

### A Creative View of A Saturday Night Duty (Reserve Garda Aidan Grant, Waterford)

Recently Reserve Garda Aidan Grant performed a tour of duty in his native city Waterford. The following is a brief report from him describing what this duty entailed -

'I reported to my Sergeant just before 10 pm and proceeded to the parade room for our brief and duty detail. An update was provided on some recent incidents and occurrences followed by reading the logged calls. I was sent to assist on communications. Being on communications means just that "communicating".

I gathered some small useful items i.e. jotter and local map for even a local Waterfordian does not know every single location and I didn't want to rely on my GPS (*Grants Positioning System!*).

The next three hours were spent assisting another fulltime member dealing with a whole range of calls from the Public, Ambulance Control, Alarm companies, other Garda Stations, the 999 Emergency line and of course radio calls.

from various units calling base. This duty is a real test of multitasking and never fails to stimulate me as anything can happen. Following this I kitted up and went on the beat with my full time colleague. We walked to a public in an area which has several nightclubs and fast food establishments. We established our position in the middle of the nightclubs and I went into a natural scan of all in view noting the various groupings.

At this point the clubs were beginning to empty and the streets were filling up with many hundreds of patrons, happy ,content and mainly law biding, but there are always exceptions. We detected a call for assistance which was confirmed by the sight of members running towards an incident just around the corner. We immediately ran to give assistance where three males claimed that they were attacked by two other males. A struggle was ensuing as we arrived. Assistance was sought from the

Public order van and as the siren grew louder it was reassuring when extra help arrived.

One man had received some minor facial injuries. I was asked by my Sergeant to take some details from those involved.

My final incident of the night involved a report that a large group of youths were fighting near a late night food establishment at the other end of town. We immediately boarded the van and headed for the trouble. Arriving on scene there was no sign of any Public Disorder.

At this point it was 4am and the streets had returned to calm and stillness as the last few boarded taxis home, happy in their night's entertainment. After my shift my Sergeant thanked me as I added more experience and several more hours to my R85'.

**Garda Reserve Aidan Grant**



# Garda Reserve Newsletter

### Foreword by Commissioner Fachtna Murphy



As the Garda Reserve approaches its second anniversary I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all Garda Reserve members for your enthusiasm and positive contribution in supporting full time members of An Garda Síochána.

Continued success will be assured if all members continue to actively promote the Garda Reserve in your own towns and communities. It is a true statement that the best promotion and advertisement comes from within and every member has a role to play in this success story.



### Message From Chief Superintendent Mary Fitzgerald

This newsletter consists of contributions from a number of Garda Reserve members telling of their experiences both in and outside their role as Garda Reserves. There are currently four hundred members of the Garda Reserve nationwide. In the first ten months of 2008 there have been over three thousand eight hundred new applicants. This is a significant achievement and the Public Appointments Service has increased the number of interview dates for the final quarter of 2008. The number of applicants indicates the national profile that the Garda Reserve has achieved in a relatively short period of time. I hope that this newsletter will be used as a means of encouragement, sharing and contact for all Garda Reserve members. I extend heartfelt Christmas Wishes to all Garda reserve members and your families.

Volume 1

Issue 1

#### Inside this issue:

The Forum	2/3
Ennis to Goradisce	3
Getting the Balance	3/4
Did You Know?	4
Garda Mission	5
Ploughing Ahead	6
Ireland AM	7
A Creative View	8

## How we Became... the Forum (Reserve Garda Steve Egar, Anglesea Street., Cork)

What we all are part of, is what binds us together. Being a Garda Reserve Member, and as an individual within this organisation, I found it more and more difficult to keep in touch with the other people within my training group.

In Templemore nearly two years ago, I gathered as many contact numbers as I could. Going back to Cork, the only way I could keep up to date with members in other regions of the country was by phone or email.

At the Reserve meeting in Westmanstown earlier this year, a wall of blue uniforms greeted us upon reaching the top of the stairs. My vision of 40 odd members was wiped away in a flash on seeing almost the full number of the Reserve Members on that day.

