These skills were then used to help the young people to strip and rebuild old bicycles.

A condition in the programme was that the bicycles would be given to the young people involved on the successful completion of the programme, on the understanding that they were not involved in bicycle crime for the duration of the programme. The young people would also register their bicycles in the Bridewell registration scheme managed by Garda Ailbhe Byrne, and keep the bicycles for a period of a year after the completion of the programme.

On the 28th of August 2012, all of the young people were presented with their bicycles by Chief Superintendent Leahy and Superintendent Hynes. The bikes were then registered.





Emergency Services Exhibition

An Emergency Services Exhibition was hosted by statutory and voluntary groups on the 14th, 15th & 16th of September 2012 in Cork City Hall & Kennedy Quay Cork. Admission to the exhibition was free. The event was covered by Nationwide and televised on RTE One on the 17th of September 2012.

The event was hosted by Knocknaheeny Hollyhill Youth and Justice Project led by Tony Fitzgerald, and Gurrabraher Gardaí led by Superintendent Con Cadogan.

The aim of the Emergency Services Exhibition was to:

- Promote the Emergency Services, both statutory and voluntary in our city and county.
- Encourage young people to voluntarily give their time to the Voluntary Emergency Services as part of a civic pride initiative.
- Give young people an opportunity to consider a career in these services.
- Create an awareness of Road Safety.
- Create an awareness of Water Safety.
- Highlight and support the vital role of the emergency services in our city and county.

There was a high level of interest in this event and a number of sponsors came on board such as: Bord Gais, Cork City Council, Evening Echo, Tetra Ireland, HSE, Bus Éireann and many more. There were also a number of celebrities that took part

in the exercises such as Ronan O’Gara from the Munster Rugby Team, Eoin English from the Irish Examiner & PJ Coogan from 96FM Radio Station.

The event took place in two locations: Cork City Hall which held a large indoor Emergency Services Exhibition of 36 stands where the exhibitors explained and described to the public the role they play among the Emergency Services.

On arrival at City Hall you were met by a number of army, naval, fire brigade, river rescue & Garda vehicles. Visitors were able to see the inside the vehicles, speak to the personnel and have pictures taken with them. This was a great success with both young and old.

Then you entered the City Hall through a camouflaged tunnel to the army/naval Exhibition stands which, again, was a popular attraction for all. Finally, you passed through into the main hall where there were a variety of exhibition stands.

The outdoor Emergency Services Exhibition took place on Kennedy Quay, a short stroll from the City Hall. This event attracted thousands of people and featured live displays from 12 different Emergency Services organisations.

The displays included demonstrations from:

- Navel Service Exercise
- Air Corp Exercise
- HSE Casualty Road Traffic Accident Scene
- Army EOD Exercise

- Garda Síochána / Drugs Dog Search of Vehicle
- Cork City Fire Brigade Exercise
- Civil Defence / Port of Cork Water Exercise
- Naval Service / Irish Search & Rescue Dogs Activity
- Coast Guard Helicopter Exercise
- Bord Gais Networks Display
- SARDA Dog Exercise
- Bands / Music Entertainment

These all provided a live demonstration which visitors were able to experience first hand. It was possible to view the Coast Guard helicopter complete a number of exercises and there were also fly-over’s by Air Corp planes.

In addition to this there were a number of joint exercises carried out between the Gardaí and a number of the mentioned organisations.

There was joint involvement in this event, between both statutory & voluntary organisations. Through the hard work of all concerned the event was a great success.

This Emergency Services Exhibition has brought a number of the organisations involved closer together.





My Visit to CrimeCall

My name is Kate, I am a transition year student on work experience in Garda Headquarters (DMR), Harcourt square. As part of my work experience placement I took a trip to see the making of CrimeCall on the 20th of November 2012.

CrimeCall is recorded in the RTE studios. Before I went to the studios I had no idea what CrimeCall was or what it was about.

