DUTY

Aspects of the History of An Garda Síochána in Galway

DUALGAS

Gnéithe de Stair an Gharda Síochána i nGaillimh

AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA
GALWAY | GAILLIMH

An Garda Síochána

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Tá cuid de na grianghraif atá san áireamh stairiúil agus, cé nach mbeadh a gcáilíocht ag teacht le caighdeáin nua-aimseartha, is taifead luachmhar iad fós ar stair an Gharda Síochána.

Is leis na rannpháirtithe éagsúla féin na tuairimí agus na dearcthaí a chuirtear i láthair sa bhfoilseachán seo agus is iad na rannpháirtithe a chur an t-eolas ar fáil ina leith. Níl sé i gceist leo polasaí, tuairimí ná dearcthaí an Gharda Síochána ná Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe a léiriú.

Níl cead aon chuid den leabhar seo a atáirgeadh ná a chur ar aghaidh in aon fhoirm ná ar aon mhodh, leictreonach nó meicniúil, lena n-áirítear fótachóipeáil, taifeadadh nó trí aon chóras stórála agus aisghabhála faisnéise, gan cead i scríbhinn a bheith faighte ó na heagarthóirí, ach amháin chun athfhriotail ghearra a áireamh i léirmheas. Cé gur glacadh gach cúram chun cruinneas a chinntiú le linn thiomsú an fhoilseacháin seo, ní féidir leis na heagarthóirí ná leis an bhfoilsitheoir freagracht a ghlacadh as earráidí, neamhchruinneas, ná míchruinneas. Glactar agus foilsítear an fhaisnéis go léir de mheon macánta. Gach ceart ar cosaint.

Tabhair ar aird go bhféadfadh grianghraif áirithe a bheith as ord mar gheall ar shrianta dearaidh.

Foreword

As Chief Superintendent for the Galway Garda Division, I am honoured to contribute to this special publication, *Duty: Aspects of the History of An Garda Síochána in Galway.* This book offers a valuable overview of the development and legacy of An Garda Síochána in Galway City and county, from its earliest days to the present.

Across the county, many families have strong connections to the Garda organisation, with relatives who served in various roles over the decades. However, it is my sincere hope that all readers—regardless of personal or family ties—will find this book engaging and informative. It is a reflection not only of local policing history, but of the social and cultural fabric of Galway through the lens of the Garda service.

In addition to tracing the arrival of the Civic Guard in Galway in 1922, this publication includes personal accounts from retired members of the force. These chapters offer a unique perspective on the social history of Ireland during their years of service and provide insight into the calibre, character and commitment of those who served. Their stories are a testament to the values and dedication that have shaped An Garda Síochána over the years.

Gearóid de Róiste
Chief Superintendent / Ard-Cheannfort
Galway Garda Division / Rannán na Gaillimhe den Gharda Síochána

Brollach

I m'Ard-Cheannfort dom ar Rannán na Gaillimhe den Gharda, is mór an onóir dom focal a chur leis an bhfoilseachán speisialta, *Dualgas: Gnéithe de Stair an Gharda Síochána i nGaillimh.* Is fiúntach an léargas a thugtar sa leabhar seo ar theacht chun cinn an Gharda Síochána i gCathair agus i gContae na Gaillimhe agus ar an oidhreacht ó na laethanta tosaigh go dtínár linn féin.

Is iomaí teaghlach ar fud an chontae a bhfuil ceangal láidir acu le heagraíocht an Gharda, daoine dá muintir ag fónamh i rólanna éagsúla ar feadh blianta fada. Bíodh sin mar atá, tá súil agam go mbainfidh gach léitheoir—bíodh ceangal pearsanta i gceist nó ná bíodh—sásamh agus eolas as an leabhar. Tugtar léargas ann, ní hamháin ar stair na póilíneachta go háitiúil ach ar shaol sóisialta agus cultúir na Gaillimhe mar a fheictear sin trí obair an Gharda Síochána a scrúdú.

Chomh maith le tuairisc ar theacht an Gharda Sibhialta go Gaillimh sa bhliain 1922, tugtar cuntais phearsanta sa leabhar seo ó dhaoine den Gharda atá imithe ar scor. Tugtar léargas faoi leith sna caibidlí sin ar stair shóisialta na hÉireann nuair a bhí siad i mbun seirbhíse chomh maith le tuiscint ar mhianach, ar thréithe

An Garda Síochána

This book also addresses the unique position of the Gaeltacht in Galway, highlighting the distinct approach to policing in Irish-speaking communities and on the islands.

I wish to extend my grateful appreciation to the Editorial Team, Superintendent Damien Flanagan and Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council. Sincere thanks also to Galway County Council and the Commemoration Unit of The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for their funding and support.

Today, excellent young members continue to join the Galway Division, upholding the proud tradition of service to the people of this county. It is important that they and indeed all members of the organisation, are aware of our history and of those who came before us—especially during the challenging early years and the many demanding decades that followed.

As we face the fast-paced changes and evolving demands of modern policing, I am confident that An Garda Síochána in the Galway Division will continue to meet these challenges with professionalism, resilience and a deep commitment to the communities we serve.

I hope you enjoy the book.

Gearóid de Róiste
Chief Superintendent
Galway Garda Division

agus ar dhúthracht na nGardaí sin féin. Is teist a gcuid scéalta ar an meon aigne agus an díograis a bhí tábhachtach don Gharda Síochána ar feadh blianta fada.

Tugtar aird sa leabhar freisin ar chás faoi leith na Gaeltachta i nGaillimh agus ar ghnéithe sainiúla den chur chuige maidir le póilíneacht i gceantair inarb í an Ghaeilge teanga na ndaoine agus ar oileáin.

Is mian liom buíochas agus meas a chur in iúl don Mheitheal Eagarthóireachta, an Ceannfort Damien Ó Flannagáin agus Marie Mannion, An tOifigeach Oidhreachta, Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe. Buíochas ar leith freisin le Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe agus leis an Aonad Cuimhneacháin sa Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán as ucht cistí agus cúnamh taca a chur ar fáil.

Tá Gardaí óga sármhaithe ag ceangal le Rannán na Gaillimhe sa lá atá inniu ann a choinníonn ar bun an tseirbhís atá á déanamh le hoidhreacht do mhuintir an chontae seo. Is tábhachtach an rud go mbeidís-sean, agus go deimhin gach duine san eagraíocht, ar an eolas faoin stair agus faoi na daoine a chuaigh romhainn—go háirithe maidir leis na blianta anróiteacha i dtús ama agus dua na mblianta fada ina dhiaidh sin.

Tráth a bhfuil athruithe ag tarlú go tréan agus nithe nua á n-éileamh maidir le póilíneacht na linne seo, táimse lánchinnte go leanfaidh an Garda Síochána i Rannán na Gaillimhe den dualgas a chomhlíonadh go gairmiúil, go calma agus le teann dúthrachta don phobal a n-oibrítear ar a son.

Gur mór an sásamh duit an leabhar seo.

Gearóid de Róiste
Ard-Cheannfort
Rannán na Gaillimhe den Gharda Síochána

Message from Cllr David Collins, Cathaoirleach, Galway County Council

It is a great honour to mark the publication of *Duty: Aspects of the History of An Garda Síochána in Galway*, a joint endeavour between An Garda Síochána and the Heritage Office of Galway County Council. This book stands as a testament to the enduring relationship between the Gardaí and the people of Galway and to the values of service, integrity and community that have defined the force since its foundation.

This book is more than a historical record—it is a reflection of the enduring values of duty, service and community that have shaped the Garda presence in Galway for over a century. Through the voices of retired members, local historians and community contributors, we gain a deeper understanding of the human stories behind the uniform and the evolving role of the Gardaí in our society.

I commend all those who contributed to this important work and I especially acknowledge the collaborative efforts of the Heritage Office and An Garda Síochána in bringing it to life. It is a fitting tribute to those who have served and continue to serve with honour and dedication across our county.

Cllr / An Clr David Collins
Cathaoirleach, Galway County Council
Cathaoirleach Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe

Teachtaireacht ón gClr David Collins, Cathaoirleach Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe

Is mór an onóir focal a chur leis an bhfoilseachán seo *Dualgas: Gnéithe de Stair an Gharda Síochána i nGaillimh*, saothar i gcomhar idir an Garda Síochána agus an Oifig Oidhreachta i gComhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe. Is teist an leabhar seo ar an dea-chaidreamh atá go leanúnach idir na Gardaí agus muintir na Gaillimhe agus ar an meon seirbhíse agus ionracais agus an ceangal leis an bpobal atá ina saintréithe leis an bhfórsa ó thráth a bhunaithe.

Tá níos mó i gceist leis an leabhar ná cuntas staire—is léiriú é ar an tábhacht a bhí go seasta síoraí le dualgas, fónamh agus feidhmiú don phobal atá le lua le saothar na nGardaí i nGaillimh le céad bliain anuas agus níos mó. Tugann tuairiscí ó Ghardaí atá ar scor, ó staraithe áitiúla agus ó dhaoine den phobal, tuiscint níos doimhne dúinn ar scéalta na ndaoine féin a chaith éide an Gharda agus ar an athrú a tháinig ar ról na nGardaí i saol na Gaillimhe.

Tréaslaím a saothar le gach duine a chuir leis an obair thábhachtach seo agus molaim go háirithe an dícheall a rinne an Oifig Oidhreachta agus an

Galway Gardaí c. late 1920s. Photo source: An Garda Síochána.
Gardaí na Gaillimhe c. 1920idí déanacha. Grianghraf: An Garda Síochána.

As Cathaoirleach, I am proud that Galway County Council has played a role in bringing this important work to fruition. It is my hope that this book will be read not only as a historical account, but as a tribute to the duty and commitment of all who have served—and continue to serve—in An Garda Síochána in Galway.

Cllr David Collins
Cathaoirleach, Galway County Council

Garda Síochána i gcomhar. Is breá an t-ómós é don uile Gharda a rinne, agus a dhéanann, dualgas go dúthrachtach díograiseach ar fud an chontae.

I mo Chathaoirleach dom, is díol mórtais go raibh baint ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe leis an saothar seo a thabhairt i gcrích. Tá súil agam go léifear an leabhar seo, ní hamháin ina chuntas staire, ach le hómós don dúthracht agus don dícheall a chaith gach duine a shaothraigh—agus a shaothraíonn—leis an nGarda Síochána i nGaillimh lena gcuid dualgais.

An Clr David Collins
Cathaoirleach Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe

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This publication would not have been possible without the dedication and contributions of many individuals and organisations.

We gratefully recognise the contributions of the following: Dr Conor McNamara, GCC Historian-in-Residence; Mary Burke; Anne Tierney, Bernadette Forde; Antoinette Lydon; Hazel Morrison; Willie Henry; Michéal Ó Máille; Tom Gilmore; Killimor Heritage Society; John Kelly, Chief Superintendent (Retd); Rose O'Reilly; Paul McWalter, Sergeant (Retd); Con Mulvy, Garda (Retd); Jim Cuddy, Garda (Retd); P.J. Colleran Superintendent (Retd) and Pat Gallaghar, Garda (Retd).

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Administrative support was provided by Ita Gordon, Martina Creaven, Gina O'Shaughnessy and Anne Power of Galway County Council.

Sincere thanks to Muirne Lyons of the Commemorations Unit, to Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, for her generous support and assistance throughout this project.

Buíochas

Ní fhéadfaí an foilseachán seo a chur ar fáil murach an díograis agus an cion tairbhe a rinne cuid mhór daoine agus eagraíochtaí.

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We also acknowledge the work of Marianne ten Cate (Proofreading), Damien Goodfellow (Graphic Design) and Europus (Translation).

This publication was generously funded by Galway County Council and the Commemorations Unit of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

We also extend our appreciation to all those who contributed to this publication in various ways, including those whom we may have inadvertently omitted. Your assistance was deeply valued.

Admhaítear freisin an obair a rinne Marianne ten Cate (Profáil), Damien Goodfellow (Dearthóireacht Grafaice) agus Europus (Aistriúchán).

Chuir Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe agus an tAonad Cuimhneacháin sa Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán cistíocht ar fáil go fial don fhoilseachán.

Glactar buíochas freisin le gach duine a chuidigh leis an bhfoilseachán seo ar bhealaí éagsúla agus leithscéal leo siúd a fágadh ar lár de thimpiste. Ba mhór againn an cúnamh uilig.

**Sergeant Dan Gallagher and child; taken in Carna *c.* 1925.
Courtesy of Tony Gallagher.**

**An Sáirsint Dan Gallagher agus leanbh; glactha i gCarna *c.* 1925.
Le caoinchead Tony Gallagher.**

Introduction

This book, *Duty: Aspects of the History of an Gharda Síochána in Galway*, is a collaborative publication by An Garda Síochána and the Heritage Office of Galway County Council. It offers a rich and varied insight into the lives, work and legacy of Gardaí who served in Galway City and county from the foundation of the force to the present day.

Rather than presenting a comprehensive history, this volume brings together a collection of personal memories, historical records and community reflections that highlight different aspects of Garda life in Galway. It includes chapters written by retired members of An Garda Síochána, who share their experiences from their first days in the force through to retirement, offering a deeply personal view of their careers and the communities they served.

We are especially indebted to Dr Conor McNamara for his contribution to the chapters on the early history of An Garda Síochána. His research and writing provide essential context and depth to the origins of the force in Galway and its development through the decades.

The book also features contributions from local historians and members of the public, whose interest in and respect for the role of An Garda Síochána in Galway is evident in their thoughtful chapters. These pieces provide valuable context and community perspectives, enriching the historical narrative with local voices and insights.

A significant portion of the material was preserved thanks to the dedication of Clerical Officer Mary Flanagan, who safeguarded many important Garda books and records over the years at Mill Street Garda Station. Her efforts have ensured that these valuable resources could be shared and appreciated by a wider audience.

Réamhrá

Foilseachán i gcomhar, idir an Garda Síochána agus Oifig Oidhreachta Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe, an leabhar seo *Dualgas: Gnéithe de Stair an Gharda Síochána i nGaillimh.* Tugtar léargas forleathan ilchineálach ann ar shaol, ar shaothar agus ar oidhreacht na nGardaí a rinne fónamh i gcathair agus i gcontae na Gaillimhe ó cuireadh an Garda ar bun anuas go dtí an lá inniu.

Ní haon chuntas lánchuimsitheach staire amháin a chur ar fáil a bhí de chuspóir leis an leabhar ach cuimhní cinn, taifid staire agus tuairimí an phobail a chnuasach le chéile óna mbeadh léargas ar ghnéithe éagsúla de shaol na nGardaí i nGaillimh. Tá caibidlí ann a scríobh Gardaí atá ar scor, tuairisc á tabhairt acu ar an saol ón gcéad lá ina nGardaí acu go dtí go ndeachaigh siad ar pinsean, cuntas an-phearsanta á chur i láthair ar a ré gairme féin agus ar an bpobal sna comharsanachtaí a rabhthas ag fónamh dóibh.

Táthar go mór faoi chomaoin ag an Dr Conor McNamara mar gheall ar na caibidlí a chuir sé ar fáil faoi stair luathré an Gharda Síochána. Tá comhthéacs agus domhaintuiscint ar fáil óna chuid taighde agus scríbhneoireachta ar thús ré an Gharda Síochána i nGaillimh agus ar athruithe le himeacht aimsire.

Tá ábhar sa leabhar freisin ó staraithe áitiúla agus ó dhaoine den phobal ar léir a gcuid spéise i ról an Gharda Síochána, agus a gcuid measa, ar a gcuid caibidlí tuisceanacha. Is tairbheach an comhthéacs, agus an léiriú ar thuairimí an phobail, a chuirtear ar fáil leis an ábhar sin; is treisiú leis an gcuntas staire an lón léargais ó mhuintir na háite.

Tá sciar suntasach den bhunábhar ar mar gheall ar dhúthracht Mary Flanagan, Oifigeach Cléireachais, a coinníodh ar chaoi a shábhála é ós ise a chumhdaigh cuid mhór de leabhair agus de thaifid thábhachtacha an Gharda ar feadh

An Garda Síochána

The book traces the arrival of the first Gardaí to Galway on 25th September 1922, marking the beginning of a new chapter in Irish policing. It also includes excerpts from local newspapers, which reflect the everyday life of Gardaí in their communities—focusing more on their social roles and interactions than on policing duties.

Illustrated with a selection of excellent photographs, this book aims to honour the contribution of An Garda Síochána to Galway's history and community life. It is a tribute to the men and women who serve with dedication and integrity and a celebration of the enduring relationship between Gardaí and the people of Galway.

Dedication

Since the foundation of An Garda Síochána, thousands of Gardaí have served across County Galway. Unfortunately, it was not possible to include the memories, details and photographs of all these members in this publication. However, by way of acknowledgement, we dedicate this book to all who have served—and continue to serve—as members of An Garda Síochána in County Galway.

> *The citizen expected police officers to have the wisdom of Solomon, the courage of David, the strength of Samson, the patience of Job, the leadership of Moses, the kindness of the Good Samaritan, the strategical training of Alexander, the faith of Daniel, the diplomacy of Lincoln, the tolerance of the carpenter of Nazareth and finally an intimate knowledge of every branch of the natural, biographical and social sciences. If he had all of these he might be a good policeman.*

(Professor August Vollmer, *The Police and Modern Society*).

na mblianta i mBeairic na nGardaí ar Shráid an Mhuilinn. De thoradh a cuid díograise is féidir na foinsí fiúntacha sin a chur i láthair lucht léite i bhfad níos forleithne anois.

Tá cuntas sa leabhar seo ar theacht na nGardaí is luaithe a bhí i nGaillimh ar an 25 Meán Fómhair 1922, tús le ré nua póilíneachta in Éirinn. Tugtar sleachta freisin as páipéir nuachta áitiúla ina bhfuil léargas ar ghnáthshaol na nGardaí i measc an phobail—le béim níos mó ar an ról sóisialta agus an caidreamh le muintir na háite ná ar chúrsaí póilíneachta.

Féachtar sa leabhar, ina bhfuil rogha breá grianghraf freisin, le haird a thabhairt ar an tábhacht atá leis an nGarda Síochána maidir le stair na Gaillimhe agus saol an phobail ann. Táthar á fhoilsiú in ómós do na fir agus na mná a dhéanann dualgas le teann dúthrachta agus ionracais agus mar cheiliúradh ar an gcaidreamh buan idir na Gardaí agus muintir na Gaillimhe.

Tíolacadh

Rinne na mílte Gardaí fónamh i gContae na Gaillimhe ó cuireadh an Garda Síochána ar bun. Níorbh fhéidir, faraor, cuimhní cinn, sonraí pearsanta ná grianghraif iomlána na mball a thabhairt le chéile san aon fhoilseachán amháin seo. Déantar mar sin féin, mar chomhartha ómóis, an leabhar seo a thíolacadh don uile dhuine a rinne—agus a dhéanann—dualgas ina mball den Gharda Síochána i gContae na Gaillimhe.

Dóibh siúd a bhí agus atá go fóill ar garda—is é an fónamh a rinne sibh ábhar an scéil seo.

Damien Ó Flannagáin
Superintendent / An Garda Síochana
Ceannfort / An Garda Síochana

Marie Mannion
Heritage Officer / An tOifigeach Oidhreachta,
Galway County Council / Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe

CONTENTS / CLÁR

	Page / Lch
1. The Royal Irish Constabulary, 1822~1922	1
1. Constáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann, 1822~1922	1
2. Republican Policing During the Independence Struggle, 1918~21	5
2. Póilíní Poblachtánacha agus an Troid ar son an Neamhspleáchais, 1918~21	5
3. Foundation of the Civic Guard in Galway, 1922	9
3. Bunú an Gharda Shibhialta i nGaillimh, 1922	9
4. Christmas in Collinstown, 1922	14
4. Faoi Nollaig i mBaile Choilín, 1922	14
5. An Garda Síochána 1920s~1930s	19
5. An Garda Síochána 1920í~1930í	19
6. Tuam Civic Guards	27
6. Na Gardaí Sibhialta i dTuaim	27
7. Garda Frank O'Rourke Reg. No: 1756	33
7. An Garda Frank O'Rourke, Uimhir chláraithe 1756	33
8. Garda Reserve	37
8. An Taca Síochána	37
9. Women in An Garda Síochána, Galway	40
9. Mná sa Gharda Síochána, Gaillimh	40
10. The First Garda Flag	49
10. An Chéad Bhratach Gardaí	49
11. An Garda Síochána 1930: Places and Stations	52
11. An Garda Síochána 1930: Áiteanna agus Beairicí	52
12. Garda Síochána in Killererin	70
12. An Garda Síochána i gCill Fhir Iarainn	70
13. Garda Síochána in Oughterard	75
13. An Garda Síochána in Uachtar Ard	75
14. Garda Síochána in Moycullen	90
14. An Garda Síochána i Maigh Cuilinn	90
15. Garda Síochána Gort	97
15. An Garda Síochána ar an nGort	97

An Garda Síochána

CONTENTS / CLÁR

	Page / Lch
16. Bookeen Garda Barracks	103
16. Beairic Gardaí an Bhuaicín	103
17. Historical Aspects (Galway Gardaí)	108
17. Roinnt Gnéithe Stairiúla (na Gardaí i nGaillimh)	108
18. Policing in relation to the Gaeltacht and the Irish language	119
18. Póilíneacht maidir le lucht na Gaeltachta agus na Gaeilge	119
19. Connemara Insights	126
19. An Garda Síochána i gConamara: Léargas	126
20. Garda Uniform	130
20. Éide an Gharda	130
21. Equipment	135
21. Trealamh	135
22. Transport	139
22. Iompar	139
23: Galway Garda Síochána Chief Superintendents	143
23: Ard-Cheannfoirt Gharda Síochána na Gaillimhe	143
24. Newspaper Articles	145
24. Ailt sna Nuachtáin	145
25. John Fitzgerald Kennedy in Galway	159
25. John Fitzgerald Kennedy i nGaillimh	159
26. Sport	166
26. Spórt	166
27. A Killimor Christmas	175
27. An Nollaig i gCill Íomair	175
28. A Family's Service	179
28. Seirbhís Teaghlaigh	179
29. Sergeant Michael O'Reilly (Retired)	185
29. An Sáirsint Michael O'Reilly (Ar Scor)	185
30. Across the Years	190
30. Le himeacht na mblianta	190

CONTENTS / CLÁR

	Page / Lch
31. An Garda Síochána – Garda Staff	202
31. An Garda Síochána – Foireann an Gharda	202
32. Community Policing	206
32. Póilíneacht Phobail	206
33. Roll of Honour, Galway Division	211
33. An Rolla Onóra, Rannán na Gaillimhe	211
34. Scott Medals	215
34. Boinn Scott	215
35. Garda Rank Structure	222
35. Gráid an Gharda	222
36. Garda Regions	223
36. Réigiúin na nGardaí	223
37. First Galway Man to Lead the Gardaí	224
37. An Chéad Fhear as Gaillimh leis na Gardaí a Stiúradh	224
38. Sergeant Paul McWalter (Retired)	228
38. An Sáirsint Paul McWalter (Ar Scor)	228
39. Chief Superintendent Bill Fennell (Retired)	239
39. An tArd-Cheannfort Bill Fennell (Ar Scor)	239
40. Garda Con Mulvey, Retired	244
40. An Garda Con Mulvey (Ar Scor)	244
41. Garda Jim Cuddy (Retired)	253
41. An Garda Jim Cuddy (Ar Scor)	253
42. Superintendent P.J. Colleran, 14552A (Retired)	257
42. An Ceannfort P. J. Ó Callaráin, 14552A (Ar Scor)	257
43. Garda Pat Gallagher (Retired)	263
43. An Garda Pádraig Ó Gallachóir (Ar Scor)	263
Conclusion	268
Clabhsúr	268
Photo Gallery	274
Gailearaí na nGrianghraf	274

Eglinton Street RIC Barracks c. 1910. Photo courtesy of: Tom Kenny.
Beairic an RIC i Sráid Eglinton c. 1910. Grianghraf le caoinchead: Tom Kenny.

1. The Royal Irish Constabulary, 1822~1922

The Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) was founded by an act of the British Parliament in 1822. For organisational purposes, Galway was divided into two districts, East and West, commanded by two County Inspectors who reported to the RIC Commissioner in Dublin Castle. The religion of the ordinary ranks of the force tended to reflect that of the wider community; however, at senior level, the force was overwhelmingly non-Catholic throughout its history.

1. Constáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann, 1822~1922

Bunaíodh Constáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann (an RIC) le hacht Pharlaimint na Breataine sa bhliain 1822 agus chun críocha eagraíochtúla, roinneadh Gaillimh ina dhá dhúiche, Thoir agus Thiar, faoi cheannas bheirt Chigirí Contae a thuairiscigh chuig Coimisinéir an RIC i gCaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath. Muintir an phobail i gcoitinne a bhí sna céimeanna ísle go hiondúil, ach ag leibhéal na sinsearachta, fíorbheagán Caitliceach a bhí ann ó thús deireadh an fhórsa.

The two Royal Irish Constabulary members are probably supervising cleaning-up operations after a fair at Ahascragh, Co. Galway. Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.
Is dóigh go bhfuil an bheirt chomhaltaí de Chonstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann i mbun maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar ghlanadh suas i ndiaidh aonach in Áth Eascrach, Co. na Gaillimhe. Le caoinchead Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann.

From its foundation, the force faced particular challenges in Galway due to the persistence of land hunger among the poor, who organised themselves in secret societies and resorted to cattle driving and violent disputes over land; as a result, County Galway had the highest concentration of police in the entire country.

The *Connacht Tribune* declared in an editorial in March 1915:

> *The second main factor after drunkenness that leads to unrest in the County is the delay in the agrarian settlement of certain districts. Unfortunately, this leads to evils by no means directly connected with the land problem, for there is no disguising the fact that instances have occurred where reckless irresponsible men have made so-called agrarian emancipation the cloak*

Ó bunaíodh an fórsa, bhí dúshláin ar leith roimhe i nGaillimh mar gheall go raibh saint chun talún de shíor ar cheann de na clocha is mó ar an bpaidrín i measc bhochtáin na Gaillimhe. Fadhbanna a thagtaí aníos arís is arís eile iad cumainn rúnda, seoladh eallaigh agus babhtaí aighnis foréigneacha arbh é an talamh ba bhun leo; is é seo an chúis a raibh an méid is mó póilíní i gContae na Gaillimhe i gcomparáid le háit ar bith eile sa tír.

Dúradh an méid seo a leanas in eagarfhocal sa *Connacht Tribune* i Márta 1915:

> *The second main factor after drunkenness that leads to unrest in the County is the delay in the agrarian settlement of certain districts. Unfortunately, this leads to evils by no means directly connected with the land problem, for*

for acts of outrage that bring disgrace and shame upon the whole community.

Mediating in disputes over land would remain a challenge for the police for many decades. In 1914, the District Inspector for East Galway informed Dublin Castle that "land hunger is very keen around Athenry and the forces of disorder there are thoroughly organised and quite unscrupulous."

there is no disguising the fact that instances have occurred where reckless irresponsible men have made so-called agrarian emancipation the cloak for acts of outrage that bring disgrace and shame upon the whole community.

Bheadh sé fós ina dhúshlán ag na póilíní idirghabháil a dhéanamh i gcásanna aighnis faoi chúrsaí talún go ceann na ndeicheanna de bhlianta eile. Chuir an Cigire Dúiche i nGaillimh Thoir in iúl do lucht Chaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath sa bhliain 1914 go raibh saint chun talún an-choitianta timpeall Bhaile Átha an Rí agus go raibh fórsaí na hainrialach ann an-eagraithe agus go hiomlán gan scrupall.

RIC Officer, Main Street, Athenry, *c.* 1911. Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.
Oifigeach Chonstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann, An Príomhshráid, Baile Átha an Rí, *c.* 1911.
Le caoinchead Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann.

A mixture of local RIC, Black and Tans and the D Company Auxiliaries were responsible for policing in 1920. Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.
Grúpa ina bhfuil meascán den RIC, na Dúchrónaigh agus Póilíní Cúnta Chomplacht D a bhí freagrach as póilíneacht sna 1920idí. Le caoinchead Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann.

2. Republican Policing During the Independence Struggle, 1918~21

The formation of the notorious Black and Tans during the Independence struggle resulted in a series of atrocities committed by this force across Galway, including the burning of Tuam on 19 July 1920 and the notorious murders of Fr Michael Griffin, the Loughnane brothers and Mrs Eileen Quinn later the same year. In March 1921, the RIC County Inspector for Galway West wrote: "The life of the police is scarcely bearable. They are shamed and boycotted and for the most part cannot get the necessities of life unless they commandeer them. The people generally are out for a republic and they propose to get it."

2. Póilíní Poblachtánacha agus an Troid ar son an Neamhspleáchais, 1918~21

Rinne na póilíní go leor ainghníomhartha i nGaillimh le bunú na nDúchrónach míchlúiteach le linn na Troda ar son an Neamhspleáchais, lena n-áirítear loscadh Thuama an 19 Iúil 1920 agus dúnmharuithe scannalacha an Athar Michael Griffin, na nDeartháireacha Loughnane agus Eileen Quinn uasal níos déanaí an bhliain chéanna. Seo mar a scríobh an Cigire Dúiche i nGaillimh Thiar i Márta 1921: "The life of the police is scarcely bearable. They are shamed and boycotted and for the most part cannot get the necessities of life unless they commandeer them. The people

West Connemara flying column of the Irish Volunteers.
Permission to use provided by Leonard Collection (copyright owner).
Colún reatha Iarthar Chonamara d'Óglaigh na hÉireann.
Le cead Bhailiúchán Leonard (úinéir cóipchirt).

The actions of the Black and Tans left the reputation of the RIC in tatters and an editorial in the *Tuam Herald* pleaded for a respite from police reprisals as "the country is bleeding to death, bleeding at every pore." During the same month, Archbishop Gilmartin of Tuam wrote: "if the full tale of flogging, burning, terrorism and looting could be told, the whole picture would make even savages ashamed."

While the RIC was boycotted by the community, the Irish Volunteers began performing the role of the police and republican courts were particularly effective in reconciling disputes over land. Volunteer John Feehan recalled:

> *Wholesale sheep stealing was prevalent throughout Connemara at this time and the RIC were taking no action. We made a roundup of the Twelve Pins with a force of Volunteers and*

generally are out for a republic and they propose to get it."

Scrios gníomhartha na nDúchrónach cáil an RIC go hiomlán agus impíodh in eagarfhocal sa *Tuam Herald* go bhfaighfí faoiseamh ó dhíoltas na bpóilíní mar go raibh an tír ag fáil bháis de dheasca cailleadh fola, ag cur fola ó bhaithis go bonn. Le linn na míosa céanna, scríobh an tArdeaspag Gilmartin, Ardeaspag Thuama, a leanas: 'if the full tale of flogging, burning, terrorism and looting could be told the whole picture would make even savages ashamed'.

Ó tharla go raibh an pobal ag déanamh baghcat ar an RIC, ghlac Óglaigh na hÉireann ról na bpóilíní orthu féin agus bhí na cúirteanna poblachtánacha éifeachtach go maith ó thaobh aighneas faoi chúrsaí talún a réiteach. Chuimhnigh an tÓglach John Feehan ar a leanas:

Volunteers from the 2nd Battalion (Claregalway, Annaghdown and Kilcoona) of the Mid-Galway Brigade IRA at Killeen Castle, Castlegar, 1921. Courtesy of Cathy Fahy. Colourised by Brendan McGowan.
Óglaigh de chuid an 2ú Cathlán (Baile Chláir, Eanach Dhúin agus Cill Chuanna) de Bhriogáid Lár na Gaillimhe den IRA ag Caisleán an Chillín, An Caisleán Gearr, 1921. Le caoinchead Cathy Fahy. Daite ag Brendan McGowan.

farmers concerned and collected the sheep into one area where the farmers could collect their stolen sheep.

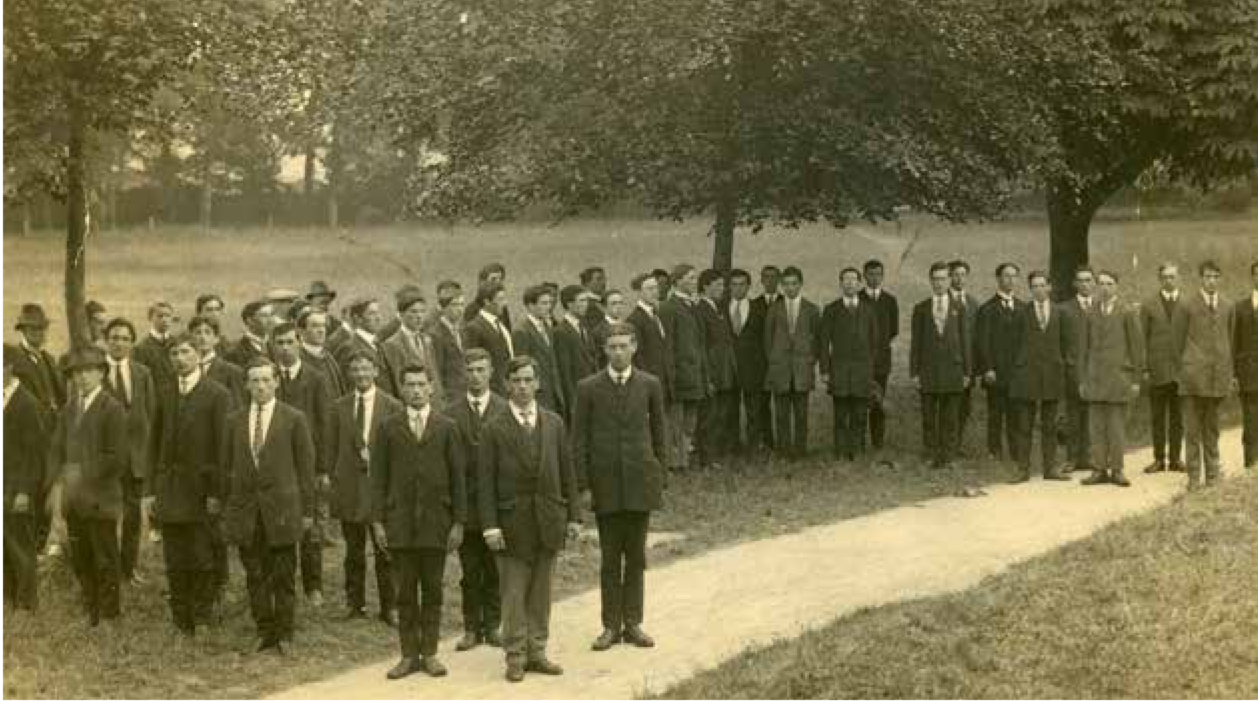
Volunteer Thomas Mannion recalled that in north Galway:

Some disputes between neighbours never went into the courts but were settled by the Volunteers. Such cases still hold good. The people then had a very great regard for the sincerity of the Volunteers and sank their small differences out of respect for them.

Wholesale sheep stealing was prevalent throughout Connemara at this time and the RIC were taking no action. We made a roundup of the Twelve Pins with a force of Volunteers and farmers concerned and collected the sheep into one area where the farmers could collect their stolen sheep.

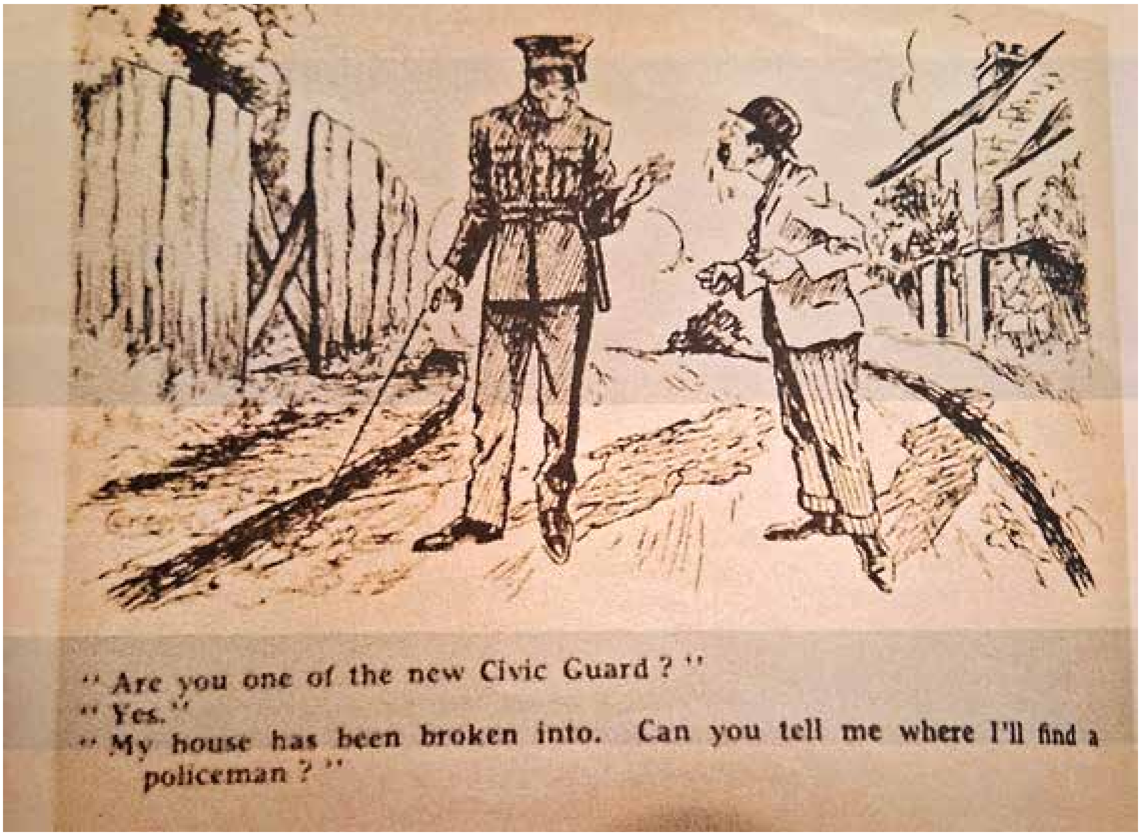
Chuimhnigh an tÓglach Thomas Mannion ar an méid seo a bhain le Tuaisceart na Gaillimhe:

Some disputes between neighbours never went into the courts but were settled by the Volunteers. Such cases still hold good. The people then had a very great regard for the sincerity of the Volunteers and sank their small differences out of respect for them.



The UCG Volunteers, 1918; many of these young men were involved in republican land courts and policing during the independence struggle. Courtesy of the Hardiman Library, University of Galway.
Óglaigh Choláiste na hOllscoile, Gaillimh, 1918; bhí baint ag go leor de na fir óga seo le cúirteanna talún poblachtaigh agus i bpóilíneacht le linn choimhlint an neamhspleáchais. Le caoinchead Leabharlann Hardiman, Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh.

Kevin O'Higgins Esq. Minister of Home Affairs addressing the Civic Guard on their return to the Phoenix Park Depot. Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.
An tUasal Kevin O'Higgins, an tAire Gnóthaí Baile ag labhairt leis an nGarda Sibhialta ar filleadh chuig Iosta Pháirc an Fhionnuisce dóibh. Le caoinchead Leabharlann Hardiman, Ollscoil na Gaillimhe.



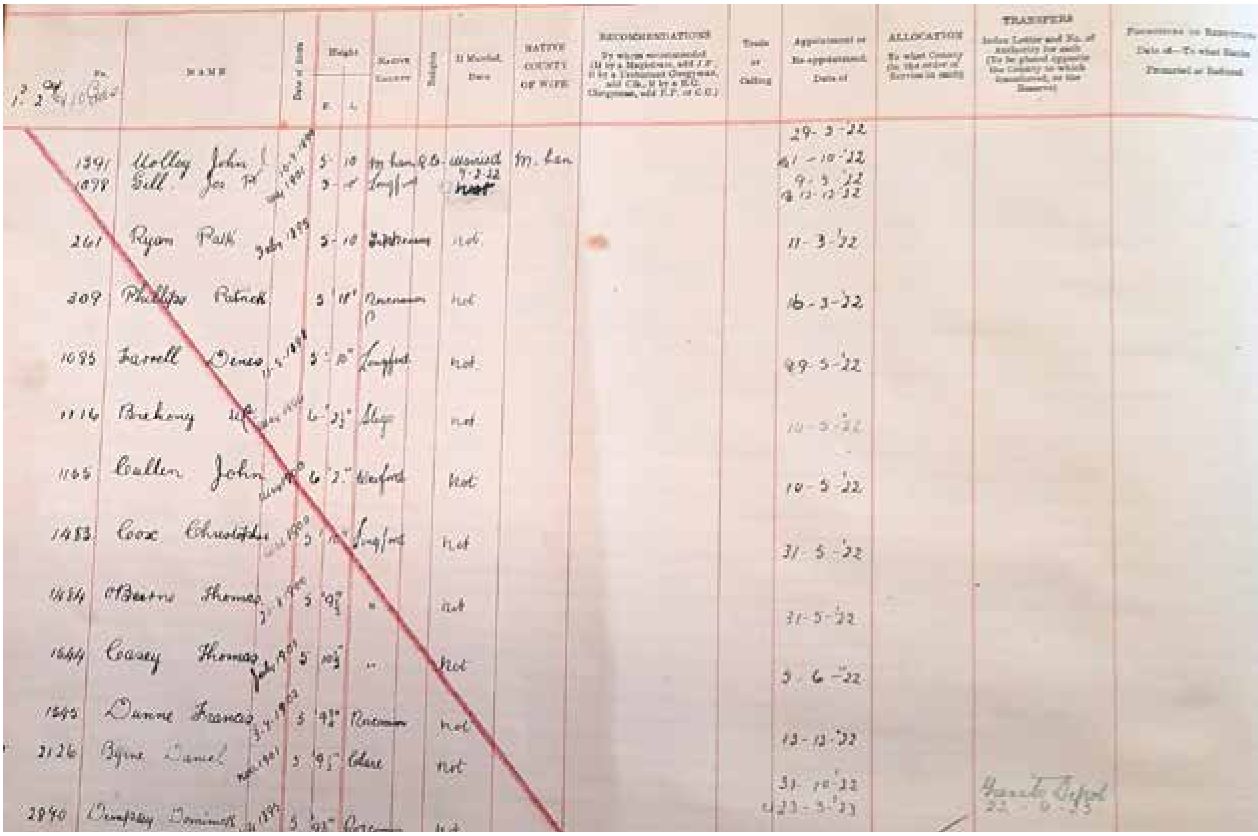
Foundation of the Civic Guard in Galway, *Dublin Opinion Cartoon,* 1922.
Cartún faoin nGarda Sibhialta nua. Grianghraf: *Dublin Opinion Cartoon,* 1922.

3. Foundation of the Civic Guard in Galway, 1922

The establishment of the Free State led to the withdrawal of the RIC from barracks across the County in March 1922. Initially, policing was then the responsibility of the National Army. Officer Laurence Flynn recalled that, when he took command of the Loughrea RIC Barracks, the departing British officer declared: "Hurry up and get finished with this farce, we will be back again soon."

3. Bunú an Gharda Shibhialta i nGaillimh, 1922

Le bunú an tSaorstáit, tarraingíodh amach an RIC as beairicí ar fud an Chontae i mí Márta na bliana 1922. I dtús báire, bhí freagracht na póilíneachta ar an Arm Náisiúnta agus chuimhnigh an tOifigeach Laurence Flynn ar an uair a raibh sé ag teacht i gceannas ar bheairic an RIC i mBaile Locha Riach, tráth ar scairt oifigeach na Breataine a bhí ar tí imeacht an méid seo: 'hurry up and get finished with this farce, we will be back again soon.'



First Gardaí in Ballinasloe, 1922. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.
Na chéad Ghardaí i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe, 1922. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

In early 1922, the *Connacht Tribune* noted that "it is necessary to have an efficient, highly trained, independent police force. We should prefer an entirely civil force, responsible to the people in each area, free from any political bias." The paper continued:

> *Police work in Galway is left to the military. This is an impossible situation, for the simple reason that the military frankly dislike police work, are not trained or fitted for it and have no real interest in police efficiency.*

Commandant Sean Broderick, 1st Western Division, National Army, began receiving applications for intending police recruits for

Ag tús na bliana 1922, luadh sa *Connacht Tribune* go raibh sé riachtanach fórsa póilíneachta éifeachtúil, sár-oilte, neamhspleách a bheith againn. Go mb'fhearr linn i bhfad fórsa iomlán sibhialta, a bheadh freagrach don phobal i ngach ceantar, gan claonadh polaitíochta ar bith acu. Dúradh freisin sa nuachtán:

> *Police work in Galway is left to the military. This is an impossible situation, for the simple reason that the military frankly dislike police work, are not trained or fitted for it and have no real interest in police efficiency.*

Thosaigh an Ceannfort Sean Broderick, 1ú Rannán an Iarthair, an tArm Náisiúnta, ag

Garda Headquarters, Phoenix Park, Dublin, 1939. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.
Ceanncheathrú an Gharda Síochána, Páirc an Fhionnuisce, Baile Átha Cliath, 1939. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

examination at Lenaboy Castle, Galway, in March 1922. An early set back occurred, however, when a section of republican forces took over the premises in the first week of April and seized all papers pertaining to police recruitment.

The first detachment of the Civic Guard in Galway was transferred from Dublin during the last week of September, 25 men being stationed in the County Club, Galway. A similar-sized force was established on the same day in Ballinasloe. On their arrival, the new commander stated to the papers:

glacadh le hiarratais uathusan a raibh sé i gceist acu a bheith ina n-earcaigh póilíneachta le scrúdú a chur orthu i gCaisleán an Léana Báite, Gaillimh i Márta 1922. Buaileadh buille air ag céim luath, áfach, nuair a thóg gasra d'fhórsaí poblachtánacha an t-áitreabh ar lámh le linn na chéad seachtaine in Aibreán agus gabhadh na doiciméid ar fad a bhain le hearcú póilíní.

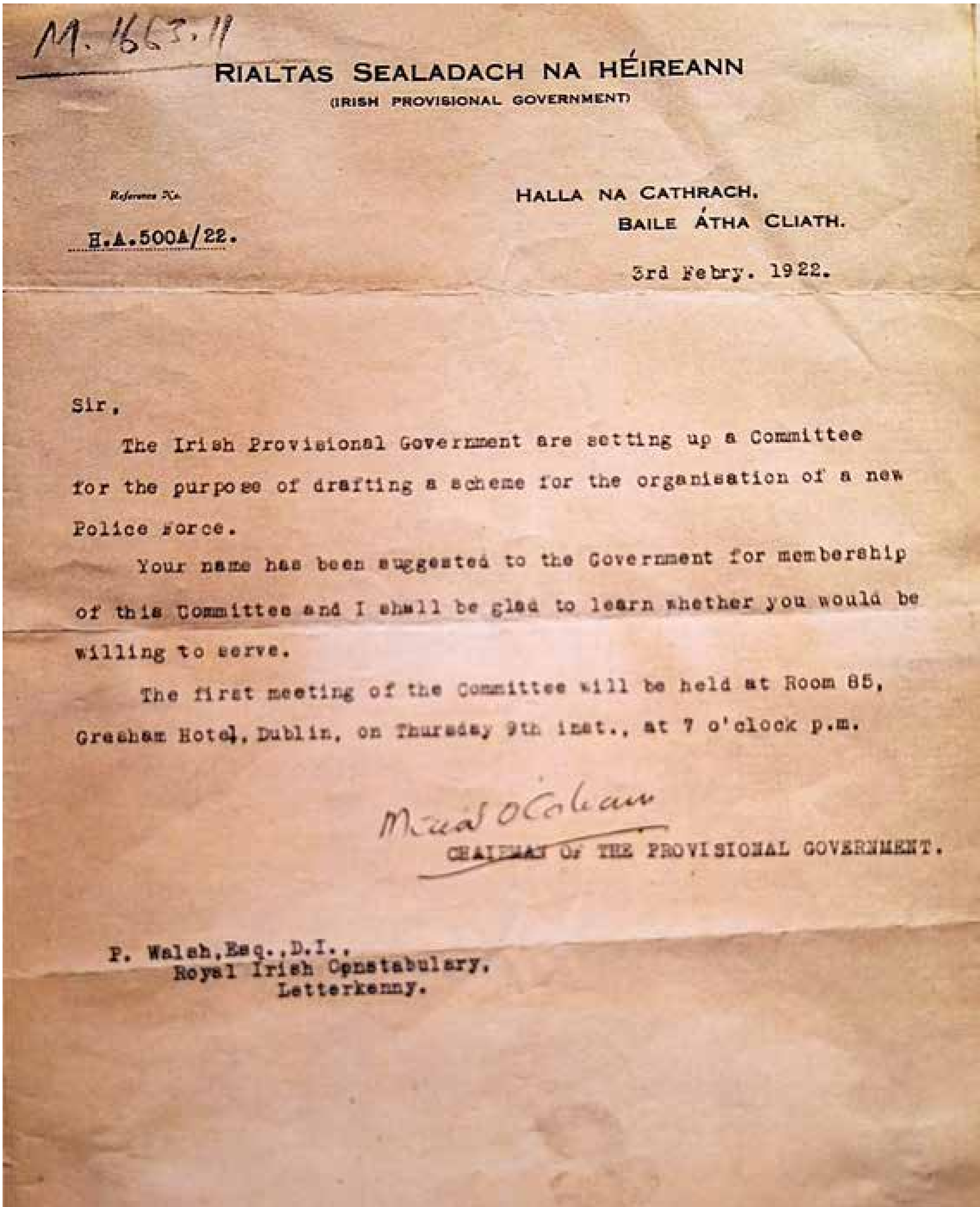
Aistríodh an chéad díorma den Gharda Sibhialta i nGaillimh ó Bhaile Átha Cliath le linn sheachtain dheireanach mhí Mheán Fómhair, tráth a lonnaíodh 25 fear i gClub an Chontae, Gaillimh;

Garda Andrew Gara. 298. A native of Roscommon, who joined the force in 1922. He retired in 1952. Courtesy of Maura O'Riordan.
An Garda Andrew Gara. Uimhir Chláraithe 298. Ba as Ros Comáin é ó dhúchas agus chuaigh san fhórsa sa bhliain 1922. D'éirigh sé as sa bhliain 1952. Le caoinchead Maura O'Riordan.

We are an entirely civil force and do not carry any fire arms. Our only weapon is a truncheon and our mission is to carry out the civil law quite irrespective of party or politics. We shall consult with the local parish and district judges as to how this may best be done in this area.

bunaíodh fórsa den mhéid céanna, a bheag nó a mhór, ón díorma céanna ar an lá céanna i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe. I ráiteas a thug sé do na nuachtáin ar theacht go Gaillimh dóibh, dúirt an Ceannfort nua:

We are an entirely civil force and do not carry any fire arms. Our only weapon is a truncheon and our mission is to carry out the civil law quite irrespective of party or politics. We shall consult with the local parish and district judges as to how this may best be done in this area.



M. 1653.11

RIALTAS SEALADACH NA HÉIREANN
(IRISH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT)

Reference No.
H.A.500A/22.

HALLA NA CATHRACH,
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH.

3rd Febry. 1922.

Sir,

The Irish Provisional Government are setting up a Committee for the purpose of drafting a scheme for the organisation of a new Police force.

Your name has been suggested to the Government for membership of this Committee and I shall be glad to learn whether you would be willing to serve.

The first meeting of the Committee will be held at Room 85, Gresham Hotel, Dublin, on Thursday 9th inst., at 7 o'clock p.m.

Mícheál Ó Coileáin
CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

P. Walsh, Esq., D.I.,
Royal Irish Constabulary,
Letterkenny.

Request from Michael Collins with regards to organisation of a new Police force. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána Archives.
Iarratas ó Mhicheál Ó Coileáin maidir le dream nua póilíní a eagrú. Le caoinchead Chartlann an Gharda Síochána.

4. Christmas in Collinstown, 1922

Introduction: This article first appeared in *Síochána* in 1972 and was written by Donal (Daniel) Colhoun who joined the Civic Guard in November 1922 with the Registration Number 2890. Donal was stationed in the Galway West Division and Connemara Gaeltacht during most of his service.

Mick Lernihan, 20607, Editor, *Síochána,* 2023

Sergeant Donal Colhoun, 2890, Sergeant i/c, Carraroe Garda Station, Co. Galway

I visited Dublin Airport lately but, needless to say, I could not recognise the place. It has changed a lot since I first knew it in the Winter of 1922. It was then known as Collinstown Garda Depot. It consisted of a few wooden huts set in the middle of green fields. The huts have now been replaced by palatial buildings while the green fields have disappeared to give way to miles of runways for aircraft.

The Gardaí went into occupation of Collinstown on 4/11/1922. The National Army had been in occupation before then, having taken it over from the British who had been using it as an air base. The National Army remained on to guard the depot while the Gardaí were there.

Between 50 and 60 recruits were allotted to each hut. These huts were very cold, having bare cement floors with plenty of broken windows for ventilation. There were two small stoves in each hut and these provided little heat. There were neither shelves nor presses. The beds were of the usual hospital-type spring beds. Each mattress was in three parts known as 'biscuits'. If a person were restless in the bed, these 'biscuits' slipped down so that one awakened to find himself sitting on the bare spring of the bed.

4. Faoi Nollaig i mBaile Choilín, 1922

Nóta réamhfhaisnéise: Is alt é seo a foilsíodh den chéad uair in *Síochána* sa bhliain 1972. Dónal Ó Colchún an scríbhneoir. Bhí seisean leis an nGarda Sibhialta ó mhí na Samhna 1922, Uimhir Clárúcháin 2890. I Rannán Iarthar na Gaillimhe a bhíodh Dónal lonnaithe agus i nGaeltacht Chonamara a rinne sé fónamh an chuid is mó dá shaol oibre.

Mick Lernihan, 20607, Eagarthóir, *Síochána,* 2023

An Sáirsint Dónal Ó Colchún, 2890, Sáirsint i gceannas, Beairic na Ceathrún Rua, Co. na Gaillimhe

Tharla in Aerfort Bhaile Átha Cliath mé le gairid ach, ár ndóigh, tá an áit imithe ó aithne ormsa. Is mór an t-athrú atá tagtha ó sheas mise san áit den chéad uair geimhreadh na bliana 1922. Príomhháras an Gharda i mBaile Choilín a bhíodh á lua leis an tráth sin. Botháin adhmaid a bhíodh ann, iad suite i ngarraithe glasa. Foirgnimh mhóra mhaorga atá anois ann seachas botháin adhmaid agus tá na mílte fada de rúidbhealaí ag báid aeir san áit a mbíodh na garraithe.

An ceathrú lá de mhí na Samhna a ghlac na Gardaí seilbh ar Bhaile Choilín sa bhliain 1922. An tArm Náisiúnta a bhí san áit roimhe sin tar éis dóibhsean a thógáil ar láimh ó fhórsaí na Breataine a mbíodh aerionad acu ann. D'fhan daoine den Arm Náisiúnta i láthair freisin ag gardáil na háite an fhad is a bhí na Gardaí ann.

Idir 50 agus 60 earcach a cuireadh i ngach bothán. Bhí na botháin an-fhuar, urlár lom suiminte iontu agus an t-aer isteach trí fhuinneoga briste. Bhí dhá shornóg bheaga i ngach bothán ach ní mórán teasa a bhí uathu. Ní raibh seilf ná cófra ar fáil. Leapacha spriongaí den ghnáthchineál a bheadh le feiceáil in ospidéil ag an am a bhí sna botháin agus trí chuid faoi leith i ngach tocht.

An Garda Síochána

Superintendent Clinton was Commandant in Collinstown, Inspector Jo Murray was Adjutant and Inspector James Carbery was Depot Inspector. The Commandant was transferred to Thurles as Divisional Officer a few days before Christmas. Prior to his departure he was made a presentation on behalf of all in the Depot. Two recruits from each of the five Companies were selected to make the presentation. I was one of the two from Number 5 Company. As an Irish teacher in Collinstown, I availed of the occasion to bid farewell in the Gaelic tongue. Superintendent Clinton was replaced by Superintendent Liam Stack, who was afterwards Commandant in McKee Barracks and Divisional Officer in Bray.

Mick Lyons, Number 2155, of Number 1 Company, was the senior recruit, while the junior member (whose name I cannot recall) was number 2959 of Number 5 Company. All the numbers between those two were not in Collinstown as some had been diverted to Kildare. I am glad to say that Mick Lyons is still hale and hearty in his native Ballinasloe [NB in 1972].

There was no proper place for drill purposes so that squad drill was carried out in the green fields. These were so wet and slippery in the winter months that it was impossible to drill properly or even keep in step. There were two large sheds called 'hangers' which had been used by the British as shelters for aircraft. They were used on wet days for drill purposes and Irish classes were also held in them. Police Duty classes were held daily in the huts.

Prior to Christmas all members were asked if they would agree to paying five shillings each so that turkey might be provided for Christmas Dinner. Needless to say, everyone eagerly agreed. They had cause to rue their decision. The turkeys were sent to a firm of caterers in Dublin to be cooked. It was little cooking they got as when they arrived on Christmas Day, they were barely singed. Some members picked little morsels while

'Briosca' a thugtaí orthu sin agus an té a bheadh corrach ina chodladh dó, bheadh na 'brioscaí' ag scioradh den leaba ionas gur dúiseacht i lár na hoíche a bhí i ndán dó agus é ina shuí ar spriongaí loma na leapa.

An Ceannfort Clinton a bhí i gceannas i mBaile an Choilín, ba é an Cigire Jo Murray an tAidiúnach agus an Cigire James Carbery Cigire an Phríomhárais. Aistríodh an Ceannfort go Durlas Éile, ina Oifigeach Rannáin, laethanta beaga roimh an Nollaig. Bhí tabhairt amach ar siúl thar ceann an uile dhuine sa phríomháras sular imigh sé. Roghnaíodh beirt earcach ó gach ceann den chúig chomplacht. Bhí mise ar dhuine den bheirt as Complacht a Cúig. Ó tharla go raibh mé i mo mhúinteoir Gaeilge i mBaile Choilín, thapaigh mé an deis slán agus beannacht a fhágáil ag an gCeannfort i dteanga na nGael. An Ceannfort Liam Stack, a bheadh ina dhiaidh sin ina Cheannfort ar Bheairic Mhic Aoidh agus ina Oifigeach Rannáin i mBré, a tháinig i gcomharbacht ar an gCeannfort Clinton.

Ba é Mick Lyons, Uimhir 2155, as Complacht a hAon, an t-earcach sinsearach, agus ba é uimhir 2959 (nach bhfuil cuimhne agam ar a ainm) i gComplacht a Cúig an t-earcach sóisearach. Ní i mBaile Choilín a bhí iomlán na daoine lena mbaineann na huimhreacha uilig idir an dá uimhir sin ó bhí roinnt a cuireadh go Cill Dara. Is maith liom a rá go bhfuil [NB sa bhliain 1972] Mick Lyons ina bheatha agus ina shláinte ina áit dúchais i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe.

Ní raibh aon áit cheart ar fáil le haghaidh druileála ionas gur amuigh sna garraithe a dhéanadh scuad sin. Fliuch sciorach faoi na cosa a bhíodh amuigh ansin i rith an gheimhridh ionas gur dheacair druileáil a dhéanamh mar ba chóir nó fiú amháin coinneáil céim ar chéim lena chéile. Bhí dhá haingear mhóra fairsinge ann freisin ina mbíodh báid aeir á gcoinneáil roimhe sin ag muintir na Breataine. Bhaintí úsáid astu sin le haghaidh druileála laethanta báistí. Is iontu a bhíodh na ranganna Gaeilge ar siúl chomh maith.

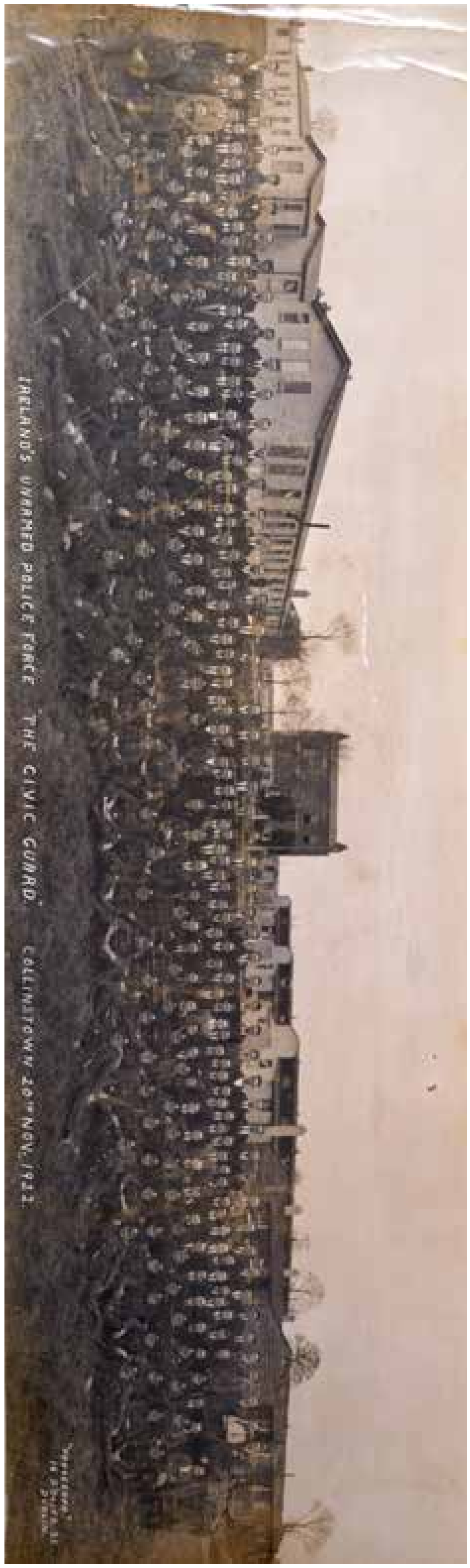
others left their shares untouched. It was a very disappointing Christmas Dinner.

After the so-called dinner, all members were free until 11p.m. In addition, they were given a general invitation to a concert being given in Marlborough Hall, Glasnevin by artistes from the Dublin Theatres to wounded members of the National Army who were convalescing.

Most members decided to view the sights of Dublin. Having done so, a few of us decided to go to the concert. On entering we got a bit of a surprise to see Inspector Carbery and Mr McGuire seated in the front row. The latter, who had been a County Inspector in the RIC was then employed in a civilian capacity as Police Duties Instructor. He was subsequently appointed a Chief Superintendent and transferred to Limerick

Bhíodh ranganna maidir le Dualgas Póilíneachta ar siúl gach lá sna botháin.

Nuair a bhíothas ag teannadh le haimsir na Nollag, fiafraíodh den uile dhuine an mbeidís sásta cúig scilleacha a íoc ionas go bhféadfaí turcaí a sholáthar do Dhinnéar na Nollag. Ar ndóigh, bhí fonn ar gach uile dhuine sin a dhéanamh. Má bhí, bheadh údar aiféala acu. Cuireadh na héanacha chuig comhlacht lónadóireachta i mBaile Átha Cliath go ndéanfaí iad a chócaireacht. Ach is beag cócaireachta a fuair siad mar nuair a tugadh ar ais iad Lá Nollag, ní shílfeá gur bagraíodh mórán teasa ná tine orthu. Bhí roinnt de na Gardaí a phioc greim thall is abhus agus tuilleadh nár dhrann beag ná mór lena gcuid féin. Ba mhór an t-ábhar díomá é mar Dhinnéar Nollag.



'The Civic Guard' Collinstown 20th November 1922.
Courtesy of National Library of Ireland.

'An Garda Sibhialta' Baile Choilín an 20 Samhain 1922.
Le caoinchead Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann.

where he died after a few short years. The only item of that concert that I remember is of a young couple singing the duet "Molly Bawn and Brian Og."

The Gardaí had now attracted the attention of the daily newspapers as the following item from the *Irish Independent* of Thursday 28/12/1922 shows:

> *Civic Guard Festivities. The Civic Guards at the Phoenix Park Depot celebrated Christmas with great enthusiasm. There are at present 750 men undergoing training at the Depot and there are 50 in the camp at Collinstown who will eventually be transferred to the Depot.*

On 27/12/1922, we were told to dismantle our beds and leave them at the Store for transport to Dublin. That night we slept without beds with our 'biscuits' laid out on-the floor. After breakfast on the morning of 28/12/1922, we got ready to march to Dublin. Led by Inspectors Murray and Carbery and preceded by two pipers from the Garda Band we set off at a quick pace with Number 5 Company leading the parade.

Just before reaching the tramway lines at Drumcondra a halt was called and we were given a ten-minute rest. On resuming we marched through Dorset Street, Berkley Road and North Circular Road and then to the swirl of the pipes playing "Brian Boru's March" we entered our new Depot. Here we were given a Céad Míle Fáilte.

The members of the Guard Room turned out and presented arms and the entire garrison lined up on the square and rendered signal honours. The first thing the Garda authorities did was to change the name of the Depot from Marlborough Barracks to that of McKee Barracks, in memory of Dick McKee, Commandant of the Dublin Brigade who had been shot by the British in Dublin Castle in 1920.

Tar éis an dinnéir sin, bhí cead amach ag gach duine go dtí an 11 i.n. Bhí cuireadh ginearálta freisin acu chuig ceolchoirm a bhí á cur ar siúl i Halla Marlborough, Glas Naíon ag lucht amharclannaíochta Bhaile Átha Cliath do dhaoine den Arm Náisiúnta a bhí ag teacht ó ghortú.

Shocraigh an chuid is mó de na daoine radharcanna Bhaile Átha Cliath a fheiceáil. Nuair a bhí siad sách feicthe, shocraigh roinnt againn dul chuig an gceolchoirm. Ag dul isteach dúinn, bhí beagán iontais orainn an Cigire Carbery a fheiceáil suite chun tosaigh in éineacht leis an Uasal McGuire. Bhí an tUasal McGuire, a bhíodh ina Chigre Contae leis an RIC, fostaithe ina shaoránach ag an am ina Theagascóir maidir le Dualgas Póilíneachta. Ceapadh ina Ard-Cheannfort ina dhiaidh sin é agus fuair sé bás cúpla bliain tar éis aistriú go Luimneach. Taobh amuigh de lánúin óg a chan "Molly Bawn and Brian Óg", ní cuimhin liom aon chuid eile de cheolchoirm na hoíche sin.

Bhí aird na bpáipéar nuachta ag teacht ar na Gardaí faoin tráth seo mar is léir ón sliocht seo a leanas a bhí ar an Irish Independent Déardaoin an 28 Nollaig 1922:

> *Civic Guard Festivities. The Civic Guards at the Phoenix Park Depot celebrated Christmas with great enthusiasm. There are at present 750 men undergoing training at the Depot and there are 50 in the camp at Collinstown who will eventually be transferred to the Depot.*

An 27 Nollaig 1922 a dúradh linne na leapacha a bhaint ó chéile agus iad a fhágáil ag an Stór go dtabharfaí go Baile Átha Cliath iad. Ar na "brioscaí" a chodlaíomar an oíche sin, iad leagtha anuas ar an urlár. Maidin an 28 Nollaig, tar éis an bhricfeasta, réitíodh don mháirseáil go Baile Átha Cliath. Leis an gCigire Murray agus an Cigire Carbery i gceannas, agus le beirt phíobairí as Banna an Gharda amach romhainn, cuireadh chun bealaigh ar mearchéim le Complacht a Cúig i dtosach na mórshiúlóide.

We found McKee Barracks a pleasant place after Collinstown. Its wooden dormitories were in happy contrast to the cement floors of Collinstown, while its tree-lined tarmacadam's square soon re-echoed to the sound of marching men. There was much importance attached to Registered Numbers in those early days. Once you knew a man's Number you could make a good guess as to when he joined the Force.

Pride of place in this respect, in McKee, went to Dan Doolin, Number 4 and next to him came Tommy Watson, Number 13. I was glad to see that low numbers had Galway connections too. Sergeant Clarke, Number 3, was a Divisional Clerk in Eglinton Street, Galway, while Tommy Savage, Number 6, was a native of Galway City.

Most [now, in 2026, all] of those who served in Collinstown have since gone to their eternal reward. May they rest in peace. They laid a tradition for future generations.

Go gairid sular thángamar chomh fada leis an trambhealach i nDroim Conrach, fógraíodh seasamh agus rinneadh stad deich nóiméad. Ar aghaidh linn ansin ag máirseáil trí Shráid Dorset, Bóthar Berkeley agus an Cuarbhóthar Thuaidh agus ansin, le "Máirseáil Bhrian Bóraimhe" á sheinm ag na píobairí, thángamar isteach chuig an bPríomhháras nua. Fearadh Céad Míle Fáilte ansin romhainn.

Glaodh amach lucht an tSeomra Garda go ndearna airm a thairiscint. Bhí eagar ar lán an gharastúin ag léiriú onóracha. Ba é an chéad rud a rinne údaráis an Gharda ainm an phríomhárais a athrú ó Marlborough Barracks go Beairic Mhic Aoidh, i gcuimhne ar Risteard Mac Aoidh, Ceannfort Bhriogáid Bhaile Átha Cliath a scaoil muintir na Breataine i gCaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath sa bhliain 1920.

Shíleamar gur shócúil an áit Beairic Mhic Aoidh ar a theacht as Baile Choilín. Ba mhór an sásamh na suanliosanna adhmaid i gcodarsnacht leis an urlár suiminte i mBaile Choilín agus ba ghearr go raibh macalla mháirseáil na bhfear le cloisteáil sa phlás a raibh teara air agus crainn ina thimpeall. Bhíodh aird mhór ar an Uimhir Clárúcháin na laethanta sin. Má bhí uimhir an fhir ar eolas agat, thabharfá buille maith faoi thuairim ar an uair a chuaigh sé isteach sna Gardaí.

Bhí tosach áite, ina leith sin, i mBeairic Mhic Aoidh ag Dan Doolin, Uimhir 4, agus bhí Tommy Watson, Uimhir 13, ar an gcéad duine eile. Ba dheas a fheiceáil freisin go raibh ceangal le Gaillimh ag daoine le huimhreacha den chineál sin. Bhí an Sáirsint Clarke, Uimhir 3, ina Chléireach Rannáin i Sráid Eglinton i nGaillimh agus b'as baile mór na Gaillimhe ó dhúchas Tommy Savage, Uimhir 6.

Tá mórchuid na ndaoine a rinne fónamh i mBaile Choilín [a n-iomlán, anois sa bhliain 2026] imithe ar shlí na fírinne faoi seo. Suaimhneas síoraí go raibh acu. Réalta eolais ag na glúnta ina ndiaidh a bhí iontu.

An Garda Síochána

Civic Guard, Oranmore, County Galway. Sitting left to right: Gd. P. King, Sergt. J. Driscol, Gd. P. Sheardon. Standing left to right: Gds. A. J. O'Mally, T. Clifford. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.
An Garda Sibhialta, Órán Mór, Contae na Gaillimhe. Ina suí ó chlé go deas: An Garda P. King, An Sáirsint J. Driscol, An Garda P. Sheardon. Ina seasamh, ó chlé go deas: Na Gardaí A. J. O'Mally, T. Clifford. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

5. An Garda Síochána 1920s~1930s

The Garda Síochána Establishment Scheme, 1930, provided for a "reduction in the Force" and shedding some of the responsibilities An Garda Síochána had heretofore. However, this did not affect the number of Garda Divisions (22) and Galway East Riding and Galway West Riding remained two separate Divisions. Within Galway East Riding, only two Stations were to be temporarily (Kilreeckle) or potentially (Laurencetown) closed, whereas in Galway West Riding four Stations were closed (Kilkieran, Cleggan, Clonbur and Ballinahinch). Nationwide, the number of Station closures was 404 (33%). This resulted in a nationwide reduction of the strength of the Force of 2,216 (roughly 30%); in Galway East Riding the reduction amounted to 297 (63%) and in Galway West Riding 238 (56%), the most numerous reductions in the country, due to the turbulent past in those areas when the RIC presence was most numerous there. Furthermore, some Sub-District Stations were replaced by

5. An Garda Síochána 1920í~1930í

Rinneadh foráil leis an Scéim um Bunú an Gharda Síochána, 1930, do "laghdú ar an bhFórsa" agus chun fáil réidh le cuid de na freagrachtaí a bhí ar an nGarda Síochána go dtí sin. Mar sin féin, ní raibh aon tionchar aige sin ar an méid Rannán Gardaí a bhí ann (22) agus bhí Trian Thoir na Gaillimhe agus Trian Thiar na Gaillimhe fós ina ndá Rannán ar leith. Laistigh de Thrian Thoir na Gaillimhe, ní raibh ach dhá Stáisiún a bhí le dúnadh go sealadach (i gcás Chill Rícill) nó a bhí i mbaol a dúnta (i gcás an Bhaile Mhóir), cé gur dúnadh ceithre Stáisiún i dTrian Thiar na Gaillimhe (Cill Chiaráin, An Cloigeann, An Fhairche agus Baile na hInse). Dúnadh 404 Stáisiún (33%) ar fud na tíre. Mar thoradh air sin, tháinig laghdú 2,216 (nó thart ar 30%) ar neart an Fhórsa ar fud na tíre; laghdú 297 (3%) a bhí ann i dTrian Thoir na Gaillimhe agus laghdú 238 (56%) a bhí ann i dTrian Thiar na Gaillimhe. B'ionann iad sin agus na laghduithe ba mhó sa tír ar fad, de bharr na tréimhse corraí a bhí ann sna ceantair

Civic Guard, Ballinasloe, County Galway, 1929. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.
An Garda Sibhialta, Béal Átha na Sluaighe, Contae na Gaillimhe, 1929. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

others, e.g. in Galway East Riding, Castleblakeney Station was replaced by a new Station in Mountbellew and, in Galway West Riding, the Rosmuck Sub-District Station changed from Clifden District to Oughterard District.

The East Riding Division of Galway had its Divisional Headquarters, with a Chief Superintendent, in Ballinasloe and was divided into four Districts, each with its own District Headquarter and a Superintendent, in Ballinasloe, Loughrea, Athenry and Gort. The numbers of Sub-Districts, with a Garda Station each, within the four Districts were Ballinasloe 9, Loughrea 7, Athenry 8 and Gort 7.

The West Riding Division of Galway had its Divisional Headquarters, with a Chief Superintendent, in Galway and was also divided into four Districts, each with its own District Headquarter and a Superintendent, in Galway, Tuam, Clifden and Oughterard. The numbers of

sin nuair a bhí go leor den RIC ann. Ina theannta sin, tháinig roinnt Stáisiún Focheantair in ionad cinn eile, e.g. i dTrian Thoir na Gaillimhe, tháinig stáisiún nua sa Chreagán in áit Stáisiún Ghallaigh agus i dTrian Thiar na Gaillimhe bogadh Stáisiún Fhocheantair Ros Muc ó Dhúiche an Chlocháin go dtí Ceantar Uachtar Ard.

Bhí Ceanncheathrú Rannáin Thrian Thoir na Gaillimhe i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe, áit a raibh Ard-Cheannfort ann. Roinneadh ina cheithre Rannán é, a raibh a Cheanncheathrú Ceantair agus a Cheannfort féin ag gach ceann acu, i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe, Baile Locha Riach, Baile Átha an Rí agus an Gort. Laistigh de na ceithre Cheantar bhí líon Focheantar agus Stáisiún Gardaí i ngach ceann acu. Bhí 9 focheantar i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe, 7 focheantar i mBaile Locha Riach, 8 focheantar i mBaile Átha an Rí agus 7 focheantar sa Ghort.

Civic Guard, Athenry, County Galway, E.R., 1930s. Front row, left to right: D.O. James Keegan, Sgt. M. Masterson, Supt. J.J. Cooney, Sgt. J. Ryan, D.O.M. Mulkeen. Back row, left to right: Gardaí P. Kearns, P.M. McHugh, Jno. Rooney, M. Brehany, P. Hennessey, Thos. Moore and E. Neill. [sic]. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.

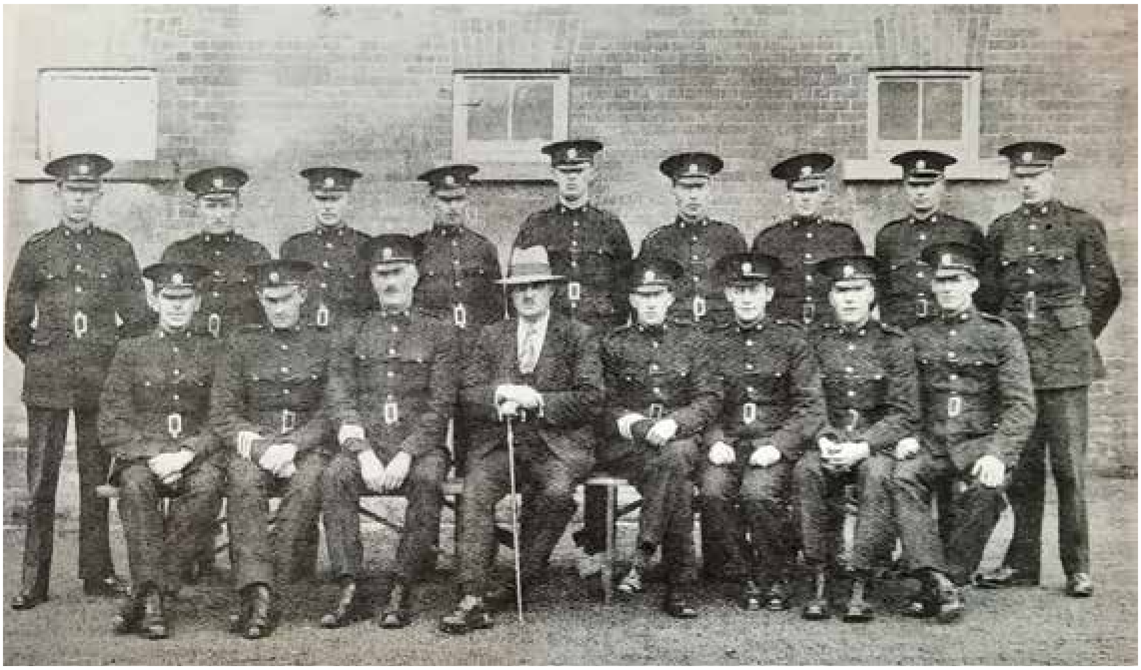
An Garda Sibhialta, Baile Átha an Rí, Contae na Gaillimhe, E.R., 1930idí. Chun tosaigh, ó chlé go deas: An tOifigeach Bleachtaire James Keegan, An Sáirsint M. Masterson, An Ceannfort J.J. Cooney, An Sáirsint J. Ryan, An tOifigeach Bleachtaire M. Mulkeen. Líne cúil, ó chlé go deas: Na Gardaí P. Kearns, P.M. McHugh, Jno. Rooney, M. Brehany, P. Hennessey, Thos. Moore agus E. Neill. [sic]. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

Sub-Districts were Galway 7, Tuam 9, Clifden 6 and Oughterard 8.

(This information is taken verbatim from the *Garda Síochána Establishment Scheme,* published in 1930.)

Bhí Ceanncheathrú Rannáin Thrian Thiar na Gaillimhe i nGaillimh, agus bhí Ard-Cheannfort ann. Roinneadh ina cheithre Rannán é sin freisin, a raibh a Cheanncheathrú Ceantair agus a Cheannfort féin ag gach ceann acu, agus ba i nGaillimh, i dTuaim, sa Chlochán agus in Uachtar Ard a bhí siad sin. Bhí 7 focheantar i nGaillimh, 9 focheantar i dTuaim, 6 focheantar sa Chlochán agus 8 focheantar in Uachtar Ard.

(Is san aimsir láithreach atá na nótaí ach tagraíonn siad don chás mar a bhí sa bhliain 1930; luaitear focal ar fhocal iad ón Scéim um Bunú an Gharda Síochána a foilsíodh an bhliain sin.)



Galway Civic Guards, Eglinton St., Galway, 1929. Sitting- Left to Right: Gd. J. Farrell, Sergts. P. Devoy, Tom Fallon, Supt. J. Greaney, Sergt. T. Morrisrie, Gds. P. Allen, J. Armstrong, Sergt. A. Monohan. Standing: Gds. T.P. Sheridan, P. Donovan, P. Boyle, F. Donolon, P. Flynn, B. Keant, J. Donovan, T. Healy, J. Scanlon. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.
Gardaí Sibhialta na Gaillimhe. Ina Suí - Ó Chlé go Deas: An Garda J. Farrell, Na Sáirsintí P. Devoy, Tom Fallon, An Ceannfort J. Greaney, An Sáirsint T. Morrisrie, Na Gardaí P. Allen, J. Armstrong, An Sáirsint A. Monohan. Ina Seasamh: Na Gardaí T.P. Sheridan, P. Donovan, P. Boyle, F. Donolon, P. Flynn, B. Keant, J. Donovan, T. Healy, J. Scanlon.
Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

Garda Joseph McEvoy. Registered Number 657. Native of Offaly who joined the force in 1922. Retired from Monivea in 1952. Courtesy of Eamon Dolan (Retd Supt.)
An Garda Joseph McEvoy. Uimhir Chláraithe 657. Ba as Uíbh Fhailí é ó dhúchas agus chuaigh san fhórsa sa bhliain 1922. D'éirigh sé as sa bhliain 1952 fad a bhí sé i Muine Mheá. Le caoinchead Eamon Dolan (Ceannfort ar Scor.)

Garda Martin Higgins. Registered Number 2135. Native of Mayo who joined the force in 1922. Retired from Moylough in 1966. Courtesy of Dominic Higgins.
An Garda Martin Higgins. Uimhir Chláraithe 2135. Ba as Maigh Eo é ó dhúchas agus chuaigh san fhórsa sa bhliain 1922. D'éirigh sé as sa bhliain 1966 fad a bhí sé i Maigh Locha. Le caoinchead Dominic Higgins.

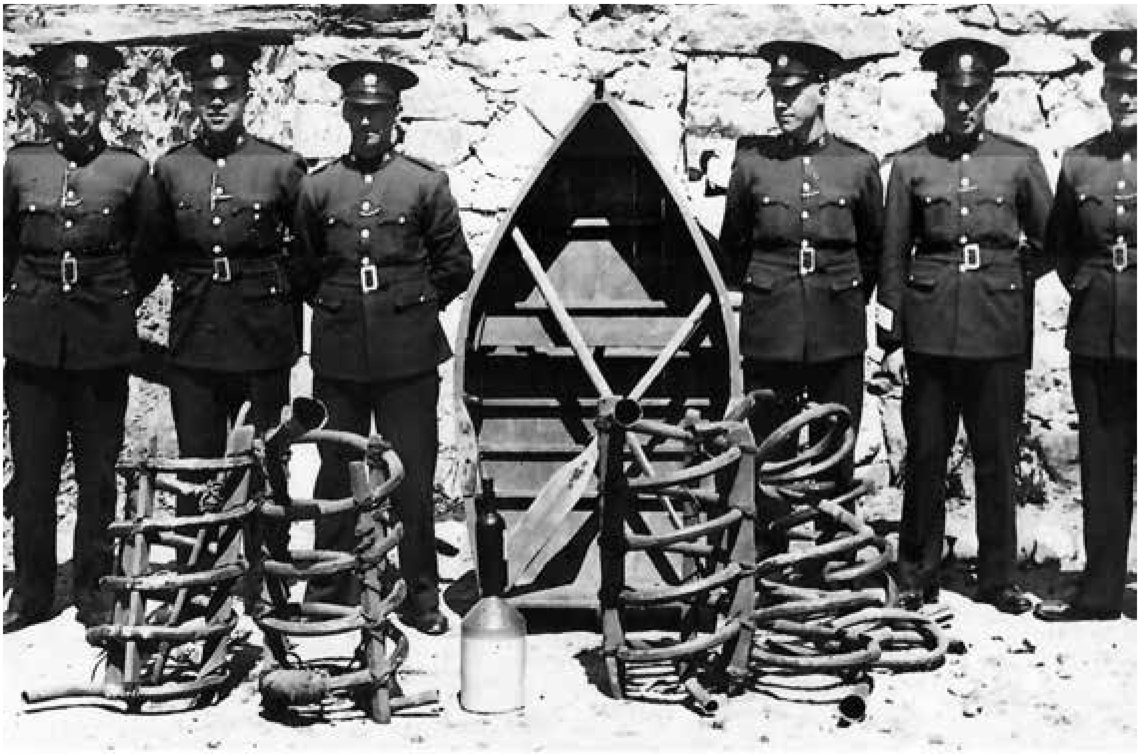
An Garda Síochána

Part of Gort Station Party, 1938/9: Back Row: Gardaí J. Watkins, Pat Spillane, Tom Duffy, Pat McHugh, John Kelly, member not known, Garda Gillespie. Centre row (with rifles and revolvers), Gardaí McCaffrey, member not known, member not known, Tom Ryan, John Doyle, Jim Snee, Sergeant Beirne. Front Row: Detective Officer Mick Medlar, Inspector Tobin, Sergeant Sheehy, Detective Officer Bill Diffley. Courtesy of Mick Medlar.

Cuid de Bhuíon Stáisiún an Ghoirt, 1938/9: Ar Chúl: Na Gardaí J. Watkins, Pat Spillane, Tom Duffy, Pat McHugh, John Kelly, comhalta anaithnid, An Garda Gillespie. An tsraith láir (a bhfuil raidhfilí agus gunnáin acu), Na Gardaí McCaffrey, comhalta anaithnid, comhalta anaithnid, Tom Ryan, John Doyle, Jim Snee, An Sáirsint Beirne. Chun Tosaigh: An tOifigeach Bleachtaire Mick Medlar, An Cigire Tobin, An Sáirsint Sheehy, An tOifigeach Bleachtaire Bill Diffley. Le caoinchead Mick Medlar.

The Civic Guard, later renamed An Garda Síochána, line up at Dublin Castle before the evacuation.
Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.

An Garda Sibhialta, a dtabharfaí An Garda Síochána air tráth níos déanaí, ag seasamh i líne roimh an aslonnú.
Le caoinchead Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann.



Illicit distillation at An Spidéal, 1933. Left to Right: Garda D.J. Manley, Garda J.A. Walsh, Garda P. Hallisey, Sergeant D. Colhoun, Sergeant D. Gallagher, Garda O. Lynch. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.
Driogadh neamhcheadaithe ar an Spidéal, 1933. Ó Chlé go Deas: An Garda D.J. Manley, An Garda J.A. Walsh, An Garda P. Hallisey, An Sáirsint D. Colhoun, An Sáirsint D. Gallagher, An Garda O. Lynch. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

Part of Eglinton Street, Galway, Station Party 1936. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.
Cuid de Bhuíon Stáisiún Shráid Eglinton, Gaillimh, 1936.
Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

Copy of Inspection minute of Deputy Commissioner E. Coogan at Corofin Garda Station on 11th May, 1923.

Visited Station in conjuction with Divisional tour. Sergeant M. Lennon, 231, and station party present. When I arrived at the station the Sergeant sat glowering at me and refused to call the party to attention.

I called the party to attention myself, and Garda O'Neill tried to rise but fell into the fireplace. I asked the Sergeant to account for the state of affairs existing at the station and he replied in such a manner as would do more justice to the worst corner-boy in the slums of London.

I searched the Barracks and found that a seizure of poteen (3 gallons) made on the previous day had now been almost consumed by the station party. The Barrack Servant sat with a baton in her hand, protecting the remainder of it, and refused to move. She also had possession of the Station Books and records and she refused to allow me to examine them. In my examination of the Barracks I found that the W.C. was filled with Station Records, apparently used by the Station Party on their visits there.

I heard noise coming from the cell and when I went to investigate, I found three young ladies there, from whom I took statements. They complained that when passing the Barracks they were forcibly taken in by Sergeant Lennon and Gardai Bourke and O'Toole for a purpose better imagined than described.

In the Station kitchen I found Garda Bourke, he caught me by the uniform and would not let go of me until I promised to refund him a fine of £5 imposed on him recently and have record of same erased. When I returned to the front of the Barracks I found the Sergeant urinating from the front door on to the Street and he started to argue with me on the footpath with his person exposed.

On leaving the Station I was approached by a local trader who demanded that I made the Station Party pay some of their mess debts for the preceding 12 months, now amounting to some £70.

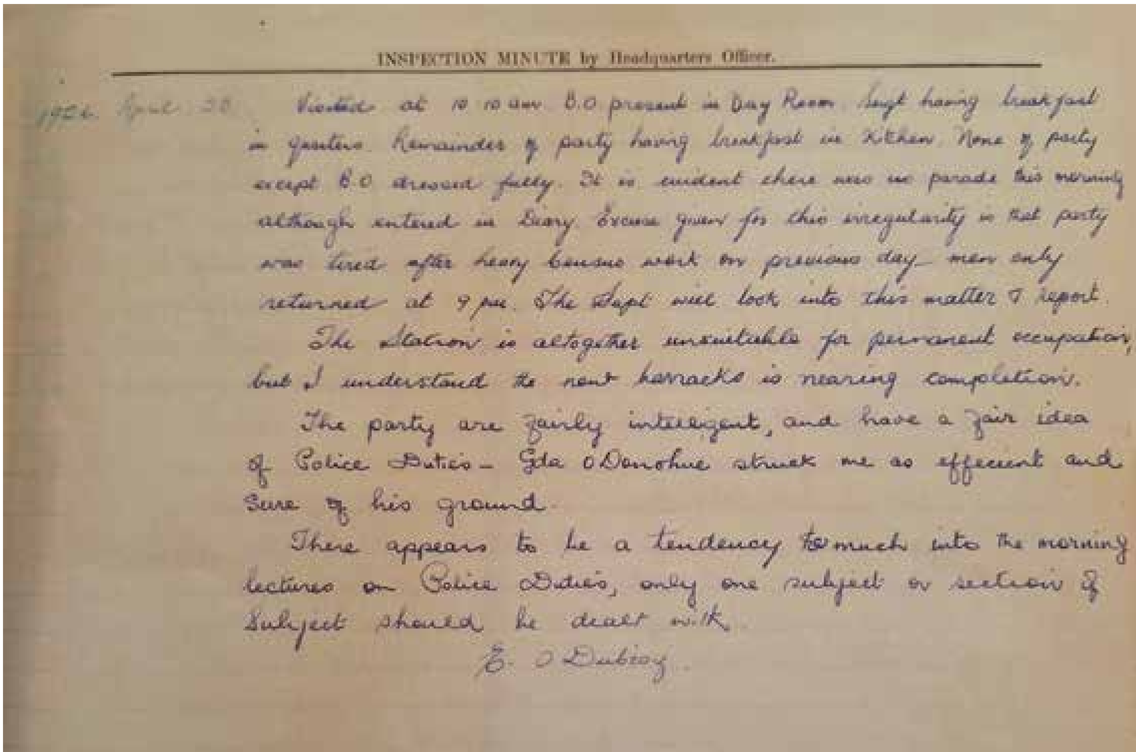
~~The whole situation at this station is disgraceful.~~ I hereby suspend all members of the Station Party. Further instructions will issue to-day from the District Office when I return there.

I hope that the Divisional Officer will ensure that these men discharge their local debts before they themselves are discharged from the Force.

E. Coogan D/Commissioner.

The Corofin Hoax (purported inspection by Deputy Commissioner Coogan at Corofin Garda Station). Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.

Cur i gcéill i gCora Fine (scrúdú Cigireachta, mar dhea, ar Bheairic na nGardaí i gCora Fine ag an Leas-Choimisinéir Coogan). Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.



INSPECTION MINUTE by Headquarters Officer.

1926 April 23 Visited at 10.10 am. S.O present in Day Room. Supt having breakfast in quarters. Remainder of party having breakfast in Kitchen. None of party except S.O dressed fully. It is evident there was no parade this morning although entered in Diary. Excuse given for this irregularity is that party was tired after heavy census work on previous day — men only returned at 9 pm. The Supt will look into this matter & report.

The Station is altogether unsuitable for permanent occupation, but I understand the new barracks is nearing completion.

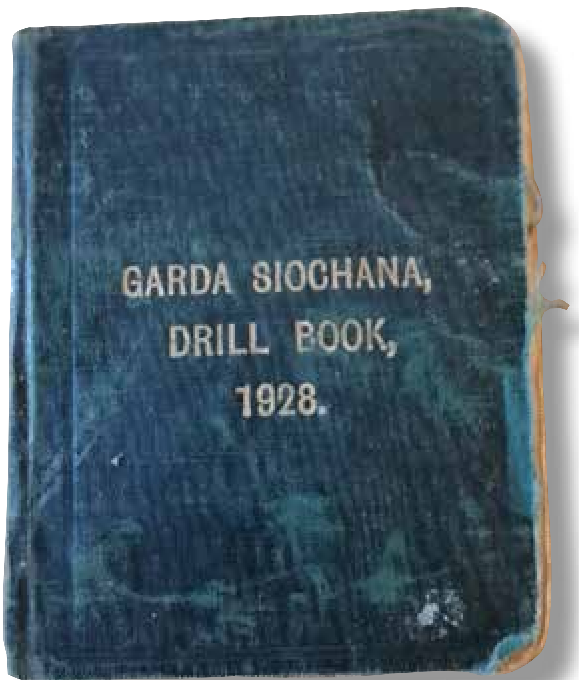
The party are fairly intelligent, and have a fair idea of Police Duties — Gda O'Donohue struck me as effecient and sure of his ground.

There appears to be a tendency to much into the morning lectures on Police Duties, only one subject or section of subject should be dealt with.

E. O Dubhthaigh.

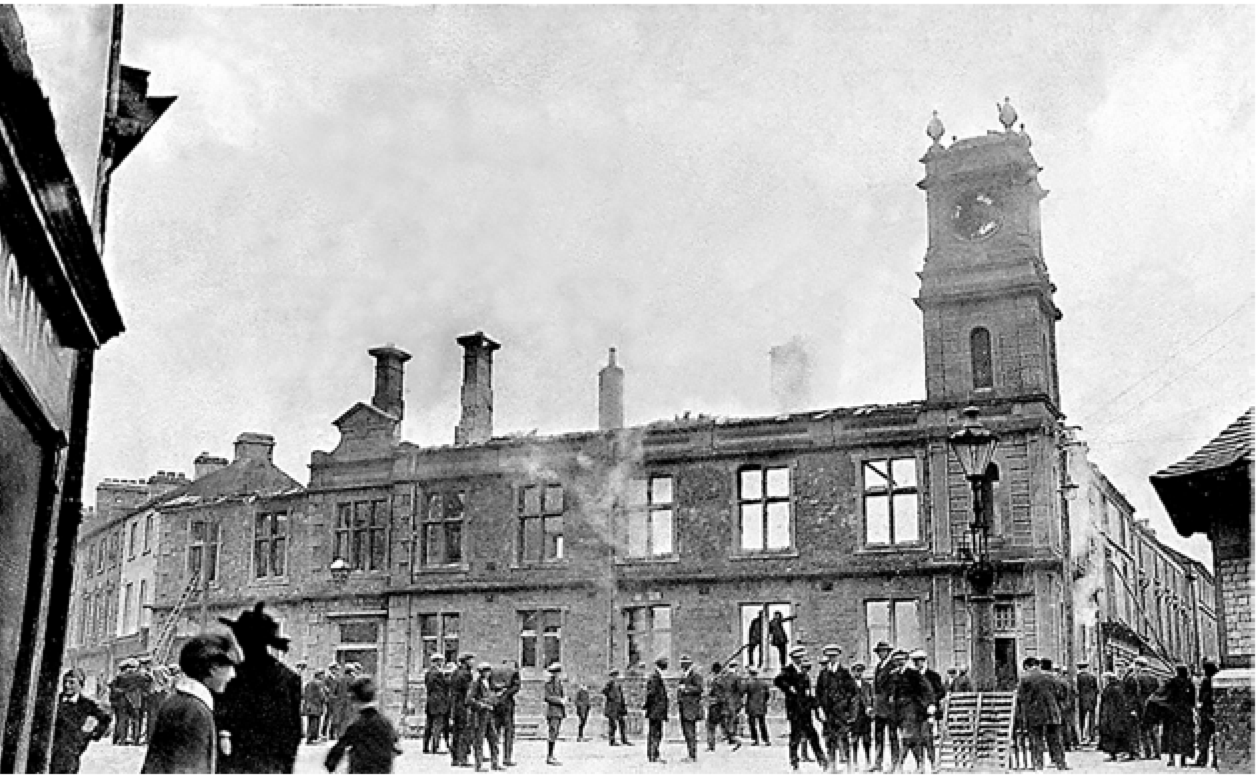
Inspection minute of Commissioner O'Duffy at Oranmore Garda Station, 23 April 1926. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.

**Tuairisc cigireachta an Choimisinéara Uí Dhubhthaigh i mBeairic na nGardaí, Órán Mór, 23 Aibreán 1926.
Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.**



**Garda Síochána Drill Book, 1928.
Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.**

**Leabhar Druileála an Gharda Síochána, 1928.
Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.**



Sack of Tuam, Town Hall, 20 July 1920. Courtesy of Old Tuam Society Archive.
Sladmhargadh Halla Baile Thuama 20 Iúil 1920. Cartlann an Old Tuam Society.

6. Tuam Civic Guards

by Mary Burke

The first contingent of Civic Guards arrived in Tuam on 27 October 1922, with their beds and belongings on the back of John Hession's lorry. Rail service had just resumed following months of disruption on the line due to the mining of bridges by anti-Treaty forces who were active in the north-Galway area. The train could travel no further than Athenry due to a deliberate derailment of an engine at Ballyglunin station

6. Na Gardaí Sibhialta i dTuaim

le Mary Burke

Dé hAoine, an 27 Deireadh Fómhair 1922 a tháinig an chéad díorma de na Gardaí Sibhialta go Tuaim, a gcuid leapacha agus fearais in éineacht leo ar chúl leoraí John Hession. Bhí an tseirbhís traenach díreach ag tosú arís tar éis míonna de chur isteach mar gheall ar fhórsaí in aghaidh an Chonartha i gceantar thuaisceart na Gaillimhe ag

between Athenry and Tuam. Their arrival in the town was welcomed as a sign of a return to law and order. In charge was Sergeant Hugh Ruddy, a man who had previously served in the town as an RIC constable but who had resigned from the force immediately after the 'Sack of Tuam' in July 1920.

Tuam had been left isolated due to the blocking of main roads with felled trees and the destruction of every bridge leading into the town. Warnings were issued to local people not to assist in any repair work. The closure of the railway line between Athenry and Sligo resulted in three hundred men being laid off with severe disruption to business and farming. No sooner was a bridge repaired by the council, than it was mined again. A lull of a few weeks had convinced people attacks might cease, but a week after the arrival of the Civic Guards, recently repaired bridges were destroyed. Railway service was again halted between Tuam and Athenry in November when the metal bridge at Ballinderry was blown up.

During September, anti-Treaty Irregulars had arrived into the town on lightening raids, pedestrians were stopped and searched on the street while shops were raided for cash and goods. During these incursions, gunbattles broke out on Dublin Road at the Workhouse where the national troops were based. The Archbishop of Tuam, Dr Gilmartin, appealed to the Irregulars at a Confirmation service in the parish of Islandeady to desist from armed opposition. He went on to say that the Government had received a clear mandate from the people to function within the terms of the Treaty and it was the duty of the Government to protect life and property and maintain order and it was the duty of the people to support the Government.

The newly arrived and unarmed Civic Guards were directed not to confront the Irregulars. Their first duty was to make the old police barracks in Vicar Street habitable. Every window had been broken and most of the fittings had either been

cur droichid an bhóthair iarainn ó mhaith.
Ní raibh traein in ann a theacht níos faide ná Baile Átha an Rí mar gheall ar thraein a chur de na ráillí in aon turas ag stáisiún Bhéal Átha Glúinín idir Baile Átha an Rí agus Tuaim. D'fháiltigh daoine roimh a dteacht chun an bhaile mar chomhartha go raibh ord agus smacht reachta i réim arís.
An Sáirsint Aodh Ó Rodaigh a bhí i gceannas, fear a bhí ina chonstábla san RIC ar an mbaile roimhe sin ach a d'éirigh as an bhfórsa sin tar éis Chreachadh Thuama i mí Iúil 1920.

Bhí Tuaim fágtha gan cheangal le háiteanna eile mar gheall ar bhóithre móra a bhlocáil le crainn agus gach droichead isteach chuig an mbaile mór a scrios. Tugadh rabhadh do mhuintir na háite gan cúnamh a thabhairt le haon obair deisiúcháin. D'fhág an bóthar iarainn idir Baile Átha an Rí agus Sligeach a dhúnadh gur cuireadh trí chéad fear as obair agus gur tharla cur isteach mór ar chúrsaí gnó agus ar chúrsaí feirmeoireachta.
Ní túisce a bheadh caoi curtha ar dhroichead ag an gcomhairle ná chuirfí mianach arís ann.
Bhí rudaí ciúin ar feadh roinnt seachtainí agus misneach ag daoine go bhféadfadh deireadh leis an ionsaí, ach seachtain tar éis don Gharda Sibhialta a theacht, scriosadh na droichid a raibh caoi curtha orthu le tamall anuas. Cuireadh stop leis an tseirbhís traenach idir Tuaim agus Baile Átha an Rí arís i mí na Samhna nuair a séideadh an droichead miotail i mBaile an Doire in aer.
I rith mhí Meán Fómhair, tháinig dreamanna de na fórsaí Sealadacha isteach ar an mbaile mór ag déanamh ruathair, ag stopadh coisithe ar na sráideanna agus á gcuardach, agus ag tabhairt ruathair faoi shiopaí gur thóg airgead agus earraí. Le linn ionsaithe den chineál sin, thosaigh troid le gunnaí ar Bhóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath ag Teach na mBocht, mar a raibh na Trúpaí Náisiúnta lonnaithe. D'impigh an Dr. Mac Giolla Máirtín, Ardeaspag Thuama, ar na fórsaí Sealadacha ag searmanas Dul faoi Láimh Easpaig i bparóiste Oileán Éadaí éirí as an trodaíocht faoi airm. Dúirt sé gurbh léir go raibh údarás ag an Rialtas ó mhuintir na hÉireann feidhmiú

destroyed or burnt as firewood. Dr Gilmartin had persuaded the anti-Treaty IRA not to blow up the building before they evacuated it a few months earlier.

Tuam was not the worst town in Ireland as regards lawlessness according to a report in The *Tuam Herald*, but the writer claimed there were certain elements in the town who would benefit from the restraining influence of the policeman.

> *The street brawler will need to be more careful and Saturday evening's pitch and toss school under the Cross in the Square must seek a more secluded venue and perhaps the all-night pub may be tempted to close a little earlier for its own, if not for its customers sake - to mention but a few of the evils we suffer from since law and order ceased.*

The Guards in Tuam barracks did not suffer the same level of aggression that was meted out in other areas of the county. Ahascragh Guards had a narrow escape when the barracks was petrol bombed and burned in January 1923. The Sergeant in Killimor Barracks, east Galway, was injured when over two hundred shots were fired at the building in November that year. A second attack in February 1924 saw it burned to the ground. In Claregalway, three Guards and the Sergeant were stripped and had their uniforms burned.