Throughout this meeting with the Garda Commissioner, Chief Superintendent Fitzgerald & Superintendent O' Connor, many questions came from the floor.

It became very evident that our personal questions were also questions that others had and that we as Reserve members should focus our ideas, fears, hopes, and of course our personal professional experience into a focus group.

So from looking at this I had the gut feeling that we should get ourselves talking and sharing information. With assistance from within the Garda Reserve, the forum was created and we started getting acknowledged and set up. Permission was sought from Garda Headquarters.

I planned to organise the reserve forum into regions and area representatives.

### The Duties of the Forum Include -

- Make our group known to as many Garda Reserve members as possible.
- Be a focal group for ideas from within the Garda Reserve Office.
- To give Garda Management a useful tool in which to disseminate information, quick

and direct to forum members.

- To be a tool for all Reserve members to utilise if required in order to get questions answered from within the forum.
- To be useful to a member who might be stationed within a rural area and has little contact with other Reserves.
- Assisting Reserve members in any issues they feel they need help with.
- Give valuable feedback to members on ongoing meetings and news.

We now have many regions set up, having representatives locally and have had our first ever National meeting in Thurles recently. Chief Superintendent Fitzgerald was invited to talk to us. The Chief Superintendent's attendance only strengthened our resolve to make a difference to our full time members, and assist in anyway we can in order to get the Reserves more visible in the public's eyes.



## Ireland A.M. - Interview on T.V.3

On Friday the 26th of September Chief Superintendent Mary Fitzgerald, Reserve Garda Breda Raggett (Kilkenny) and Reserve Garda Paul Kinsella (Navan) were interviewed on Ireland A.M. by Mark Cagney and Sinead Desmond. The interview was conducted live and had an approximate audience of 180,000.



Reserve Garda Paul Kinsella, Chief Superintendent Mary Fitzgerald and Reserve Garda Breda Raggett prepare for interview

## Why I Joined the Garda Reserve (Reserve Garda Tom O'Neill, Finglas)

Since graduating in the second group of Garda reservists in May 2007 I have carried out over 800 operational hours in Finglas Station as well as other district duties.

The duties I have carried out vary from public office, beat patrol, mobile patrol, assisting with scene preservation, event duties such as cycle and road races, music concerts, and recruitment fairs.

Having always had respect for the Gardaí I can only say that this respect has grown even more after seeing the job

*"from the inside out"* and seeing the risks and duties that my full time colleagues carry out on a daily basis. I have nothing but admiration and respect for them and my fellow Reservists nationwide.

When I joined the reserve I found it exactly what I thought it would be, challenging and unpredictable. You never know what the next call is going to be or what you will be faced with.

Every time I am on duty I feel that I am helping the people of Ireland whether I am on duty in

the public office or if I am patrolling with a full time colleague, I am supporting and helping them in every way I can. I would recommend the Garda Reserve to anyone who has a sense of duty towards their community and country and especially to anyone who wishes to make a full time career in An Garda Síochána.

**Tom O'Neill**

(Garda Reserve – Finglas)

### The National Ploughing Championships - Kilkenny 2008

The 2008 National Ploughing Championships took place in Farnley, Cuffesgrange, Co. Kilkenny, from Tuesday the 23rd of September to Thursday 25th September.

The championships boasted a fantastic demonstration of machinery as well as a 70 acre trade arena with a huge cross section of businesses taking stands at one of Europe's premier agricultural events.

An Garda Síochána had a promotional stand at the event incorporating the Garda Reserve, Community Policing

and the Garda Traffic Corps. Garda Reserves from Kilkenny were deployed operationally for the event which attracted an average of 80,000 per day.

The following Garda Reserves came from further afield to assist at the Garda Reserve Stand - Garda Reserves Mary Cody, Lucy Phelan, Eleanor Murphy, Aidan Grant, Kieran Keneally, Stephen Foley (Waterford), Breda Raggett (Kilkenny) and Michael Ryan (Galway).