CrimeCall is on a Tuesday night at 10:15pm for one hour once a month on RTE One. It is presented by Grainne Seoige and Philip Boucher Hayes. CrimeCall was first aired in September 2004 and is now in its ninth series.

Each month CrimeCall shows reconstructions, CCTV footage and live studio appeals for viewers to help provide vital pieces of information to help solve the crimes featured.

The studio receives approximately 100 calls from members of the public during and after the programme. In some cases these calls help to identify a suspect in an investigation.

In addition to serious crime, the programme includes special features on matters of public concern e.g. road safety, drug abuse, missing persons

and crime prevention advice.

The Community Relations & Community Policing Section, assisted by the Garda Press & Public Relations Office is responsible for CrimeCall. CrimeCall encourages the public to engage with An Garda Síochána in the prevention and solving of crime.

I was given a tour of the RTE studios. To my surprise the studio was not as big as it appears on TV. The technicians explained that this is because the studio is shot from all different angles which makes it appear bigger than it actually is. I was shown where all of the props are stored and, I saw the lighting above the set which illuminates the presenters. I was told that if Grainne or Philip did not stand in the correct spot that they would not be lit up.

I visited the Director's booth where I watched as they cut lines from the script which were not needed, que in headings describing who the people were, play reenactments and tell cameras where to go. It was all very interesting.

I was also allowed to see Grainne and Philip do the dress rehearsal, it was really interesting to see how much work, effort and practice is involved in the making of one programme. I

met Grainne who was really friendly and made me feel welcome. I really enjoyed myself watching the making of CrimeCall. I found it very informative and interesting. I really enjoyed myself.

Article written and submitted by Kate Transition Year Student 2012/2013 Maryfield College



Football Fundraiser

A charity fundraiser football match took place on Sunday the 3rd of February 2013 at the Glebe North Football Club, Balbriggan.

A team of local Gardaí from the Balbriggan District from uniform, drugs, detective and community policing units took on 'The Balbriggan Legends' a team made up of local business people, teachers, sports and community group representatives from Balbriggan Town.

The match was in aid of the Tania McCabe Foundation, with all proceeds from the match and sponsorship of players presented to Sergeant Aidan McCabe, the husband of the late Tania McCabe.

The Tania McCabe Foundation was set up in memory of Tania who died after giving birth to twins, one of the twins Zach also died. Adam the surviving twin spent a considerable amount of time, 3 months, in the care of the Special Care Baby Unit in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda and Unit 8 Holles St Maternity Hospital in Dublin. The funds raised will go towards buying equipment for these units as a "Thank You" for helping Adam and other premature babies.

Tania McCabe served as a Garda Sergeant in Santry Garda Station and her husband Aidan McCabe is a Sergeant in the Balbriggan District.

With the money donated to date the McCabe family most recently purchased two Giraffe OmniBed incubators and presented one to both our Lady of

Lourdes Hospital and Unit 8 Holles St Maternity Hospital, Dublin.

On the day, both teams were led onto the pitch and in a parade by Balbriggan's St Patrick's Brass & Reed band. The teams then met with An Cathaoirleach of Balbriggan Town, Larry Dunne, Sergeant Aidan McCabe, his two sons Ben and Adam McCabe and their grandfather, Aidan's Father, Philip McCabe, before standing to the National Anthem. The teams then assembled in the centre of the pitch where a minutes silence was observed for Detective Garda Adrian Donohue of Dundalk Garda Station. Both teams wore black armbands on the day to acknowledge the recent event in Dundalk.

The match started on FAI referee John Thorton's whistle. Half time score was 2-2. The Balbriggan Legends returned to the pitch following half time refreshments, provided by Tesco Balbriggan, dressed in convict outfits which added to the atmosphere provided by the commentator Tommy Dolan on the day. Full time score ended at 2-2 with the match going into penalties. The winning penalty was taken by Nicky Duane, giving the Gardaí the first win in what has now been announced as an annual event for the Tania McCabe Foundation.