Sergeant Ruddy

Sergeant Ruddy's presence in Tuam may have been a factor why Tuam was not targeted. Hugh Ruddy was born in the small townland of Askilaun outside Foxford, Co. Mayo; he had joined the RIC in 1910, aged twenty-one and served as a Constable in Kildysart, Newcastlewest and Ennis before arriving in Tuam in November 1918, accompanied by his wife Jane and their eleven-month-old daughter. The Ruddy family settled into their home on Bishop Street and Constable Ruddy continued with his duties until the evening of 19 July 1920, when RIC Constables

de réir théarmaí an Chonartha agus go raibh de dhualgas ar an Rialtas na daoine agus maoin na ndaoine a chosaint agus ord agus smacht reachta a choinneáil i réim agus gurb é a bhí de dhualgas ar na daoine cuidiú leis an Rialtas.

Tugadh treoir do na Gardaí Sibhialta nach raibh faoi airm gan dul i ngleic leis an IRA tar éis a theacht don bhaile mór dóibh. Is é an chéad chúram a leagadh orthu caoi a chur ar sheanbheairic na bpóilíní i Sráid an Bhiocáire. Bhí na fuinneoga briste agus an chuid is mó d'fheisteas an árais scriosta nó curtha ar an tine ag daoine. D'éirigh leis an Dr. Mac Giolla Mháirtín a áiteamh ar lucht an IRA a bhí in aghaidh an Chonartha gan an t-áras a shéideadh in aer sular fhág siadsan an áit roinnt míonna roimhe seo. Níorbh é Tuaim an baile mór ba mheasa in Éirinn ó thaobh fiántais de réir mar a bhí i dtuairisc ar an *Tuam Herald*, ach bhí an scríbhneoir den tuairim go raibh dreamanna éagsúla ar an mbaile mór nár dhochar srianadh áirithe ag póilíní orthu.

> *The street brawler will need to be more careful and Saturday evening's pitch and toss school under the Cross in the Square must seek a more secluded venue and perhaps the all-night pub, may be tempted to close a little earlier for its own, if not for its customers sake- to mention but a few of the evils we suffer from since law and order ceased.*

Níor fhulaing na Gardaí i mBeairic Thuama íde den chineál a imríodh orthu in áiteanna eile ar fud an chontae. Bhí an t-ádh ar Ghardaí Áth Eascrach teacht slán nuair a caitheadh buamaí peitril leis an mbeairic ansin a loisceadh i mí Eanáir 1923. Gortaíodh an Sáirsint i mBeairic Chill Íomair, in oirthear na Gaillimhe, nuair a scaoileadh níos mó ná dhá chéad urchar leis an bhfoirgneamh i mí na Samhna 1923. Cuireadh an bheairic sin trí thine nuair a ionsaíodh arís í i mí Feabhra 1924. I mBaile Chláir, baineadh a gcuid éadaigh de thriúr Gardaí agus den Sáirsint agus cuireadh an éide trí thine.

Sergeant Hugh Ruddy. Courtesy of Pam Reilly.
An Sáirsint Hugh Ruddy. Le caoinchead Pam Reilly.

James Burke and Patrick Carey were killed in an ambush on the Tuam to Dunmore Road. That night, Tuam was terrorised as armed policemen embarked on a fearsome rampage in reprisal, shooting indiscriminately on the street, dragging young men from their beds and threatening to shoot them. The Town Hall was set on fire and local businesses smashed up and looted. Alarmed and shocked by this behaviour, Constable Ruddy declined to be a party to the wrecking of the town. He left the barracks, cycling home a circuitous route to avoid the violence and resigned immediately from the force.

On 7 September 1920, Chairman of Tuam Town Commissioners, Michael Maguire said he had

An Sáirsint Ó Rodaigh

D'fhéadfadh go raibh baint ag an Sáirsint Ó Rodaigh a bheith i dTuaim le Gardaí an bhaile a theacht slán ó ionsaí. Rugadh Aodh Ó Rodaigh i mbaile fearainn beag ar a dtugtar Ascallán, taobh amuigh de Bhéal Easa, Co. Mhaigh Eo. Chuaigh sé isteach san RIC sa bhliain 1910 nuair a bhí sé bliain agus fiche agus rinne sé fónamh ina Chonstábla i gCill an Dísirt, sa Chaisleán Nua Thiar agus in Inis sular tháinig sé go Tuaim i mí na Samhna 1918, in éineacht lena bhean, Jane, agus iníon a bhí aon mhí dhéag ag an am. Chónaigh muintir Rodaigh ar Shráid an Easpaig agus lean an Constábla Ruddy i mbun dualgais anall go dtí tráthnóna an 19 Iúil 1920 nuair a maraíodh James Burke agus Patrick Carey, Constáblaí de chuid an RIC nuair a rinneadh luíochán orthu ar an mbóthar idir Tuaim agus Dún Mór. Cuireadh Tuaim faoi scéin sceimhle an oíche sin, póilíní faoi airm ag dul ar an ionsaí le fonn díoltais, iad ag scaoileadh urchair gan aird ná aire ar na sráideanna, ag tarraingt fhir óga as an leaba agus ag bagairt go marófaí iad. Cuireadh Halla an Bhaile trí lasadh agus rinneadh árais gnó a réabadh. Chuir an obair sin uafás ar an gConstábla Ó Rodaigh agus dhiúltaigh sé aon pháirt a bheith aige i gcreachadh an bhaile mhóir. D'fhág sé an bheairic, chuaigh an timpeall abhaile ar a rothar ionas go seachnódh sé an réabadh agus d'éirigh as an bhfórsa ar an bpointe.

Ar an 7 Meán Fómhair, d'fhógair Micheál Maguidhir, Cathaoirleach Choimisinéirí an Bhaile, gurbh ábhar áthais dó an tUasal Ó Rodaigh a mholadh lena cheapadh ina Bhailitheoir Dolaí agus Custaim. Thagair sé dá chrógacht ag éirí as post a raibh luach maith saothair ag gabháil leis agus don chol a bhí aige leis an scrios agus leis an uafás a imríodh ar mhuintir na háite. Coicís dár gcionn, tháinig cúigear fear armtha le cótaí móra fada agus caipíní píce agus tharraing siad Aodh Ó Rodaigh as a leaba i lár na hoíche. Lean a bhean amach ar an tsráid iad ag impí ar na fir gan a fear a mharú ach d'ordaigh siad ar ais sa teach ise.

pleasure in proposing Mr Ruddy's appointment as Collector of Tolls and Customs. He cited his courage in giving up a lucrative position and his unwillingness to participate in the wanton destruction and terror visited on the local population. Two weeks later, Hugh Ruddy was taken at midnight from his home by a group of five armed men in trench coats and peaked caps; his frightened wife followed them onto the street, pleading with the men not to kill her husband, but she was ordered back into the house. Hugh Ruddy and another man, Tommy Owens, head porter at the railway station, suffered a terrible beating in a sandpit on the Athenry Road and were then told to make their own way back to town. Ruddy was told to re-join the RIC but, because he did not comply, he was visited a second time by Auxiliaries and warned to leave town as he was an insult to the police force and was in receipt of Sinn Féin money from the Town Council which was described as a Sinn Féin body.

The Ruddy home on Bishop Street was burnt down and the Archbishop of Tuam gave the family shelter. Fearful for his family's safety, the Ruddys returned to Foxford and, in January 1921, emigrated to Pittsburgh where other Mayo relatives lived. Although Hugh was happy in Pittsburgh and had applied for his citizenship, his wife Jane never fully settled; she wanted her third child to be born in Ireland so the family returned home and with the help of the Revd Con Cunningham, Tuam, Hugh joined the recently formed Civic Guards in May 1922.

He was promoted to Sergeant in October, shortly before arriving in Tuam and spent eleven years in the town where he was held in high regard and well liked. One notable incident in his career was when he rescued a swimmer in difficulty at Salthill in August 1931; he was alerted by his daughter Mabel to the cries for help. Seeing that the swimmer (later identified as a Miss Finn from Dublin), was being carried out to sea, he dived in fully clothed and brought her safely ashore.

D'fhulaing Aodh Ó Rodaigh agus fear eile darbh ainm Tommy Owens, an príomhghiolla bagáiste ag stáisiún an bhóthair iarainn, bualadh agus bascadh uafásach i bpoll gainimh ar Bhóthar Bhaile Átha an Rí. Dúradh leo ansin a mbealach féin a dhéanamh abhaile. Dúradh leis an Rodach dul ar ais san RIC agus nuair nach ndéanfadh sé mar a ordaíodh dó, tháinig na Póilíní Cúnta ag bagairt an dara huair agus ordaíodh dó an baile mór a fhágáil ó tharla gurbh mhór an náire do na póilíní é agus go raibh airgead Shinn Féin á ghlacadh aige ó Chomhairle an Bhaile ar dúradh nach raibh iontu ach cuid de Shinn Féin.

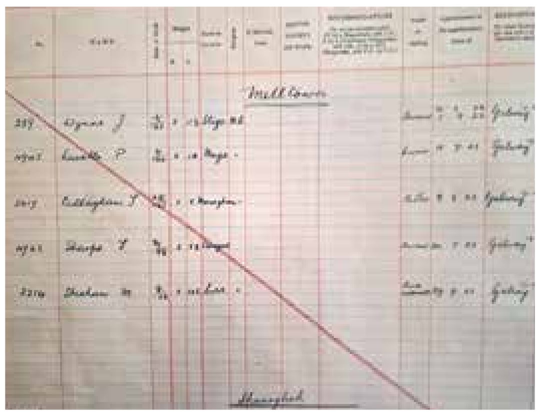
Dódh teach cónaithe mhuintir Uí Rodaigh ar Shráid an Easpaig agus bhí ar Ardeaspag Thuama cóir a chur ar an teaghlach. Ar mhaithe leis an gclann a thabhairt slán, d'fhill muintir Uí Rodaigh ar Bhéal Easa agus rinne siad imirce go Pittsburgh i mí Eanáir 1921 mar a raibh dream gaoil leo as Maigh Eo roimhe sin. Cé go raibh Aodh Ó Rodaigh sona in Pittsburgh agus go raibh curtha isteach aige ar shaoránacht Mheiriceá, ní raibh Jane, a bhean chéile, suaimhneach thall agus b'fhearr léi gur in Éirinn a thiocfadh an tríú duine clainne ar an saol. Tháinig siad ar ais dá bhrí sin agus, le cúnamh ón Athair Con Ó Cuinneagáin i dTuaim, chuaigh Aodh isteach sna Gardaí Sibhialta i mí Bealtaine 1922.

Fuair sé ardú céime ionas go ndearnadh Sáirsint de gairid sular tháinig go Tuaim agus chaith sé aon bhliain déag ina dhiaidh sin ar an mbaile mar a raibh meas agus dea-chlú air. Eachtra shuntasach amháin a tharla i rith an ama sin an lá ar thug sé bean a bhí i mbaol a báite slán as an bhfarraige i mBóthar na Trá i mí Lúnasa 1931. A iníon, Mabel, a tharraing aird ar an mbean a bheith ag fógairt. Nuair a chonaic sé í (Miss Finn as Baile Átha Cliath mar a fuarthas amach ina dhiaidh sin) á scuabadh amach ar an domhain, léim sé i bhfarraige gan aon cheirt a chaitheamh de agus thug sé slán sábháilte i dtír í.

Bhí tabhairt amach i dTuaim ag fágáil slán aige nuair a bhí sé á aistriú go Beann Éadair i mí

Tuam Garda Síochana Dinner Dance 1967.
Back Row L-R: Superintendent Michael Clifford, Tuam, Chief Superintendent Edward McDonnell, Roscommon, member not known.
Front Row L-R: Mrs Elizabeth Clifford, Mrs Bella McDonnell, member's wife not known.
Photo source: The Old Tuam Society Archive.

Dinnéar agus Damhsa an Gharda Síochána i dTuaim, 1967.
Ar chúl, ó chlé go deas: An Ceannfort Michael Clifford, Tuaim, An Ceannfort Edward McDonnell, Ros Comáin, níl an comhalta ar eolas.
Chun tosaigh, ó chlé go deas: Elizabeth Clifford Uasal, Bella McDonnell Uasal, níl bean an chomhalta ar eolas.
Grianghraf: Cartlann Old Tuam Society.



First members of An Garda Síochána in Milltown, 1922. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.

An chéad dream den Gharda Síochána i mBaile an Mhuilinn, 1922. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

At a farewell presentation in Tuam prior to his transfer to Howth Station in July 1933, he was commended for discharging his duties in a very tactful manner, especially towards those whose circumstances were disadvantaged.

Sergeant Ruddy's final posting was in Athy Station from where he retired on February 28th, 1945. He lived the remainder of his life in Clontarf and died in March 1971, followed a few months later by his beloved wife Jane.

Iúil 1933. Tugadh gach moladh air as a chuid dualgais a dhéanamh go staidéartha múinte agus caitheamh go cóir le daoine nach raibh chomh maith sin as.

I mBeairic Bhaile Átha Í a bhí an Sáirsint Ó Rodaigh ar lonnú nuair a chuaigh sé ar pinsean ar an 28 Feabhra 1945. Chaith sé an chuid eile dá shaol i gCluain Tarbh, mar a bhfuair sé bás i mí Márta 1971, míonna beaga roimh a bhean, Jane.

First Guards in Tuam, July 1923. Courtesy of The Old Tuam Society Archive.
An chéad dream Gardaí i dTuaim, Iúil 1923. Le caoinchead Chartlann an Old Tuam Society.

7. Garda Frank O'Rourke Reg. No: 1756

October 1922 was a significant in the history of Tuam – the arrival of the first detachment of the Civic Guard to occupy the police station in the town. This was just seven months after the RIC had handed over their policing duties to the authorities of the new Irish state.

Frank O'Rourke was an early member of the Civic Guard who had joined the ranks on 22 August 1922. The late Michael Shannon, Tuam, also joined on that day. Frank remembered clearly: "His registration number was 1753, three Guards senior to me", Frank's registration number being 1756.

Born in Ballinaboy, County Leitrim, on 2 December 1899, Frank lived his first four weeks in the 19th century. After training in Dublin Castle,

7. An Garda Frank O'Rourke, Uimhir chláraithe 1756

Sliocht as alt a foilsíodh ar an Journal of the Old Tuam Society 3, 2006, ll. 48-51. Arna aistriú agus arna chur i gcló le caoinchead ó Anne Tierney, Uachtarán an Chumainn, agus ó Bridget Tynan, an t-údar.

Ba shuntasach an lá an 2 Deireadh Fómhair 1922 i stair Thuama – an lá ar tháinig an chéad díorma den Gharda Sibhialta i mbeairic na bpóilíní ar an mbaile mór. Seacht mí a bhí caite ó aistríodh an dualgas póilíneachta ó Chonstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann go húdaráis an stáit nua in Éirinn.

Bhí Frank O'Rourke ar dhuine de na daoine ba luaithe a bhí sa Gharda Sibhialta. Bhí sé leo ón 22 Lúnasa 1922, an lá céanna a ndeachaigh Michael

his first posting was to the old police barracks in Vicar Street, Tuam, with nine Guards and two Sergeants.

We did not know where we were going and we had no place to stay. The building had only outer doors. All the inner doors had been used for firewood by the IRA who were preparing to blow up the place. Lofts and joists on each floor of the three-storey building had been pulled down to make the explosion more effective when the Archbishop of Tuam, Dr Gilmartin, intervened and persuaded them not to do it.

> *Each man carried his own bed and box of private belongings and we came by train to Athenry. There we were then, standing in the rain at the railway station, waiting for a way to get out. The military were across the road in the Railway Hotel, commandeering stuff. But with us, in charge, was a senior Sergeant, Hugh Ruddy, an ex-member of the RIC who had been stationed in Tuam and had recently returned from America to join the Civic Guard. Transport for us and our belongings was found because of him.*

On the way, two train engines had been deliberately derailed by the IRA at Ballyglunin Station. There were no lights in the town when we pulled up at the barracks.

The barracks in Tuam was covered in layers of mortar and rubble where the joists had been knocked down. We had no place and did not know at first where we were going to sleep, but eventually we took our beds again and slept in the courthouse. One man even put his bed in the witness box.

This continued for about a week. During the day we worked at clearing up the mess in the barracks and then moved our beds back in. We lived there for three years. It was repaired some three years later in 1925 by Jim Stockwell, building contractor.

In the meantime, on 8 August 1923, the Civic Guard had been renamed An Garda Síochána na hÉireann (Guardians of the Peace of Ireland).

Shannon, nach maireann, as Tuaim isteach. Bhí cuimhne mhaith ag Frank airsean: "1752 an uimhir chláraithe a bhí aige, triúr chun cinn orm féin", ós 1756 an uimhir chláraithe a bhí ag Frank.

I mBéal an Átha Buí i gContae Liatroma a rugadh Frank ar an 2 Nollaig 1899, chonaic sé ceithre seachtaine den 19ú céad. Tar éis dul faoi oiliúint i gCaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath, is é an chéad stáisiún ar cuireadh ar lonnú ann é an tseanbheairic ar Shráid an Bhiocáire i dTuaim, le naonúr Gardaí agus beirt Sháirsintí.

Ní raibh a fhios againn cá raibh ár dtriall agus ní raibh aon lóistín againn. Ní raibh de dhoirse san fhoirgneamh ach na doirse taobh amuigh. Bhí na doirse inmheánacha bainte anuas ag an IRA le cur ar an tine. Bhí socraithe acusan an áit a shéideadh in aer. Bhí na lotaí agus na giarsaí ar fad tarraingthe anuas, ar na stórtha ar fad, ionas gur fearr a d'oibreodh an pléascán nuair a chuir an Dr Mac Giolla Máirtín, Ardeaspag Thuama, a ladar sa scéal gur thug orthu gan an beart a chur i gcrích.

> *Bhí ábhar leapa agus bosca dá chuid giúirléidí príobháideacha ar iompar ag gach fear ag teacht ar an traein as Baile Átha an Rí. B'iúd ansin muid, seasta sa bháisteach ag stáisiún na traenach, ag fanacht go mbeadh bealach amach againn. Bhí an t-arm trasna an bhóthair in óstán an Railway Hotel, i mbun forghabhála. Ach bhí Sáirsint sinsearach i gceannas orainne, Aodh Ó Rodaigh, a bhíodh san RIC i dTuaim agus a bhí tar éis filleadh as Meiriceá le dul sa Gharda Sibhialta. Mar gheall airsean a fuarthas deis iompair dúinne agus dá raibh linn againn.*

Ar an mbealach go Tuaim dúinn, bhí dhá inneall traenach curtha de na ráillí ag an IRA i Stáisiún Bhéal Átha Glúinín. Ní raibh soilse ar bith ar an mbaile agus muid ag tarraingt ag an mbeairic.

Bhí moirtéal agus smionagar ar fud na beairice i dTuaim san áit ar tarraingíodh anuas na giarsaí. Ní raibh áit ar bith socraithe dúinn ná fios againn cén áit chodlata a bheadh againn ach ba

An Garda Síochána

Frank spent five years in Tuam and he used to do the 'nine Fridays'. He was...

> *Coming back from confession one Thursday when the whole place was held up by strange men wearing white bands. The IRA were attacking the Free State Army who were holed up in the workhouse. I continued along though there was danger of crossfire. They questioned me but let me go.*

Frank was transferred to Kilconly where he spent the next four years and then to Corrandulla.

According to Frank, illegal fishing in the Clare River and poteen making were commonplace.

> *Corrandulla and indeed all that Corrib country was swimming in poteen then. We once found five gallons of it in Headford.*

His next position was in Oranmore and while stationed there, he returned to Tuam to find his bride. He married Annie Fahy of High Street (daughter of Simon Fahy) at Tuam Cathedral.

Athenry was his last posting; he arrived in February 1935 and spent the next 27 years working there. He retired on his birthday, on 2 December 1962, having spent a total of 40 years and four months in the force.

Frank said that the Civic Guard and An Garda Síochána gave him a good life and still did. Frank was a talented violinist, used to play at feiseanna and dances in Tuam's Town Hall.

> *I remember my first holiday. It was April 8th 1923. It was only an odd Guard then who would go home on holiday. Because they might be beaten up by the IRA, you see, but I did. I cycled from Tuam to Ballinaboy in Leitrim. Cycling was easy enough if the wind was not against you. But if it was, so it was tough. Coming back some days later there wasn't a breeze but it rained all the way. I was so wet I could hardly get off the bike in case I tore my clothes. There*

é deireadh an scéil gur tugadh na leapacha as sin arís go teach na cúirte. Bhí fear amháin a chóirigh a leaba féin i gcró na bhfinnéithe.

Lean an socrú sin go ceann seachtaine. Glanadh na beairice an obair a bhíodh orainn i rith an lae go dtí gur féadadh na leapacha a chur ar ais ansin. Bhí cónaí orainn ann ar feadh trí bliana. Jim Stockwell, an conraitheoir tógála, a rinne an obair deisiúcháin ar an áit sa bhliain 1925, trí bliana dár gcionn.

Idir an dá linn, ar an 8 Lúnasa 1923, athraíodh ainm an Gharda Sibhialta go dtí Garda Síochána na hÉireann.

Cúig bliana a chaith Frank i dTuaim. Dhéanadh sé Na Naoi nAoine.

> *Ag teacht ón bhfaoistin dom Déardaoin amháin, bhí an áit uilig faoi ionsaí ag fir strainséartha a raibh ribíní bána á gcaitheamh acu. Bhí Arm an tSaorstáit i bhfolach i dteach na mbocht agus iad faoi ionsaí ag an IRA. Choinnigh mé ar mo bhealach cé go raibh an baol ann go mbéarfaí i lár an achrainn orm. Ceistíodh mé ach ligeadh an bealach mé.*

Aistríodh Frank go Cill Chonla, áit ar chaith sé ceithre bliana, agus ansin arís go Cor an Dola.

De réir thuairisc Frank, bhíodh iascach mídhleathach ar Abhainn an Chláir coitianta ag an am, mar a bhíodh déanamh an phoitín.

> *Bhí Cor an Dola, agus go deimhin ceantar Loch Coirib uilig báite le poitín an t-am sin. Bhí uair amháin ar gabhadh cúig ghalún poitín in Áth Cinn.*

In Órán Mór a bhí sé ar an gcéad áit eile agus i rith a théarma ceithre bliana ansin a thagadh sé ar ais go Tuaim mar gheall ar an mbean a phósfadh sé. In Ardeaglais Thuama a phós sé féin agus Annie Fahy as an tSráid Ard (iníon le Simon Fahy).

Garda Frank O'Rourke. Courtesy of Bridget Tynan.
An Garda Frank O'Rourke. Le caoinchead Bridget Tynan.

was a guard from Drumshanbo, also in County Leitrim, stationed in Killaloe, County Clare, who regularly cycled from there to Athenry, stayed the night with me and we both cycled home to Leitrim next day.

We had to get permission from the Chief [Superintendent] to have a motor-bike and were not allowed to use it on duty. Only bicycles which we bought ourselves, or walking. There's an awful change now, it's all car patrolling.

Frank was one of the last surviving members of the Civic Guard.

Abstract from an article published in *Journal of the Old Tuam Society 3*, 2006, pp 48-51. Reprinted by kind permission of the President of the Old Tuam Society, Anne Tierney and author Bridget Tynan.

I mBaile Átha an Rí a chaith sé an chuid eile dá shaol oibre; i mí Feabhra 1935 a thosaigh sé ansin agus chaith sé 27 mbliana ann. Chuaigh sé amach ar pinsean ar an 2 Nollaig 1962, cothrom a lae breithe, tar éis dó 40 bliain agus ceithre mhí a chaitheamh sna Gardaí.

Deir Frank go raibh saol maith aige mar gheall ar an nGarda Sibhialta agus ar an nGarda Síochána. Veidhleadóir maith a bhí ann agus bhíodh sé ag ceol ag feiseanna agus ag céilíocha i Halla an Bhaile i dTuaim.

Is cuimhin liom an chéad uair a bhí saoire agam, ar an 8 Aibreán 1923. Is beag Garda an uair sin a théadh abhaile ar laethanta saoire. Ar fhaitíos go mbascfadh daoine den IRA iad, tuigeann tú, ach, ar aon chuma, rinne mise. Chuaigh mé ag rothaíocht as Tuaim go Béal an Átha Buí i gContae Liatroma. Bhí rothaíocht éasca go leor má bhí cóir leat, ach má bhí an ghaoth i d'aghaidh, bhí sin deacair. Ag teacht ar ais dom laethanta beaga ina dhiaidh sin, ní raibh puth gaoithe ann ach bhí sé ag báisteach ar feadh an bhealaigh. Bhí mé chomh fliuch agus nach bhféadfainn éirí den rothar ar fhaitíos go stróicfí mo chuid éadaigh. Bhí Garda eile as Droim Seanbhó, i gContae Liatroma chomh maith, ag obair i mbeairic Chill Dalua i gContae an Chláir. Ba mhinic leisean a theacht ar rothar as sin go Baile Átha an Rí agus an oíche a chaitheamh liomsa sula dtéadh an bheirt againn ag rothaíocht abhaile go Liatroim an lá dár gcionn.

Bhí orainn cead a fháil ón Ardcheannfort le gluaisrothar a fháil agus ní raibh cead sin a úsáid i mbun dualgais. Rothar an t-aon rud a bhíodh cead a úsáid, agus muid féin a cheannaigh é. Sin nó siúl na gcos. Is mór an t-athrú atá tagtha ó shin. Patról carranna uilig atá anois ann.

Bhí Frank ar dhuine de na daoine deireanacha den Gharda Sibhialta a mhair.

An Taca Síochána 1939. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána Retired Members Association.
An Taca Síochána 1939. Le caoinchead Cumann Iarbhaill an Gharda Síochána.

8. Garda Reserve

Galway Division

The Garda Reserve rank became part of An Garda Síochána in 2006. This rank consists of part-time members of the force who work on certain restricted patrol duties in support of the regular members of An Garda Síochána.

Contrary to popular belief, the Garda Reserve was not the first instance of part-time/temporary members of An Garda Síochána being utilised. After the start of World War II in 1939, the Irish Government recruited 300 men to a temporary police force called 'Taca', the Irish word for prop or support. Although these members were paid, service was on a temporary basis and was non-pensionable. Initially, 233 members were

8. An Taca Síochána

Rannán na Gaillimhe

Rinneadh cuid den Gharda Síochána de chéim Chúltaca an Gharda Síochána sa bhliain 2006. Tá an chéim seo comhdhéanta de chomhaltaí páirtaimseartha an fhórsa a théann i mbun dualgais patróil shrianta áirithe chun tacú le gnáthchomhaltaí an Gharda Síochána.

D'ainneoin a gcreideann an pobal i gcoitinne, níorbh ionann Cúltaca an Gharda Síochána agus an chéad uair a úsáideadh comhaltaí páirtaimseartha/ sealadacha den Gharda Síochána. Tar éis thús an Dara Cogadh Domhanda sa bhliain 1939, d'earcaigh Rialtas na hÉireann 300 fear d'fhórsa sealadach póilíneachta darbh ainm "Taca", an focal Gaeilge ar prop nó support sa Bhéarla.

attested to the Taca Síochána in 1939 and trained at the Garda Depot in the Phoenix Park. The usual entry requirements in relation to height, marital status and age were rigorously applied. A large proportion of the Taca recruits came from the western side of the country and there was a greater variety as regards former employment. These men were mainly in their early 20s and, on the whole, better educated than their predecessors in the force. After training, all were sent in uniform to Stations in Dublin. While they were considered to be a temporary force, they performed the same duties as the permanent members but with less favourable conditions of service. In 1942, the Taca Síochána members who remained were fully absorbed into the Garda Síochána proper on a pensionable basis.

On 30 September 2006, 40 members of the Garda Reserve commenced training. They were later assigned to pilot areas in the country and were on probation for five years. Most of their training was to be delivered on the job.

At present (in 2026), members of the Garda Reserve will serve a two-year probationary period and will be assessed annually. They are required to work a minimum of 208 hours per annum and possess limited Garda powers under the Public Order and Road Traffic Acts. They are utilised in support of full-time members across a range of duties, events and emergencies. They do not patrol on their own and must be accompanied by a full-time member of the force. They cannot drive Garda vehicles, operate in plain clothes or carry firearms but are subject to the same standards of discipline and procedures as those that apply to the full-time members.

Garda Reserves are currently attached to all the District Headquarters in the Galway Division.

Reserve Garda Michael Fahy, Galway.
Courtesy of Garda Michael Fahy.
An Garda Taca Michael Fahy, Gaillimh.
Le caoinchead an Gharda Michael Fahy.

Cé go bhfuair na comhaltaí seo íocaíocht, seirbhís neamh-inphinsin ar bhonn sealadach a bhí i gceist. Cuireadh 233 comhalta den Taca Síochána faoi mhionn ar dtús sa bhliain 1939 agus cuireadh oiliúint orthu ag Iosta an Gharda i bPáirc an Fhionnuisce. Cloíodh go docht leis na gnáthriachtanais iontrála maidir le hairde, stádas pósta agus aois. Ba as Iarthar na tíre a tháinig cuid mhaith d'earcaigh Taca agus bhí níos mó éagsúlachta i gceist ó thaobh iarfhostaíochta. Fir ina gcuid 20idí a bhí i gceist den chuid is mó, agus bhí níos mó oideachais acu ar an iomlán ná na comhaltaí ar an bhfórsa a tháinig rompu. Tar éis dóibh oiliúint a fháil, seoladh iad ar fad chuig Stáisiúin i mBaile Átha Cliath agus éide orthu.

An Garda Síochána

Reserve Garda Alan Burke, Galway.
Courtesy of *Galway Advertiser.*
An Garda Taca Alan Burke, Gaillimh.
Le caoinchead *Galway Advertiser.*

Cé gur breathnaíodh orthu mar fhórsa sealadach, chomhlíon siad na dualgais chéanna agus a chomhlíon na comhaltaí buana seachas nach raibh na coinníollacha seirbhíse chomh maith céanna. Sa bhliain 1942, tógadh isteach ina n-iomláine na comhaltaí den Taca Síochána a bhí fanta sa nGarda Síochána ceart ar bhonn inphinsin.

Ar an 30 Meán Fómhair, 2006, chuir 40 comhalta de Chúltaca an Gharda Síochána tús lena gcuid oiliúna. Cuireadh chuig ceantair phíolótacha timpeall na tíre iad ina dhiaidh sin agus bhí siad ar promhadh feadh 5 bliana. Oiliúint agus iad i mbun a gcuid oibre a bheadh i gceist le formhór na foghlama.

Faoi láthair, sa bhliain 2022, fónfaidh comhaltaí de Chúltaca an Gharda Síochána tréimhse phromhaidh dhá bhliain agus déanfar iad a mheas gach bliain. Éilítear orthu 208 uair an chloig sa bhliain a oibriú ar a laghad agus tá cumhachtaí teoranta Gardaí acu faoi na hAchtanna Oird Phoiblí agus na hAchtanna um Thrácht ar Bhóithre. Téitear i muinín chomhaltaí Chúltaca an Gharda Síochána chun tacú le comhaltaí lánaimseartha maidir le réimse dualgas, ócáidí agus cásanna éigeandála. Ní théann siad amach ar patról leo féin agus ní mór comhalta lánaimseartha den fhórsa a bheith in éineacht leo. Níl cead acu feithiclí an Gharda Síochána a thiomáint, dul i mbun oibre faoi ghnáthéadaí nó gunna a bheith acu, ach bíonn siad faoi réir na gcaighdeán céanna disciplín agus nósanna imeachta a bhaineann le comhaltaí lánaimseartha an Gharda Síochána.

Tá comhaltaí de Chúltaca an Gharda Síochána ag obair i ngach ceann de na Ceanncheathrúna Dúiche i Rannán na Gaillimhe i láthair na huaire.

The first twelve Ban Gardaí with their Training Sergeant from Liverpool; Peig Tierney front row, 3rd from left. Courtesy of The Garda Museum.

Na chéad dáréag Bangharda in éineacht lena Sáirsint Oiliúna ó Learpholl. Peig Tierney an 3ú duine ar chlé sa líne tosaigh. Le caoinchead Mhúsaem an Gharda.

9. Women in An Garda Síochána, Galway

Internationally, the New York Police Department (NYPD) utilised females within its organisation since the 1890s. Irish records show that in 1917, the Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP) employed four women to patrol the streets between 7 pm and midnight. Each morning, they had to report on the "moral state of the streets" but, despite their duties, they were not members of the DMP. Following the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922, these four female Police Assistants remained in place. However, they were not replaced on retirement and, by 1955, only one female Police Assistant (Elizabeth Watters, 73 years of age) remained in Dublin, although in the following year a further four female Police Assistants were appointed.

9. Mná sa Gharda Síochána, Gaillimh

Go hidirnáisiúnta, bhí na mná i mbun oibre laistigh d'eagraíocht Póilíní Nua-Eabhrac (an NYPD) ó na 1890í. Léirítear i dtaifid in Éirinn gur fhostaigh Póilíní Chathair Átha Cliath (DMP) ceathrar ban sa bhliain 1917, chun patról a dhéanamh ar na sráideanna idir 7pm agus meán oíche. Bhí sé mar chúram orthu tuairisc a thabhairt maidir le "riocht morálta na sráideanna" gach aon mhaidin, ach in ainneoin a gcuid dualgas, ní raibh siad ina gcomhaltaí den DMP. Tar éis bhunú Shaorstát Éireann in 1922, bhí na Cúntóirí Póilíneachta seo fós fostaithe. Mar sin féin, níor cuireadh duine ar bith eile ina n-áit nuair a chuaigh siad ar scor agus, faoin mbliain, 1955, ní raibh ach aon bhan-chúntóir Póilíneachta amháin (Elizabeth Watters, 73 bliain

An Garda Síochána

Since 1923, women had been recruited to the Police forces in the UK and they had full powers. In Ireland, however, this did not happen until February 1958, when Commissioner Daniel Costigan approved the appointment of 12 women to join An Garda Síochána; they became the first female members of AGS in 1959.

Extensive lobbying by various organisations had taken place from the 1930s, including campaigns of the Joint Committee of Women's Societies and Social Workers, for women to be accepted into An Garda Síochána. This committee lobbied the Garda Commissioner, the Minister for Justice and the Taoiseach for a number of years without success.

In 1948, Senior Management in An Garda Síochána recognised that female members were needed and the Deputy Commissioner at that time sought the appointment of five women to the force. By 1952, there having been no advance in the matter, the Minister for Justice was asked by an Assistant Commissioner to urgently appoint six female members to Dublin City.

In the early 1950s, a Committee of Inquiry was set up to examine and improve the workings of the Garda organisation and it was at this time that the issue of female members being accepted into the organisation was given proper consideration.

The issue was debated in the Dáil at the time and certain TDs made some unusual comments such as "the commanding personalities of the women of the west and north-west should form the nucleus of this force." Another TD suggested that "female Gardaí should not be too good looking, that they should be plain women and not targets for marriage." Naive comments of this nature could, to some extent, be attributed to the Civil Service Marriage Bar still being in force until 1973.

Finally, in 1958, the Department of Justice authorised Commissioner Costigan to initiate the recruitment of 400 Gardaí for the following year (1959), 12 of whom were to be female.

d'aois) fanta i mBaile Átha Cliath, cé gur ceapadh ceathrar Cúntóirí Póilíneachta eile an bhliain dár gcionn.

Ón mbliain 1923 i leith, earcaíodh mná i bhFórsaí Póilíneachta sa Ríocht Aontaithe agus bhí cumhachtaí iomlána acu. In Éirinn, áfach, níor tharla sé seo go dtí mí Feabhra 1958, nuair a cheadaigh an Coimisinéir, Daniel Costigan, ceapachán 12 bean sa nGarda Síochána; bhí siad ar na chéad bhanchomhaltaí den AGS sa bhliain 1959.

Bhí stocaireacht mhór ar siúl ag eagraíochtaí éagsúla ó na 1930í i leith, lena n-áirítear Comhchoiste Chumainn Ban agus Oibrithe Sóisialta, ar mhaithe leis na mná a ligean isteach sa nGarda Síochána. Rinne an coiste seo stocaireacht ar Choimisinéir an Gharda Síochána, ar an Aire Dlí agus Cirt agus ar an Taoiseach ar feadh roinnt mhaith blianta agus gan aon toradh ar a gcuid stocaireachta.

Sa mbliain 1948, d'aithin Ardbhainistíocht an Gharda Síochána go raibh gá le banchomhaltaí agus d'éiligh an Leas-Choimisinéir a bhí ann ag an am, ceapachán cúigear ban ar an bhfórsa. Faoin mbliain 1952, ní raibh aon dul chun cinn déanta maidir leis an ábhar, d'iarr an Coimisinéir Cúnta ar an Aire Dlí agus Cirt seisear banchomhaltaí a cheapadh ar bhonn práinne do Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath.

I dtús na 1950í, bunaíodh Coiste Fiosrúcháin chun feidhmiú eagraíocht an Gharda Síochána a scrúdú agus a fheabhsú agus is ag an am sin a rinneadh breithniú cuí ar bhanchomhaltaí a ghlacadh isteach san eagraíocht.

Rinneadh an tsaincheist a phlé sa Dáil ag an am agus rinne Teachtaí Dála áirithe ráitis neamhghnácha ar nós "ba cheart go mbeadh pearsantachtaí údarásacha na mban ón iarthar agus ón iarthuaisceart ina gcnámh droma ag an bhfórsa seo." Bhí Teachta Dála eile den tuairim nár chóir go mbeadh Banghardaí ródhathúil, gur

April A Class 1983 – First all-female class. Courtesy of Patricia Lydon.
Rang A Aibreán 1983 – An chéad rang uile-mhná. Le caoinchead Patricia Lydon.

This resulted in 178 female applicants, 41 of them being interviewed and, in 1959, the first 12 female members (Ban Gardaí) of An Garda Síochána, among an intake of 400 that year, beginning training. Female applicants had to be 20 years of age when applying despite the fact that their male counterparts only had to be 18. The process to recruit female members into the force had taken over 20 years from the inception of the initiative and 37 years from the foundation of the force itself.

Following Commissioner Costigan's consultation with the UK Home Office, Sergeant Doreen Prissick of the Liverpool City Police Force was the female instructor specifically seconded to Garda Headquarters for four months to train the newly recruited female members.

cheart go mbeadh siad neamhsciamhach agus nach mbeadh mórán foinn ar aon fhear iad a phósadh. D'fhéadfaí ráitis shoineanta den chineál seo a chur síos a bheag nó a mhór do Bhac Pósta na Státseirbhíse a bhí fós i bhfeidhm go dtí an bhliain 1973.

Faoi dheireadh thiar thall, sa bhliain 1958, cheadaigh an Roinn Dlí agus Cirt don Choimisinéir Costigan tús a chur le hearcú 400 Garda don bhliain dár gcionn (1959), agus ba mhná a bheadh in 12 de na hearcaithe sin.

Mar thoradh air sin, fuarthas iarratas ó 178 bean, cuireadh 41 acu sin faoi agallamh agus, sa bhliain 1959, chuir an chéad 12 banchomhalta (Bangharda) den Gharda Síochána, ón iomlán de 400 a rinne iarratas an bhliain sin, tús lena gcuid oiliúna. Bhí sé ina choinníoll go mbeadh

An Garda Síochána

As with all women working in the Public Service, the new female members received less pay than their male counterparts and their role was initially seen as dealing with children and young girls who came to the attention of the force. They could not work after 1 am, were not issued with batons and had to retire after 25 years of service. Unfortunately, the careers of many of these first female members of An Garda Síochána were ended by the infamous Civil Service Marriage Bar of the time.

Of the first twelve Ban Gardaí, Margaret (Peig) Tierney was a native of Bridge Street, Oughterard, Co. Galway. The *Connacht Tribune* of 18 July 1959 recorded her appointment under the heading "Among First Lady Gardaí", mentioning that a presentation was made to her by the Oughterard Pioneer Council. On appointment, she was given the Registered Number 9W; she later recalled that they had been known affectionately as the "12 Apostles" and that they had been provided with boiler-suits at the beginning of their training as their uniforms had not yet been available.

Following training at the Phoenix Park Depot, Peig's First Station was Pearse Street, Dublin, where she served from 1960 to 1962. At Pearse Street, she was one of the first Ban Gardaí to be promoted to the rank of Sergeant. She was subsequently transferred to Edward Street, Limerick, becoming one of the first Ban Gardaí to work outside Dublin. While stationed in Limerick, Peig met her future husband, Sergeant Michael Brown and, due to the 'marriage ban', a very promising career was cut short (as was the case for all female members who were forced to choose between marriage and a career in An Garda Síochána). Having chosen marriage, Peig had to retire on 31 August 1965 and married Michael the next day. Sergeant Margaret 'Peig' Browne (nee Tierney), Registered Number 9W, died in November 2016.

na hiarratasóirí mná 20 bliain d'aois agus iarratas á dhéanamh acu, in ainneoin nár ghá do na fir ach a bheith 18 mbliana d'aois. Ghlac an próiseas banchomhaltaí a earcú isteach san bhfórsa breis is 20 bliain ó cuireadh tús leis an tionscnamh an chéad lá riamh agus 37 bliain ó bunaíodh an fórsa féin.

Tar éis don Choimisinéir Costigan dul i gcomhairle le hOifig Gnóthaí Baile na Ríochta Aontaithe, ba í an Sáirsint Doreen Prissick ó Fhórsa Póilíneachta Chathair Learphoill an teagascóir a fuarthas ar iasacht do Cheanncheathrú an Gharda Síochána ar feadh ceithre mhí chun oiliúint a chur ar na banchomhaltaí nua-earcaithe.

Ar nós gach bean a bhí ag obair sa tSeirbhís Phoiblí, bhí níos lú pá á fháil ag na banghardaí nua seachas mar a bhí á fháil ag na fir agus measadh i dtús báire gurbh é a ról déileáil le leanaí agus le cailíní óga a tháinig ar aird an fhórsa. Ní raibh cead acu aon obair a dhéanamh tar éis 1am, níor tugadh aon smachtíní dóibh agus bhí orthu dul ar scor tar éis 25 bliain seirbhíse. Faraor, chuir Bac Pósta na Státseirbhíse míchlúiteach a bhí ann an tráth sin deireadh le gairm bheatha go leor de chéad bhanchomhaltaí an Gharda Síochána.

Bhí Margaret (Peig)Tierney as Sráid an Droichid, Uachtar Ard ó dhúchas, ar dhuine de na chéad 12 Bangharda. Rinneadh taifeadadh ar an gceapachán sa *Churadh Connachtach* den 18 Iúil 1959 faoin teideal "I measc na gCéad Bhanghardaí", inar tagraíodh don bhronnadh a ndearna Comhairle Réadóirí Uachtar Ard uirthi. Ar a ceapachán, tugadh an Uimhir Chláraithe 9W di; thug sí le fios ina dhiaidh sin go mbítí ag tabhairt an "12 Aspal" orthu mar ainm ceana agus gur tugadh forchultacha dóibh agus iad ag cur tús leis an oiliúint mar nach raibh éide ar fáil fós.

Tar éis na hoiliúna i Stáisiún Pháirc an Fhionnuisce, cuireadh Peig ar dualgas den chéad uair i stáisiún Shráid an Phiarsaigh i mBaile Átha Cliath agus bhí sí ar dualgas ansin ó 1960

Of the first 12 Ban Gardaí, six were, on completion of their training, sent to Store Street Garda Station and six to Pearse Street Garda Station. They were not allowed to reside in the Stations, unlike their male counterparts at the time.

After the first intake of females in 1959, subsequent appointments in the following years were relatively small. The marriage bar was lifted in 1973 and in 1975, a further 10 female members were appointed.

Nationally, female members were first appointed to the ranks of Sergeant in 1960, Inspector in 1981, Superintendent in 1989, Chief Superintendent in 1999, Assistant Commissioner in 2003 and Deputy Commissioner in 2011. In 2014, Noreen O'Sullivan was appointed as the twelfth Commissioner of An Garda Síochána and the first woman to lead the organisation.

The first female members of the force to arrive in Galway were Imelda O'Flynn (nee Daly) and Maureen Ryan (nee Igoe) who both arrived in the Eglinton Street Station in 1976. In April 1976, the *Irish Independent* recorded the announcement of the first Ban Gardaí in Waterford and Galway ("Ban Gardaí for two more towns", 27.04.1976). The news stated that "Maureen Igoe, Store St. and Imelda Daly, Edward St., Limerick, are going to Galway." The upcoming arrival of the new female Gardaí was also noted in the *Western People* under a story headline representative of its times – "Two 'Little' Girls in Blue" (13.03.1976). The report noted:

> *The introduction of the Ban Gardaí will be welcomed in the city, especially by law-and-order officials, as there has been some difficulty in the past over the searching of female suspects and same was being held up until the arrival of a Ban Garda from Limerick.*

go 1962. Fuair sí ardú céime i stáisiún Shráid an Phiarsaigh, agus bhí sí ar dhuine de na chéad Bhanghardaí agus fuair ardú céime go dtí grád an tSáirsint. Aistríodh Peig ina dhiaidh sin go Sráid Edward i Luimneach, agus bhí sí ar dhuine de na chéad Bhanghardaí a d'oibrigh lasmuigh de Bhaile Átha Cliath. Le linn do Pheig a bheith lonnaithe i Luimneach, chas sí leis an bhfear a phósfadh sí ina dhiaidh sin, an Sáirsint Michael Brown, agus, mar gheall ar an 'mbac pósta', cuireadh deireadh le gairm bheatha a raibh cuma na maitheasa uirthi (agus is mar sin a bhí an cás ag na Banghardaí go léir a raibh orthu rogha a dhéanamh idir pósadh agus gairm bheatha sa Gharda Síochána). De bharr gur shocraigh Peig go raibh sí ag iarraidh pósadh, bhí uirthi dul ar scor ar an 31 Lúnasa 1965 agus phós sí Michael an lá dár gcionn. Bhásaigh an Sáirsint Margaret 'Peig' Browne, (Tierney roimh phósadh di), Uimhir Chláraithe 9W, i mí na Samhna 2016.

As na chéad 12 Bangharda, cuireadh seisear, ar a gcuid oiliúna a chríochnú, chuig Stáisiún Gardaí Shráid an Stórais agus cuireadh seisear chuig Stáisiún Gardaí Shráid an Phiarsaigh. Níor tugadh cead dóibh cónaí sna Stáisiúin, ach ní mar sin a bhí an cás do na fir.

Tar éis na chéad Bhanghardaí a ghlacadh isteach sa bhliain 1959, bhí ceapacháin sna blianta ina dhiaidh sin sách íseal. Cuireadh deireadh leis an mbac pósta sa bhliain 1973 agus sa bhliain 1975, ceapadh 10 mBangharda eile.

Ar bhonn náisiúnta, ceapadh Banghardaí den chéad uair chuig grád an tSáirsint sa bhliain 1960, chuig grád an Chigire sa bhliain 1981, chuig grád an Cheannfoirt sa bhliain 1989, chuig grád an Ard-Cheannfoirt sa bhliain 1999, chuig grád an Choimisinéara Cúnta sa bhliain 2003 agus chuig grád an Leas-Choimisinéara sa bhliain 2011. Sa bhliain 2014, ceapadh Noreen O'Sullivan ina dara Coimisinéir déag ar an nGarda Síochána agus ba í an chéad bhean í i gceannas na heagraíochta.

Garda Imelda O'Flynn and Garda Maureen Ryan, the first female Gardaí in Galway. Courtesy of the *Connacht Tribune*.

An Garda Imelda O'Flynn agus an Garda Maureen Ryan, na chéad Ghardaí mná i nGaillimh.
Le caoinchead an *Churaidh Chonnachtaigh*.

The term Ban Garda was officially dropped in 1991 and in 1992 female Gardaí were permitted to wear trousers on duty.

Imelda O'Flynn, who had arrived in Galway in 1976, was the first Galway-based female promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 1998. Marie Skehill, a native of Loughrea, was the first Galway-based female to be promoted to the rank of Inspector in 2003 and, in 2008, she was the first Galway-based female to be promoted to the rank of Superintendent.

Noreen O'Sullivan served as Assistant Commissioner for the Western Region while attached to Galway Garda Station before ultimately becoming the first female Commissioner of An Garda Síochána.

On 11 February 2023, Clíona Richardson, a native of Dublin, was appointed to the rank of

Bhí Imelda O'Flynn (Daly roimh phósadh di) agus Maureen Ryan (Igoe roimh phósadh di) ar na chéad bhanchomhaltaí den fhórsa a tháinig go Gaillimh sa bhliain 1976 agus bhí an bheirt lonnaithe i Stáisiún Gardaí Shráid Eglinton. Rinneadh taifeadadh in Aibreán 1976, san *Irish Independent* ar an bhfógra maidir leis na chéad Bhanghardaí do Phort Láirge agus do Ghaillimh ("Banghardaí do dhá bhaile mór eile", 27.04.1976). Tugadh le fios sa tuairisc go raibh "Maureen Igoe, Sráid an Stórais agus Imelda Daly, Sráid Edward, Luimneach, le lonnú i nGaillimh." Tugadh teacht beirt Bhanghardaí nua a bhí ar na bacáin ar aird freisin sa Western People faoin gceannlíne a bhí ionadaíoch den am – "Beirt Chailíní 'Beaga' in Éide Ghorm" (13.03.1976). Tugadh ar aird sa tuairisc:

> *Fáilteofar sa chathair roimh thabhairt isteach na mBanghardaí, go háirithe i measc oifigeach riail agus reacht, mar go raibh roinnt deacrachtaí san am a caitheadh le mná a rabhthas in amhras fúthu a chuardach agus go raibh moill i gceist anseo go dtí gur tháinig Banghardа ó Luimneach.*

Fuarthas réidh go hoifigiúil leis an téarma Banghарда sa bhliain 1991 agus sa bhliain 1992 tugadh cead do Bhanghardaí treabhsar a chaitheamh le linn dóibh a bheith ar dualgas.

Ba í Imelda O'Flynn, a tháinig go Gaillimh sa bhliain 1976, an chéad Bhangharda a bhí lonnaithe i nGaillimh a fuair ardú céime go grád an tSáirsint sa bhliain 1998. Ba í Marie Skehill, ó Bhaile Locha Riach ó dhúchas, an chéad Bhangharda a bhí lonnaithe i nGaillimh a fuair ardú céime go grád an Chigire sa bhliain 2003 agus, sa bhliain 2008, ba í an chéad Bhangharda a bhí lonnaithe i nGaillimh a fuair ardú céime go grád an Cheannfoirt.

Bhí Noreen O'Sullivan i mbun feidhme mar Choimisinéir Cúnta i Réigiún an Iarthair le linn di a bheith ag obair le Stáisiún Gardaí na Gaillimhe sular ceapadh í mar an chéad Bhanchoimisinéir ar an nGarda Síochána.

Superintendent Marie Skehill (Retd).
Courtesy of the *Connacht Tribune*.

An Ceannfort Marie Skehill (ar scor).
Le caoinchead an *Churaidh Chonnachtaigh*.

Assistant Commissioner Clíona Richardson.
Courtesy of Assistant Commisioner Clíona Richardson.

An Coimisinéir Cúnta Clíona Richardson.
Le caoinchead an Choimisinéara Chúnta Clíona Richardson.

Assistant Commissioner with responsibility for the North-Western Region, holding responsibility for the Divisions of Galway, Mayo/Roscommon/ Longford, Sligo/Leitrim, Donegal and Louth/ Cavan/ Monaghan.

She joined An Garda Síochána in 1990 and has over 30 years' policing experience in a range of operational roles in the National Bureau of Criminal Investigation and the Criminal Assets Bureau, as District Officer in Ballinasloe and as a Detective Chief Superintendent when she was in charge of An Garda Síochána's National Criminal Intelligence Unit (NCIU). As Detective Chief Superintendent, she also headed the Liaison and Protection Section of An Garda Síochána, which has responsibility for the protective security of the State, its institutions and Major Emergency Management.

An 11 Feabhra 2023, ceapadh Clíona Richardson, ó Bhaile Átha Cliath ó dhúchas, i ngrád an Choimisinéara Chúnta le freagracht as Réigiún an Iarthuaiscirt agus le freagracht choinneála as Roinn na Gaillimhe, Mhaigh Eo/Ros Comáin, Shligigh/Liatroma, Dhún na nGall/an Chabháin/ Mhuineacháin.

Chuaigh Clíona Richardson isteach sa nGarda Síochána in 1990 agus tá breis is 30 bliain de thaithí phóilíneachta aici i réimse róil oibríochta sa mBiúró Náisiúnta um Imscrúdú Coiriúil agus sa mBiúró um Shócmhainní Coiriúla, mar Oifigeach Ceantair i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe agus mar Bhleachtaire Ard-Cheannfoirt nuair a bhí sí i gceannas Aonad Náisiúnta um Fhaisnéis Choiriúil (NCIU) an Gharda Síochána. Mar Bhleachtaire Ard-Cheannfoirt, bhí sí i gceannas freisin ar Roinn Idirchaidrimh agus Cosanta an Gharda Síochána, ar a bhfuil freagracht as slándáil

Furthermore, she held the position of head of the EUROPOL National Unit in Ireland and head of the INTERPOL National Central Bureau for Ireland, while in the Liaison and Protection Section. She has represented Ireland on a number of national and international working groups relating to the exchange of information and international co-operation.

As head of An Garda Síochána's Major Emergency Management Unit, Assistant Commissioner Richardson had responsibility for the running of the COVID-19 Co-ordination Unit when it was established in 2020 to manage An Garda Síochána's strategic response in a co-ordinated manner as the pandemic evolved.

In her current role she has responsibility for the Cross Border Joint Agency Task Force (JATF) and is co-chair of the JATF Operations Co-ordination Group which is charged with reviewing and developing the Cross Border Strategy 2025-2027.

Assistant Commissioner Richardson holds a Degree from UCD/Smurfit Business School in Police Leadership and Governance and also completed the An Garda Síochána's Policing and Human Rights Law in Ireland certificate programme in conjunction with the University of Limerick. She is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).

Garda strength figures for December 2024 show that, from a total of 14,191 sworn members, 4,073 are female and of the following ranks:

Garda 3,385, Sergeant 549, Inspector 96, Superintendent 28, Chief Superintendent 10,

Assistant Commissioner 4, Deputy Commissioner 1.

A similar breakdown in respect of the Galway Division shows:

Garda 147, Sergeant 27, Inspector 3.

chosanta an Stáit, a chuid institiúidí agus as Bainistiú Móréigeandála.

Chomh maith leis sin, bhí post aici ina ceann ar Aonad Náisiúnta EUROPOL na hÉireann, agus ina ceann ar Bhiúró Lárnach Náisiúnta INTERPOL na hÉireann, le linn di a bheith leis an Roinn Idirchaidrimh agus Cosanta. Rinne sí ionadaíocht thar ceann na hÉireann ar líon grúpaí oibre a bhaineann le malartú faisnéise agus le comhoibriú idirnáisiúnta.

Mar cheann Aonad Bainistíochta Móréigeandála an Gharda Síochána, bhí an Coimisinéir Cúnta Richardson freagrach as Aonad Comhordaithe COVID-19 a reáchtáil nuair a bunaíodh an tAonad sa bhliain 2020 chun bainistíocht a dhéanamh ar fhreagra straitéiseach an Gharda Síochána de réir mar a tháinig an phaindéim chun cinn.

Ina ról reatha tá sí freagrach as an Tascfhórsa Comh-Ghníomhaireachta Trasteorann (JATF) agus tá sí ina Comhchathaoirleach ar Ghrúpa Comhordaithe Oibríochtaí JATF a bhfuil sé mar fhreagracht air athbhreithniú agus forbairt a dhéanamh ar Straitéis Trasteorann 2025-2027.

Tá céim ag an gCoimisinéir Cúnta Richardson ó UCD/Scoil Ghnó Smurfit i gCeannaireacht agus i Rialachas Póilíneachta agus chomhlánaigh sí teastas sa Phóilíneacht agus i nDlí Cearta Daonna in Éirinn an Gharda Síochána i gcomhar le hOllscoil Luimnigh. Is céimí í de chuid Acadamh Náisiúnta an FBI agus comhalta de Chumann Idirnáisiúnta Chinn na bPóilíní (IACP).

Léirítear in uimhreacha láidreachta an Gharda Síochána do mhí na Nollag 2024 go bhfuil 4,073 bean as líon iomlán 14,191 na gcomhaltaí faoi mhionn sna gráid seo a leanas:

Garda 3,385, Sáirsint 549, Cigire 96, Ceannfort 28, Ard-Cheannfort 10,

Coimisinéir Cúnta 4, Leas-Choimisinéir 1.

For An Garda Síochána, enhancing gender diversity has been a key part of its cultural change and ongoing organisational transformation. This is evident from the fact that women are deliberately attached to all operational and specialised sections within the organisation. Women now make up over 30% of all serving members, placing An Garda Síochána above the European average in terms of female representation. Women also make up over 70% of all Garda Staff and, at this time (2026), more than half of the Senior Leadership Team.

An Garda Síochána has in recent years established a Women's Network to provide opportunities for training, mentoring, collaboration and networking among female colleagues.

The commitment and dedication of women in An Garda Síochána today is a fitting tribute to the sacrifices made by the original 12 trail blazers who paved the way in 1959.

Léirítear i mbriseadh síos den chineál céanna do Rannán na Gaillimhe:

Garda 147, Sáirsint 27, Cigire 3.

Ó thaobh an Gharda Síochána de, tá éagsúlacht inscne a fheabhsú mar chuid lárnach den athrú cultúir agus d'athrú ó bhonn leanúnach na heagraíochta. Tá sé seo soiléir mar go bhfuil na mná ceangailte d'aon turas le gach rannán oibríochta agus speisialtóireachta laistigh den eagraíocht. Déanann na mná suas breis is 30% de na comhaltaí ar seirbhís anois, a chuireann an Garda Síochána os cionn an mheáin Eorpaigh i dtéarmaí ionadaíochta na mban. Déanann na mná suas breis is 70% anois d'Fhoireann an Gharda Síochána go léir, agus, faoi láthair, (2026), déanann siad suas níos mó ná leath den Fhoireann Shinsearach Ceannaireachta.

Le blianta beaga anuas, tá Líonra na mBan bunaithe ag an nGarda Síochána chun deiseanna oiliúna, meantóireachta, comhoibrithe agus líonraithe i measc comhghleacaithe mná a chur ar fáil.

Is ómós cuí do dhúthracht agus do dhíograis na mban sa nGarda Síochána sa lá atá inniu ann na híobairtí a rinne an 12 ceannródaí a réitigh an bealach chun cinn sa bhliain 1959.

First Garda flag (front). Photo source: Superintendent Damien Flanagan.
An Chéad Bhratach ag an nGarda Síochána (tosach). Grianghraf: An Ceannfort Damien Flanagan.

10. The First Garda Flag

The Garda Aonach in 1926 was the brainchild of Commissioner O'Duffy as part of his plan to immerse his force in all things Irish. It was also notable for the ceremonial unfurling of the new Garda flag. The flag was designed and embroidered by the Dun Emer Guild, Churchtown, Dublin, which had been founded in 1902 by Evelyn Gleeson, along with Susan (Lily) and Elizabeth (Lolly) Yeats, the artistic sisters of the poet W.B. Yeats and the painter Jack B. Yeats. The flag was royal blue in colour and made of Irish poplin, fringed in gold. It was double sided. The old spelling of Síotcana is used and the crests of Leinster, Munster and Ulster are included. The Connaught crest however is not part of the flag and it is thought that this was possibly because the Connaught crest was considered too war-like for the times in question. The Galway City crest appears to have been used in its stead.

10. An Chéad Bhratach Gardaí

Ba é an Coimisinéir O'Duffy a smaoinigh ar Aonach an Gharda in 1926 mar chuid dá phlean a Fhórsa a thumadh i ngach a bhain le hÉirinn. Ba dhíol suntais é freisin do nochtadh searmanais na Bratach nua Gardaí. Is é Dun Emer Guild, Baile an Teampaill, Baile Átha Cliath a dhear agus a bhróidnigh an Bhratach. Is iad Evelyn Gleeson, in éineacht le Susan (Lily) agus Elizabeth (Lolly) Yeats, deifiúracha ealaíonta an fhile W.B Yeats agus an phéintéara Jack. B. Yeats, a bhunaigh Dun Emer Guild in 1902.

Gorm an rí a bhí ar an mBratach agus bhí sí déanta as poiplín Éireannach agus bhí ór ina timpeall. Bhí sí déthaobhach.

Seanlitriú Síotcána, le buillí an tséimhithe, a bhí in úsáid an t-am sin agus tá suaitheantais Chúige Laighean, na Mumhan agus Uladh ar an

First Garda flag (back). Photo source: Superintendent Damien Flanagan.
An Chéad Bhratach ag an nGarda Síochána (cúl). Grianghraf: An Ceannfort Damien Flanagan.

On the reverse of the flag embroidered in gold was the sunburst formerly believed to have been the ancient symbol of the Fianna and representing the dawn of freedom. This was also representative of the old IRA/IRB. This sunburst is to be seen on the Scott Medals awarded to Gardaí for deeds of exceptional bravery and on the badge of the Irish Armed Forces.

The Garda flag was later approved for issue in January 1927 and differs greatly from the current flag. It was produced by Messrs Clery & Co., O'Connell Street, Dublin. It was not centrally issued to Stations but rather Commissioner O'Duffy expected that it be purchased by the men at each Station at their own expense. The large flag, suitable for Divisional Headquarters, cost 55 shillings and the smaller flag 27 shillings and six pence.

In the 1930 Garda pilgrimage to Lourdes this Garda flag was carried along with the Tricolour. The original flag (large) which would have

mbratach. Níl suaitheantas Chonnacht ann agus meastar gur síleadh, ag an am, blas na cogaíochta a bheith rómhór i gceist leis an suaitheantas sin.

Is cosúil gur cuireadh suaitheantas Chathair na Gaillimhe in úsáid ina áit.

Ar chúl na brataí bhí an scal ghréine bróidnithe i ndath an Óir. Creideadh roimhe seo go raibh an scal ghréine ina siombail ársa ag na Fianna a léirigh tús na saoirse. Sheasadh sin freisin don sean-IRA/IRB. Feictear an scal ghréine freisin ar Bhoinn Scott, a bhronntar ar Ghardaí maidir le gníomhartha gaisce, agus ar shuaitheantas Óglaigh na hÉireann.

Ceadaíodh bratach an Gharda a eisiúint tráth ab fhaide anonn i mí Eanáir 1927 agus is mór idir an ceann sin agus ceann an lae inniu. Muintir Clery & a gComhlacht i Sráid Uí Chonaill, Baile Átha Cliath, a chuir na brataigh ar fáil. Ní hé gur eisíodh bratach le gach Beairic ach gur tuigeadh gur mheas an Coimisinéir O'Duffy go gceannódh

Current Garda flag. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.
Bratach an Gharda Síochána faoi láthair. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

originally been attached to Eglinton Street Garda Station, Galway, was fortunately recovered in an office at Gaillimh Garda Station in 2022 and is now framed and proudly hanging in the Station.

na fir i ngach beairic bratach ar a gcostas féin.

55 scilling a bhí ar an mbratach mhór, an ceann a d'fhóir do Cheanncheathrú Ceantair, agus bhí 27 scilling agus sé pingine ar an ngnáthcheann.

Ar oilithreacht an Gharda go Lourdes sa bhliain 1930, bhí Bratach an Gharda á hiompar in éineacht le Bratach na hÉireann.

Mar a tharlaíonn, thángthas sa bhliain 2022, in oifig i mBeairic na nGardaí i nGaillimh, ar an gcéad Bhratach (ceann mór) a bhí ceangailte ó thús le Beairic na nGardaí i Sráid Eglinton agus tá sin curtha i bhfráma agus ar crochadh sa mBeairic.

Crash at Horseleap Cross mid 1930s. Courtesy of Old Tuam Society Archives.
Tionóisc ag Crois Léim an Eich i lár na 1930idí. Le caoinchead Chartlann an Old Tuam Society.

11. An Garda Síochána 1930: Places and Stations

The following list of Garda Stations, Divisions, Districts and Sub-Districts, are from the full list of the East Riding followed by the full list of the West Riding. The Sub-Districts (places with a Station) are in alphabetical order under each District Headquarter). The notes are in the present tense but refer to the situation that existed in 1930; they are taken verbatim from the *Garda Síochána Establishment Scheme,* published in that year.

GALWAY EAST RIDING

BALLINASLOE (Joint Station) [Divisional and District Headquarters] – Population 6,637; 997 families.

11. An Garda Síochána 1930: Áiteanna agus Beairicí

Tá an liosta seo a leanas de Stáisiúin, Ranna, Ceantair agus Fo-cheantair na nGardaí, ón liosta iomlán de Cheantar Thoir agus ina dhiaidh sin ón liosta iomlán de Cheantar Thiar. Luaitear na Focheantair (ionad ina bhfuil Stáisiún) in ord aibítre faoi gach Ceanncheathrú Ceantair faoi seach. Cé go bhfuil nótaí san aimsir láithreach, baineann siad leis an gcás mar a bhí sa bhliain 1930 ó tá siad bunaithe go díreach ar an scéim maidir le Bunú an Gharda Síochána a foilsíodh an bhliain sin. De ghrá na simplíochta do léitheoirí an lae inniu, úsáidtear litriú na linne seo ar na logainmneacha agus níl siad díreach faoi mar a bhíodh sa bhliain 1930 i ngach cás.

An Garda Síochána

There are 77 townlands, 45 licensed premises and 6 schools, with an attendance of 954 children. In 1914, there were 2 Barracks in this area with a strength of 1 Head Constable, 7 Sergeants and 25 Constables. [Down to 1 Inspector, 2 Sergeants and 10 Guards in 1930.] The Dublin-Galway and Roscommon-Castlereagh and Tuam main roads pass through the Sub-District and there are two sawmills, a gas works, a corn mill, 2 fairs monthly and a weekly market. Fishery duties on the Suck and Bunowen require a good deal of attention.

AHASCRAGH – Population 2,873; 611 families. The Ballinasloe-Tuam main road passes through the Sub-District and there are 5 schools, with an attendance of 447. There are 94 townlands attached to this Station, 6 licensed premises, 6 fairs are held annually. The rivers Suck and Bunowen flow through the area and a good deal of fishery duty is necessary.

AUGHRIM – Population 1,612; 336 families. There are 5 public houses and 4 schools, with 408 attending. The main Ballinasloe-Loughrea road runs through the Sub-District and 2 small fishery rivers – the Meelehan and the Tristane – call for attention from the Guards. Station necessary.

BALLYGAR – Population 3,671; 742 families. Seven schools have an attendance of 865 and there are 18 licensed premises. The main Tuam-Mountbellew and Ballinasloe-Castlereagh roads pass through the Sub-District, in which there are 76 townlands and there are 20 fairs per annum and a weekly market. In 1914, there were two stations – Ballygar and Ballinamore – in this area with a strength of 2 Sergeants and 11 Constables. [Down to 1 and 4 respectively in 1930.]

CREGGS – Population 1,816; 391 families. There are 5 schools having an average [attendance] of 395 and 7 licensed premises and the main Ballinasloe-Castlereagh and Roscommon road passes through the area. Seven fairs are held annually at Creggs and there are weekly markets. There are 56 townlands attached to the Station.

TRIAN THOIR NA GAILLIMHE

BÉAL ÁTHA NA SLUAIGHE (Comhstáisiún) [Ceanncheathrú Rannáin agus Ceanncheathrú Ceantair] – Daonra 6,637; 997 líon tí.

77 baile fearainn, 45 áitreabh ceadúnaithe agus 6 scoil ar a bhfreastalaíonn 954 dalta. Sa bhliain 1914, bhí dhá Bheairic sa limistéar seo le foireann 1 Ardchonstábla amháin, seachtar Sáirsintí agus 25 Constábla. [Ísliú go dtí aon Chigire amháin, beirt Sáirsintí agus deichniúr Gardaí sa bhliain 1930.] Ritheann an príomhbhóthar idir Baile Átha Cliath agus Gaillimh, agus an príomhbhóthar idir Ros Comáin-an Caisleán Riabhach agus Tuaim, tríd an bhFocheantar, agus tá dhá mhuileann sábhadóireachta, monarcha gáis agus muileann arbhair ann. Bíonn aonach ar siúl faoi dhó sa mhí agus margadh uair sa tseachtain. Éilítear cuid mhaith aire a thabhairt maidir le dualgas iascaigh ar an tSuca agus Abhainn Bhun Abhann.

ÁTH EASCRACH – Daonra 2,873; 611 líon tí. Ritheann an príomhbhóthar idir Béal Átha na Sluaighe agus Tuaim tríd an bhFocheantar. 5 scoil ar a bhfreastalaíonn 447 dalta. Tá 94 baile fearainn ceangailte leis an Stáisiún seo; 6 áitreabh ceadúnaithe; bíonn 6 aonach ar siúl i rith na bliana. Ritheann an tSuca agus Abhainn Bhun Abhann tríd an limistéar agus bíonn gá le dualgas iascaigh a dhéanamh cuid mhór den am.

EACHROIM – Daonra 1,612; 336 líon tí. 5 theach ósta agus 4 scoil ar a bhfreastalaíonn 408 dalta. Ritheann an príomhbhóthar idir Béal Átha na Sluaighe agus Baile Locha Riach tríd an bhFocheantar, agus dhá abhainn bheaga a ndéantar iascach orthu – an Mhaolachán agus Abhainn Throstáin – agus ar gá aire na nGardaí ina leith. Tá gá le Stáisiún.

BÉAL ÁTHA GHÁRTHA – Daonra 3,671; 742 líon tí. Seacht scoil ar a bhfreastalaíonn 865 dalta, agus 18 n-áitreabh ceadúnaithe. Ritheann an príomhbhóthar idir Tuaim-an Creagán agus an príomhbhóthar idir Béal Átha na Sluaighe-an Caisleán Riabhach tríd an bhFocheantar, ina bhfuil 76 baile fearainn. Bíonn

EYRECOURT – Population 1,756; 400 families. The main Ballinasloe-Birr-Portumna roads pass through the Sub-District. There are important salmon fisheries on the River Shannon; portion of Shannon Scheme Works situated in Sub-District and there are 6 schools, with an attendance of 300 and 7 licensed premises. The Sub-District extends to 96 townlands.

KILCONNELL – Population 1,893; 416 families. The Dublin-Galway trunk road passes through the village and there is heavy traffic during the summer months. There are 13 fairs held annually and there are 5 schools, with an average attendance of 338 and 7 licensed premises. There are 72 townlands attached to the Station. In 1914, there were two Barracks in this area – Kilconnell and Woodlawn – with a strength of 2 Sergeants and 8 Constables. [Down to 1 and 3 respectively in 1930.]

LAURENCETOWN – Population 937; 210 families. Main roads, Ballinasloe-Banagher and Loughrea-Birr, pass through the Sub-District. One school has an average attendance of 75 and there are 3 licensed premises. There are 40 townlands attached to the Station. A Station is considered necessary at this centre.

MOUNTBELLEW – Population approximately 3,000. There are from 6 to 8 schools, with an attendance of about 500, and there are about 22 licensed premises. The main Ballinasloe-Tuam and Castlereagh-Roscommon roads pass through the Sub-District, which comprises 51 townlands. There are 2 villages – Caltra and Castleblakney [sic] – in which 5 and 6 fairs respectively are held each year and there is a monthly fair at Mountbellew. This Station has recently been opened to replace the Station which was at Castleblakney [sic].

LOUGHREA – This is District Headquarters Station. Population 5,941; 1,024 families. There are 45 public houses in the area; 8 schools have an attendance of 1,281 and the Sub-District, 20 aonach ar siúl i rith na bliana chomh maith le margadh gach seachtain. Sa bhliain 1914, bhí dhá Bheairic – Béal Átha Ghártha agus Béal an Átha Mhóir – sa limistéar seo le foireann beirt Sáirsintí agus 11 Chonstábla. [Ísliú go dtí aon Sáirsint amháin agus ceathrar Gardaí sa bhliain 1930.]

NA CREAGA – Daonra 1,816; 391 líon tí. 5 scoil le tinreamh 395 dalta ar an meán; 7 n-áitreabh ceadúnaithe, agus ritheann an príomhbhóthar idir Béal Átha na Sluaighe-an Caisleán Riabhach agus Ros Comáin tríd an limistéar. Bíonn seacht n-aonach in aghaidh na bliana ar na Creaga, agus margadh uair sa tseachtain. Tá 56 baile fearainn ceangailte leis an Stáisiún.

DÚN AN UCHTA – Daonra 1,756; 400 líon tí. Ritheann na príomhbhóithre idir Béal Átha na Sluaighe-Biorra-Port Omna tríd an bhFocheantar. Tá tábhacht leis an iascach bradán ar an tSionainn; tá cuid d'Oibreacha Scéim na Sionainne suite san Fhocheantar chomh maith le 6 scoil ar a bhfreastalaíonn 300 dalta, agus 7 n-áitreabh ceadúnaithe. Tá 96 baile fearainn san Fhocheantar.

CILL CHONAILL – Daonra 1,893; 416 líon tí. Ritheann an príomhbhóthar idir Baile Átha Cliath agus Gaillimh tríd an tsráidbhaile agus bíonn trácht trom ar an mbealach i rith an tsamhraidh. Bíonn 13 aonach in aghaidh na bliana ar siúl, agus tá 5 scoil, ar a ndéanann meánlíon 338 dalta freastal, san Fhocheantar chomh maith le 7 n-áitreabh ceadúnaithe. Tá 72 baile fearainn ceangailte leis an Stáisiún. Sa bhliain 1914, bhí dhá Bheairic sa limistéar seo – Cill Chonaill agus Móta – le foireann beirt Sáirsintí agus 8 Constábla. [Ísliú go dtí aon Sáirsint amháin agus triúr Gardaí sa bhliain 1930.]

AN BAILE MÓR – Daonra 937; 210 líon tí. Ritheann na príomhbhóithre idir Béal Átha na Sluaighe agus Beannchar agus idir Baile Locha Riach agus Biorra tríd an bhFocheantar. Tá aon scoil amháin, ar a mbíonn meánfhreastal 75 dalta, agus 3 áitreabh ceadúnaithe sa limistéar. Tá 40

which extends to 145 townlands. The main Tipperary-Portumna to Galway road passes through Loughrea. 27 fairs are held annually and there are weekly markets held in the town, which has a population of 2,805. During the months of December and January each Guard at Loughrea performs 40 hours' duty per month between 12 midnight and 8 am. In 1914, there were 2 Barracks in this area – one at Loughrea and one at Kilrickle – with a strength of 1 Head Constable, 5 Sergeants and 26 Constables. [Down to 2 Sergeants and 7 Constables in 1930.]

KILLIMOR – Population 2,070; 396 families. One school has an attendance of 200 and in addition to his duties in connection with this school, the School Attendance Officer has to attend to 6 schools outside the Sub-District, at which children from his area attend. The main Ballinasloe-Portumna and Loughrea road, on which, owing to the absence of railway facilities, there is considerable traffic, passes through the Sub-District. There are two rivers which provide salmon-fishing attractions and a good deal of attention must be devoted to fishery duty. There are 75 townlands attached to the Station, which has 10 licensed premises to supervise.

KILTORMER – Population 2,468; 518 families. This is a large Sub-District containing 124 townlands and considerable time has to be devoted to the collection of agricultural statistics each year. The absence of railway facilities appreciably increases road traffic and in recent years this problem demands increasing attention. There are 5 schools, with an attendance of 473 and there are 4 licensed premises. In 1914, there were two Barracks in this area, one at Kiltormer and one at Gurtymadden, with a strength of 2 Sergeants and 11 Constables. [Down to Kiltormer Station only with 1 Sergeant and 4 Constables in 1930.]

KILRICKLE – This Station has not yet been established and at present [1930] the Sub-District is temporarily attached to Loughrea.

baile fearainn ceangailte leis an Stáisiún. Meastar gá le Stáisiún san ionad seo.

AN CREAGÁN – Daonra tuairim is 3,000. Tá idir 6 agus 8 scoil, ar a bhfreastalaíonn tuairim is 500 dalta, agus tuairim is 22 áitreabh ceadúnaithe, sa limistéar. Ritheann na príomhbhóithre idir Béal Átha na Sluaighe agus Tuaim agus idir an Caisleán Riabhach agus Ros Comáin tríd an bhFocheantar ina bhfuil 51 baile fearainn. Tá dhá shráidbhaile ann – Cealtrach agus Gallach – ina mbíonn 5 nó 6 d'aontaí in aghaidh na bliana ar siúl chomh maith le haonach gach mí ar an gCreagán féin. Osclaíodh an Stáisiún seo le gairid le teacht in áit an Stáisiúin a bhíodh i nGallach.

BAILE LOCHA RIACH – Ceanncheathrú Ceantair an Stáisiún seo. Daonra 5,941; 1,024 líon tí. Tá 45 teach ósta agus 8 scoil ar a bhfreastalaíonn 1,281 dalta san Fhocheantar ina bhfuil 145 baile fearainn. Ritheann an príomhbhóthar idir Tiobraid Árann-Port Omna agus Gaillimh trí Bhaile Locha Riach. Bíonn 27 aonach ar siúl i rith na bliana agus margadh uair sa tseachtain ar an mbaile mór ina bhfuil daonra 2,805. I rith mhí na Nollag agus mhí Eanáir, déanann gach Garda i mBaile Locha Riach 40 uair an chloig dualgais in aghaidh na míosa idir meán oíche agus 8 r.n. Sa bhliain 1914, bhí dhá Bheairic sa limistéar seo – ceann i mBaile Locha Riach agus ceann i gCill Rícill – le foireann 1 Ardchonstábla amháin, cúigear Sáirsintí agus 26 Constábla. [Ísliú go dtí beirt Sáirsintí agus seachtar Constáblaí sa bhliain 1930.]

CILL ÍOMAIR – Daonra 2,070; 396 líon tí. Aon scoil amháin ar a bhfreastalaíonn 200 dalta, agus bíonn ar an Oifigeach Tinrimh Scoile, chomh maith leis na dualgais i leith na scoile seo, déileáil le 6 scoil taobh amuigh den Fhocheantar freisin, ar a ndéanann leanaí ón limistéar seo freastal. Ritheann an príomhbhóthar idir Béal Átha na Sluaighe-Port Omna agus Baile Locha Riach tríd an bhFocheantar agus bíonn cuid mhaith tráchta ar an mbóthar mar gheall nach bhfuil bóthar iarainn ar fáil. Tá dhá abhainn ann ar a mbíonn

Ballygar, 1930. Courtesy of Paul Connolly.

Béal Átha Ghártha, 1930. Le caoinchead Paul Connolly.

PORTUMNA – Population 2,725; 600 families. There are 85 townlands; 6 schools have an attendance of 706; there are 30 public houses, 3 fairs each month and a monthly District Court. The main Galway-Tipperary and Offaly roads pass through the town. There is no rail service and road traffic in the area is considerable. A considerable amount of fishery duty is necessary on the Shannon and there are 1,400 acres preserved for game. Lord Lascelles's estate is situated in the area, which, in 1914, had 3 Barracks – one at Portumna, one at Ballyshrule and one at Gurtumna, with a strength of 1 Head Constable, 5 Sergeants and 22 Constables. [Down to one Station only with 1 Sergeant and 5 Constables in 1930.]

TYNAGH – Population 3,005; 603 families. There are 130 townlands; 3 villages – Tynagh, Dunery and Abbey. A river frequented by salmon runs through the Sub-District and considerable fishery duty is necessary. There is a monthly fair and tarraingt ag iascach bradán agus bíonn gá le cuid mhór aire a thabhairt do dhualgas iascaigh. Tá 75 baile fearainn ceangailte leis an Stáisiún, agus 10 n-áitreabh ceadúnaithe a ndéantar maoirseacht ina leith.

CILL TORMÓIR – Daonra 2,468; 518 líon tí. Is Focheantar fairsing seo ina bhfuil 124 baile fearainn agus bíonn cuid mhaith ama le caitheamh gach bliain ar ábhar staidrimh maidir le cúrsaí talmhaíochta a bhailiú. Nuair nach bhfuil bóthar iarainn ar fáil, cuirtear leis an trácht ar na bóithre agus, le blianta beaga anuas, tá gá le haird níos mó ar an bhfadhb sin. Tá 5 scoil, ar a bhfreastalaíonn 473 dalta, agus 4 áitreabh ceadúnaithe san Fhocheantar. Sa bhliain 1914, bhí dhá Bheairic sa limistéar seo, ceann i gCill Tormóir agus ceann i nGort Uí Mhadaín, le foireann beirt Sáirsintí agus 11 Constábla. [Ísliú go dtí Stáisiún Chill Tormóir amháin le haon Sáirsint amháin agus ceathrar Constáblaí sa bhliain 1930.]

a weekly market. Lord Westmeath has a large demesne in the area and there are extensive game preserves in the Sub-District. There are 9 public houses – 3 at Tynagh, 2 at Dunery, 2 at Abbey, 1 at Curra and 1 at Kylebrack and illicit distillation is practised in the area. There are 4 schools, with an attendance of 440. In 1914, there were 4 Barracks in the area – one at Tynagh, one at Dunery, one at Dalystown and one at Ballinagan – with a strength of 4 Sergeants and 18 Constables. [Down to one Station with 1 Sergeant and 4 Constables in 1930.]

WOODFORD – Population 2,900; 631 families. One Guard is almost entirely occupied on School Attendance duties. He has to visit 11 schools, some of which are outside the Sub-District but attended by children from Woodford Sub-District. There are 13 public houses, many of which are at a distance from the Station, one being 5 miles, two 4 miles and one 3 miles distant. A considerable portion of the Sub-District is wild and mountainous. The Sub-District extends to 95 townlands and in 1914, there were 4 Barracks in the area – one at Woodford, one at Looscaun, one at Rossmore and one at Clonmoylan, with a strength of 1 Head Constable, 5 Sergeants and 21 Constables. [Down to 1 Sergeant and 4 Constables in 1930.]

ATHENRY [Sub-District Station only] – Population 2,930; 556 families. There are 95 townlands in the Sub-District. It is an important railway junction and 4 main roads run through the area. There is a bi-monthly District Court and a weekly market and there are 14 cattle fairs, 14 pig fairs, 3 special sheep fairs and 4 horse fairs each year. 5 schools have an attendance of 518 and in addition to his duties in connection with these, the School Attendance Officer has to deal with 4 schools outside the Sub-District, at which children from his area attend. There are 32 public houses and the area contains a rough element with a tendency to agrarian trouble. The Sub-District extends to 32,000 acres and in

CILL RÍCILL – Níor cuireadh an Stáisiún seo ar bun go fóill agus tá an Focheantar ceangailte go sealadach le Baile Locha Riach faoi láthair [1930].

PORT OMNA – Daonra 2,725; 600 líon tí. 85 baile fearainn; 6 scoil ar a bhfreastalaíonn 706 dalta; agus 30 teach ósta; 3 aonach in aghaidh na míosa agus an Chúirt Dúiche uair sa mhí. Ritheann na príomhbhóithre idir Gaillimh agus Tiobraid Árann nó Uíbh Fhailí tríd an mbaile mór. Níl aon bhóthar iarainn ar fáil agus bíonn cuid mhaith tráchta ar bhóithre an cheantair. Bíonn gá le dualgas iascaigh a dhéanamh cuid mhór ar an tSionainn agus tá 1,400 acra de thalamh cosanta ann maidir le géim. Tá eastát an Tiarna Lascelles sa limistéar seo ina mbíodh 3 Bheairic sa bhliain 1914 – ceann i bPort Omna, ceann i mBaile Sruthail agus ceann i nGort an Iomaire, le foireann 1 Ardchonstábla amháin, cúigear Sáirsintí agus 22 Constábla. [Ísliú go dtí aon Stáisiún amháin le haon Sáirsint amháin agus cúigear Constáblaí sa bhliain 1930.]

TÍNE – Daonra 3,005; 603 líon tí. 130 baile fearainn; 3 shráidbhaile – Tíne, Dún Doighre agus an Mhainistir. Ritheann abhainn ina mbíonn an bradán tríd an bhFocheantar, agus bíonn gá le dualgas iascaigh a dhéanamh dá réir. Bíonn aonach ar siúl uair sa mhí agus margadh uair sa tseachtain. Tá diméin leitheadach ag Tiarna na hIarmhí sa limistéar agus réimsí fairsinge cosanta maidir le géim san Fhocheantar. Tá 9 dteach ósta – 3 cinn i dTíne, péire i nDún Doighre, péire sa Mhainistir, ceann sa Chora agus ceann ar an gCoill Bhreac – sa limistéar seo agus bíonn déanamh biotáille á chleachtadh go neamhdhleathach. Tá 4 scoil ann ar a bhfreastalaíonn 440 dalta. Sa bhliain 1914, bhí 4 Bheairic sa limistéar – ceann i dTíne, ceann i nDún Doighre, ceann i mBaile Uí Dhálaigh agus ceann i mBéal Átha na gCarr – le foireann ceathrar Sáirsintí agus 18 Constábla. [Ísliú go dtí aon Stáisiún amháin le haon Sáirsint amháin agus ceathrar Constáblaí sa bhliain 1930.]

1914, there was a strength of 1 Head Constable, 2 Sergeants and 15 Constables at Athenry. [Down to 1 Sergeant and 5 Constables in 1930.]

BOOKEEN – Population 1,367; 255 families. There are large game preserves (including Dunsandle preserve) in the Sub-District. Three main roads run through the area and there are 4 schools, with an attendance of 287 and in addition to his duties in connection with these, the School Attendance Officer has to deal, in a lesser degree, with 2 schools outside the Sub-District at which children from his area attend. There are 75 townlands and in 1914, there were 2 Barracks – Bookeen and Riversville – in the area, with a strength of 2 Sergeants and 8 Constables. [Down to 1 and 3 respectively in 1930.] Though the population is small the Station is considered necessary.

GURTEEN – Population 1,098; 209 families. There is a monthly District Court; there are 4 schools, with an attendance of 228; there are large game preserves and the railway junction for Loughrea is in the Sub-District. There are 2 public houses. There are 38 townlands and 1914 there was a Barrack at Gurteen and an outpost at Colmanstown, with a total strength of 2 Sergeants and 10 Constables. [Down to 1 and 3 respectively in 1930.] Station necessary.

MENLOUGH – Population 1,720; 370 families. There are 53 townlands; 6 schools, with an average attendance of 533 and its 5 public houses are scattered through the Sub-District.

MONIVEA – Population 1,410; 263 families. The main Athenry-Tuam road runs through the Sub-District. There are 4 licensed premises in the area; 4 schools have an attendance of 363 and there are occasional fairs at this centre. There are 47 townlands, a considerable portion of which is preserved for game.

MOYLOUGH – Population roughly 2,800. There are about 12 public houses and about 8 schools,

AN GHRÁIG – Daonra 2,900; 631 líon tí. Tá Garda amháin a bhíonn tógtha suas beagnach go hiomlán le dualgais Tinrimh Scoile. Bíonn air cuairt a thabhairt ar 11 scoil, roinnt atá suite taobh amuigh den Fhocheantar ach a dtarlaíonn leanaí as Focheantar na Gráige ag freastal orthu. Tá 13 teach ósta sa limistéar, roinnt acu achar maith ón Stáisiún, ceann 5 mhíle ó bhaile, péire 4 mhíle ó bhaile agus ceann 3 mhíle ó bhaile. Réimsí fiáine sléibhe atá i gcuid mhaith den Fhocheantar ina bhfuil 95 baile fearainn. Bhí 4 Bheairic sa limistéar sa bhliain 1914 – ceann sa Ghráig, ceann sa Luascán, ceann sa Ros Mór agus ceann i gCluain Maoláin, le foireann 1 Ardchonstábla amháin, cúigear Sáirsintí agus 21 Constábla. [Ísliú go dtí aon Sáirsint amháin agus ceathrar Constáblaí sa bhliain 1930.]

BAILE ÁTHA AN RÍ [Maidir leis an Stáisiún Focheantair amháin] – Daonra 2,930; 556 líon tí. Tá 95 baile fearainn san Fhocheantar. Is tábhachtach an crosbhealach bóithre iarainn é agus ritheann 4 cinn de phríomhbhóithre tríd an limistéar. Bíonn an Chúirt Dúiche ar an mbaile faoi dhó sa mhí agus margadh ar siúl uair sa tseachtain, chomh maith le 14 aonach eallaigh, 14 aonach muc, 3 aonach speisialta caorach agus 4 aonach capall ina aghaidh na bliana. Tá 5 scoil ann ar a bhfreastalaíonn 518 dalta, agus bíonn ar an Oifigeach Tinrimh Scoile, chomh maith leis na dualgais ina leith seo, déileáil le 4 scoil taobh amuigh den Fhocheantar ar a mbíonn leanaí as an limistéar seo ag freastal. Tá 32 teach ósta sa cheantar ina bhfuil dream garbh a bhfuil claonadh trioblóide iontu maidir le cúrsaí talún. Tá achar 32,000 acra san Fhocheantar ina mbíodh foireann iomlán aon Ardchonstábla amháin, beirt Sáirsintí agus 15 Constábla sa bhliain 1914, lonnaithe i mBaile Átha an Rí. [Ísliú go dtí aon Sáirsint amháin agus cúigear Constáblaí sa bhliain 1930.]

AN BUAICÍN – Daonra 1,367; 255 líon tí. Tá réimsí fairsinge talún san Fhocheantar atá cosanta maidir le géim (talamh cosanta Dhún Sandail san áireamh). Ritheann trí cinn de

with an attendance of 700 approximately. The main Dublin-Tuam road runs through the area. This Station was reduced in strength following opening recently of Mountbellew.

NEW INN – Population 1,590; 315 families. The Dublin-Galway main road passes through the Sub-District and there are 3 schools, with an attendance of 234. There are 79 townlands attached to the Station and there are 3 public houses. Lord Ashtown's estate is in the Sub-District. In 1914, there was a Barrack at New Inn and an outpost at Woodlawn with a total strength of 2 Sergeants and 8 Constables. [Down to 1 and 3 respectively in 1930.]

TURLOUGHMORE – Population 2,059; 355 families. There are 50 townlands; 4 licensed premises; 3 schools, with an attendance of 310; and the Galway-Tuam and Sligo main roads run through the Sub-District.

GORT [Sub-District Station only] – Population 3,403; 654 families. The Sub-District, which extends to 60 townlands with an area of 31,679 acres. The main Galway-Ennis-Limerick road runs through the area and there are quarterly cattle fairs; monthly pig fairs and weekly markets. 6 schools have an attendance of 606 and there are 34 public houses. In 1914, there were 2 Stations – Gort and Derrybrien – and 2 outposts in this area with a total strength of 1 Head Constable, 7 Sergeants and 24 Constables. [Down to Gort only, 1 Sergeant and 6 Constables in 1930.]

ARDRAHAN – Population 1,822; 342 families. There are 3 schools, with an attendance of 192; 3 public houses. The Galway-Ennis-Limerick main road passes through the Sub-District. There are 100 townlands attached to the Station.

CRAUGHWELL – Population 1,900; 384 families. There are 134 townlands; 27,000 acres and some parts of the Sub-District are 9 miles from the Station. The main Loughrea-Galway road runs through the area and there are 5 public

phríomhbhóithre tríd an limistéar. Tá 4 scoil ann ar a bhfreastalaíonn 287 dalta, agus bíonn ar an Oifigeach Tinrimh Scoile, chomh maith leis na dualgais ina leith seo, déileáil le 2 scoil taobh amuigh den Fhocheantar ar a mbíonn leanaí as an limistéar seo ag freastal. Tá 75 baile fearainn sa limistéar ina mbíodh dhá Bheairic – an Buaicín agus Riversville – sa bhliain 1914 le foireann beirt Sáirsintí agus ochtar Constáblaí. [Ísliú go dtí aon Sáirsint amháin agus triúr Gardaí sa bhliain 1930.] Cé go bhfuil an daonra íseal, meastar go bhfuil gá leis an Stáisiún seo.

GOIRTÍN – Daonra 1,098; 209 líon tí. Bíonn an Chúirt Dúiche ar an mbaile uair sa mhí. 4 scoil ar a bhfreastalaíonn 228 dalta; tá réimsí fairsinge talún ann atá cosanta maidir le géim, agus tá crosbhealach an bhóthair iarainn a théann go Baile Locha Riach san Fhocheantar. 2 theach ósta atá ann. Tá 38 baile fearainn ann agus, sa bhliain 1914, bhíodh Beairic i nGoirtín agus urphost i mBaile Uí Chlúmháin le foireann iomlán beirt Sáirsintí agus deichniúr Constáblaí. [Ísliú go dtí aon Sáirsint amháin agus triúr Gardaí sa bhliain 1930.] Tá gá leis an Stáisiún.

MIONLACH – Daonra 1,720; 370 líon tí. 53 baile fearainn; 6 scoil ar a bhfreastalaíonn 533 dalta ar an meán, agus 5 theach ósta scaipthe ar fud an Fhocheantair.

MUINE MHEÁ – Daonra 1,410; 263 líon tí. Ritheann an príomhbhóthar idir Baile Átha an Rí agus Tuaim tríd an bhFocheantar. Tá 4 áitreabh ceadúnaithe sa limistéar; 4 scoil ar a bhfreastalaíonn 363 dalta, agus bíonn aonach ar siúl ó am go chéile. Tá 47 baile fearainn ann, roinnt mhaith den talamh cosanta maidir le géim.

MAIGH LOCHA – Daonra measta 2,800. Tá tuairim is 12 theach ósta san Fhocheantar agus 8 scoil ar a bhfreastalaíonn tuairim is 700 dalta. Ritheann an príomhbhóthar idir Baile Átha Cliath agus Tuaim tríd an limistéar. Íslíodh líon na foirne sa Stáisiún seo tar éis an bheairic ar an gCreagán a oscailt le gairid.

houses and 4 schools, with an attendance of 360. Considerable time must be devoted to fishery duty on the Dunkellin river. In 1914, there was a Barrack and two outposts in this area with a total strength of 1 Head Constable, 4 Sergeants and 30 Constables. [Down to 1 Sergeant and 4 Constables in 1930.]

KILCOLGAN – Population 1,294; 259 families. The main Galway-Ennis-Limerick road passes through the area; considerable attention must be devoted to fishery duty on the Dunkellin river; the Sub-District has a long coast line which requires constant supervision; persons have been caught bringing illicit spirits ashore at this centre. 6 schools have an attendance of 420 and there are 5 public houses. In 1914, there were two Barracks – Kilcolgan and Clarenbridge – in this area, with a total strength of 2 Sergeants and 14 Constables. [Down to 1 and 4 respectively in 1930.]

KINVARA – Population 2,300; 250 families. There are 87 townlands, 25,600 acres. The Galway-Lisdoonvarna-Lahinch road, which is extremely busy during the summer months, runs through the area; the village of Kinvara is fairly important as a fishing centre and is a seaport. The Sub-District has a long coastline which requires constant supervision to prevent traffic in illicit spirits. There are weekly markets and occasional cattle and sheep fairs. 6 schools have an attendance of 441 and there are 15 public houses. In 1914, the strength of Kinvara was 1 Sergeant and 7 Constables. [1 and 4 respectively in 1930.]

PETERSWELL – Population 1,319; 263 families. Poaching for game and fish is prevalent; and considerable time must be devoted to this problem by the Gardaí. The main Loughrea-Gort road runs through the area and there are 4 schools, with an attendance of 356 and 4 public houses. The Sub-District extends to 99 townlands, 22,887 acres and in 1914, there were 2 Barracks - Peterswell and Kilchreest – and 1 outpost in the area, with a total strength of 1 Head Constable, 3 Sergeants and 17 Constables. [Down to 1 Station with 1 Sergeant and 4 Constables in 1930.]

AN CNOC BREAC – Daonra 1,590; 315 líon tí. Ritheann an príomhbhóthar idir Baile Átha Cliath agus Gaillimh tríd an bhFocheantar, agus tá 3 scoil ann ar a bhfreastalaíonn 234 dalta. Tá 79 baile fearainn ceangailte leis an mBeairic agus 3 theach ósta. Tá eastát an Tiarna Ashtown san Fhocheantar. Sa bhliain 1914, bhíodh Beairic ar an gCnoc Breac agus urphost i Móta le foireann iomlán beirt Sáirsintí agus ochtar Constáblaí. [Ísliú go dtí aon Sáirsint amháin agus triúr Gardaí sa bhliain 1930.]

AN TURLACH MÓR – Daonra 2,059; 355 líon tí. Tá 50 baile fearainn; 4 áitreabh ceadúnaithe; 3 scoil ar a bhfreastalaíonn 310 dalta; agus ritheann na príomhbhóithre idir Gaillimh agus Tuaim agus Sligeach tríd an bhFocheantar.

AN GORT [Beairic an Fhocheantair amháin] – Daonra 3,403; 654 líon tí. Tá 60 baile fearainn le hachar 31,679 acra san Fhocheantar. Ritheann an príomhbhóthar idir Gaillimh agus Inis-Luimneach tríd an limistéar. Bíonn aonach eallaigh ar siúl gach ráithe; aonach muc gach mí agus margadh gach seachtain. Tá 6 scoil ann ar a bhfreastalaíonn 606 dalta, agus 34 teach ósta. Sa bhliain 1914, bhíodh dhá Stáisiún – an Gort agus Daraidh Braoin – agus dhá urphost sa limistéar seo le foireann iomlán aon Ardchonstábla amháin, seachtar Sáirsintí agus 24 Constábla. [Ísliú go dtí Stáisiún an Ghoirt amháin le haon Sáirsint amháin agus seisear Constáblaí sa bhliain 1930.]

ARD RAITHIN – Daonra 1,822; 342 líon tí. 3 scoil ar a bhfreastalaíonn 192 dalta; 3 theach ósta. Ritheann an príomhbhóthar idir Gaillimh agus Inis-Luimneach tríd an bhFocheantar. Tá 100 baile fearainn ceangailte leis an Stáisiún.

CREACHMHAOIL – Daonra 1,900; 384 líon tí. 134 baile fearainn; 27,000 acra agus tá roinnt áiteanna san Fhocheantar atá 9 míle ón mBeairic. Ritheann an príomhbhóthar idir Baile Locha Riach agus Gaillimh tríd an limistéar ina bhfuil 5 theach ósta agus 4 scoil ar a bhfreastalaíonn 360 dalta. Bíonn cuid mhaith ama le caitheamh

An Garda Síochána

SHANAGLISH – Population 1,998; 407 families. The main Galway-Ennis-Limerick road passes through the Sub-District. 4 schools have an attendance of 268 and there are 2 public houses. The Sub-District extends to 60 townlands, with an area of 20,913 acres. In 1914, the strength was 1 Sergeant and 7 Constables. [1 and 4 respectively in 1930.]

GALWAY WEST RIDING

GALWAY [Sub-District Station only with 1 Inspector, 3 Sergeants and 23 Guards] – Population 13,286; 2,689 families. There are 2 factories, 4 mills, fisheries, seaside resort and tourist centre for Connemara. Galway is an important market town, with fairs and markets held in the streets, which are in most cases narrow and call for an exceptional amount of point and beat duty. During the past few years traffic has increased by at least 300%. The five main roads are important bus routes. In town there are 6 dangerous street crossings needing constant supervision. There are 17 schools and 2 colleges. The public houses, of which there are 123, require more than ordinary supervision. Of late the arrival and departure of Trans-Atlantic liners has added to the duty to be performed.

CURRANDULLA [sic] – Population 3,116; 618 families. There are 71 townlands, 6 schools and 6 public houses. Main road Galway to Castlebar and Ballina and a bus route pass through this Sub-District.

HEADFORD – Population 2,972; 711 families. There are 107 townlands, 5 schools and 21 public houses. Cattle fair held once per month; weekly market every Tuesday and pig market in Caherlistrane every Thursday. This is a busy tourist resort in summer, large numbers of anglers coming for the fishing in Kilbeg, Clydagh, Annakeen and Greenfield Bays. Poteen traffic on the islands in Lough Corrib calls for much attention by the party.

maidir le dualgas iascaigh ar Abhainn Dhún Coillín. Sa bhliain 1914, bhíodh Beairic agus dhá urphost sa limistéar seo le foireann iomlán aon Ardchonstábla amháin, ceathrar Sáirsintí agus 30 Constábla. [Ísliú go dtí aon Sáirsint amháin agus ceathrar Constáblaí sa bhliain 1930.]

CILL CHOLGÁIN – Daonra 1,294; 259 líon tí. Ritheann an príomhbhóthar idir Gaillimh agus Inis-Luimneach tríd an limistéar; Bíonn cuid mhaith ama le caitheamh maidir le dualgas iascaigh ar Abhainn Dhún Coillín; tá cósta fada leis an bhFocheantar ar gá faire go seasta air; rugadh ar dhaoine a raibh biotáille neamhdhleathach á tabhairt i dtír acu sa limistéar seo. 6 scoil ar a bhfreastalaíonn 420 dalta; 5 theach ósta. Sa bhliain 1914, bhíodh dhá Bheairic – Cill Cholgáin agus Droichead an Chláirín – sa limistéar seo, le foireann iomlán beirt Sáirsintí agus 14 Constábla. [Ísliú go dtí aon Sáirsint amháin agus ceathrar Gardaí sa bhliain 1930.]

CINN MHARA – Daonra 2,300; 250 líon tí. 87 baile fearainn, 25,600 acra. Ritheann an bóthar idir Gaillimh agus Lios Dúin Bhearna-Leacht Uí Chonchúir, a mbíonn cuid mhór tráchta air i rith an tsamhraidh, tríd an limistéar; tá tábhacht áirithe le baile Chinn Mhara mar ionad iascaireachta agus is baile cuain é. Tá cósta fada leis an bhFocheantar ar gá faire go seasta air d'fhonn tráchtáil i mbiotáille neamhdhleathach a chosc. Bíonn margadh ar siúl gach seachtain agus aonach eallaigh nó caorach ó am go chéile. 6 scoil ar a bhfreastalaíonn 441 dalta, agus 15 teach ósta. Sa bhliain 1914, bhíodh foireann iomlán aon Sáirsint amháin agus seachtar Constáblaí i gCinn Mhara. [Sáirsint amháin agus ceathrar Gardaí sa bhliain 1930.]

TOBAR PHEADAIR – Daonra 1,319; 263 líon tí. Bíonn póitseáil ar siúl go coitianta maidir le géim agus le hiasc; agus ní mór don Gharda cuid mhaith ama a chaitheamh leis an bhfadhb sin. Ritheann an príomhbhóthar idir Baile Locha Riach agus an Gort tríd an limistéar. Tá 4 scoil ann ar a bhfreastalaíonn 356 dalta, agus 4 theach

KILRONAN (Arran Island) [sic] – Population 1,979; 435 families. There are 6 schools and 10 public houses. Sub-district comprises three islands – Inishmore, Inishmaan and Inishere. The distance by sea between nearest points is 1¼ miles from the first to second and 1½ miles from second to third. There is one school and one public house on each of the two smaller islands. Is a seaside resort frequented by large numbers of tourists in summer. [Surprisingly, this is where Kilronan appears on the list in the 1930 document.]

LOUGHGEORGE – Population 2,290; 395 families. There are 3 schools and 5 public houses. A good deal of time is occupied in enforcing traffic regulations. In 1929, there were 196 offences recorded in this Sub-District and of these, 2/3rds were in respect of breaches of the Motor Car Acts and Summary Jurisdiction Act. Fishery duty.