Thank you to all Garda Reserve members who volunteered and contributed in a very positive and professional manner across the three day event.



Reserve Garda Kieran Keneally, Sergeant Alan Mc Govern, Reserve Garda Michael Ryan and Reserve Garda Aidan Grant at the Garda Reserve Promotional Stand - National Ploughing Championships 2008

We have grown from strength to strength through word of mouth and a mail burst from HQ to all serving members.

It is hoped shortly to make ourselves known to members in training in Templemore through handouts and this Reserve Newsletter.

*(If you wish to be a forum member, Steve Egar can be contacted on 086 6054892, steve.egar@topazenergy.ie or steveegar@gmail.com).*

### From Ennis to Goradische

Garda Reserve Edel Meaney, attached to Ennis Garda Station, Co. Clare recently volunteered in a children's orphanage in Goradische, Russia.

Edel raised money and spent a week in the orphanage helping young victims, suffering from the fall out of the Chernobyl tragedy. The Orphanage where Edel helped has 220 orphans of various ages.



Garda Reserve Edel Meaney Giving a Helping Hand at Goradische Orphanage

### Getting the Balance - Full Time Employment & Garda Reserve

In each publication we hope to profile the full time working commitments of a Garda Reserve. In this publication we are looking at the Profile of: Reserve Garda Evan Mulvey, Millstreet Garda Station, Galway. [This is his story](#) –

“My name is Evan Mulvey and I am a member of An Garda Síochána with the rank of Reserve Garda.

I am currently managing an ever improving and extremely busy ramp in an International Airport. In my role as Manager Ramp Operations I have completed and maintain several vital manuals, which are key to the success of Galway Airport from a safety, quality and accountability viewpoint. De Icing, Ramp Operations, Dispatch of Aircraft and Runway Incursion are examples of my manuals.

I am currently sitting on the Safety Committee for Galway Airport, which also includes the Runway Safety Committee. As you can see from the picture below the training we go through for the fire service is quite intensive and not for the faint hearted”.



Reserve Garda Evan Mulvey at Work



Reserve Garda Evan Mulvey,  
Millstreet Garda Station, Galway

"I joined the Garda Reserve in September of 2006, graduating in December of 2006 and I am currently serving in Millstreet Garda station in Galway City. From the beginning I was made to feel completely welcome and accepted into a very professional and close organisation with full support when and if I needed it. Galway is a thriving city and was

in the past number of years the fastest expanding city in Europe with a multi cultural and diverse society. As a Reserve Garda in Galway I have seen and experienced a vast array of essential policing duties. I can say that as a Reserve Garda in Galway I am very pleased and proud to be in the position I am in and feel that my presence is making a difference, be it not on a massive scale however to coin a phrase: *'Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is*

*progress. Working together is success.'*

It is with the continued effort and consistent support from all concerned which will be the success of the Garda Reserve in the long term going forward and it is my intention to remain & give my full support to this organisation".

### Did You Know?

The latest figure, taken from the Garda Public Attitudes Survey 2007, confirms that 81% of the public are satisfied with Garda performance. Encouragingly this is a rise of 2% from 2006. Well done to all Garda members who contributed to this success and undoubtedly this includes Garda Reserve members (the 81 % is calculated from a survey of 10,000 people).

## An Garda Síochána – Vision, Mission Statement and Values

### Vision

- Excellent people, delivering policing excellence.

### Mission Statement

- To achieve the highest attainable level of Personal Protection, Community Commitment and State Security.

### Values

- Having respect for people and their needs.
- Protecting human rights.
- Being a courteous and caring public service.
- Maintaining partnerships with the community.
- Accepting individual responsibility.
- Ensuring transparent public accountability.
- Providing ethical leadership.
- Practicing disciplined professionalism.
- Being honest and truthful in adhering to the principles of fairness and justice.
- Promoting and accepting diversity in all its forms.



Reserve Garda Ke Sheng, Pearse Street, Dublin