Presentation of medals and trophies, kindly sponsored by Goldsmith Jewellers, Balbriggan was made by Sergeant Aidan McCabe and his two sons Ben and Adam McCabe. Captain Maurice Cunningham accepted the Tania McCabe perpetual

trophy on behalf of the Garda Team, donated by Garda Paddy Kelly.

A presentation, kindly sponsored by Tesco Balbriggan was made to the Man of the Match, Andy Mehigan, of 'The Balbriggan Legends' at the Bracken Court Hotel where refreshments were provided for both teams by the Bracken Court and the Hamlet Bar.

A presentation of the money raised will be made to the Tania McCabe Foundation. So far the total stands at €2,700, with donations and sponsorship still to be included.

Garda Kate Daly Ní Bhroin and Garda Dave Sheeran, along with Sergeant Aidan McCabe at Balbriggan Garda Station, would like to thank everyone who helped raise awareness and funds for the Tania McCabe Foundation.





Kinsale Youth Support Service

Kinsale Youth Support Service (KYSS) is an organisation that has been set up with the aim of providing information and support for young people, their families and the community in general.

Every community in the country is facing issues surrounding drug addiction, alcohol addiction and mental health difficulties. These are issues that are currently facing all young people.

A group of concerned local people from the Kinsale, Innishannon, Ballinhassig, Clontead, Courceys, and Tracton Abbey areas got together to look at how they could begin to tackle the issues facing their community. The group began by gathering professionals (doctors, teachers, Gardaí, business people, voluntary leaders, sports clubs, youth clubs), along with concerned parents and active members within the community.

The main committee consists of approximately 20 members in total. It was felt that by taking an area of about 10,000 houses they would be able to reach members of the community and the families of those attending the local schools.

The meetings began in the summer of 2010 and the initial discussion was on how best to support the young people in the community with these difficult topics. Many challenges face young people in relation to drugs, alcohol, and mental health issues so it was important to identify where information could be

made available.

From this idea it was agreed to consult with a number of second and third level students to ensure that the group was addressing the needs of the young people within the community. From these lengthy discussions it was decided that the first approach would be awareness. That if, as an organisation, the group could generate awareness around the issues facing young people, and members of the community, then they could provide them with the information to get support in facing these challenges.

It was decided to take a positive approach and to highlight the ways in which people can help themselves by accessing appropriate supports. It was decided that a three tier approach to generate this awareness would be important.

The first approach was a booklet. This booklet is unique in that it gives a brief description of the various issues that were identified by the young people themselves. The second approach was an Awareness Day in conjunction with the launch of the booklet that allowed the young people and members of the community to have actual contact with the support organisations that can help them through the difficulties associated with mental health, drugs and alcohol. This Awareness Day coincided with World Mental Health Day.

The final approach was decided on because most of the young people now have such a huge interest in technology

and the Internet that a website (www.kyss.ie) be constructed, with more detailed information than could be included in the booklet, with direct links to websites and information around the issues facing the young people in our communities.

The group was fortunate to secure the backing of the HSE for this very worthwhile project. They also feel that due to the nature of the project, that it is something that other communities would be able to develop. It is a model that could be easily adopted in other areas. It is only by researching the organisations operating in your local areas that you will be able to best support the people within your community.

The group have been in further discussion with the HSE and community organisations about putting programs in place to support parents and young people in the future to address the issues of drugs, alcohol and mental health.



Christmas Cheer in Bray

For a number of years the Community Policing team in Bray have been running an annual Christmas for older persons in residing in the community.

Along with their partners in the community, volunteers from St Fergal's Resource Centre in Ballywaltrim and Little Bray Resource Centre in Fassaroe, the Community Gardaí organise a wonderful Christmas event for the older, more vulnerable people living in the area.

Garda Tom Devereux and Garda Kieran Kilkenny steer the organising committee under the supervision of Sergeant John Fitzpatrick. They organise, provide transport to and from the event, including wheel chair accessible transport, a catering team and fresh food to provide Christmas dinner for 250 people, as well as sourcing refreshments and entertainment.