ORANMORE – Population 2,431; 469 families. There are 7 schools and 9 public houses. This is a busy area in regard to traffic, as the main Galway-Dublin and Galway-Limerick roads pass through it. These are important bus routes. There is one very dangerous junction in the village requiring a Guard for point duty. Clarenbridge, in the Sub-District, has 5 public houses five miles away which must be visited each night by two Guards.

SALTHILL – Population 2,553; 501 families. There are 53 townlands of a rural area added, 11 public houses and 5 schools. Duty comprises ordinary beat and patrol work and in summer traffic and point duty. Is a very busy seaside resort, having a large influx of visitors in Summer. Established strength of party requires to be increased by 2 Guards from May to October inclusive. Is terminus of Galway bus service, which runs every ¼ hour in summer and every half-hour during winter. Fishery duty.

TUAM [Sub-District Station only] – Population 6,416; 1,039 families. There are 131 townlands, 50 public houses and 11 schools. This is an important business town. 1 Garda is employed ósta. Tá 99 baile fearainn agus 22,887 acra san Fhocheantar, agus bhíodh dhá Bheairic – Tobar Pheadair agus Cill Chríost – agus aon urphost amháin sa limistéar sa bhliain 1914, le foireann iomlán aon Ardchonstábla amháin, triúr Sáirsintí agus 17 Constábla. [Ísliú go dtí aon Stáisiún amháin le haon Sáirsint amháin agus ceathrar Constáblaí sa bhliain 1930.]

SEANEAGLAIS – Daonra 1,998; 407 líon tí. Ritheann an príomhbhóthar idir Gaillimh agus Inis-Luimneach tríd an bhFocheantar. 4 scoil ar a bhfreastalaíonn 268 dalta agus 2 theach ósta. Tá 60 baile fearainn san Fhocheantar ina bhfuil achar iomlán 20,913 acra. Sa bhliain 1914, bhíodh foireann aon Sáirsint amháin agus seachtar Constáblaí ann. [Sáirsint amháin agus ceathrar Gardaí sa bhliain 1930.]

TRIAN THIAR NA GAILLIMHE

GAILLIMH [Maidir leis an Stáisiún Focheantair amháin le haon Chigire amháin, triúr Sáirsintí agus 23 Garda] – Daonra 13,286; 2,689 líon tí. Dhá mhonarcha, ceithre mhuileann, iascach, ionad cois trá agus ionad turasóireachta ar imeall Chonamara. Tá tábhacht le Gaillimh mar bhaile margaidh agus bíonn aontaí agus margaí ar siúl ar na sráideanna; tá an chuid is mó de na sráideanna sin cúng agus bíonn gá dá réir sin le dualgas go minic ar an stádar agus ag stiúradh tráchta. Le blianta beaga anuas, tá méadú 300% ar a laghad tagtha ar an trácht. Is bealaí tábhachtacha busanna na cúig cinn de phríomhbhóithre móra. Tá 6 cinn de bhealaí contúirteacha trasna an bhóthair ar an mbaile mór ar gá maoirseacht leanúnach ina leith. 17 scoil agus dhá Choláiste. Bíonn maoirseacht seachas mar is gnáth ag teastáil maidir leis na tithe ósta a bhfuil 123 acu san Fhocheantar. Le tamall anuas, tá curtha leis an dualgas a bhíonn le déanamh mar gheall ar longa trasna an Atlantaigh a bheith ag teacht isteach agus ag imeacht ón gcalafort.

COR AN DOLA – Daonra 3,116, 618 líon tí. 71 baile fearainn; 6 scoil agus 6 theach ósta. Ritheann

as whole-time School Attendance Officer. This is an important market town and large fairs are also held. The streets are narrow and call for an exceptional amount of supervision. There are three dangerous crossings. 5 roads are important bus routes.

BALLYMOE – Population 2,634; 543 families. There are 60 townlands, 5 public houses and 6 schools. One portion of the Sub-District is 8½ miles from Station.

BARNADERG – Population 3,023; 580 families. There are 108 townlands, 4 public houses and 6 schools. Two main roads which are bus routes pass through area. The 6 schools require about three-quarters of the time of the S.A.O.

COROFIN – Population 2,929; 586 families. There are 102 townlands, 7 public houses and 7 schools call for the whole-time attention of S.A.O. Three of the public houses are in the village of Abbeyknockmoy, 7½ miles from Station.

DUNMORE – Population 3,851; 857 families. There are 77 townlands, 22 public houses and 5 schools. Good business town. One bus route passes through area. Weekly markets and monthly fairs are held. A dangerous street crossing requires a man for point duty.

GLENAMADDY – Population 3,888; 825 families. There are 70 townlands, 14 public houses and 10 schools. Good business centre. There are 2 Banks in village. One Garda is whole-time School Attendance Officer.

KILCONLY – Population 2,987; 623 families. There are 46 townlands, 3 public houses and 11 schools. One Garda is whole-time School Attendance Officer.

MILLTOWN – Population 3,661; 765 families. There are 78 townlands, 10 public houses and 10 schools. 3 of the public houses are at a distance of 7 miles from the Station. One Garda is whole-time School Attendance Officer.

an príomhbhóthar idir Gaillimh agus Caisleán an Bharraigh agus Béal an Átha, agus bealach busanna, tríd an bhFocheantar.

ÁTH CINN – Daonra 2,972; 711 líon tí. 107 baile fearainn; 5 scoil agus 21 teach ósta. Bíonn aonach eallaigh ar siúl uair sa mhí; margadh ar an Máirt agus margadh muc i gCathair Loistreáin ar an Déardaoin. Ionad gnóthach turasóireachta a bhíonn anseo i rith an tsamhraidh le hiascairí slaite ina sluaite ag tarraingt ar an gCoill Bheag, Claídeach, Eanach Caoin agus ar an mBruach Glas. Bíonn ar fhoireann an Stáisiúin aird mhór a thabhairt ar thráchtáil poitín ar na hoileáin i Loch Coirib.

CILL RÓNÁIN (Árainn) – Daonra 1,979; 435 líon tí. 6 scoil agus 10 dteach ósta. Trí oileán atá san Fhocheantar – Inis Mór, Inis Meáin agus Inis Oírr. Tá 1¼ míle farraige idir an chéad oileán agus an dara hoileán san áit is gaire dá chéile iad agus 1½ míle idir an dara ceann agus an tríú ceann. Tá aon scoil amháin agus teach ósta amháin ar gach aon cheann den dá oileán is lú. Ionad cois farraige seo a mbíonn turasóirí ina sluaite ag tarraingt air i rith an tsamhraidh. [Is díol spéise gur anseo atá Cill Rónáin ar an liosta i gcáipéis na bliana 1930.]

LEACHT SEOIRSE – Daonra 2,290; 395 líon tí. 3 scoil agus 5 theach ósta. Caitear cuid mhór ama le rialacha tráchta a chur i bhfeidhm. Tuairiscítear 196 cion san Fhocheantar i rith na bliana 1929, dhá trian acu sin i ndáil leis na Motor Car Acts nó an Summary Jurisdiction Act a shárú. Dualgas iascaigh.

ÓRÁN MÓR – Daonra 2,431; 469 líon tí. 7 scoil agus 9 dteach ósta. Is limistéar gnóthach seo maidir le trácht leis na príomhbhóithre idir Gaillimh agus Baile Átha Cliath agus idir Gaillimh agus Luimneach ag rith tríd. Tá crosbhealach amháin i lár an bhaile atá an-chontúirteach agus bíonn gá le Garda ag stiúradh tráchta ansin. Tá 5 theach ósta i nDroichead an Chláirín 5 mhíle ó bhaile san Fhocheantar céanna agus bíonn gá le cuairt ansin ag beirt Ghardaí gach oíche.

WILLIAMSTOWN – Population 2,910; 633 families. There are 62 townlands, 6 public houses and 8 schools. One Garda is whole-time School Attendance Officer. One of the roads is an important bus route.

CLIFDEN [Sub-District Station only] – Population 4,656; 944 families. There are 87 townlands, 35 public houses and 18 schools. This is a very large Sub-District since the closing of Cleggan. It is 16½ miles to furthest point of Sub-District. The 2 villages – Ballyconneely and Cleggan – are at a distance of 6 and 7 miles from Station respectively. There are 3 seaside resorts and locality is much frequented by tourists. Average outdoor daily duty – 8 day patrols of 4 hours each and 5 night patrols of 3 hours each. 3 rising patrols performed per week. Fishery duty.

CARNA – Population 2,777; 595 families. There are 51 townlands, 7 public houses and 11 schools. Average outdoor daily duty – 4 day patrols and 2 night patrols; 2 rising patrols per week. Tourist resort.

LEENANE – Population 1,070; 207 families. 6 public houses and 3 schools. Daily duty outdoor averages 3 day patrols and 2 night patrols; 2 rising patrols are performed each week. Tourist resort.

LETTERFRACK – Population 2,902; 599 families. There are 69 townlands, 10 public houses and 9 schools. Average daily duty – 4 day patrols and 3 night patrols; 2 rising patrols are performed each week. This Sub-district includes the Island of Inishbofin, 9 miles from mainland and duty thereon is now performed by this party since the abolition of Cleggan. Great numbers of tourists frequent and pass through the area in summer. Distance to furthest point of Sub-District is 18 miles.

RECESS – Population 1,292; 258 families. There are 58 townlands, 4 public houses and 4 schools. The daily average duty comprises 4 day patrols and 2 night patrols; 2 rising patrols are performed each week. There is a seaside resort (Cashel).

BÓTHAR NA TRÁ – Daonra 2,553; 501 líon tí. Tá 53 baile fearainn de limistéar tuaithe ceangailte leis an Stáisiún; 11 teach ósta agus 5 scoil. Bíonn gnáthobair ar stádar agus ar patról i gceist leis an dualgas chomh maith le stiúradh tráchta i rith an tsamhraidh. Ionad saoire cois farraige atá ann a bhíonn an-ghnóthach leis na sluaite turasóirí i rith an tsamhraidh. Bíonn gá beirt Ghardaí breise a chur leis an mbuanfhoireann ó thús mí na Bealtaine go deireadh mí Dheireadh Fómhair. Críochnaíonn seirbhís bus na Gaillimhe anseo, seirbhís a ritheann gach ¼ uair i rith an tsamhraidh agus gach leathuair i rith an gheimhridh. Dualgas iascaigh.

TUAIM [Maidir leis an Stáisiún Focheantair amháin] – Daonra 6,416; 1,039 líon tí. 131 baile fearainn; 50 teach ósta agus 11 scoil. Baile tábhachtach tráchtála agus gnó. Bíonn Garda amháin fostaithe ina Oifigeach Tinrimh Scoile lánaimseartha. Baile tábhachtach margaidh seo agus bíonn aontaí móra ar siúl chomh maith. Tá na sráideanna cúng agus bíonn gá le cuid mhór maoirseachta. Tá trí bhealach trasna bóithre atá contúirteach. Bealaí tábhachtacha ag busanna 5 cinn de na bóithre.

BÉAL ÁTHA MÓ – Daonra 2,634; 543 líon tí. 60 baile fearainn; 5 theach ósta agus 6 scoil. Tá cuid amháin den Fhocheantar 8½ míle ón Stáisiún.

BEARNA DHEARG – Daonra 3,023; 580 líon tí. 108 baile fearainn; 4 theach ósta agus 6 scoil. Ritheann dhá phríomhbhóthar tríd an limistéar ar bealaí busanna iad. Éilíonn na scoileanna tuairim is trí ceathrú cuid d'am an O.T.S.

CORA FINNE – Daonra 2,929; 586 líon tí. 102 baile fearainn; 7 dteach ósta agus 7 scoil lena gcaitear iomlán ama an O.T.S. lánaimseartha. Tá trí cinn de na tithe ósta i mbaile Mhainistir Chnoc Muaidhe, 7½ míle ón Stáisiún.

DÚN MÓR – Daonra 3,851; 857 líon tí. 77 baile fearainn; 22 teach ósta agus 5 scoil. Baile mór gnó. Téann bealach amháin bus tríd an limistéar. Bíonn margadh ar siúl gach seachtain agus

An Garda Síochána

Fishing tourists frequent the area during summer months. Main road Clifden-Galway is a bus route.

ROUNDSTONE – Population 1,461; 339 families. There are 9 public houses and 6 schools. Daily average duty is a 4 day patrols and 2 night patrols, with 2 rising patrols per week. Fishery duty.

OUGHTERARD [Sub-District Station only] – Population 3,168; 707 families. There are 125 townlands, 14 public houses and 5 schools. 54 patrols were performed by the party in week ended 31/3/30. 50 Revenue patrols were performed in 1929. There are 10 Islands in Lough Corrib on which illicit distillation is carried on; these are at a distance of from 7 to 10 miles from Station. During December 1929, 149 day and 123 night patrols were performed. The main road Galway-Clifden passes through the area and is an important bus route. This is also an important tourist resort.

CARRAROE – Population 2,248; 435 families. There are 2 public houses and 5 schools. The party at this Station perform an average 50 hours per week outdoor duty per man. This is a poteen-making area and the principal work is in connection therewith. There were 915 Revenue patrols performed during 1929. Fishery duty.

INVERAN – Population 2,534; 479 families. There are 5 public houses and 8 schools. Length of Sub-District by road is 15 miles. There is a considerable amount of bus and motor traffic through the area. Illicit distillation.

LETTERMORE – Population 3,175; 592 families. There are 2 public houses and 10 schools. There is an average of 8 hours out-door duty per man per day done at this Station. 209 Revenue patrols were performed in 1929. Illicit distillation is carried on in 11 islands off coast, some of which are at a distance of 8 or 9 miles from this Station. A boat is an essential requirement here.

MAAM – Population 1,874; 400 families. There are 5 public houses and 8 schools.

aonach uair sa mhí. Tá bealach contúirteach trasna na sráide a mbíonn gá le fear ar dualgas ann ag stiúradh tráchta.

GLEANN NA MADADH – Daonra 3,888; 825 líon tí. 70 baile fearainn, 14 teach ósta agus 10 scoil. Baile mór gnó. Dhá bhanc ar an mbaile. Feidhmíonn aon Gharda amháin ina Oifigeach Tinrimh Scoile lánaimseartha.

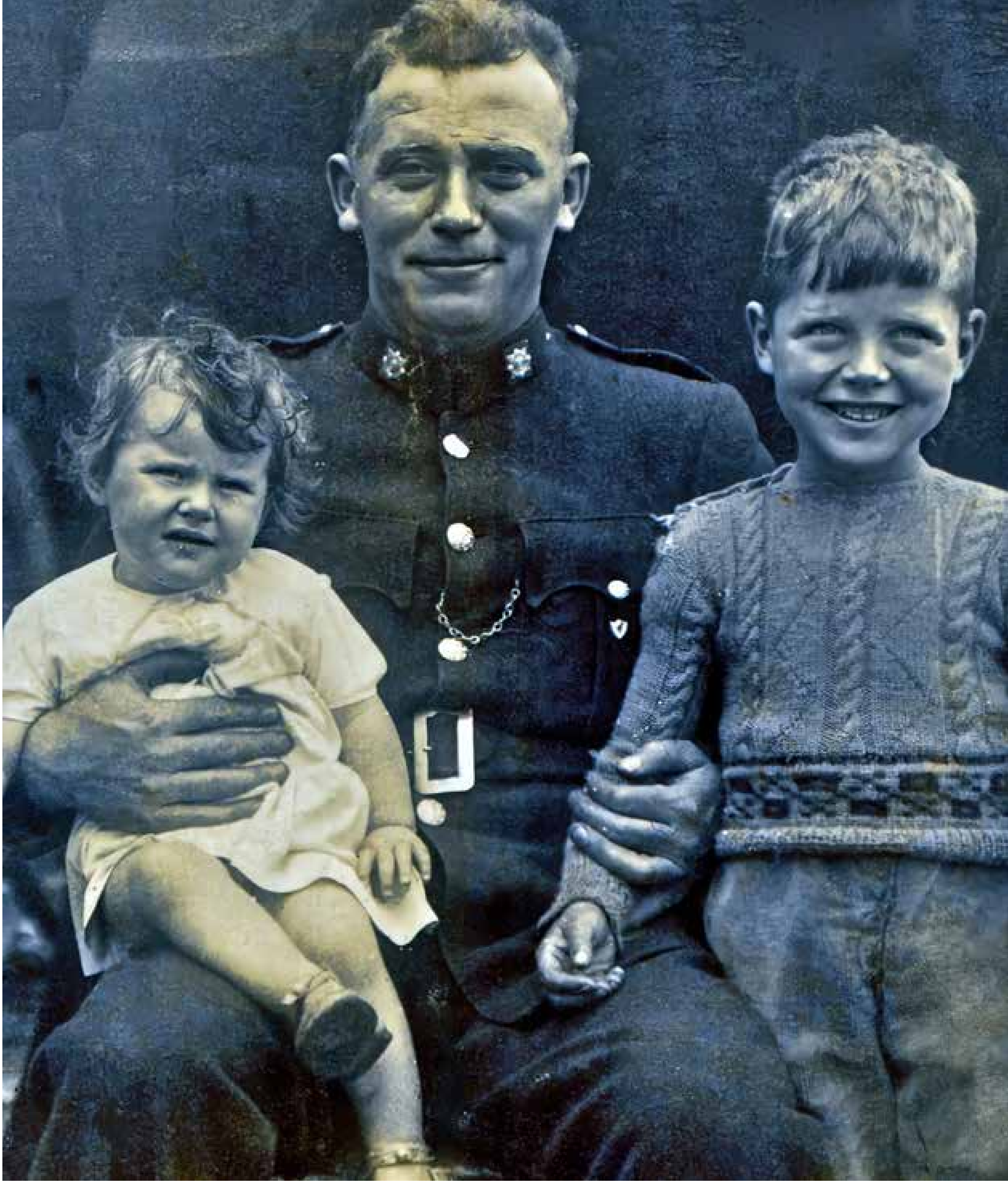
CILL CHONLA – Daonra 2,987; 623 líon tí. 46 baile fearainn; 3 theach ósta agus 11 scoil. Feidhmíonn aon Gharda amháin ina Oifigeach Tinrimh Scoile lánaimseartha.

BAILE AN MHUILINN – Daonra 3,661; 765 líon tí. 78 baile fearainn; 10 dteach ósta agus 10 scoil. Tá trí cinn de na tithe ósta 7 míle slí ón Stáisiún. Feidhmíonn aon Gharda amháin ina Oifigeach Tinrimh Scoile lánaimseartha.

BAILE LIAM – Daonra 2,910; 633 líon tí. 62 baile fearainn; 6 theach ósta agus 8 scoil. Feidhmíonn aon Gharda amháin ina Oifigeach Tinrimh Scoile lánaimseartha. Bealach tábhachtach busanna é ceann amháin de na bóithre.

AN CLOCHÁN [Maidir leis an Stáisiún Focheantair amháin] – Daonra 4,656; 944 líon tí. 87 baile fearainn, 35 teach ósta agus 18 scoil. Focheantar an-fhairsing seo ó dúnadh an Cloigeann. Tá 16½ míle bealaigh go dtí an ceann is faide ó bhaile den Fhocheantar. Tá an dá bhaile bheaga – Baile Conaola agus an Cloigeann – 6 mhíle agus 7 míle bealaigh ón Stáisiún. Tá trí ionad cois trá sa limistéar agus bíonn tarraingt ar an áit ag turasóirí. Dualgas faoin aer in aghaidh an lae ar an meán – 8 bpatról lae 4 uair an chloig an ceann agus 5 phatról oíche 3 uair an chloig an ceann. 3 phatról mochéirí in aghaidh na seachtaine. Dualgas iascaigh.

CARNA – Daonra 2,777; 595 líon tí. 51 baile fearainn; 7 dteach ósta agus 11 scoil. Dualgas faoin aer in aghaidh an lae ar an meán – 4 phatról lae agus 2 phatról oíche; 2 phatról mochéirí in aghaidh na seachtaine. Ionad turasóirí.



Garda John Joe O'Shea in Dunmore, Co. Galway 1938.
Photo source: BEO Online Irish Local Heritage Archive Library.
An Garda John Joe O'Shea i nDún Mór, Co. na Gaillimhe 1938.
Grianghraf: BEO Cartlann ar líne Oidhreacht Áitiúil na hÉireann.

An Garda Síochána

Area considerably increased since the abolition of Clonbur Station. Average of 8 hours out-door duty daily per man is done. Road, Galway-Clifden, passes through area and is a bus route. Tourist resort.

MOYCULLEN – Population 1,903; 832 families. There are 57 townlands, 4 public houses and 4 schools. There is a considerable amount of Revenue work to be done in this Sub-District. 13 seizures were made in year 1929, practically all on commonages and no prosecutions resulted.

ROSMUCK – Population 2,055; 420 families. There are 5 schools and 1 public house. The daily average duty is 4 day patrols and 2 night patrols; 2 rising patrols are performed each week. This is a poteen making area, particularly on the islands off the coast. Boats are necessary for the effective suppression of this traffic.

SPIDDAL – Population 2,349; 445 families. There are 35 townlands, 5 public houses and 5 schools. An average of 8 hours duty per man per day is performed here. Each man performs 4 rising patrols each month. During the summer months there are 2 Irish Colleges at which approximately 600 students attend. 300 Revenue patrols were performed during 1929. During the summer large numbers of visitors come from Galway, etc., by motor and bus and the road which passes through the Sub-District is a direct route to the tourist resorts of Connemara. There are 2 islands off the coast on which the manufacture of illicit spirits is carried on.

AN LÍONÁN – Daonra 1,070; 207 líon tí. 6 theach ósta; 3 scoil. Dualgas faoin aer in aghaidh an lae ar an meán – 3 phatról lae agus 2 phatról oíche; déantar 2 phatról mochéirí in aghaidh na seachtaine. Ionad turasóirí.

LEITIR FRAIC – Daonra 2,902; 599 líon tí. 69 baile fearainn; 10 dteach ósta agus 9 scoil. Dualgas in aghaidh an lae ar an meán – 4 phatról lae agus 3 phatról oíche; déantar 2 phatról mochéirí in aghaidh na seachtaine. Tá Inis Bó Finne san Fhocheantar seo freisin, oileán 9 míle ón gcósta. Foireann an Stáisiúin seo a dhéanann dualgas ar an oileán sin ó cuireadh deireadh le beairic an Chloiginn. Bíonn na sluaite turasóirí ag tarraingt ar an áit agus ag dul tríd an limistéar seo i rith an tsamhraidh. Tá 18 míle bealaigh go dtí an ceann is faide ó bhaile den Fhocheantar.

SRAITH SALACH – Daonra 1,292; 258 líon tí. 58 baile fearainn; 4 theach ósta agus 4 scoil. Dualgas in aghaidh an lae ar an meán – 4 phatról lae agus 2 phatról oíche; déantar 2 phatról mochéirí in aghaidh na seachtaine. Tá ionad turasóireachta cois farraige ann (an Caiseal). Déanann iascairí turasóireacht san áit i rith an tsamhraidh. Is bealach busanna an bóthar mór idir an Clochán agus Gaillimh.

CLOCH NA RÓN – Daonra 1,461; 339 líon tí. 9 dteach ósta agus 6 scoil. Dualgas in aghaidh an lae ar an meán – 4 phatról lae agus 2 phatról oíche, le 2 phatról mochéirí in aghaidh na seachtaine. Dualgas iascaigh.

UACHTAR ARD [Maidir leis an Stáisiún Focheantair amháin] – Daonra 3,168; 707 líon tí. 125 baile fearainn; 14 teach ósta agus 5 scoil. 54 patról a rinne an fhoireann i rith na seachtaine dár críoch an 31/3/30. Rinneadh 50 patról custaim agus máil i rith na bliana 1929. Tá 10 gcinn d'oileáin i Loch Coirib a mbíonn stiléireacht neamhdhleathach ar siúl orthu, agus tá siad sin idir 7 míle agus 10 míle ón Stáisiún. I rith mhí na Nollag 1929, rinneadh 149 patról lae agus 123 patról oíche. Ritheann an bóthar mór

idir Gaillimh agus an Clochán tríd an limistéar seo agus is bealach tábhachtach bus sin. Ionad tábhachtach turasóirí seo freisin.

AN CHEATHRÚ RUA – Daonra 2,248; 435 líon tí. 2 theach ósta agus 5 scoil. Déanann foireann an Stáisiúin dualgas 50 uair an chloig in aghaidh na seachtaine an fear faoin aer ar an meán. Bíonn poitín á dhéanamh agus is ceangailte leis sin an chuid is tábhachtaí den obair. Rinneadh 915 patról custaim agus máil i rith na bliana 1929. Dualgas iascaigh.

INDREABHÁN – Daonra 2,534; 479 líon tí. 5 theach ósta agus 8 scoil. Tá 15 míle bóthair ó cheann ceann an Fhocheantair. Bíonn roinnt mhaith tráchta ag busanna agus carranna tríd an limistéar. Stiléireacht neamhdhleathach.

LEITIR MÓIR – Daonra 3,175; 592 líon tí. 2 theach ósta agus 10 scoil. Déantar ar an meán dualgas 8 n-uair an chloig an fear faoin aer in aghaidh an lae sa Stáisiún seo. Rinneadh 209 patról custaim agus máil i rith na bliana 1929. Bíonn biotáille neamhdhleathach á déanamh ar 11 oileán amach ón gcósta, roinnt acu 8 nó 9 de mhílte ón Stáisiún. Tá gá le bád anseo.

AN MÁM – Daonra 1,874; 400 líon tí. 5 theach ósta agus 8 scoil. Fairsingiú mór ar an limistéar ó cuireadh deireadh le Beairic na Fairche. Déantar dualgas 8 n-uair an chloig an fear faoin aer ar an meán gach lá. Ritheann an bóthar idir Gaillimh agus an Clochán tríd an limistéar seo agus is bealach bus sin. Ionad turasóirí.

MAIGH CUILINN – Daonra 1,903; 832 líon tí. 57 baile fearainn, 4 theach ósta agus 4 scoil. Bíonn cuid mhaith obair Chustaim agus Máil le déanamh san Fhocheantar seo. Tharla 13 eachtra gabhála i rith na bliana 1929, beagnach an t-iomlán ar thalamh cimín, agus níor tharla aon ionchúiseamh dá mbarr.

ROS MUC – Daonra 2,055; 420 líon tí. 5 scoil agus aon teach ósta amháin. Ceithre phatról lae agus dhá phatról oíche an gnáthdhualgas in aghaidh an lae; déantar dhá phatról mochéirí in aghaidh na seachtaine. Bíonn déantús poitín ar siúl sa limistéar seo, go háirithe ar na hoileáin amach ón gcósta. Tá gá le báid chun tráchtáil den sórt sin a chur faoi chois.

AN SPIDÉAL – Daonra 2,349; 445 líon tí. 35 baile fearainn, 5 theach ósta agus 5 scoil. Déantar 8 n-uair an chloig dualgais an fear in aghaidh an lae anseo. Déanann gach fear 4 phatról mochéirí in aghaidh na míosa. I rith mhíonna an tsamhraidh, bíonn dhá Choláiste Gaeilge ar siúl agus isteach agus amach le 600 foghlaimeoir i láthair. Rinneadh 300 patról custaim agus máil i rith na bliana 1929. Bíonn líon mór cuairteoirí a thagann amach as Gaillimh, etc., i rith an tsamhraidh i gcarranna agus ar bhusanna agus is bealach díreach chuig na hionaid turasóireachta i gConamara an bóthar a ritheann tríd an bhFocheantar. Tá dhá oileán amach ón gcósta ar a mbíonn biotáille neamhdhleathach á dhéanamh.

Agricultural statistics duties, 1964. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.

Dualgais staidrimh talmhaíochta, 1964. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

McHugh's shop Barnaderg. Photo taken c. 1900s. Courtesy of Canon Kieran Waldron.

Siopa McHugh i mBearna Dhearg, c. 1900. Le caoinchead an Chanónaigh Kieran Waldron.

Garda in a trap, Barnaderg, 1930s. Photo source: BEO Online Irish Local Heritage Archive Library.
Garda ag imeacht sa trap, Bearna Dhearg, 1930idí. Grianghraf: BEO Cartlann ar líne Oidhreacht Áitiúil na hÉireann.

12. Garda Síochána in Killererin

by Bernadette Forde, Killererin Heritage

In Killererin, 'the Guards' were First Stationed in Clogherboy House.

Martin Lyster, Retired Garda (RIP), in 1982 recorded the names of the first contingent as Sergeant McNulty, Garda McGee, Garda McGinn and Garda McGuinness. In 1926, the Station

12. An Garda Síochána i gCill Fhir Iarainn

le Bernadette Forde, Oidhreacht Chill Fhir Iarainn

I dTeach an Chlochair Bhuí a bhí na Gardaí ar dtús i gCill Fhir Iarainn.

Bhreac Martin Lyster (Garda ar scor ag an am nach maireann anois) liosta sa bhliain 1982 d'ainmneacha an chéad chomplachta Gardaí a tháinig, an Sáirsint McNulty, an Garda McGee,

Photo includes Garda McGinn, Garda McGuinness, Sergeant Travers, Garda Halpin in Clogherboy Cottage.
Courtesy of Gerry and Bernadette Connolly.
Feictear an Garda McGinn, an Garda McGuinness, an Sáirsint Travers, an Garda Halpin i dTeach an Chlochair Bhuí.
Le caoinchead Gerry agus Bernadette Connolly.

was deemed not appropriately located, so a site was obtained in Barnaderg village. According to Garda Matt Marley, the new Station was built by Paddy Duffy, Lavally, in 1929. Sergeant Travers and later Sergeant Forde were some of the sergeants in charge of the new Station after Sergeant McNulty.

Records show that among the members who served in Barnaderg in those years were Gardaí Bolan, Conlon, Halpin, Keohane, Lohan, O'Donnell and Seavers.

The outbreak of World War II in September 1939 caused many changes in the country and

an Garda McGinn agus an Garda McGuinness. Socraíodh, sa bhliain 1926, nach raibh an bheairic in áit chóiriúil agus aimsíodh malairt suímh i mbaile Bhearna Dhearg. De réir tuairisc a thug an Garda Matt Marley, ba é Paddy Duffy as an Leathbhaile a thóg an stáisiún nua sa bhliain 1929. Bhí an Sáirsint Travers agus an Sáirsint Forde ina dhiaidh sin le háireamh ar roinnt dár tháinig i gcomharbacht ar an Sáirsint McNulty ina dhiaidh sin.

Is léir ó thuairiscí scríofa go raibh na Gardaí Bolan, Conlon, Halpin, Keohane, Lohan, O'Donnell agus Seavers i measc na ndaoine eile a rinne fónamh i mBeairic Bhearna Dhearg i rith na mblianta sin.

Clogherboy cottage, Killererin (Barnaderg). Courtesy of Gerry and Bernadette Connolly.
Teach an Chlochair Bhuí, Cill Fhir Iarainn (Bearna Dhearg). Le caoinchead Gerry agus Bernadette Connolly.

Garda work began to involve duties concerning rationing coupons, travel identity cards to Britain, etc. In 1941, the Local Defence Force (LDF) was established, primarily to assist the Gardaí in their work.

Members of the Barnaderg Garda force in the 1940s included Sergeant Emmet Boyle, a native of Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh, who died in 2015; Garda John Gannon, from Claremorris; Garda Michael McElroy, a native of Co. Fermanagh; Garda Joseph Kennedy, from Athlone and Garda James McStay, a native of Co. Longford. A topical note regarding the late Garda McStay is that members of his family have recently donated a

Is iomaí athrú a tháinig ar fud na tíre nuair a thosaigh an dara cogadh domhanda i mí Mheán Fómhair 1939 agus tháinig dualgas de chineálacha nua faoi chúram an Gharda, cúpóin ciondála, cártaí aitheantais maidir le taisteal don Bhreatain, agus mar sin de. Sa bhliain 1941, cuireadh an Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil (FCÁ) ar bun agus cuidiú leis na Gardaí i mbun a gcuid oibre an chúis ba mhó a bhí leis.

I measc daoine d'fhórsa na nGardaí a rinne fónamh i mbeairic Bhearna Dhearg i rith na 1940idí, bhí an Sáirsint Emmet Boyle as Crois Mhic Lionnáin, Co. Ard Mhacha, a fuair bás sa bhliain 2015; an Garda John Gannon as Clár

very fine cup for football competitions among the National Schools in the Barnaderg Garda area.

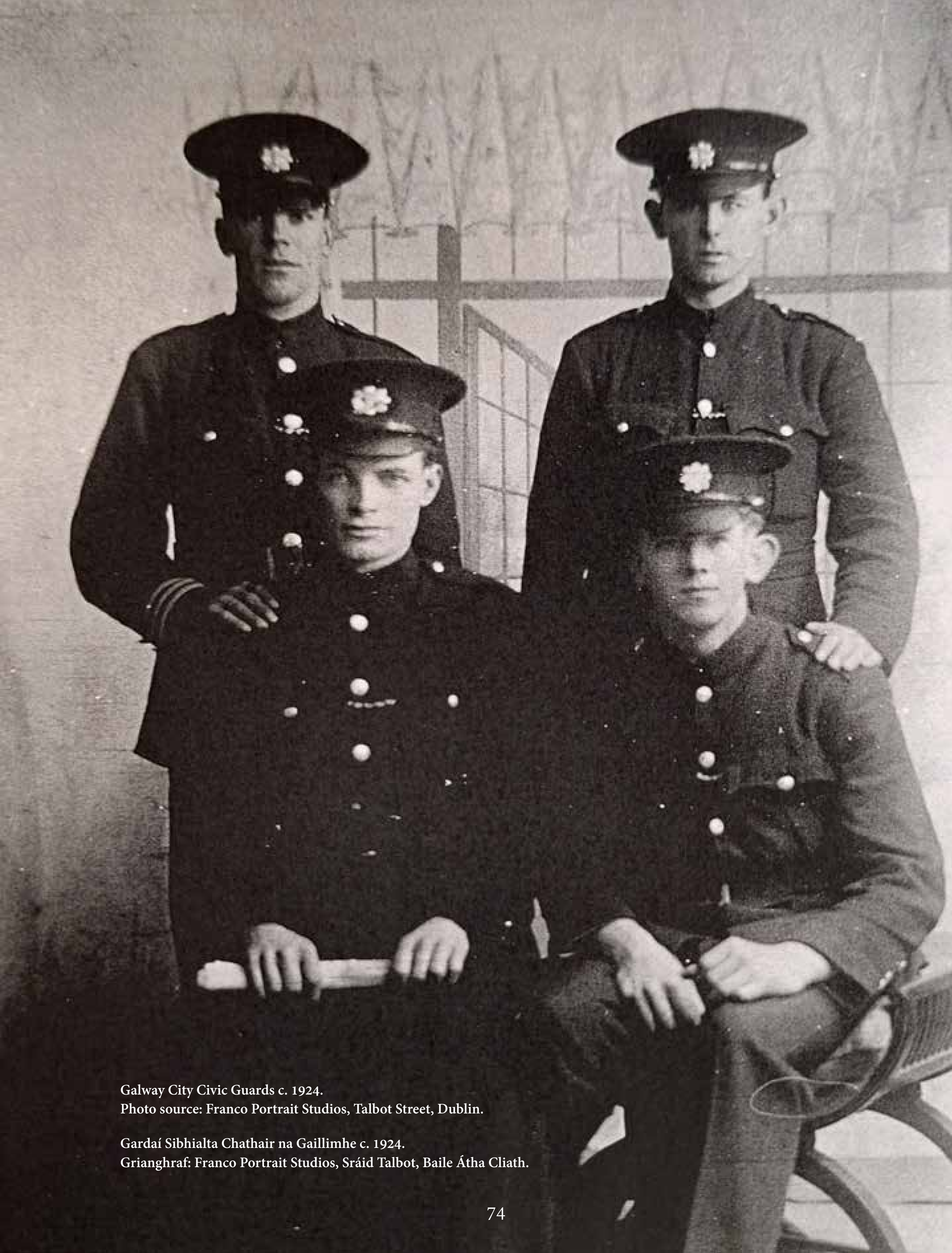
Many men who served in the LDF during what became known as 'the Emergency' spent days and nights on patrol work, protection duties, etc. They were dangerous and difficult times but a fine spirit existed between the public and the Gardaí who worked in close harmony through this eventful period. One of the major events of those war time days was the crash of a big Canadian bomber plane in the Lavally area, with the loss of the entire crew.

The war years passed and the personnel of Barnaderg Station inevitably changed. Sergeant James Hawkshaw was in charge of the station. He was a native of Westport and his son M.J. was a member of the Galway Senior football team playing in Croke Park in 1957. Other members of the force at that time were Garda Tom Cosgrove, Martin Gill, John T. Finlay and the late Pat Hegarty. Sergeant Hugh Ruane and Sergeant William Harhen came after Sergeant Hawkshaw. Sergeant Harhen's brother, Michael Harhen, also served as a Garda in Barnaderg in the 1950s. Another native of the West Cork area, Sergeant Pat Bevan, served for over seven years in Barnaderg. The list of men who served in Barnaderg is a long one from the first day in Clogherboy to the diamond anniversary of the foundation of the force when the station was manned by Sergeant Michael Waters and Gardaí Martin Lyster and Richard Horan.

Chlainne Mhuiris; an Garda Michael McElroy as Fear Manach ó dhúchas; an Garda Joseph Kennedy as Baile Átha Luain agus an Garda James McStay de bhunadh an Longfoirt. Is tráthúil a lua maidir leis an nGarda McStay nach maireann go bhfuil corn breá bronnta le tamall anuas ag daoine dá chlann do chomórtais pheile idir na Scoileanna Náisiúnta i limistéar Garda Bhearna Dhearg.

Cuid mhór de na fir a rinne fónamh san FCÁ i rith thréimhse na hÉigeandála, mar a thabharfaí air, chaith siad laethanta agus oícheanta i mbun patróil, ar dualgas cosanta, etc. Ba ré chontúirteach anróiteach sin ach bhí an-chaidreamh idir an pobal agus na Gardaí agus iad ag obair go dlúth as lámha a chéile ar feadh an achair. Ar cheann d'imeachtaí móra na linne, bhí eitleán buamála de chuid Cheanada a theacht anuas i gceantar an Leathbhaile. Maraíodh iomlán chriú an eitleáin sin.

Tháinig deireadh le blianta an chogaidh agus tháinig athrú ar an bhfoireann i mBeairic Bhearna Dhearg. Ba é an Sáirsint James Hawkshaw a bhí i gceannas. Ba as Cathair na Mart eisean ó dhúchas agus bhí mac leis, M.J., ar fhoireann sinsir peile na Gaillimhe ag imirt i bPáirc an Chrócaigh sa bhliain 1957. Ar na Gardaí eile ag an am, bhí Tom Cosgrove, Martin Gill, John T. Finlay agus Pat Hegarty nach maireann. An Sáirsint Hugh Ruane agus an Sáirsint William Harhen a lean an Sáirsint Hawkshaw. Bhí deartháir leis an Sáirsint Harhen, Michael Harhen, a rinne fónamh ina Gharda i mBearna Dhearg freisin i rith na 1950idí. Duine eile as iarthar Chorcaí ó dhúchas a chaith níos mó ná seacht mbliana i mBearna Dhearg an Sáirsint Pat Bevan. Is liosta fada liosta na bhfear a shaothraigh i mBearna Dhearg ón gcéad lá sin ar an gClochar Buí anall go dtí an tráth a raibh comóradh seasca bliain bhunú an Gharda ar siúl. Is iad a bhí i mbun an stáisiúin an uair sin, an Sáirsint Michael Waters, an Garda Martin Lyster agus an Garda Richard Horan.



Galway City Civic Guards c. 1924.
Photo source: Franco Portrait Studios, Talbot Street, Dublin.

Gardaí Sibhialta Chathair na Gaillimhe c. 1924.
Grianghraf: Franco Portrait Studios, Sráid Talbot, Baile Átha Cliath.

Oughterard District Force, 1924. Photo source: *Garda Review.*
Fórsa Ceantair Uachtar Ard, 1924. Grianghraf: *Garda Review.*

13. Garda Síochána in Oughterard

by Antoinette Lydon

Oughterard has been policed from many buildings, firstly from the Army Barracks at Ordnance Ground, on the Glann Road, about 4km north of the village, then from the house next to McGeough's butchers on Camp Street, from Main Street when, on 27 of October 1922, the Civic Guard moved into what is now called 'the Old Barracks' across from the Courthouse and from 1980 to the present from their location on Main Street.

Sergeant Gregory Allen, formerly of the Garda Museum writes: "This is a group of the Oughterard District Force, circa 1924." Based on the identification of the Officer in Charge,

13. An Garda Síochána in Uachtar Ard

le Antoinette Lydon

Is iomaí foirgneamh a bhí in úsáid in Uachtar Ard ag lucht póilíneachta, Beairic an Airm ar dtús ar an gCampa ar Bhóthar an Ghleanna, tuairim is 4km ó thuaidh den bhaile; an teach ina dhiaidh sin atá i mbéal an dorais ag siopa búistéireachta McGeough ar Shráid an Champa; an tseanbheairic, mar a thugtar anois air, trasna ó Theach na Cúirte ar an bPríomhshráid ón 27 Deireadh Fómhair 1922 nuair a tháinig an Garda Sibhialta ansin; agus, ón mbliain 1980 i leith, an bheairic atá faoi láthair ar an bPríomhshráid.

Scríobhann an Sáirsint Gregory Allen ó Mhúsaem an Gharda Síochána roimhe seo: Seo grúpa ón Fhórsa i gCeantar Uachtar Ard thart ar an mbliain 1924.

who is believed to be Superintendent Edmond O'Riordan, a native of Charleville, Co. Cork, who joined as cadet in 1923 and was a veteran of the War of Independence. Superintendent O'Riordan assumed command of the Oughterard District on 6 February, 1924. He retired from An Garda Síochána in 1940 and died in 1970.

In 1926, Sergeant Leo Maher (702) was posted to Oughterard as Sergeant in Charge. He later served as Superintendent in Rathfarnham and as Chief Superintendent in Mayo and Dublin.

Early Years

Single Gardaí slept in the Barracks and got their meals locally. Mrs Geoghegan and Miss Walsh, Bridge Street, cooked meals for the Gardaí.

By the late 1970s, the condition of the Barracks had deteriorated so much over the years, with the ingress of water and unhygienic conditions, that it caused a walkout of the serving Gardaí to the old rectory adjacent to the Church of Ireland where now the local Garda Station is.

ACCOMMODATION (taken from *Garda Review*, December 1980)

> *During the past month the patience of Gardaí stationed at Oughterard, Co. Galway, finally gave out and they quit the old leaky draughty decrepit building which was the Garda Station. For years they had patiently worked from the uncomfortable and deteriorating old building of which they had progressively become ashamed. Their hopes rose last year when a nearby building which had been vacated was purchased for their use. Plans were drawn up for its adaptation for Garda use, but disappointment grew when it became apparent that the Office of Public Works seemed to drag its heels commencing the necessary renovation work.*
>
> *As winter set in, the cold and damp of the old station became unbearable but there was still no apparent move to make the new premises*

Bunaithe ar an Oifigeach i gCeannas a shainaithint, a mheastar gurbh é an Ceannfort Edmond O'Riordan é, ón Ráth, Contae Chorcaí ó dhúchas, agus a chuaigh isteach sna Gardaí sa bhliain 1923 agus iarshaighdiúir de chuid Chogadh na Saoirse. Ghlac an Ceannfort O'Riordan ceannas ar Cheantar Uachtar Ard an 6 Feabhra, 1924. Chuaigh sé ar scor ón nGarda Síochána sa bhliain 1940 agus fuair sé bás sa bhliain 1970.

Sa bhliain 1926 cuireadh an Sáirsint Leo Maher (702) go hUachtar Ard mar Sháirsint i gCeannas. Chuaigh sé i mbun seirbhíse ina dhiaidh sin mar Cheannfort i Ráth Fearnáin agus mar Ard-Cheannfort i Maigh Eo agus i mBaile Átha Cliath.

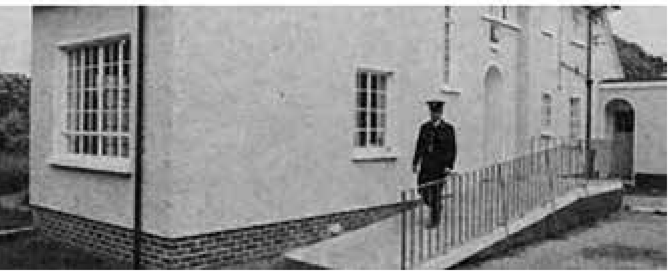
Na blianta tosaigh

An bheairic an áit chodlata a bhíodh ag na Gardaí neamhphósta agus d'fhaighidís béilí gar do láthair. Bhíodh Mrs Geoghegan agus Miss Walsh ar Shráid an Droichid ag réiteach a mbéile do na Gardaí.

Tháinig droch-chaoi ar an mBeairic le himeacht na mblianta, bhíodh an t-uisce isteach agus an áit mífholláin, agus bhí an cás chomh dona sin faoi dheireadh na 1970idí gur thréig na Gardaí a bhí ar lonnú ann an bheairic le teann aighnis agus go ndeachaigh siad isteach i seanteach reachtaire Eaglais na hÉireann, an áit a bhfuil Beairic na nGardaí sa lá atá inniu ann.

ACCOMMODATION (sliocht as an Garda Review, Nollaig 1980)

> *During the past month the patience of Gardaí stationed at Oughterard, Co. Galway, finally gave out and they quit the old leaky draughty decrepit building which was the Garda Station. For years they had patiently worked from the uncomfortable and deteriorating old building of which they had progressively become ashamed. Their hopes rose last year when a nearby building which had been vacated was purchased for their use. Plans were drawn up for its*



Above: Sergeant in Charge: Sergeant Michael McNamara at Oughterard, 1980. Courtesy of The Garda Museum.
Below: Garda Colm Kavanagh outside the new station in Oughterard. The station, one of the newest in the country, even has a special ramp to assist disabled people.
Courtesy of The Garda Museum.
Thuas: Sáirsint i gCeannas: An Sáirsint Michael McNamara in Uachtar Ard, 1980. Le caoinchead Mhúsaem an Gharda.
Thíos: An Garda Colm Kavanagh taobh amuigh den bheairic nua in Uachtar Ard. Tá rampa speisialta isteach chuig an mbeairic, atá ar cheann den chuid is nua sa tír, mar áis do dhaoine atá faoi mhíchumas.
Le caoinchead Mhúsaem an Gharda.

ready for them. Eventually, their patience gave up and with the blessing of the Association [Garda Representative Association], on the 1st of December they decided to quit their old premises and work from the other premises even though the essential renovations to it had not yet been carried out. They had notified their intention to do this well in advance and the national press and television men were there to

adaptation for Garda use, but disappointment grew when it became apparent that the Office of Public Works seemed to drag its heels commencing the necessary renovation work.

As winter set in, the cold and damp of the old station became unbearable but there was still no apparent move to make the new premises ready for them. Eventually, their patience gave up and with the blessing of the Association [Cumann Ionadaíochta an Gharda Síochána], on the 1st of December they decided to quit their old premises and work from the other premises even though the essential renovations to it had not yet been carried out. They had notified their intention to do this well in advance and the national press and television men were there to record the move, it got a very prompt reaction. Suddenly everybody became interested in carrying out renovations to the newly acquired premises. The Office of Public Works were there like a flash, because it would not have been possible to carry out the renovations while the building was occupied, a third premises was secured in a matter of hours to accommodate the members temporarily while the more permanent premises was being prepared.

We now hope that the action by the Gardaí at Oughterard will help to concentrate the minds of officialdom on a few other appalling old buildings which pass for Garda Stations and which are in urgent need of attention or replacement.

Gardaí as ceantar Uachtar Ard agus Chill Aithnín i dtús ré na nGardaí

Castar na daoine ar a chéile. Bhíodh an Sáirsint Edmund 'Ned' Tobin, as Tiobraid Árann ó dhúchas, ar lonnú in Uachtar Ard agus casadh Cuimín Clancy air lena linn sin. Nuair a bhí Ned ina dhiaidh sin i mBaile Átha Cliath, casadh Peter Walsh, as Ros Cathail, ansin air.

record the move, it got a very prompt reaction. Suddenly everybody became interested in carrying out renovations to the newly acquired premises. The Office of Public Works were there like a flash, because it would not have been possible to carry out the renovations while the building was occupied, a third premises was secured in a matter of hours to accommodate the members temporarily while the more permanent premises was being prepared.

We now hope that the action by the Gardaí at Oughterard will help to concentrate the minds of officialdom on a few other appalling old buildings which pass for Garda Stations and which are in urgent need of attention or replacement.

Pioneering Gardaí from the Oughterard/Killannin Area

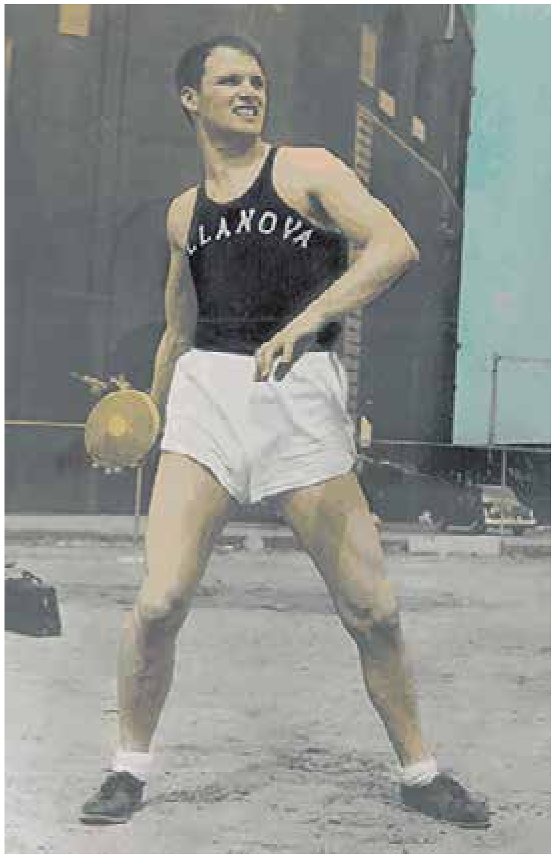
Fate has a way of bringing people together. Tipperary-born Sergeant Edmund 'Ned' Tobin was stationed in Oughterard and, while there, he got to meet Cummin Clancy. When Ned was subsequently posted to Dublin, he then met Rosscahill-born Peter Walsh.

Cummin Clancy (1922-2013)

Cummin was born on 9 November 1922 and educated at Glann National School; he subsequently trained to become a Garda.

Garda Ned Tobin, based in Oughterard, Co. Galway, noticed Cummin's ability as an athlete when he competed in local sports meetings in the 1940s. Ned was impressed at his sheer strength, skill and natural ability as a discus thrower.

Inspired by Ned Tobin's previous achievements (see below), Cummin, while stationed in Dublin, joined Donore Harriers athletic club and began to blaze his own trail and became the Irish champion, registering a Personal Best and breaking the Irish record in 1948, a record that stood for 19 years. Also in 1948, just a fortnight



Cummin Clancy at Villanova University in the 1950s. Courtesy of the *Connacht Tribune.*

Cuimín Clancy in Ollscoil Villanova i rith na 1950idí. Le caoinchead an *Churaidh Chonnachtaigh.*

Cuimín Clancy (1922-2013)

An 9 Samhain 1922 a rugadh Cuimín agus chuaigh sé ar Scoil Náisiúnta an Ghleanna.

Chuaigh sé faoi oiliúint ina Gharda ina dhiaidh sin. Thug an Garda Ned Tobin, a bhí i Stáisiún Uachtar Ard, faoi deara chomh hábalta agus a bhí Cuimín i mbun lúthchleasaíochta ag imeachtaí áitiúla spóirt i rith na 1940idí. Chuaigh an neart a bhí ann i gcion ar Ned, chomh maith leis an gcumas agus an scil nádúrtha a bhí ann ag caitheamh teisce.

Bhí eolas ar a raibh bainte amach roimhe sin ag Ned Tobin (féach thíos) ina spreagadh ag Cuimín

before the Olympic Games, he won the English Amateur Athletic Association Championship.

Cummin was 26 years of age when he was chosen to be one of 73 Olympians (68 men and 5 women) to represent Ireland in London. While at the Olympics, Cummin met the American athletes' coach, Jumbo Elliot, who would change the course of his life. Jumbo invited Cummin to Villanova University; while there, he met his future wife Maureen and subsequently started work in the insurance business in Garden City, New York, in 1956. Cummin passed away in 2013 at the age of 90.

Sergeant Peter Walsh (1934-2009), born in Rosscahill, Co. Galway

Peter commenced his service in An Garda Síochána in the former Dublin Metropolitan Area in 1954, his First Station being Kevin Street. He later transferred to the Mayo Division where he served in Murrisk and Achill Island. In 1960, he was transferred to the division of Galway West, serving in Letterfrack and Gort before retiring in September 1984.

Peter was a well-known and highly respected member of An Garda Síochána. Outside his commitments to his family and career, his love of sport came next. While serving in Gort, Peter was involved in setting up the South Galway Athletic Club and he was chairman of the Galway County Board of the BLE, while in Letterfrack.

In 1954, Peter moved to Dublin where he joined the Civil Service Athletic Club and trained each week in Kilmainham, practising the shot, hammer and discus – without doubt the 56lb was his favourite discipline. When Peter competed in several All-Ireland Championships in these events, he had many great contests with Michael Hehir (Moycullen) and Garda Ned Tobin (Tipperary). He also won several Connacht Senior Championship titles.

Peter Walsh as a young Garda.
Courtesy of the Walsh family.
Peter Walsh ina Gharda óg.
Le caoinchead mhuintir Walsh.

agus, nuair a bhí sé ar lonnú i mBaile Átha Cliath, cheangail sé le Cumann Lúthchleasaíochta Donore Harriers agus thosaigh ar a shlí féin a dhéanamh go raibh ina churadh uile-Éireann. Chaith sé a sháriarracht phearsanta féin sa bhliain 1948 nuair a sháraigh sé curiarracht na hÉireann, iarracht nach sárófaí arís go ceann 19 mbliana. An bhliain chéanna sin, 1948, coicís ghairid roimh na Cluichí Oilimpeacha, bhuaigh sé an English Amateur Athletic Association Championship.

26 bliana d'aois a bhí Cuimín nuair a roghnaíodh i measc 73 (68 fear agus 5 ban) ar fhoireann na hÉireann é do na Cluichí Oilimpeacha i Londain. Ag na cluichí sin a casadh Jumbo Elliot, cóitseálaí lúthchleasaíochta na Meiriceánach, ar Chuimín, fear a chuirfeadh cor mór ina chinniúint. Thug

Garda Ned Tobin, 1934. Photo source: *Garda Review.*
An Garda Ned Tobin, 1934. Grianghraf: *Garda Review.*

Peter's involvement in athletics over many years helped him greatly in his professional work because it enabled him to get to know young people in a very positive way. In 1982, at the age of forty-seven, Peter competed successfully in the 56lb for the last time at Garda Sports in Salthill. Two years later, he retired from the force and from athletics.

Sergeant Edmund 'Ned' Tobin (1911-1987)

Edmund 'Ned' Tobin was born on 23 November 1911 at Rehill, Ballylooby, Co. Tipperary. He joined An Garda Síochána in 1933, embarking on a career path ideally suited for his talents and serving for a period of time in Oughterard.

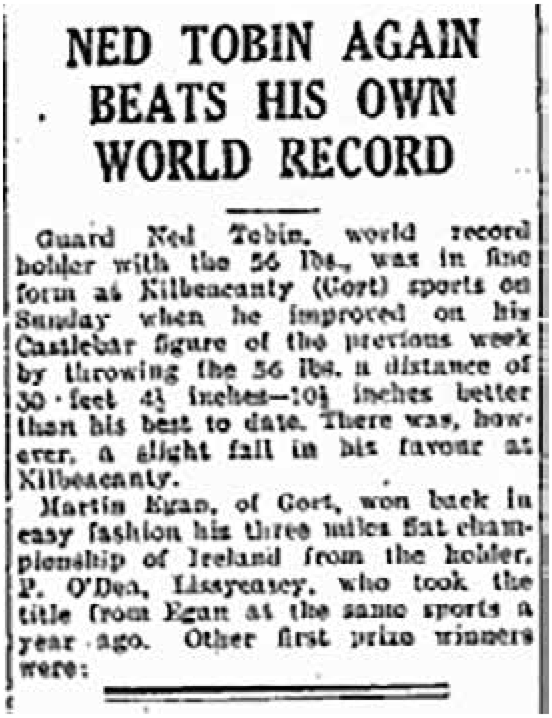
Jumbo cuireadh do Chuimín a theacht go hollscoil Villanova. Le linn a thréimhse ansin a casadh Maureen, a bhean chéile, air agus chuaigh sé ag obair ina dhiaidh sin, sa bhliain 1956, le gnóthaí árachais in Garden City, Nua-Eabhrac. Sa bhliain 2013 a fuair Cuimín bás agus é 90 mbliana d'aois.

An Sáirsint Peter Walsh (1934-2009) a rugadh i Ros Cathail, Co. na Gaillimhe

Thosaigh Peter i mbun seirbhíse leis an nGarda Síochána i gCeantar Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath sa bhliain 1954. Sa bheairic ar Shráid Caoimhín a bhí sé ar dtús. Aistríodh ina dhiaidh sin é go Rannán Mhaigh Eo, mar a ndearna sé fónamh i Muraisc agus in Acaill. D'aistrigh sé go Rannán Iarthar na Gaillimhe sa bhliain 1960 agus rinne sé fónamh i Leitir Fraic agus ar an nGort sula ndeachaigh sé amach ar pinsean i mí Meán Fómhair 1984.

Bhí aithne go forleathan air agus ardmheas air ina Gharda. Taobh amuigh dá dhúthracht don teaghlach agus a dhíograis i mbun oibre, bhí cúrsaí spóirt ar an gcéad réimse eile den saol inar mhó spéis ag Peter. Le linn dó a bheith ar an nGort, bhí baint ag Peter le Cumann Lúthchleasaíochta Dheisceart na Gaillimhe a chur ar bun agus bhí sé ina chathaoirleach ar Bhord Contae na Gaillimhe de BLÉ nuair a bhí sé i Leitir Fraic.

D'athraigh Peter go Baile Átha Cliath ina chónaí sa bhliain 1954 agus cheangail sé ansin le Cumann Lúthchleasaíochta na Státseirbhíse. Bhíodh sé ag traenáil i gCill Mhaighneann gach seachtain, ag caitheamh meáchain, ag caitheamh an oird agus ag caitheamh na teisce. Is cinnte gurb é caitheamh an mheáchain 56lb ab ansa leis. Bhí Peter san iomaíocht do Chraobh na hÉireann agus ba mhinic Michael Hehir (Maigh Cuilinn) agus an Garda Ned Tobin (Tiobraid Árann) ina choinne. Thug sé Craobh Sinsir Chonnacht leis níos mó ná uair amháin.



NED TOBIN AGAIN BEATS HIS OWN WORLD RECORD

Guard Ned Tobin, world record holder with the 56 lbs., was in fine form at Kilbeacanty (Gort) sports on Sunday when he improved on his Castlebar figure of the previous week by throwing the 56 lbs. a distance of 30 feet 4½ inches—10½ inches better than his best to date. There was, however, a slight fall in his favour at Kilbeacanty.

Martin Egan, of Gort, won back in easy fashion his three miles flat championship of Ireland from the holder, P. O'Dea, Lissycasey, who took the title from Egan at the same sports a year ago. Other first prize winners were:

Press report on Garda Ned Tobin beating his own World Record.

Tuairisc nuachtáin faoin nGarda Ned Tobin nuair a sháraigh sé Curiarracht an Domhain arís.

Standing at six feet five inches, he won thirty-seven national athletics titles, including two all-round titles won in Killarney in 1936 and Carrick-on-Suir in 1937. He won his first titles on 1 July 1934 at the championships held in Fermoy when he won the discus, 56lb weight for distance and 56lb weight over the bar events. Amazingly, he equalled this feat at the Irish Athletics Championships held in Thurles in the following year. His discus throw of 152 ft 6½ in. (46.49 m) in Thurles was an Irish record until beaten by Oughterard native Cummin Clancy in August 1949. Ned Tobin held the World record for the 56lb weight discipline in 1943.

Ned was promoted to Sergeant in May 1950. He died on 16 February 1987 in Dublin.

Chuidigh an bhaint a bhí ag Peter le cúrsaí lúthchleasaíochta ar feadh na mblianta fada leis ina shaol oibre ó chuir sin ar a chumas aithne a chur ar dhaoine óga ar bhealach a bhí an-tairbheach. Sa bhliain 1982, agus é seacht mbliana is dhá fhichead, chaith Peter an meáchan 56lb den uair dheireanach ag Spóirt an Gharda i mBóthar na Trá. Dhá bhliain dár gcionn, chuaigh sé ar pinsean as na Gardaí agus d'éirigh sé as an lúthchleasaíocht.

An Sáirsint Edmund 'Ned' Tobin (1911-1987)

Rugadh Edmund 'Ned' Tobin ar an 23 Samhain 1911 sa Réchoill i mBaile Átha Lúbaigh, Co. Thiobraid Árann. Chuaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána sa bhliain 1933, slí bheatha a bhí an-oiriúnach dá chuid cumais agus inniúlachta. Rinne sé fónamh ar feadh tamaill in Uachtar Ard.

Bhí sé troithe agus cúig orlaigh airde ann agus thug sé seacht gcraobh náisiúnta déag agus fiche leis sa lúthchleasaíocht, dhá chraobh náisiúnta ilbheartaíochta ina measc, i gCill Airne sa bhliain 1936 agus i gCarraig na Siúire sa bhliain 1937. Ag craobhchomórtas i Mainistir Fhear Maí ar an 1 Iúil 1934 a bhuaigh sé den chéad uair, rug sé an chraobh leis an lá sin ag caitheamh na teisce, ag caitheamh meáchain (56lb) chun faid agus ag caitheamh meáchain (56lb) chun airde. Rinne sé an ghaisce chéanna ag Craobh Lúthchleasaíochta na hÉireann i nDurlas Éile an bhliain dár gcionn. Chaith sé an teasc 152 tr. 6½ or. (46.49 m) i nDurlas, curiarracht na hÉireann gur sháraigh Cuimín Clancy, as Uachtar Ard ó dhúchas, é i mí Lúnasa 1949. Ba le Ned Tobin curiarracht an domhain maidir leis an meáchan 56lb sa bhliain 1943.

Fuair Ned ardú céime go grád an tSáirsint i mí Bealtaine 1950. Fuair sé bás an 16 Feabhra 1987 i mBaile Átha Cliath.

Sergeant Pat Lehane. Courtesy of Pat Lehane.
An Sáirsint Pat Lehane. Le caoinchead Pat Lehane.

Memories of my time in Oughterard - Sergeant Pat Lehane

I arrived as a recruit to Oughterard on 12 September 1964. The Station Party consisted of An Cheanfort Padraig S. O'Gallchohair, Donegal; Sergeant Jim Feely (9092), native of Sligo; Garda Tadgh Guiheen (8681), native of Dunquin; Mick Dowd (9826), Dingle; Denis Manning (6745), Ballyferriter (District Clerk); Gabriel Colleran (133 73), Headford (official driver); Con Gallagher, Donegal; Pat Gillispie, Donegal; Mick Ward, Donegal - Lord be good to them all. Later that month, Jim Boland (15707), Kerry, arrived from training.

The patrol car was a Ford Consul 375. The accommodation was very basic, with offices on the ground floor and sleeping quarters upstairs. The heating system was two turf fires. During the winter, some uninvited 'furry friends' squatted too close for comfort.

Cuimhní Cinn ar an saol in Uachtar Ard - An Sáirsint Pat Lehane

Tháinig mise i m'earcach go hUachtar Ard an 12 Meán Fómhair 1964. Is iad a bhí sa stáisiún ag an am an Ceannfort Padraig S. Ó Gallchohair, Dún na nGall; an Sáirsint Jim Feely (9092), as Sligeach ó dhúchas; an Garda Tadhg Ó Gaoithín (8681), as Dún Chaoin; Micheál Ó Dubhda (9826), as Daingean Uí Chúis; Donncha Ó Mainnín (6745), Baile an Fheirtéirigh (Cléireach Ceantair); Gabriel Ó Collaráin (13373), Áth Cinn (Tiománaí Oifigiúil); Con Ó Gallachóir, Dún na nGall; Pat Gillispie, Dún na nGall; Mick Ward, Dún na nGall – go ndéana an Tiarna trócaire orthu uilig. Sula raibh an mhí caite, bhí Séamus Ó Beoláin (15707), Ciarraíoch eile, tagtha ón gcoláiste oiliúna.

Ford Consul 375 an carr patróil a bhíodh againn.

Bhí an áit thar a bheith simplí, na hoifigí in íochtar agus áit codlata thuas staighre. Dhá thine móna a bhíodh ann mar chóras teasa, agus geimhreadh i ndiaidh geimhridh, bhíodh ainmhithe ceithre cos ag teannadh isteach i bhfad róchóngarach dúinn.

Bhí cúl an fhoirgnimh le hAbhainn Ruibhe agus i rith shéasúr an sceite, ba mhinic a thagann an torann a dhéanadh an breac agus an bradán ag tochailt i ngrinneall na habhann idir muid agus codladh na hoíche.

Níl aon chosúlacht ag an bpóilíneacht a bhíodh orainn an uair sin lena mbíonn ar siúl sa lá atá inniu ann. Ní raibh aon chóras raidió ann, ná ríomhairí; ní raibh aonaid speisialta againn ná póilíneacht bóithre le déanamh; aon charr amháin patróil a bhíodh i ngach ceantar. Bhíodh na Gardaí ina n-áiritheoirí ag tiomsú ábhar staidrimh gach bliain faoi chúrsaí talmhaíochta agus iad i mbun an daonáirimh freisin gach cúigiú bliain. Dheintí clár na dtoghthóirí a leasú uair sa bhliain. Bhí tábhacht leis an dlí maidir le Fiaile Dhíobhálach.

An Garda Síochána

The Owenriff River was at the rear of the building. During the spawning season, our sleep was very often interrupted by the very loud noise made by both salmon and trout burrowing in the gravel on the riverbed.

Back in those days, policing bears no resemblance to that of today. There was no radio system, no IT, no specialised units, no road policing, with transport consisting of one patrol car per district. Members acted as enumerators in compiling agricultural statistics on an annual basis, while also doing the census every five years. Registers of electors were revised annually. The laws in relation to noxious weeds had their priority.

In Oughterard and throughout Connemara, the laws relating to poteen brewing were rigorously enforced. To this end, a patrol car and a boat were in constant use. The late Garda M. Dowd was both an expert and genius in this field.

Another duty undertaken was the certification that bull calves that failed the Department inspection, were properly castrated. The performance of these duties generated excellent local knowledge.

Going through life, you will encounter people who will have a positive effect on you. One such person was the late Mrs Mary Geoghegan, Claremount, also known as the 'merry widow'. Her great, loud, hearty laugh could be heard for some distance. She always had a positive attitude.

Another was Pat Gibbons; no matter what his hurry, he would always come off his bicycle and talk to me, especially about Cork hurling. If he had something important to say, he would preface with "well help me Jaysus, Paddy Lehane."

John O'Toole from Learn (known as John Ann) was another such person, who always spoke in Irish. After having a drink, he would preface or conclude a sentence with "fair play to John Ann."

In Uachtar Ard agus ar fud Chonamara, bhíodh an dlí maidir le stiléireacht á chur i bhfeidhm go dian. Bhíodh carr patróil agus bád in úsáid go seasta síoraí i mbun na hoibre sin. Bhí éirim iontach sa nGarda M. Dowd, nach maireann, i mbun an chúraim sin agus saineolas aige ar na cúrsaí a bhain leis.

Dualgas eile a bhíodh le déanamh, deimhniú a thabhairt go ndearnadh gach gamhain tairbh nár shásaigh cigireacht na Roinne a choilleadh mar ba chóir. Bhíodh eolas maith ar an gceantar ag Gardaí tar éis dualgais de na cineálacha sin a dhéanamh.

Bíonn daoine i rith an tsaoil arb é do leas i gcónaí castáil leo. Duine den chineál sin arb ea Mary Geoghegan in Ard an Chláir, an bhaintreach mheidhreach mar a bhíodh aithne freisin uirthi. Chluintí an gháire chroíúil aisti fada go maith ó bhaile. Bhí meon fabhrach i gcónaí ag Mary.

Duine eile den chineál céanna a bhí i Pat Gibbons; ba chuma cá mbíodh a dheifir, thagadh sé i gcónaí anuas den rothar go labhraíodh liom, go mór mór má bhí iománaithe Chorcaí le plé. Nuair a bhíodh ábhar tábhachtach le tarraingt anuas aige, bhíodh an réamhrá seo i gcónaí roimh a chuid cainte aige: "well help me Jaysus, Paddy Lehane."

Duine de Thuathail ansin as an Léim, John Ann a bhíodh air agus Gaeilge a labhraíodh sé riamh, bhí an mianach céanna ansiúd. Dá mbeadh braon ar bith ólta aige, bhíodh réamhrá nó curfá le gach abairt aige: "fair play to John Ann."

Bhíodh John Finnerty as Sráid an Champa isteach is amach ag an mbeairic go rialta, 'John Bone' a thugtaí airsean. Lá amháin ar tháinig sé isteach, tháinig an garda a bhí ar dualgas roimhe sa chaint: "Chuala mé a John go bhfuil tú ag dul ag pósadh." D'iompaigh John ar a sháil agus amach leis an doras ach bhí sé ar ais cúig nóiméad dár gcionn ag fiafraí: "níor chuala tú a dhuine chóir, nó ar chuala, cé hí féin?."

Oughterard Garda Station, 1980, before the walkout. Courtesy of RTÉ Archives.
Stáisiún Ghardaí Uachtar Ard, 1980, roimh an siúl amach. Le caoinchead Chartlann RTÉ.

A regular caller to the Garda Station was John Finnerty, Camp Street, aka 'John Bone'. On one such visit, the member on duty spoke first, saying: "John, I heard you are getting married." John bolted out the door but, on returning five minutes later asked: "did you hear to whom, Sir?"

Another visitor to Oughterard was one Francis Kendall-Husband, a native of Somerset, England, styling himself as the last of 'wandering bards'. He travelled throughout Ireland and slept in the cells of Garda Stations. On his arrival in Oughterard, he would book his B&B at the Station. That night, he would take stage in Mike Power's bar. He composed and recited poetry for the clientele. He always departed early in the morning. He was an

Bhíodh cuairteoir eile ansin a tharraingíodh go hUachtar Ard, Francis Kendall-Husband. Ba as Somerset i Sasana eisean agus séard a ligeadh sé air gurb é an duine deiridh de na filí siúil a bhí ann ar a chuairt. Shiúladh sé ar fud na hÉireann agus chodlaíodh sé i gcillín bheairic na nGardaí. Nuair a thaobhaíodh sé Uachtar Ard, chuireadh sé an lóistín in áirithe ag an mbeairic. Thiocfadh sé ar an ardán ansin i dteach ósta Mike Power. Bheadh sé ag déanamh filíochta agus á haithris don dream a bhí istigh. Bhuaileadh sé bóthar arís ansin le moch maidine. Bhí gach eolas agus seanchas aige ar na Gardaí, fios aige faoin ardú céime, faoin aistriú stáisiúin nó faoi dhuine a dhul ar pinsean. Bhíodh aithne aige freisin, ina n-ainm agus ina sloinne, ar na mná a bhí pósta ag roinnt de na Gardaí.

encyclopaedia of knowledge on the Gardaí, he was aware of promotions, transfers, retirements and he also knew some members' wives by their names.

One of the events I enjoyed, when the opportunity presented itself, was the game of cards in the late Mattie Healy's shop on Sunday nights. A great group would gather, Tom Healy (the Yank), Jackie Murray, John Austin Molloy, amongst others. The most versatile character of the lot was Mark Geoghegan, an elderly man who spoke both in Irish and English, with an equally good turn of phrase in both.

The following are the names of other members of the force who served in Oughterard: Liam Roche (10708), Charles Friel (14465) RIP, Tom Duffy (16666), Jim Healy, James Cuddy, Brian Mongan, Michael Flaherty, Pat Ferriter RIP. Others also served. Seamus Kenny RIP, a native of Newcastle West, was stationed at Lettermore.

Before I conclude, l will have to refer to very enjoyable days out in Glann, woodcock shooting in the company of Paddy Clancy. The fantastic scenery more than made up for all the misses. God be good to you, Paddy.

Just to let you know, I came to Oughterard in 1964. Except for a year in Rosmuc, I stayed until 1971, when I was transferred to Carrickmacross on promotion. Afterwards, I served in Sneem and Dingle before finally settling in Killarney. My registration number is 15626d.

Joe Boyce, Retired Garda Sergeant, 16573E

Retired Sergeant Boyce wrote about his Garda career as follows:

> *I was born in Carrigart, Co. Donegal. After leaving school, I worked on the family farm. In the summer of 1965, I saw an advert for the entrance exam to join An Garda Síochána. I sat the written exam in Letterkenny and was successful. I completed the medical exam in*

Ócáid eile a mbaininn taitneamh as, nuair a bhíodh an deis agam, an imirt chártaí oíche Domhnaigh i siopa Mattie Healy, nach maireann. Thagadh comhluadar iontach le chéile ann, Tom Healy (an Yank), Jackie Murray, John Austin Molloy agus tuilleadh. Ba é Mark Geoghegan an té ba thráthúla acu uilig, fear aosta a raibh labhairt na Gaeilge agus an Bhéarla aige agus murab é a bhí deisbhéalach sa dá theanga.

Seo ainmneacha Gardaí eile a rinne fónamh in Uachtar Ard: Liam Roche (10708), Charles Friel (14465) RIP, Tom Duffy (16666), Jim Healy, James Cuddy, Brian Mongan, Michael Flaherty, Pat Feiritéar RIP, agus tuilleadh nach iad. Bhí Séamus Kenny RIP, as an gCaisleán Nua, ar lonnú i Leitir Móir.

Sula gcuirim deireadh leis an gcuntas, caithfidh mé tagairt do na laethanta taithneamhacha foghlaeireachta a chaithinn le Paddy Clancy amach taobh an Ghleanna, ag fiach ar an gcoileach feá. Bhí radharcanna chomh breá amach an taobh sin gur chuma faoin urchar cam. Go raibh Dia go maith duit a Phaddy.

Maidir le heolas fúm féin, sa bhliain 1964 a tháinig mé go hUachtar Ard. Is ann a bhí mé, seachas aon bhliain amháin i Ros Muc, go dtí an bhliain 1971 nuair a haistríodh go Carraig Mhachaire Rois mé nuair a fuair mé ardú céime. Rinne mé fónamh ina dhiaidh sin sa tSnaidhm agus i nDaingean Uí Chúis sula ndearna mé an t-athrú deireanach go Cill Airne. 15626d m'uimhir chláraithe.

Joe Boyce, iar-Sháirsint sa Gharda, 16573E

Mar seo a leanas an cuntas a thug an Sáirsint Boyce ar a shaol sna Gardaí:

> *I gCarraig Airt, Co. Dhún na nGall a rugadh mé. Ar fhágáil na scoile dom, d'oibrigh mé ar fheirm na muintire. Samhradh na bliana 1965, thug mé faoi deara fógra maidir le scrúdú iontrála chun dul isteach sa Gharda Síochána.*

Sgt Joe Boyce at Oughterard Garda Station.
Courtesy of the Boyce family.
An Sáirsint Joe Boyce ag Beairic na nGardaí in Uachtar Ard.
Le caoinchead mhuintir Boyce.

Garda Headquarters, Phoenix Park, on the 8th of March 1966 – the day Nelson's Pillar was blown up. I reported to the Garda College, Templemore, in May 1966.

It was a long way from Carrigart to Templemore (340 kms) – I recall, having been home one weekend, 'thumbing' lifts back down to the Garda College; I eventually got there on the Sunday night after getting 18 'lifts'.

After completing my initial period of training, I was allocated to Oughterard in September 1966. At that time, it was a District Headquarters with a Superintendent and a 24-hour service. The station was located across the street from the Corrib Hotel on Main Street.

In June 1967, I was transferred to Leitir Mór Garda Station and, given that it was a Gaeltacht area, all correspondence, giving evidence in Court, etc. were done through the medium of Irish. During this time, I was sent on temporary transfer to Clones, Co. Monaghan,

Rinne mé an scrúdú scríofa i Leitir Ceanainn agus d'éirigh liom. Cuireadh scrúdú dochtúra orm i gCeannáras an Gharda i bPáirc an Fhionnuisce ar an 8 Márta 1966 – an lá céanna ar séideadh Nelson's Pillar in aer. Tháinig mé i láthair i gColáiste an Gharda ar an Teampall Mór i mí Bealtaine 1966.

Tá an Teampall Mór i bhfad (340 km) as Carraig Airt – is cuimhin liom deireadh seachtaine amháin ar thug mé cuairt chun an bhaile agus bhí mé i muinín "chóras iompair na hordóige" ag filleadh ar Choláiste an Gharda; shroich mé ceann scríbe sa deireadh oíche Dé Domhnaigh tar éis 18 'síob'.

Tar éis an tréimhse bunoiliúna a chur isteach, aistríodh go hUachtar Ard mé i mí Meán Fómhair 1966. Ceanncheathrú Ceantair a bhí ann an tráth sin le Ceannfort i gceannas agus seirbhís 24 uair a chloig. Trasna na sráide ó óstán an Corrib Hotel ar an bPríomhshráid a bhíodh an bheairic.

I mí Meitheamh 1967, aistríodh go Beairic Leitir Móir mé agus ó tharla gur i gceantar Gaeltachta atá sin, is i nGaeilge a bhíodh an comhfhreagras uilig, an fhianaise uilig os comhair Cúirte, agus mar sin de. Lena linn sin, aistríodh go sealadach mé go Cluain Eois i gContae Mhuineacháin, ar dualgas teorann nuair a tharla ráig den ghalar Crúb is Béil. Chaith mé dhá mhí freisin ar dualgas sealadach i bPaiteagó, Co. Dhún na nGall, 'i rith na dtrioblóidí'.

I mí Iúil 1970, aistríodh don Chlochán mé agus i mí Lúnasa 1971, go dtí Beairic na nGardaí ar an mBun Beag i gCo. Dhún na nGall (ceantar eile Gaeltachta). D'athraigh mé féin agus mo bhean, agus an iníon nuabheirthe a bhí againn, inár gcónaí ansin agus is ann a mhaireamar go ceann ocht mbliana agus is ann a rugadh triúr den chlann.

Fuair mé ardú céime go grád an tSáirsint i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 1978 agus aistríodh go

on border duties during the outbreak of 'Foot and Mouth Disease'. I also spent two months on temporary duties in Pettigo, Co. Donegal, during 'the troubles'.

In July 1970, I was transferred to Clifden Garda Station and in August 1971, I was transferred to Bunbeg Garda Station, Co. Donegal (another Gaeltacht area) and moved up there with my wife and newborn daughter. I spent eight years there where three of our children were born.

In October 1978, I was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and transferred to Burnfoot Garda Station, also in Co. Donegal, on border duty.

In February 1979, I was transferred to Rosmuc Garda Station in the Connemara Gaeltacht where we lived for five years and our two youngest children were born.

In September 1983, I transferred back to Oughterard – where my service had begun and was to finish. Oughterard was still a District Headquarters at this time, with a Superintendent, two Sergeants, approximately seventeen Gardaí and one civilian Garda staff.

In the early '90s, Salthill became the new District Headquarters with Oughterard Station partly being reduced to one Sergeant and five Gardaí.

I retired in June 2002 after 36 years' service, having thoroughly enjoyed working in An Garda Síochána. I met some wonderful people, both in An Garda Síochána and in the communities I worked in. I would do it all over again if that were possible.

Two of my sons and two daughters followed my footsteps by joining 'the force' as we referred to it and I also have two sons-in-law and a daughter-in-law who serve in An Garda Síochána.

Stáisiún na nGardaí i mBun na hAbhann, Co. Dhún na nGall mé ar dualgas teorann.

I mí Feabhra 1979, aistríodh go Beairic Ros Muc i nGaeltacht Chonamara mé agus chaitheamar cúig bhliana ag maireachtáil ansin agus lena linn sin a rugadh an bheirt is óige den chlann.

I mí Meán Fómhair 1983, aistríodh ar ais go hUachtar Ard mé – san áit amháin a tháinig tús agus deireadh le mo chuid seirbhíse. Bhí Ceanncheathrú Ceantair in Uachtar Ard i gcónaí an tráth sin le Ceannfort, beirt Sáirsintí agus isteach le seacht nduine dhéag de Ghardaí chomh maith le sibhialtach amháin ar an bhfoireann.

Go luath sna 1990, idí a rinneadh Ceanncheathrú an Cheantair de Bheairic Bhóthar na Trá agus íslíodh an líon foirne in Uachtar Ard go dtí Sáirsint amháin agus cúigear Gardaí.

Chuaigh mise ar pinsean i mí Meithimh 2002 tar éis 36 bliana seirbhíse. Bhain mé an-taitneamh as an saol oibre i mo Gharda. Casadh daoine iontacha orm, sa Gharda Síochána féin agus sna háiteanna a raibh mé ag obair iontu. Ba bhreá liom a bheith ag tabhairt faoi in athuair, dá bhféadfaí sin.

Tá beirt mhac liom agus beirt iníon a chuaigh isteach, mar a deirimid féin, 'san fhórsa' agus tá fir chéile beirt iníon liom agus bean chéile mic liom ina nGardaí freisin.

Superintendent Pat Tierney.
Courtesy of the Tierney family.

An Ceannfort Pat Tierney.
Le caoinchead mhuintir Tierney.

Superintendent Pat Tierney's last posting was in Clifden

Superintendent Pat Tierney was born at Portacarron, Oughterard, in 1936. He joined An Garda Síochána on 12 June 1957 and was assigned the registered number of 13225L. His first posting was to Drogheda where he spent 9 years, followed by transfers to Sneem, Co. Kerry, Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon and then to Castlerea. Promotion to Inspector led to a transfer to the Transport Section of Garda HQ before a further re-assignment to Waterford. Further promotion to Superintendent led to a move to Dundalk before returning west to Boyle and finally to Clifden from where he retired in 1996. Superintendent Pat Tierney passed away on 25 January 2017.

An Ceannfort Pat Tierney a chuaigh ar scor as an gClochán

I bPort an Chairrín in Uachtar Ard a rugadh an Ceannfort Pat Tierney sa bhliain 1936. Chuaigh sé sa Gharda Síochána an 12 Meitheamh 1957 agus 13225L an uimhir chláraithe a bhí aige. Go Droichead Átha a cuireadh ar dualgas ar dtús é, áit a raibh sé go ceann 9 mbliana. Cuireadh go dtí an tSnaidhm i gCo. Chiarraí, go Baile an Locha i gCo. Ros Comáin agus go dtí an Caisleán Riabhach ina dhiaidh sin é. Nuair a fuair sé ardú céime ina Chigire, aistríodh chuig an Rannóg Iompair é i gCeannáras na nGardaí sular aistríodh ansin go Port Láirge é. Ar ardú céime a fháil dó arís go grád an Cheannfoirt, bogadh go Dún Dealgan é sular thug sé a aghaidh siar arís go Mainistir na Búille agus ar deireadh go dtí an Clochán áit a ndeachaigh sé ar scor in 1996. Bhásaigh an Ceannfort Pat Tierney an 25 Eanáir 2017.

An Garda Síochána

Some photographs of Gardaí who served in Oughterard or were born in Oughterard and served elsewhere.

Grianghraif de Ghardaí a rinne fónamh in Uachtar Ard nó a rugadh in Uachtar Ard agus a rinne fónamh in áiteanna eile.

Garda Peter Cunningham in Donegal, 1967.
Courtesy of the Cunningham family.

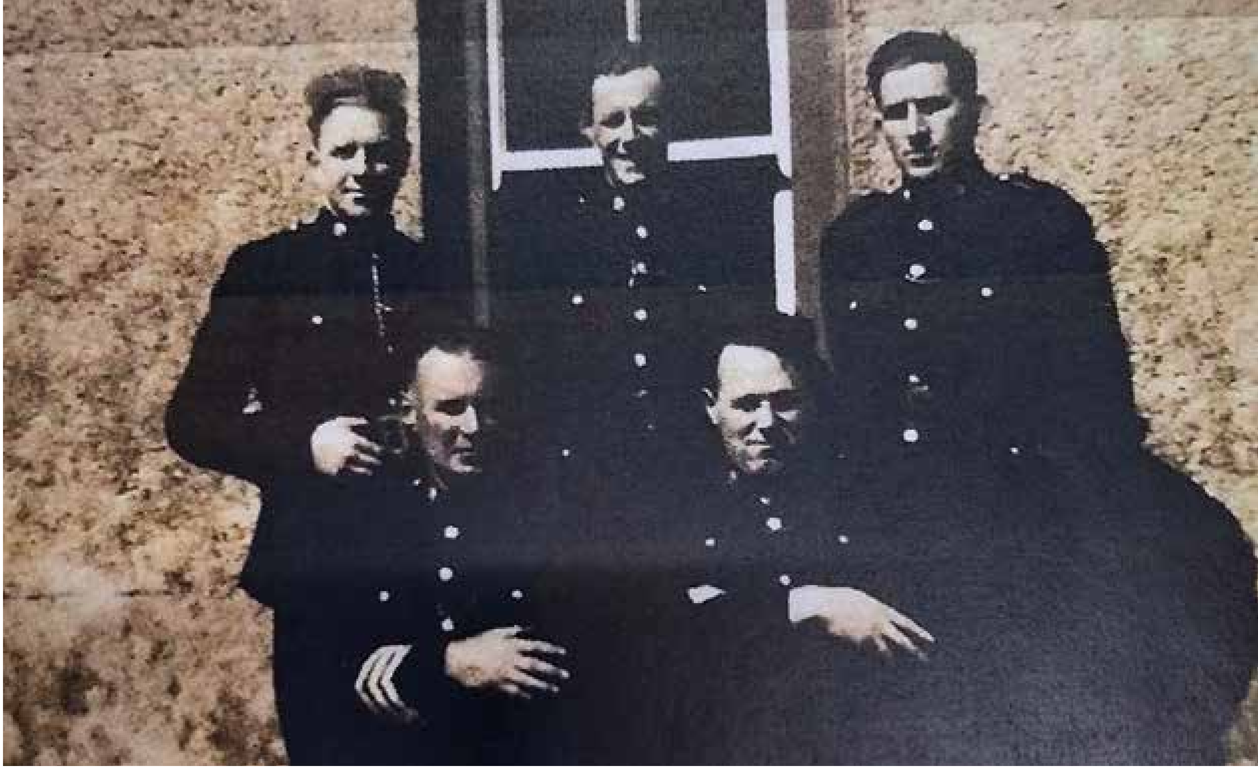
An Garda Peter Cunningham i nDún na nGall, 1967.
Le caoinchead mhuintir Cunningham.

Garda Michael Waters, Weights & Measures Inspector for Galway East. Courtesy of the Waters family.

An Garda Michael Waters, Cigire Meáchain & Tomhais in Oirthear na Gaillimhe. Le caoinchead mhuintir Waters.

Garda Patrick Gillespie number 14116F.
Courtesy of Oughterard Heritage.

An Garda Patrick Gillespie, Uimhir 14116F.
Le caoinchead Oidhreacht Uachtar Ard.



Maigh Cuillin Station 1949. Garda Station Party. Front row, left to right: Sergeant Henry Crofton and Garda Mark Walsh. Back row, left to right: Garda Mick Muldoon, Garda Gabriel Boyle and Garda Mick Lernihan. Courtesy of Superintendent Mick Lernihan (retired).

Beairic Mhaigh Cuilinn 1949. Foireann Bheairic na nGardaí, an líne tosaigh, ó chlé go deas: An Sáirsint Henry Crofton agus an Garda Mark Walsh. An líne cúil, ó chlé go deas: An Garda Mick Muldoon, an Garda Gabriel Boyle agus an Garda Mick Lernihan. Le caoinchead an Cheannfoirt Mick Lernihan (ar scor).

14. Garda Síochána in Moycullen

by Cumann Staire Ruaidhrí Uí Fhlaitheartaigh Maigh Cuilinn/Moycullen Heritage

Prior to the commencement of An Garda Síochána, there were, over the years, at least 44 RIC men stationed in Moycullen, with several marrying women in the area and making Moycullen their home (Table 1). In 1922, the RIC barracks was burned and the occupants were relocated to other nearby stations.

As the Civil War progressed, the National Army undertook local policing in accordance with national policy. The placement of the Civic Guard in the rural areas of the county did take time, so the army remained at their posts until replaced.

14. An Garda Síochána i Maigh Cuilinn

le Cumann Staire Ruaidhrí Uí Fhlaitheartaigh, Maigh Cuilinn/Moycullen Heritage

Sular cuireadh an Garda Síochána ar bun, bhí ar a laghad 44 duine de Chonstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann a cuireadh ar lonnú i Maigh Cuilinn agus bhí roinnt acu a phós bean as an áit agus a chuir fúthu i Maigh Cuilinn (Tábla 1). Sa bhliain 1922, dódh beairic an RIC agus d'athraigh na constáblaí go dtí beairicí eile in aice láimhe.

De réir mar a bhí Cogadh na gCarad ag leanúint ar aghaidh, thug an tArm Náisiúnta faoin bpóilíneacht áitiúil de réir an pholasaí náisiúnta. Bhí roinnt mhaith ama gur cuireadh na Gardaí Sibhialta ar lonnú taobh amuigh de na bailte móra agus d'fhan an t-arm i mbun an chúraim go dtí gur tharla sin.

An Garda Síochána

Surname Sloinne	Fore-name Ainm	Rank Grád	Reg. No. Uimh. Clár.	Born Rugadh	County Contae	Joined RIC Liostáil san RIC	Mar-ital Status Stádas Pósta	Service Completed Deireadh Seirbhíse	Died Dáta Báis
Kennedy	Daniel	Sgt. Sáirst	5683	1823	Clare An Clár	1844	M	Died 1856 Bás - 1856	14/02/1856
McNeill	Peter	Sgt. Sáirst	5270	1821	Derry Doire	1843	M	Died 1871 Bás - 1871	24/01/1871
Morrison	Johnston	Con. Con.	49896	1860	Mayo Maigh Eo	1882	M	Pens.1912 Pins. 1912	10/12/43
Savage	Michael	Con. Con.	30667	1842	Dublin Baile Átha Cliath	1865	M	Pens.1886 Pins. 1886	12/12/32
Vaughan	Michael	Sgt. Sáirst	5680	1821	Limerick Luim-neach	1844	M	Pens.1876 Pins. 1876	26/03/1908

Table 1. - List of RIC constables stationed and who settled, in Moycullen.
Tábla 1. - Liosta de chonstáblaí an RIC a bhí ar lonnú agus ina gcónaí i Maigh Cuilinn.

On 4 October 1923, the first members of the Civic Guard arrived in Moycullen.

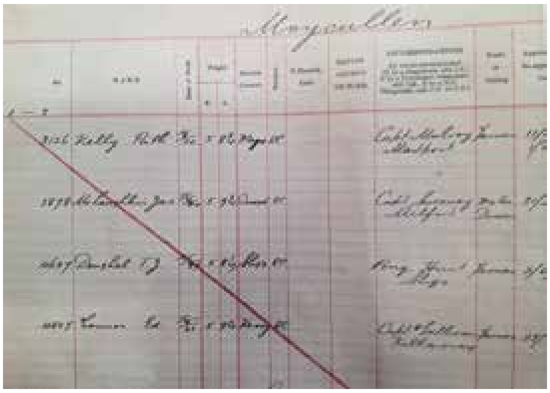
One garda sergeant and three gardaí took over the policing of the area from the previous law enforcers, the RIC and the National Army. However, their arrival was not the most auspicious. There was much consternation and a lot of discussion around the problem of where to accommodate them, with correspondence back and forth between the various bodies: the Civic Guard Superintendent, the Board of Works, the Ministry of Home Affairs and An Garda Síochána. The issue of a permanent barracks was to go on for many years before the current barracks was finally built. It was not until September 1927 that the new Garda Barracks in Moycullen was ready for occupation. The Garda Barracks is still a fine building in the centre of the village today and continues to serve the community.

A number of Moycullen families have given service to An Garda Síochána over the years. Mark Lydon, who came from Dromabheag, Moycullen, joined An Taca Síochána in 1939

Tháinig na chéad chomhaltaí den Gharda Síochána go Maigh Cuilinn an 4 Deireadh Fómhair 1923.

Sáirsint amháin agus triúr Gardaí a chuaigh i mbun an chúraim a bhíodh á dhéanamh ag an RIC agus ag an Arm Náisiúnta roimhe sin. Ach ní dea-chomhartha a bhí sa mí-eagar a bhain lena dteacht. Bhí cur agus cúiteamh fós ar siúl faoin mbunáit a bheadh acu agus tharla cuid mhaith comhfhreagrais anonn is anall idir daoine agus dreamanna éagsúla, Ceannfort an Gharda Sibhialta, Bord na nOibreacha Poiblí, an Aireacht Gnóthaí Baile agus an Garda Síochána. Níor socraíodh an cheist maidir le beairic bhuan go ceann na mblianta sular tógadh an bheairic atá ann anois faoi dheireadh. Níor tharla beairic nua na nGardaí réidh le húsáid i Maigh Cuilinn go dtí mí Meán Fómhair 1927. Áras breá beairic na nGardaí i lár an bhaile go fóill agus leas ag an bpobal as i gcónaí sa lá atá inniu ann.

Bhí roinnt teaghlaigh i Maigh Cuilinn a raibh dlúthbhaint acu leis na Gardaí le blianta anuas. Cheangail Mark Lydon, as Droma Bheag i Maigh Cuilinn, leis an Taca Síochána sa bhliain 1939



First Gardaí in Maigh Cuillinn, 1922.
Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.

An chéad dream Gardaí i Maigh Cuilinn, 1922.
Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

and later became a member of An Garda Síochána. He eventually retired as sergeant from Carrickmacross Garda Station, County Monaghan, in 1969. After his retirement, Mark returned to live in Dromabheag. Mark Lydon's sister, Julia, married Peter O'Halloran. Four of their children joined the force. Martin O'Halloran joined in 1954 and retired as a Superintendent in Naas, County Kildare, in 1988. Andrew O'Halloran joined in 1965 and died as a serving member at Tullyvin Garda Station, County Cavan, in 1996. John O'Halloran joined in 1958 and retired as a Superintendent in Sligo and Christy O'Halloran, who also joined in 1958, retired as a Sergeant from Monasterevin Garda Station, County Kildare, in 1989.

In 1972, Séamus Lydon, nephew of Mark Lydon, joined An Garda Síochána. Séamus completed his training in Templemore, County Tipperary and was stationed in Kiltimagh, County Mayo, carrying out routine Garda duties. Like many Gardaí who were seconded on temporary transfer to other places when the need arose, whether it be to help out at the Galway Races, An Fleadh

agus chuaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána ina dhiaidh sin. Ina sháirsint a bhí sé i mbeairic Charraig Mhachaire Rois, Contae Mhuineacháin, nuair a chuaigh sé ar pinsean sa bhliain 1969. Tháinig Mark ar ais go Droma Bheag ina chónaí i ndiaidh dul ar pinsean. Phós Julia, deirfiúr le Mark Lydon, Peter O'Halloran. Chuaigh ceathrar dá gclann sna Gardaí. Sa bhliain 1954 a chuaigh Martin O'Halloran isteach agus bhí sé ina Cheannfort i Nás na Rí, Contae Chill Dara agus é ag dul ar pinsean sa bhliain 1988. Chuaigh Andrew sna Gardaí sa bhliain 1965 agus bhí sé ag fónamh i mbeairic na nGardaí i dTulaigh Bhinn, Contae an Chabháin nuair a fuair sé bás sa bhliain 1996. Chuaigh John leis na Gardaí sa bhliain in 1958 agus i Sligeach a bhí seisean ina Cheannfort nuair a chuaigh sé amach ar pinsean, an bhliain chéanna a chuaigh Christy sna Gardaí. Ina Sháirsint i mbeairic Mhainistir Eimhín, Contae Chill Dara, a bhí seisean ag dul ar pinsean dó sa bhliain 1989.

Sa bhliain 1972, chuaigh Séamus Lydon, mac dearthára le Mark Lydon isteach sa Gharda Síochána. Ar an Teampall Mór i gContae Thiobraid Árann a rinne Séamus a chuid traenála agus i gCoillte Mach, Contae Mhaigh Eo a thosaigh sé i mbun ghnáthdhualgas an Gharda. Mar a chéile le Gardaí eile a bheadh ar iasacht le haistriú sealadach in áiteanna eile de réir mar a theastaíodh, más ag Rásaí na Gaillimhe, ag an bhFleadh Cheoil nó ar an teorainn, rinne Séamus fónamh freisin i mbun dualgas teorainn, obair a bhí níos gnóthaí agus níos casta go minic. Bhí Séamus ar lonnú i nDún Dealgan i gContae Lú agus i nDromad i gContae Liatroma i rith na tréimhse sin. Bhain a chuid dualgais lena linn sin "le cuidiú an dlí agus ord eagair a choinneáil i réim i ndlínse na tíre seo." I mí Meán Fómhair 1973, tháinig Séamus ar ais go Coillte Mach i gContae Mhaigh Eo ar ais i mbun a chuid dualgais ansin sula ndearna sé dualgas teorann an dá bhliain ina dhiaidh sin i Leifear i gContae Dhún na nGall. Tar éis na tréimhse sin, chuaigh Séamus i mbun na ngnáthdhualgas

Sergeant Bernard Sweeney.
Courtesy of Mary Sweeney.

An Sáirsint Bernard Sweeney.
Le caoinchead Mary Sweeney.

Ceol or border duties, Séamus found himself on border duty dealing with much busier and volatile situations. Séamus was stationed at Dundalk, County Louth, Dromad, County Leitrim, during this time. His duties at the time, he said, were to help "maintain law and order in our jurisdiction." In September 1973, Séamus returned to Kiltimagh, County Mayo, before the following two years saw him on border duty at Lifford, County Donegal. After this, life settled down to normal duties and over the years he served in several stations, namely Kilkelly, County Mayo, An Daingean, County Offaly, until he returned to the county of his birth, Galway, where he was stationed first at Menlough, then Galway City (Eglinton Street) and finally at Oughterard from where he retired in 2011. Séamus said he had many happy memories of being a member of An Garda Síochána, "made wonderful friendships and served with great colleagues, some of whom I will never forget" and equally important was "being part of the community" he served.

arís. Le himeacht na mblianta, rinne sé fónamh i mbeairicí éagsúla, i gCill Cheallaigh, Contae Mhaigh Eo agus sa Daingean i gContae Uíbh Fhailí sular tháinig sé ar ais go dtína chontae dúchais, Gaillimh, go Mionlach i dtosach agus go cathair na Gaillimhe ansin (Sráid Eglington) sular athraigh sé go hUachtar Ard, an bheairic ina raibh sé ag dul amach ar pinsean dó sa bhliain 2011. Deir Séamus gur breá na cuimhní cinn atá aige ar a shaol sna Gardaí, cairdeas dlúth le daoine agus comhghleacaithe iontacha ag an obair, roinnt acu nach ligfidh sé i ndearmad go brách, agus, chomh tábhachtach céanna, an ceangal leis an bpobal a raibh sé ag freastal orthu.

Fear eile as Maigh Cuilinn a raibh dlúthbhaint aige leis an bhfórsa ab ea James Clancy, as Droma Bheag, a chuaigh isteach sa Gharda Síochána sa bhliain 1935. Sa gcoláiste i bPáirc an Fhionnuisce a rinne sé a chuid traenála agus cuireadh ar lonnú sa Choireán i gContae Chiarraí é agus i mBaile Locha Riach i gContae na Gaillimhe. Ansin a bhí sé ag dul amach ar pinsean dó tar éis fónamh ar feadh 31 bhliain. I rith na 1960idí agus tús na 1970idí, bhí beirt nianna le James Clancy, Séamus agus Tomás Clancy, a chuaigh isteach sna Gardaí. Faoin am sin, bhí an coláiste traenála ar an Teampall Mór i gContae Thiobraid Árann. I Sráid an Phiarsaigh i mBaile Átha Cliath a thosaigh gach aon duine den bheirt sular aistríodh Thomas Clancy go Cill Rícill, Contae na Gaillimhe go dtí go ndeachaigh sé amach ar pinsean tar éis 31 bhliain seirbhíse sa bhliain 1997. Rinne Séamus fónamh i mbeairic Chill Rónáin in Árainn ach ba scéal trua a bhás i mí Aibreán 1976, gan é ach 27 mbliana d'aois.

Iníon le Maitiú Ó Súilleabháin, Martina Oates, a chuir an tuairisc staire seo ar fáil:

> *I gCarraig Thiar, Corr na Móna, gar don teorainn idir Gaillimh agus Maigh Eo, a rugadh Mattie Ó Súilleabháin ar an 17 Eanáir 1926. Ba é an tríú duine clainne é sa teaghlach ina raibh cúigear buachaillí agus beirt chailíní. Chuaigh sé ar an scoil náisiúnta ina cheantar féin agus*

Another Moycullen name with deep connections to the force was that of James Clancy, from Dromabheag, who joined An Garda Síochána in 1935. He trained at Phoenix Park, before being posted to Waterville, County Kerry, and later to Loughrea, County Galway, where he eventually retired, having served in the force for 31 years. Later, in the 1960s and early 1970s, James Clancy's nephews, Séamus and Tomás Clancy, joined the force. By then the training college was based in Templemore, County Tipperary. Both young Gardaí served initially at Pearse Street, Dublin, before Thomas Clancy was transferred to Kilrickle, County Galway, until his retirement in 1997 after 31 years' service. Séamus Clancy was stationed at Kilronan Garda Station on the Aran Islands, but he sadly passed away in April 1976 at the young age of 27 years.

Garda Martin (Mattie) O'Sullivan.
Courtesy of Vera Morrison.
An Garda Martin O'Sullivan.
Le caoinchead Vera Morrison.