They have been extremely fortunate to have the Garda Band provide entertainment at the Christmas Party and without a doubt the band are the major attraction of the day and provide much Christmas cheer to all who attend.

The event is held in St Thomas' School every year, who kindly donate their

hall free of charge. The Community Team as a whole and volunteers transform the hall over the weekend to get it ready for the party. For the weekend of the party it's all hands on deck as they clear the hall of desks and chairs and get it ready for the party.

The hall in St Thomas's on Saturday morning the 1st of December was a blank canvas, but slowly but surely with hard work it was transformed.

The Garda Band were in full swing on Sunday afternoon 2nd December 2012 as the party really got under way.

Garda Adam Nolan who recently joined the Bray Community Team was a big hit on the day and was much in demand by every one present.

Generous donations from the local business community in Bray and fundraising by Garda Devereux and Kilkenny make it possible to run the event every year and cover the costs which can be quite substantial, while also allowing

the running of a generous raffle. However it is impossible to put a price on the amount of good will and positivity generated towards An Garda Síochána by running the event. Quite simply for many of the people that attend it is the highlight of their year.



Around The Country...



On Tuesday 30th October 2012, at the Department of Justice, Superintendent Colette Quinn, Director Juvenile Diversion Programme, An Garda Síochána, presented 6 young people involved with the KDYS MY (Mitchels Youth) Garda Diversion Project with bronze medals. These young people worked towards attaining the Bronze Award under Gaisce – The President's Award, which is the most prestigious Award in Ireland for young people aged 15 to 25.



On Wednesday 3rd October 2012, the Community Gardaí in County Roscommon held a "Harvest Gathering" for the older people of Co. Roscommon. This was the second year that such an event was organised. The Harvest Gathering took place in Fourmilehouse Community Centre. It began with mass in the local church, in which members of various Active Age Groups participated. The group of 250 people then went to the Community Centre, where they were able to view relevant information stands. Soup and sandwiches were provided to all attending, and this was followed by music and dancing. The event was a huge success and a great day was had by all.



Congratulations to Sophie Walker from St. Marys National School, Fairview on winning the competition to design the Christmas card for 2012. The competition was generously sponsored by Bank Of Ireland, Fairview. This Christmas Card was distributed to Residents and Businesses in the Raheny Garda District. A special congratulations to Sophie on re-enforcing the message of Road safety and arriving home safely at Christmas.



On Saturday 27th October 2012, seven (7) local clubs took part in the Mountbellew Garda U-10 Hurling Tournament (135 children). The final was between Mountbellew/Moylough and Ahascragh/Fohenagh clubs, with Mountbellew/Moylough club emerging as the winners. Medals were presented to the winners and runners-up by Sergeant Michael Feehily and Garda John Scully. Oliver King (retired JLO) presented his own cup to the captain of the winning team, Sean McDonagh. Garda Michael Hehir (Tuam Traffic Unit) was coach of the Tuam team.



Tralee Community Gardaí have launched a Neighbourhood Watch Contact Cards Initiative in order to help counteract against bogus callers. The cards will be distributed to householders so that if a person calls to the house offering to do work they can be handed the card, asked to fill in their details, and the householder will contact the caller if their services are required. If anyone would like these cards they can call into the Tralee Garda Station or telephone Community Policing Section on 066-7102300.



The inaugural Carlow Garda TY work experience programme took place at Carlow County Council Chamber on 3rd-5th December 2012. The initiative is the brainchild of Garda Ralph Holmes and was set up for the purpose of providing TY students with an insight into the workings of An Garda Síochána. This was a three day programme incorporating practical exercises and classroom instruction given by specialised Garda officers and others covering topics such as the role of Gardaí within the community, Road Traffic advise, Drugs and Crime detection and prevention, Juvenile Diversion Project, fingerprint taking and witness observation.

Around The Country...