The following has kindly been provided by Mattie O'Sullivan's daughter, Martina Oates:

> *Mattie O'Sullivan was born in Carraig Thiar, Corr na Móna on the Galway–Mayo border on 17 January 1926, the third eldest in a family of five boys and two girls. He was educated in the local primary school and went on to study for a further five years at the Christian Brothers in Ballinrobe, County Mayo. During his leaving certificate year, he did the entrance exam for An Garda Síochána and was successful in securing a place in the Phoenix Park, Dublin, in 1945 at the age of nineteen. The Phoenix Park was then the headquarters and training centre for all new recruits. Like many young men of his day, Mattie followed in the footsteps of his uncle, John Lowry (his mother's brother), who had been stationed in the Eglinton Street Barracks, Galway. Mattie often spoke of the tough training they received in Dublin and the strict discipline that was involved, but also spoke highly of all the wonderful colleagues that he met and would remain friends with him for seventy years. On leaving the depot, he was First Stationed in Rathangan, County Kildare, and would stay there for five years before*

> *ar an meánscoil ag na Bráithre Críostaí i mBaile an Róba, Contae Mhaigh Eo. I mbliain na hardteistiméireachta, rinne sé an scrúdú iontrála don Gharda Síochána agus d'éirigh leis ionad a fháil i bPáirc an Fhionnuisce i mBaile Átha Cliath sa bhliain 1945. Naoi mbliana déag d'aois a bhí sé an uair sin. I bPáirc an Fhionnuisce a bhí an ceannáras agus an t-ionad oiliúna do na hearcaigh nua ar fad an t-am sin. Mar a rinne cuid mhór d'fhir óga na linne, bhí sampla a uncail á leanúint ag Mattie. Ba deartháir lena mháthair, John Lowry, a bhíodh i mbeairic na nGardaí ar Shráid Eglington. Ba mhinic le Mattie trácht ar an traenáil chrua a fuair siad i mBaile Átha Cliath agus ar an smacht géar a bhíodh orthu ach labhraíodh sé freisin ar na comrádaithe iontacha a casadh air a bheadh ina ndlúthchairde aige go ceann trí scór bliain go leith. Ar fhágáil an cheannárais dó, chuig an mbeairic i Ráth Iomgháin i gContae Chill Dara a cuireadh i dtosach é ar feadh cúig bhliana sular chaith sé trí bliana go leith ina dhiaidh sin i gCathair Dónall, an Coireán i ndeisceart Chiarraí. Bhí de ghnás ag an am nach gceapfaí Garda i mbeairic a*

An Garda Síochána

Garda Seamus Lydon.
Courtesy of Garda Seamus Lydon (Retd).

An Garda Seamus Lydon.
Le caoinchead an Gharda Seamus Lydon (Ar scor).

> *heading to Caherdaniel, Waterville in South Kerry for another three and a half years. It was the custom in those days that a Garda couldn't be stationed within 28 miles of his home place. The grá to return home to his home county of Galway came to fruition and he was stationed in Leitir Mór for over two and a half years. Everywhere he went he managed to make time to play Gaelic football. It was a great means of getting to know the locals and, very important for a Garda in those days, in helping with local knowledge. Mattie was very proud of his sporting achievements but most especially of the County Junior medal that he won with Micheál Breathnach's, Galway, in 1957.*

In the late 1950s, Mattie moved to Craughwell, County Galway, where he remained for six years. It was there he met his future wife, Kathleen. In 1961, Mattie moved again, this time to Moycullen. He would spend almost thirty years working here and reporting to Oughterard which was the Garda headquarters for the west of the county at that time. Mattie had a great love for Moycullen and this remained with him during his lifetime. When he came to Moycullen in 1961,

> *bhí i bhfoisceacht 28 míle dá áit dúchais. Bhí an-ghean ag Mattie dá chontae dúchais agus d'éirigh leis gur cuireadh ar lonnú i Leitir Móir é ar feadh dhá bhliain go leith. Is cuma cá mbíodh sé, bhíodh am aige le peil Ghaelach a imirt. B'iontach an bealach é le haithne a chur ar mhuintir na háite agus bhí tábhacht leis na laethanta sin freisin ag Garda le heolas a chur ar an gceantar. B'ábhar mórtais do Mhattie ar éirigh leis a bhaint amach ar pháirc na himeartha agus go háirithe an bonn chontae na Gaillimhe i ngrád na sóisear a ghnóthaigh sé le cumann peile Mhicheál Breathnach sa bhliain 1957.*

I mblianta deiridh na 1950idí, d'athraigh Mattie go Creachmhaoil, Contae na Gaillimhe, go ceann sé bliana. Ansin a casadh Kathleen, a bhean chéile, air. Athraíodh Mattie arís sa bhliain 1961, go Maigh Cuilinn an uair seo. Bhí i ndán dó beagnach deich mbliana fichead a chaitheamh ag obair ansin, ag tabhairt tuairiscí do bheairic Uachtar Ard, ceannáras na nGardaí in iarthar an chontae ag an am. Bhí an-luí ag Mattie le Maigh Cuilinn agus níor fhuaraigh sin ar feadh a shaoil. Nuair a tháinig sé go Maigh Cuilinn sa bhliain 1961, bhí an Sáirsint John Crofton i gceannas agus triúr Gardaí eile san áit, Liam Hoare, Con Gallagher agus Barney Sweeney. Ní raibh dhá bhliain caite sula bhfuair Liam Hoare ardú céime a thug go Baile Átha an Rí é i gContae na Gaillimhe agus sula ndeachaigh Barney Sweeney i mbun oibre ar an gCeathrú Rua i gContae na Gaillimhe. D'athraigh Con Gallagher go Bóthar na Trá agus bhí John Crofton imithe amach ar pinsean. Bheadh Mattie ar an aon Gharda amháin i mbeairic Mhaigh Cuilinn go ceann seacht mbliana is fiche. Bhí Maigh Cuilinn suaimhneach go maith agus is beag coir a tharla ann. Ba dheas an rud cónaí ar bhruach Loch Coirib agus d'fhéad sé iascaireacht a dhéanamh – an caitheamh aimsire ab fhearr uilig leis. I nGaeilge a bhíodh an obair uilig á déanamh agus na nótaí uilig á scríobh i mbeairic na nGardaí i Maigh Cuilinn agus bhí labhairt na Gaeilge ar a thoil ag Mattie.

Sergeant John Crofton was in charge along with three other Gardaí, Liam Hoare, Con Gallagher and Barney Sweeney. Within two years, Liam Hoare was promoted to Sergeant and moved to Athenry, County Galway, while Barney Sweeney took up a new position in An Ceathrú Rua, County Galway. Con Gallagher moved to Salthill and John Crofton had now retired. Mattie would remain as the only Garda in the barracks for the next 27 years. Moycullen was a relatively quiet place with little crime. Living on the shores of Lough Corrib was idyllic; he enjoyed fishing – his greatest pastime. In Moycullen Garda Station, all of the work and records was trí Ghaeilge and Mattie was very fortunate to have excellent spoken Irish. He always conversed trí Ghaeilge with the residents of the Moycullen townlands of Sliabh an Aonaigh, Pilagh, Thullnanoone and na Tamhnacha Beaga.

His handwriting was very distinctive and complimented by many, but particularly by his superiors over the years in service. Mattie managed to police the area as best he could and felt that a few words in the ear, or the verbal warnings, worked much better than summons and prosecutions. Most definitely, he was known as a very fair man in the locality and within the width and breath of Connemara. Mattie had 44 years of service in An Garda Síochána. He retired in 1989 and went on to have many more enjoyable years after his retirement. His legacy outlived him as there are many people who still speak highly of him to this day. His son, Senan O'Sullivan, would follow in his footsteps and joined the Garda force in 1983, later serving as a Detective in Limerick for 30 years. Mattie was a proud Galway man with a great love of his people, his job, his area and his family. He passed away peacefully on 17 June 2012.

Some of our local gardaí have distinguished themselves in many different ways.

Moycullen Garda Ray Lyons served with the United Nations in Sarajevo in 1995.

Gardaí Peter Folan, Kevin McDonagh and Martin Costello also served in Moycullen in recent years with Garda Eoghan Ó Cadhain the current member.

Ba í an Ghaeilge a bhíodh i gcónaí aige le muintir Shliabh an Aonaigh, an Phollaigh, Thulaigh na nUan agus na dTamhnacha Beaga. B'fhurasta a chuid peannaireachta a aithint agus is iomaí duine, Gardaí níos sinsearaí ná é go háirithe, a mhol í i rith a shaoil oibre. Rinne Mattie a dhícheall cúram an Gharda a dhéanamh ar fud an cheantair agus ba é a thuig sé riamh gur fearr a d'oibríodh cogar, nó go deimhin rabhadh ó bhéal, ná próis agus cúiseamh. Is cinnte go raibh de cháil air ar fud an cheantair, agus ar fud Chonamara uilig, go raibh sé cóir cothrom. Rinne Mattie 44 bliana seirbhíse leis an nGarda Síochána. Chuaigh sé ar pinsean sa bhliain 1989 agus bhain sé sásamh as na blianta ina dhiaidh sin. Maireann an chraobh ar an bhfál ós iomaí duine a thráchtann go moltach air go dtí an lá atá inniu ann. Tá mac leis, Senan O'Sullivan, sna Gardaí ón mbliain 1983. Bhí seisean 30 bliain i Luimneach, ina Gharda i dtosach agus ina bhleachtaire ina dhiaidh sin. Gaillimheach go smior a bhí i Mattie Ó Súilleabháin a raibh an-ghean aige ar a dhream, ar a chuid oibre, ar an gceantar agus ar a theaghlach. Cailleadh ar a shuaimhneas é an 17 Meitheamh 2012.

Tá roinnt de Ghardaí an cheantair a tharraing dea-chlú orthu féin ar bhealaí éagsúla.

Bhí Garda as Maigh Cuilinn, Ray Lyons, ar fónamh leis na Náisiúin Aontaithe i Sairéavó sa bhliain 1995.

Bhí na Gardaí Peter Folan, Kevin McDonagh agus Martin Costello ar fónamh i Maigh Cuilinn agus is é Eoghan Ó Cadhain an comhalta atá ann faoi láthair.

An Garda Síochána

Commemoration of Garda Patrick O'Halloran, Number 651, native of Gort who lost his life on duty in Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow, on 29 January 1924. Commemoration took place on 28 January 2024. Photo source: Denis Callaghy.

Comóradh mar gheall ar an nGarda Patrick O'Halloran, Uimhir 651, as an nGort ó dhúchas a fuair bás i mbun dualgais i mBealach Conglais, Co. Chill Mhantáin, an 29 Eanáir 1924. Eagraíodh an ócáid chuimhneacháin an 28 Eanáir 2024. Grianghraf: Denis Callaghy.

15. An Garda Síochána Gort

by D/Garda Christy Moran and Garda Mick Harte (both retired)

The following is a brief overview of the policing history of Gort as compiled on the occasion of the refurbishment of Gort Garda Station in 1997.

A Chief Constabulary Police Station, along with a detachment of Revenue Police, had been in existence in Gort since the early 1800s and there had been a Bridewell in the town since 1814, while the Courthouse was erected in the Square in 1815. The Constabulary were first situated at Barrack Street and later at Georges Street. In 1867, having been reorganised as the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC), they were installed in the old

15. An Garda Síochána ar an nGort

leis an mBleachtaire Garda Christy Moran agus an Garda Mick Harte (an bheirt ar scor)

Seo a leanas gearrchuntas ginearálta ar stair na póilíneachta i gceantar an Ghoirt faoi mar a cuireadh i dtoll a chéile an tráth ar tugadh athchóiriú ar Bheairic na nGardaí ar an nGort sa bhliain 1997.

Bhí Stáisiún Ardchonstáblachta Póilíní, maille le díorma de na Póilíní Ioncaim, ar bun ar an nGort ó thús an 19ú céad. Bhí Smachtlann ar an mbaile ón mbliain 1814 agus tógadh Teach na Cúirte ar an bhfaiche sa bhliain 1815. Ar Shráid na Beairice a bhíodh an Chonstáblacht ar dtús agus ar Shráid Sheoirse ina dhiaidh sin. Sa bhliain 1867, nuair a tharla atheagar mar Chonstáblacht

infirmary, which had been custom-built for the soldiers in the Barracks.

Immediately prior to the arrival of the first Gardaí in Gort, law and order had been maintained by Captain Hession of the National Army.

The newly-formed Civic Guard arrived in Gort on 27 October 1922 and the first Sergeant was William Hogan. The *Connaught Tribune* reported on 5 November 1922:

> *nine members of the Civic Guard arrived at the Courthouse at Gort and took up residence there. The old Barracks at Georges Street, vacated by the RIC several years ago, has been inspected with a view to occupation by the Guards.*

The *Connaught Tribune* later reported on 12 December 1924:

> *Superintendent English with a Sergeant and six Guards have been added to the complement at Gort; the extra forces arrived on Monday.*

The *Connaught Tribune* on 26 December 1925 further reported:

> *Assistant Commissioner Coogan visited Gort Barracks, inspected and examined Gardaí mobilised from within the area. He complimented the Officers and the men on their appearance and in their answering and informed them he was particularly pleased with the Gort Unit. He noted two of the town quota for their efficient answering.*

Garda Tommy McGovern, a native of Drumshanbo, County Leitrim, joined An Garda Síochána in August 1924 and arrived at Gort Garda Station in April 1929. When interviewed in 1997 by Garda Christy Moran and Garda Mick Harte of Gort Garda Station, he gave a fond account of his time in Gort. He described the Sergeant of the time as an authoritarian type, stating that everybody did as they were told. He clearly remembered the morning

Ríoga na hÉireann (an RIC), lonnaíodh sa seanospidéal iad a tógadh roimhe sin do na saighdiúirí airm sa Bheairic.

Anuas go díreach go dtí gur tháinig Gardaí an chéad uair go dtí an Gort, bhí smacht reachta á choinneáil ag an gCaptaen Ó hOisín agus ag an Arm Náisiúnta.

An 27 Deireadh Fómhair 1922 a tháinig an chéad dream den Gharda Sibhialta go dtí an Gort, go gairid tar éis a chur ar bun. Ba é William Hogan an chéad Sáirsint. Seo tuairisc a bhí ar an *gCuradh Connachtach* ar an 5 Samhain 1922:

> *nine members of the Civic Guard arrived at the Courthouse at Gort and took up residence there. The old Barracks at Georges Street, vacated by the RIC several years ago, has been inspected with a view to occupation by the Guards.*

Bhí tuairisc arís ar an *gCuradh Connachtach* ar an 12 Nollaig 1924:

> *Superintendent English with a Sergeant and six Guards have been added to the complement at Gort; the extra forces arrived on Monday.*

Agus arís ar an 26 Nollaig, bhí seo mar thuairisc bhreise ar an *gCuradh Connachtach:*

> *Assistant Commissioner Coogan visited Gort Barracks, inspected and examined Gardaí mobilised from within the area. He complimented the Officers and the men on their appearance and in their answering and informed them he was particularly pleased with the Gort Unit. He noted two of the town quota for their efficient answering.*

I mí Lúnasa 1924 a chuaigh Tommy McGovern, as Droim Seanbhó i gContae Liatroma ó dhúchas, isteach sa Gharda Síochána agus i mí Aibreáin 1929 a tháinig sé chuig Beairic an Ghoirt. Nuair a chuir an Garda Christy Moran agus an Garda Mick Harte as Stáisiún na nGardaí ar an nGort agallamh air sa bhliain 1997, bhí cuimhní geala aige ar a thréimhse ar an mbaile. De réir na tuairisce a thug sé, bhí an Sáirsint ceannasach

An Garda Síochána

Some Early Court Cases

Cases before Gort District Court during the formative years of the Gardaí included:

Cásanna Cúirte i dtús Ré

Seo a leanas roinnt de na cásanna a tháinig os comhair na Cúirte Dúiche ar an nGort i rith bhlianta tosaigh an Gharda:

9 January 1926: **9 Eanáir 1926:**	Woman bites Guard – Sergeant Lynch Bean a bhain greim as Garda – An Sáirsint Lynch	case adjourned for a month cuireadh an cás ar atráth go ceann míosa
19 June 1926: **19 Meitheamh 1926:**	Hurling on Public Street – Garda D. O'Shea Iománaíocht ar an tSráid Phoiblí – An Garda D. O'Shea	case dismissed caitheadh amach an cás
19 June 1926: **19 Meitheamh 1926:**	Drunkeness – Garda Morrisey Meisce – An Garda Morrisey	nominal fine imposed gearradh fíneáil íseal
19 June 1926: **19 Meitheamh 1926:**	Unlicenced Bull – Garda Cooney Tarbh neamhcheadúnaithe – An Garda Cooney	fined 5 shillings fíneáil 5 scilleacha
19 June 1926: **19 Meitheamh 1926:**	Six sheep tied together with a hard rope – Sergeant O'Neill Sé chaora ceangailte le chéile le rópa crua – An Sáirsint O'Neill	fined 5 shillings fíneáil 5 scilleacha
14 January 1928: **14 Eanáir 1928:**	Breach of Licencing Act – Garda Doherty Sárú ar an Acht Ceadúnúcháin – An Garda Doherty	case dismissed caitheadh amach an cás

inspection when, at 09:00, all members lined up for examination by the Sergeant on legal matters. He explained how one member had to work a 24-hour tour as Barrack Orderly, sleeping in the Day Room to ensure the phone, should it ring, would be answered and how Gardaí at that time were given two days leave per month, usually at the bequest of the Sergeant. Duties at the time involved Wandering Animals, School Attendance and Dog Licences.

During a Licencing matter on 29 September 1928, Sergeant Breen informed the Court that there was a population of 1,216 people in the town of Gort. There were also 34 Public Houses in the town, which amounted to one public house for every 36 persons.

At Gort District Court on 12 September 1931, John Hennelly was summoned by Sergeant Galagher for Careless Driving of a motorcycle. The Sergeant informed the Court that the Defendant had driven along the street with both

agus rinne gach duine mar a treoraíodh dóibh. Bhí cuimhne ghlé aige ar chigireacht na maidine nuair a bhíodh eagar líne ar na gardaí ar fad go gcuireadh an Sáirsint scrúdú orthu maidir le cúrsaí dlí. Mhínigh sé go mbíodh ar Gharda amháin dualgas 24 uair a chloig a dhéanamh ina Oifigeach Sealaíochta sa Bheairic, agus codladh sa Seomra Lae, ionas go bhfreagrófaí an fón dá dtiocfadh glao isteach. Dhá lá saoire in aghaidh na míosa a ligtí le Garda ag an am, agus sin de réir mar a thoilíodh an Sáirsint go hiondúil. Bhain na réimsí dualgais ag an am le hAinmhithe ar Strae, Tinreamh Scoile agus Ceadúnais Madra.

Nuair a bhí cás maidir le ceadúnas teach ósta os comhair na cúirte ar an 29 Meán Fómhair 1928, chuir an Sáirsint Breen in iúl go raibh daonra 1,216 duine i mbaile an Ghoirt. Bhí 34 Teach Ósta ar an mbaile freisin, teach ósta amháin in aghaidh gach 36 duine.

Ar an 12 Meán Fómhair 1931, bhí John Hennelly os comhair na Cúirte Dúiche ar an nGort ag an

Members attached to Gort District 1956, photographed by Willie Quinn, Church St., Gort.
Back Row L to R: Garda Martin, Garda Brogan, Garda J. Herlihy, Garda T. Clabby, Garda T. Gillespie, Garda M. Hyland.
Front Row L to R: Garda N. Cunniffe, Garda P. Byrne, Sgt. M. Fitzgerald, Supt. J. Dunne, Sgt. G. Barry, Garda P. Boyle, Garda J. Rafferty.

Baill a bhí ceangailte le Ceantar an Ghoirt 1956, grianghraf tógtha ag Willie Quinn, Sráid na hEaglaise, an Gort.
Ar chúl ó chlé go deas: An Garda Martin, An Garda Brogan, An Garda J. Herlihy, An Garda T. Clabby, An Garda T. Gillespie, An Garda M. Hyland.
Chun tosaigh ó Chlé go Deas: An Garda N. Cunniffe, An Garda P. Byrne, An Sáirsint M. Fitzgerald, An Ceannfort. J. Dunne, An Sáirsint G. Barry, An Garda P. Boyle, An Garda J. Rafferty.

hands off the handlebars while adjusting his goggles. The Defendant deposed that there was nobody on the street and that he was going slowly. He further stated that he took his hands off the handlebars to adjust his goggles and that his machine was only capable of doing 20 miles per hour. The Justice, cautioning the Defendant, told him to try this stunt riding somewhere else than on the streets of Gort.

The retirement of Garda Thomas Burke, Gort, after twenty-five years of service, was recorded in the *Connacht Tribune* of 12 November 1949, with the article outlining his "adventurous career"

Sáirsint Galagher as gluaisrothar a Thiomáint go Míchúramach. Chuir an Sáirsint in iúl go ndeachaigh an Cosantóir an tsráid agus an dá lámh bainte den hanla aige ag deasú na spéaclaí cosanta ar a éadan. D'áitigh an Cosantóir nach raibh aon duine ar an tsráid agus nach raibh aon siúl faoi. Luaigh sé freisin gur leis na spéaclaí a chóiriú a bhain sé na lámha den hanla agus nach raibh déanamh níos mó ná 20 míle san uair san inneall. Dúirt an Giúistís, ag tabhairt foláirimh don Chosantóir, gur in áiteanna seachas sráideanna an Ghoirt ba chóra dó cleasa marcaíochta den sórt sin a chleachtadh.

under the heading "Old-I.R.A. Man Retires from The Gardaí." Burke had joined the IRA in 1917, taking part in ambushes with the Mid-Tipperary Flying Column, for which he served some time in Limerick Jail. While later breaking the terms of his probation, he was captured by a group of British soldiers who took him to a wood to beat him, dress him in a British uniform and tie him to a tree. After robbing Burke, the soldiers "loosed a volley at him, wounding him in two places." Burke recovered and later served with the Treaty forces and joined the Corps of Military Police in March 1922. Burke's activities did not end there: "On 11th September 1923, he jumped a moving train at the Broadstone and, unarmed, captured an armed robber." He joined An Garda Síochána in March 1924 and served most of his twenty-five years in stations in East Galway (Ahascragh, Mountbellew, Loughrea, Craughwell and Gort).

Sergeant Gerry Sheehan joined An Garda Síochána in 1965, his first posting being Gort Garda Station. At that time, younger members still lived in the Barracks. He recalled that Police Duties were lectured every Tuesday and Thursday morning by the Sergeant in Charge. The 24-hour Station Orderly tour was still in existence, town patrol was a regular duty and motor vehicles were rare which, due to the state of the roads at the time, was just as well. Leave was still limited to two days a month and again at the discretion of the Sergeant. Sergeant Sheehan served under a number of Superintendents during his service in Gort. His last Superintendent was Paul Mockler, a Roscommon man who himself had also started his career in An Garda Síochána as a young Garda in Gort.

In 1997, the Station at Barrack Street was refurbished, accommodating at that time a Superintendent, two Sergeants, 18 Gardaí and one Civilian Clerk. There were also a further two Sergeants and six Gardaí attached to the other stations in the Gort District, namely Shanaglish, Kilchreest, Craughwell, Kilcolgan, Ardrahan and

Luaitear ar an *gCuradh Connachtach,* an 12 Samhain 1949, go raibh an Garda Thomas Burke ar an nGort ag éirí as tar éis cúig bhliana is fiche fónaimh. Tugtar cuntas ar "adventurous career" san alt faoin teideal "Old-I.R.A. Man Retires from The Gardaí." Cheangail Burke leis an IRA sa bhliain 1917 agus bhí páirt aige in eachtraí luíocháin le Colún Reatha Lár Thiobraid Árann agus bhí sé seal i bPríosún Luimnigh dá bharr sin. Rug saighdiúirí de chuid na Breataine ina dhiaidh sin air agus coinníollacha promhaidh á sárú aige agus tarraingíodh isteach i gcoill é, tugadh bualadh agus bascadh dó agus ceanglaíodh le crann é, gléasta in éide arm na Breataine. Tar éis an Búrcach a robáil, scaoil na saighdiúirí leis agus gortaíodh in dhá áit é. Tháinig an Búrcach chuige féin agus rinne sé fónamh ina dhiaidh sin le fórsaí an Chonartha agus cheangail le Cór na bPóilíní Airm i mí Márta 1922. Níorbh shin deireadh le heachtraí gaisce an Bhúrcaigh de réir an chuntais: "On 11th September 1923, he jumped a moving train at the Broadstone and unarmed, captured an armed robber." I mí Márta 1924 a tháinig sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána agus ar lonnú i stáisiúin in Oirthear na Gaillimhe a chaith sé mórchuid na gcúig bhliana is fiche fónaimh sna Gardaí (Áth Eascrach, an Creagán, Baile Locha Riach, Creachmhaoil agus an Gort).

Sa bhliain 1965 a chuaigh an Sáirsint Gerry Sheehan isteach sa Gharda Síochána agus i mBeairic an Ghoirt a cuireadh ar lonnú ar dtús é. An tráth sin, bhíodh cónaí go fóill ar na Gardaí óga sa Bheairic. Ba chuimhin leisean léachtaí ar maidin faoi Dhualgas Póilíneachta ón Sáirsint i gCeannas gach Máirt agus Déardaoin. Bhí an Dualgas Sealaíochta 24 uair a chloig ar bun i gcónaí, patról ar an mbaile mór an gnáthdhualgas rialta agus is beag feithicil innill a bhí ar fáil, agus b'amhlaidh ab fhearr agus an drochbhail a bhíodh ar na bóithre. Bhí teorainn dhá lá in aghaidh na míosa le saoire i gcónaí agus sin go fóill de thogra an tSáirsint. Rinne an Sáirsint Sheehan fónamh faoi Cheannfoirt éagsúla le linn a chuid seirbhíse

Kinvara. The refurbished Gort Garda Station reopened on the 4 April 1997 and was officially opened by the Minister for Justice Nora Owen ("Minister opens £300,000 Gort Garda Station", *Connacht Tribune,* 04.04.1997). The *Connacht Tribune* further noted the important heritage of the building, having first been occupied for use as the Gort Station back on 27 October 1922:

> *Sergeant William Hogan was the first Garda Sergeant there and, with him, there were five Gardaí. [...] As time went by, the operations of the Gardaí at Gort required more space at the Garda Station and gradually accommodation for Gardaí there was limited to occasional overnight sleeping facilities. Now, for the first time in 75 years, the building has undergone a total internal reconstruction and the modern installations include facilities and specialised equipment.*

ar an nGort. Fear as Ros Comáin, Paul Mockler, an Ceannfort deireanach a bhí aige, fear eile a thosaigh amach ar an gcuma chéanna ina Gharda óg ar an nGort.

Sa bhliain 1997, rinneadh athchóiriú ar an Stáisiún ar Shráid na Beairice ina raibh Ceannfort, beirt Sáirsintí, ocht nGarda dhéag agus aon Chléireach Sibhialta amháin an tráth sin. Bhí beirt Sáirsintí eile agus seisear Gardaí eile ceangailte le stáisiúin eile i gceantar an Ghoirt, eadhon Seaneaglais, Cill Chríost, Creachmhaoil, Cill Cholgáin, Ard Rathain agus Cinn Mhara. Athosclaíodh an bheairic athchóirithe ar an 4 Aibreán 1997, agus bhí Nora Owen, an tAire Dlí agus Cirt, i láthair lena oscailt go hoifigiúil ("Minister opens £300,000 Gort Garda Station", An *Curadh Connachtach,* 04.04.1997). Luaitear freisin ar an *gCuradh Connachtach* an oidhreacht thábhachtach a bhaineann leis an bhfoirgneamh agus é in úsáid mar Stáisiún ar an nGort den chéad uair ar an 27 Deireadh Fómhair 1922:

> *Sergeant William Hogan was the first Garda Sergeant there and, with him, there were five Gardaí. [...] As time went by, the operations of the Gardaí at Gort required more space at the Garda Station and gradually accommodation for Gardaí there was limited to occasional overnight sleeping facilities. Now, for the first time in 75 years, the building has undergone a total internal reconstruction and the modern installations include facilities and specialised equipment.*

Garda Con Mulvey removing the Garda Síochána crest on the occasion of the closing of Bookeen Garda Station. Courtesy of Con Mulvey.

Suaitheantas an Gharda Síochána á thabhairt chun bealaigh ag an nGarda Con Mulvey nuair a bhí Beairic an Bhuaicín á dúnadh. Le caoinchead Con Mulvey.

16. Bookeen Garda Barracks

Athenry Parish Heritage Archive
John Power, Superintendent - Retired

The Garda Station at Bookeen was a renovated RIC Station that had been destroyed by fire during the War of Independence. It was first occupied by An Garda Síochána on 15 October 1924.

(Many of these first Gardaí, when deployed to their Barracks across the country, encountered this same issue in finding their Barracks having been burned down during the previous months of the

16. Beairic Gardaí an Bhuaicín

Cartlann Oidhreachta Pharóiste Bhaile Átha an Rí
John Power, Ceannfort - Ar Scor

Ba stáisiún athchóirithe de chuid an RIC a bhí i Stáisiún Gardaí an Bhuaicín a scrios tine le linn Chogadh na Saoirse. Ghlac an Garda Síochána seilbh ar an stáisiún den chéad uair an 15 Deireadh Fómhair, 1924.

(Bhí an fhadhb chéanna i ndán d'fhormhór na gcéad Ghardaí a cuireadh chuig beairicí ar fud na tíre mar gur lasadh na Beairicí seo sna míonna roimhe sin le linn Chogadh na Saoirse. Ba é an

War of Independence. The irony in some cases was that some of these new Gardaí were previously actively involved in the War of Independence and responsible for the burning of these Barracks they were now expected to occupy).

The owner of the property, Major Denis Bowes Daley of Dunsandle, Athenry, leased it to the State for an annual rent of £30, which was reduced to £25 in 1929, possibly due to the Station Party's constant complaining about the condition of the building.

The building had six rooms, a kitchen, dayroom, Sergeant's Office, two bedrooms and a cell.

Outside was a fuel store, cycle shed, lavatory, back yard and garden at the front. The Barracks was in constant need of repair.

The population of the sub-District at the time was 1,394, all residing within an area of 17,003 acres.

Sergeant Joseph Quinn from County Leitrim, an Irish speaker, was the first member in charge to arrive in 1924 along with a Garda Francis McCloskey, a native of County Down. In 1925, Garda John Enright, from Limerick, Garda Pat Byrne from Roscommon and Garda Richard Drew from Cork arrived. Sergeant Quinn was succeeded by Sergeant John Nolan from Cork in 1926 and Sergeant Francis McGloin from Sligo then took over in 1927, when Garda Martin Lanigan from Tipperary also arrived. The Station Party would never have been greater than 1 Sergeant and four Gardaí throughout, with some of these members replacing others.

On 8 March 1926, the Sergeant reported having difficulty in keeping a cook for the Station Party owing to the state of the kitchen. These Barrack Servants were usually women of mature years with their pay and the cost of the food being paid directly by the men themselves.

rud b'íorónta faoi go raibh roinnt de na Gardaí nua siúd iad féin gníomhach le linn Chogadh na Saoire agus freagrach as na Beairicí seo a dhó, na beairicí a raibh siad ceaptha dul i mbun seirbhíse iontu anois).

Thug úinéir na maoine, an Maor Denis Bowes Daley, Dún Sandail, Baile Átha an Rí an foirgneamh ar léas don Stát ar cíos bliantúil de £30, rinneadh an cíos a laghdú go £25 sa bhliain 1929, mar gheall, is dóigh, go raibh na Gardaí san fhoirgneamh ag clamhsán de shíor faoin drochbhail a bhí air.

Bhí sé cinn de sheomraí sa bhfoirgneamh, cistin, Oifig an tSáirsint, seomra lae, dhá sheomra codlata agus cillín.

Lasmuigh bhí stór breosla, seid rothar, leithreas, cúlchlós agus gairdín chun tosaigh. Bhí deisiú le déanamh seasta ar an mBeairic.

Ba 1,394 daonra an Fho-Cheantair agus bhí siad sin go léir lonnaithe laistigh d'achar 17,003 acra.

Bhí an Sáirsint Joseph Quinn ó Chontae Liatroma, Gaeilgeoir agus an chéad chomhalta i bhfeighil ar an gcéad fhear ar an bhfód sa bhliain 1924 in éineacht leis an nGarda Francis McCloskey, ó Chontae an Dúin ó dhúchas. Sa bhliain 1925 chuaigh an Garda John Enright, ó Luimneach, an Garda Pat Byrne ó Ros Comáin agus an Garda Richard Drew ó Chorcaigh i mbun seirbhíse sa stáisiún. Tháinig an Sáirsint John Nolan as Corcaigh in áit an tSáirsint Quinn sa bhliain 1926 agus ghlac an Sáirsint Francis McGloin as Sligeach ceannas ar an stáisiún sa bhliain 1927, agus chuaigh an Garda Martin Lanigan as Tiobraid Árann i mbun seirbhíse freisin. Ní raibh níos mó ná 1 Sáirsint & 4 Garda sa stáisiún ag tráth ar bith le linn an ama seo agus comhaltaí ag teacht agus ag imeacht.

Thuairiscigh an Sáirsint an 8 Márta 1926 go raibh sé ag dul rite leo cócaire a choinneáil chun

An Garda Síochána

During those early years An Garda Síochána had very strict regulations governing marriage. All Guards had to get permission to marry. No Guard could marry a woman if there was any doubt as to her 'moral' character. The Sergeant had to send a confidential report to the Commissioner concerning her suitability and the member in question had to prove that he had at least £60 at his disposal. This was a considerable amount considering that the Garda rate of pay was £3-10-0 (£3.50) per week, rising to £4-15-0 after 22 years. This regulation remained in place until 1950.

In 1937, Mr Daly, the landlord, stated that he wished to sell the Barracks to the State but the State rejected his offer due to the condition of the building and the question of closing down the Barracks again arose. In support of keeping the Barracks open, the agrarian trouble in the Athenry District during the previous years was highlighted.

On 26 July 1939, an application was made for the provision of an ablution room for use by the Station Party which at that time consisted of 1 Sergeant and 3 Gardaí (all single men), as the only facility available for washing and shaving was in the kitchen.

On 1 October 1940, the Barracks received its first telephone. The local exchange was 'Loughrea 16' and there was direct contact with the District Headquarters at Athenry after hours.

The duties of the Gardaí at Bookeen fell in to two categories, police and non-police. The former involved the prevention and detection of crime, as with any Police force, and the latter involved local Gardaí carrying out a plethora of local administrative duties on behalf of the State such as agricultural statistics. Agrarian issues, illicit distillation, licensing laws and crimes against persons and property were the main areas of duty for the Gardaí.

tabhairt faoin gcócaireacht sa stáisiún mar gheall ar an drochbhail a bhí ar an gcistin. Bhí na mná seo a bhí ag obair sna Beairicí, amach sna blianta de ghnáth, agus bhí a bpá agus costas an bhia á n-íoc go díreach ag na Gardaí féin.

Bhí rialacháin a bhí thar a bheith dian ó thaobh pósadh de ag an nGarda Síochána sna luathbhlianta seo. Bhí ar gach Garda cead a fháil le pósadh. Ní fhéadfadh Garda ar bith bean a phósadh sa chás comhartha ceiste a bheith ann maidir lena carachtar "morálta."
Bhí sé de dhualgas ar an Sáirsint tuarascáil rúnda a sheoladh chuig an gCoimisinéir maidir lena hoiriúnacht agus bhí sé mar dhualgas ar an nGarda bhí i gceist cruthúnas a bheith aige go raibh teacht aige ar £60 ar a laghad. Ba dhíol suntais a bhí sa tsuim seo nuair a thógtar san áireamh gurbh é an ráta pá sa Gharda Síochána ná £3-10-0 (£3.50) in aghaidh na seachtaine ag ardú go £4-15-0 tar éis 22 bliain. Bhí an rialachán seo i bhfeidhm go dtí an bhliain 1950.

Sa bhliain 1937 thug an tUasal Daly le fios go raibh sé ar intinn aige an Bheairic a dhíol leis an Stát ach dhiúltaigh an Stát a thairiscint mar gheall ar an drochbhail a bhí ar an bhfoirgneamh agus tháinig an cheist maidir le dúnadh na Beairice chun cinn arís. Tugadh léiriú, ó thaobh tacú leis an mBeairic a choinneáil oscailte, ar an trioblóid a bhí i gCeantar Gardaí Bhaile Átha an Rí ó thaobh cúrsaí talmhaíochta sna blianta roimhe sin.

Rinneadh iarratas an 26 Iúil, 1939 seomra níocháin a chur ar fáil do na Gardaí sa Stáisiún. Ag an am sin bhí 1 Sáirsint amháin agus 3 Garda ann (fir shingile a bhí iontu go léir), agus ní raibh aon tsaoráid ar fáil ach an chistin do níochán agus bearradh.

Suiteáladh an chéad teileafón sa Bheairic an 1 Deireadh Fómhair 1940. "Baile Locha Riach 16" an malartán áitiúil agus bhí teagmháil dhíreach leis an gCeanncheathrú i mBaile Locha Riach i ndiaidh na ngnáthuaireanta oibre.

The daily patrol was an integral part of the Guard's life, the countryside being patrolled by bicycle, with most patrols involving distances of 12 to 18 miles per day. These cycle patrols invariably involved visits of a social or professional nature to houses along the route. In those years, the country roads frequently took their toll on the Garda's bicycle and many ended up walking miles back to their Barracks. On their return, graphic accounts of their patrol and the duties performed were entered in the patrol book. In some cases, the accounts were subject to the 'imagination' of the Garda involved.

There were 4 crimes committed in the Bookeen Sub-District between 1948 and 1953, while there was no crime at all in the Athenry Sub-District.

Most of the Guards were big stocky men, usually friendly and well respected locally. People would say at that time that the Guards had a great life with not much to do considering most of the country people were harmless. An odd stroll or cycle through the District or a knock on a pub door now and again was all that was needed to keep them in tow. The people always maintained that it was an up and coming job with a free uniform and good pension at the end of your days. They possessed enormous powers to stop people, ask questions, take names and addresses and bring people to Court. If a person was caught without a light on his bike, he would be the talk of the parish. Being pulled in and having one's name written down in the big book in the Barracks carried almost the same stigma as having it read from the altar.

The Bookeen Sub-District increased in size in 1955, when the Barracks at Gurteen closed on 25 November. This resulted in an extra 357 citizens, 67 farms, 4,312 acres of land, 2 schools and 1 pub being added to the area to be patrolled.

Bookeen Garda Barracks was finally closed in the late 1970s with the Sub-District divided between the neighbouring Loughrea, Athenry and Kiltulla Garda Stations.

Tháinig dualgas na nGardaí i Stáisiún an Bhuaicín faoi dhá chatagóir, na póilíní agus daoine nach póilíní iad. Bhí cosc agus brath coireachta i gceist leis an gcéad cheann amhail aon fhórsa Póilíní eile agus bhain an dara ceann le tabhairt faoi raidhse dualgais áitiúla riaracháin thar ceann an Stáit ar nós staitisticí talmhaíochta. Bhí saincheisteanna talmhaíochta, stiléireacht neamhdhleathach, dlíthe ceadúnais agus gnáthchoireanna in aghaidh an duine agus maoin ar na príomhréimsí dualgais do na Gardaí.

Bhí an patról laethúil ina chuid ríthábhachtach de shaol an Gharda. Is ar rothar a tugadh faoi phatról faoin tuath agus d'fhéadfadh achar 12 - 18 míle in aghaidh an lae a bheith i gceist le formhór na bpatról. Bhí cuairteanna de chineál sóisialta nó gairmiúil ar thithe ar feadh an bhealaigh i gceist den chuid is mó leis na patróil seo ar rothar. Ba mhinic, sna blianta sin, na bóithre faoi tuath ag fágáil drochbhail ar rothar an Gharda agus bhíodh ar Ghardaí tabhairt faoi shiúl na gcos ar ais chun na Beairice. Bhíodh ar na Gardaí cuntas grinn a thabhairt maidir leis an bpatról agus leis na dualgais ar tugadh fúthu agus cuireadh an t-eolas sin go léir isteach sa leabhar patróil. I roinnt cásanna bhí na cuntais faoi réir ag "samhlaíocht" an Gharda a bhíodh i gceist.

Rinneadh 4 choir i bhFo-Cheantar an Bhuaicín idir 1948 agus 1953, agus níor tharla aon choir i bhFo-Cheantar Bhaile Locha Riach.

Fir mhóra théagartha a bhí i bhformhór na nGardaí, cairdiúil de ghnáth agus an-mheas orthu go háitiúil. Bhíodh daoine á rá ag an am go raibh an-saol ag na Gardaí, gan mórán le déanamh acu nuair a tógadh san áireamh go raibh formhór de mhuintir na tuaithe gan dochar. Ní raibh i gceist ach beagán spaisteoireachta nó rothaíochta tríd an gCeantar nó bualadh ar dhoras an tí tábhairne chun na daoine a choinneáil ar bhóthar a leasa. Bhí muintir na háite den tuairim i gcónaí gur phost é a raibh gealladh faoi a bhí sa phost, le héide saor

in aisce agus pinsean maith ar dhul ar scor. Bhí cumhachtaí as cuimse acu le daoine a stopadh, le ceisteanna a chur, le hainmneacha a thógáil agus le daoine a thabhairt os comhar na Cúirte.

Sa chás go mbeirfí ar dhuine gan solas ar a rothar, bhíodh a ainm i mbéal an phobail. Bhí sé chomh tromchúiseach céanna, beagnach, a bheith stoptha ag an nGarda agus d'ainm a bheith scríofa sa leabhar mór sa mBeairic is a bheadh sé d'ainm a léamh amach ón altóir.

Tháinig méid ar Fho-Cheantar an Bhuaicín sa bhliain 1955 nuair a dúnadh an Bheairic sa nGoirtín an 25 Samhain. Chiallaigh sé seo go raibh 357 saoránach, 67 feirm, 4312 acra talún, 2 scoil agus 1 theach tábhairne breise curtha leis an limistéar a raibh patról le déanamh air.

Dúnadh Beairic Gardaí an Bhuaicin den uair dheireanach ag tarraingt le deireadh na 1970í agus roinneadh an Fo-Cheantar idir Stáisiúin Gardaí Bhaile Locha Riach, Bhaile Átha an Rí agus Chill Tulach.

Sergeant Dan McNulty issues the duties to the first patrol to leave Mill Street Garda Station on 26 January 1986. Left to right: Sergeant D. McNulty, Garda Liam Kelly, Garda Jarlath Burke, Garda Martin O'Shea, Garda Jarlath Donnellan, Garda Pat Nugent, D/ Garda Eddie Coughlan, Garda Seamus Burke, Garda DK Lawlor, D/Garda Joe McCarthy and Garda John Lovett. Photo source: Stan Shields, *Connacht Tribune*.

An Sáirsint Dan McNulty ag leagan dualgais ar an gcéad dream patróil a d'fhág Beairic Shráid an Mhuilinn an 26 Eanáir 1986. Ó chlé go deas: An Sáirsint D. McNulty, an Garda Liam Kelly, an Garda Jarlath Burke, an Garda Martin O'Shea, an Garda Jarlath Donnellan, an Garda Pat Nugent, B/ Garda Eddie Coughlan, an Garda Séamus Burke, an Garda DK Lawlor, an B/Garda Joe McCarthy agus an Garda John Lovett. Grianghraf: Stan Shields, *An Curadh Connachtach*.

17. Historical Aspects (Galway Gardaí)

by William Henry

The Civic Guard was formed following a meeting in the Gresham Hotel in Dublin on 9 February 1922. General Richard Mulcahy chaired the meeting and among those present was Michael Collins. By March 1922, there were requests from local authorities across the country for Guards to be posted in the various towns. While uniformed Guards appeared at the funerals of Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins in 1922, this was an exception as the general issue of uniforms did not occur until the end of that year.

17. Roinnt Gnéithe Stairiúla (na Gardaí i nGaillimh)

le William Henry

Bunaíodh an Garda Sibhialta tar éis cruinniú a bhí in Óstán an Gresham i mBaile Átha Cliath an 9 Feabhra 1922. Bhí an Ginearál Richard Mulcahy mar chathaoirleach ar an gcruinniú agus ina measc siúd a bhí i láthair bhí Michael Collins. Faoi Mhárta 1922, bhí éilimh ann ó údaráis áitiúla ar fud na tíre go lonnófaí Gardaí sna bailte móra éagsúla. Cé go raibh Gardaí faoi éide le feiceáil ag sochraidí Arthur Griffith agus Michael Collins sa bhliain 1922, is eisceacht a bhí anseo mar nár tharla eisiúint ghinearálta éide go dtí deireadh na bliana sin.

An Garda Síochána

On 21 February 1922, Patrick Joseph Kerrigan arrived at the Royal Dublin Society Showgrounds and became the first Civic Guard to be enlisted in the new force. Kerrigan was born on 12 September 1892 in Westport, County Mayo.

The first Commissioner of The Civic Guard was Michael Staines (1885-1955), being appointed on 10 March 1922. Subsequently, he became the first Commissioner of An Garda Síochána na hÉireann. Staines was born in Newport, County Mayo. He was a former member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, served as Quartermaster General in the GPO during the 1916 Easter Rebellion and was interned in Frongoch Internment Camp along with his fellow insurgents. In his statement at the inception of the force, Staines stated: "The Garda Síochána will succeed, not by force of arms or numbers, but by their moral authority as servants of the people." Staines only served for a short period and was replaced by Eoin O'Duffy in September 1922.

The Civic Guard arrived in Galway on 25 September 1922, when a party of twenty-five Guards arrived in the city to take up duty. They were First Stationed in the Galway County Club, Eyre Square, as repair work was being carried out on the old Constabulary Barracks at Eglinton Street. It had been burnt down by Irregulars in July of that year at the outbreak of the Civil War. The Guards remained in the County Club for almost a year until the station in Eglinton Street had been restored.

The Guards were a welcome sight for most citizens as, apart from the threat from Civil War factions, there were also some cases of disorder associated with drink in the city prior to the Guards' arrival. In some cases, unscrupulous people had been walking into shops and openly stealing as there was no law enforcement present around the city.

The National Army were in the city, stationed in the Railway Hotel, Eyre Square, but they were sometimes reluctant to take on policing duties.

Former County Club, Eyre Square, Galway base for the first Gardaí arriving in Galway City on 25 September 1922. Photo source: Marie Mannion.

**Mar a mbíodh an County Club, An Fhaiche Mhór, Gaillimh, an bhunáit ag an gcéad dream Gardaí a tháinig go baile mór na Gaillimhe an 25 Meán Fómhair 1922.
Grianghraf: Marie Mannion.**

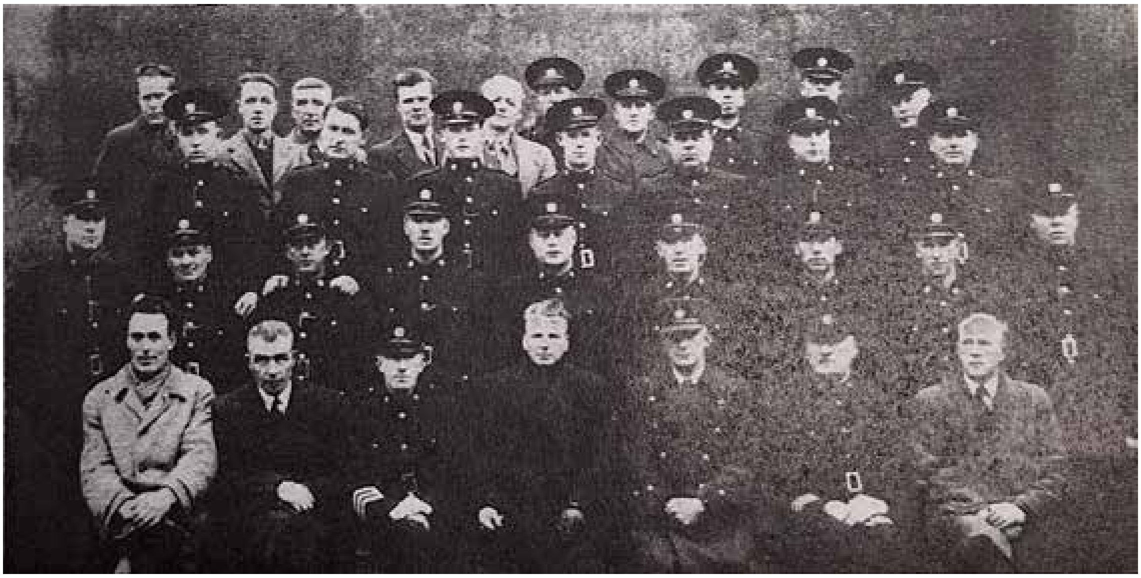
Bhain Patrick Joseph Kerrigan amach Páirceanna Taispeántais Chumann Ríoga Bhaile Átha Cliath an 21 Feabhra 1922 agus bhí sé ar an gcéad Gharda Sibhialta a liostáladh san fhórsa nua. Rugadh Kerrigan an 12 Meán Fómhair 1892 i gCathair na Mart i gContae Mhaigh Eo.

Ba é Michael Staines (1885-1955) an chéad Choimisinéir a bhí ar na Gardaí Sibhialta, agus ceapadh é an 10 Márta 1922. Ina dhiaidh sin, bhí sé mar an Chéad Choimisinéir ar Ghardaí Síochána na hÉireann. Rugadh Staines i gCathair na Mart, Contae Mhaigh Eo. B'iarchomhalta é de Bhráithreachas Phoblacht na hÉireann, bhí sé i mbun seirbhíse mar Mháistir Ceathrún Ginearálta in Ard-Oifig an Phoist le linn Éirí Amach na Cásca 1916 agus rinneadh é a imtheorannú i gCampa Géibhinn Frongoch in éineacht lena chomhghleacaithe a bhí páirteach san Éirí Amach. Dúirt Staines, ina ráiteas agus tús á chur leis an bhfórsa: "Éireoidh leis an nGarda Síochána, ní trí lann is lasair ná trí uimhreacha,

Garda Denis Sweeney, Galway City, 1980s. Photo source: *Connacht Tribune.*

An Garda Denis Sweeney, Cathair na Gaillimhe, na 1980idí. Grianghraf: An *Curadh Connachtach.*

An Garda Síochána



Eglinton Garda Barracks, 1947. Photo source: *Garda Review.*
Beairic an Gharda Síochána ar Shráid Eglinton, 1947. Grianghraf: *Garda Review.*

The new police force immediately set about enforcing the licensing laws and maintaining public order and decorum in the city. Another duty taken on by the Civic Guard at that early stage was dealing with poitín distillers and combatting the sale of this illicit spirit.

At the Galway Races the Civic Guard was also on duty, involved in 'traffic control', even in those early years and, of course, chasing down the 'three-card-trick-men' who were ready to relieve unwary punters of their few pounds.

An early County Report in May 1923 mentions that one of the best achievements of the fledging Irish Government was the formation of the Civic Guard. While there were problems in some areas, it stated that the force was welcomed in places such as Athenry, Craughwell, Moylough, Tuam and many other towns across the county. The force introduced day and night cycle patrols and this gave some degree of security to people living in these areas. The results were obvious in what was described as the now "peaceful and well-

ach trína n-údarás morálta mar fhórsa atá ag freastal ar na daoine." Níor chaith Staines ach tréimhse ghearr ina Choimisinéir agus tháinig Eoin O'Duffy ina áit i Meán Fómhair 1922.

Tháinig an Garda Sibhialta go Gaillimh an 25 Meán Fómhair 1922, tráth ar bhain buíon d'fhiche cúig Garda an Chathair amach chun dul i mbun dualgais. Bhí siad lonnaithe i dtús báire i gClub Chontae na Gaillimhe ar an bhFaiche Mhór, an t-achar is a bhíothas ag tabhairt faoi obair ar Sheanbheairic na Constáblachta i Sráid Eglinton. Las na Neamhrialtaigh an tSeanbheairic go talamh i mí Iúil na bliana sin nuair a bhris an Cogadh Cathartha amach. Bhí na Gardaí beagnach bliain i gClub an Chontae go dtí go raibh an t-athchóiriú ar Shráid Eglinton tugtha chun críche.

Chuir formhór na saoránach fáilte mhór roimh na Gardaí, mar, seachas an bhagairt ó bhuíonta an Chogaidh Chathartha, bhí roinnt cásanna achrainn ann freisin a bhain le hólachán sa gcathair sular tháinig na Gardaí. I roinnt cásanna bhíodh daoine gan scrupall ag siúl isteach i siopaí

Sergeant Martin de hÓra, Registered Number 10083H, Oranmore Garda Station 1975 – 1983.
Courtesy of Paul de hÓra.
An Sáirsint Máirtín de hÓra, Uimhir Chláraithe 10083H, Beairic na nGardaí, Órán Mór 1975 – 1983.
Le caoinchead Paul de hÓra.

Garda McGee, Market Street, Galway, c. 1960.
Photo source: *Connacht Tribune.*
An Garda McGee, Sráid an Mhargaidh, Gaillimh, c. 1960.
Grianghraf: An *Curadh Connachtach.*

ordered" countryside. The laws were enforced fairly, including by those governing alcohol, to such an extent that most publicans demonstrated a complete readiness to comply. Courts began functioning regularly in areas controlled by the Civic Guard. It was said that the Guards themselves, through their tact and courtesy, gained the respect of many people across the city and county.

On 8 August 1923, the Civic Guard was renamed An Garda Síochána na hÉireann (Guardians of the Peace of Ireland). An Garda Síochána is Ireland's national police force ever since.

Although the Civil War officially ended in May 1923, some places experienced continued trouble.

agus iad i mbun gadaíochta go hoscailte mar nach raibh an dlí á chur i bhfeidhm ar fud na cathrach.

Bhí an tArm Náisiúnta sa chathair, a bhí lonnaithe in Óstán an Bhóthair Iarainn ar an bhFaiche Mhór, ach ní bhíodh mórán fonn orthu tabhairt faoi dhualgais phóilíneachta uaireanta.

Chuir an fórsa póilíneachta nua tús leis na dlíthe ceadúnúcháin a fhorfheidhmiú láithreach agus thug faoin ord poiblí agus dea-iompar a choinneáil sa gcathair. Ar dhualgas eile ar thug na Gardaí Sibhialta faoi ag na luathchéimeanna sin bhí déileáil le lucht déanta poitín agus dul i ngleic le díol an phoitín.

Bhí na Gardaí Sibhialta ar dualgas ag Rásaí na Gaillimhe freisin, bhí siad páirteach i 'smachtú tráchta', fiú sna luathbhlianta sin, agus, ar ndóigh bhí siad ag dul sa tóir ar na daoine siúd a bhí "i mbun na cleasaíochta" agus a bhí réidh i gcónaí le gealltóirí neamhairdeallacha a robáil.

An Garda Síochána

In October 1923, a number of robberies and raids took place, which were even condemned by the Republican Party as it had ordered its men to cease all armed activities. Nevertheless, some 'die-hards' continued and at times placed the Gardaí in great danger.

In the local newspapers, reports emphasised the courage of unarmed Gardaí going about their duty, protecting life and property on a daily basis. One such report praised the performance of the "unarmed" Gardaí facing difficult circumstances. The concept of unarmed Gardaí was highlighted as an "attempt – a courageous attempt and one we believe will ultimately justify itself to appeal to the finer instincts of the Irish people."

By 1926, there were 63 Garda Stations throughout Galway City and county and it seems they were already building up "splendid traditions and solid relationships."

Tragedy at Steamer's Quay

One of the saddest episodes for the Gardaí in Galway must be the drowning tragedy that occurred on Thursday, 18 January 1934. This was when a car in which two members of the force, along with two civilians, were travelling, skidded into the water at Steamer's Quay, Galway. Their ill-fated journey began earlier that day at Maam and the tragedy occurred on the return trip. They were travelling in a 1929 green Ford Fordor car.

One of the Gardaí concerned was Sergeant Patrick Forde (5802), aged 28 of Maam Garda Station. He was married and had two children. He was born on 19 January 1904 at Nutgrove, Tynagh, Loughrea, County Galway. He previously worked in farming and he joined An Garda Síochána on 27 June 1924. He had also served in the Irish Volunteers (1919-1921). He had nine years' service at the time of the accident, having been promoted to Sergeant on 1 March 1927. He had also served at Ballymote, Mohill, Fivemilebourne and Barnaderg.

Luaitear i luath Thuairisc an Chontae i mí na Bealtaine 1923 go raibh bunú na nGardaí Sibhialta ar cheann de na héachtaí is fearr a bhain Rialtas nua na hÉireann amach. Cé go raibh fadhbanna i roinnt ceantar, luaitear gur cuireadh fáilte roimh an bhfórsa i roinnt áiteanna ar nós Baile Átha an Rí, Creachmhaoil, Maigh Locha, Tuaim agus in go leor bailte eile ar fud an chontae. Thug an fórsa patról rothaíochta oíche agus lae isteach agus chuir beagán slándála ar fáil do na daoine a bhí ina gcónaí sna ceantair seo. Bhí na torthaí thar a bheith soiléir agus rinneadh cur síos ar thaobh tíre a bhí "síochánta agus i ndea-ord" anois. Forfheidhmíodh na dlíthe go cothrom, lena n-áirítear na dlíthe siúd a bhí ag rialú alcóil, chomh maith leis sin léirigh formhór na dtábhairneoirí ullmhacht iomlán ó thaobh na ndlíthe a chomhlíonadh. Thosaigh na cúirteanna ag feidhmiú ar bhonn rialta i gceantair a bhí faoi stiúir na nGardaí Sibhialta. Dúradh gur bhain na Gardaí Sibhialta iad féin, trí stuaim agus cúirtéis a léiriú, meas na ndaoine amach ar fud na cathrach agus an chontae.

An 8 Lúnasa 1923, athraíodh ainm an Gharda Sibhialta go Garda Síochána na hÉireann (Caomhnóirí na Síochána in Éirinn). Is é an Garda Síochána fórsa náisiúnta póilíneachta na hÉireann riamh ó shin.

Cé gur tháinig an Cogadh Cathartha chun críche go hoifigiúil i mí na Bealtaine 1923, lean an trioblóid ar aghaidh i roinnt áiteanna. I mí Dheireadh Fómhair 1923, tharla roinnt robálacha agus ruathar, a ndearna an Páirtí Poblachtach féin cáineadh orthu, mar go raibh ordú tugtha acu dá gcuid fear deireadh a chur leis na gníomhaíochtaí armtha go léir. Mar sin féin, lean roinnt daoine 'diongbháilte' ar aghaidh agus chuir na Gardaí i gcontúirt mhór uaireanta.

Cuireadh béim i nuachtáin áitiúla ar chrógacht na nGardaí nach raibh aon airm á n-iompar acu agus iad i mbun a gcuid dualgas, ag cosaint beatha agus maoine ar bhonn laethúil. Tugadh moladh i dtuairisc amháin den chineál sin ar fheidhmiú Gardaí "gan arm" a raibh cúinsí thar

Steamer's Quay Memorial of the 1934 tragedy, erected in 2022. Courtesy of Galway Gardaí.
Leacht Cuimhneacháin Ché na nGaltán i gcuimhne ar thragóid na bliana 1934, curtha suas in 2022. Le caoinchead Ghardaí na Gaillimhe.

Another victim was Garda Michael Joseph Kennelly (1408), aged 38, also stationed at Maam. He was one of the founding members of the force and had the distinction of being among the first members of the force to arrive in Galway on 25 September 1922. He was born on 26 January 1896 at Ahalahana, Newtownsandes, County Kerry. A farmer, he had served from 1916-1922 in the 8th Battalion, Kerry No. 1 Brigade and joined An Garda Síochána on 30 May 1922. Garda Kennelly also served as a Garda in Galway, Monivea, Derrybrien, Letterfrack, Leenane, Clifden and Killimor. He had 11 years' service at the time of his death. Garda Kennelly was married with one son at the time of his death, with his second son born posthumously.

The four travellers arrived in Galway City at about 8 pm and the car and its occupants were seen on the Salmon Weir Bridge. It seems that the occupants may have decided to travel back to Maam via Headford. The Gardaí could then travel onto Maam, but this was only a theory that some people suggested at the time.

The car travelled towards Woodquay and turned left at the small park leading to the

a bheith deacair i ndán dóibh. Rinneadh léiriú ar choincheap Gardaí gan arm mar "iarracht – iarracht chróga, agus iarracht a chreidimid a mbeidh údar maith leis ar deireadh thiar chun dul i bhfeidhm ar nádúr mhuintir na hÉireann."

Faoi 1926, bhí 63 Stáisiún Gardaí ar fud chathair agus chontae na Gaillimhe agus bhí an chuma air go raibh "traidisiúin iontacha agus caidreamh daingean" á gcruthú acu cheana féin."

Tragóid ag Cé na nGaltán

Is dóigh gurbh é an tragóid bhá a tharla Déardaoin, 18 Eanáir 1934 an eachtra ba bhrónaí a bhí i ndán do Ghardaí na Gaillimhe. Tharla an tragóid nuair a sciorr an carr ina raibh beirt chomhaltaí den fhórsa chomh maith le beirt shibhialtach ag taisteal, isteach san uisce ag Cé na nGaltán, Gaillimh. Chuir siad tús lena dturas míchinniúnach níos túisce an lá sin sa Teach Dóite agus tharla an tragóid ar an mbealach ar ais. Bhí siad ag taisteal i Ford Fordor uaine 1929.

Is iad na Gardaí a bhí i gceist, an Sáirsint Patrick Forde (5802), 28 mbliana d'aois ó Stáisiún Gardaí an Tí Dhóite. Bhí sé pósta le beirt leanaí. Rugadh Patrick an 19 Eanáir 1904 i gCeathrú an Notaigh, Tíne, Baile Locha Riach, Contae na Gaillimhe. Bhí Patrick i mbun na feirmeoireachta roimhe sin agus chuaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána an 27 Meitheamh 1924. Bhí sé in Óglaigh na hÉireann freisin (1919-1921). Bhí naoi mbliana seirbhíse curtha isteach aige nuair a tharla an timpiste, agus ardú céime faighte aige go grád an tSáirsint an 1 Márta 1927. Bhíodh sé ar dualgas freisin i mBaile an Mhóta, Abhainn an Chartúin agus i mBearna Dhearg.

Bhí an Garda Michael Joseph Kennelly (1408), 38 mbliana d'aois, i stáisiún an Tí Dhóite freisin. Bhí sé ar dhuine de bhunaitheoirí an fhórsa agus bhí sé i measc na gcéad chomhaltaí den fhórsa a tháinig go Gaillimh an 25 Meán Fómhair 1922. Rugadh é an 26 Eanáir 1896 in Átha Leathana, Maigh Mheáin, Contae Chiarraí. Feirmeoir ab

Waterside and Steamer's Quay. They had possibly momentarily lost their sense of location and direction as they travelled, unknowingly, towards Steamer's Quay. One must remember that these people were unfamiliar with the area. They may have mistakenly thought that the Galway Clifden Railway Bridge over the River Corrib near Steamer's Quay was the one spanning the Headford Road. There was a lack of street lighting and the area was an open quay with no barriers.The night was dark with a south-westerly wind, occasional showers and little fog except in marshy areas of the river. They may well have mistaken the sheen of the water for the road ahead.

It appears that the vehicle plunged into the water at the end of the pier. Sadly, all four occupants were drowned in this terrible accident. The tragedy occurred within ear-shot of a dance that was being held in the nearby Commercial Boat Club.

In view of the long journey, the Gardaí were not expected in Maam until very late. However, when they didn't arrive home the following morning, relatives, friends and colleagues at Maam Station became alarmed. A search for the car began on Friday morning and included areas around Lough Corrib. The search continued and Gardaí from Eglinton Street Barracks searched the Waterside area on Saturday morning. At Steamer's Quay, they noticed marks going towards the end of the pier. The car was then found lying on its side in about seven feet of water with the unfortunate occupants still inside the vehicle.

As news of the tragedy spread, hundreds of people gathered at the scene. At the inquest that followed, the jury returned a verdict of accidental death by drowning. The entire city and county were shocked and votes of sympathy poured into Eglinton and Maam Garda Stations and the homes of the bereaved families.

ea Michael, agus d'fheidhmigh sé ó 1916-1922 san 8ú Cathlán, Briogáid Uimh. 1 Ciarraí agus chuaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána an 30 Bealtaine 1922. Bíodh an Garda Kennelly ar dualgas mar Gharda freisin i nGaillimh, Muine Mheá, Daraidh Braoin, Leitir Fraic, sa Líonán, sa gClochán agus i gCill Íomair. Bhí 11 bhliain seirbhíse curtha isteach aige nuair a bhásaigh sé. Bhí an Garda Kennelly pósta agus bhí mac amháin aige nuair a bhásaigh sé agus rugadh a dhara mac tar éis a bháis.

Bhain an ceathrar cathair na Gaillimhe amach thart ar 8.00 p.m. agus chonacthas an carr agus na daoine a bhí sa charr ar Dhroichead na mBradán. Tá an chosúlacht air go ndearna na daoine a bhí sa gcarr cinneadh taistil chomh fada leis an Teach Dóite trí Áth Cinn. D'fhéadfadh na Gardaí dul ar aghaidh chomh fada leis an Teach Dóite ansin, ach ní raibh ansin ach tuairim a bhí ag roinnt daoine ag an am.

Thaistil an carr i dtreo Bharr an Chalaidh agus d'iompaigh ar chlé ag carrchlós beag i dtreo Chois Uisce agus Ché na nGaltán. D'fhéadfadh sé nach raibh a fhios acu cá raibh siad agus gur chaill ciall don treo ar feadh nóiméid agus iad ag taisteal, i ngan fhios dóibh féin is dócha, i dtreo Ché na nGaltán. Ní mór a thabhairt ar aird nach raibh aon eolas ag na fir seo ar an gceantar. D'fhéadfadh sé gur cheap siad, trí dhearmad, gurbh é Droichead Iarnróid na Gaillimhe an Chlocháin thar Abhainn na Gaillimhe in aice le Cé na nGaltán an droichead thar Bhóthar Áth Cinn. Bhí easpa soilse sráide ann agus ba ché oscailte gan bhacainní a bhí sa gceantar. Bhí an oíche dorcha le gaoth aniar aneas agus ceathanna uaireanta agus ar bheagán ceo seachas i limistéir riascacha na habhann. D'fhéadfadh sé gur cheap siad, trí dhearmad, gurbh é an bóthar a bhí á fheiceáil acu seachas an t-uisce.

Breathnaíonn sé go ndeachaigh an fheithicil san uisce ag deireadh na cé. Faraor, bádh gach duine den cheathrar sa timpiste uafásach seo. Tharla an tragóid laistigh an-ghar go deo do dhamhsa a bhí ar siúl in aice láimhe sa Chlub Bád Tráchtála.

Official opening of Mill Street Garda Station in 1986 by Alan Dukes, Minister for Justice, and Superintendent John Gilmartin. Photo source: *Garda Review.*
Beairic Shráid an Mhuilinn á hoscailt go hoifigiúil sa bhliain 1986 ag Alan Dukes, an tAire Dlí agus Cirt, agus ag an gCeannfort John Gilmartin. Grianghraf: *Garda Review.*

Mill Street Garda Station

By the 1970s, the old barracks in Eglinton Street, which served the force for many years, had become antiquated and unsuitable as a modern Garda Station. Even renovations would not solve the problems as the station was very old and from another era of law enforcement. A new building was required and so it was decided to build a new station at Mill Street. In February 1986, An Garda Síochána finally closed the doors at Eglinton Street and moved their headquarters to the present location at Mill Street.

Stáisiún Gardaí Shráid an Mhuilinn

Faoi dheireadh na 1970í, bhí an tseanbheairic ar Shráid Eglinton, ina raibh an fórsa le roinnt mhaith blianta, seanfhaiseanta agus ní raibh sé oiriúnach níos mó mar Stáisiún Gardaí nua-aimseartha. Ní réiteodh nuachóiriú na beairice fiú an fhadhb mar go raibh an stáisiún an-sean agus gur bhain sé le ré forfheidhmithe eile dlí. Theastaigh foirgneamh nua agus mar sin cinneadh stáisiún nua a thógáil i Sráid an Mhuilinn. I mí Feabhra 1986, dhún na Gardaí doirse stáisiún Shráid Eglinton den uair dheiridh agus d'aistrigh siad go dtí an cheanncheathrú nua sa suíomh reatha ar Shráid an Mhuilinn.

When the remains of the victims were released for burial, there were emotional scenes. The coffins of both Gardaí were covered with the Tricolour and Garda flags. High ranking Garda officers were present along with the members of Galway Urban Council and many other organisations.

Many years have rolled by since the dreadful accident and the tragedy was almost forgotten, but on 25 September 2022, as part of the Galway Divisional Garda Síochána Centenary Celebrations, a plaque was erected at the Commercial Clubhouse at Steamer's Quay by Gardaí from the Galway Division and the Garda Síochána Retired Members Association; relatives of those who lost their lives on the fateful date were also present at the unveiling.

The Murder of Jerome O'Connor

On Thursday, 15 August 1974, Jerome O'Connor was shot dead during a botched robbery outside the Allied Irish Bank in Lynch's Castle. It was a death that shook the people of Galway to the very core – the murder of this wonderful man going about his business in the heart of the city.

Jerome was a married man, fifty-two years of age, who worked for Sisk Building Contractors. That morning, he went to the bank to collect the weekly wages for the employees. The driver parked outside the bank and Jerome went into the bank to collect the money.

As he emerged, carrying £1,557 in cash, he was confronted by two armed young men, one of them carrying a sawn-off shotgun. One of them tried to pull the bag from him, but Jerome resisted and the gun was discharged during the struggle. The result was fatal for Jerome, who died on the scene, and the attackers made off with the money.

The investigation into this crime was the most intensive Garda operation ever mounted in the Galway area. It came to a climax that weekend with the detention of ten people and the capture of arms caches in a number of city houses during the course of the three-day search.

Mar gheall ar an turas fada, ní rabhthas ag súil leis na Gardaí sa Teach Dóite go mbeadh sé an-deireanach. Nuair nár tháinig siad abhaile an mhaidin dár gcionn, áfach, bhí imní ar a ngaolta, ar a gcairde agus ar a gcomhghleacaithe i Stáisiún an Tí Dhóite. Cuireadh tús le cuardach an chairr maidin Dé hAoine, agus áiríodh ansin, ceantair thart timpeall Loch Coirib. Leanadh leis an gcuardach agus bhí na Gardaí ó Bheairic Shráid Eglinton i mbun cuardaithe i gceantar Chois Uisce maidin Dé Sathairn. Thug siad marcanna faoi deara ag Cé na nGaltán agus bhí na marcanna seo ag dul i dtreo dheireadh na cé. Fuarthas an carr ansin a bhí ar a taobh in thart ar sheacht dtroighe uisce agus bhí na fir fós istigh san fheithicil.

Dé réir mar scaip scéal na tragóide, bhailigh na céadta ar an láthair. Ag an gcoiste cróinéara ina dhiaidh sin, thug an giúiré an bhreith gur bás tionóisceach trí bhá a bhí i gceist. Bhí an chathair agus an contae ina n-iomláine faoi scamall an bhróin agus daoine ag cur a gcomhbhrón in iúl do na Gardaí i Stáisiúin Shráid Eglinton agus an Tí Dhóite agus ag tithe na dteaghlach a bhfuair a ndaoine muinteartha bás.

Nuair a tugadh na coirp ar ais do na daoine muinteartha lena gcur, ba thruabhéalach an radharc a bhí ann. Bhí Bratach na hÉireann agus Bratach an Gharda Síochána ar chónraí na nGardaí. Bhí Oifigigh Ardchéimiúla an Gharda Síochána i láthair mar aon le comhaltaí de Chomhairle Uirbeach na Gaillimhe agus go leor eagraíochtaí eile.

Tá go leor blianta caite ó tharla an timpiste uafásach sin agus is beag nach raibh an tragóid ligthe i ndearmad, ach ar an 25 Meán Fómhair 2022, mar chuid de Cheiliúradh Céad Bliain Rannán Gharda Síochána na Gaillimhe, chuir na Gardaí Síochána ó Rannán na Gaillimhe agus Cumann an Gharda Síochána do Chomhaltaí ar Scor plaic suas ag an gClubtheach Tráchtála ag Cé na nGaltán; bhí daoine muinteartha na ndaoine siúd a bhásaigh an lá cinniúnach sin i láthair freisin nuair a nochtadh an phlaic.

Garda Eugene Mellotte and Sergeant Mick O'Malley closing the door on Eglinton Street Barracks for the last time. February 1986. Photo source: *Galway Advertiser.*
An Garda Eugene Mellotte agus an Sáirsint Mick O'Malley ag dúnadh dhoirse Bheairic Shráid Eglinton den uair dheireanach. Feabhra 1986.
Grianghraf: *Galway Advertiser.*

The following Tuesday, "an unprecedented security screen" surrounded Galway Courthouse for the appearance of six men and one woman, charged in connection with the payroll robbery and killing of Jerome O'Connor.

On the second day of the trial, two of the defendants pleaded guilty to manslaughter and were each sentenced to 10 years penal servitude. The others received various sentences for their parts in the robbery that had been carried out by a gang with alleged links to the IRA.

Dúnmharú agus lámhach Jerome O'Connor

An Déardaoin, 15 Lúnasa 1974, scaoileadh marbh Jerome O'Connor le linn robáil ar theip uirthi lasmuigh de Bhanc-Aontas Éireann i gCaisleán an Línsigh. Is bás a bhí ann a chuaigh i gcion go smior ar phobal na Gaillimhe – dúnmharú fir iontaigh a bhí i mbun a ghnó i gcroílár na cathrach.

Fear pósta ab ea Jerome, caoga a dó bliain d'aois a d'oibrigh le Conraitheoirí Tógála Sisk. An mhaidin sin, chuaigh sé chuig an mbanc chun tuarastal seachtainiúil na n-oibrithe a bhailiú. Pháirceáil an tiománaí an carr taobh amuigh den bhanc agus chuaigh Jerome isteach sa mbanc chun an an t-airgead a bhailiú.

Agus é ag teacht amach, agus £1,557 in airgead tirim á iompar aige, thug beirt fhear óga armtha aghaidh air agus bhí gránghunna teasctha ar iompar ag duine acu. D'fhéach duine de na fir leis an mála a bhaint de Jerome ach chuir Jerome ina choinne agus scaoileadh urchar le linn na streachailte. Bhí bás Jerome mar thoradh ar an ionsaí agus bhásaigh sé ar an láthair, agus thug na hionsaitheoirí na cosa leo leis an airgead.

Bhí imscrúdú na coire seo ar an imscrúdú ba mhó a rinne Gardaí na Gaillimhe riamh. Tháinig cúrsaí chun críche an deireadh seachtaine sin nuair a gabhadh deichniúr agus nuair a fuarthas taisce arm i roinnt tithe sa gcathair le linn an chuardaigh a mhair trí lá.

Bhí "slándáil nach bhfacthas a leithéid riamh cheana" thart timpeall ar Theach na Cúirte i nGaillimh an Mháirt dár gcionn nuair a tugadh seisear fear agus aon bhean amháin os comhair na cúirte agus nuair a cúisíodh iad i robáil an phárolla agus i ndúnmharú Jerome O'Connor.

Phléadáil beirt de na cosantóirí ciontach i ndúnorgain an dara lá den triail agus gearradh 10 mbliana pianseirbhíse an duine orthu. Gearradh pianbhreitheanna éagsúla ar an gcuid eile mar gheall ar a bpáirt sa robáil ar thug an bhuíon faoi a raibh ceangail líomhnaithe de réir tuairisce acu leis an IRA.

Members of Carraroe Station Party with Kate Sullivan (sitting) and her daughter Julia Sullivan (Joyce). Courtesy of Julia O'Donnell.

Comhaltaí ó Bhuíon Stáisiún na Ceathrún Rua i dteannta Kate Sullivan (ina suí) agus a hiníon Julia Sullivan (Joyce). Le caoinchead Julia O'Donnell.

18. Policing in relation to the Gaeltacht and the Irish language

When An Garda Siochana were first formed in 1922, approximately 10% of the population spoke Irish as their everyday language, mostly in regions on or near the western seaboard. Since this time, concerted efforts were made by subsequent Governments to revive the language. Various Garda Commissioners over the years were also to the forefront in this regard.

18. Póilíneacht maidir le lucht na Gaeltachta agus na Gaeilge

Nuair a cuireadh an Garda Síochána ar bun sa bhliain 1922, bhí tuairim is 10% de dhaonra na hÉireann arbh í an Ghaeilge gnáth-theanga an lae acu, an chuid is mó acu sin i gceantair leis an gcósta thiar nó gar don chósta thiar. Ó shin i leith, rinne Rialtais i ndiaidh a chéile iarrachtaí dúthrachtacha an teanga a athbheochan agus bhí Coimisinéirí éagsúla de chuid an Gharda chun tosaigh ina leith sin freisin.

In 1923, 500 places were reserved for Irish speaking recruits to the force. Extensive recruiting campaigns in Gaeltacht areas met with little success for various reasons. From the late 1920s to the mid-30s, preferential treatment was given to Irish speaking recruits. Basic instruction in conversational Irish was also provided to all recruits in training to improve the situation.

In 1924, a number of anonymous public contributions emerged in some of the national newspapers which criticised the Gardaí and their lack of use of the Irish language, particularly in Gaeltacht regions. Such public discussion prompted a written reply to the issue by the then Commissioner, Eoin Ó Dubhthaigh, whose rebuttal was reprinted in the newspapers. The Commissioner outlined the levels of fluency in the current force and of the ongoing training and encouragement in the organisation to improve the level of Irish speaking *(Garda Síochána and Irish,* 12.12.1924).

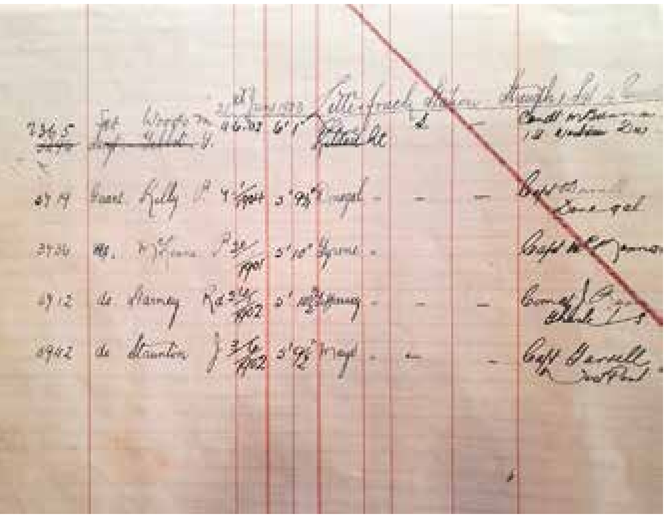
He specifically responded to an anonymous critic (who went under the pen name of Taistealaidhe) who had negatively assessed the situation with Irish fluency in Galway county, saying:

> *To date we occupy 62 stations in Co. Galway and, on looking over the personnel, I find that we have Irish speakers in Galway City (3 Sergeants and 2 Gardaí); Kilronan (1 Sergeant and 4 Gardaí); Spiddal (1 Sergeant and 3 Gardaí); Rosmuc (1 Sergeant and 3 Gardaí); Carraroe (1 Sergeant and 3 Gardaí); Lettermore (1 Sergeant and 3 Gardaí); Roundstone (1 Sergeant and 2 Gardaí); Kilconly and Menlough (1 Sergeant each); Corofin (3 Gardaí); Corrandulla and Cashel (2 Gardaí each); Ballinasloe, Claregalway, Ballymoe, Gort, Gorteen, Inveran, Bookeen, Dunmore, Clarinbridge and Barnaderg (1 Garda each); and yesterday, 6 Gardaí, who recently secured the Fáinne, were sent to Galway. In addition to above there are 50 men in the county, between Sergeants and Gardaí who, while not fluent*

In the heart of the Gaelteacht, December 1934. Lettermore Station Party, with Sergeant Morris Roe..
Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.
I gcroílár na Gaeltachta, Mí na Nollag, 1934. Buíon Stáisiún Leitir Móir, i dteannta an tSáirsint Morris Roe.
Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

Sa bhliain 1923, coinníodh 500 áit san fhórsa d'earcaigh a raibh Gaeilge acu. Ní rómhaith, ar chúiseanna éagsúla, a d'éirigh le feachtais earcaíochta a cuireadh ar bun i gceantair Ghaeltachta. Ó dheireadh na 1920idí go dtí lár na 1930idí, tugadh tús áite d'earcaigh a raibh Gaeilge acu. Le fonn feabhas a chur ar chúrsaí, cuireadh teagasc i gcomhrá bunúsach Gaeilge ar na hearcaigh go léir agus iad i mbun oiliúna.

I rith na bliana 1924, foilsíodh sleachta áirithe gan ainm údair ar na páipéir nuachta náisiúnta ina ndearnadh cáineadh ar na Gardaí faoina laghad úsáide a bhí á bhaint as an nGaeilge acu, go háirithe maidir le ceantair Ghaeltachta. Spreag plé poiblí den sórt sin freagra i scríbhinn maidir



Letterfrack Station Party, 1923.
Courtesy of An Garda Síochána
Foireann Bheairic Leitir Fraic, 1923.
Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

> *speakers, have a very good knowledge of the language and the remainder are making good progress by private study.*

'Taistealaidhe' responded to the rebuttal in the *Irish Independent* (To the Editor *Irish Independent,* 19.12.1924), stating:

> *I do not doubt the Commissioner's bona fides; I can only say that many of his Irish-speaking Gardaí have been very successful in concealing their knowledge of Irish from the inhabitants of the districts in which they are stationed.*
> *I have on unimpeachable authority that Gardaí wearing the Fáinne and who are stationed in a certain Irish-speaking district, speak English habitually to all who understand even a little of it.*

Given his background Commissioner O'Duffy was adamant that the newly formed force should be in the vanguard as regards the revival of the Irish language and was instrumental in setting up Conradh Gaelach an Gharda, a society to promote both the Irish language and culture as a whole in

leis an gceist ó Choimisinéir na linne, Eoin Ua Dubhthaigh, agus cuireadh an freagra sin i gcló ar na nuachtáin. Leag an Coimisinéir amach na leibhéil líofachta a bhain le Gardaí na linne agus an oiliúint leanúnach agus an spreagadh leanúnach a bhí ar bun san eagraíocht d'fhonn feabhas a chur ar labhairt na Gaeilge ag Gardaí (*Garda Síochána and Irish,* 12.12.1924).

Bhí freagra á thabhairt go sonrach ag an gCoimisinéir Eoin Ua Dubhthaigh ar chriticeoir, faoin ainm cleite Taistealaidhe, a scríobh go cáinteach faoin gcás maidir le líofacht sa Ghaeilge i gContae na Gaillimhe. Scríobh Ua Dubhthaigh:

> *To date we occupy 62 stations in Co. Galway and, on looking over the personnel, I find that we have Irish speakers in Galway City (3 Sergeants and 2 Gardaí); Kilronan (1 Sergeant and 4 Gardaí); Spiddal (1 Sergeant and 3 Gardaí); Rosmuc (1 Sergeant and 3 Gardaí); Carraroe (1 Sergeant and 3 Gardaí); Lettermore (1 Sergeant and 3 Gardaí); Roundstone (1 Sergeant and 2 Gardaí); Kilconly and Menlough (1 Sergeant each); Corofin (3 Gardaí); Corrandulla and Cashel (2 Gardaí each); Ballinasloe, Claregalway, Ballymoe, Gort, Gorteen, Inveran, Bookeen, Dunmore, Clarinbridge and Barnaderg (1 Garda each); and yesterday, 6 Gardaí, who recently secured the Fáinne, were sent to Galway. In addition to above, there are 50 men in the county, between Sergeants and Gardaí who, while not fluent speakers, have a very good knowledge of the language and the remainder are making good progress by private study.*

Bhí freagra ag 'Taistealaidhe' ar an bhfreagra sin ar an *Irish Independent* (To the Editor, *Irish Independent,* 19.12.1924), ina luaitear:

> *I do not doubt the Commissioner's bona fides; I can only say that many of his Irish-speaking Gardaí have been very successful in concealing their knowledge of Irish from the inhabitants of the districts in which they are stationed.*

the force. Garda periodicals *Iris an Gharda* and later *Guth an Gharda* regularly carried articles in the Irish language, actively encouraging the men to study the language.

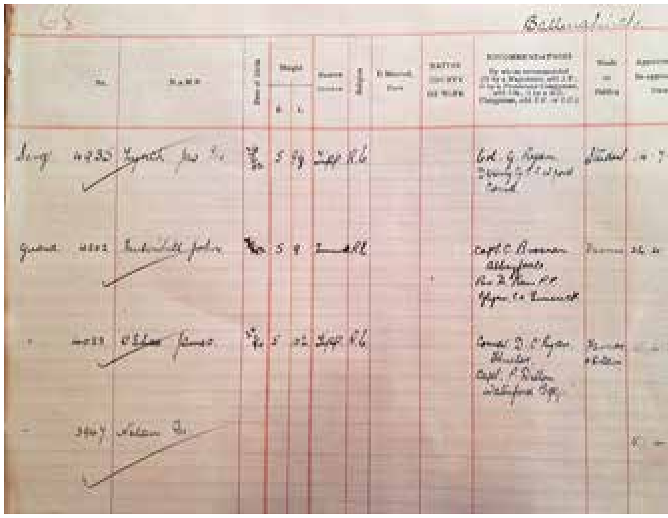
Even in stations where the members were capable of conversing in Irish, official correspondence continued to be carried out in English. The lack of amenities and remoteness of many of the Gaeltacht Stations was an obstacle to both the policing of these areas and the promotion of the language. A Government Commission in as early as 1926 recommended that members who could carry out their duties in Irish should receive extra pay. The Government disagreed.

Gardaí in some stations continued to make their own arrangements to improve in the language. In certain Stations the Sergeant provided lessons, others employed teachers whom they paid for themselves. Some studied on their own or joined the local Gaelic Leagues. Competency in Irish later became a prerequisite for promotion.

Despite the efforts involved, progress was slow for a number of reasons. One being the fear of being posted to remote Gaeltacht stations. One member writing to the *Garda Review* at the time described his station as follows:

> *The áras (station) is 4 miles from the nearest church, 8 miles from the nearest railway station, 20 miles from the nearest Doctor, 19 miles from the nearest District Court, 33 miles from the nearest District HQ and 36 miles from the nearest Divisional HQ. 99% of the people speak no English at all and there is no field for hurling or football.*

Other initiatives in the early years to improve the situation included a Linguaphone, with Irish records, being provided. Sadly, further efforts to officially promote the language involved a degree of compulsion from the authorities, leading to resentment on behalf of the members who had their duties to attend to.



Ballinahinch Station Party, 1923.
Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.
Foireann Bheairic Bhaile na hInse, 1923.
Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

> *I have on unimpeachable authority that Gardaí wearing the Fáinne and who are stationed in a certain Irish-speaking district, speak English habitually to all who understand even a little of it.*

I bhfianaise a chúlra féin, bhí an Coimisinéir Ua Dubhthaigh diongbháilte de gur cheart an fórsa nuabhunaithe a bheith i gceann an róid maidir le hathbheochan na Gaeilge agus ba é ba chúis le Conradh Gaelach an Gharda a chur ar bun, cumann ar mhaithe leis an nGaeilge agus an cultúr Gaelach go hiomlán a chur chun cinn san fhórsa. Bhíodh ailt i nGaeilge go rialta ar iriseáin de chuid an Gharda, leithéid *Iris an Gharda,* agus *Guth an Gharda* ina dhiaidh sin, agus na fir á spreagadh leis an teanga a fhoghlaim.

Fiú amháin sna beairicí ina raibh ar chumas na nGardaí comhrá a dhéanamh i nGaeilge, is i mBéarla a dheintí an comhfhreagras oifigiúil. Bhí easpa áiseanna agus an suíomh iargúlta ina bhac i gcuid mhór beairicí sa Ghaeltacht roimh an bpóilíneacht sa cheantar agus roimh chur chun cinn na Gaeilge. Mhol Coimisiún de chuig

An Garda Síochána

In 1933, the *Irish Press* recorded the visit of a group of Gardaí from the Dublin branch of the Gaelic League to the Aran Islands (Visit to Aran, 05.06.1933). The group, consisting of two Inspectors, two Superintendents and fourteen Gardaí, travelled to the Islands for two weeks to acquire a "blas of the Irish Language." The travelling party were met on their arrival in Galway by three Garda representatives, Superintendent Macken, Inspector Gaffney and Sergeant Morrisroe. The group visited Spiddal and Annaghdown before they departed to the Aran Islands.

In 1934, the Galway West Division was designated an all-Irish Division, with only men capable in the language stationed there. This reluctance in regard to the language persisted in the force and also in 1934, then Commissioner Eamon Broy persuaded the Government to pay an additional 7.5% to members based in Gaeltacht areas.

In December 1935, Commissioner Broy ordered members in all Irish speaking Districts to provide their evidence exclusively in Irish to the Courts. This led to controversy among certain members of the Judiciary and had to be relaxed later. In 1937, Irish was made compulsory for entry to An Garda Síochána.

Overall, the efforts to promote the language in the early years failed, with a Government Minister at the time stating that:

> *there was no sense in making the Force bilingual when the rest of the country was not.*

Since the foundation of the force, Gardaí have been assigned to the following Gaeltacht Stations in the Galway West (Galway) Division: Úarán Mór, Leacht Seoirse, An Ceathrú Rua, Cill Ronáin, Indreabhán, Maigh Cuilinn, Leitir Mór, Ros Muc, An Spidéal, Carna, An Mám and Sraith Salach.

The first Gardaí posted to An Ceathrú Rua in 1923 were as follows:

Fáinne An Garda Síochána.
Photo source: An Garda Síochána.

Fáinne an Gharda Síochána.
Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

an Rialtais, chomh luath leis an mbliain 1926, gur cheart pá breise a bheith ar fáil ag Gardaí a raibh ar a gcumas a gcuid dualgais a dhéanamh i nGaeilge. Níor aontaigh an Rialtas leis sin.

Lean Gardaí i mbeairicí áirithe ag déanamh a gcuid socruithe féin ar mhaithe le feabhas maidir le húsáid na Gaeilge. Thug an Sáirsint ceachtanna i Stáisiúin éagsúla agus bhí Sáirsintí eile a d'fhostaigh múinteoirí as a gcuid airgid féin. Bhí Gardaí a chuaigh i mbun foghlama as a stuaim féin agus daoine eile a cheangail le Conradh na Gaeilge. Tráth níos faide anonn, bheadh inniúlacht ar úsáid na Gaeilge ina réamhchoinníoll maidir le hardú céime a fháil.

Ainneoin dícheall den sórt sin, níor tharla aon dul chun cinn suntasach ar feadh tamaill. Bhí cúiseanna éagsúla leis sin, an faitíos ina measc ar Ghardaí éagsúla go gcuirfí ar lonnú iad i mbeairic iargúlta i gceantar Gaeltachta. Thug Garda amháin, ag scríobh dó ar an *Garda Review* ag an am, cuntas mar seo a leanas ar an mbeairic ina raibh sé:

> *the áras (station) is 4 miles from the nearest church, 8 miles from the nearest railway station, 20 miles from the nearest Doctor, 19 miles from the nearest District Court, 33 miles from the nearest District HQ and 36 miles from the nearest Divisional HQ. 99% of the people speak no English at all and there is no field for hurling or football.*

I rith na mblianta tosaigh sin, bhí le háireamh ar na hiarrachtaí eile feabhas a chur ar an gcás, gur

Launch of Aer Árann, 1971, first flight to land on Inis Mór. Left to right: Ralph Langan, Sergeant Brendan Keane, Bill Wallace, pilot and Colie Hernon.
Photo source: *Connacht Tribune.*
Seoladh Aer Árann, 1971, an chéad eitleán a thuirling ar Inis Mór. Ó chlé go deas: Ralph Langan, An Sáirsint Brendan Keane, Bill Wallace, Píolóta agus Cóilín Ó hIarnáin.
Grianghraf: An *Curadh Connachtach.*

Sergeant Thomas Burke, 4915; Garda J. Keane, 4336; Garda M. Patten, 4576; Garda D. Twomey, 4562 and Garda E. Mahoney, 4495.

In September 1957, the *Connacht Tribune* reported on the preparations being made for the introduction of the "first one-man station" in Connemara, following the reduction of Leenane Garda Barracks to one Garda (Making Way For The First One-Man Garda Station, 07.09.1957). The article outlines that: "The Garda selected will be married and will reside in the barracks and will have the status of village constable."

Fifty-one years later, an article in the *Connacht Tribune* noted the commencement of a "one-man protest" against the condition of his working conditions at the Lettermore Station (Garda's protest over station in a wooden hut, 03.10.2008). Garda Seán Ó Curráin took the stand to object to the prefabricated building – described by Ó Curráin as "a wooden hut" - serving as the station

cuireadh cúrsa Gaeilge Linguaphone ar cheirníní ar fáil i ngach stáisiún sa tír. Is trua gur theastaigh gné den éigeantacht maidir le hiarrachtaí eile an teanga a chur chun cinn go hoifigiúil agus gurb é an toradh a bhí air sin nach fabhar a bhí ag Gardaí, a raibh réimsí eile dualgais le cur díobh acu, leis na hiarrachtaí.

Sa bhliain 1933, bhí tuairisc ar an Irish Press ar chuairt a thug dream Gardaí, a bhí ceangailte le craobh de Chonradh na Gaeilge i mBaile Átha Cliath, go hÁrainn (Visit to Aran, 05.06.1933). D'fhan an grúpa seo, beirt Chigirí, beirt Cheannfort agus ceithre Gharda dhéag coicís in Árainn go gcuirfidís blas ar a gcuid Gaeilge. Ar a theacht chomh fada le Gaillimh dóibh, bhí triúr ionadaithe de chuid an Gharda rompu – an Ceannfort Macken, an Cigire Gaffney agus an Sáirsint Morrisroe – agus thug siad cuairt go dtí an Spidéal agus go hEanach Chuain sula ndeachaigh siad isteach go hÁrainn.

Sa bhliain 1934, fógraíodh gur Rannán Lán-Ghaeilge a bhí i Rannán Iarthar na Gaillimhe agus nach gcuirfí fear ar bith ar lonnú ansin ach an té a bhí inniúil ar úsáid na teanga. Lean an drogall a bhain le hionaid iargúlta i measc na nGardaí agus, an bhliain chéanna sin, chuir an Coimisinéir Éamon Broy ina luí ar an Rialtas gur cheart pá breise 7.5% a íoc le Gardaí a bhí ag fónamh i gceantar Gaeltachta.

I mí na Nollag 1935, d'ordaigh an Coimisinéir Broy do na Gardaí ar fad i gceantair Ghaeilge a gcuid fianaise ar fad a thabhairt i nGaeilge sa Chúirt. Tharraing sin conspóid i measc dhaoine áirithe de na Breithiúna agus bhí gá le himeacht aimsire an t-ordú a mhaolú. Ón mbliain 1937, bhí an Ghaeilge éigeantach maidir le dul isteach sa Gharda Síochána.

Tríd is tríd, níor éirigh leis na hiarrachtaí an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn i rith bhlianta tosaigh an Stáit agus bhí Aire Rialtais amháin a dúirt:

> *there is no sense in making the force bilingual when the rest of the country is not.*

An Garda Síochána

Official opening of Clifden Garda Station on 3 June 1972. Left to right: Commissioner Weymes; Chief Superintendent J. Meaney; Minister for Justice Des O'Malley; Superintendent Murray; unknown person; Sergeant Kyne. Photo source: *Connacht Tribune.*
Oscailt oifigiúil Bheairic na nGardaí ar an gClochán an 3 Meitheamh 1972. Ó chlé go deas: An Coimisinéir Weymes: An tArd-Cheannfort J. Meaney; Des O'Malley, An tAire Dlí agus Cirt; An Ceannfort Murray; (anaithnid), An Sáirsint Seán Kyne. Grianghraf: An *Curadh Connachtach.*

and refused to continue to work from there. The decision was taken to allow the Garda to work out of Rosmuc Station until alternative arrangements could be considered.

In 2021, in line with the Official Languages Acts, An Garda Síochána commissioned a special Fáinne Gaeilge (gold, silver and cupla focal), developed by Conradh na Gaeilge to further the efforts to increase the use of the Irish language. The goal of the initiative being to encourage all personnel to use whatever Irish they have and to provide an effective way for members of the public to identify Irish speaking personnel.

> *Our focus is on strengthening our Irish language services through recruitment, training and promotion of the language in order to provide a policing service that supports communities and staff who wish to engage through the medium of Irish.*

Commissioner J.A. Harris, An Garda Síochána, *Irish Language Strategy, 2022 – 2025.*

Ó cuireadh an fórsa ar bun, ceapadh Gardaí sna Stáisiúin Ghaeltachta seo a leanas i gContae na Gaillimhe: Órán Mór, Leacht Seoirse, an Cheathrú Rua, Cill Rónáin, Indreabhán, Maigh Cuilinn, Leitir Móir, Ros Muc, an Spidéal, Carna, an Mám agus Sraith Salach.

> *Seo a leanas na Gardaí is túisce a ceapadh ar an gCeathrú Rua sa bhliain 1923: an Sáirsint Thomas Burke, 4915, an Garda J. Keane, 4336, an Garda M. Patten, 4576, an Garda D. Twomey 4562 agus an Garda E. Mahoney, 4495.*

In alt ar an gCuradh Connachtach, luaitear tús le "one-man protest" mar gheall ar chúinsí oibre i Stáisiún Leitir Móir (Garda's protest over station in a wooden hut, 03.10.2008). Bhí an Garda Seán Ó Curráin ag aighneas mar gheall ar fhoirgneamh réamhdhéanta – bothán adhmaid mar a thug Ó Curráin air – a bheith mar stáisiún agus dhiúltaigh sé oibriú as an bhfoirgneamh sin. Socraíodh ligean don Gharda oibriú as Stáisiún Ros Muc go dtí go bhféadfaí malairt socruithe a phlé.

Sa bhliain 2021, mar gheall ar Achtanna na dTeangacha Oifigiúla, choimisiúnaigh an Garda Síochána Fáinne Gaeilge speisialta (fáinne óir, fáinne airgid agus fáinne an chúpla focal), arna fhorbairt ag Conradh na Gaeilge, d'fhonn treisiú leis na hiarrachtaí úsáid na Gaeilge a chur chun cinn. Tá de chuspóir leis an tionscnamh seo gach duine de na Gardaí a spreagadh le húsáid a bhaint as an nGaeilge atá acu agus modh éifeachtúil a chur ar fáil ag daoine den phobal Gardaí a bhfuil labhairt na Gaeilge acu a thabhairt chun suntais.

Scríobh an Coimisinéir J.A. Harris i *Straitéis Gaeilge an Gharda Síochána, 2022 – 2025:*

> *Táimid dírithe ar ár seirbhísí Gaeilge a neartú trí earcaíocht, oiliúint agus cur chun cinn na teanga ionas go mbeidh muid in ann seirbhís póilíneachta a sholáthar a thacaíonn leis an bpobal agus le baill foirne atá ag iarraidh a ngnó a dhéanamh trí mheán na Gaeilge.*

Lunch time in Connemara. Garda Michael Heanue, Garda Kieran Ruane, Sergeant Joe Boyce, Garda Colm Kavanagh, Garda Ray Lyons and Garda Tony Mitchell (RIP). Photo source: *Connacht Tribune.*

Tae beag i gConamara. An Garda Michael Heanue, An Garda Kieran Ruane, An Sáirsint Joe Boyce, An Garda Colm Kavanagh, An Garda Ray Lyons agus An Garda Tony Mitchell (RIP). Grianghraf: An *Curadh Connachtach.*

19. Connemara Insights

by Micheál Ó Máille, Gortmore, Rosmuc

There's an intriguing tale about the old barracks in Carna. This four-storey building was both unsuitable and too large for its location. Interestingly, it was rumoured to have been originally intended to be constructed in India, but due to an alleged mix-up with the plans and paperwork, it ended up being built in Carna by mistake!

Here in Connemara a number of former RIC barracks were attacked and damaged during the War of Independence but gradually law and order began to return to policing affairs.

19. An Garda Síochána i gConamara: Léargas

le Micheál Ó Máille, An Gort Mór, Ros Muc

Tá scéal fíorspéisiúil ann maidir leis an tseanbheairic i gCarna. Bhí an foirgneamh ceithre stóir seo mí-oiriúnach agus ró-mhór araon don áit a raibh sé lonnaithe. Spéisiúil go leor, bhí sé ina luaidreán gur san India a bhí sé beartaithe an foirgneamh a thógáil an chéad lá riamh, ach mar gheall ar mheascán líomhnaithe maidir le pleananna agus le páipéarachas, tógadh an foirgneamh i gCarna trí dhearmad!

An Garda Síochána

A significant policing change that occurred in 2021, was that a full service in the Irish language was now available to the people of the Gaeltacht, although the Gardaí and the people often did not understand each other very well. Garda Headquarters decided to recruit staff from the various Gaeltachts of the country to serve the Irish speakers, but these Gardaí were not allowed to work in their home areas. This left many Gardaí with different dialects scattered across the west coast of the country.

In Carraroe there were the likes of Tim Malone from Ceann Trá, Co. Kerry, in Rosmuc, Charlie Friel from Donegal and Kerryman Pat Ferriter. In Lettermore there was a man from Chúil Aodha, Co. Cork, Seán Ó Cellaigh, or Sergeant Kelly as he was better known. Sergeant Kelly was very interested in the history of the Gardaí and he gathered a lot of information and lore while he served in the Ceantair na nOílean, Carna and later in the town of Clifden.

Sergeant Kelly had a good knowledge of the 'poitín industry' in the islands as he came from Derryancollin, in Cul Aodha, Cork, an area with a tradition of poitín-making.

Sergeant Kelly once relayed me stories of searches that he was involved in:

> *A new boat was assigned to the Garda Station in Oughterard for poitín duties. It was late one particular afternoon when we visited an offshore island and arrived at a certain house.*
> *I spotted the keg in the middle of the floor through the window. Among those present was an old woman and she sat on the bed covering the keg with her dress. She refused to get up and said we were not allowed to search her without a female Garda. Due to the tide and light conditions, we had to leave empty handed.*
>
> *On a later occasion we made another 'raid' in the same area but as soon as we put to sea the bell in the church in Leitir Meallain rang to*

Bhíodh ionsaithe agus damáiste á dhéanamh d'iar-bheairicí an RIC anseo i gConamara le linn Chogadh na Saoirse ach de réir a chéile filleadh ar riail agus ar reacht i gcúrsaí póilíneachta.

Athrú suntasach eile a tharla i gcúrsaí póilíneachta ná go raibh seirbhís iomlán trí Ghaeilge ar fáil anois do mhuintir na Gaeltachta, cé gur minic nár thuig siad féin a chéile. Rinne Ceanncheathrú an Gharda Síochána cinneadh foireann a earcú ó na ceantair Ghaeltachta éagsúla ar fud na tíre chun freastal ar chainteoirí Gaeilge, ach níor tugadh cead do na Gardaí seo oibriú ina gceantar féin. Chiallaigh sé seo go raibh Gardaí le canúintí éagsúla scaipthe ar fud chósta thiar na tíre.

Bhí leithéidí Tim Malone as Ceann Trá, Co. Chiarraí ar an gCeathrú Rua agus i Ros Muc bhí Charlie Friel ó Dhún na nGall agus Pat Ferriter as Ciarraí. Bhí fear as Cúil Aodha, Co. Chorcaí, Seán Ó Ceallaigh, nó an Sáirsint Kelly mar ab fhearr aithne air, i Leitir Móir. Bhí spéis thar na bearta ag an Sáirsint Kelly i stair na nGardaí agus bhailigh sé go leor eolais agus seanchais nuair a bhí sé ag obair i gCeantar na nOileán, i gCarna agus i mbaile an Chlocháin níos deireanaí.

Bhí cur amach maith ag an Sáirsint Kelly ar 'thionscal an phoitín' sna hoileáin mar gurbh as Derryancollin, i gCúil Aodha, Corcaigh é, ceantar lenar bhain traidisiún déanta poitín.

Rinne an Sáirsint Kelly cur síos uair amháin dom ar scéalta a bhain le cuardaigh ina mbíodh sé páirteach:

> *Cuireadh bád nua do chúrsaí poitín ar fáil do Stáisiún na nGardaí in Uachtar Ard. Bhí sé deireanach go maith tráthnóna amháin nuair a thugamar cuairt ar oileán amach ón gcósta agus chuamar chomh fada le teach áirithe. Tríd an bhfuinneog chonaic mé an ceaig a bhí i lár an urláir. Bhí seanbhean ina measc siúd a bhí sa teach agus í suite ar an leaba agus an ceaig á chlúdach aici lena gúna. Dhiúltaigh sí teacht amach as an leaba agus ní raibh cead againn í*

Garda Water Unit, Oughterard 1970s.
Photo source: ***Connacht Tribune.***

Aonad Uisce an Gharda, Uachtar Ard, 1970idí.
Grianghraf: An ***Curadh Connachtach.***

warn the islanders that we were on our way. This search was also unsuccessful and as a result of this, the Archbishop of Tuam ordered the church to be rededicated. Needless to say, it was difficult to catch the poitín makers in the act!

In 1924, a Carraroe man paid dearly for his journey east when he was arrested by the Gardaí. This is how the *Irish Times* described the incident:

Although in those early years the Gardaí had some trouble enforcing the law of the land they succeeded in doing this for the most part. The Garda Síochána barracks at Gortmore, Rosmuc was burned down at least four times in those early years; however, it has stood the test of time and it still standing.

An Garda Síochána is held in high esteem by the Irish public and has gained a reputation around the globe as an independent, fair organisation that has stood by its core principles since its inception. I hope they will be showered with the same praise in the years to come.

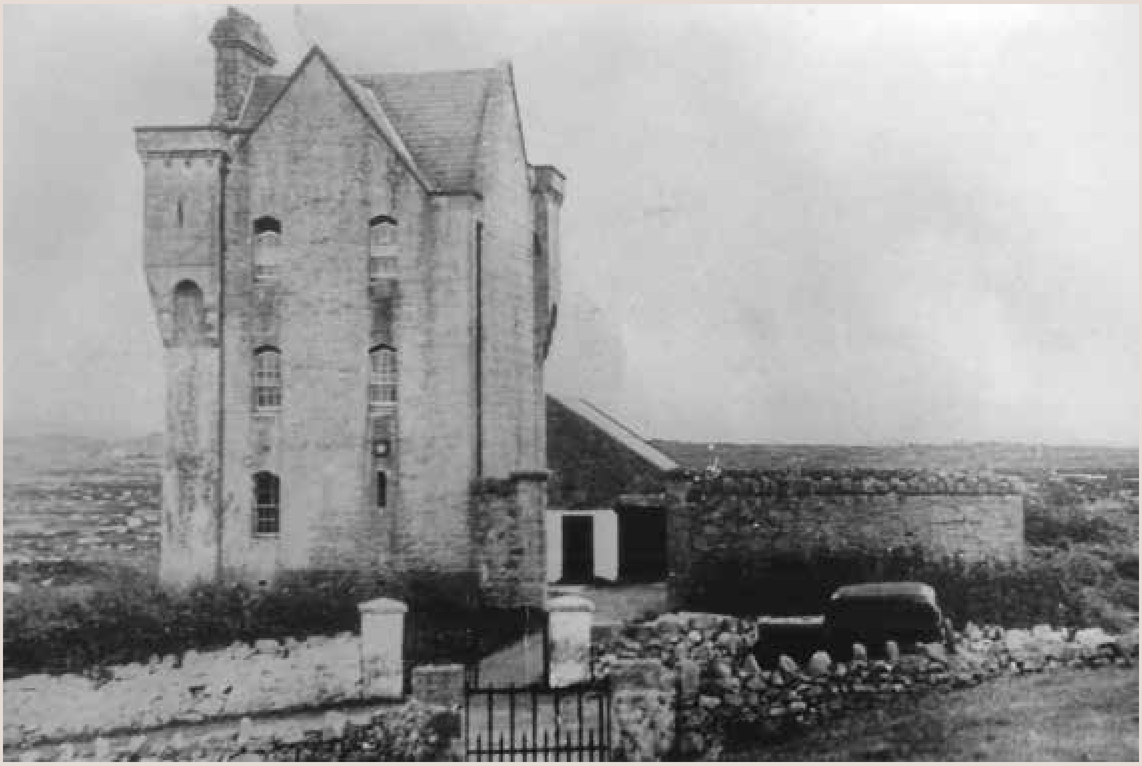
a chuardach gan Bangharda a bheith i láthair. Mar gheall ar an taoide agus go raibh sé ag tosú ag fáil dorcha, bhí orainn imeacht agus bhí ár dhá láimh chomh fada le chéile.

Thugamar 'ruathar' faoin gceantar céanna tráth níos deireanaí ach nuair a chuireamar chun farraige, thosaigh an clog i séipéal Leitir Mealláin ag bualadh chun fainic a chur ar mhuintir an oileáin go rabhamar ar an mbealach. Níor éirigh leis an gcuardach sin ach oiread agus mar thoradh air sin d'ordaigh Ardeaspag Thuama go ndéanfaí an séipéal a atiomnú. Ní gá a rá go raibh sé deacair breith ar lucht déanta an phoitín!

D'íoc fear as an gCeathrú Rua go daor as turas soir sa bhliain 1924 nuair a ghabh na Gardaí é. Seo a leanas mar a rinneadh cur síos ar an eachtra san *Irish Times:*

Cé go raibh deacrachtaí ag na Gardaí dlí na tíre a chur i bhfeidhm sna blianta tosaigh sin, d'éirigh leo den chuid is mó. Lasadh beairic an

An Garda Síochána



CARNA GARDA STATION (demolished c. 1952)

According to local folklore, this building was intended to be built in India by the British authorities but it was built in Carna due to a mix-up of plans. This same legend is attached to a number of other Police Stations and official buildings across the country which questions its credibility.
The Edwardian design of the building would most likely have been common at the time and there is also no doubting the austere authority a building of this nature conveyed.
***(Irish Travel,* 1950)**

Stáisiún Gardaí Charna (leagtha c. 1952)

De réir béaloideas áitiúil, ba thall san India a bhí an foirgneamh seo le tógáil ach thóg údaráis na Breataine i gCarna é mar gheall gur meascadh suas na pleananna. Tá an scéal céanna ráite faoi go leor Stáisiúin Póilíní agus foirgnimh oifigiúla eile ar fud na tíre, rud a ardaíonn ceist maidir le chomh fíor agus atá an scéal.
Bhí an deara Edwardian a bhí ar an bhfoirgneamh coitianta ag an am agus níl aon dabht ach gur comhartha cumhachta a bhí sa dearadh seo, go háirithe amuigh faoin tuath.
***(Irish Travel,* 1950)**

Gharda Síochána ar an nGort Mór i Ros Muc ceithre huaire ar a laghad sna blianta tosaigh sin, mar sin féin, tá an bheairic ann i gcónaí.

Tá ardmheas ag pobal na hÉireann ar an nGarda Síochána agus tá clú agus cáil bainte amach acu ar fud an domhain mhóir, mar eagraíocht neamhspleách agus chóir agus atá ag seasamh lena bunphrionsabail ó bunaíodh í. Tá súil agam go mbeidh an moladh céanna á fháil acu sna blianta atá romhainn.

Garda Mick Lernihan, Eyre Square, 1956. Courtesy of Superintendent Michael Lernihan (Retd).
An Garda Mick Lernihan, An Fhaiche Mhór, 1956. Le caoinchead an Cheannfoirt Michael Lernihan (Ar scor).

20. Garda Uniform

The Garda uniform has recently undergone a change in style driven by necessity as regards operational practicality. The formal shirt and tie will be replaced by a more practical liveried polo-shirt and the trousers will be replaced by navy combats with extra pockets for day-to-day use. This will be the 5th change to the Garda uniform since the inception of the force.

20. Éide an Gharda

Tá athrú stíl tagtha ar éide an Gharda Síochána le déanaí de bharr riachtanas maidir le praiticiúlacht oibríochtúil. Tiocfaidh léinte póló faoi libhré atá níos praiticiúla in áit na léine agus an charbhait fhoirmiúil. Beidh brístí comhraic dúghorma a mbeidh pócaí breise acu ag teacht in áit na dtreabhsar, i gcomhair úsáid laethúil. An 5ú athrú ar éide na nGardaí ó bunaíodh an fórsa a bheidh san athrú seo.

Garda Dan Gallagher, transferred from Cahir in County Tipperary to Galway on 13 June 1925.
Courtesy of Tony Gallagher.
An Garda Dan Gallagher a aistríodh go Gaillimh ar an 13 Meitheamh 1925 ón gCathair i gContae Thiobraid Árann.
Le caoinchead Tony Gallagher.

The original uniform of 1922, when eventually issued, consisted of a formal, high-collared tunic and shirts with detachable collars. Up to the issue of this uniform in sufficient numbers, the original members of the force were distinguishable only by their Garda caps.

It was not until 1952 that the first major change took place with the issue of an open-neck tunic with the Garda crests on the lapels, a style which remains with the force to this day for formal occasions. The old police helmet, up to that time

Is éard a bhí san éide bunaidh sa bhliain 1922, nuair a eisíodh faoi deireadh é, ná ionar foirmiúil le cába ard air agus léinte arbh fhéidir na cábaí a bhaint díobh. Go dtí gur eisíodh an éide seo ar dhóthain Gardaí, níorbh fhéidir na chéad chomhaltaí a dhealú ón ngnáthphobal, a gcaipíní Garda amháin a dhealaigh iad.

Níor cuireadh aon mhórathrú i bhfeidhm ar an éide go dtí an bhliain 1952 nuair a eisíodh ionar muineál oscailte a raibh suaitheantas an Gharda Síochána ar na liopaí, agus is stíl é sin atá fós in úsáid ar an bhfórsa ar ócáidí foirmiúla. Cuireadh deireadh leis an seanchlogad póilíneachta chomh maith, a chaití i mBaile Átha Cliath agus i gCorcaigh roimhe sin.

Tugadh 'bulls-wool' ar an dara tréimhse seo den éide ós rud é go raibh an t-éadach crua agus bhí cáil air as bheith deacair a choinneáil glan. Cnaipí airgid a bhí ann agus theastaíodh snasú rialta uathu.

Bhí an éide sin in úsáid go dtí an bhliain 1987 nuair a tugadh isteach éadach a raibh dath gorm níos éadroime agus cnaipí agus ionchomhartha óir anóidithe air. Caitheadh an speic caipín phlaisteach i leataobh freisin.

Ba bhreá an radharc iad na Gardaí agus an éide seo orthu, ach mar sin féin, bhí sí ní b'oiriúnaí fós do dhualgais searmanais ar thalamh na paráide seachas d'fhírinní obair nua-aimseartha na bpóilíní.

Tugadh isteach seaicéad patróil ní b'fheidhmiúla do dhualgas lasmuigh, in áit an ionair fhoirmiúil, mar iarracht chun compord agus praiticiúlacht a chur ar fáil tráth a mbíonn an aimsir luaineach. Tugadh geansaí NATO isteach den chéad uair freisin.

Tugadh an éide cothrom le dáta arís in 2005/6 nuair a athraíodh an seaicéad patróil le go mbeadh stíl casóige níos giorra air. Eisíodh buataisí cosanta ag an tráth seo freisin. Cuireadh athrú ar thomhas an tseaicéid patróil roinnt blianta ina dhiaidh sin, agus is é sin an éide atá in úsáid sa lá atá inniu ann.

Superintendent Mick Curley and Sergeant Christy Joyce at Kilronan Garda Station. Photo source: *Garda Review.*
An Ceannfort Mick Curley agus an Sáirsint Christy Joyce ag Stáisiún Gardaí Chill Rónáin.
Grianghraf: *Garda Review.*

Garda Jim Cuddy. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.
An Garda Jim Cuddy. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

worn in Dublin and Cork, was withdrawn. This second issue of the uniform became known as the 'bulls-wool' as the material was stiff and notoriously hard to keep clean. The buttons were silver in colour and required regular polishing.

This 'bulls-wool' uniform was worn until 1987, when the material was changed to a lighter shade of blue with anodised gold buttons and insignia; the cap with the plastic peak was consigned to history. While impressive to look at, this uniform was still more appropriate for ceremonial duties on the parade ground rather than the realities of modern police work.

In 1991, the formal tunic was replaced for outdoor duty with a more functional patrol jacket in an attempt to provide both comfort and practicality for varying weather conditions. A NATO sweater was also introduced for the first time.

Eisíodh seaicéid sá-dhíonacha chuig gach comhalta sa bhliain 2007.

Rinneadh athrú mór eile ar na héide sa bhliain 2024 nuair a eisíodh brístí comhraic agus léinte póló marcáilte den chéad uair ar na comhaltaí oibríochta suas chomh fada le grád an Chigire. Rinneadh nuachóiriú mór ar an seaicéad patróil freisin, ar aon dul le fórsaí Eorpacha eile.

In ainneoin na n-athruithe ar fad ar éide an Gharda Síochána i gcaitheamh na mblianta, d'fhan dearadh chaipín na nGardaí mar a chéile tríd is tríd, cé is moite den athrú ar éadach na speice sa bhliain 1987. Sa bhliain 2020, leasaíodh rialacháin chun cead a thabhairt do bhaill áirithe den fhórsa ceannbheart ar leith a chaitheamh a bhaineann lena gcreideamh reiligiúnach agus cultúrtha. Sa bhliain 2025 eisíodh caipíní baseball le haghaidh úsáid oifigiúil. chun deis a thabhairt do chomhaltaí áirithe ceannbheart ar leith a

An Garda Síochána

First day of new uniform, Galway Garda Station, Mill Street, Galway, 2024. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.
An chéad lá san éide nua, Beairic na nGardaí i nGaillimh, Gaillimh, 2024. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

In 2005, the uniform was again updated, with the patrol jacket being changed to a shorter blouse style. Protective boots were also issued at this time. The fit of the patrol jacket was changed once more some years later and this is the uniform in use today. Stab vests were issued in 2007 to all members of the force.

Despite the changes to the uniform over the years, the Garda cap remained largely consistent in design, with only the material of the peak having been changed in 1987. In 2020, regulations were amended to allow certain members of the force to wear particular headgear associated with their religious and cultural beliefs. In 2025 base ball caps were issued for offical use. Specialist Units such as Armed Support, Scenes of Crime, Mountain Bike, Motor-Cyclists and Public Order Units are issued with uniforms and equipment suited to their operational needs.

bhaineann lena reiligiún nó le cúrsaí cultúir a chaitheamh agus sa bhliain 2025 tugadh isteach caipíní daorchluiche ar deireadh thiar mar chuid den éide oibríochta chaighdeánach.

Eisítear éide agus trealamh a oireann dá gcuid riachtanas oibríochta chuig Sainaonaid amhail an tAonad Tacaíochta faoi Airm, Aonad na Láithreacha Coire, Aonad na Rothar Sléibhe, Aonad na nGluaisrothaithe agus an tAonad Oird Phoiblí.

Ordaíodh leis an gcéad Chód don Gharda Síochána sa bhliain 1928 nár mhór do chomhaltaí ar dualgas "a bheith glan agus dea-chóirithe, idir a gcuma féin, a gcuid éadaí agus an chuma atá ar a dtrealamh. Tá siad le bheith bearrtha i gceart agus a gcuid gruaige gearrtha agus cóirithe mar is cuí. Ní mór na cnaipí, na glais lámh, an crann bagair agus an cás crainn bagair atá acu a bheith glan agus snasta." Tugadh cead do Ghardaí féasóg a bheith orthu faoi dheireadh sa bhliain 2021.

Garda Uniforms left to right: 1987, 1952 and 1922. Photo source: Superintendent Damien Flanagan.
Éide an Gharda, ó chlé go deas: 1987, 1952 agus 1922. Grianghraf: An Ceannfort Damien Flanagan.

Garda Cap badges from 1922 to 2025.
Photo source: ***Garda Review.***
Suaitheantais Chaipíní an Gharda ó 1922 go 2025
Grianghraf: ***Garda Review.***

The first Garda Síochána Code in 1928 directed that "members on duty are to be clean and regular in their person, clothing and equipment. They are to be properly shaved with hair properly cut and dressed. Their buttons, handcuffs, truncheon and truncheon case are to be clean and polished." Eventually, in 2021, Gardaí were permitted to wear beards.

An Garda Síochána

Garda Aidan McNulty and Garda D.K. Lawlor in the Garda Communications room, Mill Street, Galway, c. 1980s. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.

An Garda Aidan McNulty agus an Garda D.K. Lawlor i Seomra Cumarsáide an Gharda, Sráid an Mhuilinn, Gaillimh, c. 1980idí. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

21. Equipment

Traditionally, four items of equipment are required for policing. Gardaí require something to see and be seen at night, a means of raising alarm, a weapon of defence and a method of restraining a prisoner. The Gardaí of 1922 and for many years were issued with dry battery lamps, a whistle, a truncheon and a pair of cumbersome 'D' handcuffs which would not have been a personal issue.

21. Trealamh

Ceithre bhall de ghnáth a bhíonn ag teastáil i gcomhair póilíneachta. Bíonn ní éigin ag teastáil le feiceáil leis agus chun bheith feiceálach san oíche, bealach chun foláireamh a thabhairt, arm cosanta agus bealach le sriain a chur ar phríosúnach. Eisíodh lampaí ar chumhacht cadhnra tirim, feadóg, crann bagair agus péire dornaisc 'D', nach eisiúint phearsanta iad, ar Ghardaí na bliana 1922 agus ar Ghardaí go ceann roinnt blianta ina dhiaidh sin.

The modern equivalents of this equipment are various torches, a Tetra digital radio, a 16"ASP retractable baton and ASP hinged handcuffs.

The original truncheon (baton) had been a weapon of police forces in various forms for previous decades. It is effectively a 15" piece of hardwood, the weight of which depending on the type of wood used. It was carried in a leather case which hung from a leather belt on the tunic and later was carried in a special concealed baton pocket in the trousers. After many years and various trials, the baton was replaced by the ASP retractable baton in 2007, a telescopic baton carried overtly on the utility belt. In 2009, Gardaí were also issued with a canister of 'Oleoresin Capsicum' (O.C.) spray for personal protection. This piece of equipment is also carried on the utility belt.

The whistle has now been consigned to ceremonial use only but its original purpose was to assist the Garda raise the alarm and seek assistance when required. While this may have been of some use in the bigger cities, it is unlikely to have been of much assistance to members patrolling the rural country roads and lanes throughout the country. The advent of the Garda Radio system in 1941, over the years gradually improved communications for the force with initially bulky dry battery radio transmitters being trialled. By 1947, radios were fitted to just nine cars with a further six cars fitted with one way (receiving only) set-ups. Radios were only suitable for vehicles, which were in short supply in the early decades of the organisation. Since the '70s, Personal Radios revolutionised the communication system and today the current Tetra Digital personal radio issued in 2009, coupled with Computer Aided Dispatch control rooms, ensure that all parts of the country are now reachable. In addition to the enhanced technology and performance, these systems ensure an enhanced encrypted system within the organisation and a compatibility to link with other agencies if and when the need arises.

Is ionann an trealamh sin agus tóirsí éagsúla, raidió digiteach Tetra, smachtín inghiorraithe ASP 16" agus dornaisc insithe ASP na linne seo.

Ba é crann bagair bunaidh (smachtín) an t-arm a d'úsáid fórsaí póilíneachta i bhfoirmeacha éagsúla leis na deicheanna de bhlianta roimhe sin. Go bunúsach is píosa crua-adhmaid 15" ar fad é agus braitheann an meáchan ar an gcineál adhmaid a úsáideadh. Iompraíodh i gcás leathair é a bhí i bhfostú de bheilt leathair ar an léine agus níos déanaí iompraíodh i bpóca speisialta ceilte sa treabhsar é. I ndiaidh roinnt maith blianta agus trialacha éagsúla, thóg an smachtín inghiorraithe ASP áit an chrainn bhagair sa bhliain 2007, smachtín teileascópach a iompraíodh go hoscailte ar bheilt fearais. Eisíodh ceanastar 'Oleoresin Capsicum' (O.C.) ar na Gardaí sa bhliain 2009 i gcomhair cosaint phearsanta. Iompraítear an píosa trealaimh seo ar an mbeilt fearais freisin.

Ní úsáidtear an fheadóg ach amháin i gcomhair úsáid searmanais anois agus ba i gcomhair na Gardaí foláireamh a thabhairt nuair a theastaigh cúnamh uathu a bhí an fheadóg an chéad lá riamh. Cé gur mór an chúnaimh a bhí san fheadóg sna cathracha níos mó ní móide gur chuidigh sé mórán le comhaltaí a bhí ar patról ar bhóithre agus ar róidíní na gceantar tuaithe ar fud na tíre. Le teacht chóras Raidió an Gharda Síochána sa bhliain 1941 tháinig feabhas ar chúrsaí cumarsáide de réir a chéile don fhórsa agus triail á baint as tarchuradóirí raidió téagartha ar chumhacht cadhnra tirim ar dtús. Faoin mbliain 1947 ní raibh ach naoi gcarr feistithe le raidió agus bhí cumraíocht aontreo (glacadh amháin) feistithe i sé charr eile. Ní raibh raidiónna feiliúnach ach amháin do charranna, a bhí gann sna chéad deicheanna de bhlianta ó bunaíodh an eagraíocht. D'athraigh Raidiónna Pearsanta an córas cumarsáide as éadan nuair a tugadh isteach iad sna 70idí agus tríd an raidió pearsanta Digiteach Tetra a eisíodh sa bhliain 2009 chomh maith le seomraí rialaithe Seachadta Ríomhchuidithe cinntítear

Garda Brendan Melvin and Garda John Power, Divisional Communications Room, Eglinton Street, January 1986. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.
An Garda Brendan Melvin agus an Garda John Power, Seomra Cumarsáide Rannach, Sráid Eglinton, Eanáir 1986. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

The original Civic Guard were initially to be armed with a Webley revolver firearm for personal protection. Following the Kildare mutiny it was decided, considering the still fluid political situation in the country, that arming a large body of men may not be the wisest of decisions. The decision was then made that the force would remain predominantly unarmed.

While Detectives were routinely armed across the years, policy has shifted towards specialised firearm units, trained and equipped to deal with critical firearm incidents. The Emergency Response Unit (ERU) has been in existence in this regard since 1977. While Dublin based, they are the primary national unit when dealing with critical firearm incidents. Regional Support Units (RSUs), now Armed Support Units (ASUs), came into existence across the country from 2008 and are also trained and equipped to address critical incidents. The advent of the RSU in 2008 was the first time in the history of the State that the public would have seen armed uniformed Gardaí in their cities, towns and villages. These units are equipped and trained

gur féidir teacht ar gach ceantar sa tír. Chomh maith leis an teicneolaíocht agus feidhmíocht fheabhsaithe cinntíonn na córais seo go bhfuil córas breisithe criptithe san eagraíocht mar aon leis an gcomhoiriúnacht ceangal a dhéanamh le gníomhaireachtaí eile más gá sin a dhéanamh agus nuair is gá sin a dhéanamh.

Bhí sé i gceist gunnán Webley a thabhairt don chéad Gharda Sibhialta mar arm i gcomhair cosaint phearsanta. I ndiaidh cheannairc Chill Dara rinneadh cinneadh, i bhfianaise cúrsaí polaitíochta sa tír a bheith fós corrach, nach mbeadh sé ró-chiallmhar arm a sholáthar do ghrúpa mór fear. Rinneadh cinneadh ansin nach dtabharfaí arm don chuid is mó den fhórsa.

Cé go raibh Bleachtairí faoi airm i gcaitheamh na mblianta, tá beartas athraithe i dtreo aonaid arm tine speisialaithe atá oilte agus ullmhaithe chun eachtraí airm thine criticiúla a láimhseáil. Bunaíodh an tAonad Práinnfhreagartha (ERU) ina leith sin sa bhliain 1977. Cé go bhfuil an t-aonad bunaithe i mBaile Átha Cliath is é an príomhaonad náisiúnta nuair atáthar ag déileáil le

Garda Pat Conroy, Eglinton Street, at the switch in 1976. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.
An Garda Pat Conroy, Sráid Eglington, ag an lasc, 1976. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

in the use of both firearms and a range of less lethal options. They are also trained in Critical Incident Response, Tactical Deployment, Conflict Resolution and Negotiation, Entry Methods, Tactical Driving and First Aid.

Separately, the Garda Public Order Unit is a unit of specially trained members of An Garda Síochána who deal with incidents of major public order, including protests and riots. A Divisional Public Order Unit is made up of 21 members under the control of an Inspector. Gardaí assigned to Public Order Units are uniformed members who are normally attached full time to normal policing duties.

These Gardaí are based in all Garda Divisions and are trained in peaceful crowd management and public order tactics. When assigned to Public Order Unit duty, they wear flame-retardant overalls along with other protective equipment such as helmets, gloves and body armour, depending on the level disorder present and making them clearly identifiable. When on duty they will also carry shields.

heachtraí airm thine criticiúla. Bunaíodh Aonaid Tacaíochta Réigiúnacha (RSU) a dtugtar Aonaid Tacaíochta faoi Airm (ASU) anois orthu ar fud na tíre sa bhliain 2008 agus tá na hAonaid sin oilte agus ullmhaithe chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar eachtraí criticiúla. Ba sa bhliain 2008, le teacht an RSU, an chéad uair a chonaic an pobal Gardaí faoi éide agus faoi airm i gcathracha, i mbailte agus i sráidbhailte na tíre ó bunaíodh an Stát. Tá na haonaid sin ullmhaithe agus oilte airm thine agus roghanna nach bhfuil chomh marfach sin araon a úsáid. Tá siad oilte freisin ar Fhreagairt ar Eachtraí Criticiúla, Imlonnú Oirbheartaíochta, Réiteach Coinbhleachta agus Idirbheartaíocht, Modhanna Iontrála, Tiomáint Oirbheartaíochta agus Garchabhair.

As féin, is aonad ina bhfuil comhaltaí den Gharda Síochána atá oilte go sainiúil Aonad Oird Phoiblí an Gharda Síochána a láimhseálann móreachtraí maidir leis an Ord Poiblí, lena n-áirítear agóidí agus círéibeacha. 21 comhalta faoi smacht Cigire atá in Aonad Oird Phoiblí de chuid an Rannáin. Is comhaltaí faoi éide a bhíonn ar fostú go lánaimseartha go hiondúil le gnáthdhualgais phóilíneachta iad na Gardaí a shanntar chuig Aonaid Oird Phoiblí.

Tá na Gardaí sin lonnaithe i ngach Rannán Gardaí agus tá siad oilte ar bhainistiú sluaite go suaimhneach agus ar theaicticí oird phoiblí. Nuair a leagtar dualgas ón Aonad Oird Phoiblí orthu, caitheann siad rabhlaeir lasairmhoillitheacha chomh maith le trealamh cosanta eile amhail clogaid, lámhainní agus armúr colainne, ag brath ar an leibhéal ainrialach atá ann, le go mbeifear in ann iad a aithint go soiléir. Nuair atá siad ar dualgas, bíonn sciatha á n-iompar acu freisin.

Garda Con Mulvey, Athenry District patrol car, late 1960s. Courtesy of Con Mulvey.
An Garda Con Mulvey, Carr patróil Cheantar Bhaile Átha an Rí, deireadh na 1960idí. Le caoinchead Con Mulvey.

22. Transport

In December 1922, Commissioner O'Duffy, being questioned by the Department of Home Affairs in regard to the appointment of a former member of the Royal Irish Constabulary as an advisor to the new force, returned fire in his usual curt manner. In his reply, among the issues raised, he pointed to the fact that the only means of transport available to the fledgling force at that time were a few "broken down lorries, abandoned by the Army and subsequently towed to the Garda Depot." He also stated that the force had no decent cars and that he himself had to borrow a car from the Army to conduct his duties and inspections around the country.

22. Iompar

I mí na Nollag 1922, nuair a cheistigh an Roinn Gnóthaí Baile an Coimisinéir O'Duffy faoi iarchomhalta de Chonstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann a cheapadh ina chomhairleoir don fhórsa nua, thug sé freagra grod géar ar an gceist, mar ba dhual dó. I measc na saincheisteanna a tharraing sé aird orthu ina fhreagra bhí nach raibh ar fáil don fhórsa nuabhunaithe ag an am ach cúpla leoraí a bhí as feidhm, a bhí fágtha ina ndiaidh ag an Arm agus ar tarraingíodh ina dhiaidh sin iad chuig Iosta an Gharda. Dúirt sé freisin nach raibh aon charr ag an bhfórsa a bhí sách maith agus go raibh air féin fiú carr a fháil ar iasacht ón Arm chun a chuid dualgas agus cigireachta a chur i gcrích ar fud na tíre.

1st Galway Divisional Garda traffic corps, 1973. Courtesy of Councillor Jim Cuddy.
An 1ú chór tráchta den Gharda Síochána i Rannán na Gaillimhe, 1973.
Le caoinchead an Chomhairleora Jim Cuddy.

In the 1950s, every member of the force outside the Dublin Metropolitan Area (DMA) was obliged to have a bicycle and this was the only means of transport in the Sub-Districts. A single patrol car was attached to the District Headquarters in the larger towns. Motor-cycles with sidecars were only allocated to some stations in the DMA.

The Garda Driving School was established in 1954 at the Garda Headquarters at the Phoenix Park Depot in Dublin and later moved to the Garda Training Centre, now the Garda College, at Templemore, County Tipperary.

In the 1980s, following an upsurge in serious crime, task forces were created and issued with bigger, high-powered vehicles. Divisional

Bhí gá do gach comhalta den fhórsa taobh amuigh de Mhórcheantar Bhaile Átha Cliath (DMA) rothar a bheith acu sna 1950idí agus ba é sin an t-aon mhodh iompair a bhí acu sna Focheantair. Ba ag na Ceanncheathrúna Rannáin sna bailte is mó a bhí an t-aon charr patróil. Níor tugadh gluaisrothair a raibh carr cliathánach leo ach go cuid de na stáisiúin laistigh de Mhórcheantar Bhaile Átha Cliath.

Bunaíodh Scoil Tiomána an Gharda Síochána sa bhliain 1954 i gCeanncheathrú an Gharda Síochána ag Iosta Pháirc an Fhionnuisce i mBaile Átha Cliath agus aistríodh an scoil níos déanaí chuig Ionad Oiliúna an Gharda Síochána, nó Coláiste an Gharda Síochána mar a tugadh air anois, sa Teampall Mór, Contae Thiobraid Árann.

An Garda Síochána

Specialised Traffic Units followed, along with improved vehicles.

Many different makes, models and colours of cars have been used as patrol vehicles over the years and the livery and security features have changed with the times to enhance safety for all members of the force and other road users. The Garda fleet of today (2026) consists of approximately 2,800 vehicles and includes cars, vans, 4x4s, trucks and motor-cycles.

The Garda Water Unit uses inshore ribs and boats and the Garda Air Support Unit operates a fixed-wing plane and helicopter facility.

Horses and, especially, bicycles were historically the main means of transport of early police. With the advance of modern society, these disappeared from policing. Interestingly, in recent years both have made a comeback to Irish policing to great effect. The Garda Mounted Unit was created in May 1998 and its horses are stabled at Áras an Úachtaráin, Phoenix Park, by kind invitation of the President of Ireland. The unit was initially made up of 1 Sergeant and 7 Gardaí with 6 horses. The unit operates around the clock and is deployed for Crime Prevention Patrols, Community Engagement Events, Missing Person Searches, Major Policing Events, Public Order Control and Ceremonial Duties. There are currently 12 horses in the Mounted Unit.

A fleet of mountain bikes became an important part of Garda equipment in 2004, initially in Dublin. Gardaí on such bicycles are now a common sight in many cities, towns and villages across the country. They have proven to be a very popular means of policing, both with members of An Garda Síochána and the public and are seen as a very effective method of patrolling – with the added value of increasing and enhancing opportunities to communicate with the public.

Bunaíodh Tascfhórsaí sna 1980idí i ndiaidh borradh mór teacht ar líon na gcoireanna tromchúiseacha agus tugadh feithiclí ardchumhachtacha níos mó dóibh. Bunaíodh Aonaid Tráchta Speisialaithe an Rannáin ina dhiaidh sin agus tugadh feithiclí níos fearr dóibh.

Is iomaí cineál déanaimh agus múnla carr, agus dath carr a úsáideadh ina bhfeithiclí patróil i gcaitheamh na mblianta agus tá athrú tagtha ar aistreog libhré agus ar ghnéithe slándála na gcarranna sin chun coinneáil leis an aimsir ar mhaithe le sábháilteacht a fheabhsú do gach comhalta den fhórsa agus úsáideoirí bóithre eile. Tá flít an Gharda Síochána comhdhéanta de thuairim is 3668 feithicil sa lá atá inniu ann (2025) agus áirítear carranna, veaineanna, 4x4anna, trucailí agus gluaisrothair san fhlít.

Baineann Aonad Uisce an Gharda Síochána úsáid as báid righin inséidte chois cladaigh agus báid chois cladaigh agus oibríonn Aonad Aerthacaíochta an Gharda Síochána eitleán sciathán dobhogtha agus saoráid héileacaptair.

Ba ar chapaill agus ar rothair ach go háirithe ba mhó a ndearna na póilíní a mbealach timpeall i dtús a ré. D'imigh siad sin de réir mar a tháinig sochaí an lae inniu chun cinn. Spéisiúil go leor, tá úsáid arís á mbaint as capaill agus as rothair i bpóilíneacht na hÉireann, agus ag éirí thar cionn leo. Bunaíodh Marc-Aonad an Gharda Síochána i mBealtaine, 1998 agus coinnítear na capaill i stábla ag Áras an Uachtaráin, ar bhonn cuireadh fial ó Uachtarán na hÉireann. 1 Sáirsint agus 7 Garda chomh maith le 6 capall a bhí san aonad an chéad lá riamh. Oibríonn an t-aonad ó dhubh go dubh agus déantar é a imlonnú le haghaidh Cosc ar Choireacht/Patróil, Imeachtaí Rannpháirtíochta Pobail, Cuardaigh i gcomhair Duine atá ar Iarraidh, Mórimeachtaí Póilíneachta, Smacht i leith Oird Phoiblí agus Dualgais Searmanais. Tá 12 capall sa Mharc-Aonad i láthair na huaire.

Regional Support Unit Vehicles at Oranmore Garda Station, 2010. Courtesy of Galway Gardaí.
Feithiclí Aonaid Tacaíochta Réigiúnaí ag Stáisiún Gardaí Órán Mór, 2010. Le caoinchead Ghardaí na Gaillimhe.

Bheadh flít rothar sléibhe mar chuid thábhachtach de threalamh an Gharda Síochána ón mbliain 2004, i mBaile Átha Cliath ar dtús. Is minic a fheictear Gardaí ar rothair mar sin anois in go leor cathracha, bailte agus sráidbhailte ar fud na tíre. Tá an-tóir ag an nGarda Síochána agus ag an bpobal orthu ó shin mar bhealach chun tabhairt faoin bpóilíneacht agus meastar gur modh an-éifeachtúil patróil iad – lena mbaineann níos mó deiseanna agus deiseanna a fheabhsú chun cumarsáid a dhéanamh leis an bpobal.

Commissioners' visit to Galway Garda Station, 8 May 1997. Left to right: Superintendent Tony Finnerty, Assistant Commissioner Joe Long, Commissioner Pat Byrne and Chief Superintendent Tom Monaghan.
Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.

Cuairt an Choimisinéara ar Bheairic na nGardaí i nGaillimh, 8 Bealtaine 1997. Ó chlé go deas: An Ceannfort Tony Finnerty, An Coimisinéir Cúnta Joe Long, An Coimisinéir Pat Byrne agus An tArd-Cheannfort Tom Monaghan.
Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

23: Galway Garda Síochána Chief Superintendents

23: Ard-Cheannfoirt Gharda Síochána na Gaillimhe

H.J. Keegan:	1922 – 1924	T. Greene:	1979 – 1985
S.B. McManus:	1924 – 1929	J. Mitchell:	1985 – 1993
P. Bracken:	1929 – 1932	T.S. O'Muineachain:	1993 – 2005
T. Direen:	1932 – 1934	M. Mc Garry:	2005 - 2006
S. Mackin:	1934 – 1938	D. Ó Cualáin:	2006 - 2012
T. Collins:	1938 – 1942	M. O Sullivan:	2012 - 2013
H.V. McManus:	1942 – 1963	T. Curley:	2013 - 2022
C. Convery:	1963 – 1967	G. Roche:	2022 –
J. Meaney:	1967 – 1979		

Chief Superintendent John Mitchell presents a video recorder to Superintendent Jim Sugrue, Salthill, to mark his departure from Mill Street Station to take up a new appointment in Templemore. Also in the picture are Inspector Bill Fennell, Sergeant Peter Duffy, Garda Jim Cuddy, Mrs Eileen Sugrue, Garda Sean McMenamon, Inspector Johnny Carey and Superintendent John Gilmartin. Photo source: *Connacht Tribune.*

Bronnann an tArd-Cheannfort John Mitchell fís-seinnteoir ar an gCeannfort Jim Sugrue, Bóthar na Trá, tráth a raibh seisean ag fágáil bheairic Shráid an Mhuilinn ag dul i mbun phoist nua sa Teampall Mór. Feictear sa phictiúr freisin an Cigire Bill Fennell, an Sáirsint Peter Duffy, an Garda Jim Cuddy, Eileen Sugrue, an Garda Seán McMenamon, an Cigire Johnny Carey agus an Ceannfort John Gilmartin. Grianghraf: An *Curadh Connachtach.*

Galway Courthouse on 30 September 2003. Back row left to right: Inspector Tony O'Donnell, Superintendent Mick Curley. Front row left to right: Superintendent Tony Dowd, Judge John Garavan, Superintendent Dónall Ó Cualáin and D/Superintendent Martin Lee. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.

Teach na Cúirte i nGaillimh ar an 30 Meán Fómhair 2003. Líne cúil, ó chlé go deas: An Cigire Tony O'Donnell, an Ceannfort Mick Curley. Chun tosaigh, ó chlé go deas: An Ceannfort Tony Dowd, An Giúistís John Garavan, An Ceannfort Dónall Ó Cualáin agus An B/Ceannfoirt Martin Lee. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

Recruitment Campaign. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.

Feachtas Earcaíochta. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

24. Newspaper Articles

The following is a sample of local newspaper articles concerning various Garda issues that appeared in the local press across the years.

Traffic

In 1930, the *Connacht Sentinel* recorded the annual diocesan Eucharistic procession in Galway (Galway's Act of Homage, 27.05.1930) and its audience of ten thousand attendees. Amongst the article's descriptions of the procession participants and the route's decorations in the Papal colours, a comment notes "A word of praise is due to the efficient manner in which the Garda Síochána regulated the traffic."

24. Ailt sna Nuachtáin

Is sampla d'ailt nuachtáin an méid seo a leanas a bhain le saincheisteanna éagsúla an Gharda Síochána agus a bhí le feiceáil sa bpreas áitiúil ar feadh na mblianta.

Trácht

Sa bhliain 1930, rinneadh taifeadadh sa *Connacht Sentinel* ar mhórshiúl Eocairisteach bliantúil deoise i nGaillimh (Act of Homage na Gaillimhe, 27.05.1930) le lucht féachana de dheich míle duine. I measc na n-alt ina ndearnadh cur síos ar rannpháirtithe an mhórshiúil agus ar na maisiúcháin feadh an bhealaigh i ndathanna an Phápa, tugadh ar aird go raibh "focal buíochais tuillte ag an nGarda Síochána mar gheall ar an mbealach éifeachtach a rialaigh siad an trácht."

Léirigh fógra sa *Connacht Sentinel* gur fíorbheagán athruithe a tharla le himeacht na mblianta ón mbliain 1930, agus go bhfuil roinnt de na fadhbanna céanna i gceist go fóill i nGaillimh sa lá atá inniu againn. Tarraingítear aird san fhógra ar léacht leis an Leas-Choimisinéir W.R.E. Murphy ó na Gardaí Sibhialta atá ar na bacáin i gComhlachas Tráchtála na Gaillimhe,

From 1930, a notice in the *Connacht Sentinel* shows that very little changes through time and that a number of Galway's issues remain the same today. The notice highlights an upcoming lecture by the Deputy Commissioner W.R.E. Murphy of the Civic Guards in the Galway Chamber of Commerce, focusing on "the traffic problem" (Traffic Problem in Galway, 06.05.1930). It notes that "On market days the old and the new methods of locomotion are sometimes in dangerous proximity but the tact of the Gardaí and the goodwill and good humour of most drivers – of motor cars and horse carts – combine to smooth difficulties and disentangle traffic intricacies."

In 2020, Tuam Traffic Corps marked twenty years of service, beginning in 2000 with a Sergeant and four Gardaí and growing in size to a unit of a Sergeant and ten Gardaí. Sergeant in Charge Ray Moore praised the unit, commenting that "They are a dedicated and hugely important part of An Garda Síochána and provide a service that benefits the whole community. They are there to make our roads a better place for motorists and I believe that they have achieved this very effectively" (Gardaí geared for success!, *Connacht Tribune*, 18.12.20).

Recruitment

In August 1960, a special correspondent for the *Connacht Sentinel* discussed the ongoing recruitment drive by An Garda Siochána (The Passing of the Big Policeman, 09.08.1960). The writer lamented their assumed changes between the new recruits and those of the past:

> *Roughly six hundred new Guards are to be recruited in the next few years, but where, might one ask, are the strapping young fellows we saw in uniform in the past? There was a time, not so long ago, when no man not considered 'first-class recruit', as the phrase went, would be accepted in the Metropolitan Division. First-class meant six feet. Guards now appearing on*

ag díriú ar an "bhfadhb tráchta." (Fadhb Tráchta i nGaillimh, 06.05.1930). Tugtar ar aird ann go bhfuil, ar laethanta margaidh, na modhanna nua agus na seanmhodhanna gluaiseachta chomh cóngarach dá chéile uaireanta go bhfuil siad contúirteach ach go dtagann stuaim an Gharda Síochána agus dea-mhéin agus dea-ghiúmar fhormhór na dtiománaithe - idir thiománaithe carranna agus carranna capaill - le chéile agus ar an mbealach sin go bhfaightear réidh le deacrachtaí agus go réitítear castachtaí tráchta.

Sa bhliain 2020, rinne Cór Tráchta Thuama ceiliúradh ar fhiche bliain seirbhíse, Cór Tráchta a cuireadh tús leis sa bhliain 2000 le Sáirsint agus ceathrar Gardaí agus aonad a d'fhás agus ina bhfuil Sáirsint agus deichniúr Gardaí anois. Mhol an Sáirsint i gCeannas, Ray Moore, an t-aonad, agus é ag rá go raibh siad tiomanta agus ina gcuid ríthábhachtach den Gharda Síochána agus cuireann siad seirbhís ar fáil a théann chun leasa don phobal ina iomláine. Tá siad ansin lenár gcuid bóithre a dhéanamh níos sábháilte do thiománaithe agus creidim go bhfuil an méid sin bainte amach go héifeachtach acu" (Gardaí ullmhaithe don rathúlacht!, *An Curadh Connachtach,* 18.12.20).

Poitín

Sa bhliain 1935, tuairiscíodh gníomh rathúil de chuid an Gharda Síochána sa Churadh Connachtach tráth ar thug na Gardaí faoi stiléireacht aindleathach:

> *Tá buille tubaisteach faighte ag lucht déanta an phoitín in Iarthar na hÉireann. Ar feadh an lae Dé hAoine thug fórsa de bhreis is caoga comhalta den Gharda Síochána, faoi stiúir an Cheannfoirt, Sean Murphy, Gaillimh, faoi thóraíocht ar oileáin Loch Coirib, le hachar de bhreis is tríocha a cúig míle cearnach, agus iad sa tóir ar stiléirí aindleathacha. Ba é an cuardach seo an cuardach ba mhó riamh ag fórsaí an Stáit, agus b'fhiú an tairbhe an trioblóid. Thug na Gardaí an ruathar ar luas*

the Dublin streets are like mere boys compared with the material we had been used to. They are all small, tidy and dapper. When one of the old brigade turns out with a member of the new brigade, it looks like a father taking along a promising son who will one day grow up.

Poitín

In 1935, the *Connacht Tribune* reported on a recent successful operation by Galway Gardaí to uncover illicit distilling, stating:

The death knell of poteen makers in the West of Ireland has been sounded. All day on Friday a force of over fifty members of the Garda Síochána, under the direction of Supt. Sean Murphy, of Galway, combed the islands of Lough Corrib, an area of over thirty-five square miles, in an intensive search for the illicit distillers. The search was the biggest ever organised by the State forces and results certainly justified the trouble taken. The swoop of the Gardaí was a lightning one and came as a total surprise to the illicit distillers who inhabit the islands of the Corrib. The biggest quantity of poteen ever taken in the history of poteen, over five hundred gallons, worth over £1,000 was captured and representing weeks of hard work by the illicit distillers; the whole lot was sent rocketing skywards in sheets of flame. (The Poteen War, *21.12.1935).*

The Gardaí team included an accompanying reporter from the *Connacht Tribune*, who praised them on their efficiency and results of the major operation, quoting one Garda who stated in response that "It is all in a day's work."

Community Policing

In 1935, the Gardaí played a role in the organisation and management of the provision of an Irish-speaking holiday in the Galway Gaeltacht for two hundred and thirty children from Dublin (To the Gaeltacht: Dublin Children's Holiday, *Connacht Sentinel*, 23.07.1935). The large group of children

lasrach agus tháinig aniar aduaidh ar na stiléirí aindleathacha a bhí i mbun stiléireachta ar Loch Coirib. Chuaigh an méid poitín ba mhó a gabhadh riamh i stair an phoitín, breis is cúig chéad galún, arbh fhiú breis is £1,000 é, agus seachtainí caite ag na stiléirí aindleathacha ag déanamh obair na gcapall,… suas ina phúir. (The Poteen War, *21.12.1935).*

Bhí tuairisceoir ón gCuradh Connachtach in éineacht le foireann an Gharda Síochána, a mhol go hard na spéire a gcuid oibre ó thaobh éifeachtúlachta agus torthaí, agus a luaigh a raibh le rá ag Garda amháin, "Is gnáthchuid d'obair an lae atá i gceist.

Póilíneacht Phobail

Sa bhliain 1935, bhí ról ag an nGarda Síochána in eagrú agus i mbainistiú soláthar saoire i labhairt na Gaeilge do dhá chéad agus tríocha dalta ó Bhaile Átha Cliath i nGaeltacht na Gaillimhe (Chuig an nGaeltacht: Saoire do Leanaí Ó Bhaile Átha Cliath, an *Connacht Sentinel*, 23.07.1935). Thaistil an grúpa mór leanaí ar thraein chomh fada leis an gCnoc, áit a raibh "cúig cinn de bhusanna agus an tOllamh Ó Buachalla, Coláiste na hOllscoile Gaillimh, an tArd-Cheannfort Macken, Gaillimh, ag fanacht leo agus bhí comhaltaí den Gharda Síochána ag an stáisiún freisin a threoraigh na leanaí isteach ar na busanna."

I mí na Bealtaine 2013, tuairiscíodh sa *City Tribune* na himeachtaí poiblí a bhí á reáchtáil ag an nGarda Síochána i nGaillimh, bhí sé seo ar siúl mar chuid d'Fheachtas ag Tacú le Pobail Níos Sábháilte (imeachtaí an Gharda Síochána maidir le cosc ar an gcoireacht, 24.05. 2013). Bhí na gníomhaíochtaí seo dírithe ar dheis a thabhairt do mhuintir an phobail casadh leis na Gardaí Pobail Áitiúla agus leis an Oifigeach Coiscthe Coireachta ar bhonn neamhfhoirmiúil ar mhaithe le heolas agus comhairle a chur ar fáil maidir le sábháilteacht phearsanta agus le sábháilteacht ar bhóithre.

travelled by train to An Cnoc, where they were...

> *met in five buses by Professor O' Buachalla, University College Galway, Chief Superintendent Macken, Galway and members of the Gardaí, who are native speakers, were also at the station and rendered much help in placing the children in the buses.*

In May 2013, the *City Tribune* reported on the public events held by Galway City Gardaí as part of the Supporting Safer Communities Campaign (Garda events to advise on crime prevention, 24.05. 2013). These activities aimed to give members of the public the chance to meet the Local Community Gardaí and Crime Prevention Officer informally in order to provide information and advice on personal and road safety.

Tributes

Comments by a speaker in the Seanad with relation to Galway Gardaí were recorded by the *Connacht Sentinel* in 1941 (Senator's Tribute to Galway Gardaí, 24.06.1941). Senator Helena Concannon discussed the incoming changes which would enable the government to discharge members of An Garda Síochána whose services were no longer required. When outlining the need for discipline in the force, the Senator stated: "We had for many years in Galway, under a particularly efficient Garda officer, an example of how they may become a part of the people and particularly the part they played in the Gaelicisation of the people was wonderful."

Good Detection

Galway City Gardaí were praised in the *Connacht Tribune* in February 1942: "Smart work by Galway Gardaí led to the discovery, in the local market on Saturday morning, of a quantity of fowl which had been reported at Eglinton Street Barracks to have been stolen the previous night." (Stolen Fowl Discovered in Galway Market, 07.02.1942). The discovery of the stolen fowl resulted in the arrests and

Teachtaireachtaí Ómóis

Rinneadh taifeadadh sa *Connacht Sentinel* in 1941 ar an méid a bhí le rá ag cainteoir sa Seanad maidir le Gardaí na Gaillimhe (Teachtaireacht Ómóis Seanadóra do Ghardaí na Gaillimhe, 24.06.1941). Rinne an Seanadóir Helena Concannon plé ar na hathruithe a bhí ag teacht isteach a chuirfeadh ar chumas an rialtais scaoileadh le comhaltaí an Gharda Síochána nach raibh a gcuid seirbhísí ag teastáil níos mó. Agus í ag tabhairt breac-chuntas maidir leis an ngá le smacht san fhórsa, dúirt an Seanadóir: "Bhí sampla againn i nGaillimh ar feadh go leor blianta, faoi cheannaireacht oifigeach de chuid na nGardaí a bhí thar a bheith éifeachtach, maidir leis an mbealach inar féidir leis an nGarda Síochána a bheith mar chuid den phobal, agus go háirithe bhí an pháirt a bhí acu i nGaelú na ndaoine thar barr."

Cúrsaí Braite Coireachta Maithe

Moladh Gardaí Síochána Chathair na Gaillimhe sa Churadh Connachtach i mí Feabhra 1942 – "Bhí a theacht ar éanlaith a bhí goidte sa mhargadh áitiúil maidin Dé Sathairn mar thoradh ar obair chliste Ghardaí na Gaillimhe, tuairiscíodh an choir ag Beairic Shráid Eglinton an oíche roimhe sin" (Éanlaith Goidte Aimsithe ar Mhargadh na Gaillimhe, 07.02.1942). Gabhadh agus cúisíodh seisear as an ngadaíocht agus as glacadh le hearraí goidte.

Sochraid Duine de na Bunaitheoirí

Tuairiscíodh bás an tSáirsint Patrick Allen, a bhí ar dhuine de na chéad chomhaltaí a chláraigh sa Gharda Síochána nuair a bunaíodh an fórsa, sa *Connacht Sentinel* i mí an Mheithimh, 1949 (An Sáirsint Patrick Allen, G.S. Pailís Chaonraí, Contae Luimnigh, 14.06.1949). Ba as Barr an Chalaidh ó dhúchas don Sáirsint Allen agus bhí sé lonnaithe i stáisiún Phailís Chaonraí, Contae Luimnigh. Léirigh Gardaí Luimnigh agus na Gaillimhe onóir mhór don Sáirsint Allen – "Bhí garda onóra ó Ghardaí Luimnigh ag tionlacan

CONNACHT TRIBUNE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1950

A section of the large attendance at the annual Galway Garda Dance in the Hanger Ballroom, Satlhill.
Photo source: *Connacht Tribune.*

Cuid den slua mór a bhí i láthair ag Damhsa bliantúil na nGardaí i nGaillimh i Halla an Hanger, Bóthar na Trá.
Le caoinchead an *Churaidh Chonnachtaigh.*

charge of six men for larceny and the receiving of knowingly stolen goods.

Funeral of Founding Member

The death of Sergeant Patrick Allen, one of the first members to be enrolled in An Garda Síochána upon its foundation, was recorded in the *Connacht Sentinel* in June 1949 (Sergt. Patrick Allen, G.S. Pallaskenry, County Limerick, 14.06.1949). Sergeant Allen had originally come from Woodquay and had been stationed in Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick. His funeral involved large-scale demonstrations of honour by Gardaí from both Limerick and Galway – "A guard of honour of Limerick Gardaí escorted the remains to the outskirts of Limerick and the cortege was met by a guard of honour of Galway Gardaí under Sergeant M.

na sochraide chomh fada le himeall Luimnigh… agus bhí garda onóra ó Ghardaí na Gaillimhe roimh an tsochraid ansin faoi stiúir an tSáirsint M. Walshe ar bhaint amach na Gaillimhe chuir Gardaí na Gaillimhe garda onóra ar fáil tar éis an Aifrinn agus rinne siad an tsochraid a thionlacan go hEanach Dhúin."

Damhsa an Gharda Síochána

I mí na Nollag 1955, tuairiscíodh sa Churadh Connachtach chomh maith agus a d'éirigh le Céilí agus le Damhsa bliantúil an Gharda Síochána ar son Chiste Iontaobhais Carthanach an Gharda Síochána, a tionóladh i mBálseomra Rinn na Mara (Damhsa Ghardaí na Gaillimhe, 31.12.1955). Bhí an damhsa "chomh maith lena cháil agus bhí sé ar cheann de na himeachtaí bliantúla ba thaitneamhaí i nGaillimh… Chuir na

Members of the Committee photographed with the Mayor Ald. P. Greene at the Galway Garda District Céilí in aid of the Garda Benevolent Fund in Seapoint Ballroom, Salthill. Left to right: Inspector C. Flood, Garda Noel Kelleher, Garda Jim Kilroy (Hon. Secretary), Sergeant Michael Walsh, Garda Tom O'Sullivan, the Mayor, Garda Michael Lernehan, Garda P. Gill and Garda F. Burke. Photo source: *Connacht Tribune.*

Grianghraf de bhaill an Choiste leis an Maor Ald. P. Greene ag Céilí Ceantair Gharda na Gaillimhe ar son Chiste Carthanachta an Gharda i Seomra Damhsa Seapoint, Salthill. Ó chlé go deas: An Cigire C. Flood, an Garda Noel Kelleher, an Garda Jim Kilroy (Rúnaí Oinigh), an Sáirsint Michael Walsh, an Garda Tom O'Sullivan, an Méara, an Garda Michael Lernehan, an Garda P. Gill agus an Garda F. Burke. Grianghraf: An *Curadh Connachtach.*

Walshe, upon arrival in Galway; Galway Gardaí provided a guard of honour after the Mass and accompanied the remains to Annaghdown."

Garda Dance

In December 1955, the *Connacht Tribune* reported on the success of the annual Garda Céilí and Dance in aid of the Garda Benevolent Fund, held in the Seapoint Ballroom (Galway Garda Dance, 31.12.1955). The dance "lived up to its reputation as one of the most enjoyable functions of the year in Galway. Spot prizes and seasonal decorations added to the gaiety of the scene. An interesting feature was the display of Irish dancing by Rita White and Mary O'Riordan. The arrangements for the dance, which was attended by parties from all over the province, were excellent. They included a bar and running buffet in the restaurant. It was a tribute to Garda James Kilroy and his hard-working committee that everything went off without a hitch."

spotduaiseanna agus na maisiúcháin Nollag leis an tsiamsaíocht. Bhí taispeántas rince Ghaelaigh le Rita White agus le Mary O'Riordan mar ghné spéisiúil. Bhí na socruithe don damhsa, ar ar fhreastail daoine fud fad an chúige air, thar barr. Áiríodh ar na socruithe sin, beár agus buifé sa bhialann. Tá moladh ag dul don Gharda James Kilroy agus don choiste a rinne obair na gcapall agus d'imigh gach rud go breá."

Cuairt an Choimisinéara

Thug Coimisinéir an Gharda Síochána, Daniel Costigan, cuairt ar Ghaillimh sa bhliain 1959 chun comhdháil a reáchtáil le hOifigí agus Sáirsintí ó Rannán Ghaillimh Thiar. Bhí an chuairt mar chuid de thuras níos leithne a thug an Coimisinéir ar rannáin éagsúla den fhórsa, le beartais a phlé agus le foghlaim faoi na "deacrachtaí a raibh na gardaí ar an talamh ag teacht trasna orthu." Tugadh ar aird sa Tribune go ndúradh i ráiteas a d'eisigh na Gardaí tar éis na comhdhála go raibh ríméad ar an gCoimisinéir foghlaim faoi easnamh comparáideach coireachta

An Garda Síochána

Commissioners Visit

The Garda Commissioner Daniel Costigan visited Galway in 1959 to hold conferences with the Officers and Sergeants of the West Galway Division. The visit formed part of a wider tour undertaken by the Commissioner to various divisions of the force, to discuss policies and learn about "the difficulties encountered by the field police." The *Connacht Tribune* noted that "A statement issued by the Gardaí after the conference said the Commissioner was very glad to learn of the comparative absence of crime in Co. Galway and of the high percentage (85%) of detection achieved. He was especially glad to learn of the good relations between the people of Galway and the police and the high measure of co-operation extended by the people and the local authorities." (Garda Conference in Galway, *Connacht Tribune*, 06.06.1959)

Gardening Skills

In November 1967, the *Connacht Tribune* reported on a further accolade for Dunmore Garda Station: "For the fourth year in succession Sergeant John Byrne of the Dunmore Garda Station, Co. Galway, has won the Roscommon East Galway Garda Division gardens competition sponsored by Bord Fáilte and was placed joint fifth with Skerries in the All-Ireland placings. The garden, which is a blaze of colour during the summer months, has been the subject of much admiration down the years and the successes gained to date reflect the highest credit on Sergeant Byrne and his staff at Dunmore." *(Prize Garden*, 10.11.1967).

Papal Visit

The papal visit to Galway in 1979 provided one of the largest crowds for a public event in the county, with more than a quarter of a million people travelling to Ballybrit Racecourse to see Pope John Paul II. An enormous security operation coordinating with the Church authorities, the Gardaí and the Army, was meticulously planned

i gCo. na Gaillimhe, agus faoin gcéatadán ard (85%) braite a baineadh amach. Bhí áthas ar an gCoimisinéir cloisteáil faoin dea-chaidreamh idir muintir na Gaillimhe agus na Gardaí, ach go háirithe, agus an leibhéal ard comhoibrithe a bhí á thabhairt ag muintir na Gaillimhe agus ag na húdaráis áitiúla." (Comhdháil an Gharda Síochána i nGaillimh, an *Curadh Connachtach,* 06.06.1959).

Earcaíocht

I mí Lúnasa 1960, rinne comhfhreagraí speisialta leis an *Connacht Sentinel* plé ar an bhfeachtas earcaíochta leanúnach a bhí idir lámha ag an nGarda Síochána (The Passing of the Big Policeman, 09.08.1960). Bhí aiféala ar an scríbhneoir maidir leis na hathruithe measta idir na earcaithe nua agus na Gardaí a bhí ann roimhe seo – "Tá suas agus anuas le sé chéad Garda nua le hearcú sna blianta atá romhainn, ach cá bhfuil, mura miste leat mé a fhiafraí, na fir óga bhreátha a bhí le feiceáil san am atá caite? Bhí am ann, agus níl sé i bhfad ó shin, nach nglacfaí fear ar bith nach measfaí é a bheith ina "earcach den chéad scoth", mar a chuaigh an ráiteas, isteach sa Gharda Síochána. Chiallaigh den chéad scoth sé troithe ar airde. Is mó cosúlachta atá ag na Gardaí atá le feiceáil ar shráideanna Bhaile Átha Cliath anois le buachaillí óga i gcomparáid leis na fir bhreátha a bhíodh le feiceáil tráth. Tá siad beag, néata agus pointeáilte…Nuair a bhíonn duine den tseanfhoireann in éineacht le duine ón bhfoireann nua, is cosúil le hathair a bhíonn ann lena mhac a bhfuil cuma na maitheasa air agus a bheidh fásta suas lá éigin."

Scileanna Garraíodóireachta

Tuairiscíodh sa *Churadh Connachtach* i mí na Samhna 1967, go raibh gradam eile bainte amach ag Stáisiún Gardaí Dhún Mór: "Den ceathrú bliain as a chéile tá comórtas garraíodóireachta buaite ag an Sáirsint John Byrne, Stáisiún Gardaí Dhún Mór, do Rannán Gardaí Ros Comáin Oirthear na Gaillimhe, tá Bord Fáilte i mbun

in advance for the visit and it was: expected that almost every Garda in the West of Ireland will be involved in the special security arrangements for the visits to Galway and Knock and that Gardaí will be asked to do special stints of duty in a massive operation (Big Security Operation For The Pontiff, *Connacht Tribune,* 31.08.1979).

The Irish Press reported that motorists in the Tuam area had been advised that "if, on the day of the Knock and Galway ceremonies, they have a minor crash, the Gardaí should not be called" (Traffic alert while Pope is in West, *Irish Press,* 14.09.1979).

The visit "demanded the services of a force of more than 1,000 Gardaí, drawn from divisions in the west and south. The Gardaí, who were assigned to crowd and traffic control as well as other routine duties, worked extremely long hours to help the massive influx and departure of people go as smoothly as possible" (Man breaches security to talk to Pope, *Irish Press,* 01.10.1979).

In the days following the event, Galway Gardaí were involved in the immediate task of tracing a large number of people reported missing following the Papal Youth Mass at Ballybrit. A Garda spokesman said that they were "getting an average of four phone calls every three minutes from relatives of people who are missing. Many of the missing people followed the Pope Mobile around the course and afterwards they were unable to find their corrals and were unable to find their friends. Some of those missing lost the location of their buses while others were unable to get back to where their cars were parked when they got out of Ballybrit." By the morning of Tuesday, 2nd October (less than two days after the event), a Garda spokesman told the *Sentinel* that "everybody who had been reported missing was now accounted for" (400 Missing In The Wake Of Ballybrit, *Connacht Sentinel*, 02.10.1969).

Tug-o-War Challenge

The Gardaí in Clifden faced a challenge from the

urraíochta ar an gcomórtas agus tá an cúigiú háit á roinnt acu leis na Sceirí sna gradaim Uile-Éireann. Tá go leor aird tarraingthe ag an ngairdín atá ar lasadh le dathanna le linn mhíonna an tsamhraidh le linn na mblianta agus tá an rathúlacht atá bainte amach go dtí seo ina chreidiúint mhór don Sáirsint Byrne agus dá fhoireann i Stáisiún Gardaí Dhún Mór" *(Prize Garden,* 10.11.1967).

Cuairt an Phápa

Thug cuairt an Phápa ar Ghaillimh sa bhliain 1979 an slua ba mhó riamh amach ar na sráideanna d'imeacht poiblí sa chontae, le breis is ceathrú milliún duine ag taisteal chuig Ráschúrsa Bhaile an Bhriotaigh chun an Pápa Eoin Pól II a fheiceáil. Bhí gníomhaíocht slándála ollmhór i gcomhar le húdaráis na hEaglaise, na Gardaí agus an tArm i gceist leis seo, a bhí pleanáilte go cúramach roimh ré, agus "bhíothas ag súil go mbeadh beagnach gach Garda in Iarthar na hÉireann bainteach leis na socruithe slándála speisialta do na cuairteanna ar Ghaillimh agus ar Chnoc Mhuire agus go mbeifí ag éileamh ar na Gardaí dul ar dualgas speisialta don ghníomhaíocht ollmhór (Big Security Operation For The Pontiff, *Connacht Tribune,* 31.08.1979).

Tuairiscíodh san *Irish Press* gur tugadh comhairle do thiománaithe i gceantar Thuama "sa chás, go mbeadh miontimpiste acu ar lá na searmanas i gCnoc Mhuire agus i nGaillimh, nár chóir glaoch a chur ar na Gardaí" (Traffic alert while Pope is in West, *Irish Press*, 14.09.1979).

> *Éilíodh seirbhísí fórsa de bhreis is 1,000 garda, ó rannáin san iarthar agus sa deisceart, don Chuairt. D'oibrigh na Gardaí, a bhí sannta do rialú slua agus tráchta chomh maith le gnáthdhualgas eile, thar a bheith crua chomh maith le hoibriú ar feadh uaireanta fada chun cuidiú le rudaí a choinneáil ag imeacht go seolta agus na mílte duine ag teacht agus ag imeacht" (Man breaches security to talk to Pope,* Irish Press, *01.10.1979).*

Photographed at the Golden Arrow Garda Variety Talent Contest in the Great Southern Hotel are left to right, the winner, Garda Stephen Folan, Inverin, Mr Bill Donegan, Golden Arrow Menswear, Sligo and Chief Superintendent Tom Greene. Photo source: *Connacht Tribune.*
Grianghrafadóireacht déanta ag Comórtas Tallaine Éagsúlachta an Gharda Síochána Golden Arrow in Óstán Great Southern tá ó chlé go deas, an buaiteoir, an Garda Stephen Folan, Indreabhán, an tUasal Bill Donegan, Golden Arrow Menswear, Sligeach, agus an Príomh-Cheannfort Tom Greene. Grianghraf: An *Curadh Connachtach.*

Irish Ladies' tug-o-war team in 1989 (Cleggan ladies are set "to pull" Gardaí, *Connacht Tribune*, 29.09.1989). The team challenged Clifden Gardaí to a "Cops versus the Cailins" contest in Letterfrack to "prove a point against their local guards." Team member Patricia Keane told the *Tribune* "We won't be looking for any concessions against the Gardaí – it will be the same number each side." A Garda spokesman stated that "they wouldn't be averse to pulling the ladies anytime subject to manpower being available. I'm not saying though that we will be gentlemanly enough to let them win."

Talent Competition

The regional final of the Golden Arrow Garda Variety Talent Contest took place in the Great Southern Hotel in Galway in March 1981 (Gardaí Show Off Their Talents! *Connacht Tribune*, 13.03.1981). The contest was a national

Sna laethanta beaga i ndiaidh an imeachta, bhí Gardaí na Gaillimhe gnóthach i gcónaí agus iad i mbun tóraíochta ar líon mór daoine a chuaigh ar iarraidh tar éis Aifreann an Phápa don Aos Óg i mBaile an Bhriotaigh. Dúirt urlabhraí ón nGarda Síochána "go raibh ar an meán ceithre ghlaoch gutháin á fháil acu gach uile trí nóiméad ó ghaolta na ndaoine a bhí ar iarraidh. Lean go leor de na daoine a bhí ar iarraidh Carr an Phápa thart timpeall an ráschúrsa agus ní raibh ar a gcumas an áit ina raibh siad ceaptha bualadh le chéile nó lena gcuid cairde a aimsiú. Ní raibh roinnt acu siúd a bhí ar iarraidh in ann a gcuid busanna a aimsiú agus ní raibh roinnt eile in ann a gcuid carranna a aimsiú nuair a d'fhág siad Baile an Bhriotaigh." Faoi mhaidin Dé Máirt, an 2 Deireadh Fómhair (níos lú ná dhá lá i ndiaidh an imeachta), "dúirt urlabhraí ón nGarda Síochána go raibh tuairisc anois ar gach duine a bhí ar iarraidh" (400 Missing In The Wake Of Ballybrit, *Connacht Sentinel*, 02.10.1969).

Dúshlán maidir le Tarraingt Téide

Bhí dúshlán i ndán do Ghardaí an Chlocháin ó fhoireann Ban na hÉireann sa tarraingt téide sa bhliain 1989 (Cleggan ladies are set "to pull" Gardaí, *Connacht Tribune*, 29.09.1989). Thug an fhoireann dúshlán Ghardaí an Chlocháin i gcomórtas "Na Gardaí in aghaidh na gCailíní" i Leitir Fraic "chun pointe a chruthú in aghaidh na ngardaí áitiúla." Dúirt duine den fhoireann, Patricia Keane leis an *Tribune* "Ní bheidh aon ní á ghéilleadh againn in aghaidh na nGardaí – beidh an líon céanna foirne ag an dá thaobh." Dúirt urlabhraí ó na Gardaí "nach mbeadh aon rud i gcoinne acu féin ó thaobh na mná a tharraingt uair ar bith faoi réir ag foireann a bheith ar fáil. Mar sin féin, níl mé á rá go mbeimis sách béasach le cead a thabhairt dóibh an lámh in uachtar a fháil orainn ach oiread."

Comórtas Tallainne

Bhí an babhta deiridh réigiúnach de Chomórtas Tallainne an Golden Arrow Garda Variety ar

competition, held over six months and confined to Gardaí. The six acts in the Western final included musicians, singers and a seanchaí. The winner was Stephen Folan: "an accordion player stationed at Inverin Garda Station. His act included jigs, reels and a hornpipe."

Presidential Visit

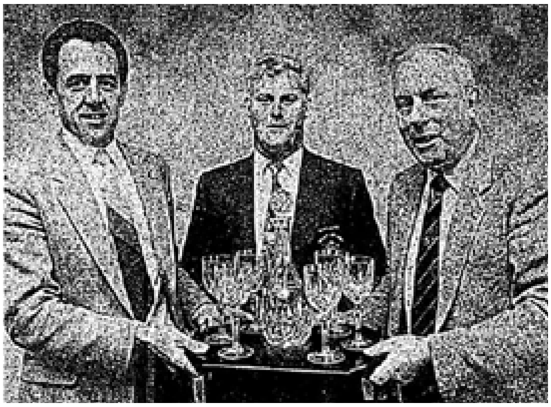
In June 1984, Galway City had its second Presidential visit with the arrival of Ronald Reagan. The city put into place "long weeks of arduous planning and enormous security measures" to ensure the visit went to plan. An extra 1,700 Gardaí were temporarily drafted to Galway from all over the country and were distributed across the city. The *Connacht Tribune* praised the Gardaí's procedures and recorded that "A chain of Gardaí within arm's reach of each other was formed from the Sportsground through the city centre to UCG" (Planning Pays As Visit Runs Like Clockwork, *Connacht Tribune*, 08.06.1984). An excited crowd and the presence of a large contingent of anti-Reagan protesters, caused issues for the Gardaí. The *Tribune* noted that "Many of the onlookers, who had travelled from many counties, were positioned on the far side of Eyre Square and did not even get a glimpse of the President. Others who were situated near the Great Southern Hotel presumed that the President had stopped at the other end and they immediately rushed up through the Square, causing a temporary panic among the Gardaí. One anti-Reagan campaigner threw two eggs at the passing cavalcade. However, although both missed their proposed target, a Garda was not quite so lucky and his already soaked uniform from the earlier downpour was duly decorated with egg yolk." Gardaí who continued on to Ashford Castle in Mayo for the next stage of the presidential event also encountered a further challenge: "The Gardaí and the army were not the only ones out in their thousands at Ashford Castle for the arrival of the President. The lush, humid grounds of Ashford played host to hundreds of

siúl in Óstán an Great Southern i nGaillimh i Márta 1981 (Gardaí Show Off Their Talents!, The *Connacht Tribune*, 13.03.1981). Ba chomórtas náisiúnta a bhí sa chomórtas, a reáchtáladh thar thréimhse sé mhí agus a bhí teoranta don Gharda Síochána. Bhí sé mhír i mbabhta ceannais an Iarthair inar áiríodh ceoltóirí, amhránaithe agus seanchaí. Is é Stephen Folan a bhuaigh an comórtas: "boscadóir atá lonnaithe i Stáisiún Gardaí Indreabhán…áiríodh ar na píosaí ceoil a chas sé, poirt, ríleanna agus cornphíopaí."

Cuairt an Uachtaráin

I mí an Mheithimh 1984, rinneadh ceiliúradh ar chuairt Ronald Reagan chun na cathrach, ba í seo an dara huair ag uachtarán cuairt a thabhairt ar Chathair na Gaillimhe. Bhí an chathair faoi réir ag "seachtainí fada de phleanáil dhian agus bearta slándála nach bhfacthas a leithéid riamh" ar mhaithe lena chinntiú go mbeadh gach uile rud i gceart. Imlonnaíodh 1,700 Garda breise chuig cathair na Gaillimhe ó gach áit ar fud na tíre. Moladh sa *Tribune* nósanna imeachta an Gharda Síochána agus tuairiscíodh go raibh "Gardaí ina seasamh go dlúth le chéile i líne ón bhfaiche spóirt go lár na cathrach go UCG" (Planning Pays As Visit Runs Like Clockwork, *Connacht Tribune*, 08.06.1984). Chruthaigh slua a bhí ar bís, agus láithreacht scata mór lucht agóide i gcoinne Reagan fadhbanna do na Gardaí. Tugadh ar aird sa *Tribune* go raibh "go leor de na daoine a bhí ag féachaint ar na himeachtaí agus a thaistil ó go leor tíortha eile, ar an taobh thall den Fhaiche Mhór agus nár éirigh leo sracfhéachaint féin a fháil ar an Uachtarán. Bhí daoine eile a bhí in aice le hÓstán an Great Southern den tuairim gur stop an tUacharán ar an taobh eile agus bhrostaigh siad suas tríd an bhFaiche Mhór láithreach bonn, agus chruthaigh scaoll ar bhonn sealadach i measc na nGardaí. Chaith duine amháin de na daoine a bhí i mbun agóide in aghaidh chuairt an Uachtaráin Reagan dhá ubh leis na carranna a bhí ag tionlacan an Uachtaráin. Mar sin féin, cé nár baineadh an sprioc amach le

Golf



Galway Garda Golfing Society held an outing at Galway Golf Club sponsored by Bob McGann of CIE Bar and Buffet, Eyre Square, where Bob McGann (right) presented first prize to winner Pat Lally of Galway Garda Station, joined by Kevin Devally (centre), Captain of the Society.
Photo source: *Connacht Tribune.*
Reáchtáil Cumann Gailf na nGardaí i nGaillimh imeacht ag Club Gailf na Gaillimhe, urraithe ag Bob McGann ó CIE Bar and Buffet, Cearnóg an Fhaiche, áit ar bhronn Bob McGann (ar dheis) an chéad duais ar an mbuaiteoir Pat Lally ó Stáisiún Gardaí na Gaillimhe, in éineacht le Kevin Devally (sa lár), Captaen an Chumainn.
Grianghraf: An *Curadh Connachtach.*

thousands of midges which had all the Gardaí, army, press and even the SS men plagued. The Gardaí tried to keep them off by waving tree branches and hankies and newspapers. However they tried in vain!"

Bravery Awards

In 1996, the *Connacht Tribune* told the story of Garda Denis Madden, who had risked his life to save the life of a man who had fallen into the canal in Galway City. Garda Madden was awarded with the Scott Medal for Bravery at Templemore, with the Commissioner Patrick Culligan making the presentation for "exceptional courage and heroism involving risk to life in the execution of duty." The ceremony also included the

ceachtar den dá ubh, níor éirigh chomh maith sin le duine de na Gardaí a raibh a chuid éide fliuch cheana féin ón mbáisteach throm a bhí ann tamall roimhe sin, agus a raibh buíocán ar a chuid éide anois." Bhí dúshlán eile i ndán freisin do na Gardaí a rinne a mbealach go Caisleán Cheapach Corcóige i Maigh Eo don chéad chéim eile de chuairt an uachtaráin – "Níorbh iad na Gardaí agus an tArm amháin a bhí amuigh ina mílte ag Caisleán Cheapach Corcóige do chuairt an Uachtaráin. Bhí na céadta agus na mílte míoltóg géara amuigh freisin ar thailte méithe agus taise Chaisleán Cheapach Corcóige a chuir isteach go mór ar na Gardaí, ar an Arm, ar an bPreas agus ar chomhaltaí na Seirbhíse Rúnda. Rinne na Gardaí iarracht leis na míoltóga géara a choinneáil uathu trí chraobhacha crainn, ciarsúir agus nuachtáin a chroitheadh orthu. Obair in aisce a bhí ansin, áfach!."

Gradaim Chrógachta

Sa bhliain 1996, insíodh an scéal maidir leis an nGarda Denis Madden, sa Churadh Connachtach, a chuir é féin i gcontúirt a bháis chun fear a thit isteach sa gcanáil i gCathair na Gaillimhe a tharrtháil. Bronnadh Bonn Scott do Chrógacht ar an nGarda Madden sa Teampall Mór, is é an Coimisinéir Patrick Culligan a rinne an bronnadh, "do mhisneach agus do chrógacht eisceachtúil lenar bhain baol le linn a bheith ag tabhairt faoi dhualgas ." Áiríodh sa searmanas freisin bronnadh Bonn Scott eile do Chrógacht ar an nGarda Tom Flaherty, a tharrtháil bean ón gcanáil chéanna coicís i ndiaidh an chéad eachtra (Bravery medal for Garda hero who saved man from drowning in canal, *Connacht Tribune*, 01.03.1996).

Sa bhliain 2018, rinneadh taifeadadh sa Churadh Connachtach ar ghradaim chrógachta a bronnadh ar bheirt Ghardaí eile a bhí lonnaithe sa chathair – an Garda Maria Freeley, agus an Garda Cúltaca Alan Burke (My Hero! 26.10.2018). D'oibrigh an bheirt Ghardaí go rathúil le chéile chun fear a thit isteach san uisce ag an bPóirse Caoch a tharrtháil. Mhol an tArd-Cheannfort, Tom Curley, beirt

Connacht Tribune 1909-current, 01.03.1996, page 28

Bravery medal for Garda hero who saved man from drowning in canal

—*by Declan Tierney*—

A Garda who risked his own life to save a man who had fallen into the canal in Galway city was awarded the Scott Medal for bravery at Templemore.

Garda Denis Madden, originally from Woodlawn near Ballinasloe, was presented with the medal following his prompt actions to save a man from drowning in freezing waters.

The incident happened when a man fell into the canal on December 21, 1994 and was making no attempt to save himself despite a buoy being thrown at him.

Garda Madden, attached to Mill Street Garda Station removed his jacket and shoes and jumped into the canal to save the man, who resisted the Garda's effort.

The Garda eventually managed to get the man to the wall of the canal where he secured him with a rope thrown by his colleagues. The rope became entangled and

Garda Denis Madden pictured with his daughter Shauna and son Donncha after he was presented with a Scott Medal for bravery at Templemore.

Garda Denis Madden pictured with his daughter Shauna and son Donncha after he was presented with a Scott Medal for bravery in Templemore, 1996.
Photo source: *Connacht Tribune.*

An Garda Denis Madden sa phictiúr lena iníon Shauna agus a mhac Donncha tar éis dó Bonn Scott a bhronnadh air as a chrógacht i dTeampall Mór, 1996.
Grianghraf: An *Curadh Connachtach.*

presentation of a further Scott Bravery Medal to Garda Tom Flaherty, who had rescued a woman from the same city canal just two weeks later than the first incident (Bravery medal for Garda hero who saved man from drowning in canal, *Connacht Tribune*, 01.03.1996).

In 2018, the *Connacht Tribune* recorded the presentation of bravery awards to two city-based Gardaí – Garda Maria Freeley and Reserve Garda Alan Burke (My Hero! 26.10.2018). Both Gardaí worked together to successfully rescue a man who had fallen into the water at Spanish Arch. Gardaí Chief Superintendent Tom Curley commended the two members of the force, saying: "It reflects well on them and indeed on all members of the Gardaí who are prepared to take risks to keep people safe."

chomhaltaí an fhórsa: "Féachann sé go maith dóibh agus go deimhin, do chomhaltaí go léir an Gharda Síochána atá toilteanach iad féin a chur i mbaol le daoine a choinneáil sábháilte."

Rásaí an Gaillimhe

I mí Iúil 1998, rinneadh cur síos san *Evening Echo* ar an gcéad uair a raibh capaill agus Gardaí ón aonad Marc-Ghardaí le feiceáil lasmuigh de Bhaile Átha Cliath chun cuidiú le trácht ag Rásaí na Gaillimhe agus le hord a choinneáil i lár na cathrach (Mounted gardaí help to ease the traffic jams at Galway Races, 30.07.1998). Tugadh isteach an t-aonad, faoi stiúir an Gharda Roisin O'Dea as Uachtar Ard, chun cuidiú le cúrsaí tráchta, mar gheall gur theip ar an gcóras soilse tráchta nua ar an bpríomhbhealach chuig an ráschúrsa.

Connacht Tribune 1909-current, 16.07.2010, page 6

Gardaí unveil plan to avert Race Week traffic jams

At the launch of Galway Race Week Traffic Plan, Sergt. J.J. Burke, John Maloney, Galway Race Course; Supt. Marie Skehill; Tim Naughton, Chairman Galway Race Committee; Supt. Martin Cashen and Terry Cunningham, Galway Race Committee.
Photo source: *Connacht Tribune.*

Ag seoladh Phlean Tráchta Sheachtain Rásaíochta na Gaillimhe; an Sáirsint J.J. Burke, John Maloney, Ráschúrsa na Gaillimhe, an Ceannfort Marie Skehill; Tim Naughton, Cathaoirleach Choiste Rásaíochta na Gaillimhe; an Ceannfort Martin Cashen agus Terry Cunningham, Coiste Rásaíochta na Gaillimhe.
Grianghraf: An *Curadh Connachtach.*

Galway Races

In July 1998, the *Evening Echo* discussed the first appearance of the Garda Mounted Police horses outside of Dublin to help with the Galway Races traffic and to keep order in the city centre (Mounted gardaí help to ease the traffic jams at Galway Races, 30.07.1998). The unit, led by Garda Roisin O'Dea of Oughterard, had been drafted in to help with the traffic situation following the failure of a new traffic light system on the main route to the racecourse.

Gardaí recorded their satisfaction with the 1998 Race Week in the *City Tribune*, "with very little trouble to report on" (Gardaí happy with trouble-free Races, 31.07.1998). A Garda spokesman commented: "The festival has gone off like a breeze so far and we would put it down to more visible and more active policing, plus better control of the traffic. There were a lot of lost children on the course, but I would put it down more to a case of lost parents having a bet!"

In July 2010, Gardaí announced a new colour-coded route and entrance system to improve the traffic to and from Galway Racecourse for Race Week (Gardaí unveil plan to avert Race Week traffic jams, *Connacht Tribune*, 16.07.2010). The blue, red and green coded routes were "designed to prevent any cross-flow of traffic making its way to and from Ballybrit Racecourse, while also leaving the roads open for non-race traffic" and a Garda spokesperson advised motorists to plan their routes in advance.

Rinne na Gardaí taifeadadh sa *City Tribune* ar cé chomh sásta is a bhí siad le Seachtain na Rásaí 1998, "is beag trioblóide a bhí le tuairisciú" (Gardaí happy with trouble-free Races, 31.07.1998). Thug urlabhraí an Gharda Síochána ráiteas: "Tá an fhéile ag dul ar aghaidh gan aon stró go dtí seo, agus táimid á chur sin síos do phóilíneacht ghníomhach atá níos feiceálaí chomh maith le rialú tráchta níos fearr. Chuaigh go leor leanaí amú ar an ráschúrsa ach is dóigh gur bhain sé sin le tuismitheoirí a bhí imithe amú agus iad i mbun gealltóireachta!"

I mí Iúil 2010, d'fhógair na Gardaí bealach dathchódaithe agus córas isteach nua chun trácht isteach agus amach as Ráschúrsa na Gaillimhe do Sheachtain na Rásaí a fheabhsú. (Gardaí unveil plan to avert Race Week traffic jams, *Connacht Tribune*, 16.07.2010). Rinneadh na bealaí a bhí códaithe, gorm, dearg agus uaine "a dhearadh chun cosc a chur le tras-sreabhadh tráchta ag déanamh an bhealaigh ó Ráschúrsa Bhaile an Bhriotaigh, agus leis na bóithre a fhágáil oscailte do thrácht nach mbaineann leis na rásaí ag an am céanna", agus chomhairligh urlabhraí an Garda Síochána do thiománaithe an bealach a bheith pleanáilte acu roimh ré.

Accomodation

In July 2009, the *Connacht Tribune* reported on a major campaign, mounted by the Kilrickle community, to reverse the decision to close their local Garda Station and patrol the area through mobile units from Loughrea (Residents vow to reverse decision to remove permanent Garda presence, 17.07.2009). Galway East TD Paul Connaughton supported the local campaign, stating that "The role of a Community Garda living in the midst of a community like Kilrickle bestows many advantages to almost everybody."

The new Oranmore Garda Station opened in May 2007, the €4.2 million structure containing interrogation rooms, cells, a compound and juvenile detention rooms, as well as providing accommodation to the Garda Traffic Corps. Galway West Dail Deputy Noel Grealish commented that "the new Inspector-led station would be a major benefit to the rapidly expanding area of Oranmore – now officially the fastest expanding area in the country with a 107 per cent population increase pinpointed in the latest census" (Oranmore new Garda Station opens next week, *Connacht Tribune*, 11.05.2007).

Covid

In early 2021, Galway's most senior Garda, Chief Superintendent Tom Curley, reflected on the challenges faced by the Gardaí during the height of the Covid pandemic in an interview with the *Connacht Tribune*. Chief Supt. Curley said that, from the start of the Covid emergency, the Gardaí had experienced an extremely positive sense of community engagement and "had gone with 'the 4 Es policy' – to engage, explain, encourage and enforce. He praised the "huge level of co-operation" from the public and the "huge effort" put in by his own staff in An Garda Síochána since the onset of Covid in March 2020 (Community Triumphs Over Covid, *Connacht Tribune*, 01.01.2021).

Cóiríocht

I mí Iúil 2009, tuairiscíodh sa *Churadh Connachtach* go raibh ollfheachtas á eagrú ag pobal Chill Rícill chun an cinneadh a rinneadh stáisiún áitiúil na nGardaí a dhúnadh agus aonaid taistil ó Bhaile Locha Riach a bheith ar patról sa cheantar a iompú droim ar ais (Residents vow to reverse decision to remove permanent Garda presence, 17.07.2009). Thacaigh an Teachta Dála ó Ghaillimh Thoir, Paul Connaughton leis an bhfeachtas áitiúil agus dúirt "Cuireann ról an Gharda Pobail atá ag maireachtáil i bpobal ar nós Chill Rícill go leor buntáistí ar fáil do beagnach gach duine."

Osclaíodh an Stáisiún Gardaí nua in Órán Mór i mí na Bealtaine 2007, stáisiún ina bhfuil struchtúr a chosain €4.2 milliún, le seomraí ceistiúcháin, cillíní, seomraí coinneála do chiontóirí óga, chomh maith le cóiríocht a chur ar fáil do Chór Tráchta an Gharda Síochána. Dúirt Teachta Dála Ghaillimh Thiar Noel Grealish "go rachadh stáisiún faoi stiúir Cigire go mór chun leasa do cheantar Órán Mór atá ag leathnú go tapa – atá anois, go hoifigiúil, ar an gceantar is mó sa tír atá ag leathnú le hardú daonra de 107 faoin gcéad léirithe sa daonáireamh deiridh" (Oranmore new Garda Station opens next week, *Connacht Tribune*, 11.05.2007).

Covid

I dtús na bliana 2021, rinne an Garda is sinsearaí i nGaillimh, an tArd-Cheannfort Tom Curley, machnamh ar na dúshláin a bhí i ndán don Gharda Síochána agus paindéim Covid i mbarr a réime in agallamh leis an gCuradh Connachtach. Dúirt an tArd-Cheannfort Curley go raibh braistint phobail thar a bheith dearfach á bhrath ag na Gardaí ó thosaigh éigeandáil Covid, agus "coinníodh 'le polasaí na 4 Es' – teagmháil a dhéanamh, míniú a thabhairt, spreagadh a thabhairt agus forfheidhmiú a dhéanamh (to engage, explain, encourage and enforce). Mhol sé "an leibhéal ard comhoibrithe" ón bpobal, agus an "iarracht mhór" a rinne a fhoireann féin sa Gharda Síochána ó thús Covid i Márta 2020 (Community Triumphs Over Covid, *Connacht Tribune*, 01.01.2021).

Presidential motorcade on Williamsgate Street. Photo source: Robert Knudsen, White House; courtesy of John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.

Slógadh carranna an Uachtaráin ar Shráid Gheata Liam. Grianghraf: Robert Knudsen, An Teach Bán; le caoinchead Leabharlann agus Músaem Uachtaránachta John F. Kennedy.

25. John Fitzgerald Kennedy in Galway

"The three happiest days I've ever spent in my life", was how President John Fitzgerald Kennedy described his visit to Ireland in June 1963. For the visit, all Garda leave was cancelled, with members directed to get their hair cut and to wear their best uniform. They were to look first class and display efficiency, smartness and courtesy. Members unfortunate not to have received the current issue of uniform would find themselves on duty at places away from the Presidential route. The Garda Commissioner stressed that the eyes of the world would be on Ireland.

25. John Fitzgerald Kennedy i nGaillimh

"The three happiest days I've ever spent in my life" an tuairisc a thug an tUachtarán John Fitzgerald Kennedy ar a chuairt go hÉirinn i mí Meithimh 1963. Bhí cosc iomlán ar laethanta saoire ag an nGarda agus tugadh treoir do na Gardaí uilig bearradh gruaige a fháil agus an éide is fearr a bhí acu a chaitheamh. An Garda ansin a raibh de mhí-ádh air nach raibh éide den déanamh ba nua faighte go fóill aige, ba chinnte gur in áit i bhfad ó aon áit a siúilfeadh an tUachtarán a chuirfí an Garda sin ar dualgas. Bhí an-bhéim ag Coimisinéir an Gharda ar shúile mhuintir an domhain uilig a bheith ag faire ar an tír seo.

On each of the three days, an average of almost 3,000 Gardaí was deployed at the various locations. The Gardaí had been directed to keep their backs to the motorcade while surveying the crowd, but occasionally the crowd surged forward, led by the Gardaí, looking for an autograph.

The *Irish Times* of 27 June quoted an unidentified Garda as saying he "wouldn't be sorry when the President's visit was over."

The President's schedule included visits and engagements at Dublin on his arrival on 27 June, followed by visits to Wexford and then back to Dublin where, at a reception in Áras an Uachtaráin, the great and good of Irish society appear to have embarrassed themselves in their efforts to meet the President. On day two of the visit, the President went to Cork before again returning to Dublin for his address to the Dáil and the Seanad.

On his final day, 29 June, he visited Galway where 600 Gardaí performed duty in the city. Gardaí had been drafted in from around the country for the visit and were accommodated at Renmore Army Barracks and at St Mary's College in the city.

After receiving the freedom of Galway City, President Kennedy made a speech from Eyre Square before, to the utter dismay of his Secret Service detail, he again mingled with the crowd. The exuberance of the crowd led one local Sergeant on duty to send a message over the radio for backup quick or "they'll be wanting to shoulder him into town."

The visit of the American President John F. Kennedy to Galway in 1963, as part of his Irish tour, was one of the city's most prolific international events and required a huge level of organisation on the part of the Gardaí. A large section of the city was pedestrianised and closed to regular traffic on the day with the expectation that the city's population would double in size for

Gach lá de na trí lá, cuireadh beagnach 3,000 Garda ar an meán ar dualgas sna hionaid éagsúla. Bhí treoraithe do na Gardaí a ndroim a choinneáil le slógadh na gcarranna agus a bheith ag faire an tslua, ach ó am go chéile, bhrúdh an slua amach, agus na Gardaí i dtosach an ruathair, le súil go síneofaí átagraf dóibh.

Ar an 27 Meitheamh, tuairiscíodh ar an *Irish Times* go ndúirt Garda amháin, nár ainmníodh, nach díomá a bheadh air nuair a bheadh deireadh le cuairt an Uachtaráin.

Bhí cuairteanna agus coinní i mBaile Átha Cliath i gceist le sceideal an Uachtaráin ar a theacht don tír dó an 27 Meitheamh agus cuairt ina dhiaidh sin go Loch Garman agus ar ais go Baile Átha Cliath ina dhiaidh sin chuig fáiltiú in Áras an Uachtaráin, ócáid is cosúil ag ar náirigh maithe agus móruaisle na tíre iad féin ag iarraidh casadh leis an Uachtarán. An dara lá den chuairt, chuaigh an tUachtarán go Corcaigh agus ar ais arís go Baile Átha Cliath ina dhiaidh sin le haitheasc a thabhairt uaidh os comhair na Dála agus an tSeanaid.

An lá deireanach den chuairt, an 29 Meitheamh, tháinig sé go Gaillimh. Bhí 600 Garda ar dualgas ar an mbaile mór. Bhí Gardaí tagtha as gach ceard den tír le haghaidh na cuairte agus lóistín acu i mBeairic an Airm ar an Rinn Mhóir agus i gColáiste Mhuire ar an mbaile mór.

Bronnadh saoirse chathair na Gaillimhe ar an Uachtarán Kennedy agus tar éis dó aitheasc a thabhairt uaidh ar an bhFaiche Mhór, nach ndeachaigh sé, rud a chuir díomá mór ar lucht an Secret Service, i measc na ndaoine arís. Bhí an slua chomh tógtha leis gur fhógair Sáirsint amháin de chuid na Gaillimhe féin ar a raidió gurbh fhearr dream cúltaca a chur isteach go beo nó go mbeidís "wanting to shoulder him into town."

The visit of the American President John F. Kennedy to Galway in 1963, as part of his Irish tour, was one of the city's most prolific

JFK in Salthill. Photo source: Stan Shields, *Connacht Tribune.*
JFK i mBóthar na Trá. Grianghraf: Stan Shields, An *Curadh Connachtach.*

Presidential motorcade on Forster Street. Photo source: Stan Shields, *Connacht Tribune.*
Slógadh carranna an Uachtaráin ar Shráid Forster. Grianghraf: Stan Shields, An *Curadh Connachtach.*

the event. A comment from Chief Superintendent McManus stated that: "about six hundred Guards would be on duty in the city on the day of President Kennedy's visit."

(All Cars Off Eyre Square and Main Streets on June 29th – Pedestrians' Day, *Connacht Tribune,* 22.06.1963.)

The main presidential ceremony took place in Eyre Square and following this, the presidential motorcade, flanked by a Garda motorcycle escort, made its way to Salthill towards the president's helicopter. The six hundred Gardaí lined the presidential route to Salthill.

(Great Welcome for US President, *Connacht Tribune,* 29.06.1963)

international events and required a huge level of organisation on the part of the Gardaí. A large section of the city was pedestrianised and closed to regular traffic on the day with the expectation that the city's population would double in size for the event. A comment from Chief Superintendent McManus stated that: "about six hundred Guards would be on duty in the city on the day of President Kennedy's visit."

(All Cars Off Eyre Square and Main Streets on June 29th – Pedestrians' Day, An *Curadh Connachtach*, 22.06.1963.)

The main presidential ceremony took place in Eyre Square and following this, the presidential motorcade, flanked by a Garda motorcycle escort, made its way to Salthill towards the president's

The Garda resources required to staff such a large event were drawn from across the country. A notice in the *Donegal Democrat* in July commented:

> *Because local Gardaí had been called to Galway in connection with President Kennedy's visit, only one summons could be dealt with at Glenties Court on Friday before Justice Larkin. Sergeant D. Solan, Glenties, told the Justice that he was applying for the adjournment of all cases brought by Gardaí in the Glenties District, as they had been called to Galway.*

(Gardaí on Presidential Duty, *Donegal Democrat*, 05.07.1963)

Following the Presidential Tour, the *Connacht Tribune* recorded:

> *Guard J. Leyne, Roundstone and his son, Guard Noel Leyne, Craughwell, were the only father and son unit on duty in the Dublin and Galway receptions for President Kennedy. They were both plainly to be seen on television.*

(Memory for Father, Son, *Connacht Tribune*, 06.07.1963)

On his way to the plane at Shannon Airport, the President commented to Assistant Commissioner Michael Wymes: "the police did a mighty fine job, thanks very much, I would like you to thank them all for me."

Following his visit, President Kennedy personally wrote to Garda Commissioner Daniel Costigan, thanking An Garda Síochána for their handling of his visit. This letter, however, did not come into the public domain as Commissioner Costigan was prohibited from circulating it by a senior official in the Department of Justice, which meant that the thousands of Gardaí involved in the security for the Presidents' visit, were never informed of his personal appreciation in regard to their efforts. The letter was eventually released with State papers in December 2006.

helicopter. The six hundred Gardaí lined the presidential route to Salthill.

(Great Welcome for US President, An *Curadh Connachtach*, 29.06.1963)

Bhí acmhainní an Gharda á dtarraingt as gach cearn chuig ócáid chomh mór léi seo. Luaitear i dtuairisc ar pháipéar nuachta áitiúil i dTír Chonaill an cur isteach a bhí ar ghnáthchúrsaí oibre:

> *Because local Gardaí had been called to Galway in connection with President Kennedy's visit, only one summons could be dealt with at Glenties Court on Friday before Justice Larkin. Sergeant D. Solan, Glenties, told the Justice that he was applying for the adjournment of all cases brought by Gardaí in the Glenties District, as they had been called to Galway.*

(Gardaí on Presidential Duty, *Donegal Democrat*, 05.07.1963)

Lean trácht ar na gnóthaí sin ar an g*Curadh Connachtach* go ceann tamaill tar éis deireadh le cuairt an Uachtaráin:

> *Guard J. Leyne, Roundstone and his son, Guard Noel Leyne, Craughwell, were the only father and son unit on duty in the Dublin and Galway receptions for President Kennedy. They were both plainly to be seen on television.*

(Memory for Father, Son, An *Curadh Connachtach*, 06.07.1963)

Ar an mbealach chuig an eitleán dó in Aerfort na Sionna, dúirt an tUachtarán leis an gCoimisinéir Cúnta Michael Wymes: "the police did a mighty fine job, thanks very much, I would like you to thank them all for me."

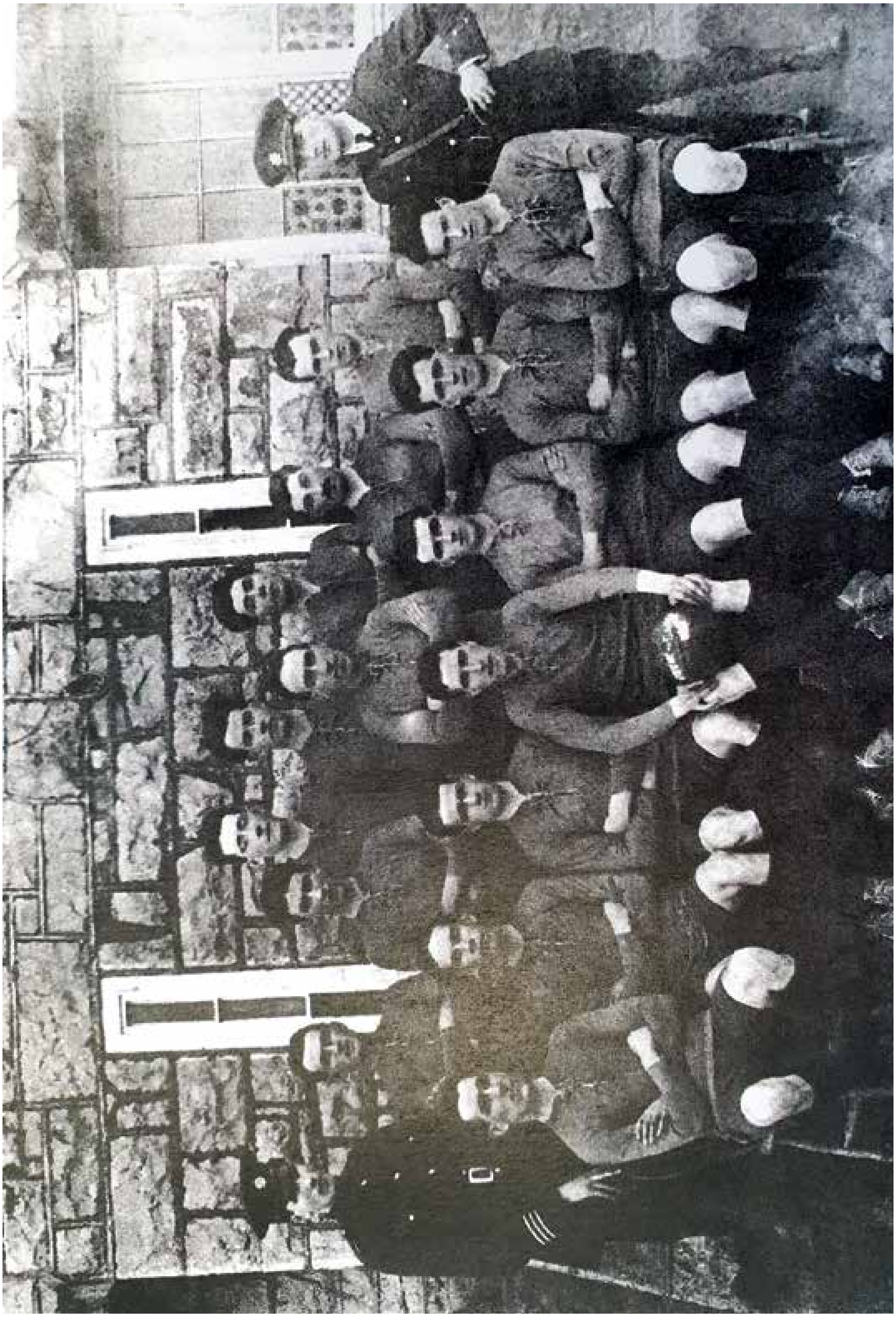
Nuair a bhí sé ar ais i Meiriceá, scríobh an tUachtarán Kennedy litir phearsanta chuig Coimisinéir an Gharda Síochána Daniel Costigan, ag glacadh buíochais leis an nGarda Síochána as an gcaoi ar láimhseáladh an chuairt oifigiúil.

Presidential motorcade in Lower Salthill. Photo source: Robert Knudsen, White House; courtesy of John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum.
Slógadh carranna an Uachtaráin i mBóthar na Trá Íochtarach. Grianghraf: Robert Knudsen, An Teach Bán; le caoinchead Leabharlann agus Músaem Uachtaránachta John F. Kennedy.

President Kennedy's promise to return to Ireland, sadly, never came to pass as he was assassinated less than five months later in the USA in Dallas, Texas.

Níor poiblíodh an litir sin ó chuir oifigeach sinsearach sa Roinn Dlí agus Cirt cosc ar an gCoimisinéir Costigan í a scaipeadh, rud a d'fhág na mílte de na Gardaí a raibh baint acu leis an obair shlándála i rith chuairt an Uachtaráin gan a fhios acu riamh gur ghlac sé buíochas pearsanta as ucht a gcuid díchill. Foilsíodh an litir i ndeireadh báire nuair a bhí páipéir Stáit á bhfoilsiú i mí na Nollag 2006.

Níor tharla riamh faraor, faoi mar a bhí geallta ag an Uachtarán Kennedy, gur fhill sé ar Éirinn ó feallmharaíodh é in Dallas, Texas, gan cúig mhí féin caite ó d'fhág sé an tír seo.



Galway Garda football team, 1923. Courtesy of the Old Tuam Society Archive.
Foireann peile Ghardaí na Gaillimhe, 1923. Le caoinchead Chartlann an Old Tuam Society.