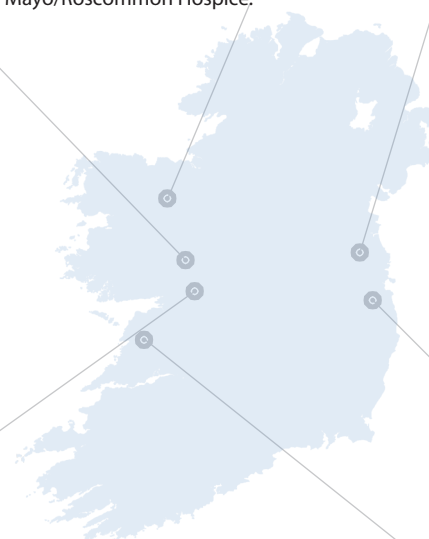
As part of the "Garda Supporting Safer Communities Campaign 2012" The Community Relations office at Swinford Garda station took a proactive approach to Crime Prevention by organising a Home Security Exhibition on Saturday 24th November at The Park Hotel Kiltimagh. Cub scouts, children and young people from the Swinford area attended and were excited to see the Garda Command and Control van, and other marked Garda cars including the RSU. The proceeds raised went directly towards Mayo/Roscommon Hospice.



Garda Kate Daly Ní Bhroin and Garda Dave Sheeran were presented with a boxing glove signed by 2012 Olympic Gold Medallist Katie Taylor, Team Ireland Olympic Boxing Team 2012, Michael Carruth 1992 Olympic Gold Medallist, Kenny Egan 2008 Olympic Silver medallist, and Billy Walsh Team Trainer, by the local Bracken boxing club in recognition of their commitment to positive engagement with the local community. Gardaí raffled the glove to increase awareness for ongoing community policing initiatives and raise funds for various projects where Gardaí engage with young people, older people groups, ethnic minorities and voluntary and charitable organisations. Tickets were raffled at the Balbriggan Garda Station Open Day. The winning ticket was drawn by Chief Superintendent Francis Clerkin. John Hanley of Lusk was the winner and was presented with the glove by Superintendent Noel Carolan.



Earlier this year, Roscommon Community Policing Unit in conjunction with Roscommon County Council organised a Poster Competition. This was the second year that the competition was held, and was open to 5th and 6th class pupils from primary schools in the Roscommon Garda District. Following a talk by local Gardaí, the pupils were asked to design a poster to raise public awareness of the importance of Road Safety. There was huge interest in the competition and a total of 531 pupils from 28 primary schools participated. Trophies were then presented to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd winners. Following the competition the best three posters from the 28 schools were displayed in Roscommon County Library.



Each year Gardaí from the Ballinasloe District organise and play in a multicultural 5-a-side soccer tournament. The tournament is held over one day on the August Bank Holiday Monday. Last year teams representing Brazil and Poland played against a team of retired and serving Gardaí. The tournament was supported by Haydens Hotel who provided refreshments, and Ballinasloe Soccer Club provided use of their pitches. Each participant was presented with a Medal which was provided by Community Relations & Community Policing section. The tournament allows for greater interaction between communities in Ballinasloe through sport.



Community Garda Deirdre Scanlan of Ennistymon Station recently presented older people in Ballyvaughan with high visibility vests to ensure their safety when out and about. Garda Scanlan has also begun an initiative of maintaining a number of high visibility vests in the patrol car of the District. This allows Gardaí on patrol to issue vests to any pedestrians/cyclists they encounter who are not wearing appropriate visible clothing.



Some brave members of the Garda Swimming Club took part in the Polar Plunge at the 40 Foot Sandycove on Saturday the 1st December 2012, in aid of the Special Olympics. All age groups, from the old to the very young members of the Club took part in what turned out to be a challenging but very enjoyable event. All participants were rewarded afterwards with soup, tea, coffee and plenty of nice goodies to warm up the blood after swimming in the freezing water. There was even a choir on hand on the day to encourage the not so brave swimmers to take the final plunge. The choir followed up their beautiful rendition of Christmas carols by jumping into the icy waters in their Santa suits!