Galway Garda Divisional Football Team, 1978/79. Courtesy of Galway Garda Station.
Back row left to right: Inspector Joe Ward, John O'Donnell, Pat Lee, Mark O'Gara, Peadar Lynch, Pat Houlihan, Pat Gallagher, John Manicle, Dan Casey, Braian Mongan, Denis O'Shea, Myles McKiernan, Superintendent Pat Flaherty, Loughrea.
Front row left to right: Martin Mannion, Tom Clancy, Noel Sullivan, John McGee, Jim Healy, P.J. Lenihan, Tom Sands, Paddy Sweeney, John Weir and Eddie Coughlan.
Foireann Peile an Gharda, Ceantar na Gaillimhe 1978/79. Le caoinchead Bheairic na nGardaí, Gaillimh.
Ar gcúl, ó chlé go deas: An Cigire Joe Ward, John O'Donnell, Pat Lee, Mark O'Gara, Peadar Lynch, Pat Houlihan, Pat Gallagher, John Manicle, Dan Casey, Braian Mongan, Denis O'Shea, Myles McKiernan, An Ceannfort Pat Flaherty, Baile Locha Riach.
Chun tosaigh, ó chlé go deas: Martin Mannion, Tom Clancy, Noel Sullivan, John McGee, Jim Healy, P.J. Lenihan, Tom Sands, Paddy Sweeney, John Weir agus Eddie Coughlan.

26. Sport

General Eoin O'Duffy became the second Commissioner of An Garda Síochána on 18 September 1922. A former Chief of Staff of the IRA, O'Duffy had, before the outbreak of hostilities during 1916-1922, been very active in the Monaghan and Ulster Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) at an administrative level. O'Duffy recognised the benefits of sport to the lives of the young Gardaí whom he now led. He also saw sport, especially the GAA, as a means for members of the new force to bring themselves into favourable contact with communities which were still wary following the years of animosity.

26. Spórt

Ceapadh an Ginearál Eoin Ua Dubhthaigh ar an dara Coimisinéir ar an nGarda Síochána ar an 18 Meán Fómhair 1922. Bhíodh sé ina Cheann Foirne ar Arm na Poblachta agus, sular thosaigh an choimhlint i rith na mblianta 1916-1922, bhí sé an-ghníomhach i mbun riaracháin le Cumann Lúthchleas Gael (CLG) i Muineachán agus i gCúige Uladh. Thuig Ua Dubhthaigh an bhuntáiste a bhain le cúrsaí spóirt i saol na nGardaí óga a bhí anois faoina cheannas. Chonacthas dó freisin gur mhaith an bealach an spórt, go háirithe cluichí an CLG, ag daoine den fhórsa nua le caidreamh tairbheach a chothú leis

An Garda Síochána

Connaught/Ulster, Hurling - Croke Park, 1976.
Back row left to right: Paul McWalter, Noel Casey, Basil Johnson, John O'Donnell, Frank Larkin, John Harrington, Noel lane, John Fawl, Noel Colleran, Jimmy Kilroy.
Front row left to right: J. Egan, Jackie Kilroy, Jim Browne, Tony Reidy, David Burke, Pat Malone, Ollie Parnell, Dick Williams, Christy Lawlor. Courtesy of Galway Garda Station.
Cúige Chonnacht/Cúige Uladh, Iománaíocht - Páirc an Chrócaigh, 1976.
Ar gcúl ó chlé go deas: Paul McWalter, Noel Casey, Basil Johnson, John O'Donnell, Frank Larkin, John Harrington, Noel lane, John Fawl, Noel Colleran, Jimmy Kilroy.
Chun tosaigh ó chlé go deas: J. Egan, Jackie Kilroy, Jim Browne, Tony Reidy, David Burke, Pat Malone, Ollie Parnell, Dick Williams, Christy Lawlor. Le caoinchead Bheairic na nGardaí, Gaillimh.

Young Gardaí throughout the country immersed themselves in local GAA teams and affairs, a tradition that continues to this day. From the early days, members of An Garda Síochána reached as GAA players the highest of levels in both hurling and football. Many also were actively involved at local, county and provincial level as coaches, referees and administrators.

The sporting body within An Garda Síochána is known as the 'Coiste Siamsa'; its goal is to foster all sports within the organisation. The Chief Superintendent in each Division assumes chairmanship of its local board. A photograph of a Galway Garda football team from 1923 still exists.

an bpobal ó bhí na daoine aireach i gcónaí tar éis bhlianta fada den naimhdeas.

Bhí Gardaí óga ar fud na tíre sáite i bhfoirne áitiúla an CLG agus sna cumainn áitiúla, nós a mhaireann i gcónaí sa lá atá inniu ann. Ó na laethanta tosaigh, bhí daoine den Gharda Síochána ag imirt iománaíochta agus peile ar na leibhéil is airde. Bhí cuid mhór freisin ag obair ar leibhéal an chumainn, an chontae agus an chúige ina gcóitseálaithe, ina réiteoirí agus i mbun riaracháin.

An Coiste Siamsa a thugtar ar an eagras spóirt taobh istigh den Gharda Síochána agus de

Galway Divisional, Hurling – Pearse Stadium c. 1980.
Back row left to right: Tom Kelly, Mick Hogan, Kevin McDonagh, Mick Curley, Steven Connolly, Seamas Lydon, Frank Larkin, Mattie Coleman, Tom Morris, Jimmy Kilroy.
Front row left to right: Dermot Collins, Tony Reidy, John O'Donnell, Pat Hurney, Joe Salmon, Gerry Curtin.
Courtesy of Galway Garda Station.
Ceantair na Gaillimhe, Iománaíocht – Páirc an Phiarsaigh, c. 1980.
Ar gcúl ó chlé go deas: Tom Kelly, Mick Hogan, Kevin McDonagh, Mick Curley, Steven Connolly, Séamas Lydon, Frank Larkin, Mattie Coleman, Tom Morris, Jimmy Kilroy.
Chun tosaigh ó chlé go deas: Dermot Collins, Tony Reidy, John O'Donnell, Pat Hurney, Joe Salmon, Gerry Curtin.
Le caoinchead Bheairic na nGardaí, Gaillimh.

In the Galway Garda Division, many members featured prominently both at club and county level in the GAA over the years. In more recent times, Galway Gardaí have also become involved in sports other than in the GAA such as soccer, rugby, golf and basketball.

In 1925, the first of many future Garda Sports Days took place at South Park in Galway City, with the *Connacht Tribune* noting that the event unfortunately fell victim to extremely inclement weather (Garda Sports, 01.08.1925):

> *The rain and wind increased so greatly during the afternoon that, after a tardy start had been*

chuspóir leis spórt den uile chineál a chothú san eagraíocht. Bíonn an tArd-Cheannfort i ngach Roinn sa chathaoir ar bhord na Roinne. Tá grianghraf ar fáil i gcónaí d'fhoireann peile Ghardaí na Gaillimhe ón mbliain 1923.

Bhí go leor Gardaí i Rannán na Gaillimhe a raibh cáil orthu ag imirt na gcluichí Gaelacha ar leibhéal na gclub agus ar leibhéal idir-contaetha. Le tamall anuas, tá Gardaí de chuid na Gaillimhe páirteach i gcineálacha eile spóirt freisin seachas cluichí CLG, mar shampla sacar, rugbaí, galf agus cispheil.

Sa bhliain 1925 a eagraíodh Lá Spóirt an Gharda den chéad uair sa Pháirc Theas i mbaile mór na

made at 2.30pm, an hour and a half after the scheduled time, it was decided, at 5.30pm, to postpone the events to a future date. A large number of enthusiasts who had travelled from Dublin and all over the country were keenly disappointed.

Events in running, cycling, shot putting and slinging took place on the rainy day, but others in hurdles, high and long jump, tug-of-war and relay, obstacle and veteran races, took place at the rescheduled Sports Day the following month.

Chief Superintendent John Mitchell was the Divisional Officer in the Galway West Division from 1985 to 1993. In 1960, he was a member of the Wexford Senior Hurling team which won the All-Ireland Championship. This was the team of the famed Rackard brothers. John Mitchell's early Garda career was spent in Kerry but he transferred his hurling allegiance to Galway. This may have cost both him and Wexford further All-Irelands but it was always his view that Gardaí should play for the local clubs where they were stationed.

Galway Gardaí were the winners of the County Inter-firm Football League in 1969, winning with a score of 3-7 to 2-3 against the Tuam Sugar Factory (County Inter-Firm League Won Deservedly by Gardaí, *Connacht Tribune*, 01.08.1969). The *Tribune* noted: "The five-hundred odd spectators were treated to a fine game which would have done credit to two top-class club teams and the Gardaí who were fitter and shrewder won deservedly."

In 1989, two Galway Gardaí played an important role in the success of the Garda tug-o-war team at the World Police & Fire Games in Vancouver, Canada (Gold medals for Gardaí, *Connacht Tribune*, 15.08.1989). The team was managed by Sergeant Michael Concannon from Dunmore and Tom Flaherty from Inverin was a member of the successful team.

Gaillimhe. Luaitear ar an *gCuradh Connachtach* nach raibh an t-ádh ar an ócáid ó thaobh cúrsaí aimsire (Garda Sports, 01.08.1925):

The rain and wind increased so greatly during the afternoon that, after a tardy start had been made at 2.30pm, an hour and a half after the scheduled time, it was decided, at 5.30pm, to postpone the events to a future date. A large number of enthusiasts who had travelled from Dublin and all over the country were keenly disappointed.

Cuireadh na rásaí reatha agus rothaíochta, an caitheamh meáchain agus an teilgean ar siúl an lá fliuch sin ach is ar an dara lá, an mhí dár gcionn, a tharla na rásaí cliathreathaíochta, an léim ard agus an léim fhada, an tarraingt téide agus na rásaí sealaíochta, na bacrásaí agus rásaí do dhaoine níos aosta.

Ba é an tArd-Cheannfort John Mitchell an tOifigeach Rannáin i Rannán Iarthar na Gaillimhe idir na blianta 1985 agus 1993. Bhí seisean ar fhoireann sinsir iománaíochta Loch Garman sa bhliain 1960 a bhuaigh Craobh na hÉireann, an fhoireann chéanna ar a raibh deartháracha cáiliúla Rackard. I gCiarraí a rinne John Mitchell fónamh i dtús a shaol oibre leis na Gardaí agus d'aistrigh sé go dtí an contae sin ó thaobh na hiomána freisin. D'fhéadfadh sé gurb é an t-aistriú sin a tháinig roimh Chraobhacha eile aige féin agus ag Loch Garman ach bhí seisean den tuairim riamh gur cheart do na Gardaí imirt do chumann na háite, san áit a raibh siad ar lonnú.

Ba iad Gardaí na Gaillimhe a bhuaigh Sraith Peile Idir Comhlachtaí an Chontae sa bhliain 1969. 3-7 le 2-3 an scór in aghaidh Mhonarcha Siúcra Thuama (County Inter-Firm League Won Deservedly by Gardaí An *Curadh Connachtach*, 01.08.1969). Seo an tuairisc a tugadh ar an *gCuradh Connachtach*: "The five-hundred odd spectators were treated to a fine game which would have done credit to two top-class club teams and the Gardaí who were fitter and shrewder won deservedly."

Galway Divisional, Hurling – South Park c. 1980.
Back row left to right: John Power, Mick Hogan, Mattie Coleman, Martin O'Shea, Liam Creaven, Frank Larkin, Gerry Maher, Gerry Dillon, Tony Reidy.
Front row left to right: Tom Kelly, Kevin McDonagh, Dermot Collins, Seamas Lydon, Gerry Curtin, John O'Donnell, Pat Hurney, Joe Salmon. Courtesy of Galway Garda Station.
Ceantair na Gaillimhe, Iománaíocht – An Pháirc Theas, c. 1980.
Ar gcúl ó chlé go deas: John Power, Mick Hogan, Mattie Coleman, Martin O'Shea, Liam Creaven, Frank Larkin, Gerry Maher, Gerry Dillon, Tony Reidy.
Chun tosaigh ó chlé go deas: Tom Kelly, Kevin McDonagh, Dermot Collins, Séamas Lydon, Gerry Curtin, John O'Donnell, Pat Hurney, Joe Salmon. Le caoinchead Bheairic na nGardaí, Gaillimh.

Mick Curley, former Superintendent at Salthill, refereed the All-Ireland Senior Football Final in 1999. Garda Alan Kelly and Sergeant Christy Browne have also refereed at the highest of levels.

Garda Gerry Fahy managed Galway GAA football teams at senior and underage level as well as Club and College teams. He also managed the Offaly senior footballers. Garda Pat Nally of Athenry managed the Athenry Club hurlers to All-Ireland success and Garda Don Connellan of Galway Garda Station managed Moycullen to County football titles and NUIG to Sigerson success.

Garda James Kavanagh represented Ireland in the Compromise Rules Series against Australia in 2010 and Colm Boyle was involved in 2013 and 2014.

Sa bhliain 1989, bhí beirt Ghardaí as Gaillimh an-tábhachtach maidir leis an rath a bhí ar fhoireann tarraingt téide an Gharda ag Cluichí an Domhain do Phóilíní agus do Lucht Dóiteáin i Vancouver Cheanada (Gold medals for Gardaí, An Curadh Connachtach, 15.08.1989). Bhí an Sáirsint Michael Concannon as Dún Mór agus Tomás Ó Flatharta as Indreabhán ina mbainisteoirí ar an bhfoireann bhuacach.

Rinne Mick Curley, Ceannfort tráth i mBóthar na Trá, réiteoireacht ar an gCluiche Ceannais i gCraobhchomórtas Uile-Éireann na Peile sa bhliain 1999. Rinne an Garda Alan Kelly agus an Sáirsint Christy Browne réiteoireacht ar chluichí ar na leibhéil is airde freisin.

An Garda Síochána

Among the internal Garda competitions are the Inter-Divisional Football and Hurling championships. Galway winners of these competitions over the years were as follows:

Football	Hurling
1968 - Roscommon/Galway East	1976 - Galway West
1969 - Roscommon/Galway East	1977 - Galway West
1970 - Roscommon/Galway East	1982 - Galway West
1984 - Galway West	1983 - Galway West
1998 - Limerick/Clare/Galway	1985 - Galway West
2011 - Galway	
2012 - Galway	
2013 - Galway	

The following Gardaí won All-Ireland Senior Football medals with the Galway team:

1925 - Frank Benson

1934 - Martin Kelly

1938 - Martin Kelly and Frank Cunniffe

1956 - Gerry Daly, Frank Eivers and Joe Lowney

1965 - Tom Sands

1964 - Tom Sands

1966 - Tom Sands and Tommy Brennan

1998 - Kevin Walsh

2001 - Kevin Walsh and Alan Keane

2004 - Annette Clarke

The following Gardaí won All-Ireland Senior Hurling medals with the Galway team:

1980 - Gerry Curtin (Galway)

1987 - Peter Finnerty (Henry St, Limerick)

1988 - Peter Finnerty (Henry St, Limerick)

Bhí an Garda Gerry Fahy ina bhainisteoir ar fhoirne peile na Gaillimhe ar leibhéal na sinsear agus faoi aois, chomh maith le bainisteoireacht a dhéanamh ar fhoirne Club agus ar fhoirne Coláiste. Rinne sé bainistíocht freisin ar pheileadóirí sinsir Uíbh Fhailí. Bhí an Garda Pat Nally as Baile Átha an Rí ina bhainisteoir ar iománaithe Bhaile Átha an Rí nuair a bhuaigh siad Craobh Uile-Éireann na gclub agus bhí an Garda Don Connellan as Beairic na nGardaí i nGaillimh ina bhainisteoir ar fhoireann Mhaigh Cuilinn a ghnóthaigh craobh peile an chontae agus ar fhoireann OÉG a ghnóthaigh Corn Mhic Shigiúir.

D'imir an Garda James Kavanagh ar son na hÉireann i Sraith na gComhrialacha in aghaidh na hAstráile sa bhliain 2010 agus bhí an Garda Colm Boyle páirteach i gcluichí na mblianta 2013 agus 2014.

Bíonn comórtais inmheánacha ag na Gardaí freisin, na craobhacha idir Ranna sa pheil agus san iománaíocht san áireamh. Bhuaigh foirne na Gaillimhe na comórtais sin na blianta seo a leanas:

Peil	Iománaíocht
1968 - Ros Comáin/Oirthear na Gaillimhe	1976 - Iarthar na Gaillimhe
1969 - Ros Comáin/Oirthear na Gaillimhe	1977 - Iarthar na Gaillimhe
1970 - Ros Comáin/Oirthear na Gaillimhe	1982 - Iarthar na Gaillimhe
1984 - Iarthar na Gaillimhe	1983 - Iarthar na Gaillimhe
1998 - Luimneach/An Clár/ Gaillimh	1985 - Iarthar na Gaillimhe
2011 - Gaillimh	
2012 - Gaillimh	
2013 - Gaillimh	

Garda Kevin Walsh, a member of the victorious 1998 Galway Football All-Ireland side received a presentation from his colleagues in Salthill Garda Station. Left to right: Sergeant Michael Conroy, Superintendent Jim Surgue, Garda Kevin Walsh and Detective Sergeant Sean O'Grady. Photo source: *Garda Review.*

An Garda Kevin Walsh, a d'imir ar fhoireann na Gaillimhe a bhuaigh Craobh Uile-Éireann 1998 tráth a raibh tabhairt amach dó ag a comhghleacaithe i mBeairic na nGardaí, Bóthar na Trá. Ó chlé go deas: An Sáirsint Michael Conroy, an Ceannfort Jim Surgue, an Garda Kevin Walsh agus an Bleachtaire Sáirsint Seán O'Grady.
Grianghraf: *Garda Review.*

The following Gardaí won GAA All-Stars (Football) while stationed in the Galway Division (their Station in brackets):

1971 - Jack Cosgrove (Cork)

1998 - Kevin Walsh (Salthill)

2001 - Kevin Walsh (Salthill)

2003 - Kevin Walsh (Salthill)

2013 - Colm Boyle (Clifden)

2014 - Colm Boyle (Clifden)

2016 - Colm Boyle (Clifden)

Bhuaigh na Gardaí seo a leanas bonn Sinsir Uile-Éireann sa Pheil le Gaillimh:

1925 - Frank Benson

1934 - Martin Kelly

1938 - Martin Kelly agus Frank Cunniffe

1956 - Gerry Daly, Frank Eivers agus Joe Lowney

1965 - Tom Sands

1964 - Tom Sands

1966 - Tom Sands agus Tommy Brennan

1998 - Kevin Walsh

2001 - Kevin Walsh agus Alan Keane

2004 - Annette Clarke

Bhuaigh na Gardaí seo a leanas bonn Sinsir Uile-Éireann san Iománaíocht le Gaillimh:

1980 - Gerry Curtin (Gaillimh)

1987 - Peter Finnerty (Sráid Anraí, Luimneach)

1988 - Peter Finnerty (Sráid Anraí, Luimneach)

Bhuaigh na Gardaí seo a leanas Gradam Sárimreoirí (Peile) na bliana agus iad ar lonnú i Rannán na Gaillimhe (an Stáisiún idir lúibíní):

1971 - Jack Cosgrove (Corcaigh)

1998 - Kevin Walsh (Bóthar na Trá)

2001 - Kevin Walsh (Bóthar na Trá)

2003 - Kevin Walsh (Bóthar na Trá)

2013 - Colm Boyle (An Clochán)

2014 - Colm Boyle (An Clochán)

2016 - Colm Boyle (An Clochán)

An Garda Síochána

Galway Divisional Football – Croke Park, c. 1980.
Back row left to right: Seamas Burke, Pat Burke, Gerry Burke, Frank Larkin, Des McGrath, Gerry Fahy, Kevin McDonagh, Frank Mackin, Tom Moran, Tom Kelly, John Carey.
Front row left to right: Denis O Shea, Mickey Burke, Pat fahy, Sean Glynn, John Lovett, Mattie Coleman, Damien Vahey.
Courtesy of Galway Garda Station.

Ceantair na Gaillimhe, Peil – Páirc an Chrócaigh, c. 1980.
Ar gcúl ó chlé go deas: Séamas Burke, Pat Burke, Gerry Burke, Frank Larkin, Des McGrath, Gerry Fahy, Kevin McDonagh, Frank Mackin, Tom Moran, Tom Kelly, John Carey.
Chun tosaigh ó chlé go deas: Denis O Shea, Mickey Burke, Pat Fahy, Seán Glynn, John Lovett, Mattie Coleman, Damien Vahey.
Le caoinchead Bheairic na nGardaí, Gaillimh.

The following Galway-based Gardaí won Club All-Ireland Senior Football medals:

1998 - Gerry Burke (Corofin)

2005 - Ger Brady (Ballina Stephenites)

2007 - Pat Kelly (St Vincents)

2015 - Padraig Kelly (Corofin)

The following Galway-based Garda won Club All-Ireland Senior Hurling medals:

2001 – Diarmuid Cloonan (Athenry)

Bhuaigh na Gardaí seo a leanas a bhí lonnaithe i nGaillimh bonn Sinsir Uile-Éireann sa Pheil lena gcumann:

1998 - Gerry Burke (Cora Finne)

2005 - Ger Brady (Stiofánaigh Bhéal an Átha)

2007 - Pat Kelly (Naomh Uinsean)

2015 - Padraig Kelly (Cora Finne)

Bhuaigh na Gardaí seo a leanas a bhí lonnaithe i nGaillimh bonn Sinsir Uile-Éireann san Iománaíocht lena gcumann:

2001 – Diarmuid Cloonan (Baile Átha an Rí)

All-Ireland Garda Inter-Divisional Football Champions 2011 – Galway / Seaimpíní Peile Idir-Rannáin na nGardaí Uile-Éireann 2011 – Gaillimh.
Back Row (L to R) / Ar Chúl (ó Chlé go Deas): Conor Barrett, Michael Gallagher, Mark Walkin, Ryan Meaney, Shane Waldron, Mark Caffrey, Don Connellan (RIP), Pat Kelly, Shane Fitzmaurice, Sean Durkin, Shane Nallen, Shane Igoe, Emmet Rocke, Alan Keane, Shane Prendergast, Padraig O'Connor, Jason Kelly, Darragh Bolton. Front Row (L to R) / Chun Tosaigh (ó Chlé go Deas): Paul McBride, Nicholas Delaney, Declan Fawl, Niall Lennon, Colm Boyle, Neil Lydon, Cian Flanagan (Mascot), Padraig Kelly, Cormac Bane, Pat Casey, Seamus McDonnell (Manager). Missing from photo: Sean McHugh, Charlie Cawley, Anthony Pender and / agus Ronan Steede. Courtesy of Galway Garda Station / Le caoinchead Bheairic na nGardaí, Gaillimh.

Inter-firm Competitions

Throughout the 1970s, '80s and '90s, Galway Garda teams were involved in hurling and football Inter-firm competitions, achieving a high degree of success. During this period, the Galway Senior Inter-County Football team had a number of Garda players, including Sean Glynn, Mattie Coleman, Frank Broderick, Seamas Burke and Gerry Burke. In 2010, '11 and '12, the Galway Garda Divisional Football team won the All-Ireland Inter-firm Championship.

In 1984, the Galway Gardaí made history when they won both the All-Ireland Inter-Firm Junior Football Final as well as "the first All-Ireland in this the centenary year of the GAA at Limerick Gaelic Grounds" (Galway Gardaí capture the first All-Ireland of centenary year, *Connacht Sentinel*, 10.01.1984).

Many Gardaí across the Division of Galway continue involvement in various GAA clubs and sporting organisations, ensuring community engagement and maintaining the proud traditions put in place by Commissioner O'Duffy more than a hundred years ago.

Comórtais Idir Comhlachtaí

I rith na 1970idí, na 1980idí agus na 1990idí, bhíodh foirne ag Gardaí na Gaillimhe sna comórtais peile agus iománaíochta idir comhlachtaí agus chruthaigh siad go sármhaith iontu. I rith na mblianta sin, bhíodh roinnt Gardaí ag imirt ar Fhoireann Sinsir Peile na Gaillimhe, ina measc Seán Glynn, Mattie Coleman, Frank Broderick, Séamas Burke agus Gerry Burke. Sna blianta 2010, 2011 agus 2012, bhuaigh foireann peile Rannán na Gaillimhe den Gharda Síochána an Chraobh Uile-Éireann Idir Comhlachtaí.

Rinne Gardaí na Gaillimhe éacht sa bhliain 1984 nuair a bhuaigh siad an Cluiche Ceannais Uile-Éireann Idir Comhlachtaí i ngrád na sóisear i bPáirc na nGael i Luimneach, an chéad Chraobh Uile-Éireann i rith Bhliain an Chéid (Galway Gardaí capture the first All-Ireland of centenary year, *Connacht Sentinel*, 10.01.1984).

Tá cuid mhaith Gardaí ar fud Rannán na Gaillimhe páirteach i gcónaí le clubanna CLG agus le heagraíochtaí eile spóirt, rud a chinntíonn caidreamh leanúnach leis an bpobal agus caomhnú an traidisiúin a chuir an Coimisinéir Ua Dubhthaigh ar bun céad bliain ó shin.

Killimor Main Street, 1950s. Courtesy of Killimor and District Heritage.
Príomhshráid Chill Íomair, 1950idí. Le caoinchead Oidhreacht Chill Íomair agus an Cheantair.

27. A Killimor Christmas

by Philomena Hill

My dad, Guard John Murphy (Killimor, Ballinasloe) died in Our Lady's Hospice (Harold's Cross, Dublin) aged forty-four, leaving my mother, aged thirty-nine, with ten children aged two and a half to eighteen years old.

On Christmas Eve of 1945, we spent most of the day playing outdoors in the snow while Mother stuffed a goose which had hung on a nail out in

27. An Nollaig i gCill Íomair

le Philomena Hill

M'athair, an Garda John Murphy (Cill Íomair, Béal Átha na Sluaighe), ceithre bliana leis an dá fhichead a bhí sé nuair a fuair sé bás in Ospís na Maighdine Muire (Crois Araild, Baile Átha Cliath). D'fhág sin mo mháthair, naoi mbliana déag agus fiche, le deichniúr clainne idir dhá bhliain go leith agus ocht mbliana déag.

the back kitchen for several days. Mrs O'Mara had sent the goose up to her with a basket of groceries. In the basket were sweets, biscuits and a bottle of raspberry wine and a sweet cake for all of us. Before we went to bed that night we had a small party. We prayed and asked Santa not to forget us and we asked Baby Jesus to help Santa with our toys. Mother hung up our small stockings with big safety pins on a clothes line that hung over the fireplace.

Christmas morning we were all up bright and early. We tip-toed down the stairs and crept along the hallway so as not to awaken Mother. We took down our sock and in it was a pair of knitted socks, a few sweets and a pencil. Not one toy for any of us, not even for the baby. After dinner, we went to the church with the smaller children sitting up in the big pram. We looked into the manger crib. After all our praying, Baby Jesus sent us nothing so we decided to hide Him under the straw. We climbed into the crib, pulled the straw up and hid the Baby Jesus under the straw as far down as we could. We then went home satisfied that Baby Jesus was hidden away. We told Bab Flood what we had done and she just smiled. She felt sorry for us and gave us some apples and oranges. The next day we went to the church only to see Baby Jesus back in his crib again. This time we buried the Baby Jesus again, but this time we used our shoe laces and tied him to the straw so that he couldn't get out. Mother was very cross and wanted to know what happened to our laces but we never told her.

The Garda Superintendent heard about our dilemma and a few days later a phone call came to the barrack to say Santa hadn't forgotten us and a large parcel was on its way from the Guards in the Depot Training Centre in Dublin. The parcel contained a beautiful doll, with a china face, drums, bugles, games of all kinds, a big fruit cake and socks for all of us. We were overjoyed. Baby Jesus had loved us after all, even though he was a little late. We paraded up and

Oíche Nollag na bliana 1945, bhí an lá caite ag spraoi taobh amuigh sa sneachta againn agus Mama ag obair ar an ngé a réiteach a bhí ar crochadh le roinnt laethanta roimhe sin amuigh sa chúlchistin. Bean Uí Mheára a chuir an ghé aníos chuici in éineacht le ciseán eile stuif. Bhí milseáin agus brioscaí ann, buidéal fíona sú craobh agus cáca milis do lán an tí. Bhí féasta beag againn an oíche sin roimh dul a chodladh dúinn. Dúirt muid paidreacha, d'iarr ar Shaintí gan dearmad a dhéanamh orainn agus d'impigh ar an Leanbh Íosa cúnamh a thabhairt do Shaintí leis na bréagáin. Bhí bioráin mhóra ag Mama ag crochadh na stocaí beaga sin againne ar ruóg trasna os cionn an mhatail.

Maidin Lá Nollag, dúisíodh go luath agus ní dhearna aon duine moill ag éirí. Bhí muid an-chiúin amuigh sa halla ionas nach ndúiseodh Mama. Tugadh anuas na stocaí Nollag agus bhí péire stocaí cniotáilte, cúpla milseán agus peann luaidhe i ngach ceann acu. Ní raibh oiread is bréagán i gceann ar bith acu, fiú i gceann an pháiste. Tar éis an dinnéir, chuaigh an uile dhuine againn in éineacht chuig an séipéal, na gasúir ba lú ina suí i bpram mór. D'fhéach muid isteach sa mhainséar. Tar éis ár nguí, níor chuir an Leanbh Íosa tada chomh fada linn agus socraíodh É a chur i bhfolach faoin tuí. Isteach linn chomh fada leis an gcliabhán agus tarraingíodh an tuí aníos go raibh an Leanbh Íosa chomh fada as amharc agus a d'fhéadfaí. Bhí muid sásta ag dul abhaile agus gan an Leanbh Íosa le feiceáil níos mó. D'inis muid do Bab Flood an rud a bhí déanta againn, ní dhearna sise ach gáire beag a ligean uirthi. Bhí trua aici dúinn agus thug sí úlla agus oráistí dúinn. An lá dár gcionn, bhí muid ar ais sa séipéal agus nach raibh an Leanbh Íosa ansin sa chliabhán os ár gcomhair. Chuir muide an Leanbh Íosa go domhain sa tuí arís ach, an uair seo, d'úsáid muid barriallacha na mbróg lena cheangal don tuí ionas nach bhféadfadh sé éalú an dara huair. Bhí Mama crosta linn, ag fiafraí cá ndeachaigh na barriallacha, ach níor inis muid tada di.

Killlimor Station Party, c. 1923-24. Courtesy of McNulty family, USA.
Foireann Bheairic Chill Íomair, c. 1923-24. Le caoinchead mhuintir McNulty, Stáit Aontaithe Mheiriceá.

O'Meara's, Killimor. Courtesy of Killimor and District Heritage.
O'Meara's, Cill Íomair. Le caoinchead Oidhreacht Chill Íomair agus an Cheantair.

down the street of Killimor to the delight of Mother and neighbours. No one could ever imagine the joy and happiness that parcel brought to Mother and her orphans.

The above story was written by and is courtesy of Philomena Hill (nee Murphy), formerly of Killimor, County Galway, and was published in *Killimor: Our Parish and Our People* by Angela Geoghegan and Nuala McGann.

Chuaigh an scéal chomh fada le Ceannfort na nGardaí agus roinnt bheag laethanta ina dhiaidh sin tháinig glaoch gutháin ag an mbeairic lena rá nach raibh dearmad ar bith déanta ag Saintí orainn agus gur fhág sé beartán mór san Ionad Traenála i gCeannáras an Gharda i mBaile Átha Cliath. Bhí babóg álainn sa bheartán sin, le héadan China, drumaí, buabhaill, cluichí de chineálacha éagsúla, cáca mór agus stocaí dúinn uilig. Chuir sé an-ríméad orainn. Bhí cion ag an Leanbh Íosa orainn dáiríre, fiú má bhí rudaí beagán mall. Rinne muid mórshiúl suas agus anuas an bóthar i gCill Íomair, rud a chuir áthas ar Mhama agus ar mhuintir na comharsanachta. Ní thuigfeadh aon duine go baileach an t-áthas agus an gliondar a chuir an beartán sin ar Mhama agus a cuid dílleachtaí.

Philomena Hill, (née Murphy) as Cill Íomair, Contae na Gaillimhe tráth a scríobh an scéal thuas agus is le caoinchead uaithi atá sé á fhoilsiú anseo. Foilsíodh ar dtús é in *Killimor: Our Parish and Our People* le Angela Geoghegan and Nuala McGann.

28. A Family's Service

by Chief Superintendent John Kelly (Retired)

Where does one start to document the cumulative service of over 350 years? Each family member made their individual decision, at different times, while growing up in a rural town. To my family, the Gardaí were an integral part of the local community when growing up in Tuam in the 1950s and 1960s. Everybody knew their names and the Gardaí knew practically everybody in the town, where they were a daily presence; many Gardaí were included in various organisations and community groups. They were highly respected and had a big influence on us in making a decision to join An Garda Síochána.

Looking back in time on the extended family, the first reference to policing in our family was to our great-grandfather Patrick Cahill. Born in 1859, he joined the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) in 1877. A native of Kilkee, County Clare, he served in Queen's County and Counties Mayo, Roscommon, Waterford and Galway. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on 1 March 1892. Married to Mary, they had four children. The eldest daughter, Sarah, married John T. McElroy, our grandfather.

John T. McElroy was born in 1886 in Roscommon and joined the RIC in 1904. He left the RIC, joined the 3rd Irish Guards of the British Army on 24 January 1915 and fought in World War I. At Chalk Pit Wood, at the battle of Ypres in Belgium, he was awarded the military medal for bravery in 1916. Wounded in April 1916, he was discharged from the 3rd Irish Guards on the 23 January 1918 and re-joined the RIC. John T. McElroy married Sarah Cahill and they had two sons and three daughters - one of them, Mary, who married Peter Kelly in 1946, was to be my mother. John T. McElroy died in 1958 and was buried in Tuam.

28. Seirbhís Teaghlaigh

An tArd-Cheannfort John Kelly (ar scor)

Nuair atá fónamh 350 bliain agus níos mó le háireamh, is dócha gur deacair tús a chur leis an gcuntas. Shocraigh gach duine den teaghlach as a stuaim féin, ag amanna éagsúla, agus iad ag éirí aníos i mbaile tuaithe, dul isteach sna Gardaí. Ba dhlúthchuid de phobal na háite iad na Gardaí chomh fada agus a bhain linne ag éirí aníos i dTuaim dúinn i rith na 1950idí agus na 1960idí. Bhí a gcuid ainmneacha ar eolas ag an uile dhuine agus aithne ag na Gardaí ar mhuintir an bhaile uilig; bhí na Gardaí le feiceáil lá i ndiaidh an lae agus go leor acu páirteach freisin in eagraíochtaí éagsúla agus i ngrúpaí pobail. Bhíodh ardmheas orthu agus tionchar mór acu orainne maidir le socrú dul isteach sa Gharda Síochána.

Nuair a scrúdaím stair na muintire, is maidir le mo shin-seanathair a fheicim an tagairt is luaithe den phóilíneacht. Sa bhliain 1859 a rugadh Patrick Cahill agus chuaigh sé isteach i gConstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann (an RIC) sa bhliain 1877. Ba as Cill Chaoi i gContae an Chláir ó dhúchas é agus rinne sé fónamh i gContae na Ríona, i Maigh Eo, i Ros Comáin, i bPort Láirge agus i nGaillimh. Fuair sé ardú céime go grád an tSáirsint ar an 1 Márta 1892. Bhí sé pósta le Mary agus ceathrar clainne orthu. Phós Sarah, an iníon ba shine, John T. McElroy, mo sheanathair.

Rugadh John T. McElroy i Ros Comáin sa bhliain 1886 agus chuaigh sé isteach san RIC sa bhliain 1904. D'fhág sé an RIC agus chuaigh isteach in Arm na Breataine, sa 3ú Reisimint de Ghardaí na hÉireann, ar an 24 Eanáir 1915. Throid sé sa chéad Chogadh Mór. Bronnadh bonn míleata as crógacht air sa bhliain 1916 mar gheall ar choimhlint Chalk Pit Wood, i rith chath Ypres na Beilge. Gortaíodh é i mí Aibreáin 1916, agus scaoileadh leis as Gardaí na hÉireann ar an 23 Eanáir 1918. Cheangail sé arís leis an RIC. Phós John T. McElroy agus Sarah Cahill agus bhí beirt

Sergeant John Thomas McElroy, RIC, Tuam. Courtesy of Jimmy McElroy.

An Sáirsint John Thomas McElroy, Constáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann, Tuaim.
Le caoinchead Jimmy McElroy.

An Garda Síochána

Peter Kelly, my late father, worked as an auctioneer and law clerk for a firm of solicitors in Tuam until his untimely death in 1973. My mother was a nurse who had trained in England and retired from the Bons Secours Hospital in Tuam. She died in April 2018.

As an organisation, An Garda Síochána sets the tone of one's career by assignment of the First Station. Thereafter, through self-motivation, career advancement, experiences gained along the way and taking internal promotion exams, one develops a career within the service. Career paths are always different – by postings, events, encounters, actions taken, people and events interacted with, one's career development is coupled with motivation, loyalty, commitment and vocation to serve.

The first of my brothers to join An Garda Síochána was Gerry – he joined in 1966. He is probably unique in policing history in that he served in all four provinces. His career in An Garda Síochána started in a small station in Labasheeda, County Clare and he then was moved to William's St, Limerick. He was promoted to Sergeant to Clontibret, County Monaghan, he then transferred to the Garda College in Templemore, County Tipperary, and later returning to Ennistymon and Ennis. On promotion to the rank of Inspector, he was transferred to Roscommon town and later returned to Ennis. On promotion to the rank of Superintendent, he was assigned to Tullamore town and later returning to Ennis again. Promotion to the rank of Chief-Superintendent followed – he started in Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin, followed by the traffic division in Dublin Castle, Portlaoise, Ennis and finally Limerick City where he led the Garda service at a time of violent crime. At the latter end of his career, he was promoted to the rank of Assistant Commissioner with responsibility for the Western Region of the country; he retired in 2007, having completed 41 years of service.

mhac agus triúr iníonacha acu; agus duine den chlann iníon, Mary, a phós Peter Kelly sa bhliain 1946, mo mháthair. Fuair John T. McElroy bás sa bhliain 1958 agus i dTuaim atá sé curtha.

D'oibrigh Peter Kelly, m'athair nach maireann, ina cheantálaí agus ina chléireach ag comhlacht dlíodóirí i dTuaim go dtí gur cailleadh róluath é sa bhliain 1973. Banaltra a bhíodh i mo mháthair. I Sasana a chuaigh sí faoi oiliúint. In Ospidéal Bons Secours i dTuaim a bhí sí ag obair go ndeachaigh sí amach ar pinsean. Fuair sise bás i mí Aibreáin 2018.

Is eagraíocht an Garda Síochána a shocraíonn cúrsa maidir le slí bheatha an Gharda tríd an gcéad stáisiún a roghnú. As sin amach, déanann gach duine an tslí bheatha a fhorbairt le féinspreagadh, dul chun cinn, taithí saoil agus taithí oibre agus trí thabhairt faoi scrúduithe inmheánacha d'ardú céime. Ní mar a chéile an tslí bheatha ag aon bheirt faoi leith – tagann ceapacháin, eachtraí, bualadh le daoine, bearta a dhéanamh, aithne agus taithí i gceist agus bíonn an dul chun cinn sa saol oibre ceangailte i gcónaí le díocas, dílseacht, díograis agus dúthracht.

Ba é Gerry an chéad duine de mo chuid deartháireacha a chuaigh isteach sa Gharda Síochána, sa bhliain 1966. Tharlódh gur duine ar leith eisean i stair na póilíneachta ó rinne sé fónamh i ngach ceann de na cúigí. Sa stáisiún beag i Leaba Shíoda, Contae an Chláir, a thosaigh a shaol oibre sa Gharda Síochána agus d'athraigh sé as sin go Sráid Liam i Luimneach. Fuair sé ardú céime go grád an tsáirsint le haistriú go Cluain Tiobrad, Contae Mhuineacháin. Aistríodh arís é go Coláiste an Gharda sa Teampall Mór i gContae Thiobraid Árann agus ar ais ina dhiaidh sin go hInis Díomáin agus go hInis. Le hardú céime go grád an Chigire, aistríodh go baile Ros Comáin é agus ar ais arís go hInis tráth níos faide anonn. Le hardú céime go grád an Cheannfoirt, ceapadh i mbaile Thulach Mhór é agus aistríodh ar ais arís eile go hInis é tar éis a théarma ansin. Tháinig ardú céime go grád an Ardcheannfoirt

Garda Noel Kelly. Courtesy of Fiona Kelly.
An Garda Noel Kelly. Le caoinchead Fiona Kelly.

The next to enter the service was John, who joined in 1970, starting at Harcourt Terrace in Dublin. He later moved to Kevin Street and then Pearse Street. On promotion to the rank of Sergeant, he was posted to Stepaside, County Dublin. Returning to Kilmainham and Kevin Street, he was promoted to the rank of Inspector and assigned to Ballyfermot, Dublin. After five years there, he was promoted and assigned to Ballyconnell, County Cavan. On his return to Dublin, he was assigned to the Crime Branch at Garda Headquarters. After a period, he was assigned to Blackrock and then Dun Laoghaire. In 2001, he was promoted to the rank of Chief Superintendent and assigned to Internal Affairs at Garda Headquarters and completed his 39-and-a-half years of service at the Garda Technical Bureau in 2009.

ina dhiaidh sin – thosaigh sé i nDún Laoghaire, Contae Bhaile Átha Cliath, agus d'athraigh sé as sin go dtí an roinn tráchta i gCaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath, go Port Laoise, go hInis agus i ndeireadh báire go cathair Luimnigh mar a raibh sé i gceannas ar an nGarda i rith ré coireanna foréigin. Ag teannadh le deireadh a ré gairme, fuair sé ardú céime arís go grád an Choimisinéara Cúnta agus é freagrach as Réigiún an Iarthair; chuaigh sé amach ar pinsean sa bhliain 2007 tar éis 41 bhliain seirbhíse.

Ba é John, sa bhliain 1970, an dara duine a chuaigh isteach sna Gardaí. Thosaigh seisean in Ardán Fhearchair i mBaile Átha Cliath. D'athraigh sé as sin go Sráid Chaoimhín agus arís go Sráid an Phiarsaigh. Le hardú céime go grád an tSáirsint, ceapadh sa Chéim é i gContae Bhaile Átha Cliath. Bhí sé i gCill Mhaighneann agus i Sráid Chaoimhín, agus ar ardú céime a fháil go grád an Chigire, ceapadh i mBaile Formaid, Baile Átha Cliath é. Chaith sé cúig bliana ansin agus fuair sé ardú céime eile agus ceapachán i mBaile Chonaill, Contae an Chabháin. Ar fhilleadh go Baile Átha Cliath dó, ceapadh sa Bhrainse Coireachta é i gCeannáras an Gharda. Tar éis téarma a dhéanamh ansin, ceapadh ar an gCarraig Dhubh é agus i nDún Laoghaire ina dhiaidh sin. Sa bhliain 2001, fuair sé ardú céime go grád an Ardcheannfoirt agus ceapadh sa mBrainse Gnóthaí Inmheánacha i gCeannáras an Gharda é. Le Biúró Teicniúil an Gharda a bhí sé nuair a tháinig deireadh lena chuid seirbhíse, tar éis 39 mbliana agus sé mhí fónaimh, sa bhliain 2009.

Peter an tríú deartháir a chuaigh isteach sna Gardaí sa bhliain 1979 agus i Sráid an Stórais a thosaigh seisean amach. D'athraigh sé go Maigh Eo ina dhiadh sin agus bhí sé sna beairicí i mBéal an Mhuirthead, i Leathardán agus i mBéal an Átha mar ar chuir sé 30 bliain seirbhíse isteach, ceangailte le Cór Tráchta an Rannáin ansin nuair a chuaigh sé amach ar pinsean sa bhliain 2009.

Ba é Noel, nach maireann, an deartháir deireanach a chuaigh isteach sna Gardaí.

An Garda Síochána

The third brother to join the service, Peter, joined in 1979 and started his career in Store Street. Having moved to Mayo later, he served at Belmullet, Lahardaun and then Ballina, where he completed 30 years of service, attached to An Garda Síochána's Divisional Traffic Corps. He retired 2009.

The last brother to join was Noel (RIP), who joined in 1984 and whose First Station was Store Street. On promotion to the rank of Sergeant, he was assigned to the Garda College. He subsequently served in Clifden, Gort and Mill Street, Galway. He was later promoted to Inspector returning to the Garda College and then to Salthill. On promotion to the rank of Superintendent, he was assigned to the Clifden District and later to the Salthill District, completing his 37 years of service as Regional Traffic Superintendent for the Western region. He retired on 1 April 2021; sadly, he died unexpectedly on the 9th of June 2021.

To add to the family members who served in An Garda Síochána, four first cousins joined the service between 1980 and 1995. Jimmy McElroy retired in 2009 after 29 years of service. John McElroy retired in 2022, as a Detective Sergeant after 36 years of service. Mary McElroy joined in 1995 and is still serving in the Ballinasloe district. Josephine McElroy joined in 1995 and is still serving as Sergeant at Athenry Station.

Furthermore, the late Noel's wife, Fiona White Kelly, joined An Garda Síochána in 1997 and is still serving in Galway City. Mark Kelly, son of Gerry Kelly, joined in 2004 and is still serving in Galway. Mark's wife Orla Flatley is also serving member in Galway. Yvonne Kelly, Gerry's daughter is married to serving member Brian Colbert. John McElroy's sons, Ian and Jack are following in the family footsteps.

To complete the family and extended family history of service, Lousie O'Sullivan, niece of John Kelly's wife Maureen, joined the service in 2010 and is serving in Finglas.

Sa bhliain 1984 a thosaigh seisean agus Sráid an Stórais an chéad bheairic inar oibrigh sé. Nuair a fuair sé ardú céime go grád an tsáirsint, ceapadh i gColáiste an Gharda é. Rinne sé fónamh ina dhiaidh sin ar an gClochán, ar an nGort agus i Sráid an Mhuilinn i nGaillimh. Bhí sé ar ais i gColáiste an Gharda nuair a fuair sé ardú céime go grád an Chigire agus i mBóthar na Trá ina dhiaidh sin. Le hardú céime go grád an Cheannfoirt, ceapadh i Roinn an Chlocháin é agus i Roinn Bhóthar na Trá ina dhiaidh sin, mar ar thug sé seirbhís 37 mbliana chun críche ina Cheannfort Réigiúnach Tráchta ag Réigiún an Iarthair. Chuaigh sé ar pinsean ar lá Aibreáin 2021 agus ba mhór an t-ionadh don uile dhuine é nuair a fuair sé bás go tobann ar an 9 Meitheamh 2021.

Bhí tuilleadh gaolta, ceathrar col ceathracha, a chuaigh isteach sa Gharda Síochána idir na blianta 1980 agus 1995. Chuaigh Jimmy McElroy ar scor sa bhliain 2009 tar éis 29 mbliana dualgais. Ina Bhleachtaire Sáirsint a bhí John McElroy ag dul amach ar pinsean dó sa bhliain 2022 tar éis 36 bliana seirbhíse. Sa bhliain 1995 a chuaigh Mary McElroy isteach agus tá sise ag fónamh go fóill i gceantar Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe. An bhliain chéanna sin a chuaigh Josephine McElroy isteach sna Gardaí agus tá sise ina Sáirsint faoi láthair i mbeairic Bhaile Átha an Rí.

Chomh maith leo siúd, tá Fiona White Kelly, baintreach Noel, nach maireann, sna Gardaí ón mbliain 1997 agus í ag fónamh go fóill i gCathair na Gaillimhe. Chuaigh Mark Kelly, mac le Gerry Kelly, isteach sna Gardaí sa bhliain 2004 agus é ag fónamh i nGaillimh, mar atá a bhean chéile Orla Flatley. Tá Yvonne Kelly, iníon le Gerry, pósta leis an nGarda Brian Colbert. Tá beirt de chlann mhac John McElroy, Ian agus Jack, ag déanamh an dualgais is dual atharachta dóibh freisin.

De ghrá na cuimsitheachta maidir le stair seirbhíse an teaghlaigh agus na ngaolta, tá Louise O'Sullivan, neacht le Maureen, bean phósta John

John Kelly, Garda Noel Kelly, Gerry Kelly and Peter Kelly at Noel's passing out ceremony in 1984. Courtesy of Fiona Kelly.
John Kelly, an Garda Noel Kelly, Gerry Kelly agus Peter Kelly ag searmanas theacht amach Noel ina Gharda, 1984. Le caoinchead Fiona Kelly.

Adding up the combined years of service of the family members, it is unique in An Garda Síochána history that one (extended) family has given and is still giving, well over 350 years of service to the State.

Kelly, sna Gardaí ón mbliain 2010 i leith agus í i mbeairic Fhionnghlaise.

Ar bhlianta seirbhíse na ngaolta uilig a áireamh le chéile, is teaghlach faoi leith é i stair an Gharda Síochána, ó tá go maith os cionn 350 bliain seirbhíse curtha isteach, agus á chur isteach i gcónaí, ag an aon muintir amháin.

Sergeant Michael O'Reilly, Rose O'Reilly and Padraic O'Reilly at Moylough Garda Station, c. 1990s. Courtesy of Micheál O'Reilly.

An Sáirsint Michael O'Reilly, Rose O'Reilly agus Padraic O'Reilly ag Beairic na nGardaí i Maigh Locha, c. 1990idí. Le caoinchead Micheál O'Reilly.

29. Sergeant Michael O'Reilly (Retired)

by Rose O'Reilly

My husband, Michael O'Reilly of Cromane Lower, Killorglin, County Kerry, joined An Garda Síochána in May 1955. His First Station was in Swinford, County Mayo and in December 1956 he was transferred to Kinlough, County

29. An Sáirsint Michael O'Reilly (Ar Scor)

le Rose O'Reilly

I mí Bealtaine 1955 a chuaigh, Michael O'Reilly, m'fhear céile, as an gCromán Íochtarach, Cill Orglan, Contae Chiarraí, isteach sa Gharda Síochána. Béal Átha na Muice, Contae Mhaigh Eo, an chéad stáisiún a raibh sé ann agus aistríodh

Leitrim, during the first Border Campaign. In those days, the Gardaí acted as school attendance officers. I was a young primary teacher, straight out of college, teaching in a one-teacher school, Drummans N.S. in Largydonnell, County Sligo and Michael used to call to the school to check on the attendance. In 1959, he asked me to a Garda Dance in the Rainbow Ballroom, Glenfarne, County Leitrim, now a museum, open to the public as the 'Ballroom of Romance'. During the dance, a custom hut was blown up and all the young Gardaí were called away. I often wonder what they could have done as they were all dressed up for the dance, not a uniform in sight. John McGivern, the owner of the ballroom got up on stage and kept the dance going. Anyway, we had all come in hired cars with other young couples, as very few owned cars then and we knew we would get home safely. I can't remember if the Gardaí got back before the dance ended.

We were married in St Aiden's Church, Kinlough, on 16 August 1961 by Fr Des Flynn, a newly ordained priest who left the priesthood shortly afterwards and who kept in contact with us until his death. We were the first couple he married; God rest his gentle soul.

Because I was a native of Kinlough, where Michael was stationed, we were, according to Garda rules then, transferred to Kilbeggan, County Westmeath, in July 1962, a few days after our first baby, Maria, was born. We lived in Ballinagore, County Westmeath, a few miles from Kilbeggan, until 6 December 1965 when we moved to Athlone. Our second baby, Cepta, was born six days later, on 12 December 1965. Michelle was also born in Athlone, on 26 May 1965 and we moved to Recess, Connemara, County Galway, on 10 December 1965 when Michael was promoted to Sergeant. We lived in the Garda Station, which was in very bad repair: no running water, no bathroom, no toilet in the house. We had an external toilet out the back and a tank of water when it rained. The spring water

go Cionn Locha, Contae Liatroma é i mí na Nollag 1956 nuair a bhí an Chéad Fheachtas Teorann ar bun. D'fheidhmíodh na Gardaí an tráth sin ina nOifigigh Tinrimh Scoile. Oide scoile a bhí ionamsa, tagtha amach díreach as an gcoláiste oiliúna, agus mé ag múineadh i scoil aon oide, S.N. na nDromanna i Learga Uí Dhónaill, Contae Shligigh. Thagadh Michael chun na scoile ag seiceáil ar chúrsaí tinrimh. Sa bhliain 1959, d'iarr sé chuig Damhsa an Gharda mé sa Rainbow Ballroom i nGleann Fearna, Contae Liatroma, áit a bhfuil iarsmalann sa lá atá inniu ann ar a dtugtar an 'Ballroom of Romance.' Nuair a bhí an damhsa ar siúl, séideadh bothán lucht custaim in aer agus bhí ar na Gardaí óga ar fad imeacht. Is minic a dhéanaim iontas céard a d'fhéadfaidís a dhéanamh agus iad gléasta le haghaidh an damhsa, gan éide Garda ar dhuine ar bith acu. Chuaigh John McGivern, fear an tí, suas ar an stáitse agus coinníodh an damhsa ag imeacht.
Ar chuma ar bith, bhí carranna fostaithe againn ar fad, in éineacht le lánúineacha óga eile, ó tharla gur beag a mbíodh carr dá gcuid féin acu an tráth sin, agus bhí a fhios againn go dtiocfaimis abhaile slán sábháilte. Ní cuimhin liom an raibh na Gardaí ar ais sula raibh an damhsa thart nó nach raibh.

Phós an tAthair Des Flynn muid i Séipéal Aodháin, Cionn Locha, ar an 16 Lúnasa 1961. Sagart nua-oirnithe a bhí ann agus d'fhág sé na sagairt gairid ina dhiaidh sin. Choinnigh sé caidreamh linn go dtí tráth a bháis. Ba muid an chéad lánúin a phós sé riamh. Go dtuga Dia suaimhneas dá anam uasal.

Ó tharla gur de bhunadh Chionn Locha mise, an stáisiún ina raibh Michael ar lonnú, bheadh aistriú i gceist, de réir rialacha an Gharda ag an am, agus d'athraigh muid go Cill Bheagáin, Contae na hIarmhí, i mí Iúil 1962, laethanta beaga tar éis do Maria, an chéad duine clainne againn, a theacht ar an saol. Is i mBaile na nGabhar, Contae na hIarmhí a bhí cónaí orainn, mílte beaga bealaigh ó Chill Bheagáin, go dtí gur athraigh muid go Baile Átha Luain ar an 6 Nollaig 1965.

for tea and for washing vegetables etc. had to be carried from a pump at the Post Office, ¼ of a mile away. It was a complete shock for us coming from Athlone, but we got used to it and Micheál, our first son, was born there on 23 April 1967.

We made many friends in Recess with whom we are still in contact. In May 1968, we came to Moylough Garda Station to a big house with running water, bathroom, toilet etc. It was great for us all and reduced my workload especially. Our children Róisín and Padraic were born in Moylough and we lived there until Michael's retirement in 1994.

From 1970 on, he was sent on temporary transfer to Petigo, Letterkenny, Burnfoot, Moville and Bridge End in County Donegal, to Monaghan and to Ballyconnell, County Cavan. That was a time of car bombs, incendiary devices left in briefcases, suitcases etc. I stayed in Moylough with the children. The Garda Station was situated on the side of the street and we had a common entrance to the Garda Office and to our living quarters. One evening, while Michael was stationed at the border, a gentleman, dressed all in black with a black briefcase, walked into the kitchen. He said he was in the Garda Depot with Michael and a great friend of his. I immediately picked up on this, as he was about 5 foot 5 inches and the Garda recruits then had to be much taller than that. Anyway, I offered him a cup of tea as we were in the middle of dinner and it was getting dark and I was hoping he would leave soon. After an hour or so, he left and I turned around with a sigh of relief, when I noticed the briefcase on the floor near the fridge. I froze and I didn't know where to turn when he reappeared. He had forgotten it. When I told Michael the story, he knew the visitor well. He was a 'knight of the road', always dressed well, stayed in hotels overnight and left without paying, until he was caught and started all over again when he was released from jail. He was harmless and called at Garda Stations all over Ireland for a few pounds.

Sé lá dár gcionn a rugadh, Cepta, an dara duine clainne againn, ar an 12 Nollaig 1963. I mBaile Átha Luain freisin a rugadh Michelle, ar an 26 Bealtaine 1965, agus d'athraigh muid inár gcónaí go Sraith Salach, Conamara, Contae na Gaillimhe, ar an 10 Nollaig 1965 nuair a fuair Michael ardú céime agus a rinneadh Sáirsint de. I mBeairic na nGardaí a bhí cónaí orainn, agus bhí droch-chaoi ar an áit ag an am: ní raibh uisce píopaí ann, ná seomra folctha ná leithreas taobh istigh. Bhí an teach beag amach cúl an tí agus umar uisce ina mbailíodh uisce báistí. Bhíodh an fíoruisce don tae agus leis na glasraí a níochán agus mar sin de, le tarraingt ón bpumpa ag an bPosta, ¼ míle ó bhaile. Ba mhór an t-athrú againne é agus muid ag athrú as Baile Átha Luain, ach chuaigh muid ina chleachtadh agus ansin a rugadh Micheál, an chéad mhac, ar an 23 Aibreán 1967.

Bhí go leor cairde againn i Sraith Salach agus tá muid mór i gcónaí leo. I mí Bealtaine 1968, tháinig muid go Stáisiún na nGardaí i Maigh Locha, teach mór le huisce reatha, seomra folctha, leithreas etc. Bhí sin iontach againn uilig agus laghdaíodh an t-ualach ormsa go háirithe. I Maigh Locha a rugadh Róisín agus Padraic agus bhí cónaí ansin orainn go dtí go ndeachaigh Michael ar pinsean sa bhliain 1994.

Ón mbliain 1970 amach, bhíodh sé á aistriú go sealadach go Paiteagó, Leitir Ceanainn, Bun na hAbhann, Bun an Phobail agus Ceann an Droichid i gContae Dhún na nGall, go Muineachán agus go Béal Átha Conaill i gContae an Chabháin. Sin é an t-am a mbíodh buamaí i gcarranna, ábhar loiscneach á fhágáil i gcásaí, i málaí agus mar sin de. D'fhan mise agus na gasúir i Maigh Locha. Bhí Beairic na nGardaí ar an tsráid agus an bealach amháin isteach chuig Oifig na nGardaí agus a bhí ag an áras cónaithe againne. Tráthnóna amháin, nuair a bhí Michael ar lonnú ag an teorainn, shiúil fear isteach sa chistin, éadach dubh dorcha air agus cás dubh ar iompar aige. Dúirt sé go mbíodh sé i bpríomháras an Gharda le Michael

Garda Vincent Winters and Sergeant Michael O'Reilly, Moylough, c. 1980s. Photo source: Micheál O'Reilly.

**An Garda Vincent Winters agus an Sáirsint Michael O'Reilly, Maigh Locha, c. 1980idí.
Grianghraf: Micheál O'Reilly.**

On another occasion, Michael was on duty in Ballina. Michael left Moylough at 6 am. Myself and the children went to 11 am Mass and shortly after our return I noticed a big black car parked outside the window. Sitting in it were four men. I started to prepare dinner for the children and when I looked again, the car was there and the men had vanished. I was petrified as I was sure it was a car bomb. I tried to phone the Gardaí in Tuam, but Michael had forgotten to put the phone through to the house. I spent the day out the back, hoping we would be safe if the car exploded. The car was still there when we went to bed and during my sleepless night I got up and looked and the car was still there. Around 5 am I got up again and the car was gone. On Michael's return, I told

agus gurbh an-chairde iad. Chuir sin ar m'aire mé ar an bpointe mar timpeall is cúig troithe cúig orlaigh airde a bhí ann agus ní ligtí isteach sna Gardaí daoine den airde sin ag an am. Ar aon chuma, thairg mé cupán tae dó agus de réir mar a bhí muid leath bealaigh tríd an dinnéar, bhí sé ag éirí dorcha agus bhí mé ag súil nach fada go mbuailfeadh sé bóthar. Tar éis uair a chloig nó mar sin, d'fhág seisean agus lig mé osna asam mar a bheadh an imní imithe díom. Ach ar iompú thart dom, céard a bheadh ar an urlár in aice leis an gcuisneoir ach an cás dubh. Rinneadh staic díom. Ní raibh a fhios agam céard a dhéanfainn ach, an chéad rud eile, bhí sé ar ais isteach. Bhí an cás dearmadta aige. Nuair a d'inis mé an scéal dó, dúirt Michael go raibh a fhios aige go maith cé a bhí ann. 'Ridire an róid', dea-ghléasta i gcónaí, d'fhanadh an oíche in óstáin agus d'fhágadh gan an bille a íoc, choinníodh air go mbeirtí air agus thosaíodh arís ar a theacht as an bpríosún. Ní raibh aon dochar ann agus bhí nós aige cuairt a thabhairt ar bheairicí Gardaí ar fud na hÉireann ag súil go bhfaigheadh sé cúpla punt.

Bhí uair eile a raibh Michael ar dualgas i mBéal an Átha. D'fhág seisean Maigh Locha ag a 6 ar maidin. Chuaigh mise agus na gasúir chuig Aifreann a 11 agus gairid tar éis teacht abhaile dúinn, thug mé faoi deara carr mór dubh tarraingthe taobh amuigh den fhuinneog. Bhí ceathrar ina suí ann. Thosaigh mé ag réiteach an dinnéir do na gasúir agus nuair a bhreathnaigh mé arís, bhí an carr ann ach é folamh, na fir imithe. Bhí mé scanraithe, cinnte gur buama a bhí ann. Thriail mé glaoch ar na Gardaí i dTuaim, ach bhí dearmad déanta ag Michael an fón a cheangal leis an teach. Chaith mé an lá amuigh ar chúl an tí, ag súil go dtiocfadh muid slán dá bpléascfadh an carr. Bhí an carr i gcónaí ann agus muid ag dul a chodladh. B'aimhréidh mar oíche chodlata í, d'éirínn go mbreathnaínn agus bhí an carr ann i gcónaí. Thart ar a cúig ar maidin, d'éirigh mé agus bhí an carr imithe. Nuair a tháinig Michael ar ais, d'inis mé an scéal

him the story and he said that he knew the men well. They were members of a show band, waiting to be picked up in Moylough by the van they travelled in together. They always parked outside the Garda Station as they knew it was safe there, until they were dropped back after the dance.

We spent 27 years in the Garda Station in Moylough until we built a house in Chapel Road, where we still live. The children were very happy there and when the six of them meet, they reminisce about their childhood there and all the different characters who called at the door and all the children who came to play in the back yard. Moylough was full of children then.

Michael is 91 years old and, sadly, he got Parkinson's disease and all that it entails, so he is unable to write an account of his life. He was very happy in the Garda Síochána and made wonderful friends everywhere he went and many of his Garda colleagues are still in contact with us. Living in Garda Stations for thirty years was a life less ordinary.

dó agus deir seisean go raibh a fhios aige cé a bhí ann. Ceoltóirí iad le banna agus tháinig siad go Maigh Locha go mbaileodh veain iad a mbíodh an banna uilig in éineacht inti. D'fhágaidís an carr i gcónaí taobh amuigh de Bheairic na nGardaí agus fios acu go mbeadh sé sábháilte ansin go bhfágadh lucht an veain ar ais arís iad tar éis oíche damhsa.

Seacht mbliana is fiche a chónaigh muid i mBeairic na nGardaí i Maigh Locha go dtí gur thóg muid an teach ar Bhóthar an tSéipéil a bhfuil muid ann i gcónaí. Bhí na gasúir sona sásta ann agus nuair a thagann siad le chéile anois, bíonn siad ag cuimhneamh ar laethanta a n-óige san áit agus ar na daoine éagsúla a thagadh ag an doras agus na gasúir uilig a thagadh ag spraoi leo i gcúl an tí. Bhíodh Maigh Locha lán le daoine óga an t-am sin.

Tá Michael 91 bliana d'aois anois. Tháinig galar Parkinson air, faraor, agus lena dtagann i gceist leis sin níl sé in ann cuntas a scríobh ar a shaol. Bhí sé thar a bheith sásta sna Gardaí agus cairde iontacha á ndéanamh aige pé ar bith áit ina dtéadh sé. Bíonn go leor dá chuid cairde sna Gardaí ag caint linn i gcónaí. Scór go leith blianta a chaitheamh inár gcónaí i mBeairicí, níorbh é an gnáthshaol a chaith muid.

Garda Andrew Gara, Ballymoe, Co. Galway.
Courtesy of Maura Gara O'Riordan.
An Garda Andrew Gara, Béal Átha Mó, Co. na Gaillimhe.
Le caoinchead Maura Gara O'Riordan.

30. Across the Years

The following is a brief outline of the background and service of a number of members who served and at present serve in the Galway Division across the years.

Andrew Gara

Rank – Garda

Registered Number – 298

Native of – Roscommon

Joined An Garda Síochána – 1922

Stationed at – Castlebar, Eglinton Street, Maam, Ballymoe and Tuam.

Worked as a Chauffeur before joining An Garda Síochána. One of the first members of An Garda Síochána. Received a number of commendations for good Police work.

30. Le himeacht na mblianta

Is breac-chuntas gairid atá sa mhéid seo a leanas maidir le cúlra agus seirbhís líon comhaltaí a bhí ag feidhmiú agus atá ag feidhmiú i láthair na huaire i Rannán na Gaillimhe ar feadh na mblianta.

Andrew Gara

Grád – Garda

Uimhir Chláraithe – 298

Ros Comáin - ó Dhúchas

Chuaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Garda Síochána sa bliain – 1922

Lonnaithe i - gCaisleán an Bharraigh, Sráid Eglington, Béal Átha Mó agus Tuaim.

D'oibrigh Andrew mar Chauffeur sula ndeachaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána. Bhí sé ar dhuine de chéad chomhaltaí an Gharda Síochána. Bronnadh roinnt gradam air as dea-obair Phóilíneachta.

Joseph McEvoy

Grád – Garda

Uimhir Chláraithe – 657

Co. Uíbh Fhailí – ó dhúchas

Chuaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána sa bhliain – 1922

Chuaigh sé ar scor sa bhliain - 1952

Lonnaithe i – mBaile an Mhóta, Co. Shligigh, Béal Átha na Sluaighe, Tobair Pheadair, Tíne agus Muine Mheá.

B'Óglach é sula ndeachaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána. Phós Joseph le linn dó a bheith lonnaithe i mBaile an Mhóta agus de réir an pholasaí ag an am sin, aistríodh é ar an bpointe boise. Bhí beirt gharmhac leis sa bhfórsa freisin, Eamon Dolan, (RIP), 19903F, a chuaigh ar scor mar Cheannfort ó Stáisiún Gardaí Thamhlachta agus Pádraig Dolan 22688B a chuaigh ar scor mar

An Garda Síochána

Joseph McEvoy

Rank – Garda

Registered Number – 657

Native of – Co. Offaly

Joined An Garda Síochána – 1922

Retired - 1952

Stationed at – Ballymote, Co. Sligo, Ballinasloe, Peterswell, Tynagh and Monivea.

A Volunteer before joining An Garda Síochána. He married while Stationed at Ballymote and as was the policy at that time, was immediately transferred. Two of his grandsons also joined the force: Eamon Dolan (RIP), 19903F, retired as a Superintendent from Tallaght Garda Station and Padraig Dolan 22688B, retired as Sergeant in Charge, from Mill Street Garda Station. His great-grandson Paul Dolan 31245B, is currently a member of An Garda Síochána at Milford, Co. Donegal.

Michael Lernihan

Rank – Garda

Registered Number – 09480C

Native of – Leitrimcree, Kilmihil, Co. Clare

Joined An Garda Síochána –1944

Retired – 1986

Died - 2019

Stationed at – Nobber, Co. Meath, Bangor Erris, Ballyhaunis, Balla, Moycullen, Eglinton Street and Mill Street. Served for 42 years in total. Fondly remembered by all members from that time, as along with his duties, he ran a small shop in Eglinton Street Garda Station, providing basic provisions to the Gardaí stationed there. His brother Jerry Lernihan, 13305A, joined An Garda Síochána in 1958 and retired in 2000 having served in Dublin, Waterford and Garda Headquarters.

Michael Lernihan met his wife Bridie at the Hanger Ballroom, Salthill, while he was stationed

Sháirsint i gCeannas ó Stáisiún Gardaí Shráid an Mhuilinn. Is comhalta reatha den Gharda Síochána é a mhac garpháiste Paul Dolan 31245B i mBaile na nGallóglach, Co. Dhún na nGall.

Michael Lernihan

Grád – Garda

Uimhir Chláraithe – 09480C

Leitrimcree, Cill Mhichíl, Co. an Chláir - Ó Dhúchas

Chuaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána sa bhliain –1944

Chuaigh sé ar scor sa bhliain – 1986

Fuair sé bás sa bhliain - 2019

Bhí sé lonnaithe san – Obair, Co. na Mí, Baingear, Béal Átha hAmhnais, Balla, Maigh Cuilinn, Sráid Eglinton agus Sráid an Mhuilinn. Thug sé seirbhís mar Gharda ar feadh 42 bliain ar an iomlán. Tá sé coinnithe i gcuimhne go ceanúil ag na comhaltaí go léir ón am sin mar go raibh siopa beag á reáchtáil aige i Stáisiún Gardaí Shráid Eglinton a chuir soláthairtí bunúsacha ar fáil do na Gardaí a bhí ar dualgas ansin. Chuaigh a dheartháir, Jerry Lernihan, 13305A, isteach sa nGarda Síochána sa bhliain 1958 agus chuaigh sé ar scor in 2000 tar éis dó a bheith i mbun seirbhíse i mBaile Átha Cliath, Port Láirge agus i gCeanncheathrú an Gharda Síochána.

Chas Michael Lernihan lena bhean, Bridie i mBálseomra an Hanger, Bóthar na Trá nuair a bhí sé i mbun seirbhíse i Maigh Cuilinn. Ba as Inis Bridie ó dhúchas agus bhí sí ag obair ina hAltra san Ospidéal Réigiúnach i nGaillimh. Bhí siad beagnach 70 bliain pósta. Bhásaigh Bridie sa bhliain 2023. Chuaigh a mac, Michael freisin, sna Gardaí in 1977 agus chuaigh sé ar scor ó Stáisiún Gardaí Bhré in 2012 ar ghrád an Cheannfoirt.

Garda Jimmy Kilroy receiving a special award at the 25th year celebration of Coiste Siamsa, 1987.
Courtesy of Coiste Siamsa An Garda Síochána.
Gradam speisialta á bhronnadh ar an nGarda Jimmy Kilroy ag ceiliúradh 25 bliana den Choiste Siamsa, 1987.
Le caoinchead Choiste Siamsa an Gharda Síochána.

in Moycullen. Bridie was originally from Ennis and was a Nurse at the Regional Hospital, Galway. They were married for almost 70 years. She sadly passed away in 2023. Their son, also Michael, joined An Garda Síochána in 1977 and retired from Bray Garda Station in 2012 with the Rank of Superintendent.

Jimmy Kilroy

Rank – Garda

Registered Number –

Native of – Cloonkeen Eighter, Moylough, Co. Galway.

Joined An Garda Síochána – 1946

Retired – 1989

Died – 2006

Jimmy Kilroy

Grád – Garda

Uimhir Chláraithe –

Ó Chluain Caoin, an Baile Íochtair, Maigh Locha, Co. na Gaillimhe - ó Dhúchas.

Chuaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána sa bhliain –1946

Chuaigh sé ar scor sa bhliain – 1989

Fuair sé bás sa bhliain – 2006

Bhí sé lonnaithe sa – Sraith Salach, Indreabhán, Sráid Eglington, sa Chlochán, Sráid Eglinton agus i Sráid an Mhuilinn.

Bhí sé sa bhFórsa Cosanta Áitiúil (LDF) ó 1943 go 1946 sula ndeachaigh sé sa nGarda Síochána. Bhí sé ina eiseamláir den chultúr Gaelach le linn a sheirbhíse iomlán leis an nGarda Síochána. Mar

Stationed at – Recess, Inverin, Eglinton Street, Clifden, Eglinton Street and Mill Street.

Served in the Local Defence Force (LDF) from 1943 to 1946 before joining An Garda Síochána. An exponent of Irish culture within An Garda Síochána during his entire service, the Irish language and Gaelic games being always to the forefront of his many talents. All of his service was in the Galway Division, including Connemara and Galway City, culminating in the Divisional Office at Eglinton Street and Mill Street. Possessed exceptional organisational talents and an exemplary knowledge of the Irish language. He was a cornerstone of the Fr Griffins Football Club since 1953, both as a player and administrator, and was also a selector on the famous Galway 3-in-a-row football team of the 1960s. He was the mainstay of the Galway Divisional hurling and football teams throughout the years and in 1987 was awarded a special honour by then Taoiseach Charles J. Haughey at the 25th year celebration of Coiste na Siamsa at the Burlington Hotel, Dublin. He retired in 1989 after almost 43 years of exemplary service.

Pat Anglim

Rank – Sergeant

Registered Number – 10439F

Native of – Kilmihill, Co. Clare

Joined An Garda Síochána – 1953

Stationed at – Oughterard, Moycullen with temporary transfer periods in Rosmuc, Inverin, Lettermore, Gort, Salthill and Ahascragh. Promoted to Sergeant whilst in Ahascragh in 1959 and transferred to Kiltormer. In 1968, transferred to Eglinton Street as a Duty Sergeant, then became Sergeant in Charge for the remainder of service.

Retired – 1993

Trained in the Garda Deport, Phoenix Park, Dublin, as Templemore was not opened until 1964. Policing in those times was about getting

dhuine ildánach, bhí an Ghaeilge agus cluichí Gaelacha chun tosaigh ina shaol i gcónaí. Chaith sé a chuid blianta seirbhíse go léir i Rannán na Gaillimhe, lena n-áirítear Conamara agus Cathair na Gaillimhe agus ar deireadh san Oifig Rannáin i Sráid Eglinton agus Sráid an Mhuilinn. Bhí cumas eagrúcháin eisceachtúil aige agus eolas eiseamláireach ar an nGaeilge. Bhí sé ina chnámh droma ag Club Peile an Athar Uí Ghríofa ó 1953 mar imreoir agus mar riarthóir araon agus bhí sé mar roghnóir freisin ar fhoireann cháiliúil peile na Gaillimhe a thug an corn leo 3 huaire i ndiaidh a chéile sna 1960í. Bhí sé ina chrann taca ag foirne iománaíochta agus peile Rannán na Gaillimhe ar feadh na mblianta agus sa mbliain 1987 bhronn Taoiseach na linne, Charles J. Haughey onóir speisialta ar Jimmy ag ceiliúradh 25 bliain den Choiste Siamsa in Óstán Burlington, Baile Átha Cliath. Chuaigh Jimmy ar scor sa bhliain 1989 tar éis seirbhís eiseamláireach a chur isteach ar feadh beagnach 43 bliain.

Pat Anglim

Grád – Sáirsint

Uimhir Chláraithe – 10439F

Cill Mhichíl, Contae an Chláir – ó dhúchas

Chuaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána sa bhliain – 1953

Bhí sé lonnaithe in – Uachtar Ard, Maigh Cuilinn le tréimhsí aistrithe sealadacha go Ros Muc, Indreabhán, Leitir Móir, an Gort, Bóthar na Trá agus Áth Eascrach. Tugadh ardú céime go grád an tSáirsint dó an t-achar is a bhí sé i mbun seirbhíse in Áth Eascrach sa bhliain 1959 agus aistríodh go Cill Tormóir é. Sa bhliain 1968 aistríodh go Sráid Eglinton é mar Sháirsint ar Dhualgas, agus ansin rinneadh Sáirsint i gCeannas dó ar feadh na coda eile dá chuid seirbhíse.

Chuaigh sé ar scor sa bhliain – 1993

Fuair sé a chuid oiliúna i Stáisiún na nGardaí, Páirc an Fhionnuisce, Baile Átha Cliath mar nár osclaíodh an Teampall Mór go dtí an bhliain 1964.

**Sergeant I/C Pat Anglim, Eglinton Street.
Courtesy of Galway Garda Station.**

**An Sáirsint i gCeannas Pat Anglim, Sráid Eglinton.
Le caoinchead Bheairic na nGardaí, Gaillimh.**

to know the Community, there was very little crime. Patrolling was on foot or bicycles as there was only one Patrol Car per District. Performed duty for the arrival of President J. F. Kennedy in 1963. Gardaí were accommodated for sleeping arrangements at the Army Barracks, Renmore. Another major event was the visit of Pope John Paul in 1979 in which he, along with the late Superintendent Gerry Colleran, spent six weeks on organising.

John Gilmartin

Rank – Superintendent

Registered Number – 12643H

Native of – Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim

Joined An Garda Síochána – 1955

Stationed at – Ennistymon, Scotstown, Co. Monaghan, Garda Headquarters on promotion to Sergeant, where he was part of the team developing the new Garda Code, Bridewell, Dublin, on promotion to Inspector, Eglinton Street, Ennistymon on promotion to Superintendent, Eglinton Street and Mill Street,

Bhain póilíneacht ag an tráth sin le haithne a chur ar an bPobal, agus is fíorbheagán coiriúlachta a bhí ann. De shiúl na gcos nó ar rothar a bhíodh na Gardaí i mbun patróil mar nach raibh ach aon Charr Patróil amháin ann in aghaidh an Cheantair. Bhí Pat ar dualgas do Chuairt an Uachtaráin J. F. Kennedy in 1963. Cuireadh socruithe lóistín ar fáil do na Gardaí i mBeairic an Airm, ar an Rinn Mhór. Ar mhórimeacht eile bhí cuairt an Phápa Eoin Pól in 1979 agus chaith sé féin, in éineacht leis an gCeannfort Gerry Colleran atá básaithe, 6 seachtaine ag eagrú na cuairte.

John Gilmartin

Grád – Ceannfort

Uimhir Chláraithe – 12643H

Cluainín, Co. Liatroma – ó dhúchas

Chuaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána sa bhliain – 1955

Bhí sé lonnaithe in – Inis Díomáin, Baile an Scotaigh, Co. Mhuineacháin, Ceanncheathrú an Gharda Síochána ar ardú céime chuig grád an tSáirsint, áit a raibh sé mar dhuine den fhoireann a rinne forbairt ar Chód nua don Gharda Síochána, Stáisiún Gardaí Bridewell, Baile Átha Cliath, ar ardú céime chuig grád an Chigire, Sráid Eglington, Inis Díomáin ar ardú céime chuig grád an Cheannfoirt, Sráid Eglington, Sráid an Mhuilinn, Gaillimh. Bhuaigh sé craobhchomórtas peile an chontae le Scairbh na gCaorach agus é i mbun seirbhíse i Muineachán. Bhí sé ina Cheannfort i Stáisiúin Gardaí Shráid Eglinton agus Shráid an Mhuilinn araon. Tugann sé chun cuimhne bá agus comrádaíocht i measc na gcomhaltaí sna stáisiúin go léir ina raibh sé i mbun seirbhíse mar cheann de na gnéithe ba speisialta dá ghairm bheatha. Bhásaigh John Gilmartin sa bhliain 2022.

Galway. He won a county football championship with Emyvale while stationed in Monaghan. Superintendent at both Eglinton Street and Mill Street Garda Stations. Recalls the affinity and comradery among the members in all of his stations as one of the most memorable aspects of his career. John Gilmartin passed away in 2022.

Jim Cuddy

Rank – Garda

Registered Number – 17306A

Native of – Swinford, Co. Mayo

Joined An Garda Síochána – 1968

Retired – 2003

Stationed at – Eglinton Street, Oughterard, Eglinton Street (Traffic Corps) and regular unit. Appointed Divisional Criminal Intelligence Officer in 1979.

Garda Cuddy was one of the first members of the Divisional Traffic Corps when they were created in 1973. They were affectionately known as the 'dirty dozen'. He was very active in representing the welfare of his colleagues throughout the years via the Garda Representative Association (GRA). Over the years, he served as a representative on the District and Divisional Committees. He served for a number of years on the Central Executive Committee of the GRA as well. He was also for 15 years a member of the Garda Medical Aid Board and the Garda Benevolent Society Board. He was the first Garda Welfare Officer in the Galway Division.

On retiring from An Garda Síochána, Jim Cuddy was elected a County Councillor and represented the Athenry/Oranmore Municipal District. Having served for 35 years in An Garda Síochána Jim Cuddy went on to serve a further 20 years as a County Councillor.

His daughter Helen Cuddy, 01087A, is currently a serving Sergeant, stationed in Enniscrone in the Sligo/Leitrim Division.

Superintendent Damien Flanagan and the late Superintendent John Gilmartin at Mill Street Garda Station in 2021; 32 years after Superintendent Gilmartin had interviewed Superintendent Flanagan for An Garda Síochána in the same office.
Courtesy of Galway Garda Station.

An Ceannfort Damien Flanagan agus an Ceannfot John Gilmartin (nach maireann) i mBeairic na nGardaí, Sráid an Mhuilinn sa bhliain 2021; 32 bliain ón am ar chuir an Ceannfort Gilmartin agallamh ar an gCeannfort Flanagan le dul isteach sa Gharda Síochána san oifig chéanna sin.
Le caoinchead Bheairic na nGardaí, Gaillimh.

Jim Cuddy

Grád – Garda

Uimhir Chláraithe – 17306A

Béal Átha na Muice, Co. Mhaigh Eo – ó dhúchas

Chuaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána – 1968

Chuaigh sé ar scor sa bhliain – 2003

Lonnaithe i – Sráid Eglington, Uachtar Ard, Sráid Eglinton (Cór Tráchta) agus san aonad rialta. Ceapadh ina Oifigeach Rannáin um Fhaisnéis Chóiriúil é in 1979.

Bhí an Garda Cuddy ar dhuine de chéad chomhaltaí an Chóir Tráchta Rannáin nuair a cuireadh an Cór Tráchta ar bun in 1973. Tugadh an 'dirty dozen' mar ainm ceana orthu. Bhí sé thar a bheith gníomhach ó thaobh ionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar leas a chomhghleacaithe ar feadh na mblianta trí Chumann Ionadaíochta an Gharda Síochána (GRA). Rinne sé ionadaíocht ar feadh

Imelda O'Flynn (nee Daly)

Rank – Sergeant

Registered Number – 00060D

Native of – Roscommon

Joined An Garda Síochána – 1973

Retired - 2009

Stationed at – Edward Street, Limerick, Eglinton Street, Galway and Mill Street, Galway.

Along with Garda Maureen Ryan, was the first female member of An Garda Síochána stationed in County Galway, arriving in 1976. Was also the first Galway-based female promoted to Sergeant in 1998. Remained in Galway Garda Station until retirement.

Maureen Ryan (nee Igoe)

Rank – Garda

Registered Number – 00062M

Native of – Co. Mayo

Joined An Garda Síochána – 1973

Retired – 2005

Stationed at – Store Street, Dublin, Eglinton Street, Galway and Mill Street, Galway.

Along with Garda Imelda O Flynn was the first female member of An Garda Síochána stationed in County Galway from 1976. They were the first female Gardaí to work in the west of Ireland and were regularly sent as far away as County Donegal when a female member was required. Accommodation for female members was very basic when they first arrived but she holds many fond memories of her service.

Marie Skehill

Rank – Superintendent

Registered Number – 00284D

Native of – Loughrea, Co. Galway

Joined An Garda Síochána – 1982

Retired – 2020

na mblianta ar Choistí Ceantair agus Rannáin. Bhí sé i mbun seirbhíse ar feadh líon blianta ar Lárchoiste Feidhmiúcháin an GRA. Bhí sé ina chomhalta ar feadh 15 bliana de Chumann Árachas Sláinte an Gharda Síochána agus de Bhord Chumann Carthanachta an Gharda Síochána. Ba é chéad Oifigeach Leasa an Gharda Síochána é i Rannán na Gaillimhe.

Toghadh Jim Cuddy ina Chomhairleoir Contae tar éis dó dul ar scor ón nGarda Síochána, agus rinne sé ionadaíocht ar Cheantar Bardasach Bhaile Átha an Rí/Órán Mór. Tar éis dó 35 bliain a thabhairt i mbun seirbhíse don Gharda Síochána, lean Jim Cuddy ar aghaidh ag cur seirbhís ar fáil mar Chomhairleoir Contae ar feadh 20 bliain eile.

Is Sairsint iníon leis, Helen Cuddy, 01087A, i láthair na huaire agus tá sí lonnaithe in Inis Crabhann i Rannán Shligigh/Liatroma.

Imelda O'Flynn (Daly roimh phósadh di)

Grád – Sáirsint

Uimhir Chláraithe – 00060D

Ros Comáin – ó dhúchas

Chuaigh sí isteach sa Gharda Síochána sa bhliain – 1973

Chuaigh sí ar scor sa bhliain - 2009

Lonnaithe i – Sráid Edward, Luimneach, Sráid Eglington, Gaillimh agus Sráid an Mhuilinn, Gaillimh.

Ba í an chéad bhanchomhalta, in éineacht leis an nGarda Maureen Ryan, den Gharda Síochána a lonnaíodh i gContae na Gaillimhe agus chuir sí tús lena tréimhse ar dualgas ansin in 1976. Ba í an chéad Bhangharda i nGaillimh freisin í a fuair ardú céime go grád an tSáirsint in 1998. Bhí Imelda ar dualgas i Stáisiún Gardaí na Gaillimhe go dtí go ndeachaigh sí ar scor.

Stationed at – Dun Laoghaire, Roscommon, Tuam, Galway, Loughrea, Roscommon on promotion to Sergeant, Gort, Mountbellew, Tuam, Galway on promotion to Inspector (2003), Tuam on promotion to Superintendent (2008) and Galway. Served as District Officer in Galway since 2010. Was the first female member of An Garda Síochána from the Galway Division to reach the rank of Superintendent.

Dónall Ó Cualáin

Rank – Acting Commissioner

Registered Number – 23491E

Native of – Carna, Co. Galway

Joined An Garda Síochána – 1983

Retired - 2017

Stationed at Donnybrook, Dublin, Garda Technical Bureau, Garda HQ, Garda College, Templemore (Promoted to Sergeant 1990).

Cill Rónáin, Aran Islands, In-Service School - Mill Street, Galway.

Ballyshannon, Donegal (on promotion to Inspector). Organisation Development Unit, Garda HQ.

Western Regional Office, Mill Street, Galway.

Glenties, Donegal (on promotion to Superintendent). Ennistymon, Co. Clare. Mill Street, Galway. Castlebar (on promotion to Chief Superintendent). Sligo, Mill Street, Galway.

Southern Regional Office, Anglesea Street, Cork (on promotion to Assistant Commissioner). Western Regional Office, Mill Street, Galway.

Acting Deputy Commissioner, Strategy and Change Management, Garda HQ. Governance and Strategy, Garda HQ (on promotion to Deputy Commissioner).

Acting Commissioner of An Garda Síochána from September 2017 until retirement in September 2018.

Maureen Ryan
(Igoe roimh phósadh di)

Grád – Garda

Uimhir Chláraithe – 00062M

Maigh Eo – ó dhúchas

Chuaigh sí isteach sa Gharda Síochána sa bhliain – 1973

Chuaigh sí ar scor sa bhliain – 2005

Lonnaithe i – Sráid an Stórais, Baile Átha Cliath, Sráid Eglington, Gaillimh agus Sráid an Mhuilinn, Gaillimh.

Ba í an chéad bhanchomhalta, in éineacht leis an nGarda Imelda O'Flynn, den Gharda Síochána í a lonnaíodh i gContae na Gaillimhe agus chuir sí tús lena tréimhse ar dualgas ansin ó 1976. Ba iad na chéad Bhanghardaí iad a chuaigh ar dualgas in Iarthar na hÉireann agus cuireadh chomh fada ó bhaile le Contae Dhún na nGall iad ar bhonn rialta sa chás Bangharda a bheith ag teastáil. Bhí cóiríocht do na banchomhaltaí thar a bheith bunúsach nuair a chuaigh siad ar dualgas an chéad lá riamh ach tá cuimhní ceanúla ag Maureen ar a cuid seirbhíse.

Marie Skehill

Grád – Ceannfort

Uimhir Chláraithe –00284D

Baile Locha Riach, Co na Gaillimhe – ó dhúchas

Chuaigh sí isteach sa Gharda Síochána sa bhliain – 1982

Chuaigh sí ar scor sa bhliain – 2020

Lonnaithe i – Dún Laoghaire, Ros Comáin, Tuaim, Gaillimh, Baile Locha Riach, Ros Comáin ar ardú céime go grád an tSáirsint, an Gort, an Creagán, Tuaim, Gaillimh ar ardú céime go grád an Chigire (2003), Tuaim ar ardú céime go grád an Cheannfoirt (2008), agus Gaillimh. Bhí Marie ina hOifigeach Ceantair i nGaillimh ón mbliain 2010. Ba í an chéad bhanchomhalta den Gharda Síochána í ó Rannán na Gaillimhe a bhain grád an Cheannfoirt amach.

First Galway native to achieve the highest rank in the organisation when he became Acting Commissioner of An Garda Síochána in 2017.

Padraig Dolan

Rank – Sergeant

Registered Number – 22688B

Native of – Monivea, Co. Galway

Joined An Garda Síochána – 1982

Retired – 2020

Stationed at – Kilrush, Doonbeg, Ennis, Salthill, Clifden and Mill Street, Galway.

Was the Sergeant in Charge at Mill Street Garda Station for 17 years from 2003 to his retirement in 2020. One of the original members of the Drug Unit at Salthill Garda Station and later became the President of the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors (AGSI). As Sergeant in Charge at Galway Garda Station he was involved in the planning of all major events in the city including the famed Galway Races.

Kristov Kolodziej

Rank – Garda

Registered Number – 37460A

Native of – Jaworzyna Slaska, near the city of Wroclaw in the west of Poland.

Joined An Garda Síochána – 2017

Stationed at – North Western Regional Headquarters, Galway.

Arrived in Ireland with his family in 2005. The first Polish member of An Garda Síochána to serve in Galway and one of the first Polish members to join the organisation.

Dónall Ó Cualáin

Grád – Coimisinéir Gníomhach

Uimhir Chláraithe – 23491E

Carna, Co. na Gaillimhe - ó dhúchas

Chuaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána sa bhliain – 1983

Chuaigh sé ar scor sa bhliain - 2017

Bhí sé lonnaithe i nDomhnach Broc, Baile Átha Cliath, Biúró Teicniúil an Gharda Síochána, Ceanncheathrú an Gharda Síochána, Coláiste an Gharda Síochána, an Teampall Mór (Ardú céime go grád an tSáirsint sa bhliain 1990).

Cill Rónáin, Oileáin Árann, Scoil Inseirbhíse - Sráid an Mhuilinn, Gaillimh.

Béal Átha Seanaidh, Dún na nGall (ar ardú céime go grád an Chigire). Aonad Forbartha Eagraíochta, Ceanncheathrú an Gharda Síochána.

Oifig Réigiúnach an Iarthair, Sráid an Mhuilinn, Gaillimh.

Na Gleannta, Dún na nGall (ar ardú céime go grád an Cheannfoirt). Inis Díomáin, Co an Chláir. Sráid an Mhuilinn, Gaillimh. Caisleán an Bharraigh, (ar ardú céime go grád an Ard-Cheannfoirt). Sligeach, Sráid an Mhuilinn, Gaillimh.

Oifig Réigiúnach an Deiscirt, Sráid Anglesea, Corcaigh (ar ardú céime go grád an Choimisinéara Chúnta). Oifig Réigiúnach an Iarthair, Sráid an Mhuilinn, Gaillimh.
Leas-Choimisinéir Gníomhach, Bainistiú Straitéise agus Athraithe.
Ceanncheathrú an Gharda Síochána, Rialachas agus Straitéis, Ceanncheathrú an Gharda Síochána (ar ardú céime go grád an Leas-Choimisinéara).
Coimisinéir Gníomhach an Gharda Síochána ó Mheán Fómhair 2017 go dtí go ndeachaigh sé ar scor i Meán Fómhair, 2018.
An chéad Gharda ó Ghaillimh ó dhúchas a bhain an grád is airde amach san eagraíocht nuair a rinneadh Coimisinéir Gníomhach dó ar an nGarda Síochána in 2017.

An Garda Síochána

Herish Yarmoradi

Rank – Garda

Registered Number – 39037B

Native of – Altash, Ramadi, Iraq

Joined An Garda Síochána – 2020

Stationed at – Ballinasloe

Garda Yarmoradi's parents left Iran in the 1980s for Iraq due to the war. The family then left Iraq again because of war in 2006 and arrived in Ireland. Garda Yarmoradi is the first Iraqi to join An Garda Síochána; prior to this he studied in the Athlone Institute of Technology. He speaks Kurdish, Persian and Arabic and was previously attached to Mill St Garda Station.

Mary Flanagan

Rank – Clerical Officer – Garda Staff

Registered Number – S0138886

Native of – Shragh, Woodford, Co. Galway

Joined An Garda Síochána –1985

Stationed at – Eglinton Street, Galway and Mill Street, Galway.

Arrived at Eglinton Street Garda Station in 1985. At that time there were only three civilian staff members in the Station. Transferred to Mill Street Garda Station in February 1986. Has worked in administration across the various sections in the station with the majority of service in the Divisional Office. Worked for 7 different Chief Superintendents over the years. Witnessed many changes from open fires and manual typewriters to the modern state of the art facilities of today. One of the only remaining personnel who saw service in Eglinton Street, Mill Street and the new North Western Regional Headquarters at Murrough. Now attached to the Court Presenters Office at Mill Street.

Pádraig Dolan

Grád – Sáirsint

Uimhir Chláraithe – 22688B

Muine Mheá, Co. na Gaillimhe – ó dhúchas

Chuaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána sa bhliain – 1982

Chuaigh sé ar scor sa bhliain – 2020

Lonnaithe i – Cill Rois, an Dún Beag, Inis, Bóthar na Trá, an Clochán agus Sráid an Mhuilinn, Gaillimh.

Bhí sé ina Sháirsint i gCeannas i Stáisiún Gardaí Shráid an Mhuilinn ar feadh 17 mbliana ó 2003 go ndeachaigh sé ar scor in 2020. Bhí sé ar dhuine de bhunaitheoirí an Aonaid Drugaí i Stáisiún Gardaí Bhóthar na Trá agus ina Uachtarán ar Chumann Sháirsintí agus Chigirí an Gharda Síochána (AGSI) níos deireanaí. Le linn dó a bheith ina Sháirsint i gCeannas i Stáisiún Gardaí na Gaillimhe bhí sé bainteach le mórimeachtaí go léir na cathrach a eagrú, lena n-áirítear Rásaí cáiliúla na Gaillimhe.

Kristov Kolodziej

Grád – Garda

Uimhir Chláraithe – 37460A

Ó Jaworzyna Slaska, in aice le cathair Wroclaw in iarthar na Polainne - ó dhúchas.

Chuaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána sa bhliain – 2017

Lonnaithe i – Ceanncheathrú Réigiúnach an Iarthuaiscirt, Gaillimh.

Tháinig sé go hÉirinn lena theaghlach in 2005. Bhí sé ar an gcéad chomhalta Polannach den Gharda Síochána a bhí i mbun seirbhíse i nGaillimh agus ar an gcéad chomhalta Polannach a chuaigh isteach san eagraíocht.

Garda Tom Sandes, Chief Superintendent John Mitchell, Willie O'Dea, Junior Minister, and Garda Jim Cuddy. Courtesy of Galway Garda Station.

An Garda Tom Sandes, an tArd-Cheannfort John Mitchell, Willie O'Dea, Aire Stáit, agus an Garda Jim Cuddy. Le caoinchead Bheairic na nGardaí, Gaillimh.

Michael Fahey

Rank – Reserve Garda

Registered Number – 80439H

Native of – Waterford

Joined An Garda Síochána – 2008

Stationed at – Mill Street, Galway

A member of the second intake of Reserve Gardaí to arrive in Galway.

The son of a Garda Sergeant, also Michael Fahey, 10981K, who served in Killarney, Ballymacarbury, Kilmacow, Tramore and Ardmore, and retired in 1987. Reserve Garda Fahey is a thatcher by trade and also a keen local historian with a great interest in the history of policing and An Garda Síochána.

Herish Yarmoradi

Grád – Garda

Uimhir Chláraithe – 39037B

Altash, Ramadi, an Iaráic - ó dhúchas

Chuaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána sa bhliain – 2020

Lonnaithe i – mBéal Átha na Sluaighe

D'fhág tuismitheoirí an Gharda Yarmoradi an Iaráin sna 1980í agus chuaigh go dtí an Iaráic mar gheall ar an gcogadh. Ansin, d'fhág an teaghlach an Iaráic sa bhliain 2006 mar gheall ar chogadh agus tháinig siad go hÉirinn. Is é an Garda Yarmoradi an chéad duine ón Iaráic a chuaigh isteach sa Gharda Síochána agus roimhe sin bhí sé ag staidéar in Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Bhaile Átha Luain.

Labhraíonn sé Coirdíneach, Peirsis agus Araibis agus bhí sé ceangailte le Stáisiún Gardaí Shráid an Mhuilinn roimhe seo.

Mary Flanagan. Courtesy of Mary Flanagan.
Mary Flanagan. Le caoinchead Mary Flanagan.

Mary Flanagan

Grád – Oifigeach Cléireachais – Foireann an Gharda Síochána

Uimhir Chláraithe – S0138886

Shragh, an Ghráig, Co na Gaillimhe - ó dhúchas

Thosaigh sí ag obair leis an nGarda Síochána sa bhliain –1985

Lonnaithe i – Sráid Eglington, Gaillimh agus Sráid an Mhuilinn, Gaillimh

Chuir Mary tús lena cuid oibre i Stáisiún Gardaí Shráid Eglinton in 1985. Ní raibh ach foireann sibhialtaigh de thriúr sa Stáisiún ag an am sin. Aistríodh Mary go Stáisiún Gardaí Shráid an Mhuilinn i mí Feabhra 1986. D'oibrigh sí sa riarachán ar fud ranna éagsúla sa stáisiún agus is san Oifig Rannáin a bhí formhór na seirbhíse. D'oibrigh sí le 7 Ard-Cheannfort dhifriúla thar na blianta. Chonaic sí go leor athruithe ó thine oscailte go clóscríobhán láimhe go dtí na saoráidí nua-aimseartha is deireanaí. Tá sí ar dhuine de na daoine atá fanta a bhí i mbun seirbhíse i Sráid Eglington, Sráid an Mhuilinn agus i gCeanncheathrú Réigiúnach nua an Iarthuaiscirt i Muirbheach. Tá sí anois le hOifig na Láithreoirí Cúirte i Sráid an Mhuilinn.

Michael Fahey

Grád – Garda Cúltaca

Uimhir Chláraithe – 80439H

Port Láirge - ó dhúchas

Chuaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána sa bhliain – 2008

Lonnaithe i – Sráid an Mhuilinn, Gaillimh

Is comhalta é den dara foireann de Ghardaí Cúltaca a tháinig go Gaillimh.

Is mac é freisin leis an Sáirsint Gardaí Michael Fahey, 10981K, a bhí i mbun seirbhíse i gCill Airne, Baile Mhac Cairbre, Cill Mhic Bhúith, sa Trá Mhór agus san Aird Mhór go ndeachaigh sé ar scor in 1987. Is tuíodóir de réir ceirde é an Garda Cúltaca Fahey agus fear mór le stair áitiúil le spéis ar leith i stair na póilíneachta agus an Gharda Síochána.

Divisional Garda Staff at the North West Regional Headquarters, Galway.
Left to right: Lisa Madden, Gabriella McGauran, Shane O'Rourke, Tim Browne, Tish Duff, Jason Comer and Marie Doyle.
Photo credit: Marie Mannion.
Foireann Ceantair an Gharda ag Ceanncheathrú Réigiúnach an Iarthuaiscirt, Gaillimh.
Ó chlé go deas: Lisa Madden, Gabriella McGauran, Shane O'Rourke, Tim Browne, Tish Duff, Jason Comer agus Marie Doyle.
Grianghraf: Marie Mannion.

31. An Garda Síochána – Garda Staff

From the beginning of An Garda Síochána, the need for civilian personnel to provide expertise was recognised. In 1923, among the senior management team at Garda HQ was C. Monks, who was in charge of Finance. There were also a Chief Surgeon and an Assistant Surgeon assigned to Garda Headquarters along with a Secretary to the Commissioner.

Locally, administrative/clerical work in An Garda Síochána has always been essential for the operation of the organisation. Again, in the formative years of the force, certain Gardaí were selected for clerical duties in Divisional and District Offices, with the foremost qualification for selection being the standard of their handwriting.

31. An Garda Síochána – Foireann an Gharda

Tuigeadh, ó cuireadh an Garda Síochána ar bun i dtosach, go raibh gá le foireann shibhialtach a chuirfeadh saineolas ar fáil. Sa bhliain 1923, bhí C. Monks ar an bhfoireann shinsearach bainistíochta i gCeanncheathrú an Gharda, é i gceannas chúrsaí airgeadais. Ceapadh Príomh-Mháinlia agus Máinlia Cúnta i gCeanncheathrú an Gharda freisin chomh maith le Rúnaí an Choimisinéara.

Bhí riamh bunriachtanas go háitiúil le hobair riaracháin/cléireachais ionas go bhféadfadh an eagraíocht feidhmiú. I rith bhlianta tosaigh an Gharda, chuirtí Gardaí áirithe i mbun cúraimí cléireachais in Oifigí Rannáin agus Ceantair. Caighdeán a gcuid peannaireachta an cháilíocht ba mhó maidir lena roghnú.

An Garda Síochána

Two former Garda Commissioners, Michael Kinnane (1938 to 1951) and Daniel Costigan (1952 to 1965), did not come to the position through the ranks but rather were appointed to the role from their former positions as senior civil servants.

Despite numerous reports through the 1960s and into the 70s, progress in regard to civilianisation in An Garda Síochána was quite slow. By 1970, close to 25 male Gardaí operated as designated clerks, working from 9 am to 5 pm on a Monday to Friday basis. Other Gardaí may have also been assigned to certain important offices on a non-designated basis.

Between 1970 and 1998, 15 separate reports into different areas of Garda activity and reform recommended additional civilianisation and after the Conroy Commission in 1970, female civil servants were gradually allocated to Garda Stations. During the following years, the number of civil servants in the organisation increased into the 300s, to the 400s in the 1980s and to over 700 in the 1990s.

It should be noted, however, that not all civilian employees in An Garda Síochána were civil servants and the numbers included other roles such as tradesmen, gardeners, storemen and cleaners etc.

The turn of the century saw further progress, with the responsibility for all civilian staff being transferred to the Commissioner in 2005. By 2006, there were 1,281 civilian staff. A Garda Inspectorate and Advisory Group report to the Commissioner that year recommended a new role of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) at Deputy Commissioner level to oversee Administration and Resource Management. The first CAO was then appointed in 2007.

Also in 2007, a Government decision provided for the appointment of a further 300 clerical officers for areas outside Dublin, recommending the employment of specialist civilian employees

Bhí beirt Choimisinéirí ar an nGarda, Michael Kinnane (1938–1951) agus Daniel Costigan (1952–1965), nach le hardú céime taobh istigh den eagraíocht a ceapadh sa phost sin iad ach as post sinsearach roimhe sin sa státseirbhís.

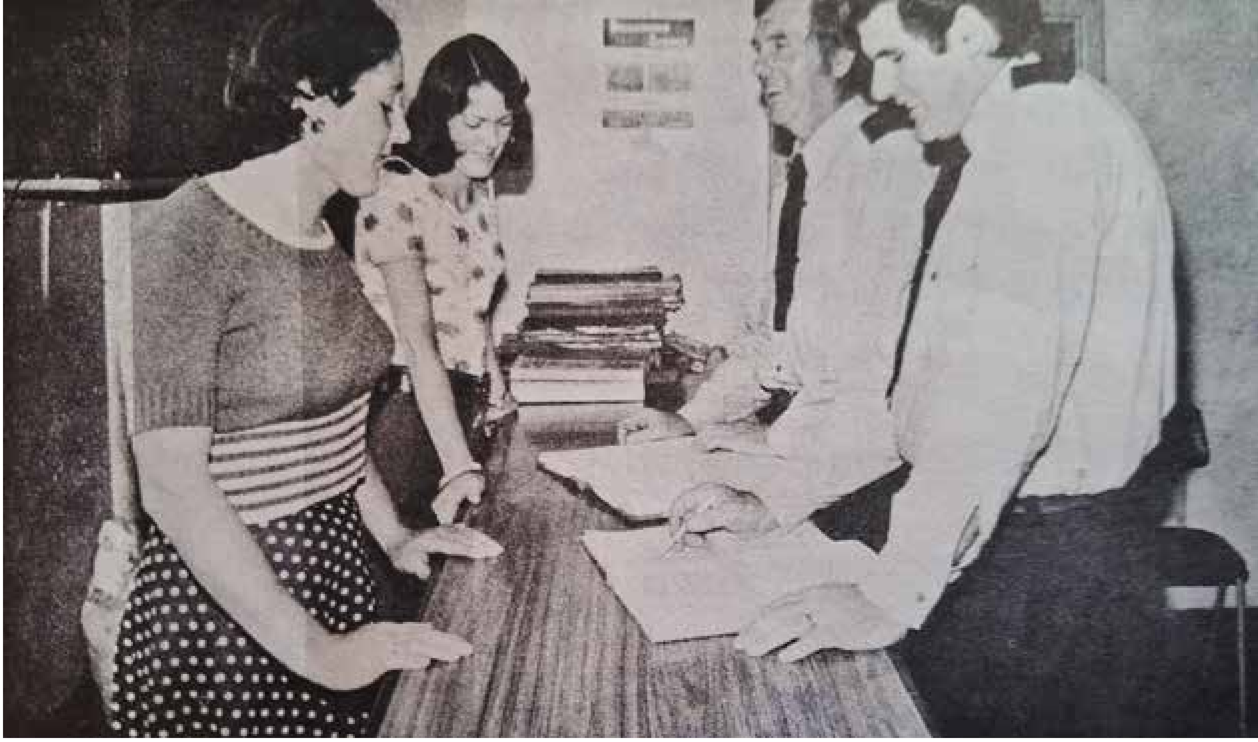
Ainneoin tuarascálacha éagsúla i rith na 60idí agus na 70idí, is beag dul chun cinn a tharla maidir le sibhialtaigh sa Gharda Síochána. Faoin mbliain 1970, bhí suas le 25 Garda fir ag feidhmiú ina gcléirigh ainmnithe, ag obair ón 9 r.n. – 5 i.n. ó Luan go hAoine. D'fhéadfadh gur cuireadh Gardaí eile freisin i mbun oifigí tábhachtacha gan iad a ainmniú go sonrach.

Idir na blianta 1970 agus 1998, moladh i 15 de thuarascálacha maidir le gnéithe éagsúla d'obair an Gharda agus athchóiriú ar an eagraíocht go gcuirfí leis an ngné shibhialta agus tar éis Choimisiún Uí Chonaire sa bhliain 1970, tosaíodh ar státseirbhísigh mná a cheapadh i stáisiúin an Gharda. De réir a chéile, tháinig ardú go dtí 300 agus os a chionn ar líon na státseirbhíseach san eagraíocht, os cionn 400 sna 1980idí agus os cionn 700 sna 1990idí.

Is fiú a lua ina dhiaidh sin féin nach státseirbhíseach gach sibhialtach a d'fhostaíodh an Garda Síochána agus go mbíodh lucht ceirde, garraíodóirí, oibrithe stóir, glantóirí agus eile ina measc freisin.

Tharla dul chun cinn breise le tús na mílaoise agus tháinig gach ball foirne sibhialtaigh faoi chúram an Choimisinéara sa bhliain 2005. Faoin mbliain 2006, bhí 1,281 sibhialtach ina mbaill foirne. Moladh i dtuarascáil ó Fhoireann Cigireachta agus Grúpa Comhairle an Gharda don Choimisinéir an bhliain sin go gcuirfí post nua do Phríomhoifigeach Riaracháin (POR) ar bun ar ghrád Leas-Choimisinéara i gceannas ar Riarachán agus Bainistíocht Acmhainní. Ceapadh POR den chéad uair sa bhliain 2007.

Sa bhliain 2007 freisin, rinneadh foráil le cinneadh Rialtais do 300 oifigeach cléireachais



Eglinton Street Garda Station, Sally Corcoran and Geraldine Acton (Civilian Staff) and Gardaí Pat Sweeney and Dan McNulty. Photo source: *Connacht Tribune.*
Stáisiún Gardaí Shráid Eglinton, Sally Corcoran agus Geraldine Acton (Foireann Shibhialtach) agus na Gardaí Pat Sweeney agus Dan McNulty. Grianghraf: An *Curadh Connachtach.*

in other areas such as Analysis, Scenes of Crime, Finance, Human Resources, ICT and Forensics, which would in turn release Gardaí employed in these posts to frontline duties.

Clerical and administrative support were significantly enhanced in those years in order to further the official policy of releasing desk-bound Gardaí to operational duties and bring the organisation into line with international norms; by 2008, the number stood at 2,053.

Middle and senior non-sworn management staff were also introduced across a range of administrative, technical/professional and industrial support areas.

From 2018, all non-sworn members of the organisation became known as Garda Staff. In 2022, there were 3,389 Garda Staff across all fields, which rose to 3,678 by the end of 2024.

breise a cheapadh i gceantair taobh amuigh de Bhaile Átha Cliath agus moladh sibhialtaigh a fhostú ina saineolaithe maidir le réimsí eile, mar shampla, Anailís, Láithreacha Coireanna, Airgeadas, TEC agus Dlí-eolaíocht, agus go mbeadh na Gardaí a bhí i mbun na gcúraimí sin ar fáil don dualgas ar na línte tosaigh.

Cuireadh go mór leis an gcúnamh cléireachais agus riaracháin i rith na mblianta sin de réir an pholasaí oifigiúil maidir le Gardaí a shaoradh ó chúraimí boird d’fhonn a gcur i mbun dualgais oibriúcháin agus an eagraíocht a thabhairt leis an ngnátheagar go hidirnáisiúnta agus, faoin mbliain 2008, b’ionann a líon agus 2,053.

Tugadh isteach baill foirne bainistíochta, ar an meánleibhéal agus an leibhéal sinsearach, nach raibh faoi mhionn ar fud réimsí riaracháin, teicneolaíochta/gairme agus cúnamh tionsclaíochta.

Regional Control Room at the North West Galway Headquarters, Murrough, Galway.
Courtesy of An Garda Síochána, Galway.
Seomra Rialaithe Réigiúnach ag Ceanncheathrú Iarthuaisceart na Gaillimhe, Muirbheach, Gaillimh.
Le caoinchead an Ghharda Síochána, Gaillimh.

An Garda Síochána has moved from a time when civilian staff were almost exclusively confined to clerical support in stations to a point where non-sworn members are now appointed to an ever-wider range of specialist and managerial functions, including membership of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

Valuable support is being provided to An Garda Síochána by Garda Staff in these areas and the success of flagship initiatives such as the Garda Information Services Centre (GISC), Garda Central Vetting Unit (GCVU) and Fixed Charge Penalty Office (FCPO), among others, in this regard is increasingly apparent.

A recent development regarding non-sworn members is the vital position of Control Room Operator, which is the first point of contact for members of the public seeking emergency Garda intervention. There are now four Regional Control Rooms across the country where the call-takers are all members of Garda Staff. The Regional Control Room for the North Western Region is based at Murrough, Galway.

Ón mbliain 2018, tá Foireann an Gharda á thabhairt ar bhaill uile na heagraíochta nach bhfuil faoi mhionn. Sa bhliain 2022, bhí 3,389 duine ar Fhoireann an Gharda ar fud na réimsí uile agus tháinig ardú go dtí 3,678 ar an líon sin faoi dheireadh na bliana 2024.

Tá an Garda Síochána athraithe ón ré ina mbíodh beagnach gach ball foirne sibhialtaigh i mbun cúnamh cléireachais sna stáisiúin go dtí cás an lae inniu ina gceaptar baill foirne nach bhfuil faoi mhionn i mbun feidhmeanna speisialta agus feidhmeanna bainistíochta de chineálacha níos forleithne, ballraíocht ar an Meitheal Shinsearach Ceannasaíochta (MSC) san áireamh.

Is fiúntach an cúnamh taca a chuireann Foireann an Gharda ar fáil don Gharda Síochána maidir leis na réimsí sin agus is léir an rath atá ar thionscnaimh suntasacha ina leith, mar shampla, Lárionad Sheirbhís Eolais an Gharda Síochána (LSEG), Láraonad Grinnfhiosrúcháin an Gharda Síochána (LGG), Oifig na bPionós Muirear Seasta (OPMS) agus eile.

Cor nua le gairid maidir le baill nach bhfuil faoi mhionn an cás maidir le hOibritheoir an tSeomra Stiúrtha, an chéad phointe caidrimh ag duine den phobal a lorgaíonn idirbheartaíocht an Gharda Síochána i gcás práinne. Tá ceithre cinn de Sheomraí Stiúrtha Réigiúnacha ar fud na tíre anois inar baill d'Fhoireann an Gharda na daoine a fhreagraíonn glaonna. I Muirbheach, i nGaillimh, atá an Seomra Stiúrtha Réigiúnach maidir le Réigiún an Iarthuaiscirt.

Galway Blue Challenge charity event. Courtesy of Inspector Senan Wall.
Imeacht Carthanais Dhúshlán Gorm na Gaillimhe. Le caoinchead an Chigire Senan Wall.

32. Community Policing

> *The Civic Guard will not succeed by force of arms or numbers but on their moral authority as servants of the people.*

(Michael Staines, first Commissioner of An Garda Síochána).

Commissioner O'Duffy (second Commissioner of An Garda Síochána) later saw sport as a method of integration of the new force into the communities in which they were to serve. He also emphasised the use of flexibility and discretion in their duties without recourse to prosecution for every trivial offence. This pragmatism, along with the fact that the Gardaí lived among their communities, differed from the methods of their predecessors, the RIC and helped Gardaí to win

32. Póilíneacht Phobail

> *The Civic Guard will not succeed by force of arms or numbers but on their moral authority as servants of the people.*

(Michael Staines, céad Choimisinéir an Gharda Síochána).

Bhí Coimisinéir O'Duffy (an dara Coimisinéir den Gharda Síochána) den tuairim go bhféadfaí leas a bhaint as spórt mar mhodh imeasctha an fhórsa nua leis na pobail a raibh siad le freastal a dhéanamh orthu. Mhol sé úsáid solúbthachta agus breithiúnais chomh maith le linn do chomhaltaí a bheith ag comhlíonadh a ndualgas, gan dul i muinín ionchúisimh i gcás gach aon chiona fhánaigh. Níorbh ionann an pragmatachas seo ná an chaoi a raibh na

Garda Aidan Heneghan and Garda John Flanagan, Ballinasloe Garda Station, policing the Ballinasloe Horse Fair in the 1980s. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.

An Garda Aidan Heneghan agus an Garda John Flanagan, Stáisiún Gardaí Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe, i mbun póilíneachta ag Aonach Capall Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe sna 1980idí. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

public acceptance. The relationship that then developed between the communities and the Gardaí, which is the envy of many other police forces, could be seen as the basis of the formal Community Policing models that followed.

While it could be argued that all Gardaí in past times were Community Policemen, in order to meet the needs of the 21st century community, An Garda Síochána had to change as an organisation. Traditional policing responses are under continuous pressure from 21st century challenges and our service delivery must change accordingly.

Gardaí seo ag cur fúthu i measc a bpobail agus modhanna an dreama a bhí ann rompu, an RIC. Chabhraigh na difríochtaí sin leis na Gardaí tacaíocht an phobail a fháil. D'fhéadfaí breathnú ar an gcaidreamh a d'fhás idir na pobail agus na Gardaí, ar caidreamh é a bhfuil go leor Fórsaí Póilíneachta eile in éad air, mar eiseamláir do na múnlaí foirmiúla Póilíneachta Pobail a tháinig ina dhiaidh sin.

Cé go bhféadfaí a rá gurbh Phóilíní Pobail iad na Gardaí uile san am atá caite, bhí athrú ag teastáil ar an nGarda Síochána mar eagraíocht d'fhonn a bheith in ann freastal ar riachtanais an phobail

Garda Seán Colleran, Sergeant J.J. Burke, Seán McCole, Kilronan. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.
An Garda Seán Colleran, An Sáirsint J.J. de Búrca, An Garda Seán McCole, Cill Rónáin. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

Garda Gerry O'Callaghan, Mill Street Garda Station. Courtesy of Gerry O'Callaghan.
An Garda Gerry O'Callaghan, Beairic na nGardaí, Sráid an Mhuilinn. Le caoinchead Gerry O'Callaghan.

The Community Policing Framework Strategy emphasises that the definition of community is broad and that communities are made up of individuals with diverse needs. A one-size-fits-all approach is no longer acceptable. A community/ customer policing approach, adopting modern processes and procedures to manage relationships with communities and individuals and to better understand their needs, is now part of the work and values of all members.

There are currently 2 Sergeants and 22 Gardaí employed on full-time Community Policing throughout Galway City and County.

sa 21ú haois. Bíonn brú leanúnach ar fhreagairtí agus ar mhéadrachtaí traidisiúnta póilíneachta ó dhúshláin an 21ú haois agus ní mór athrú a chur ar sheachadadh seirbhísí an Gharda Síochána dá réir. Áitítear sa Chreatstraitéis maidir le Póilíneacht Phobail gur leathan an sainmhíniú atá ar phobal, agus go mbíonn gach aon phobal comhdhéanta de dhaoine a bhfuil riachtanais ilchineálacha acu. Ní féidir glacadh le cur chuige uilechoiteann a thuilleadh. Áirítear anois ar obair agus ar luachanna gach comhalta cur chuige póilíneachta pobail/custaiméara a ghlacadh, próisis agus nósanna oibre nua-aimseartha a ghlacadh chun caidrimh le pobail agus le daoine

Garda Charlie Loughlin, Oranmore Garda Station.
Courtesy of Galway Garda Station.

An Garda Charlie Loughlin, Beairic na nGardaí, Órán Mór.
Le caoinchead Bheairic na nGardaí, Gaillimh.

Sergeant Peter Geraghty and Garda Mick McDermott, Monivea Garda Station.
Courtesy of Galway Garda Station.

An Sáirsint Peter Geraghty agus an Garda Mick McDermott, Beairic na nGardaí i Muine Mheá.
Le caoinchead Bheairic na nGardaí, Gaillimh.

Máirín Bean Uí Thuairisc, Garda John Conneely, Máire Geoghegan Quinn, Sergeant Dónall Ó Cualáin, 1993 at Kilronan, Árainn. Courtesy of Galway Garda Station.

Máirín Bean Uí Thuairisc, an Garda John Conneely, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, an Sáirsint Dónall Ó Cualáin, 1993 i gCill Rónáin, Árainn. Le caoinchead Bheairic na nGardaí, Gaillimh.

Garda Mounted Unit, in Loughrea.
Photo courtesy of Denis Callaghy.

Marc-Aonad an Gharda Síochána i mBaile Locha Riach.
Griangraf le caoinchead Denis Callaghy.

Despite the changes in society and within the Garda organisation, it is interesting to note that the key word in regard to An Garda Síochána and their communities remains ‘relationship’.

aonair a bhainistiú d’fhonn tuiscint níos fearr a fháil ar riachtanais.

Tá 2 Sáirsint agus 22 Garda fostaithe i láthair na huaire chun Póilíneacht Phobail a dhéanamh go lánaimseartha ar fud chathair agus Chontae na Gaillimhe.

Oranmore Parish Choir c. 1955, with Garda Padraig McDonagh and Sergeant Micheal Coughlan. Photo courtesy of Superintendent Damien Flanagan.

Cór an Pharóiste, Órán Mór c. 1955, leis an nGarda Pádraig McDonagh agus an Sáirsint Micheal Coughlan. Le caoinchead an Cheannfoirt Damien Flanagan.

Community Policing, Sergeant Mick Needham, Conemara c. 1970s. Photo source: *Connacht Tribune.*

Póilíneacht Pobail, an Sáirsint Mick Needham, Conamara timpeall na 1970idí. Grianghraf: An *Curadh Connachtach.*

In ainneoin na n-athruithe ar an tsochaí, agus ar eagraíocht an Gharda Síochána go deimhin, tá sé spéisiúil a thabhairt faoi deara gurb é an focal 'caidreamh' an focal is mó tábhachtacha i gcónaí maidir leis an nGarda Síochána agus na pobail a bhfreastalaíonn sé orthu.

Sergeant Patrick Forde.
An Sáirsint Patrick Forde.

33. Roll of Honour, Galway Division

Sergeant Patrick Forde, Registered No 5802, Maam Garda Station.

Sergeant Forde had 9 years service in An Garda Síochána when he lost his life. He was born in Nutgrove, Tynagh, Co. Galway on the 19 January 1904. He served in the Volunteers from 1919 to 1921. He joined An Garda Síochána on 27 June 1925 and was promoted to rank of Sergeant on 1 March 1927. He served in Ballymote, Mohill, Fivemilebourne and Barnaderg. He was married with two children.

33. An Rolla Onóra, Rannán na Gaillimhe

An Sáirsint Patrick Forde, Uimhir Chláraithe 5802, Stáisiún Gardaí an Mháma.

Bhí naoi (9) mbliana seirbhíse curtha isteach ag an Sáirsint Forde leis an nGarda Síochána nuair a bhásaigh sé. Rugadh an Sáirsint Forde san Fhiodh Breac, Tíne, i gContae na Gaillimhe an 19 Eanáir 1904. Bhí sé sna hÓglaigh idir na blianta 1919 agus 1921. Chuaigh an Sáirsint Forde isteach sa Gharda Síochána an 27 Meitheamh, 1925 agus fuair sé ardú céime chuig Sáirsint an 1 Márta 1927. Bhí sé ina gharda i mBaile an Mhóta, Maothail, Abhainn an Chartúin agus sa Bhearna Dearg. Bhí sé pósta agus bhí beirt leanaí aige.

Bhí an Sáirsint Forde ar dualgas leis an nGarda Michael Kennelly an 18 Eanáir, 1934. Bhí an bheirt ghardaí ag filleadh ar Stáisiún an Mháma tar éis dóibh othar mná a thabhairt chomh fada le hOspidéal Meabhairghalair Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe. Le linn dóibh a bheith ar a mbealach trí chathair na Gaillimhe d'imigh an hacnaí ina raibh siad ag taisteal den bhóthar isteach in Abhainn na Gaillimhe ag Cé na nGaltán, Barr an Chladaigh. Bádh an Sáirsint Forde agus bádh freisin an Garda Kennelly, Tiománaí an Hacnaí agus an bhean a bhí ina paisinéir sa hacnaí.

An Garda Michael Joseph Kennelly, Uimhir Chláraithe 1408, Stáisiún Gardaí an Mháma.

Bhí aon bhliain déag (11) seirbhíse curtha isteach ag an nGarda Kennelly sa Gharda Síochána nuair a bhásaigh sé. Rugadh an Garda Kennelly in Ahannanagha, Maigh Mheáin, Contae Chiarraí an 26 Eanáir 1896. Bhí sé san 8ú Cathlán de Bhriogáid Chiarraí Uimhir 1 ó 1916-1922. Chuaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána an 30 Bealtaine, 1922. Bhí sé ina gharda i nGaillimh,

On 18 January 1934, Sergeant Forde was on duty with Garda Michael Kennelly. They were returning to their Station at Maam, having escorted a female patient to Ballinasloe Mental Hospital. On driving through Galway City, the hackney car in which they were travelling left the roadway and entered the River Corrib at Steamers Quay, Woodquay. Sergeant Forde was drowned along with Garda Kennelly, the Hackney Driver and a female passenger.

Garda Michael Joseph Kennelly, Registered No 1408, Maam Garda Station.

Garda Kennelly had 11 years service in An Garda Síochána when he lost his life. He was born in Ahannanagha, Newtownsandes, Co. Kerry on the 26 January 1896. He served in the 8th Battalion, Kerry No 1 Brigade from 1916 to 1922. He joined An Garda Síochána on 30 May 1922. He served in Galway, Monivea, Derrybrien, Letterfrack, Leenane, Clifden and Killimor. He was married with two children.

On 18 January 1934, Garda Kennelly was on duty with Sergeant Patrick Forde. They were returning to their Station at Maam, having escorted a female patient to Ballinasloe Mental Hospital. On driving through Galway City, the hackney car in which they were travelling left the roadway and entered the River Corrib at Steamers Quay, Woodquay. Garda Kennelly was drowned along with Sergeant Forde, the Hackney Driver and a female passenger.

Garda Michael Joseph Kennelly.
An Garda Michael Joseph Kennelly.

Muine Mheá, Daraidh Braoin, Leitir Fraic, sa Líonán, sa Chlochán agus i gCill Íomair. Bhí sé pósta agus bhí beirt leanaí aige.

Bhí an Garda Kennelly ar dualgas in éineacht leis an Sáirsint Forde an 18 Eanáir, 1934. Bhí an bheirt ghardaí ag filleadh ar Stáisiún an Mháma tar éis dóibh othar mná a thabhairt chomh fada le hOspidéal Meabhairghalair Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe. Le linn dóibh a bheith ar a mbealach trí chathair na Gaillimhe d'imigh an hacnaí ina raibh siad ag taisteal den bhóthar isteach in Abhainn na Gaillimhe ag Cé na nGaltán, Barr an Chladaigh. Bádh an Garda Kennelly agus bádh freisin an Sáirsint Forde, Tiománaí an Hacnaí agus an bhean a bhí ina paisinéir sa hacnaí.

Garda Noel Martin Conroy.
An Garda Noel Martin Conroy.

An Garda Noel Martin Conroy, Uimhir Chláraithe 19207D, Stáisiún Gardaí Thuama.

Bhí cúig bliana déag (15) seirbhíse curtha isteach ag an nGarda Conroy sa Gharda Síochána nuair a bhásaigh sé. Rugadh an Garda Conroy an 30 Samhain, 1951 sa Rinn Mhór i nGaillimh. Chaith an Garda Conroy tréimhse san FCA sula ndeachaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána an 11 Aibreán, 1973. Bhí sé ina gharda sa Mhuineachán agus i mBaile an Tobair. Bhí sé pósta agus bhí triúr leanaí aige.

Bhain gortú marfach don Gharda Conroy an Aoine 28 Deireadh Fómhair, 1988 i dtimpiste bóthair i Glenmony, Biorra, Contae Uíbh Fhailí le linn dó a bheith rannpháirteach i gcúrsa oiliúna oifigiúil gluaisrothair.

Garda Noel Martin Conroy, Registered No 19207D, Tuam Garda Station.

Garda Conroy had 15 years service in An Garda Síochána when he lost his life. He was born on the 30 November 1951 and was a native of Renmore, Galway. He served for a period in the FCA before joining An Garda Síochána on 11 April 1973. He served in Monaghan and Ballintubber. He was married with three children. On Friday, 28 October 1988, while undergoing an official motor-cycle training course, Garda Conroy was involved in a road traffic collision at Glenmony, Birr, Co. Offaly and fatally injured.

Garda Paul Colleran.
An Garda Paul Colleran.

An Garda Paul Colleran, Uimhir Chláraithe 26973E, Stáisiún Gardaí Bhaile Locha Riach.

Bhí cúig (5) bliana seirbhíse curtha isteach ag an nGarda Colleran sa Gharda Síochána nuair a bhásaigh sé. Rugadh an Garda Colleran an 25 Aibreán, 1975, i bPáirc Quarry, Maigh Locha, Béal Átha na Sluaighe, Contae na Gaillimhe. Bhí Dioplóma i Staidéar Foirgníochta agus Teastas in Innealtóireacht Shibhialta aige agus bhí sé ina Theicneoir Suímh sula ndeachaigh sé isteach sa Gharda Síochána an 29 Deireadh Fómhair, 1996. Bhí sé ina gharda freisin i Sráid Mhic Giobúin agus san Uaimh.

Le linn dó a bheith ag filleadh ón gCúirt Dúiche san Uaimh an 5 Márta, 2003 bhí an Garda Colleran i dtimpiste bóthair i Raitin, Cionn Átha Gad, Contae na hIarmhí. Básaigh sé an 7 Márta, 2003 mar gheall ar a chuid gortuithe.

Garda Paul Colleran, Registered No 26973E, Loughrea Garda Station.

Garda Colleran had 5 years service in An Garda Síochána when he lost his life. He was born on the 25 April 1975 and was a native of Quarry Park, Moylough, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. He held a Diploma in Construction Studies, a Certificate in Civil Engineering and worked as a Site Technician prior to joining An Garda Síochána on 29 October 1996. He also served in Fitzgibbon Street and Navan.

On Wednesday, 5 March 2003, while returning from the District Court at Navan, Garda Colleran was involved in a road traffic collision at Rattin, Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath. He passed away from his injuries on 7 March 2003.

34. Scott Medals

In 1923, General Eoin O'Duffy, Commissioner of An Garda Síochána, travelled to the International Police Conference in New York. There he met with Colonel Walter Scott, an honorary Commissioner of the New York City Police. Scott, a wealthy philanthropist, was very impressed with the newly formed Irish police force and presented O'Duffy with a 1,000-dollar gold bond; the interest on this was to finance an annual gold medal for members of An Garda Síochána. O'Duffy decided that the medal would be for outstanding valour.

The only condition attached to the award of the Scott Medal was that:

> *no action, however heroic, will merit the award of the Scott Medal, unless it takes the shape of an act of personal bravery, performed intelligently in the execution of duty at imminent risk to the life of the doer and armed with full previous knowledge of the risk involved.*

The medal takes the form of a Celtic Cross with five panels depicting the words "The Scott Medal", "For Valour", the Eagle and the Shield of the USA, the Harp and Sunburst and the Garda Crest.

Scott Medals are presented by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform at the Annual Scott Medal Ceremony.

Garda Daniel Manley, Registered No 7628, Milltown Garda Station.

Scott Medal Bronze.

On 27 August 1938 at 1 am, while on patrol at Tuam, Co. Galway, along with Garda Curran, Garda Manley disarmed a man holding a single barrel shotgun. It was unknown at the time if the weapon was loaded. The male in question was subsequently arrested and sentenced to a period of imprisonment.

Garda Daniel Manley. Registered Number 7628, Milltown Garda Station. Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.
An Garda Daniel Manley. Uimhir Cháraithe 7628, Stáisiún Gardaí Bhaile an Mhuilinn. Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

34. Boinn Scott

Sa bhliain 1923, thaistil an Ginearál Eoin Ó Dubhaigh, Coimisinéir an Gharda Síochána, chuig Comhdháil Idirnáisiúnta na Póilíní i Nua-Eabhrac. Bhuail sé ansin leis an gCoirnéal Walter Scott, Coimisinéir oinigh de chuid Phóilíní Chathair Nua-Eabhrac. Bhí Scott, daonchara saibhir, an-tógtha leis an bhfórsa póilíní Éireannach nua-bhunaithe agus bhronn sé banna óir 1,000 dollar ar Ó Dubhaigh; bhí an t-ús air seo chun bonn óir bliantúil a mhaoiniú do bhaill an Gharda Síochána. Chinn Ó Dubhaigh go mbeadh an bonn le haghaidh misneach den scoth.

Garda Geoffery Power.
Courtesy of An Garda Síochána.
An Garda Geoffery Power.
Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána.

Garda Michael McGann, Registered No 16395, Gort Garda Station.

Scott Bronze Medal.

On 4 December 1970, Garda McGann rushed to the scene of a fire at a Licenced Premises at Church St, Gort. On arrival he was informed that a 2-year-old boy was still inside the building. He entered through the hallway and despite the fact that the ceiling was in flames and the house full of thick black smoke, he crawled across the floor and located the child, effecting a rescue.

Garda Geoffrey Power, Registered No 16755L, Galway Garda Station.

Scott Silver Medal.

At 3.20 am on 10 April 1991, Garda Power was informed that a male had fallen into the River Corrib. The river was in flood at the time and Garda Power, on seeing the male pinned against a stanchion, dropped 10 feet [3 meters] into the water and made his way to the youth. He also had to make his way over an 8-foot gate layered with barbed wire. On reaching the exhausted youth he

Ba é an t-aon choinníoll a bhí ag gabháil le bronnadh Bhonn Scott ná...

> *nach mbeadh aon ghníomh, is cuma cé chomh cróga is a bhí sé, tuillteanach bronnadh Bhonn Scott, mura nglacann sé cruth gníomh crógachta pearsanta, a rinneadh go cliste agus é ag cur dualgais i mbaol láithreach do shaol an té a rinne an obair, agus armtha le heolas iomlán roimhe seo ar an riosca a bhí i gceist.*

Tá an bonn i bhfoirm Cros Cheilteach le cúig phainéal ina bhfuil na focail “Bonn Scott”, “Ar son Misnigh”, an tIolar agus Sciath SAM, an Chláirseach agus an Ghrianghraf, agus Suaitheantas an Gharda Síochána.

Bronntar Boinn Scott ag an Aire Dlí agus Cirt, Comhionannais agus Athchóirithe Dlí ag Searmanas Bhliantúil Bhonn Scott.

An Garda Daniel Manley, Uimhir Chláraithe 7628, Stáisiún Gardaí Bhaile an Mhuilinn.

Bonn Cré-Umha Scott.

An 27 Lúnasa, 1938 ag 1.00am agus é ar patról i dTuaim i gContae na Gaillimhe in éineacht leis an nGarda Curran bhain an Garda Manley arm d’fhear a raibh gránghunna ina sheilbh. Ní raibh aon eolas ann ag an tráth sin cibé a raibh an gunna lódáilte nó nach raibh. Gabhadh an fear a bhí i gceist ina dhiaidh sin agus gearradh tréimhse phríosúnachta air.

An Garda Michael McGann, Uimhir Chláraithe 16395, Stáisiún Gardaí an Ghoirt.

Bonn Cré-Umha Scott.

D’fhreastail an Garda McGann ar láthair dhóiteáin a bhí in Áitreabh Cheadúnaithe ar Shráid an tSéipéil sa Ghort an 4 Nollaig, 1970. Ar theacht chun na láithreach cuireadh in iúl dó go raibh buachaill beag dhá bhliain d’aois fós istigh

managed to hold his head above the water before eventually after 45 minutes they were taken from the water by the Fire Brigade. The youth was hospitalised for five days and made a full recovery.

Garda Thomas J Flaherty, Registered No 22405G, Galway Garda Station.

Scott Bronze Medal.

On 31 March 1994, Garda Flaherty rescued a female who had fallen in to the City Docks. Having dived 15 feet [4.5 meters] into the water, he located the female and keeping her head above the water swam 60 feet [over 18 meters] to the dock wall where they were eventually taken from the water by colleagues. The female made a full recovery.

Garda Denis Madden, Registered No 17523D, Galway Garda Station.

Scott Bronze Medal.

On 21 December 1994, Garda Madden came to the rescue of a male in the canal at Lower Dominick Street, Galway. Garda Madden jumped 20 feet [6 meters] into the water and was initially dragged underwater by the male. He eventually dragged the male to the canal wall despite his resistance and was eventually assisted from the canal by colleagues. Garda Madden was for a period in great danger of being swept away. The male in question made a full recovery.

D/Garda Kieran McNamara, Registered No 19562F, Loughrea Garda Station.

Scott Bronze Medal.

On 1 March 2002, while on foot patrol, D/Garda McNamara noticed suspicious activity at the Irish Permanent Building Society at Main Street, Loughrea. He then intercepted two males, wearing balaclavas and armed with a knife and a hammer, fleeing the building. After a struggle, D/Garda McNamara managed to arrest the male

san fhoirgneamh. Rinne an Garda McGann a bhealach isteach in ainneoin go raibh an tsíleáil trí thine agus go raibh an teach lán le deatach dubh a bhí thar a bheith tiubh, rinne sé a bhealach ar a cheithre boinn chuig an áit ina raibh an leanbh agus thug sé an leanbh slán sábháilte amach as an teach.

An Garda Geoffrey Power, Uimhir Chláraithe 16755L, Stáisiún Gardaí na Gaillimhe.

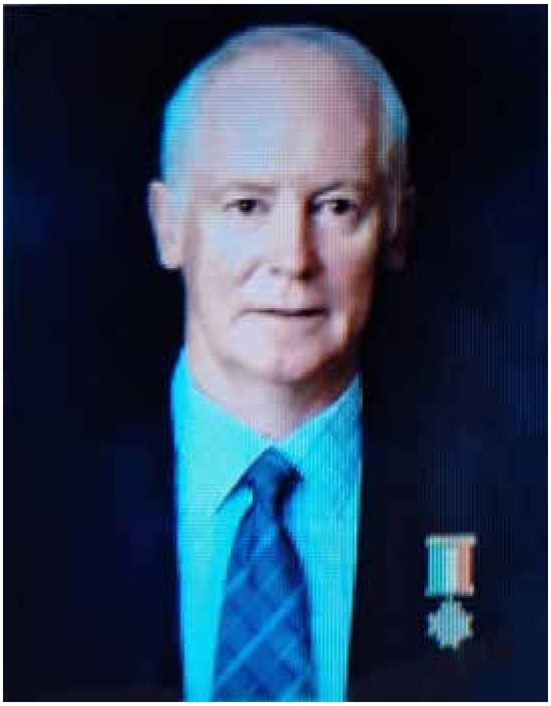
Bonn Airgid Scott.

Cuireadh in iúl don Gharda Power go raibh fear tar éis titim isteach in Abhainn na Gaillimhe ag 03.20 an 10 Aibreán, 1991. Bhí tuile san abhainn ag an am agus nuair a chonaic an Garda Power an fear sáinnithe in aghaidh stáinse léim sé 10' isteach san uisce agus rinne a bhealach go dtí an fear óg. Bhí ar an nGarda Power a bhealach a dhéanamh freisin thar gheata a bhí os cionn ocht dtroigh ar airde agus a bhí clúdaithe le sreang dheilgneach. Ar theacht chomh fada leis an bhfear óg a bhí tugtha faoin am seo d'éirigh leis a chloigeann a choinneáil os cionn an uisce agus thug an Bhriogáid Dóiteán an bheirt as an abhainn tar éis 45 nóiméad. Chaith an fear óg 5 lá san ospidéal agus tháinig biseach iomlán air.

An Garda Thomas J Flaherty, Uimhir Chláraithe 22405G, Stáisiún Gardaí na Gaillimhe

Bonn Cré-Umha Scott.

An 31 Márta, 1994 tharrtháil an Garda Flaherty bean a thit isteach i nDuga na Cathrach. Tháinig sé ar an mbean tar éis dó léim 15' a thabhairt isteach san uisce agus choinnigh sé a cloigeann os cionn an uisce, shnámh sé 60' isteach chuig balla an duga áit ar thóg comhghleacaithe an bheirt as an uisce. Tháinig biseach iomlán ar an mbean.



Detective Garda Kieran McNamara.
Photo source: An Garda Síochána, Loughrea.
An Bleachtaire Garda Kieran McNamara.
Grianghraf: An Garda Síochana, Baile Locha Riach.

wielding the knife. The second male escaped with a third getaway driver but both were later also arrested following a follow-up operation.

Superintendent Enda Walsh, Registered No 19724F, Loughrea Garda Station.

Scott Bronze Medal.

On 6 October 2006, two males armed with realistic imitation firearms entered the Bank of Ireland at Loughrea, terrifying customers and staff. Superintendent Walsh, who was off duty, was in the Bank at the time and immediately challenged both males, arresting one at the scene and leading to the arrest of the second. Both were subsequently convicted in regard to the incident.

An Garda Denis Madden, Uimhir Chláraithe 17523D, Stáisiún Gardaí na Gaillimhe.

Bonn Cré-Umha Scott.

An 21 Nollaig, 1994 tharrtháil an Garda Madden fear ón gcanáil i Sráid Dhoiminic Íochtarach, Gaillimh. Chaith an Garda Madden léim 20' isteach san uisce áit ar tharraing an fear faoin uisce ar dtús é. Thug sé an fear chomh fada le balla na canála in ainneoin é a bheith ag cur ina choinne agus thug comhghleacaithe an bheirt as an gcanáil. Bhí an t-ádh ar an nGarda Madden nár scuab an sruth chun siúil é. Tháinig biseach iomlán ar an bhfear a bhí i gceist.

An Bleachtaire Garda Kieran McNamara, Uimhir Chláraithe 19562F, Stáisiún Gardaí Bhaile Locha Riach.

Bonn Cré-Umha Scott.

Le linn don Bhleachtaire Garda Kieran McNamara a bheith ar patról coise an 1 Márta 2002, thug sé gníomhaíocht amhrasach faoi deara i bhfoirgneamh an Irish Permanent Society ar an bPríomhshráid i mBaile Locha Riach. Stop sé beirt fhear a raibh balacláva á chaitheamh acu agus iad armáilte le scian agus casúr le linn dóibh a bheith ag éalú ón bhfoirgneamh. D'éirigh leis an mBleachtaire Garda Kieran McNamara fear na scine a ghabháil. D'éalaigh an dara fear i gcarr éalaithe ina raibh an tríú fear ag fanacht ach gabhadh iadsan níos deireanaí tar éis oibríocht leantach.

Garda Alan Keane, Registered No 29624H, Oranmore Garda Station.

Scott Silver Medal.

Garda Bernice Mulderrig, Registered No 29728C, Oranmore Garda Station.

Scott Silver Medal.

On 15 February 2009, the above members confronted five armed men carrying a shotgun and hatchet at a private home at Lackagh, Turloughmore, Co. Galway. The culprits pointed a loaded firearm at the members and Garda Keane was struck with the hatchet. He then succeeded in grabbing the loaded shotgun from one of the individuals. Both members then gave chase to the males who were subsequently arrested and convicted.

D/Garda James Connolly, Registered No 17790C, Galway Garda Station.

Scott Silver Medal.

On 16 December 1983, D/Garda Connolly was part of a search operation for kidnapped businessman, Don Tidey. At Drumcroman Wood, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim, he came under intense automatic gunfire from the suspects and

Superintendent Enda Walsh.
Courtesy of An Garda Síochána, Galway.
An Ceannfort Enda Walsh.
Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána, Gaillimh.

An Ceannfort Enda Walsh, Uimhir Chláraithe 19724F, Stáisiún Gardaí Bhaile Locha Riach.

Bonn Cré-Umha Scott.

An 6 Deireadh Fómhair, 2006, chuaigh beirt fhear a raibh arm bréige á n-iompar acu isteach i mBanc na hÉireann i mBaile Locha Riach agus scanraigh siad custaiméirí agus an fhoireann araon. Bhí an Ceannfort Walsh nach raibh ar dualgas ag an am istigh sa Bhanc agus thug dúshlán na beirte, ghabh sé fear amháin ar an láthair agus gabhadh an dara fear ina dhiaidh sin. Ciontaíodh iad beirt mar gheall ar an eachtra.

Chief Superintendent Dónall Ó Cualáin, Garda Bernie Mulderrig and Garda Alan Keane.
Courtesy of An Garda Síochána, Galway.
An tArd-Cheannfort Dónall Ó Cualáin, Garda Bernie Mulderrig agus an Garda Alan Keane.
Le caoinchead an Gharda Síochána, Gaillimh.

was forced to take cover. He returned fire and later went to the assistance of his colleagues. Recruit Garda Gary Sheehan and Private Patrick Kelly of the Defence Forces were both fatally wounded by the IRA suspects on this date. Three males were later arrested and convicted in relation to this event. D/Garda Connolly was awarded the Scott Medal 38 years after the event.

An Garda Alan Keane, Uimhir Chláraithe 29624H, Stáisiún Gardaí Órán Mór.

Bonn Airgid Scott.

An Garda Bernice Mulderrig, Uimhir Chláraithe 29728C, Stáisiún Gardaí Órán Mór.

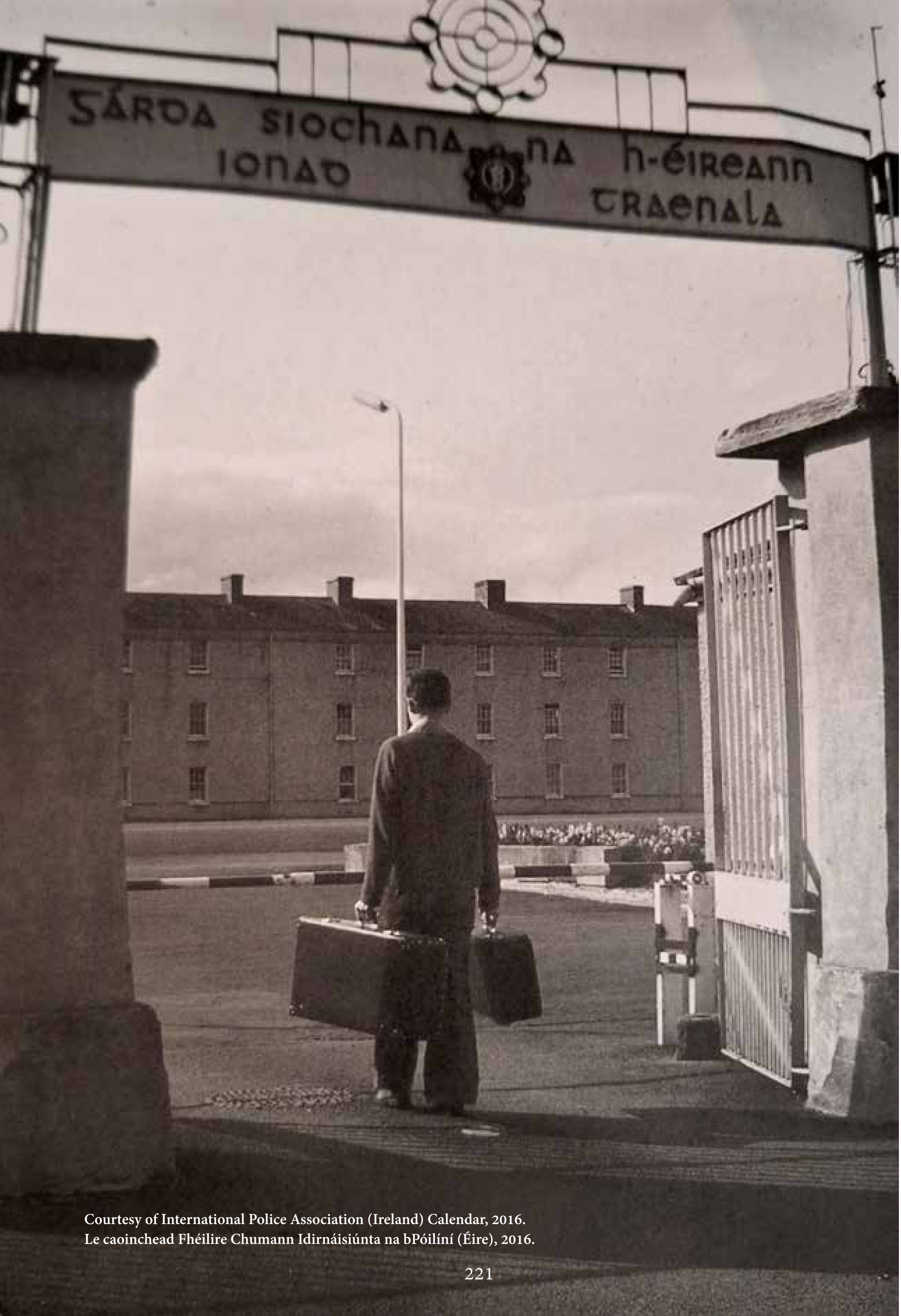
Bonn Airgid Scott.

Thug an bheirt thuas aghaidh ar chúigear fear an 15 Feabhra, 2009 a raibh gránghunna agus tua ar iompar acu agus iad istigh i dteach cónaithe príobháideach sa Leacach, an Turlach Mór, Contae na Gaillimhe. Dhírigh na coirpigh arm a bhí lódáilte ar na gardaí agus thug buille de thua don Gharda Keane. D'éirigh leis an gránghunna a bhí lódáilte a bhaint de dhuine de na fir. Chuaigh an bheirt sa tóir ar na fir agus gabhadh agus ciontaíodh iad ina dhiaidh sin.

An Bleachtaire James Connolly, Uimhir Chláraithe 17790C, Stáisiún Gardaí na Gaillimhe.

Bonn Airgid Scott.

Bhí páirt ag an mBleachtaire Garda Connolly in oibríocht chuardaigh an 16 Nollaig, 1983, don fhear gnó, Don Tidey a bhí fuadaithe. Tháinig an Bleachtaire Garda Connolly faoi mhaidhm lámhaigh i gCoillte Droim Chromáin, Béal Átha Móir, Contae Liatroma agus bhí air dul ar an bhfoscadh. Tosaigh an Bleachtaire Garda Connolly ag scaoileadh agus tháinig sé i gcabhair ar a chuid comhghleacaithe. Mharaigh comhaltaí den IRA an tEarcach, an Garda Gary Sheehan agus an Saighdiúir Singil Patrick Kelly, Óglaigh na hÉireann. Gabhadh triúr fear ina dhiaidh sin agus ciontaíodh iad mar gheall ar an eachtra seo. Bronnadh Bonn Scott ar an mBleachtaire Garda Connolly 38 bliain i ndiaidh na heachtra.



Courtesy of International Police Association (Ireland) Calendar, 2016.
Le caoinchead Fhéilire Chumann Idirnáisiúnta na bPóilíní (Éire), 2016.

35. Garda Rank Structure

You can tell what division Garda is in from the writing on the epaulettes, e.g. GA is Galway.

35. Gráid an Gharda

An rannóg atá i gceist leis na litreacha ar an nguailleog, e.g. ciallaíonn GA Gaillimh.

Commissioner / Coimisinéir

Deputy Commissioner / Leaschoimisinéir

Assistant Commissioner / Coimisinéir Cúnta

Chief Superintendent / Ardcheannfort

Superintendent / Ceannfort

Inspector / Cigire

Sergeant / Sáirsint

Garda / Garda

Reserve Garda / Garda Cúltaca

36. Garda Regions

36. Réigiúin na nGardaí

For policing purposes the country is divided into 4 regions, each of which is commanded by an Assistant Commissioner.

The 4 regions are:

- Dublin Metropolitan Region
- North Western Region
- Eastern Region
- Southern Region

Tá 4 réigiún sa tír maidir le cúrsaí póilíneachta agus Coimisinéir Cúnta i gceannas i ngach réigiún.

Seo a leanas na réigiúin:

- Réigiún Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath
- Réigiún an Iarthuaiscirt
- Réigiún an Deiscirt
- Réigiún an Oirthir

37. First Galway Man to Lead the Gardaí

Dónall Ó Cualáin | Career History

Dónall Ó Cualáin was appointed Acting Garda Commissioner in September 2017 and served in that role until his retirement in September 2018. He was the first Galway man to hold the highest rank in An Garda Síochána.

He was born in Leitirmóir in 1959 but grew up and went to school in Carna. His father was a National School Teacher in the area and his mother, originally from Kilrickle, Co. Galway, was the District Nurse in Leitirmóir.

Prior to joining An Garda Síochána, Dónall Ó Cualáin worked with Beirtreach Teo. and Taighde Mara while completing a Certificate in Aquaculture in the Galway Regional Technical College, as the present Atlantic Technological University (ATU) was then called. He worked in fish farming in both Connemara and Oranmore until 1983, when he joined An Garda Síochána.

37. An Chéad Fhear as Gaillimh leis na Gardaí a Stiúradh

Dónall Ó Cualáin | Stair Ghairme

Ceapadh Dónall Ó Cualáin ina Choimisinéir Gníomhach i Meán Fómhair 2017 go dtí gur éirigh sé as i Meán Fómhair 2018. Ba é an chéad fhear as Gaillimh a raibh an chéim is airde sa Gharda Síochána aige.

Rugadh i Leitir Móir é sa bhliain 1959 ach d'fhás sé aníos i gCarna agus is ann a d'fhreastail sé ar scoil. Múinteoir bunscoile sa cheantar ab ea a athair agus ba í a mháthair, arbh as Cill Ríchill, Co. na Gaillimhe ó dhúchas di, an tAltra Dúiche i Leitir Móir.

Sula ndeachaigh sé sa nGarda Síochána, d'oibrigh sé le Beirtreach Teo. agus Taighde Mara, fad a bhí teastas sa Dobharshaothrú á chur i gcrích aige i gCeardcholáiste Réigiúnach na Gaillimhe. D'oibrigh sé i bhfeirmeoireacht éisc i gConamara agus in Órán Mór araon go dtí an bhliain 1983 nuair a chuaigh sé sa Gharda Síochána.

An Garda Síochána

Throughout the course of his Garda career, he attained the following professional qualifications:

- Grid Leadership (2004)
- Degree in Public Administration – Institute of Public Administration
- International Exchange Programme – Community Policing – Boston College (2007)
- Executive Masters in Business Administration – National University of Ireland, Galway (2008)
- Innovations in Governance – JFK School of Government – Harvard University (2008)
- Garda Executive Leadership Programme – Michael Smurfit Business School – University College Dublin (2009).

Ghnóthaigh sé na cáilíochtaí gairmiúla seo a leanas le linn a ghairme:

- Cúrsa Ceannaireachta Grid, (2004).
- Céim - Riarachán Poiblí - Institiúid Riaracháin Phoiblí.
- Clár Malartáin Idirnáisiúnta - Póilíneacht Phobail – Boston College, (2007)
- Máistreacht Feidhmiúcháin sa Riarachán Gnó, OÉG, (2008).
- Nuálaíochtaí i gCúrsaí Rialachais – JFK School of Government – Ollscoil Harvard, (2008)
- Clár Ceannaireachta Feidhmiúcháin an Gharda Síochána le Scoil Ghnó Michael Smurfit i gColáiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath, (2009).

Having joined An Garda Síochána on the 20th of July 1983, he served in the following Stations:

1983	Donnybrook, Dublin
1987	Garda Technical Bureau, Garda Headquarters (HQ)
1988	Rannóg na Gaeilge, Garda College, Templemore (promoted to Sergeant 1990)
1993	Sergeant, Cill Rónáin, Aran Islands, Co. Galway
1993	Sergeant, In-Service School, Mill Street, Galway
1994	Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal (on promotion to Inspector)

Chuaigh sé sa Gharda Síochána ar an 20 Iúil, 1983, rinne sé seirbhís sna stáisiúin seo a leanas:

1983	Domhnach Broc, Baile Átha Cliath.
1987	Biúró Teicniúil an Gharda Síochána, Ceanncheathrú an Gharda Síochána.
1988	Rannóg na Gaeilge, Coláiste an Gharda Síochána, An Teampall Mór (Fuair Ardú céime go Sáirsint 1990).
1993	Sáirsint , Cill Rónáin, Oileáin Árann.
1993	Sáirsint, Scoil Inseirbhíse, Sráid an Mhuilinn, Gaillimh.
1994	Baile Sonnáin, Dún na nGall (ar ardú céime go Cigire a fháil dó).

1994	Inspector, Organisation Development Unit, Garda HQ
1996	Inspector, Western Regional Office, Mill Street, Galway
1999	Glenties, Co. Donegal (on promotion to Superintendent)
2002	Superintendent, Ennistymon, Co. Clare
2003	Superintendent, Mill Street, Galway
2006	Castlebar, Co. Mayo (on promotion to Chief Superintendent)
2006	Chief Superintendent, Sligo
2007	Chief Superintendent, Mill Street, Galway
2012	Southern Regional Office, Anglesea Street, Cork (on promotion to Assistant Commissioner)
2012	Assistant Commissioner, Western Regional Office, Mill Street, Galway
2014	Acting Deputy Commissioner, Strategy and Change Management, Garda HQ
2015	Governance and Strategy, Garda HQ (on promotion to Deputy Commissioner)
2017	Acting Commissioner from September 2017 until retirement in September 2018

A fluent Irish speaker, Acting Commissioner Ó Cualáin was a champion of the language throughout his career in An Garda Síochána. He was the Chief Superintendent at Galway Garda Station when the Office of the Coimisinéir Teanga was created in 2003.

Acting Commissioner Ó Cualáin served in every province in the State and always believed in the concept of the Garda as a community policeman, stemming from the historical ties

1994	Cigire, Aonad Forbartha Eagraíochta, Ceanncheathrú an Gharda Síochána.
1996	Cigire, Oifig Réigiúnach an Iarthair, Sráid an Mhuilinn, Gaillimh.
1999	Na Gleannta, Dún na nGall (ar ardú céime go Ceannfort a fháil dó).
2002	Ceannfort, Inis Díomáin, Co. an Chláir.
2003	Ceannfort, Sráid an Mhuilinn, Gaillimh.
2006	Caisleán an Bharraigh, Maigh Eo (ar ardú céime go Ard-Cheannfort a fháil dó).
2006	Ard-Cheannfort, Sligeach.
2007	Ard-Cheannfort, Sráid an Mhuilinn, Gaillimh.
2012	Oifig Réigiúnach an Deiscirt, Sráid Anglesea, Corcaigh (ar ardú céime go Coimisinéir Cúnta a fháil dó).
2012	Coimisinéir Cúnta, Oifig Réigiúnach an Iarthair, Sráid an Mhuilinn, Gaillimh.
2014	Leas-Choimisinéir Gníomhach, Straitéis agus Bainistiú Athruithe, Ceanncheathrú an Gharda Síochána.
2015	Rialachas agus Straitéis, Ceanncheathrú an Gharda Síochána (ar ardú céime go Leas-Choimisinéir a fháil dó).
2017	Leas-Choimisinéir ó Mheán Fómhair 2017 go dtí gur éirigh sé as i Meán Fómhair 2018.

Ina chainteoir líofa Gaeilge thacaigh an Coimisinéir Gníomhach Ó Cualáin leis an teanga san eagraíocht i rith a ghairme. Ba é a bhí ina Ard-Cheannfort i Stáisiún Gardaí na Gaillimhe nuair bunaíodh Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga sa bhliain 2003.

the force maintained with the community. This relationship, he feels, was and is the 'family silver' when it came to policing in Ireland in that Gardaí were both of the community and with the community. This unique tie, while becoming strained in recent times, has never been broken.

As the most enjoyable part of his career, he cites the variety of roles involved and he feels that he was allowed to have five or six separate careers in one, across the operational, tactical and strategical spectrum of An Garda Síochána.

Rinne an Coimisinéir Gníomhach Ó Cualáin seirbhís i ngach cúige sa Stát agus chreid riamh i gcoincheap an Gharda mar Phóilín Pobail, coincheap a bhfuil bunús leis sa cheangal stairiúil a choinnigh an fórsa leis an bpobal. Dar leis, is ionann an caidreamh sin agus an "family silver" mar a bhaineann sé le póilíneacht sa tír seo sa chaoi is gur ón bpobal féin a tháinig na Gardaí agus go raibh bá acu leis an bpobal sin. Níor chlis ar an gceangal ar leith sin riamh, cé gur cuireadh faoi bhrú é le blianta beaga anuas.

Deir sé gurbh iad na róil éagsúla a raibh baint aige leo an ghné ba thaitneamhaí a bhain lena ghairm agus dar leis bhí sé ábalta cúig nó sé ghairm ar leith a bheith aige in aon ghairm amháin, ó réimse oibríochta, oirbheartaíochta agus straitéiseach na heagraíochta.

Launch of Pobail ar Aire, Carraroe.
Left to right: Sergeant Paul McWalter, Seán Ó Conghaile, Chairman, Garda Joe Folan and Garda Brendan Kinneavy, 1994.
Photo source: *Connacht Tribune.*
Pobal ar Aire á sheoladh ar an gCeathrú Rua.
Ó chlé go deas: An Sáirsint Paul McWalter, Seán Ó Conghaile, Cathaoirleach, An Garda Seosamh Ó Cualáin agus an Garda Breandán Ó Conámha, 1994. Grianghraf: An *Curadh Connachtach.*

38. Sergeant Paul McWalter (Retired)

by Paul McWalter

When I was twelve years old, I read a report in the *Irish Independent* newspaper that stated that over the next ten years there would be a need to recruit ten thousand new members of An Garda Síochána as the first generation of Gardaí would be coming to the end of their service. I made up my mind there and then that I wanted to become a member of An Garda Síochána.

I finished school at fifteen years of age, did odd jobs for a few years and then got a steady job in construction, but I knew that I wanted to join the Gardaí so I 'kept in touch with the books' as I knew that I would have an entrance exam to do.

In the Spring of 1960, I applied to join; I did the entrance exam in May 1960, got the results in October 1960 and, in June 1961, I was called for an interview and a medical assessment.

38. An Sáirsint Paul McWalter (Ar Scor)

le Paul McWalter

Buachaill dhá bhliain déag a bhí ionam nuair a léigh mé tuairisc ar an *Irish Independent* go mbeadh gá, i rith na ndeich mbliana a bhí romhainn ag an am, le deich míle Garda nua sa Gharda Síochána ó tharla go mbeadh deireadh ag teacht lena ré dualgais ag an gcéad ghlúin Gardaí. Shocraigh mé i m'intinn an nóiméad sin gur mhaith liomsa a bheith i mo dhuine den Gharda Síochána.

Tháinig deireadh le mo chuid scolaíochta agus mé cúig bliana déag. Chaith mé cúpla bliain ar mhionobair agus fuair mé post seasta ar obair thógála ach bhí sé ar intinn agam i gcónaí dul sna Gardaí agus choinnigh mé cleachtadh i gcónaí ar obair na leabhar ó thuig mé go mbeadh scrúdú iontrála le déanamh agam.

An Garda Síochána

On 3 October 1961 at 10am, I presented myself at the Garda Depot in the Phoenix Park, Dublin, to join An Garda Síochána – with my suitcase which, as directed, contained two pairs of pajamas, black shoes with toe caps, shaving kit, black polish and brushes, one clothes brush and a packet of blue socks.

We were taken to the recreation hall where we were given our registered numbers, mine was 14891. (Years later, my registered number changed to 14891(A) when computers came into use in An Garda Síochána.)

By 12 noon we were sworn in as members of An Garda Síochána. We were shown around the depot, which included the mess hall, canteen and other facilities. A drill sergeant then showed us how to make our beds; first he told us that there were four ways to make a bed, the right way, the wrong way, our way and his way; and then he told us we would be doing it his way.

About twenty-five of us were then taken to Park Gate Hall (it is still there today, across from the new Courts of Justice building but it is no longer used by the Gardaí). This meant that we had to walk to and from the depot, which took us about fifteen minutes. Six of us were allocated to one room; there were three alcoves in each room, with two beds in each alcove, which was not bad. We had a big open press to hang our clothes. Five of us stayed chatting in our room but the sixth man just left his bags on the bed and went out the door. We never saw him again. A few days later, someone collected his bags. His most have been one of the shortest services in An Garda Síochána.

Our training consisted of learning law, police powers, foot drill, physical training and first aid. On our first Saturday at the depot, we should have been allowed out at 1pm but we were instructed to stay in the depot until 5pm. The reason was that a large number of Gardaí from all over Ireland were attending a protest meeting in the Macushla ballroom, in relation to pay and conditions. This

In earrach na bliana 1960, chuir mé iarratas isteach; rinne mé an scrúdú iontrála i mí na Bealtaine 1960; tháinig torthaí an scrúdaithe i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 1960 agus, i mí an Mheithimh 1961, iarradh chuig agallamh mé agus chuig scrúdú dochtúra.

An 3 Deireadh Fómhair 1961, ag a 10 ar maidin, sheas mé ar an urlár i gCeannáras an Gharda i bPáirc an Fhionnuisce go dtiocfainn isteach sa Gharda Síochána – mo chás le mo thaobh, lán mar a bhí treoraithe dúinn le dhá phéire pitseámaí, bróga dubha a raibh bairbíní iontu, gléas bearrtha, gléas snasta na mbróg, le snas dubh, scuab le haghaidh éadaigh agus paca stocaí gorma.

Tugadh chuig an halla caithimh aimsire muid agus ansin a tugadh an uimhir chláraithe do gach uile dhuine, 14891 domsa. (Blianta maithe dár gcionn, athraíodh m'uimhir chláraithe go dtí 14891(A) nuair a tosaíodh ar ríomhairí a úsáid sa Gharda Síochána.)

Faoin 12 meán lae, bhí muid curtha faoi mhionn an Gharda Síochána. Taispeánadh an t-áras dúinn, proinnteach, ceaintín agus eile. Bhí sáirsint druileála ansin a thaispeáin dúinn leis an leaba a chóiriú; de réir an leagan amach a bhí aigesean ar chúrsaí, bhí ceithre bhealach ann leis an leaba a chóiriú, an bealach ceart, an bealach contráilte, an bealach a bhí againne agus an bealach a bhí aigesean; agus is é an bealach a bhí aigesean a bheadh againn uilig as sin amach.

Tuairim is cúig dhuine fichead againn ansin a tugadh go dtí Halla Pháirc an Gheata (tá sé i gcónaí inniu ann, trasna ó áras nua na gCúirteanna Breithiúnais, ach ní ag na Gardaí atá úsáid as níos mó). Chiallaigh sin go mbeadh siúlóid anonn is anall chuig an gceannáras orainn, timpeall is ceathrú uaire. Seisear againn a cuireadh i ngach ceann de na seomraí. Cailleach shúgáin dhá leaba a mbíodh muid ina gcodladh ann, trí cinn mar sin sa seomra, ní raibh sin an-dona. Bhí cófra mór againn lenár gcuid éadaigh a chrochadh ann. D'fhan cúigear againn ag caint

was the first-ever protest meeting of Gardaí. A number of high-ranking officers were sent to the vicinity of the Macushla ballroom to take the names of members attending and addressing the meeting. It resulted in eleven members being dismissed. Jack Marrinan (RIP) was one of the eleven. That was our first week in the depot.

We had our famous Drill Sergeant as our Drill Instructor who had some choice comments to insult the class, such as "you should have turned left at the depot gates", which meant we should have gone to Dublin Zoo. Another of his comments was: "it took at least two TDs and a parish priest to get you in here, but one stroke of my pen will get you out." As it turned out, our Drill Sergeant was transferred to another part of the country within three months.

The canteen opened in Park Gate Hall at 8.30pm, when a pint of milk and a rock bun was my order of the night. It was the same I ordered at 11am each morning in the canteen at the Depot. We had dinner at 1pm which was varied and good, as was the tea at 5pm, so we had no complaints. The Mess Sergeant threw half-pounds of butter at the lads when they came in the door, which was his way of distributing the butter. Not every half-pound of butter reached its intended target.

On 1 December, we were sent into Dublin City for traffic duty during the Christmas rush. We went down in a lorry every morning at 10am. I was attached to College Street (now Pearse Street). My street for patrolling was Westland Row. The only problem that I encountered was on 8 December when a milkman went into mass and left his horse and dray unattended. The horse moved along as it was trained to do and caused a bit of an obstruction until I came along and took him under control – problem solved. I had plenty of experience with horses, as I came from a farm in Newtown, Abbeyknockmoy.

At that time, all the 'boat trains' from Dun Laoghaire came into Westland Row Railway

agus ag comhrá sa seomra. Ní dhearna an séú fear ach na málaí a leagan ar an leaba agus iompú ar a sháil, amach an doras. Ní fhaca muid amharc arís air. Tháinig duine éigin ag bailiú a chuid málaí cúpla lá dár gcionn. Ní fhéadfadh gur mórán eile a rinne tréimhse fónaimh níos giorra sa Gharda Síochána.

Foghlaim faoin dlí agus faoi chumhacht an Gharda, druileáil, aclaíocht agus cóir céadchabhrach a bhain leis an traenáil. An chéad Domhnach sa cheannáras againn, ba cheart go ligfí amach ag a 1 i.n. muid ach ordaíodh dúinn fanacht istigh go dtí a 5 i.n. Ba é an t-údar a bhí leis sin, líon mór Gardaí as gach áit in Éirinn a bheith tagtha le chéile ag cruinniú agóide, faoi chúrsaí pá agus coinníollacha oibre, sa Macushla Ballroom. B'shin é an chéad chruinniú agóide riamh ag na Gardaí. Seoladh roinnt de na hoifigigh shinsearacha cóngar don Macushla Ballroom go mbreacfaidís síos ainmneacha na nGardaí a bhí i láthair agus iad siúd a labhair os comhair an chruinnithe. Tugadh bóthar d'aon duine dhéag mar gheall air sin. Bhí Jack Marrinan (nach maireann) ar dhuine acu sin. B'shin í an chéad seachtain againne sa cheannáras.

Sáirsint Druileála iomráiteach a bhí ina Theagascóir Druileála againn. Lean cuimhne ar chuid de na leathfhocail a bhíodh uaidh, mar shampla "ba cheart duit casadh ar chlé ag geata na háite seo", rud a thabharfadh chuig Zú Bhaile Átha Cliath thú. Caint eile a rinne sé ná: "beirt Theachtaí Dála ar a laghad agus sagart paróiste a theastaigh le go mbeifeása anseo os mo chomhair; chuirfeadh aon scríob amháin de mo pheannsa amach thú." Mar a tharla, aistríodh an Sáirsint Druileála go dtí cuid eile den tír uilig sula raibh trí mhí caite againn leis.

D'osclaíodh an ceaintín i Halla Pháirc an Gheata ag 8.30 i.n.; pionta bainne agus bunóg rísíní a d'ordaínnse oíche i ndiaidh oíche ann. Mar a chéile a bhíodh agam ag a 11 ar maidin i gceaintín an cheannárais. Bhíodh dinnéar againn ag a 1 i.n., béile maith agus athrú ó lá

Station and all the trains for the west left from Westland Row too. Just across the street from the railway station was a small shop that only sold religious goods, like the Mission Stalls of old. It was funny to see all the young people who got off the 'boat trains' rushing to the shop to buy rosary beads, prayer books etc. for going back home to show their mothers.

On Christmas Eve 1961, I got to go home for two days but had to be back at the Garda Depot at 11pm on St Stephen's night – not much of a break. On 24 January 1962, I celebrated my 21st birthday in Parkgate Hall with a rock bun and a pint of milk. On 3 March that year, we had our passing-out parade and two nights off but we had to be back by 11pm on the Sunday night. I was allocated to Rathfarnham Garda Station as my First Station.

I and my belongings were taken in a Garda van from the Depot to Rathfarnham. On arrival, I introduced myself to the Sergeant. As a single man I was required to live in the Station accommodation. My accommodation was a bedroom which was occupied by four more members. We each had an iron bed, hard mattress, grey 'bulls' wool' blankets with a stripe, white sheets and a metal wardrobe. There were mess facilities where you got your own breakfast and tea and a cook came in and made the dinner in the middle of the day. We had to pay the mess bill on the first day of the month when we were paid.

Rathfarnham was deemed to be a country station with country working conditions. It was District Headquarters for Dundrum, Tallaght, Coolock, Clondalkin and Stepaside. All those stations, except Dundrum, closed at 5pm and the Rathfarnham patrol car had to cover all that area. Only the more senior members got to perform duty in the patrol car. My role was Station Orderly, which was a 24-hour shift and the protection post at the home of Taoiseach Seán Lemass. The protection post was in three-hour shifts, but the night shift was six hours and you

go chéile; ag a 5 i.n. ansin a bhíodh an tae, ní raibh aon ábhar clamhsáin againn. Chaitheadh Sáirsint na Bialainne leathphunt ime le daoine ag teacht isteach an doras dóibh, modh dáiliúcháin dá chuid féin déarfaí inniu. Ní hé gach leathphunt ime a rinne an bealach mar a bhí i gceist go díreach.

An chéad lá de mhí na Nollag, cuireadh isteach go cathair Bhaile Átha Cliath muid i mbun dualgas tráchta i rith bhrú na Nollag. Thugtaí isteach i leoraí muid ag an 10 ar maidin as sin amach. Bhí mise ceangailte le Sráid an Choláiste (Sráid an Phiarsaigh ó shin). Rae an Iarthair an tsráid a raibh patról á dhéanamh agam uirthi. Níor tharla aon chás anróiteach ach amháin an 8 Nollaig nuair a chuaigh fear bainne isteach chuig an aifreann, an drae agus an capall faoi gan aire taobh amuigh. Choinnigh an capall ag corraí leis, mar a chleacht sé agus a bhí múinte dó. Bhí sé ag teacht roimh fheithiclí eile go dtáinig mise an bealach agus gur smachtaigh mé é. Bhí cleachtadh mhaith agamsa ar chapaill, mac feirmeora as an mBaile Nua, Mainistir Chnoc Muaidhe.

Na laethanta sin, is isteach ag Stáisiún Rae an Iarthair a thagadh na traenacha uilig ó na báid i nDún Laoghaire. Isteach an stáisiún céanna a thagadh na traenacha uilig as iarthar na tíre. Bhí siopa beag trasna na sráide ó stáisiún na traenach nach mbíodh ar díol ann ach earraí eaglasta, mar a bheadh cábán ar an Misean fadó. B'ábhar mór gáire na daoine óga seo uilig a fheiceáil ag teacht den traein ón mbád agus iad ag deifriú anonn chuig an siopa go gceannaídís páidríní, leabhra paidreacha, agus mar sin de, go mbeidís le feiceáil acu ag a gcuid máithreacha ag dul isteach abhaile dóibh.

D'éirigh liom, Oíche Nollag 1961, go raibh cead abhaile go ceann dhá lá agam. Bheadh orm a bheith ar ais i gceannáras an Gharda faoin 11 i.n. Lá Fhéile Stiofáin – ní mórán de bhriseadh a bheadh ann. An 24 Eanáir 1962, rinne mé ceiliúradh ar chothrom aon bhliain is fiche mo lá breithe i Halla Pháirc an Gheata. Sea go

were allowed half an hour to get there and half an hour to get back. There was no proper shelter, no toilet, no… anything.

My first tour of duty at the protection post was 10pm to 1am. It was snowing very heavily that night, with only a bush for shelter. I will always remember saying to myself: "if this is the Garda Síochána work, it will not be long for me", but I lasted thirty-seven years and four months as a member of An Garda Síochána.

Jack Marrinan (RIP) was also stationed in Rathfarnham and we became good pals. He told me about being dismissed after the Macushla ballroom meeting and how they were called up to Garda Headquarters on the instructions of Dr McQuaid, Archbishop of Dublin. Archbishop McQuaid instructed the then Minister for Justice to reinstate those who were dismissed following the Macushla ballroom meeting. Jack refused to go to the Depot on three occasions, so they had to get in a Peace Commissioner to Rathfarnham Garda Station to have him sworn into the force again and be reinstated. During my stay in Rathfarnham, he became General Secretary of a representative body for Guards, now called the Garda Representative Association (GRA).

We got two days off every month, which meant three nights off to go home. There was no leave on weekends, so if I wanted to go home on a Sunday to play a hurling match, I worked plain clothes on a Saturday night from 10pm to 6am, got to 5am mass in the city, having hired a self-drive car and I left for home at 6am. I got home to Newtown at 9am when the family were going out to 9am mass; I slept a few hours, played the hurling match and was back for 10pm work on Sunday night. This I did most weekends for fifteen months but, thanks to the GAA, I got a transfer to Kiltimagh, County Mayo, in May 1963.

I spent seven years in Kiltimagh and, during that time, I married Della, we had four children and I got promoted to Sergeant. I really enjoyed my

deimhin, bunóg rísíní agus pionta bainne. An 3 Márta an bhliain sin a bhí an pharáid ceann cúrsa againn. Bhí an dá oíche dár gcionn saor againn ach bhí orainn a bheith ar ais faoin 11 i.n. oíche an Domhnaigh. Beairic Ráth Fearnáin an chéad stáisiún a bheadh agamsa.

I veain leis an nGarda a tugadh mé féin agus a raibh agam ón gCeannáras go Ráth Fearnáin. Ar a theacht i láthair ann, chuir mé féin in aithne don Sáirsint. Nuair nach raibh mé pósta, bheinnse i mo chónaí sa Stáisiún. Ceathrar eile Gardaí a bhí in aon seomra codlata liom. Leaba iarainn, tocht crua, pluideanna glasa olla a raibh stríoca iontu, braillíní bána agus cófra miotail an chóir a cuireadh orainn. Bhí áit cócaireachta ann ina réitíodh na Gardaí an bricfeasta agus an tae dóibh féin. Thagadh cócaire isteach ag déanamh an dinnéir i lár an lae. Bhí orainn bille na bialainne sin a íoc an chéad lá den mhí nuair a d'fhaigheadh muid pá.

Beairic faoin tuath a bhí i Ráth Fearnáin de réir na oifige; rialacha oibre maidir le ceantar tuaithe a bhí i bhfeidhm. Is ann a bhí Ceanncheathrú Ceantair a dtáinig Dún Droma, Tamhlacht, an Chúlóg, Cluain Dolcáin agus an Chéim faoina scáth. Dúnadh na beairicí sin uilig, ach amháin an ceann i nDún Droma, ag a 5 i.n. agus bhíodh ar charr patróil Ráth Fearnáin súil a choinneáil ar an limistéar uilig. Ar na Gardaí ba shinsearaí a leagtaí dualgas sa charr patróil. I m'Fheighlí Beairice a bhí mise, post a raibh dualgas 24 uair an chloig ag gabháil leis agus post cosanta ag teach an Taoisigh, Seán Lemass. Sealanna trí uair an chloig a bhíodh i gceist leis an bpost cosanta ach amháin seal sé uair an chloig san oíche. Cheadaítí leathuair an chloig do dhuine ag déanamh an bhealaigh chuig an bpost agus ar ais. Ní raibh foscadh ar bith ann, ná leithreas, ná ... ná tada.

An chéad seal dualgais a bhí ormsa ag an bpost cosanta, idir a 10 i.n. agus a 1 r.n. a bhí sé. Thit sneachta an-trom an oíche sin, gan agam ach dul faoi sceach. Is cuimhin liom gur rith liom: "más

time in Kiltimagh; the people were extremely decent and law abiding. We were all sad to leave Kiltimagh.

Mayo Gardaí drafted into Galway City

In June 1963, I and a busload of other Mayo Gardaí were sent to Galway for the visit of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy. We were put up in St Mary's College, Galway; there were small beds but we managed. I was allocated to Shop Street on the day. There was no problem with the visit; it was short and sweet.

I was drafted into Galway on a number of occasions for the Galway Races to work night duty. The races were a three-day event at that time. I enjoyed that duty and never had any problem and met lots of interesting people.

Galway Cathedral was officially opened on 15 August 1965 and a bus full of Mayo Gardaí, including me, was drafted in to perform duties for that occasion. We left Mayo at 6am; when we arrived in Galway, we were given a cup of tea and a sandwich and sent to our posts at 9am. My post was the Crescent junction (Sea Road) and my instructions were not to let any traffic down by the junction except for the clergy, which was pretty hard as locals and press etc. wanted to go down as well. I was stuck at that point until after 5pm, without a bit, bite or sup. When we came back to Eglinton Garda Station, we were told that there was mass across from the station in the Abbey Church and there was still no mention of food. At that point I had enough of clergy for one day, but I did go to mass.

After mass we went for something to eat. We got on the bus at about 10pm and headed for Mayo. We had gone about ten miles when the bus pulled into Lydon's of Knockdoe; this was at about 10.30pm. Closing time for the pubs at that time was 10pm on Sundays so, as we went into the pub, the locals ran out the back door and the more we called them back, the faster they ran! They were sure we were inspecting the pub but it was just the

í seo obair an Gharda, ní fada a bheas mise ina bun", ach lean mé orm seacht mbliana déag is fiche agus ceithre mhí sa Gharda Síochána.

Bhí Jack Marrinan (nach maireann) in aon bheairic liom an uair sin i Ráth Fearnáin agus d'éirigh muid cairdiúil. D'inis sé dom faoina bhriseadh as na Gardaí mar gheall ar an gcruinniú sa Macushla Ballroom agus gur fógraíodh suas chuig Ceanncheathrú an Gharda iad ar ordú ón Dr McQuaid, Ardeaspag Bhaile Átha Cliath. D'ordaigh an tArdeaspag ansin d'Aire Dlí agus Cirt na linne na fir a díbríodh mar gheall ar chruinniú an Macushla Ballroom a ligean ar ais isteach sna Gardaí. Dhiúltaigh Jack faoi thrí dul chuig an gCeannáras agus bhí orthu sa deireadh Feidhmeannach Síochána a thabhairt chomh fada leis an mbeairic i Ráth Fearnáin lena chur faoi mhionn ina Gharda arís. Le mo linnse i Ráth Fearnáin, d'éirigh leisean a bheith ina Ard-Rúnaí ar eagraíocht ionadaíochta na nGardaí, ar a dtugtar Cumann Ionadaíochta an Gharda Síochána anois.

Dhá lá a bhíodh saor againn gach mí, rud a d'fhág trí oíche le turas a dhéanamh abhaile. Ní bhíodh saoire ar bith ar an deireadh seachtaine agus an deireadh seachtaine a mbeadh rún agamsa cluiche iománaíochta a imirt sa bhaile, chaithfinn oibriú i ngnáthéadach oíche an tSathairn, ón 10 i.n. go dtí an 6 r.n. agus breith ar aifreann a 5 r.n. sa chathair tar éis carr a fhostú a thiomáinfinn féin siar abhaile. Thagainn isteach thiar ar an mBaile Nua thart ar a 9 r.n. agus lucht an tí ag dul amach ag an aifreann; chodlaínn beagán, d'imrínn an cluiche agus bhínn ar ais ag an obair faoin 10 i.n. oíche Dé Domhnaigh. Rinne mé siar agus aniar mar sin beagnach gach deireadh seachtaine go ceann bliain agus ráithe ach, a bhuíochas don Chumann Lúthchleas Gael, d'éirigh liom aistriú go Coillte Mach i gContae Mhaigh Eo i mí na Bealtaine 1963.

Chaith mé seacht mbliana i gCoillte Mach agus lena linn sin a phós mé féin agus Della. Bhí ceathrar clainne orainn agus fuair mise ardú céime go ndearnadh Sáirsint asam. Bhain mé an-

Recruit Garda Paul McWalter, Garda Depot, Phoenix Park, 1961. Courtesy of Paul McWalter.

An Garda Paul McWalter ina earcach, Ceanncheathrú an Gharda, Páirc an Fhionnuisce, 1961. Le caoinchead Paul McWalter.

Guards looking for a few drinks before we hit the long road to Mayo. Bit by bit the locals came back in and finished their drinks and had a few more. I would say, we left the pub sometime between 11.30pm and 12 midnight. I later learned that the locals had a great story to tell their friends and neighbours the next day, how they were drinking with a busload of Gardaí all night. I think they lived on that story for a week or more.

I was promoted to Sergeant and sent to Burnfoot in Donegal. I spent eighteen months there and the troubles in Northern Ireland kept us on high alert.

I then transferred to Kilmaine, County Mayo, in August 1972 and my wife, our four children and I lived in the Garda Station in Kilmaine. A few months later we were joined by another addition to the family.

sásamh as mo thréimhse i gCoillte Mach. Dream uasal ceart iad muintir na háite agus ní bhíodh tada as bealach á dhéanamh. Bhí díomá orainn uilig ag fágáil Choillte Mach dúinn.

Gardaí Mhaigh Eo dá dtarraingt isteach go Cathair na Gaillimhe

I mí an Mheithimh 1963, seoladh lán bus de Ghardaí Mhaigh Eo, mé féin ina measc, go Gaillimh mar gheall ar an Uachtarán John Fitzgerald Kennedy a bheith ag teacht ar cuairt. I gColáiste Mhuire a bhí lóistín againn, ba chúng na leapacha iad ach rinne siad cúis. Sráid na Siopaí a cuireadh faoi mo chúram an lá dár gcionn. Ní raibh trioblóid ar bith leis an gcuairt; cuairt ghairid agus bhíothas buíoch.

Tarraingíodh isteach go Gaillimh mé uaireanta éagsúla aimsir na Rásaí go ndéanfainn dualgas oíche. Trí lá a leanadh na rásaí an t-am sin. Thaitníodh sin liom, ní raibh aon trioblóid riamh agam agus chastaí go leor daoine spéisiúla orm.

Ar an 15 Lúnasa 1965 a osclaíodh Ardeaglais na Gaillimhe go hoifigiúil agus bhí mé in éineacht le lán an bhus de Ghardaí Mhaigh Eo a tháinig le haghaidh na hócáide sin freisin. Ag a 6 r.n. a fágadh Maigh Eo; tugadh cupán tae agus ceapaire dúinn ar a theacht go Gaillimh agus cuireadh i mbun dualgais muid ag a 9 r.n., crosbhóthar an Chorráin le Bóthar na Mara i mo chás féin. Treoraíodh dom gan trácht ar bith a ligean anuas thar an gcrosbhóthar ach amháin daoine den chléir. Bhí sin deacair go leor ó bhí an-fhonn anuas ann freisin ar mhuintir na háite agus ar lucht iriseoireachta agus eile. Bhí mé greamaithe don spota sin go dtí tar éis a 5 i.n. gan greim le cur i mo bholg ná braon a fhliuchfadh mo bhéal fiú. Ar a theacht ar ais go dtí Beairic na nGardaí i Sráid Eglinton dúinn, dúradh linn go raibh aifreann trasna an bhóthair ón mbeairic ag an Ord Beag, gan caint ar bith ar ithe. Bhí díol lae mo dhóthain agam shíl mé faoin am sin den chléir agus den troscadh ach chuaigh mé ag an aifreann.

An Garda Síochána

While stationed in Kilmaine, my area covered Ballinrobe, Kilmaine, Cong and Shrule and I had the opportunity to work in all those areas. I was Sergeant in Charge of the Ballinrobe Area for a number of years. I was very involved in the local community in Kilmaine, in particular with the GAA and I was involved in setting up a Foróige club. I was also very involved with hurling in Mayo, both as a player and in management. I played hurling with Ballinrobe hurling club and was Chairman of Mayo Hurling Board for a time. I also played with the Galway Garda Divisional Hurling team.

While serving in Kilmaine I was involved in the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors (AGSI) and served as Vice President of the organisation for a number of years.

In 1993, I was transferred to An Cheathrú Rua, West Galway. I was made very welcome by the Gardaí in the An Cheathrú Rua, Leitir Móir and Rosmuc Sub Districts; they included Gardaí Folan, Keane, Burke, Heanue, McDonagh, Kinneavy, Mitchell (RIP), O'Connor and Lynch. Garda Brendan Kinneavy often put me up and looked after me in the Garda house in Rosmuc when I was working late.

On my first Saturday night, I didn't know if I was on O'Connell Street in Dublin or in An Cheathrú Rua with all the buses bringing patrons to the local disco. The discos took place every Saturday night; they were well run and I never encountered too much trouble.

During my time in the area, we set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (Scéim Phobal ar Aire ar an gCeathrú Rua). We had a few poitín raids and solved a number of crimes.

In July 1994, I was a front-seat passenger in a patrol car when we were involved in a road traffic collision. As a result of the accident, I was off sick for ten to twelve weeks. When I returned to work, I found out that I was being transferred and I was

Tar éis an aifrinn, chuaigh muid ag ithe. Thart ar a 10 i.n. a bhí muid ag dul ar ais ar an mbus ag déanamh ar Mhaigh Eo. Bhí tuairim is deich míle bealaigh déanta againn nuair a tharraing an bus isteach ag tigh Loideáin i gCnoc Tua. Bheadh sé 10.30 i.n. faoin tráth sin agus ba é an 10 i.n. an t-am dúnta ag tithe ósta ar an Domhnach. Nuair a bhí muide ag teacht isteach sa teach ósta mar sin, bhí muintir na háite ag tabhairt na gcos leo amach an doras cúil agus de réir mar a bhí muid ag fógairt orthu a theacht ar ais, is é an chaoi a raibh siad ag géarú ar an rith! Bhí siad cinnte gur scrúdú oifigiúil a bhí ar siúl ach ní raibh ann ach Gardaí a raibh tart orthu agus bóthar fada abhaile fós rompu. Ina nduine agus ina nduine, thaobhaigh siad an áit arís go gcríochnaíodh an deoch a bhí acu agus b'fhéidir gur chuir siad ceann nó dhó leis sin. Déarfainn go raibh sé idir 11.30 i.n. agus an meán oíche agus muide ag fágáil an tí sin. Chuala mé ina dhiaidh sin gur mhór an sásamh ag an dream a bhí istigh a bheith ag insint dá gcairde an lá dár gcionn gur chaith siad an oíche ag ól le lán bus Gardaí. Bhí an-scéal acu le caint a tharraingt go ceann seachtaine nó níos mó.

Rinneadh Sáirsint díom agus cuireadh go Bun na hAbhann i gContae Dhún na nGall mé nuair a fuair mé an t-ardú céime. Ocht mí dhéag a chaith mé ansin agus bhí muid ar ár n-airdeall ar feadh an ama mar gheall ar an trioblóid i dTuaisceart Éireann.

Go Cill Mheáin i gContae Mhaigh Eo a aistríodh as sin mé i mí Lúnasa 1972. I mBeairic na nGardaí i gCill Mheáin a bhí áit chónaithe dom féin agus do mo bhean agus don cheathrar clainne a bhí orainn. Míonna beaga ina dhiaidh sin bhí an cúigiú duine againn.

Nuair a bhí mé i gCill Mheáin, thagadh Baile an Róba, Cill Mheáin, Conga agus Sruthair uilig faoi mo chúram agus bhí deis agam oibriú le muintir na n-áiteanna sin ar fad. Chaith mé roinnt blianta i mo Sháirsint i gCeannas i gCeantar Bhaile an Róba. Bhí mé sáite go maith i gcúrsaí pobail i gCill Mheáin, go háirithe leis an gCumann

Last tour of duty for Sergeant Paul McWalter; pictured with Garda Terry Keenan, Maam Garda Station, 1998.
An lá deireanach ar dualgas ag an Sáirsint Paul McWalter; a fheictear anseo leis an nGarda Terry Keenan, Beairic na nGardaí ar an Mám, 1998.

not happy about this. A few months later, I was happy to be posted to Maam in the Clifden District and I remained there until I retired in 1998.

Maam Area

I had responsibility for Maam, Leenane and Letterfrack. These were very well-run stations ever before I went there and the area was crime free. Garda Terry Keenan was heavily involved in every facet of the community, including getting a community centre built and setting up community organisations; he was and still is highly respected by the local community. All his great work led him to winning a Garda Divisional Merit award for his service to the community. I had a great rapport with Terry, even before I went to Maam, as we travelled together to Dublin to Garda Association meetings.

When I went to Maam, a Garda van was allocated to the area for the first time.

Lúthchleas Gael, agus bhí baint agam freisin le cumann Foróige a chur ar bun ann. Bhí baint mhór agam leis an iománaíocht i gContae Mhaigh Eo, i m'imreoir agus ag plé le bainistíocht. D'imir mé le cumann iománaíochta Bhaile an Róba agus bhí mé i mo Chathaoirleach tamall ar Bhord Iomána Chontae Mhaigh Eo. D'imrínn freisin le foireann iománaíochta Rannán na Gaillimhe den Gharda Síochána.

I rith mo thréimhse i gCill Mheáin, bhí baint agam le Cumann Sháirsintí agus Chigirí an Gharda Síochána agus bhí mé i mo Leas-Uachtarán ar an eagraíocht ar feadh roinnt blianta.

Sa bhliain 1993, aistríodh don Cheathrú Rua in iarthar na Gaillimhe mé. Chuir Gardaí fhocheantar na Ceathrún Rua, Leitir Móir agus Ros Muc an-fháilte romham. Orthusan bhí na Gardaí Folan, Keane, Burke, Heanue, McDonagh, Kinneavy, Mitchell (nach maireann), O'Connor

An Garda Síochána

There were discos in Maam Cross every weekend; people came from far, near and wide and we had very little trouble.

Peacockes Hotel in Maam Cross was a favourite stop for tourist buses and we often got asked for Garda memorabilia, especially by retired police personnel from America. In addition to this, we were regularly asked by tourists about *The Field* and *The Quiet Man* film locations.

The annual Maam Cross Fair was and still is, a big occasion on the Tuesday following the Bank Holiday on the last Monday of October and extra Garda personnel was drafted to assist with animal control.

My time in the Maam area was most enjoyable as the people were extremely law abiding, courteous and respectful.

The highlights of my career were job satisfaction, keeping the areas that I served in free from crime as much as I could and helping those who required the services of An Garda Síochána.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time working with the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors as well. It afforded me the opportunity to try to improve the pay and working conditions of the members. I also met members of police forces from other countries during this time and this broadened my horizons and knowledge.

I made lifelong friends within An Garda Síochána and am delighted that three of my children, Alberta, Paul and Adrian decided to follow in my footsteps and became members of An Garda Síochána. They did this without any persuasion from me. I retired on 23 January 1998 as the compulsory retirement age at that time was fifty-seven. I was given a great 'sendoff' at a function in Peacockes at Maam Cross from the people of the various areas that I served in, as well as members from the National Executive and members of An Garda Síochána in Galway and Mayo.

I would have stayed on for another few years if that had been possible.

agus Lynch. Ba mhinic a thug an Garda Brendan Kinneavy lóistín na hoíche dom i dteach an Gharda i Ros Muc nuair a bhínn ag obair mall.

An chéad oíche Sathairn ar an gCeathrú Rua dom, ní raibh a fhios agam nach ar Shráid Uí Chonaill i lár Bhaile Átha Cliath a bhí é lena raibh de bhusanna ag tarraingt daoine chuig an dioscó. Bhíodh an dioscó ar siúl gach oíche Sathairn; bhíodh dea-eagar orthu agus ní mórán trioblóide a thug mé faoi deara ann.

Cuireadh Scéim Phobal ar Aire ar bun sa cheantar le linn mo thréimhse ar an gCeathrú Rua. Bhí corr-ruathar le tabhairt mar gheall ar dhéantús poitín agus, i gcás roinnt coireanna, rugadh ar an dream a bhí ciontach astu.

I mí Iúil 1994, bhí mise i mo phaisinéir chun tosaigh i gcarr patróil nuair a tharla timpiste bhóthair. Mar gheall ar an ngortú, bhí mé deich seachtaine nó b'fhéidir coicís leis an méid sin as láthair. Nuair a thosaigh mé ar ais ag obair, fuair mé amach go raibh mé le haistriú. Ní raibh mé sásta faoi sin. Roinnt míosa dár gcionn, bhí mé sásta gur ar an Mám, i gCeantar Gardaí an Chlocháin, a bhí mé agus is ansin a d'fhan mé go dtí go ndeachaigh mé amach ar pinsean sa bhliain 1998.

Ceantar an Mháma

Bhí an Mám, an Líonán agus Leitir Fraic faoi mo chúram. Stáisiúin iad sin a bhí dea-riartha i bhfad sular leag mise cois iontu agus bhí an ceantar saor ó choiriúlacht. Bhí an Garda Terry Keenan sáite i ngach gné de shaol an phobail, gníomhach maidir le hionad pobail a thógáil agus eagraíochtaí pobail a chur ar bun. Bhí, mar atá i gcónaí, ardmheas air ag muintir na háite. Nuair a bronnadh Gradam Fiúntais Roinn an Gharda air as ucht a chuid seirbhíse don phobal, bhí sin tuillte go maith aige. Bhí aithne mhaith agamsa ar Terry sula ndeachaigh mé don Mhám ar chor ar bith, dhéanadh muid an turas go Baile Átha Cliath in éineacht chuig cruinnithe Chumann an Gharda.

Nuair a chuaigh mise don Mhám a ceadaíodh veain Gardaí don limistéar den chéad uair.

Bhíodh dioscó nó dhó ar an Teach Dóite gach deireadh seachtaine, tarraingt i ngearr agus i bhfad orthu agus gan mórán trioblóide.

Tharraingíodh busanna turasóirí freisin ag óstán Peacockes ar an Teach Dóite agus ba mhinic a d'iarrtaí ábhar cuimhneacháin de chuid an Gharda orainn, go háirithe dá mbeadh seanphóilíní as Meiriceá ag dul an bealach. Ba mhinic freisin turasóirí ag cur tuairisc leis na Gardaí faoi na háiteanna a ndearnadh na scannáin The Field agus The Quiet Man.

Ba lá mór, mar is ea i gcónaí, Lá an Aonaigh, ar an gcéad Mháirt tar éis Lá Saoire Bainc ar an Luan deireanach de mhí Dheireadh Fómhair. Thugtaí Gardaí breise isteach ag cuidiú le cúrsaí maidir le smacht ar ainmhithe.

Bhí mo thréimhse i gceantar an Mháma an-taitneamhach ó bhí ómós don dlí ag muintir na háite, iad dea-bhéasach agus cúirtéiseach i gcónaí.

An sásamh a bhain mé as mo chuid oibre an rud is fearr faoi mo ré leis na Gardaí, na ceantair ina raibh mé ag obair a choinneáil saor ó choiriúlacht oiread agus a d'fhéadfainn agus cúnamh a thabhairt do na daoine a raibh seirbhís ag teastáil uathu ón nGarda Síochána.

Bhain mé an-sásamh freisin as an am a chaith mé ag obair le Cumann Sháirsintí agus Chigirí an Gharda Síochána. Thug sin deis dom féachaint le pá agus coinníollacha oibre níos fearr a bhaint amach do bhaill an chumainn. Casadh orm freisin daoine d'fhórsaí póilíneachta as tíortha eile agus chuidigh sin le léargas agus eolas níos fairsinge a thabhairt dom.

Nasc mé cairdeas le daoine i rith mo thréimhse sna Gardaí nach bhfuaróidh go deo agus is breá liom go bhfuil triúr de mo chlann, Alberta, Paul agus Adrian, a shocraigh dul sna Gardaí chomh maith. Dá dtoil féin go hiomlán a rinne siad sin, ní raibh aon bhrú uaimse. Chuaigh mé ar pinsean an 23 Eanáir 1998 ó b'éigean sin an t-am sin nuair a bhí duine seacht mbliana agus an leathchéad. Cuireadh cóisir iontach ar siúl dom tigh Peacocke ar an Teach Dóite, le daoine i láthair ó na ceantair uilig ina ndearna mé fónamh i mo Gharda, chomh maith le daoine den Ardchoiste Náisiúnta agus Gardaí as Gaillimh agus Maigh Eo.

Níor mhiste liom roinnt blianta eile i mo Gharda dá bhféadfaí sin.

At a function in Tuam Garda Station in 1996 to honour 14 retired members of the force were: Front row: Sgt. Vincent Moran, Kilconly; Sgt. John Rushe, Dunmore; Inspt. Bill Lavery, Tuam; Sgt. Pat Gillespie, Tuam; Sgt. Joe Rushe, Tuam.
Middle row: Sgt. John Bolton, currently of Tuam G.S.; Gda. Stephen Burke, Tuam; Chief Supt. Joe Kilgannon; Gda. Gerry Walsh, Dunmore; Gda. Pat Devaney, Tuam; Gda. Liam Folan, Tuam; Gda. Edward Doherty, Tuam; Supt. Bill Fennell; Inspt. Jim Broderick, currently of Tuam G.S.
Back row: Sgt. Martin Connor; (current); Gda. Roger McGrath, Tuam; Gda. Michael Barrett, Tuam; Sgt. Martin Mulroe, Milltown; Sgt. Michael Driscoll, Tuam (current); Missing from the photo: Gda. John Duggan, Glenamaddy.
Photo source: Ray Ryan.
Ag ócáid i Stáisiún Gardaí Thuama i 1996 chun ómós a thabhairt do 14 scor-chomhalta den fhórsa bhí: Chun tosaigh: An Sáirsint Vincent Moran, Cill Chonla; An Sáirsint John Rushe, Dún Mór; An Cigire Bill Lavery, Tuaim; An Sáirsint Pat Gillespie, Tuaim; An Sáirsint Joe Rushe, Tuaim.
Sa lár: An Sáirsint John Bolton, de chuid Ard-Scoil Thuama faoi láthair; An Garda Stephen Burke, Tuaim; An Príomh-Cheannfort Joe Kilgannon; An Garda Gerry Walsh, Dún Mór; An Garda Pat Devaney, Tuaim; An Garda Liam Folan, Tuaim; An Garda Edward Doherty, Tuaim; An Ceannfort Bill Fennell; An Cigire Jim Broderick, de chuid Ard-Scoil Thuama faoi láthair.
Sa chúl: An Sáirsint Martin Connor; (reatha); An Garda Roger McGrath, Tuaim; An Garda Michael Barrett, Tuaim; An Sáirsint Martin Mulroe, Baile an Mhuilinn; An Sáirsint Michael Driscoll, Tuaim (reatha); Ar iarraidh ón ngrianghraf: Gda. John Duggan, Gleann na Madadh. Grianghraf: Ray Ryan.

39. Chief Superintendent Bill Fennell (Retired)

by Tom Gilmore

Chief Superintendent Fennell had a distinguished career moving up through the ranks of the Gardaí in various places and positions in the force in other parts of Ireland.

39. An tArd-Cheannfort Bill Fennell (Ar Scor)

le Tom Gilmore

Thuill an tArd-Cheannfort Fennell clú agus dea-cháil i rith a shaol oibre agus ardú céime á ghnóthú arís agus arís eile aige in áiteanna éagsúla agus i bpostanna éagsúla taobh amuigh den taobh seo tíre.

He saw many changes in the force during his years in the Gardaí from the time he left his native Waterford, including a stint as a motorcycle Garda, before moving up through the ranks to eventually become a Chief Superintendent.

Bill Fennell spent two terms in the Tuam and Roscommon-Galway East Divisions during the latter years of his career. Prior to his final return to the West, he also spent a short time in Thurles from February 1999 until April that year.

Going to Thurles was a move almost halfway back towards his Waterford home! His wife Hillary is from the Thurles area, a place called Littleton. But his time there in charge was short as he came back to Roscommon-Galway East which covered Tuam. He retired on 5 September 2005 but his links with Tuam still remain strong.

> *I knew a little bit about Tuam before being appointed Superintendent there as I was an Inspector in Galway in the 1980s. Also, before I left Galway to go to Navan in 1991, I had some dealings with Tuam as it was the court area for the town.*
>
> *I was delighted when I was appointed to Tuam as it was just down the road from Galway where I lived and I was at home every evening.*
>
> *When stationed in Tuam, the Gardaí that I got advice from included the late Garda Dick Williams who was of monumental assistance to me as well as being such a well-respected figure in Tuam. He said to me: "whatever you do, be straight with the people of Tuam and they will be straight with you" which was great advice.*

said the retired Garda Chief.

Like any Garda recruit coming out from Templemore, he said to me that he "went wherever he was sent" and his First Station was Nenagh for a stint on the beat there.

Is iomaí cor a tháinig ina shaol i rith a chuid ama sna Gardaí, ó d'fhág sé a áit dúchais i bPort Láirge, seal ag fónamh ina Gharda gluaisrothair san áireamh, agus ardú céime á bhaint amach aige go dtí go raibh sé, de réir a chéile, ina Ard-Cheannfort.

Chaith Bill Fennell dhá théarma i rannáin Thuama agus Ros Comáin-Oirthear na Gaillimhe i rith a chuid blianta deiridh oibre. Sular fhill sé den uair dheiridh ar an Iarthar, chaith sé tamall freisin i nDurlas Éile idir Feabhra agus Aibreán 1999.

Ba bheag nár filleadh ar a dhúchas a bhí san athrú go Durlas Éile, leath bealaigh ar ais go Port Láirge, agus ba filleadh ar a dúchas dáiríre a bhí ann dá bhean, Hillary, as áit cóngarach don bhaile sin ar a dtugtar an Baile Beag. Ach ní fada a chaith sé i gceannas ansin gur tháinig sé ar ais go Ros Comáin-Oirthear na Gaillimhe, an rannán a dtagann Tuaim faoina scáth. Chuaigh sé ar scor an 5 Meán Fómhair 2005 ach tá ceangal dlúth i gcónaí aige le Tuaim.

> *Bhí roinnt eolais agam ar Thuaim sular ceapadh i mo Cheannfort ann mé mar gheall ar an tréimhse a bhí caite agam i mo Chigire i nGaillimh i rith na 1980idí. Sular fhág mé Gaillimh ag dul don Uaimh sa bhliain 1991, bhí roinnt plé agam le Tuaim mar gurbh é ceantar cúirte an bhaile é.*
>
> *Bhí ríméad orm nuair a ceapadh i dTuaim mé ó tharla nach bealach fada bóthair a bhí ann as Gaillimh, mar a raibh cónaí orm, agus bhínn in ann a bheith ar ais abhaile gach tráthnóna.*
>
> *Nuair a bhí mise ar lonnú i dTuaim, bhí an Garda Dick Williams, nach maireann, ar dhuine acu siúd a chuireadh comhairle orm. Ba mhór an cúnamh eisean agus bhí an-mheas air ag muintir Thuama. Deir sé liom, pé ar bith céard a dhéanfainn, a bheith macánta ionraic le muintir Thuama agus go mbeidísean amhlaidh liom; agus b'iontach an chomhairle í sin,"*

arsa an t-iar-Ard-Cheannfort.

After that he did various driving courses and became an official motor-cyclist Garda and went from that to become a District Clerk in Nenagh, which was a stepping stone to becoming a Sergeant. Then, in September 1977, there was a major recruitment drive in the Gardaí and he was sent back to Templemore as an instructor for police duties, the driving school and for motor-cyclist Gardaí.

Bill says that coming to the Tuam area after that and getting to know the Gardaí there was a seamless enough transition when he was appointed Superintendent.

> *In any station that you would go to at that time the vast majority of Gardaí in the area lived in the area, which is not the case now. They were all a great help to me from the very start.*

He got involved in activities in the community in the Tuam area, including setting up the primary schools' quiz. That helped show the people another side of the Gardaí, especially among young people and parents.

> *I got a lot of help from others, including Garda Oliver King who was in Mountbellew then. It was just to get the Gardaí involved with the school-going children and to let them see that we weren't the ogres that some might make us out to be,* laughed Bill.

> *I enjoyed that and we had some good craic with the children and we were amazed at how interested they were in everything. It was nice to see that some of them who took part in those school quizzes joined the force later on,* he added.

Tuam was a sprawling area to cover for the Gardaí back then and it has got even bigger since as it now stretches from beyond Headford to Ballymoe, which used to be in the Roscommon area.

But Bill recalls that it was always a manageable area and the public was great to deal with.

Ach oiread le hearcach ar bith eile ar a theacht amach as an Teampall Mór dó, chuaigh sé san áit ar cuireadh é agus in Aonach Urmhumhan a rinne sé fónamh ar dtús nuair a chaith sé seal ar an stádar ann.

Rinne sé cúrsaí tiomána ina dhiaidh sin agus bhí sé ina Gharda gluaisrothair oifigiúil. Bhí sé ina Chléireach Ceantair san Aonach ina dhiaidh sin agus ní raibh ansin ach céim eile ar an mbealach go ndearnadh Sáirsint de. I mí Meán Fómhair 1977, bhí feachtas mór earcaíochta ar siúl ag na Gardaí agus cuireadh Bill ar ais go dtí an Teampall Mór ina theagascóir maidir le dualgas póilíneachta, leis an scoil tiomána agus le Gardaí gluaisrothair.

Deir Bill nárbh athrú rómhór a bhí san aistriú go ceantar Thuama dó ina dhiaidh sin nuair a ceapadh ina Cheannfort é ná in aithne a chur ar na Gardaí san áit.

> *Stáisiún ar bith a dtiocfá ann na laethanta sin, bheadh formhór mór na nGardaí ina gcónaí sa cheantar, rud nach fíor sa lá atá inniu ann. Ba mhór an chabhair dom iad uilig ón gcéad lá.*

Ghlac sé páirt in imeachtaí pobail i gceantar Thuama agus ba é a chuir Tráth na gCeist ar bun do na bunscoileanna. Chuidigh sin le gné eile de na Gardaí a léiriú do na daoine, go háirithe do dhaoine óga agus dá gcuid tuismitheoirí.

> *Bhí cúnamh go leor agam ó dhaoine eile, ina measc an Garda Oliver King a bhí ar an gCreagán an t-am sin. Ní raibh i gceist ach caidreamh a bheith idir na Gardaí agus na leanaí a bhí in aois scoile ionas go bhfeicfidís nach amhais a bhí ionainn mar a bheadh daoine áirithe a dhéanamh amach," a deir Bill agus é ag gáire.*

> *Bhí sin taitneamhach, bhí craic mhaith againn leis na leanaí agus b'iontach linn an tsuim a bhí acu i ngach uile shórt. Ba dheas an rud a thabhairt faoi deara, tráth ab fhaide anall, go ndeachaigh roinnt díobh sin a bhí páirteach*

Chief Superintendent Bill Fennell. Photo source: Ray Ryan.
An tArd-Cheannfort Bill Fennell. Grianghraf: Ray Ryan.

He experienced a diversity of issues during his times as Superintendent and Chief Superintendent in Co. Galway.

Bill is still involved in another aspect of life in Tuam as a reader and conducting services in the historic St Mary's Church of Ireland Cathedral in the town.

> *Some years ago, it became apparent in the Church of Ireland that the number of priests had dwindled. There was a need for more help for the conducting of services. So, I was persuaded by the then Archdeacon of the Diocese, Gary Hastings, to become a reader.*

> *i dtráth na gceist na scoileanna isteach sna Gardaí iad féin, ar seisean.*

Is fairsing an limistéar a thagadh faoi chúram Ghardaí Thuama an t-am sin agus is leithne arís anois é le réimsí ón taobh eile d'Áth Cinn go dtí an taobh thall de Bhéal Átha Mó a bhíodh i gceantar Ros Comáin cheana.

Ach is í an chuimhne atá ag Bill gurbh limistéar é a bhí inbhainistithe agus go mb'iontach an dream le déileáil leo muintir na háite.

Bhí éagsúlacht mhór ceisteanna aige le déileáil leo an t-am a chaith sé ina Cheannfort agus ina Ard-Cheannfort i gContae na Gaillimhe.

Tá Bill páirteach i gcónaí i ngné eile den saol i mbaile Thuama, ina léachtóir agus i mbun seirbhísí in Ardeaglais stairiúil Mhuire Eaglais na hÉireann.

> *Roinnt blianta ó shin, ba léir d'Eaglais na hÉireann go raibh laghdú ar líon na sagart. Bhí gá le níos mó daoine a chuideodh le roinnt de na seirbhísí a chur ar fáil. Gary Hastings, a bhí ina Ard-déagánach ar an deoise ag an am, d'áitigh sé ormsa a bheith i mo léitheoir.*

> *Ansin, tuairim is trí bliana ó shin, ceapadh ar iasacht mé i gceantar Thuama agus Chonga maidir le seirbhísí. Mí-ásach go leor, bhí Déan Thuama, Alistair Grimason, san ospidéal ar feadh tréimhse fada agus, faraor, fuair sé bás ar an 22 Samhain 2022 agus ba mhinic mise asam féin i mbun na seirbhísí i dTuaim, a deir a t-iar-Ard-Cheannfort.*

Bíonn air "daoine oirnithe" a fháil do sheirbhísí Comaoineach nuair a bhíonn sé i bhfeighil na heaglaise ach, nuair a deirtear leis gur dócha gurbh fhurasta dó a bheith ina Dhéagánach dá rachadh sé ar ais i mbun staidéir tamall, ligeann Bill an gháire mheidhreach sin as a d'aithneodh cuid mhaith agus abraíonn "ar ndóigh, san aois a bhfuil mise inti, seans gur fada caite an t-am lena aghaidh sin" agus sin deireadh leis mar ábhar cainte.

Then, about three years ago, I was seconded to the Tuam-Cong area for services. Unfortunately, the late Dean Alistair Grimason of Tuam was hospitalised for a long period of time and sadly, passed away on 29 November 2022 so I was often on my own conducting services in Tuam, said the retired Garda Chief.

Bill Fennell has to get 'ordained people' for Communion services during the times that he is in charge at the Church. However, when it is put to him that, if he went back to study, he probably could easily become a Deacon, Bill emits one of his hallmark jovial laughs and he concludes by saying: "sure, at my age, it is probably far too late for that."

Again, Bill's voluntary Church work is just another example of the many different facets of community activities that members of An Garda Síochána quietly take part in, often in their spare time, while off duty or in retirement too, like Tuam's peace-keeping retired Chief Superintendent.

Ach níl san obair dheonach a dhéanann sé leis an Eaglais ach sampla beag eile den bheartaíocht ilghnéitheach pobail a dhéanann daoine den Gharda Síochána gan aon mhór-is-fiú ná éirí-in-airde, nuair nach mbíonn siad ar dualgas nó nuair atá siad ar scor, mar a tharlaíonn maidir leis an iar-Ard-Cheannfort Bill Fennell, fear síochána Thuama.

Moonshine haul in Athenry, May 1969. Left to right: Garda James Healy, Garda Con Mulvey, member unknown, Sergeant Liam Hoare. Photo source: *Connacht Tribune*.

Poitín a gabhadh, Baile Átha an Rí, Bealtaine 1969. Ó chlé go deas: An Garda James Healy, an Garda Con Mulvey, gan ainm, an Sáirsint Liam Hoare. Grianghraf: An *Curadh Connachtach*.

40. Garda Con Mulvey, Retired

by Con Mulvey

I was born in Knocklong, County Limerick, the son of a blacksmith; with my mother, father and older brother, I moved to Glengarriff, County Cork, when I was about three years old.

After I finished school, I got work in a German textile factory in Castletownbere and I got the opportunity to travel to Oberursel (Taunus) in Germany for further training. On my way, I arrived in Frankfurt on the day J.F. Kennedy, then President of the USA, was shot dead in 1963.

Having been in Germany for a period, I received a letter from my mother saying: "The local Sergeant was telling your Dad that the Garda exam is coming up and he also said: 'it would suit your

40. An Garda Con Mulvey (Ar Scor)

le Con Mulvey

Is i gCnoc Loinge, Contae Luimnigh a rugadh mise, mac le gabha; d'aistrigh mé chuig an nGleann Garbh, Contae Chorcaí, in éineacht le m'athair, mo mháthair, agus mo dheartháir a bhí níos sine ná mise. Bhí mé thart ar thrí bliana d'aois ag an am.

Tar éis dom an scoil a chríochnú, fuair mé obair i monarcha teicstíle Gearmánach i mBaile Chaisleáin Bhéara agus fuair mé an deis taistil chuig Oberursel (Taunus) sa nGearmáin le hoiliúint bhreise a fháil. Bhain mé Frankfurt amach an lá céanna ar maraíodh J.F. Kennedy sa bhliain 1963, a bhí mar Uachtarán ar Stáit Aontaithe Mheiriceá ag an am.

lad’.” Pensionable, secure, good pay, etc. etc. After a few more letters and receiving the application form in the post, I reluctantly decided to go home.

I sat the Garda exam with a friend from Glengarriff. We were placed 99th and 100th on the list of appplicants. In the Depot I was allocated the number 16118 and his was 16119; furthermore, we had the same birthday: 25/6/1945! I liked the training and made some great friends.

A few memories from my time in the Depot include the following: Our Police Duties Instructor required us to recite all definitions by heart. Failing to do so correctly incurred the penalty of writing the ‘damn thing’ ten times. I will never forget the words of the caution.

Having bacon and cabbage one day, I found a snail in my cabbage; I picked it up with a spoon and went to the member of staff who was supervising. I said: “look, Sir, what I found in my cabbage”; he looked down and back to me and said: “what do you want me to do about it?”! On my way back to my table, the snail made its escape.

One night, I was awakened by a loud shout and, looking up, I saw our Gym Instructor looking down at me, saying: “what are you doing down there?.” “Sleeping, Sir”, I said. I was lying on my mattress on the floor. “Who did this to you?” he asked. “I don’t know, Sir, because I was asleep.” The culprit owned up straight away. He got a good lecturing from the instructor and was asked whether he had any relation in the Gardaí. He said he had a brother in Pearse Street Garda Station. With that he was let off the hook.

When the allocation to stations were made, my friend was allocated to Cork City. I was very pleased for him but when I heard that Garda Mulvey was to go to Athenry, I was in a state of shock and disappointment. I had never heard of the place and thought: “get me a map please.”

Tar éis dom tamall a bheith caite sa nGearmáin agam, fuair mé litir ó mo mháthair: “Bhí an Sáirsint áitiúil ag rá le d’athair go bhfuil scrúdú an Gharda Síochána ar na bacáin agus dúirt sé freisin: ‘bheadh sé oiriúnach don leaid óg sin atá agat’. Jab inphinsin, slán, pá maith, srl. srl. Rinne mé an cinneadh, go drogallach, tar éis cúpla litir eile agus foirm iarratais a fháil ar an bpost, filleadh abhaile.

Thug mé faoi scrúdú an Gharda Síochána in éineacht le cara liom as an nGleann Garbh. Uimhir 99 agus uimhir 100 a bhí againn ar liosta na n-iarratasóirí. Tugadh uimhreacha 16118 agus 16119 dúinn san Áras; agus, anuas air sin, ba é an lá breithe céanna a bhí againn: 25/6/1945! Thaitin an oiliúint liom agus rinne mé roinnt cairde maithe.

Áirítear ar roinnt de na cuimhní atá agam ó mo chuid laethanta san Áras: Chuir Teagascóir na nDualgas Póilíneachta faoi deara dúinn na sainmhínithe go léir a fhoghlaim de ghanmheabhair. Chiallaigh a mhalairt a dhéanamh go mbeadh sé mar phionós ort an ‘diabhal de rud’ a scríobh amach deich n-uaire. Ní dhéanfaidh mé dearmad go deo ar fhocail an rabhaidh.

Lá amháin agus mé ag ithe bagún agus cabáiste, fuair mé seilide sa gcabáiste; phioc mé suas leis an spúnóg é agus rinne mé mo bhealach chuig an gcomhalta foirne a bhí i mbun maoirseachta. Dúirt mé: “Féach, a dhuine uasail, ar an rud a fuarthas sa gcabáiste; d’fhéach sé síos agus d’fhéach sé ormsa ansin agus dúirt: “céard atá tú ag iarraidh ormsa a dhéanamh faoi?”! D’éalaigh an seilide agus mé ar mo bhealach ar ais go dtí an bord.

Dhúisigh béic ard mé aon oíche amháin agus nuair a bhreathnaigh mé suas, chonaic mé an Teagascóir Aclaíochta ag féachaint anuas orm: ”Céard atá tú a dhéanamh thíos ansin?, a dúirt sé liom.” Dúirt mé: “Tá mé i mo Chodladh a Dhuine Uasail.” Bhí mé i mo luí ar mo thocht ar an urlár. “Cé a rinne é seo ort?” a d’fhiafraigh

Recruit Garda Con Mulvey at Templemore Training Centre. Courtesy of Con Mulvey.
An Garda Con Mulvey ina earcach in Ionad Traenála an Teampaill Mhóir. Le caoinchead Con Mulvey.

I was welcomed to Athenry Station by Sergeant Garvin. When I asked about duty times, he said: "9 am in the station and finish at 9 am the following morning", i.e. 24 hours. I said to myself: "To hell with this; I am going back to Germany." Instead, I had now become an official 'Mammy's Garda'.

I had accommodation with Kathleen Curley in Athenry town, a very kind lady and a mother to us all. She was a dab hand at poker; she could stay playing all night.

I remember one morning, when we travelled to 6am mass in Loughrea. It was my first town duty and I was standing at the front door with my HDip. in Policing and a few lectures in my back pocket plus a good crease in my pants and my shoes shining. After 18 weeks of high-pressure training, what was I supposed to do then? I need not have worried. I had joined a family – a family of Gardaí. With senior men like Mick Geary, Pat Melia, John McNulty and others, my real training and education began. Those men were great teachers, advisors and friends.

sé. "Níl a fhios agam a Dhuine Uasail, mar bhí mé i mo chodladh." Ghlac an duine a bhí ciontach freagracht láithreach. Fuair sé íde béil ón teagascóir agus fiafraíodh de an raibh duine a bhain dó sna Gardaí. Dúirt sé go raibh deartháir leis i Stáisiún Gardaí Shráid an Phiarsaigh. Scaoileadh leis nuair a d'inis sé an méid sin.

Nuair a tosaíodh á gcur amach chuig na stáisiúin, is go cathair Chorcaí a cuireadh mo chara. Bhí mé thar a bheith lúcháireach do mo chara ach scéal eile ar fad a bhí i gceist nuair a chuala mé go raibh an Garda Mulvey le cur go Baile Átha an Rí, cúis mhór díomá a bhí ann. Níor chuala mé trácht ar an áit riamh cheana agus smaoinigh mé: "faigh mapa dom, le do thoil."

Chuir an Sáirsint Garvin fáilte romham go Stáisiún Gardaí Bhaile Átha an Rí. Nuair a chuir mé ceist faoi uaireanta dualgais, dúirt sé: "9am sa stáisiún agus ag críochnú ag 9am an mhaidin dár gcionn", m.sh. 24 uaire a chloig. Dúirt mé liom féin: "Bíodh an diabhal aige seo; tá mé ag dul ar ais go dtí an Ghearmáin." Ina áit sin, bhí mé i mo 'Gharda Mhamaí' go hoifigiúil.

Bhí mé ag fanacht in éineacht le Kathleen Curley i mbaile Bhaile Átha an Rí, bean an-chineálta a bhí inti agus bhí sí ar nós máthair againn go léir. Bhí máistreacht aici ar an bpócar; d'fhéadfadh sí fanacht ag imirt chártaí ar feadh na hoíche.

Is cuimhin liom maidin amháin, nuair a chuamar chomh fada le Baile Locha Riach d'Aifreann 6am. Bhí mé ar dualgas i mbaile mór den chéad uair agus mé ag seasamh ag doras na sráide le mo le HDip. sa Phóilíneacht agus cúpla léacht i mó phóca tóna, filltín breá i mo threabhsar agus snas i mo chuid bróg. Tar éis 18 seachtaine faoi oiliúint ardbhrú, céard a bhí mé in ainm is a dhéanamh anois? Ní raibh aon údar imní agam. Bhí mé anois i mo bhall de theaghlach, – teaghlach an Gharda Síochána. Le fir níos sinsearaí ar nós Mick Geary, Pat Melia, John McNulty agus daoine eile i mo thimpeall, is ina dteannta sin i ndáiríre ar cuireadh tús leis an oiliúint agus leis an oideachas.

An Garda Síochána

On one occasion, a Sunday night, Mick Geary found me watching tv in the house and asked me: "why are you not going dancing, what are you doing here?" I said I had no money. He said: "you have no money? Here's a fiver and get the hell out of here." On the once-monthly pay day, in cash, I cleared the black book: "Mick, here is your money and thanks very much." The 'black book' was commonly used by a lot of Gardaí.

Some mornings, while being on duty as Barracks Orderly, the Superintendent's Clerk, Pat Melia, asked whom I had relieved and told me to get him. When he arrived and went to the Super's Office, I would, after a few minutes, get a signal to leave the station. I travelled to the local Golf Club where I would meet Superintendent Tom Broderick and Pat Melia to play a leisurely 9 or 18 holes of golf. I preferred the 18 as it kept me out of the barracks longer.

I was once involved in the discovery of a local brewery (making Poitín). We brought that particular little operation to an end, destroying the illegal liquor and equipment .

While in Athenry, I gave talks to children on the subject of road safety and I continued to do so during my subsequent time in Kiltullagh. I was then transferred to Monivea Station. We did the tillage book and visited all the farmers in the area. We knew 'the man to go to' to get all the information in one go but if that didn't work, we were usually given two to three weeks to gather the information ourselves. Another job we got to do was to distribute and collect the national census forms.

After a short time in Monivea, I was detailed to attend at the driving school in Templemore. This was a great course and we had some exciting times, as you can imagine. We drove on instruction, you had no mind, it was the physical working of the car – if you were told to do 80 miles an hour around a bend that is what you did without thinking. I, as a student in the back

Múinteoirí, comhairleoirí agus cairde iontacha ab ea na fir sin.

Uair amháin, oíche Dhomhnaigh, tháinig Mick Geary isteach agus mé ag féachaint ar an teilifís agus d'fhiafraig sé díom: "cén fáth nach bhfuil tusa ag dul amach ag rince, céard atá tú a dhéanamh anseo?" Dúirt mé nach raibh aon airgead agam: Dúirt seisean: "níl aon airgead agat? Seo nóta cúig phunt duit agus glan leat amach ag rince." Ghlan mé an leabhar dubh, ar an lá pá míosúil, le hairgead tirim: "Mick, seo dhuit do chuid airgid agus go raibh míle maith agat." Bhain go leor de na Gardaí úsáid choitianta as an 'leabhar dubh'.

Roinnt maidineacha, agus mé ar dualgas i m'Fheighlí Beairice, chuir Cléireach an Cheannfoirt ceist orm cén Garda a ndearna mé uainíocht air agus dúirt liom an duine sin a fháil dó. Nuair a bhíodh seisean imithe isteach in Oifig an Cheannfoirt, d'fhaighinn, tar éis cúpla nóiméad, cead an stáisiún a fhágáil. Thaistealaínn chomh fada leis an gClub Gailf áitiúil, áit a gcasfainn leis an gCeannfort Tom Broderick agus le Pat Melia le 9 nó 18 poll gailf a imirt ar mo sháimhín só. Thaitin 18 poll gailf níos fearr liom mar gur chiallaigh sé níos mó ama imithe as an mbeairic.

Bhí baint agam uair amháin le teacht ar ghrúdlann áitiúil (ina rabhthas ag déanamh poitín). Chuireamar deireadh leis an bhfiontar sin agus scriosamar an poitín agus an trealamh neamhdhleathach.

Le linn dom a bheith i mBaile Átha an Rí, labhraínn le leanaí maidir le sábháilteacht ar bhóithre agus lean mé leis sin le linn mo chuid ama i gCill Tulach ina dhiaidh sin. Aistríodh ansin mé chuig Stáisiún Gardaí Mhuine Mheá. Choinníomar leabhar curaíochta agus thugamar cuairt ar na feirmeoirí go léir sa cheantar. Bhí eolas againn 'ar an bhfear le dul chomh fada leis' ar mhaithe leis an eolas a fháil d'aon iarraidh amháin, ach murar oibrigh an méid sin, de ghnáth tugadh coicís go trí seachtaine dúinn

Post Office robbery, Athenry, 1988.
Left to right: Garda Con Mulvey, D/Garda Joe Nix, Garda Pat Waters and D/Garda Tony Reidy.
Photo source: *Connacht Tribune.*
Nuair a robáladh Oifig an Phoist, Baile Átha an Rí, 1988.
Ó chlé go deas: An Garda Con Mulvey, An B/Garda Joe Nix, an Garda Pat Waters agus an B/Garda Tony Reidy.
Grianghraf: An *Curadh Connachtach.*

of the car, was scared to bits. On completion of the course, I returned to Athenry with my qualification to drive the official patrol car.

Athenry District was being reduced in size so those of us who were surplus to requirement were again transferred and I was sent to Clifden. It was a very quiet town. There was a 24-hour protection post at Ballyconneely as the British Navy was doing a survey of the sea. We had a caravan to use during the course of this duty. We were also given all-weather clothing which I believe came from the British Navy!

There was a popular poker school in the station and this helped to pass the time and also to top up the money. Occasionally, Peter O'Toole (the famous actor) would sit in, but he was careful

leis an eolas a bhailiú. Ar obair eile a tugadh dúinn bhí na foirmeacha daonáirimh náisiúnta a dháileadh agus a bhailiú.

Ní rabhthas i bhfad i Muine Mheá gur tugadh treoir dom freastal ar scoil tiomána an Gharda Síochána sa Teampall Mór. Cúrsa iontach a bhí sa chúrsa seo agus bíodh an-spraoi againn mar a shamhlófá. Thiomáineamar de réir treorach, ní raibh an intinn ag obair, obair fhisiciúil an chairr a bhí i gceist – sa chás gur iarradh ort 80 míle san uair a dhéanamh agus tú ag dul timpeall ar chúinne, sin go díreach a rinne tú agus ní raibh níos mó faoi. Bhí mise, mar fhoghlaimeoir i gcúl an chairr, scanraithe. D'fhill mé ar Bhaile Átha an Rí tar éis dom an cúrsa a chríochnú, agus mé cáilithe leis an gcarr patróil oifigiúil a thiomáint.

with his chips. The only problem I had in Clifden was the spoken Connemara Irish compared to the Munster dialect; in conversation with some locals, a Connemara/Munster Dictionary would have been useful.

While on Temporary Transfer to Dundalk during the 'Irish Cement Strike' in nearby Drogheda in May 1970, I met the woman of my dreams. Maureen and I were married 13 months later.

I returned to Clifden with my new bride and was only there for two and a half weeks when I got a permanent transfer to Bookeen Station, which was now in Loughrea Garda District, whereas it had still been in the former Athenry District when I went to Clifden.

When I got to Bookeen Station, I applied for a typewriter. The Superintendent's Office required to know the number of words, per day, per week etc. that I would be typing. As I had only arrived in the station, it was not possible to give an answer to that question, so it was back to the ink bottle and parker pen for me. The file met a 'firey' end. There was a very small fire place in the public office but in my first attempt at heating the place, I filled the station with smoke and, as you might guess, we discovered squatters in the chimney.

The strength of the station in Bookeen previously had been 1 Sergeant and 2 Gardaí. It was now one Garda: Con! I was the member in charge as this station was still a full Sub District. My first impression was of a press standing at an angle, leaning into a hole in the floor caused by rotten floor boards, so the station was in need of a few visits from the Office of Public Works. I had great support from the Gardaí in Loughrea – they used to say: "we are only a phone call away."

While in Bookeen, I had a few calls from John Huston, the famous film director who had become an Irish citizen in 1964 and who, at that time, lived with his family in St Cleran's, Craughwell.

Bhí laghdú á dhéanamh ar Cheantar Bhaile Átha an Rí agus aistríodh arís an líon sin againn a bhí mar bharraíocht ar riachtanais agus cuireadh mise chun an Chlocháin. Baile thar a bheith ciúin a bhí sa gClochán. Bhí post cosanta 24 uaire an chloig i mBaile Conaola mar go raibh Cabhlach na Breataine i mbun suirbhé ar an bhfarraige. Bhí carbhán againn le linn dúinn a bheith ar an dualgas seo. Tugadh éadaí uile-aimsire dúinn agus creidim gur ó Chabhlach na Breataine a tháinig an t-éadach!

Bhí scoil phócair sa stáisiún agus chuidigh sé sin go mór leis an am a chaitheamh agus chuidigh sé le hairgead a chur inár bpócaí freisin. Uaireanta, thagadh Peter O'Toole (an t-aisteoir cáiliúil) isteach, ach bhí sé an-chúramach go deo lena chuid cártaí. Gaeilge labhartha Chonamara an fhadhb ba mhó a bhí agam sa gClochán i gcomparáid le canúint Chúige Mumhan; bheadh foclóir Chonamara/na Mumhan thar a bheith úsáideach chun comhrá a choinneáil le roinnt de mhuintir na háite.

Le linn dom a bheith ar Aistriú Sealadach go Dún Dealgan le linn 'Stailc Irish Cement' chas mé le grá geal mo chroí i mí na Bealtaine 1970 i nDroichead Átha. Phós mé féin agus Maureen 13 mhí ina dhiaidh sin.

D'fhill mé ar an gClochán le mo bhrídeog agus ní rabhamar ansin ach beagán os cionn coicíse nuair a fuarthas aistriú buan go Stáisiún Gardaí an Bhuaicín, a bhí i gCeantar Gardaí Bhaile Locha Riach anois, cé gur i gCeantar Bhaile Átha an Rí a bhí sé nuair a chuaigh mise go dtí an Clochán.

Rinne mé iarratas ar chlóscríobhán nuair a chuaigh mé chuig Stáisiún Gardaí an Bhuaicín. Theastaigh ó Oifig an Cheannfoirt an líon focal a bheadh á gclóscríobh agam in aghaidh an lae, na seachtaine, srl a fháil amach. Mar gheall nach rabhthas ach tar éis glacadh le mo chuid dualgas sa stáisiún, ní rabhthas in ann an cheist sin a fhreagairt, agus mar sin ní raibh de rogha agam ach filleadh ar an mbuidéal dúigh agus ar pheann

Bookeen Station covered two Court Districts, so one had to be careful when issuing invites to meet a District Judge. At one stage, I investigated a traffic accident involving a tractor and a car. The tractor was in two halves, one on the left and one on the right-hand side of the road. The Director of Public Prosecutions had to be consulted as the middle of the road divided the Athenry and Loughrea Court Districts.

The owner of the station in Bookeen wished to repossess the station; luckily a site was available in Kiltullagh for a new station. That site had been bought years before to accommodate policing surrounding the large Bord na Mona works at Attymon Bog. Now, a new station with accommodation was built at Kiltullagh and my family and I moved in. When we left Bookeen Station, Garda Pat Melia and I decommissioned the old building by taking down the Garda crest from over the front door.

I was then in charge of the Sub District of Kiltullagh. The private residence was seen by the community as part of the Garda Station and it soon became apparent that I was on a 24-hour duty sheet. If I was not available, Maureen answered our private door and directed the caller or took a message for me. She was now a non-commissioned 'Garda', without pay. When, during this time, I also performed duty at Hackballscross on Temporary Transfer, Maureen was very busy.

I gave a hand to the Kiltullagh National School hurling team. We had some great matches and lots of fun, but no medals. With some ice cream and juice on our way home, the lack of medals was soon forgotten. I also became a leader with the local Foiróige club. We had a successful project on alcohol awareness. I felt that the young people really benefited from these events. I always maintained a great interest in the youth and trying to steer them away from alcohol.

I often gave talks in the local schools and my son, who was at the time in one of the classes, wasn't parker arís. Cuireadh an comhad áirithe sin trí 'thine'. Bhí tinteán beag san oifig phoiblí ach líon an stáisiún le deatach nuair a rinne mé iarracht tine a lasadh, ní iontas ar bith a bhí ansin mar go raibh suiteoirí sa simléar.

Bhíodh foireann de Sháirsint amháin agus beirt Ghardaí i Stáisiún Gardaí an Bhuaicín roimhe seo. Garda amháin a bhí anois ann: Con! Is mise an comhalta a bhí i gceannas mar gur Fo-Cheantar iomlán a bhí sa stáisiún seo. An chéad bharúil a bhí agam den stáisiún ná de chófra a bhí claonta isteach i bpoll a bhí san urlár mar gheall ar chláir urláir a bhí lofa, bhí géarghá le cuairt ó Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí. Fuarthas tacaíocht iontach ó Ghardaí Bhaile Locha Riach – bhíodh siad ag rá: "níl ort ach glaoch gutháin a chur orainn."

Le linn dom a bheith lonnaithe i Stáisiún Gardaí an Bhuaicín, fuair mé cúpla glaoch gutháin ó John Huston, an stiúrthóir scannán cáiliúil a bhain saoránacht Éireann amach sa bhliain 1964 agus a bhí ina chónaí lena theaghlach, ag an am sin, in St Cleran's i gCreachmhaoil.

Bhí dhá Chúirt Dúiche á gclúdach ag Stáisiún Gardaí an Bhuaicín, mar sin ní mór duit a bheith fíor-chúramach agus cuireadh á eisiúint agat le teacht os comhair Breitheamh Cúirte Dúiche. Ag am amháin, d'fhiosraigh mé taisme tráchta ina raibh carr agus tarracóir i gceist. Bhí an tarracóir ina dhá leath, leath amháin ar an taobh deas den bhóthar agus an leath eile ar an taobh clé. Bhí gá le dul i gcomhairle leis an Stiúrthóir Ionchúiseamh Poiblí mar go raibh taobh amháin den bhóthar faoi Chúirt Dúiche Bhaile Átha an Rí agus an taobh eile faoi Chúirt Dúiche Bhaile Locha Riach.

Theastaigh ó úinéir Stáisiún Gardaí an Bhuaicín seilbh a ghlacadh ar an stáisiún arís; go hámharach bhí suíomh ar fáil do stáisiún nua i gCill Tulach. Ceannaíodh an suíomh roinnt blianta roimhe sin chun cóiríocht a chur ar fáil don phóilíneacht thart timpeall oibreacha móra Bhord na Móna ar Phortach Áth Tíomain, anois,

best pleased that his father was in the school, talking to him and his friends.

With the youth club we recorded the memorials in the graveyards and created a map and a book. We presented this to Fr McNamara, the local Parish Priest. He was very pleased and thanked the young people for their effort. This gave me a great interest in local history which remains with me to this day.

I regularly visited elderly and vulnerable people in my area – as often as possible. These visits were very much appreciated and I got great satisfaction from meeting those people.

One morning, I received a call from the Superintendent in Loughrea to inform me that I was being transferred to Galway. I made some choice comments which I will not share. He said: "hold on, Con, the station is also being transferred so neither you or the station will be moving!" I was now part of Galway District and then had to perform occasional duties in Galway City.

I also had a special duty, which I performed only once a year: Being Santa – this was the most memorable duty of all.

I was one of the Garda team that won the All-Ireland Golf Championship in 1992. Our team captain was Kevin Devally.

Performing many duties, some of which were mundane and reoccurring, I always kept in mind two words: 'prevention' and 'detection'. I would mostly lean to prevention, if at all possible. To this end, I performed many short checkpoints at different locations and times in the sub district. In many cases, I used cautions and advised the driver to present later at the station with the issue remedied.

To conclude, I found that, in dealing with certain situations, I had an ally; not an official issue and never requiring special permission to use it – a smile – it always helped diffuse tensions.

tógadh stáisiún nua le spás lóistín i gCill Tulach agus bhog mé féin agus mo theaghlach isteach ansin. Rinne mé féin agus an Garda Pat Melia díchoimisiúnú ar an sean-fhoirgneamh nuair a d'fhágamar Stáisiún Gardaí an Bhuaicín, trí shuaitheantas an Gharda Síochána a bhaint den doras tosaigh.

Is mise a bhí i gceannas ansin ar Fho-Cheantar Chill Tulach. D'fhéach an pobal ar an áit chónaithe phríobháideach mar chuid de Stáisiún na nGardaí agus bhí sé soiléir gan mhoill go raibh mise ar dualgas ar feadh 24-uaire an chloig. Is í Maureen, nuair nach raibh mise ar fáil, a d'fhreagair ár ndoras príobháideach féin agus a thug treoir nó a ghlac le teachtaireacht domsa. Bhí Maureen ina 'Garda' neamhchoimisiúnaithe anois, gan aon phá. Nuair a bhínn i mbun dualgas freisin i Hackballscross le linn an ama seo, bhíodh Maureen thar a bheith gnóthach, Dualgas Sealadach a bhíodh i gceist anseo.

Thug mé cúnamh d'fhoireann iománaíochta Scoil Náisiúnta Chill Tulach. Bhíodh cluichí iontacha agus neart spraoi againn, ach ní bhíodh boinn ar bith againn. Ach beagán uachtar reoite agus sú a bheith againn ar an mbealach abhaile, is gearr go mbeadh na boinn ligthe i ndearmad. Bhí mé i mo cheannaire leis an gclub áitiúil Foróige freisin. Bhí tionscadal rathúil againn maidir le feasacht ar alcól. Bhí mé den tuairim gur bhain na daoine óga tairbhe i ndáiríre as na himeachtaí seo. Lean mé leis an spéis san aos óg i gcónaí agus rinne mé iarracht iad a choinneáil ón alcól.

Is minic a labhair mé sna scoileanna áitiúla, agus ní bhíodh mo mhac, a bhí i gceann de na ranganna ag am sin, sásta a athair a fheiceáil sa scoil ag labhairt leis féin agus lena chuid cairde.

Rinneamar taifeadadh sa gclub óige áitiúil ar na leaca cuimhneacháin sna reiligí agus chruthaíomar léarscáil agus leabhar. Bhronnamar an léarscáil agus an leabhar ar an Athair McNamara, an Sagart Paróiste áitiúil. Bhí sé thar a bheith sásta agus ghlac sé buíochas leis na daoine

óga faoin iarracht a bhí déanta acu. Thug an méid sin spéis mhór sa stair áitiúil domsa agus tá an spéis sin agam go dtí an lá atá inniu ann.

Thugainn cuairt go rialta ar dhaoine aosta agus ar dhaoine goilliúnacha i mo cheantar – chomh minic agus ab fhéidir liom. Léiríodh an-mheas ar na cuairteanna seo agus bhain mise sásamh iontach as casadh leis na daoine seo.

Maidin amháin, fuair mé glaoch gutháin ón gCeannfort i mBaile Locha Riach lena chur in iúl dom go rabhthas chun mé a aistriú go Gaillimh. Bhí go leor le rá agam faoin aistriú sin ach nílim chun an méid sin a roinnt anseo. Dúirt seisean: "Foighne ort nóiméad anois, a Con, tá an stáisiún á aistriú freisin mar sin ní bheidh tú féin ná an stáisiún ag bogadh!" Bhí mé anois mar chuid de Cheantar Gardaí na Gaillimhe. Bhíodh orm a bheith ar dualgas i gCathair na Gaillimhe ansin ó am go chéile.

Bhí dualgas ar leith orm freisin, dualgas nach mbíodh le déanamh agam ach uair amháin sa mbliain: Daidí na Nollag! – ba é sin an dualgas is mó uile nach ndéanfaidh mé dearmad go deo air.

Bhí mé ar dhuine d'fhoireann an Gharda Síochána a bhuaigh Craobhchomórtas Gailf na hÉireann sa bhliain 1992. Is é Kevin Devally a bhí ina chaptaen ar an bhfoireann.

Bhínn ag tabhairt faoi go leor dualgas, bhí roinnt de na dualgais sin leadránach agus roinnt acu a tharla arís agus arís eile, ach choinnigh mé dhá fhocal ar chúl mo chinn i gcónaí: 'cosc' agus 'brath'. Is sa chosc is mó a bhíodh spéis agam, sa chás é a bheith indéanta ar bhealach ar bith. Chuige sin, bhíodh go leor seicphointí gearra a bhfeidhmiú agam san fho-cheantar in áiteanna difriúla agus ag amanna difriúla. In go leor cásanna, bhain mé úsáid as rabhadh agus chuirfinn comhairle ar an tiománaí teacht ag an stáisiún ina dhiaidh sin agus réiteach a bheith faighte ar an acu ar an údar ar stopadh iad.

Mar fhocal scoir, fuarthas amach agus mé ag déileáil le cásanna áirithe go raibh cara agam: níl mé ag trácht ar eisiúint oifigiúil ná ar chead speisialta lena úsáid riamh – meangadh gáire – chuidigh sé seo liom i gcónaí le deireadh a chur le teannas.

Garda Jim Cuddy, Eglinton Street Garda Station. Courtesy of Galway Garda Station.
An Garda Jim Cuddy, Beairic na nGardaí, Sráid Eglinton. Le caoinchead Bheairic na nGardaí, Gaillimh.

41. Garda Jim Cuddy (Retired)

by Jim Cuddy

I was born in Swinford, Co. Mayo and I joined An Garda Síochána on 18 September 1968 and retired on 3 January 2003. I was first assigned to Eglinton Street, Galway City, on 22 February 1969 and later transferred to Oughterard, Co. Galway, in August 1970.

While stationed in Oughterard, we had a number of poitín raids in Lettermore, Lettermullen and on the islands of Lough Corrib.

In those days, we performed what was called a '24 Station Orderly' when the Station Orderly did

41. An Garda Jim Cuddy (Ar Scor)

le Jim Cuddy

I mBéal Átha na Muice i gContae Mhaigh Eo a rugadh mise. Chuaigh mé sna Gardaí ar an 18 Meán Fómhair 1968 agus ar an 3 Eanáir 2003 a chuaigh mé amach ar pinsean. Ar Shráid Eglinton i gCathair na Gaillimhe a cuireadh den chéad iarraidh mé, ar an 22 Feabhra 1969, agus aistríodh as sin go hUachtar Ard mé i mí Lúnasa 1970.

An tráth sin agus muid i mBeairic Uachtar Ard, thugtaí corr-ruathar go Leitir Móir, go Leitir Mealláin agus isteach ar oileáin i Loch Coirib mar gheall ar phoitín.

a 24-hour shift and, if you were lucky, you got the following day off, called an 'Ex-BO (Barrack Orderly) day'. Gardaí at that time had just two days off a month and their annual leave.

At that time, there were no such things as computers or mobile phones. What we had was a 'crank-up phone', linked to the Post Office and a telex machine for receiving official messages which had to be copied and sent out to other stations.

In September 1973, I transferred back to Eglinton Street, when the first Divisional Garda Traffic Corps was established. The complement of the Traffic Corps was 1 Sergeant and 12 Gardaí and we operated in two large, white Vauxhall Cavaliers.

The amount of money that could be used for a prisoner's meal in those days was two shillings and six pence. On one occasion, a young Garda was Station Orderly in Eglinton Street and, when it came to lunch time, there was a person in custody in the cell, so a meal had to be procured. The Station Orderly duly went to the cell and asked the prisoner what he wanted for lunch and the man asked for steak and chips, which was ordered from a local restaurant and delivered to the station with an invoice for seven shillings and six pence. When the Clerk in the Sergeant's office returned from lunch, he was confronted with the invoice on his desk. He went to the Station Orderly and advised him that the cost of a meal for a person in custody could not exceed two shillings and six pence. The Station Orderly replied: "well, he has it ate now."

Later, in 1979, a new section was created, called the Crime Collator (to deal with criminal intelligence) and I was assigned as the first Crime Collator for the Division of Galway West. The number in the Collator's office was later increased to two with the arrival of Sean McMenamon, later replaced by Joe Carey. Both have since passed away.

Bhíodh Dualgas Lá agus Oíche le déanamh an t-am sin freisin, nuair a bhíodh orainn dualgas 24 uair an chloig a dhéanamh ar a seal i bhfeighil na Beairice. Dá mbeadh an t-ádh ar dhuine, bheadh an lá dar gcionn saor aige lá 'Ex-BO' mar a thugtaí air maidir leis an mBéarla ar Fheighlí na Beairice. Ní bhíodh ag Garda an uair sin ach dhá lá saor ón obair in aghaidh na míosa agus na laethanta saoire bliantúla.

Ní raibh caint ná trácht ar ríomhaire ná ar fhón póca na laethanta sin, bhíodh ort an fón a chasadh le ceangal le hOifig an Phoist. Bhí meaisín teiléacs ann a dtagadh teachtaireachtaí oifigiúla isteach air. Bhídís sin le cóipeáil ansin agus le seoladh amach chuig beairicí eile.

I mí Mheán Fómhair 1973, aistríodh ar ais go Sráid Eglinton mé nuair a cuireadh Cór Tráchta an Gharda ar bun den chéad uair. Sáirsint amháin agus dáréag Gardaí a bhí ar fhoireann an Chóir an t-am sin agus dhá charr mhóra bhána de dhéanamh Vauxhall Cavalier a bhíodh fúinn.

Dhá scilling agus sé pingine an t-airgead a bhí ceadaithe le caitheamh ar bhéile do phríosúnach an uair sin. Tharla lá go raibh dualgas an Fheighlí Beairice i Sráid Eglinton ar Gharda óg agus, nuair a tháinig am lóin, bhí duine ar a choinneáil sa chillín agus bhí gá béile a sholáthar. Chuaigh an Feighlí, mar ba chóir, chomh fada leis an gcillín agus d'fhiafraigh den phríosúnach cén lón a bhí uaidh. Stéig agus sceallóga a dúirt an fear istigh agus ordaíodh sin ó bhialann gar do láthair. Tugadh an béile isteach agus sonrasc leis ar seacht scilleacha agus sé pingine. Nuair a tháinig an Cléireach in oifig an tSáirsint ar ais óna lón féin, bhí an sonrasc seo ar an mbord roimhe. Chuaigh sé chomh fada leis an bhFeighlí Beairice agus dúirt leis nach bhféadfaí níos mó ná leathchoróin a íoc ar bhéile do dhuine a bhí ar a choinneáil. Is é an freagra a fuair sé ó fheighlí na beairice: "bhuel, tá sé ite anois aige."

An Garda Síochána

Over the years, there were a number of events that stood out. We had visits from President Regan and Hillary Clinton from the USA and, of course, the Pope's visit in 1979. We also had a number of murders in Dominick Street and the Claddagh, which were solved. The Galway hurlers and footballers won All-Ireland Championship titles in the 1980s,1990s and 2000s and the home comings gave a great lift to Galway City and County.

In 1986, Eglinton Street Garda Station closed and the Gardaí moved to a new station at Mill Street, which was officially opened by the then Minister for Justice, Alan Dukes.

In the past, we had a Chief Superintendent based in Galway City and we also had Superintendents in Galway, Gort, Loughrea, Oughterard and Clifden. Those were the districts that comprised the Galway West Division at the time. The towns of Ballinasloe and Tuam were part of the Roscommon, Galway East Division. The first two female recruits to come to Galway were Maureen Ryan and Imelda O'Flynn. Shop Street and Eglinton Street were two-way streets at the time with traffic such as buses, lorries, cars and the odd bicycle going in both directions.

During my service in the Gardaí in Galway, I was involved in many of the Garda-related organisations. I was a Garda Representative Association (GRA) official at District, Divisional and Central Executive Committee level for a number of years, advocating for the welfare and conditions of Garda members in the Galway Division. I was also an elected member for the Connaught Region on the Garda Medical Aid Board in Dublin and served on that board for 15 years. I served on the Divisional Welfare Committee and was a Board member of the Garda Medical Aid Society for a number of years as well.

Faoin mbliain 1979, bhí brainse nua á chur ar bun, nuair a tugadh isteach an Tiomsaitheoir Coireanna (ag plé le faisnéis faoi choiriúlacht) agus ceapadh mise ar an gcéad Tiomsaitheoir Coireanna i Rannán Ghaillimh Thiar. Cuireadh le líon na foirne in oifig an Tiomsaitheora de réir a chéile nuair a tháinig Seán McMenamon, nach maireann, agus Joe Carey, nach maireann ach oiread, ina dhiaidh sin arís.

Tá ócáidí móra a fhanann i do chuimhne in ainneoin imeacht na mblianta. Bhí na cuairteanna a thug an tUachtarán Regan agus Hillary Clinton as na Stáit Aontaithe agus, ar ndóigh, cuairt an Phápa sa bhliain 1979. Tharla freisin eachtraithe feallmharaithe i Sráid Doiminic agus ar an gCladach. Rugadh ar na daoine a bhí ciontach. Thug iománaithe agus peileadóirí na Gaillimhe Craobh na hÉireann leo i rith na 1980idí,1990idí agus na 2000idí agus ba mhór an t-ardú croí agus meanman do Chathair agus do Chontae na Gaillimhe na foirne buacacha sin ag teacht abhaile.

Sa bhliain 1986, dúnadh Beairic na nGardaí ar Shráid Eglinton agus d'athraigh na Gardaí go dtí stáisiún nua ar Shráid an Mhuilinn. Alan Dukes, Aire Dlí agus Cirt na linne a rinne an oscailt oifigiúil.

San am a bhíodh, is é an chaoi a mbíodh Ard-Cheannfort i gCathair na Gaillimhe agus Ceannfort i nGaillimh, ar an nGort, i mBaile Locha Riach, in Uachtar Ard agus ar an gClochán. B'shin iad na ceantair a bhíodh i Rannán Iarthar na Gaillimhe ag an am. Le Rannán Ros Comáin agus Oirthear na Gaillimhe a bhain baile Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe agus baile Thuama. Maureen Ryan agus Imelda O'Flynn an bheirt ba thúisce de na banghardaí a tháinig go Gaillimh. Bhíodh an trácht síos agus aníos Sráid na Siopaí agus Sráid Eglinton an uair sin, busanna, leoraithe, carranna agus rothair ag dul an dá threo.

I retired from An Garda Síochána when I reached the retirement age of 52 in January 2003, having served 35 years. Six months later, I was co-opted onto Galway County Council and have been successful in four local elections over the years, leading to a further 20 years of public service.

I enjoyed every day in An Garda Síochána and would like to thank all those I worked with for their friendship and camaraderie.

An tráth a raibh mé ag fónamh leis na Gardaí i nGaillimh, bhí mé ceangailte le heagraíochtaí éagsúla a bhain leis na Gardaí. Bhí mé i m'oifigeach ar leibhéal an Cheantair agus ar leibhéal na Roinne le Cumann Ionadaíochta an Gharda Síochána, chomh maith le roinnt blianta ar an Ardchoiste Feidhmiúcháin, ag cur ar son leas agus coinníollacha oibre níos fearr ag Gardaí Rannán na Gaillimhe. Toghadh i mo chomhalta thar ceann Réigiún Chonnacht freisin mé ar Bhord Árachais Sláinte an Gharda Síochána i mBaile Átha Cliath agus d'oibrigh mé air sin ar feadh 15 bliana. Bhí mé ar Choiste Leasa an Rannáin agus i mo Chomhalta Boird ar Chumann Árachais Sláinte an Gharda Síochána ar feadh roinnt blianta freisin.

Chuaigh mé ar scor ón nGarda Síochána i mí Eanáir 2003 nuair a bhí mé in aois pinsin, 52 bhliain d'aois. Bhí 35 bliana curtha isteach agam. Sé mhí dár gcionn, comhthoghadh ar Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe mé agus d'éirigh liom i gceithre cinn de thoghcháin áitiúla ó shin i leith, rud a d'fhág 20 bliain eile de sheirbhís phoiblí.

Bhain mé sásamh as gach lá beo de mo shaol sa Gharda Síochána agus ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghlacadh leo siúd ar oibrigh mé leo as a gcuid cairdis agus as a gcuid comrádaíochta.

Superintendent P.J. Colleran. Courtesy of the Colleran family.
An Ceannfort P.J. Colleran. Le caoinchead mhuintir Colleran.

42. Superintendent P.J. Colleran, 14552A (Retired)

by Sinead Colleran

Superintendent Patrick Joseph (P.J. / Paddy) Colleran's journey from the quiet fields of Headford, County Galway, to the upper ranks of An Garda Síochána stands as a testament to a life dedicated to public service, fairness and community spirit. Born in 1937 to William and Bridget Colleran, P.J. was one of nine children

42. An Ceannfort P. J. Ó Callaráin, 14552A (Ar Scor)

le Sinead Colleran

Is teist an bealach a rinne Patrick Joseph (P.J. / Paddy) Ó Callaráin ó cheantar suaimhneach Áth Cinn i gContae na Gaillimhe go dtí gráda sinsearacha an Gharda Síochána ar an díograis a chaith sé le seirbhís phoiblí, leis an gcóir, agus le meon an phobail. Tháinig P.J., duine de naonúr clainne le William Ó Callaráin agus a bhean

and was raised on a small family farm. Seeking a future beyond the limitations of rural life, he joined the Gardaí in January 1961 at the age of 23, embarking on a career that would span over three decades and touch countless lives. In joining An Garda Síochána he was following in the footsteps of his older brother Gabriel Colleran who had joined a few years previous. Gabriel had served with distinction for over 22 years, mostly in the West of Ireland where he retired as a Sergeant from An Spidéal, Co. Galway, before changing career and taking up a new role as Lecturer in Law at the then Regional Technical College (RTC) in Galway. In spite of his early retirement from An Garda Síochána, Gabriel, who sadly passed away in 2015, had always spoken so highly and with pride of his time as a member of An Garda Síochána.

P.J. Colleran's Garda career began with six months of training at the Phoenix Park training centre. His first posting took him to Carrigans, Co. Donegal, for border duty, a quiet start that belied the wealth of experience to come. Throughout the 1960s, he served in various stations across Counties Mayo, Clare, Roscommon and Galway, rising to the rank of Superintendent when he was stationed in Birr, Co. Offaly, until his retirement in 1997. In 1966, he married Nuala Conlon, a school teacher, and by 1973, he had settled his family in Ballinasloe, which would remain their home base through his many transfers. P.J.'s devotion to Nuala for over forty years of marriage, was reflected in the act of his serving her breakfast in bed every single day, a simple act that spoke volumes of their enduring partnership and affection before she passed away in 2009.

His close attachment to Ballinasloe was further evidenced by the multiple roles he held in the Ballinasloe District over the years, including his time as the Sergeant-in-Charge of Ballinasloe Garda Station while he resided with his family in the official accommodation adjoining the Barracks, and his role as Inspector prior to his promotion to Superintendent.

Bridget, ar an saol sa bhliain 1937 agus tógadh é ar fheirm bheag a mhuintire. Le fonn réimsí níos fairsinge den saol a thaithí, chuaigh sé sna Gardaí agus é 23 bliana d'aois i mí Eanáir 1961, tús le ré gairme a leanfadh níos faide ná deich mbliana is fiche a chuaigh chun tairbhe do chuid mhór daoine. Bhí sé ag leanúint an chúrsa céanna a thóg deartháir níos sine leis, Gabriel Ó Callaráin, a chuaigh sna Gardaí tamall de bhlianta roimhe sin. Rinne Gabriel fónamh ar feadh tréimhse níos faide ná 22 bliain, in iarthar na hÉireann den chuid is mó, go dtí go ndeachaigh sé ar scor agus é ina Sháirsint ar an Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe, agus go ndeachaigh ag obair ina Léachtóir le Dlí i gColáiste Réigiúnach na Gaillimhe, mar a bhíodh air ag an am. Ainneoin gur éirigh sé as an nGarda Síochána luath go maith, ba le mórtas agus go moltach i gcónaí a labhraíodh Gabriel, anuas go dtí go ndeachaigh ar shlí na fírinne sa bhliain 2015, ar a thréimhse leis an nGarda Síochána.

Sé mhí traenála san ionad oiliúna i bPáirc an Fhionnuisce an tús a bhí le saol P.J. Uí Challaráin leis an nGarda Síochána. Go dtí an Charraigín i gCo. Dhún na nGall a seoladh ar dtús é, i mbun dualgais cois teorann, agus tús réidh go maith le ré oibre a mbainfeadh oiread éagsúlachta leis ina dhiaidh sin. Bhí sé i mbeairicí éagsúla ar fud Chontaetha Mhaigh Eo, an Chláir, Ros Comáin agus na Gaillimhe i rith na 1960idí go dtí go bhfuair sé ardú céime go grád an Cheannfoirt i mBiorra, Co. Uíbh Fhailí, mar a raibh sé nuair a chuaigh ar scor sa bhliain 1997. Sa bhliain 1966 a phós sé Nuala Conlon, oide scoile, agus bhí curtha fúthu ag an teaghlach i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe faoin mbliain 1973, áit a leanfadh a gcónaí agus P.J. á aistriú ó áit go háit. Ba chomhartha soiléir ar dhúthracht P.J. do Nuala ar feadh dhá scór bliain pósta go dtugadh sé a bricfeasta chuici ar an leaba gach maidin, gníomh simplí óna dtuigtear go leor maidir leis an gcumann buan eatarthu go dtí gur bhásaigh sise sa bhliain 2009.

P.J. Colleran's career was marked by several memorable and historic moments:

JFK's Visit to Galway, 1963

As a young Garda, one of P.J.'s most exciting assignments was crowd management during President John F. Kennedy's historic visit to Galway on 29 June 1963. P.J. vividly recalls standing on the corner outside what was then Moons Department Store on Shop Street, as the presidential motorcade swept by. He was one of about 100 Gardaí drafted in from all over Connacht and put up in St Mary's College for several days. The anticipation and pride of that day, as the presidential fleet arrived and thousands of Galwegians lined the streets, remains etched in his memory, a moment when Galway felt at the heart of the world.

The Arrest of John Gilligan

Another notable episode was P.J.'s role in the arrest of John Gilligan in Ballinasloe, long before Gilligan would become infamous in Irish criminal history. Acting on an alert after Gilligan was spotted in Athlone, P.J. and fellow Gardaí lay in wait at St Michael's Car Park, Ballinasloe. The arrest itself had a touch of irony, Gilligan, returning to his car with a Supermac's snack box, was caught thanks to his hunger. "If only he'd skipped the chips, he might have skipped an arrest!" P.J. would later joke. Little did anyone know then that Gilligan would later become one of the most notorious criminals in Ireland and would subsequently be convicted and receive lengthy prison sentences for various serious criminal offences.

The Stardust Fire and Tribunal

Even in his later years, P.J. Colleran's commitment to justice and public service remained undiminished. At the age of 84, he testified at the tribunal into the Stardust fire tragedy. As a Garda Inspector with 20 years' experience at the time of the disaster, he was the senior Garda officer

Fianaise ar a dhlúthcheangal le Béal Átha na Sluaighe a raibh de phoist éagsúla aige i gCeantar Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe le himeacht aimsire, tréimhse ina Sháirsint-i-gCeannas agus an teaghlach ina gcónaí san áras oifigiúil le taobh bheairic na nGardaí i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe agus seal ina Chigire ann freisin sula bhfuair sé ardú céime go ndearnadh Ceannfort de.

Is iomaí eachtra stairiúil a tharla i rith ré dualgais P.J. Uí Challaráin a fhanann i gcuimhne:

Cuairt JFK go Gaillimh, 1963

Ina Gharda óg dó, bhí smachtú an tslua le linn chuairt stairiúil an Uachtaráin John F. Kennedy go Gaillimh ar an 29 Meitheamh 1963 ar cheann de na laethanta móra. Tá cuimhne ghlé ag P.J. ar bheith ina sheasamh ar an gcoirnéal taobh amuigh de shiopa Moons ar Shráid na Siopaí agus slógadh carranna an Uachtaráin ag dul thar bráid. Bhí sé ar dhuine de isteach is amach le 100 Garda a tarraingíodh as gach cuid de Chúige Chonnacht agus a bhí ar billéad cúpla lá i gColáiste Mhuire. Fanann an bhís agus an mórtas a bhí ar na mílte Gaillimheach, ag fanacht leis an slógadh carranna agus ag faire ar an Uachtarán ag dul thar bráid, ina chuimhne go fóill, tamall a mbraithfeá gurb é baile mór na Gaillimhe croí an domhain.

Gabháil John Gilligan

Eachtra suntasach eile ab ea an pháirt a bhí ag P.J. i ngabháil John Gilligan i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe, i bhfad roimh an am a dtiocfadh mícháil dáiríre ar Gilligan maidir le cúrsaí coiriúlachta in Éirinn. Bhíothas ar an airdeall ó frítheadh amharc ar Gilligan i mBaile Átha Luain agus bhí P.J. agus Gardaí eile ag fanacht leis i gCarrchlós Naomh Michíl i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe. Íoróineach go maith, stop Gilligan go gceannódh sé "snack box" as Supermacs agus gabhadh é ag teacht ar ais chuig an gcarr leis. "Murach an dúil a bhí sna sceallóga aige, ní móide go dtiocfadh sé an áit ar gabhadh é!!", a deireadh P.J. le teann magaidh go minic. Is beag a tuigeadh an tráth sin go mbeadh Gilligan ar dhuine de na coirpigh ba mhó le

Superintendent P.J. Colleran (Retired) and his son, Chief Superintendent Seán Colleran. Courtesy of the Colleran family.
An Ceannfort P.J. Colleran (ar scor) agus a mhac, an Príomh-Ceannfort Seán Colleran. Le caoinchead mhuintir Colleran.

on duty at the communications centre in Dublin Castle on the night of the fire on 14 February 1981. He helped coordinate the Major Accident Plan on the night, directed emergency responses and ensured that information was relayed to anxious families and the public. His testimony decades later was a reminder of the profound impact the Stardust disaster had on all those involved and of his enduring sense of duty to the families still seeking justice.

rá in Éirinn lá is faide anonn, go gciontófaí é i gcoireanna tromchúiseacha agus go ngearrfaí tréimhsí fada príosúnachta air.

Dóiteán an Stardust agus an Binse Fiosrúcháin

Fiú agus é ag dul amach sna blianta, níor fhuaraigh dúthracht P.J. Uí Challaráin maidir leis an gceart agus an cóir agus leis an tseirbhís phoiblí. Thug sé fianaise, agus é 84 bliana d'aois, ag an mbinse

The Ann Lovett Case

As Inspector in Granard in 1984, P.J. Colleran was at the centre of one of Ireland's most tragic and haunting cases, the death of Ann Lovett, a 15-year-old schoolgirl who died giving birth alone at a grotto. P.J. helped lead the investigation and offered support to the Lovett family at a time of immense grief and national soul-searching. At the inquest, P.J. read out a statement from Ann Lovett's mother. The sadness and tragedy of the case left a lasting effect on him, as it did on the entire country. The experience reinforced his belief in compassion and the importance of community support in the face of tragedy.

Awarded the Centenary Medal by His Son, Chief Superintendent Seán Colleran

One of the proudest moments came in October 2022, when he was awarded the Garda Centenary Medal. What made the occasion truly special was that the medal was presented by his own son, Chief Superintendent Seán Colleran who had followed in his footsteps and was attached to the Clare Division at the time. Owing to P.J.'s service as a Sergeant in Doonbeg in 1965 (well before Seán was even born!), the centenary medal was presented to him at the centenary event in Ennis. The ceremony was a poignant symbol of family legacy and dedication to public service, celebrated by colleagues and the wider community.

Throughout his service, P.J. was known for his fairness, professionalism and deep sense of community. He believed in the value of Gardaí maintaining close contact with the public, advocating for a return to the 'beat on foot' to foster trust and approachability. His approach was always to serve rather than punish and his empathy left a lasting impression on colleagues and the communities he served.

P.J.'s career took him to every province in Ireland, culminating in his role as fiosrúcháin maidir le dóiteán an Stardust. Bhí sé ina Chigire tráth na tragóide, taithí 20 bliain aige ina Gharda agus é ar an oifigeach sinsearach ar dualgas in ionad cumarsáide an Gharda i gCaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath oíche an 14 Feabhra 1981. Chuidigh sé leis an gcomheagrú ar an Mórphlean Timpiste an oíche sin, stiúraigh sé bearta na seirbhísí éigeandála agus chinntigh sé go raibh eolas á chur ar aghaidh chuig gaolta agus daoine eile den phobal a raibh imní orthu. Mheabhraigh an fhianaise a thug sé oiread blianta dar gcionn chomh mór agus chomh géar agus a chuaigh tragóid an Stardust i bhfeidhm ar an uile dhuine a raibh baint acu leis agus ba chomhartha freisin é ar an gcúram dualgais a bhraith sé i gcónaí i leith na dteaghlach sin a raibh a gceart á lorg go fóill acu.

Cás Ann Lovett

Ina Chigire dó i nGránard sa bhliain 1984, bhí P.J. Ó Callaráin i gceartlár cheann de na cásanna is tragóidí agus is dodhearmadta i stair na hÉireann, bás Ann Lovett, cailín scoile 15 bhliana a fuair bás i luí seoil aisti féin i bhfochla. Chuidigh P.J. leis an bhfiosrúchán a stiúradh agus le cuidiú le muintir Lovett tráth a raibh siad faoi mhéala mór agus an náisiún i mbun athmhachnaimh ar cheisteanna móra. Léigh P.J. amach ráiteas ó mháthair Ann Lovett ag an gcoiste cróinéara. D'fhág truamhéala agus tragóid an cháis a lorg go buan air, mar a d'fhág ar mhuintir na tíre uilig. Chuir an cás sin dlús breise lena thuairim gur le comhbhá agus tuiscint agus le muintearas an phobail a bhíonn gá tráth na tragóide.

Bonn an Chéid á bhronnadh air ag a mhac, an tArd-Cheannfort Seán Colleran

Ar cheann de na hócáidí ba mhó ábhar mórtais, bhí Bonn an Chéid a bhronnadh air ag an nGarda Síochána i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2022. Ba ghné ríspeisialta den ócáid gur mac leis féin a bhronn an bonn air, an tArd-Cheannfort Seán Colleran a raibh sampla a mhuintire leanta aige agus a bhí ceangailte le Ceantar an Chláir ag an

Superintendent in Birr, where he was widely admired for his leadership and dedication. Upon his retirement at age 60 in 1997, tributes poured in from judges, solicitors and citizens alike, all attesting to his fairness, courtesy and commitment. Judge Jim O'Sullivan, reflecting on P.J.'s career, remarked that he was "one of the great officers who people speak highly of" and that his presence would be missed in court.

Now enjoying a well-earned retirement in Ballinasloe, Paddy spends his days golfing, spending time with his 5 children and 9 grandchildren and following and enjoying every sporting event on television. He still reads the *Irish Independent* cover to cover to keep him updated with the latest news and he never misses the daily Sudoku!!

am. Mar gheall ar fhónamh P.J. ina Sháirsint i nDún Beag sa bhliain 1965 (i bhfad sular rugadh Seán!!), is ag ócáid an chéid in Inis a bronnadh an bonn airsean. Ba chomhartha an searmanas ar oidhreacht teaghlaigh agus ar dhúthracht i leith na seirbhíse poiblí agus sin á cheiliúradh ag comhghleacaithe agus ag an bpobal i gcoitinne.

Lean cáil na cothroime, na gairmiúlachta agus na díograise i leith an phobail P.J. ar feadh a ré dualgais ar fad. Bhí seisean tugtha don mheon gur cheart do na Gardaí dlúthchaidreamh a choinneáil leis an bpobal agus d'áitíodh sé gur cheart filleadh ar an stádar, an patról coisíochta d'fhonn muinín agus sochaidreamh a chothú. Meon freastail a bhíodh aige riamh seachas meon píonósaíochta agus chuaigh an muintearas agus an chomhthuiscint ann i gcion go mór ar a chomrádaithe agus ar mhuintir na háite pé ar bith cár thug an dualgas é.

Rinne sé fónamh lena linn i ngach cúige in Éirinn agus lean ré gairme P.J. go raibh sé ina Cheannfort i mBiorra, áit a raibh an-mholadh ar a chuid ceannaireachta agus a chuid díograise. Nuair a chuaigh sé ar pinsean sa bhliain 1997 agus é 60 bliain d'aois, chuir breithiúna, dlíodóirí agus gnáthdhaoine a gcuid measa air in iúl, gach uile dhuine acu ag trácht ar a chuid cothroime, a chuid cúirtéise agus a chuid dúthrachta. Deir an Giúistís Jim O'Sullivan, ag smaoineamh dó ar shaol oibre P.J., go raibh sé ar dhuine de na hoifigigh shármhaithe sin ar moladh a bhíonn ag daoine orthu agus go dtabharfaí faoi deara i dteach na cúirte nach raibh sé i láthair.

Tuillte go maith a bhí a thréimhse scoir ag Paddy a chaitheann na laethanta anois i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe le galfadóireacht, le cúigear clainne agus naonúr garchlainne agus ag faire go géar ar gach ócáid spóirt a thagann ar an teilifís. Baineann sé lán na súl as gach focal ar an *Irish Independent* go gcoinníonn sé ar an eolas agus oibríonn an cloigeann gach lá ar an Sodoku!!

Garda Pat Gallagher and Garda Ben Thornton RIP, outside Loughrea Barracks, c. 1965. Courtesy of Pat Gallagher.
An Garda Pat Gallagher agus an Garda Ben Thornton RIP, lasmuigh de Bheairic Bhaile Locha Riach, c. 1965. Le caoinchead Pat Gallagher.

43. Garda Pat Gallagher (Retired)

by Pat Gallagher

I was born in 1944 on the north-west coast of Donegal, into a farming and fishing family – the eldest of twelve siblings. The size of the family at that time was a common occurrence in Ireland, especially in rural areas, encouraged by both church and state. Feeding such a large family in a coastal community in the 1940s was not a big issue. What the land failed to provide, the sea provided in abundance: herring, mackerel, white fish of all descriptions, salmon and lobster. Money… there was none! Manual labour was exchanged: a day given was for a day taken.

At seventeen years of age, I was persuaded by the local sergeant of An Garda Síochána to sit the entrance exam to join the Gardaí. Within a month of sitting the exam, I was among hundreds of

43. An Garda Pádraig Ó Gallachóir (Ar Scor)

le Pat Gallagher

Ar chósta thiar-thuaidh Thír Chonaill a rugadh mise sa bhliain 1944, duine de dháréag clainne i dteaghlach feirmeoireachta agus iascaireachta. Níorbh annamh clann dá leithéid sin in Éirinn ag an am, go háirithe i gceantair thuaithe; ní chuireadh an eaglais ná an stát ina choinne. Ní le cósta ba dheacra líon tí chomh mór sin a bheathú i rith na 1940idí. Nuair a d’ídítí stór na talún, bhíodh soláthar na mara go fairsing ann: scadán, murlas, iasc geal de gach cineál, bradán agus gliomach. Ach airgead... sin a bhí gann! Chuirtí laethanta oibre i bpáirt: dhéanfá lá do do chomharsa agus chúiteodh do chomharsa lá leat.

Nuair a bhí mise seacht mbliana déag, chuir sáirsint an Gharda Síochána san áit ina luí orm gur cheart dom an scrúdú a dhéanamh le dul

men, mostly from the west of Ireland, labouring on civil engineering works in the Highlands of Scotland. One mid-afternoon in September 1964, a policeman from Fort William arrived at my place of work, asked for me by name and told me that I was to report to the Garda Depot in the Phoenix Park in Dublin for a pre-entrance medical exam on a given date. The harsh weather conditions in the mountains of Scotland, with frost, snow and ice in the teeth of winter, helped make up my mind: "Gardaí, here I come!"

Having passed the medical, I entered the training college in Templemore, County Tipperary, in November 1964, having being assigned registered number 16008C . Six months later, I was on my way to my First Station, in Loughrea, County Galway. I was met at the local railway station by Jim Clancy, a veteran of almost forty years' experience in the force. A native of Moycullen, what Jim did not know about human habits and behaviour was not worth knowing. He brought me directly to my pre-arranged digs, a shared room above the garda station. There were four or five of us new lads bedding in the station. No shower or hot water at the time, just a washbasin between us. For a small fee, we received breakfast, lunch and dinner from the next-door neighbour (Mrs Fitzpatrick). It was fairly basic living at the time but, most important to us, it was cheap!

Some days later, Sergeant Terry Moorhouse detailed Joe McCarty, another recruit and myself to go to two townlands on the outskirts of Loughrea to check for dog licences. It was a joke; at most houses we visited, where a dog was present and where no licence could be produced, the stock excuse from the homeowners was that the dogs had strayed into their house just before we arrived. The return of detections for unlicenced dogs gathered by Joe and myself was not impressive!

The 1960s and '70s in Ireland was a great period to be young, active and mobile. If you did not have a car, you made sure you were friendly with someone who had. The showbands were at their

isteach sna Gardaí. Sula raibh mí caite ó lá an scrúdaithe, bhí mise agus na céadta eile le m'ais, a mórchuid as iarthar na hÉireann, ag sclábhaíocht liom ar thograí móra innealtóireachta sibhialta i ngarbhchríocha na hAlban. I lár an tráthnóna lá amháin i mí Meán Fómhair 1964, tháinig póilín as an Ghearasdan chuig an láthair oibre, chuir mo thuairiscse as m'ainm agus dúirt liom go raibh súil liom i gCeannáras na nGardaí i bPáirc an Fhionnuisce i mBaile Átha Cliath a leithéid seo de lá le dul faoi scrúdú dochtúra. Ní raibh cruas na haimsire i sléibhte na hAlban, siocán, sneachta agus leac oighir ar feadh an gheimhridh, do mo choinneáil ansin: "Na Gardaí, seo chugaibh mé!"

Bhí an dochtúir sásta agus isteach liom sa choláiste oiliúna sa Teampall Mór i gContae Thiobraid Árann i mí na Samhna 1964 faoin uimhir chláraithe 16008C. Sé mhí dar gcionn, bhí mé ag déanamh mo bhealaigh don chéad bheairic agam i mBaile Locha Riach i gContae na Gaillimhe. Bhí fear romham ag an stáisiún traenach, Séamas Mac Fhlannchaidh a raibh beagnach daichead bliain caite aige sna Gardaí. Ba de bhunadh Mhaigh Cuilinn eisean agus an ní nach raibh ar eolas aigesean faoi bhéasa agus ghnás an duine, níorbh fhiú a fhios a bheith agat. Thug sé caoldíreach chuig an áit mé a raibh lóistín socraithe dom, seomra codlata os cionn bheairic na ngardaí. Bhí ceathrar nó cúigear againn ann, na gasúirí úra, a chodlaíodh sa bheairic. Ní raibh caint ar chithfholcadán an t-am sin, ná ar uisce te, dabhach beag amháin idir a raibh ann de chomhluadar. D'íocadh muid suim bheag airgid ar bhricfeasta, lón agus dinnéar ón mbean i mbéal an dorais (Mrs Fitzpatrick). Níorbh aon saol breá é ag an am ach, an rud ba thábhachtaí dúinne, ní raibh sé costasach!

Ní mórán laethanta a bhí caite gur ordaigh an Sáirsint Terry Moorhouse mé féin agus Joe McCarthy, Garda nua-oilte eile, chuig dhá bhaile ar imeall Bhaile Locha Riach ag seiceáil mar gheall ar cheadúnais madraí. B'ábhar gáire é; mórchuid na dtithe ag ar sheas an bheirt againn,

Aerial view of Loughrea Garda Station c. 1970s.
Courtesy of Loughrea Garda Station.
Radharc ón aer de Stáisiún Gardaí Locha Riach timpeall na 1970idí.
Le caoinchead Stáisiún na nGardaí, Baile Locha Riach.

zenith at that time and a means of travel was a must. Every dance venue, whether dance hall or marquee was packed to the rafters. A venue being in an isolated location was no barrier to drawing the masses. We were on rotation in the station to patrol the various music venues; there were never any problems at the shows, we were just sent to show a presence, usually on the second half of our split shift.

While in Tynagh station, a regular detail was to visit the farmers whose lands were bordering the public road and to warn them to clear their land of weeds such as ragwort, dock, thistle and other unsightly wild growth. However, the greatest culprit at the time was the County Council who owned the grass verges on both sides of

má bhí gadhar ar an láthair agus gan ceadúnas le taispeáint, ba é an scéal a bhíodh ag muintir an tí gur ar strae a tháinig an gadhar i mbradaíl chuig an teach, díreach sular tháinig muid féin. Níorbh aon scéal mór líon na dtuairiscí a bhí agam féin agus Joe maidir le madraí nach raibh ceadúnas ag daoine lena n-aghaidh.

B'iontach iad blianta na 1960idí agus na '70idí in Éirinn ag an té a bhí óg, bríomhar agus ábalta dul ó áit go háit. Mura raibh carr agat féin, chinntigh tú go raibh tú mór le duine ag a raibh. Bhí na seóbhannaí i mbarr a réime an tráth sin agus ba mhór an gar deis taistil. Bhíodh gach ionad damhsa, an halla nó an t-ollphuball lán go béal. Ba chuma ionad an damhsa ar an iargúil agus ar an uaigneas, tharraingíodh na sluaite ann. Chuirtí gach duine sa bheairic ar a seal ar patról sna hionaid éagsúla ceoil; ní tharlaíodh trioblóid ag na seónna, chuirtí ann muid ionas go bhfeicfí ann muid, an dara leath de sheal scoilte de ghnáth.

Le linn a bheith i mbeairic Thíne, ba ghnáthdhualgas cuairt a thabhairt ar fheirmeoirí a raibh a gcuid talún ag síneadh leis an mbóthar poiblí agus foláireamh a thabhairt buachalán, copóg, feochadán agus fásra fiáin dá gcineál a ghlanadh. Ba leis an gComhairle Contae an réimse féaraigh le ciumhais an bhóthair féin a dtugtaí an 'long acre' i mBéarla air. B'annamh a thugtaí feirmeoir chun cúirte mar gheall ar neamhaird ar fholáireamh den sórt seo nuair a bhíodh taobh an bhealaigh mhóir chomh dona céanna nó níos measa. Ní raibh an Roinn Talmhaíochta agus an Chomhairle Contae ag teacht go maith lena chéile ag an am, agus chaitheadh na Gardaí déanamh go réidh cúramach idir an dá thaobh. Maireann cuimhne go fóill agam ar fhón den seandéanamh a oibriú, an láimh múscailte a chasadh, an giolla teileafóin do do fhreagairt, thú a cheangal leis an stáisiún a iarraidh – 'Tynagh 202'; is dócha gur athraigh an uimhir freisin leis an aimsir.

Treoir eile a thagadh ó am go chéile ón Roinn Talmhaíochta, is é a bhíodh á éileamh acu go

Barrack Street in Loughrea, c. 1965. Courtesy of Pat Gallagher.
Sráid na Beairice i mBaile Locha Riach, timpeall 1965. Le caoinchead Pat Gallagher.

the road, known as 'the long acre' by locals. Failure to comply with a warning seldom led to a prosecution for local farmers, because of the condition of the adjacent 'long acre'. At the time, the Department of Agriculture and the County Council were not in tune with each other, while the gardaí were walking the tight rope between the two. I still remember twisting the handle on the old phones, getting through to an operator and asking to be put through to the station – 'Tynagh 202'; I am sure the number has been changed since.

Another Department of Agriculture instruction, from time to time, to the local Gardaí was to visit a local farm and ascertain that a bull on the farm had been neutered in accordance with previous instructions from that Department. The number of Gardaí willing to physically examine a bull in an open field was very low. Scott medals for bravery were awarded for less. The word of the farmer was good enough for me.

Job wise, being a member of An Garda Síochána from the 1960s to the 1990s was great because,

dtiocfadh Gardaí na háite amach ar fheirm go gcinnteofaí go raibh gearradh déanta ar tharbh ar an bhfeirm sin faoi mar a bhí ordaithe ag an Roinn roimhe sin. Ní hé an oiread sin Gardaí a bhí sásta scrúdú den chineál sin a chur ar tharbh amuigh ina gharraí féin. Gaisce mar sin a dhéanamh, bheifí ag smaoineamh ar bhonn crógachta Scott a bhronnadh ort. Ghlacainnse le tuairisc an fheirmeora féin ag an am.

Ó thaobh shaol na hoibre, ba bhreá an rud a bheith sa Gharda Síochána idir blianta na 1960idí agus na 1990idí mar sin an t-am ar tugadh ragobair isteach agus ar tháinig feabhas maidir le ham saor agus na laethanta saoire a bhíodh ag dul dúinn gach bliain (tar éis mholtaí Choimisiún Uí Chonaire sa bhliain 1968). I dtús na 1970idí, tháinig deireadh le drochghnás na 'sealanna scoilte'; nuair a bhíodh sin i bhfeidhm, bhíodh ar an nGarda oibriú ón 10 r.n. – 2 i.n. i dtús an lae agus ón 10 i.n. – 2r.n. san oíche le seal iomlán a chur isteach (gabhtar buíochas speisialta le Jack Marranan RIP arb é a thréandícheall agus a chumas i mbun caibidlíochta ba chúis le deireadh a chur leis na sealanna scoilte). B'fhearr na

during that time, overtime was introduced, time-off improved immensely and annual leave entitlements were extended (following the recommendations of the 1968 Conroy Commission). In the early 1970s, the terrible practice of 'split shifts' was ended. On split shifts, Gardaí had to work from 10 am to 2 pm in the morning and from 10 pm to 2 am at night to complete one full shift. Special thanks to the efforts and negotiation skills of Jack Marrinan, RIP, for getting the split shift abandoned. Greater opportunities in various aspects of police work arose, as well as the chance to work abroad with the United Nations and Interpol for the Gardaí with initiative and promotion in mind.

In 1972, the Traffic Corps was set up in Galway, comprising one Sergeant, twelve Gardaí and two high-powered 2.5-litre traffic cars. After a brief stint in Clifden, I was one of the twelve to join the new unit. Of the original thirteen members of the unit, five are now deceased, RIP. Our remit was solely related to traffic: speeding, drunk-driving, no insurance or driver's licence, bald tyres or any other problem that would render the vehicle or the driver a danger to other road users. Within a few weeks, there was a marked improvement in safety on the roads generally. The presence of a traffic car was feared and respected and the number of serious accidents and drunk-driving dropped dramatically. A similar 'shock' initiative appears to be warranted again today.

The world is evolving at a fast pace. The young men and women in the present and future Garda force, with their higher standard of education, new ideas and new technology, will make our communities a safer place for all. We did our best in our time; if they can say the same at the end of their working career, they will have a content retirement.

Ádh mór ar oglaí An Garda Síochána, fir agus mná.

deiseanna a tháinig chun cinn freisin dul i mbun gnéithe éagsúla den phóilíneacht, chomh maith le hoibriú thar sáile leis na Náisiúin Aontaithe agus Interpol, ag na Gardaí a raibh dul ar aghaidh iontu agus ardú céime ar a n-intinn.

Sa bhliain 1972, cuireadh an Cór Tráchta ar bun i nGaillimh le Sáirsint amháin, dáréag Gardaí agus dhá charr cumhachtacha 2.5 lítear. Tar éis tamall gairid a chaitheamh ar an gClochán, bhí mise ar dhuine den dáréag san aonad nua. Tá cúigear den triúr Garda déag a bhí san aonad ar dtús imithe ar shlí na fírinne ó shin, go ndéana Dia trócaire orthu. Le cúrsaí tráchta ar fad an cúram a leagadh orainne: luas, tiomáint agus ól déanta, tiomáint gan árachas nó ceadúnas tiomána, boinn a bhí róchaite nó a dhath ar bith eile a d'fhágfadh an fheithicil nó an tiománaí ina gcontúirt ag daoine eile ar an mbóthar. Taobh istigh de na seachtainí tosaigh, bhí feabhas mór ar chúrsaí sábháilteachta ar na bóithre. B'ábhar imní go mbeadh carr leis an gcór tráchta amuigh agus tháinig ísliú tobann ar líon na dtionóiscí tromchúiseacha agus na gcásanna ina raibh daoine ag tiomáint agus iad ar meisce. De réir cosúlachta, dhéanfadh athrú 'tobann' den chineál céanna tairbhe san am i láthair.

Ní go mall a chasann rothaí móra an tsaoil. Fágfaidh fir agus mná óga an Gharda sa lá atá inniu ann agus san am atá le theacht, leis an oideachas breise atá orthu, na smaointe nua agus na deiseanna nua teicneolaíochta, comharsanachtaí na hÉireann níos sábháilte ag an bpobal iontu. Rinne muidne gach dícheall lenár linn féin; má bhíonn an ní céanna le rá acusan i ndeireadh a ré oibre, beidh siad sona sásta agus iad ar pinsean.

Ádh mór ar óglaigh an Gharda Síochána, fir agus mná.

Judge Mary Fahy's last sitting at Galway District Court, 2 December 2024.
Left to right: Inspector Fergus Gaughan, Superintendent Finbarr Philpott, Superintendent Paudie O'Shea, Inspector Eleanor O'Halloran, Judge Mary Fahy, Chief Superintendent Gerard Roche, Inspector John Moloney, Superintendent Damien Flanagan and Inspector Adrian O'Neill. Courtesy of Galway Court Service.
An Breitheamh Mary Fahy an lá deireanach aici i mbun na Cúirte Dúiche i nGaillimh, 2 Nollaig 2024.
Ó chlé go deas: An Cigire Fergus Gaughan, an Ceannfort Finbarr Philpott, an Ceannfort Paudie O'Shea, an Cigire Eleanor O'Halloran, a Breitheamh Mary Fahy, an tArd-Cheannfort Gerard Roche, an Cigire John Moloney, an Ceannfort Damien Flanagan agus an Cigire Adrian O'Neill. Le caoinchead Sheirbhís Cúirte na Gaillimhe.

Conclusion

The history of An Garda Síochána is deeply intertwined with the story of the Irish State itself.

Our earliest records for the Galway Garda Division list the first members of the Civic Guard that arrived at Galway City on 25 September 1922. Among the first 20 men was Sergeant James C. Clarke who was a native of Co. Westmeath. Sergeant Clarke was a former member of the Royal Irish Constabulary and on joining the Civic Guard he was assigned the registered number 3. This meant that he was actually the third man to join the force in 1922. This highlights the deep historical significance of the Garda organisation in Galway and its close alignment with the broader narrative of the Irish State.

Clabhsúr

Tá stair an Gharda Síochána fite fuaite i stair stát na hÉireann féin.

Liosta de na Gardaí Sibhialta a tháinig go baile mór na Gaillimhe an 25 Meán Fómhair 1922 an taifead is luaithe atá againn faoi Rannán na Gaillimhe den Gharda. Luaitear ar an 20 fear tosaigh an Sáirsint James C. Clarke as Co. na hIarmhí ó dhúchas. Bhíodh an Sáirsint Clarke roimhe sin i gConstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann agus 3 an uimhir chlárúcháin a cuireadh ina leith ar cheangal leis na Gardaí Sibhialta. Ciallaíonn sin go raibh sé ar an tríú duine a cheangail leis an bhFórsa sa bhliain 1922. Is léiriú sin ar an suntas mór ó thaobh na staire atá le heagrú an Gharda i nGaillimh agus chomh dlúth agus a bhí sin

The other Sergeant who arrived in Galway on that same date was James Daley, registered number 1750. A native of Cork, his efforts in regard to his duties in those early years appear to have been well recognised.

> *We wish to place on record our appreciation of the manner in which Sergeant James Daly has performed his duties since the advent of the Guards in Galway. The Sergeant by his tact, energy, capability and uprightness has won the approval of all the well-disposed members of the community and the law-breaker has found in him a firm but just upholder of the law.*

(Resolution of the Grand Jury of County Galway, 24 June 1924).

Records also reveal that, following the departure of the Royal Irish Constabulary, Garda stations were initially established in locations such as Bookeen, Ballinahinch, Cleggan, Cill Chiaráin, Clonbur, Laurencetown, Castleblakeney, Turloughmore, Aughrim, Gurteen, Menlough, Peterswell and Kilconly. Over the years, as operational needs and practices evolved, many of these stations were closed and their personnel was redeployed.

The 'County Register of Crime' for Galway (a Register that was, due to necessity, adopted directly from the RIC) shows that in 1924 there was a total of 161 crimes reported. While modest by today's standards, the register includes serious crimes such as malicious injury to property, robbery with arms, kidnapping, intimidation, arson and assaults on Gardaí. Many of these crimes were politically motivated, reflecting the lingering unrest in the aftermath of the Civil War.

This was a time when every aspect of a Garda's life was regulated whether on or off-duty.

The Garda Síochána Laimh Leabhar Dualgas, 1923 which was the textbook of duties for the Civic Guard covered such Legislation and Barrack Regulations as –

ceangailte leis an gcúram go ginearálta ar fud an Stáit.

James Daley a bhí ar an Sáirsint eile a tháinig chun na Gaillimhe an lá céanna sin, 1750 a uimhir chlárúcháin sin. Corcaíoch a bhí ann ó dhúchas agus is cosúil gur maith a tuigeadh an dua a chaith sé lena dhualgas i rith na mblianta tosaigh sin.

> *We wish to place on record our appreciation of the manner in which Sergeant James Daly has performed his duties since the advent of the Guards in Galway. The Sergeant by his tact, energy, capability and uprightness has won the approval of all the well-disposed members of the community and the law-breaker has found in him a firm but just upholder of the law.*

(Rún de chuid Ard-Ghiúiré Chontae na Gaillimhe, an 24 Meitheamh 1924).

Is léir ó na taifid freisin gur tharla, tar éis do Chonstáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann imeacht, stáisiúin Gardaí a chur ar bun i dtosach in áiteanna mar iad seo a leanas: An Buaicín, Baile na hInse, An Cloigeann, Cill Chiaráin, An Fhairche, An Baile Mór, Gallach, An Turlach Mór, Eachroim, Goirtín, Mionlach, Tobar Pheadair agus Cill Chonla. Le himeacht aimsire, de réir mar a tháinig athrú ar éileamh nó ar ghnáis oibre, tharla cuid mhór de na stáisiúin sin a dhúnadh agus na Gardaí iontu a chur ag obair i malairt stáisiúin.

De réir an 'County Register of Crime' maidir le Gaillimh (Clár de chuid an RIC ar leanadh leis de cheal ama), tuairiscíodh 161 coir sa bhliain 1924. Cé gur beag an líon sin i gcomparáid lenár linn féin, luaitear coireanna tromchúiseacha ar an gclár, mar shampla díobháil mhailíseach do mhaoin, robáil faoi arm, fuadach, imeaglú, coirloscadh agus Gardaí a ionsaí. Cúrsaí polaitíochta ba chúis le go leor coireanna den sórt sin, comhartha ar an míshuaimhneas a lean tamall tar éis Chogadh na gCarad.

- Children's Amusements on Public Street – if "whipping tops, rolling hoops, making slides or bonfires" they should be asked to desist and summoned if they do not do so.
- Rate of Walking – When on beat or patrol the Guard should walk at a rate of 3 miles per hour.
- Changing of bed sheets – Such change is to be made once a month on the 1st.
- Change of linen and socks – men are to change their linen and socks twice in each week and flannels once a week.
- Dressing of beds – Beds are to be dressed and properly folded by 8 am throughout the year.

Single Gardaí had to live in their stations and had to be back at their stations by 11 pm unless on night duty. They were also begrudgingly allowed only 2 days leave per month.

Today, the Galway Garda Division encompasses the entire county, but this was not always the case. Initially, there were two separate divisions: Galway West, overseen by a Chief Superintendent based at Eglinton Street in Galway City, and Galway East, managed by a Chief Superintendent at Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. While Galway West remained a stand-alone division, parts of Galway East were later incorporated into the Roscommon/Galway East Division, with its headquarters in Roscommon. In 2008, following the redrawing of divisional boundaries to align with local authority areas, the unified Galway Division was established under the leadership of a Chief Superintendent based at Mill Street, Galway City; since 2018, the Galway Division is based at the new Regional Headquarters in Murrough, Galway City.

While the challenges facing the force today are considerable, they should not overshadow the many achievements of An Garda Síochána. As one of the Irish State's most enduring institutions, the Gardaí have played a vital role in establishing and maintaining peace and stability since

Saol rialta a bhíodh ag an nGarda an t-am sin, bíodh sé ar dualgas nó ná bíodh.

Sa Láimh-leabhar dualgas a cuireadh i gcló don Gharda Síochána sa bhliain 1923, luaitear gnéithe éagsúla den Reachtaíocht agus Rialacha Beairice, mar shampla –

- Leanaí ag Súgradh ar an tSráid Phoiblí – má bhíonn ag cur caiseal ag fiodrince, ag cur fonsa ar roithleagán, ag réiteach sleamhnáin nó tine chnámh, is ceart a iarraidh orthu éirí as agus iad a fhógairt i do láthair mura ndéanann.
- Ráta Siúlóide – Nuair atá Garda ar patról, is ceart siúl ar luas 3 mhíle san uair.
- Braillíní leapa a athrú – Athraítear iad uair sa mhí ar an gcéad lá den mhí.
- Línéadach agus stocaí a athrú – Athróidh na fir a gcuid línéadaigh agus stocaí faoi dhó sa tseachtain agus flainín uair sa tseachtain.
- Cóiriú leapa – Beidh an leaba cóirithe agus gach ní fillte faoin 8 r.n. gach maidin den bhliain.

Bhíodh ar Ghardaí nach raibh pósta maireachtáil sa stáisiún agus a bheith ar ais sa stáisiún faoin 11 i.n. mura raibh siad ar dualgas san oíche. Dhá lá saoire in aghaidh na míosa an méid a cheadaítí dóibh.

Baineann an contae uilig le Rannán na Gaillimhe an Gharda sa lá atá inniu ann, ach ní mar sin a bhíodh. Dhá rannán faoi leith a bhí ann ar dtús: Gaillimh Thiar, le hArd-Cheannfort i gceannas i Sráid Eglinton i mbaile mór na Gaillimhe, agus Gaillimh Thoir, faoi cheannas Ard-Cheannfoirt freisin i stáisiún Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe. Cé gur coinníodh Gaillimh Thiar ina rannán ann féin, athraíodh réimsí de Ghaillimh Thoir tráth ab fhaide anonn go Rannán nua Ros Comáin/Gaillimh Thoir le ceanncheathrú i mbaile Ros Comáin. Sa bhliain 2008, tar éis leagan amach nua ar theorainneacha rannáin lena dtabhairt le limistéir na n-údarás áitiúil, cuireadh Rannán

the nation's turbulent beginnings. This was accomplished by a largely unarmed force whose members earned the trust and goodwill of the communities they served.

Today, the responsibilities of An Garda Síochána span a wide range of areas, including crime prevention, public order, state security, economic and social regulation and emergency response. In recent years, society has called for a faster pace of change in how the organisation is structured and managed, particularly in relation to resources and priorities.

Since 1989, members of An Garda Síochána, including many Galway based members, have played a prominent role in United Nations peacekeeping missions around the world, beginning with their first deployment to Namibia. Their contributions have been formally recognised and continue to reflect the organisation's commitment to international service and cooperation.

Public satisfaction with An Garda Síochána remains consistently high, with approval ratings regularly exceeding 90 per cent. This level of trust is unmatched by other police forces of similar structure and is widely regarded as a benchmark across Irish society.

Despite the complex and ever-evolving demands of modern society, the trust and goodwill between the Irish public and An Garda Síochána endures. It was first established by the founding members in 1922 and has been carefully upheld by over 41,000 Gardaí who have served since. This legacy of public service remains central to the organisation's identity and will continue to guide its mission in the years ahead.

The chapters in this publication reflect the many facets of Garda life in Galway – from the origins of the Civic Guard and the legacy of the RIC to community policing, uniforms, transport and personal stories of service. They include topics

na Gaillimhe ar bun faoi cheannas an Ard-Cheannfoirt i Sráid an Mhuilinn agus, ón mbliain 2018 i leith, sa Cheanncheathrú Réigiúnach nua i Muirbheach, Cathair na Gaillimhe.

Cé gur iomaí deacracht a chuirtear roimh an nGarda sa lá atá inniu ann, níor cheart go ligfí i ndearmad a bhfuil bainte amach ag an nGarda Síochána. Tá an Garda ar cheann de na forais is buaine seasmhaí i stát na hÉireann agus ról buntábhachtach leis an bhfórsa maidir le síocháin agus socracht a chothú ó bhunú achrannach an náisiúin. Dream Gardaí a thug sin i gcrích nach raibh faoi airm, den chuid is mó, ach a tharraing muinín agus dea-thoil an phobail.

Sa lá atá inniu ann, tagann réimse leathan cúraimí faoi scáth an Gharda Síochána, mar shampla coireanna a chosc, an t-ord poiblí, slándáil an stáit, rialáil eacnamaíochta agus sóisialta agus beartaíocht i gcásanna éigeandála. Le tamall de bhlianta anuas, tá ráta athraithe níos tréine á éileamh ag an bpobal maidir le struchtúr agus bainistíocht na heagraíochta, go háirithe maidir le hacmhainní agus leis an ord tábhachta ina gcuirtear réimsí éagsúla.

Ón mbliain 1989 i leith, tá daoine den Gharda Síochána, baill atá lonnaithe i nGaillimh ina measc, i mbun ról tábhachtach le misin síochánaíochta de chuid na Náisiún Aontaithe ar fud an domhain, ó chuaigh siad ar dualgas i dtosach sa Namaib. Tugadh aitheantas foirmeálta don fhónamh atá déanta acu agus is léiriú i gcónaí é ar dhúthracht na heagraíochta maidir le seirbhís agus comhoibriú idirnáisiúnta.

Bíonn sástacht an phobail leis an nGarda Síochána ar leibhéal ard go seasta leanúnach le rátaí os cionn 90% go rialta. Níl leibhéal muiníne den sórt sin i gceist le fórsaí póilíneachta eile a eagraítear ar an gcuma chéanna agus aithnítear mar shlat tomhais seo ar fud shochaí na hÉireann.

Ainneoin a chasta agus a sho-athraithe a mbíonn á éileamh ag sochaí an lae inniu, leanann an trust

ranging from The Royal Irish Constabulary, Republican policing, females in An Garda Síochána, Gaeltacht policing, Garda equipment, Roll of Honour, Scott Medals, Garda Staff and a photo gallery, among many others.

Together, these contributions offer a rich and varied portrait of An Garda Síochána in Galway – its people, its places and its enduring commitment to public service.

If the founding members of An Garda Síochána had failed in 1922, the State would have failed. Successive generations of Gardaí have carried that same burden, ensuring the State's continued stability and development.

agus an dea-thoil idir pobal na hÉireann agus an Garda Síochána. Na Gardaí tosaigh a chothaigh sin ar dtús sa bhliain 1922 agus rinne líon is mó ná 41,000 Garda a rinne dualgas ó shin cúram dá choinneáil ar bun. Is gné lárnach d'aitheantas na heagraíochta i gcónaí an oidhreacht maidir le seirbhís phoiblí agus leanfaidh sin ina lóchrann eolais i rith na mblianta seo romhainn.

Tugann caibidlí an leabhair léargas ar na gnéithe éagsúla a bhaineann le saol na nGardaí i nGaillimh – an Garda Sibhialta a chur ar bun agus oidhreacht na Constáblachta Ríoga, póilíneacht pobail, éide agus deiseanna taistil, agus scéalta pearsanta faoi dhéanamh na hoibre. Áirítear ar an réimse ábhair Constáblacht Ríoga na hÉireann, póilíneacht na bPoblachtánach, Mná sa Gharda Síochána, póilíneacht sa Ghaeltacht, éide agus trealamh an Gharda, poilíneacht pobail, Bonn Scott, Foireann an Gharda, Gailearaí Grianghraf i measc cuid mhór eile.

Ar a dtiomsú le chéile, faightear léargas breá iléagsúil ar an nGarda Síochána i nGaillimh – ar na daoine, ar na háiteanna agus ar an dúthracht leanúnach i mbun seirbhíse don phobal.

Dá dtarlaíodh sa bhliain 1922 nach n-éireodh leis na Gardaí ba luaithe, bheadh teipthe freisin ar an Stát. Tá glúnta i ndiaidh a chéile de na Gardaí a chuir an t-ualach céanna sin díobh ionas gur cinntíodh buanaíocht agus forbairt an Stáit.

Garda Station Party, Ballymoe, 1926.
Photo source: *Garda Review.*
Foireann Bheairic na nGardaí, Béal Átha Mó, 1926.
Grianghraf: *Garda Review.*

Photo Gallery

Gailearaí na nGrianghraf

Forster Park House, 1920s which became Salthill Garda Station from 1934. Courtesy of Tom Kenny.

Teach Pháirc Forster sna 1920idí, Beairic na nGardaí i mBóthar na Trá ón mbliain 1934. Le caoinchead Tom Kenny.

Williamstown Garda Station Party, 1929. Standing left to right: Garda T. Moorhead and Garda J. Connolly. Sitting: Garda E. Shea and 'barrack pet', Sergeant M.J. Woods and Garda O'Boyle. Photo source: *Garda Review.*

Foireann Bheairic Bhaile Liam, 1929. Ina seasamh, ó chlé go deas: An Garda T. Moorhead, an Garda J. Connolly. Ina suí: An Garda E. Shea agus Peata na Beairice, an Sáirsint M.J. Woods, an Garda O'Boyle. Grianghraf: *Garda Review.*

Clifden Garda Station Party, c. 1930.
Front row, Left to right: Garda Kennelly, Garda Morgan, Sergeant Reilly, Garda Manning and Garda Nolan.
Back row, left to right: Gardaí Sharkey, Carr, member unknown, Conway and Gannon.
Photo source: *Garda Review.*
Foireann Bheairic na nGardaí, an Clochán, c. 1930.
Chun tosaigh, ó chlé go deas: Na Gardaí Kennelly, Morgan, an Sáirsint Reilly, na Gardaí Manning agus Nolan.
An líne cúil, ó chlé go deas: Na Gardaí Sharkey, Carr, gan ainm, Conway agus Gannon.
Grianghraf: *Garda Review.*

Inspection of Loughrea District by Commissioner Garvey, 1977.
Courtesy of Loughrea Garda Station.
Scrúdú Cigireachta á dhéanamh ag an gCoimisinéir Garvey ar Cheantar Bhaile Locha Riach, 1977.
Le caoinchead Stáisiún na nGardaí, Baile Locha Riach.

Garda Stephen Crofton, Loughrea, c. 1950s/60s. Garda Genealogy and History Ireland, Facebook.
An Garda Stephen Crofton, Baile Locha Riach, c. 1950idí/60idí. Garda Genealogy and History Ireland, Facebook.

Official launch of Salthill District, 1994. Courtesy of Garda D.K. Lawlor.
Ceantar Bhóthar na Trá á sheoladh go hoifigiúil, 1994. Le caoinchead an Gharda D.K. Lawlor.

Front row: Tom Treacy, John Gillespie, John Gilmartin, Joe Carey, Jim Sugrue, Christy Reilly, Hugh McClafferty and Tom Shea. Back row: Maurice Kavanagh, John Leen, Jim Boyle, Frank Larkin, Pat Guerin, Gerry Davey, Denis Lawlor, Stephen Connolly, Jim Cuddy, Bert Lynch, Mick Fitspatrick, Sean McMenamon and Brendan Fitzgerald, c. 1985.
Courtesy of Galway Garda Station.

Sraith tosaigh: Tom Treacy, John Gillespie, John Gilmartin, Joe Carey, Jim Sugrue, Christy Reilly, Hugh McClafferty and Tom Shea. Sraith chúl: Maurice Kavanagh, John Leen, Jim Boyle, Frank Larkin, Pat Guerin, Gerry Davey, Denis Lawlor, Stephen Connolly, Jim Cuddy, Bert Lynch, Mick Fitzpatrick, Sean McMenamon agus Brendan Fitzgerald. Timpeall 1985.
Creidiúint grianghraf: Stáisiún Gardaí na Gaillimhe.

In Memory of / I gCuimhne ar...

Garda John Lovett, 18766F, 1953-2003. Courtesy of Galway Garda Station.
An Garda John Lovett, 18766F, 1953-2003. Le caoinchead Stáisiún na nGardaí, Gaillimh.

Garda Eugene Earls, 24708A, Tuam Garda Station, died 2016.
An Garda Eugene Earls, 24708A, Stáisiún Gardaí Thuama, a fuair bás in 2016.

Garda Shane Cuffe, 30565M, Clifden Garda Station, died 2018.
An Garda Shane Cuffe, 30565M, Stáisiún Gardaí an Chlocháin, a fuair bás in 2025.

Garda Don Connellan, 27709F, Galway Garda Station, died 2025.
An Garda Don Connellan, 27709F, Stáisiún na nGardaí Gaillimh,a fuair bás in 2025.

Garda Diarmuid Ó Tuairisg, 36471A, Galway Garda Station, died 2025.
An Garda Diarmuid Ó Tuairisg, 36471A, Stáisiún na nGardaí Gaillimh, a fuair bás in 2025.

Garda Torch Run, 1996. Photo source: *Connacht Tribune.*
Rith Tóirse an Gharda, 1996. Grianghraf: An *Curadh Connachtach.*

Galway Divisional Community Gardaí, 2025.
Left to right: Garda Ger Naughton, Garda Seamus McDonnell, Garda Nigel Silke, Garda Michelle Sandes, Garda Alan Murphy, Garda Alan Keane and Garda Petrina Devery. Photo source: Seán Lydon.
Gardaí Pobail Rannáin na Gaillimhe, 2025.
Ó chlé go deas: An Garda Ger Naughton, An Garda Seamus McDonnell, An Garda Nigel Silke, An Garda Michelle Sandes, An Garda Alan Murphy, An Garda Alan Keane agus An Garda Petrina Devery. Grianghraf: Seán Lydon.

Election Duty, 1977. Photo source: *Connacht Tribune*.
Dualgas Toghcháin, 1977. Grianghraf: An *Curadh Connachtach*.

Garda D.K. Lawlor.
Courtesy of Galway Garda Station.
An Garda D.K. Lawlor.
Le caoinchead Bheairic na nGardaí, Gaillimh.

Garda Fiona Whyte, Superintendent Marie Skehill and Garda Ann Connor. St Patrick's Day, Galway. Courtesy of Galway Garda Station.
An Garda Fiona Whyte, an Ceannfort Marie Skehill agus an Garda Ann Connor. Lá Fhéile Pádraig, Gaillimh. Le caoinchead Bheairic na nGardaí, Gaillimh.

Inspector Mick Dwyer. Courtesy of Galway Garda Station.
An Cigire Mick Dwyer. Le caoinchead Bheairic na nGardaí, Gaillimh.

Ballinasloe District – Garda Dinner Dance, 1965.
Ceantar Bhéal Átha na Sluaighe – Damhsa Dinnéir an Gharda Síochána, 1965.
Photo credit / Grianghraf: Garda Genealogy and History Ireland, Facebook.

Galway Garda Choir, 2002/Cór Gharda na Gaillimhe, 2002.
Back / Ar chúl – John Leen, Hugh McGrath, Jim McDermott, Denis Quilty, Martin Lally, John O'Brien, Denis Sweeney,
Middle / Sa lár – Damien Duddy, Paddy Barrins, Frank Keane, Jim Griffin, Margaret Hannon, Sinead Conway, Gerry Mac Loughlin, John Lovett, Pat Heneghan.
Front / Tosaigh – An tAthair F. Lee, George McGrath, Peter Conlon, Helen Scanlon, Karen Lynagh, Laura Friel, Marie Lohan, Fidelma O Connor, Jim Cuddy, Peadar Brick, Tom Morris.
Photo credit / Grianghraf: – An Garda Síochána, Galway / Stáisiún Gardaí na Gaillimhe.

Last day at Eglinton Street Garda Station, 1986.
An lá deireanach ag Stáisiún Gardaí Shráid Eglinton, 1986.
Photo credit / Grianghraf:
An Garda Síochána, Galway /
Stáisiún Gardaí na Gaillimhe.

Garda Madeline Curtin, Galway Garda Station, 2024.
Courtesy of Galway Garda Station.
An Garda Madeline Curtin, Stáisiún na nGardaí Gaillimh, 2024.
Le caoinchead Stáisiún na nGardaí Gaillimh.

AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA
GALWAY | GAILLIMH

"The Garda Síochána will succeed not by force of arms or numbers, but by their moral authority as servants of the people."

Commissioner Michael Staines, first Commissioner of the Civic Guard (later An Garda Síochána), 1922.
An Coimisinéir Michael Staines, céad Choimisinéir an Gharda Shibhialta (An Garda Síochána ina dhiaidh sin), 1922.

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

An Roinn Cultúir, Cumarsáide agus Spóirt
Department of Culture, Communications and Sport