

Winter | 2012

# COMMUNITY TIMES

COMUNIDY LIWES



Winter Ready



**An Garda Síochána** | Working with Communities to Protect and Serve

# COMMUNITY TIMES

eNEWSLETTER

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Sergeant Alan Keane

Garda Ian Leslie

Ms Jacqueline Martin

### About this eNewsletter

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

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

## Editorial

Welcome to the Winter 2012 edition of the Community Times eNewsletter.

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

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

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

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

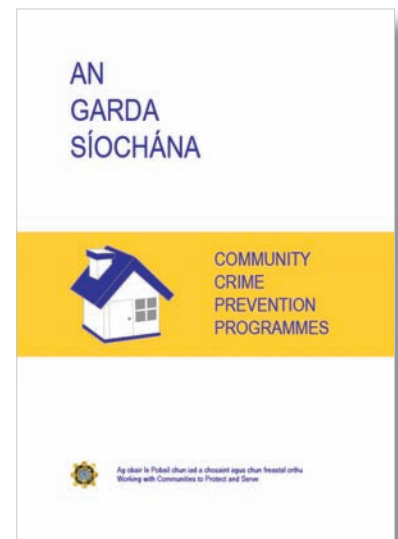
We would like to wish everyone a safe and peaceful time over the festive holidays. We acknowledge all of the hard work by those engaged in community policing who have displayed motivation and commitment to initiatives that have benefitted our communities. Without their personal drive for making things happen and achieving results, a host of successful initiatives that support and protect the community would not be achieved. It is a good time of year to reflect on the difference that you have made through your contribution to the community.

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### On the Cover...

Stay safe this season. Safety Tips on pages 7 and 8.



# Community Engagement



**T**he Commissioner of An Garda Síochána approved the implementation of new policy governing the establishment and operation of all Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert groups in November 2012. The “Community Crime Prevention Programmes” document outlines the structure and roles of all participants in both Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert.

This is an important step for Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert as the new “Community Crime Prevention Programmes” document was constructed following an extensive review and consultation process of how both Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert operate in practice. Garda Community Relations and Community Policing acknowledge the assistance and support received from Muintir na Tíre, Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert members. The new “Community Crime Prevention Programmes” policy now emphasises the importance of a practical and local community approach to social crime prevention activity. Each Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert group is now also integrated into the local policing environment through associated connections with a local Liaison Garda

and annual contact with you Garda District and Divisional Officers. This will help to realise active partnerships between An Garda Síochána and communities.

The “Community Crime Prevention Programmes” document is now available at [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie) and further information on establishing and operating Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert is also available from your local Garda Station. Further information on Community can also be obtained from [www.muintir.ie](http://www.muintir.ie).

**O**n behalf of An Garda Síochána, we would like to acknowledge the role of Neighbourhood Watch & Community Alert representatives.

We recognise the contribution of the representatives who have worked to build and maintain partnerships between An Garda Síochána and the community. An Garda Síochána has enjoyed an excellent relationship with the community in this area over many years and we are confident that this relationship will continue and be enhanced in the future.

During the winter period we would suggest that each Community Alert/ Neighbourhood Watch representative would;

- Call and check on the security and welfare of any older persons who live alone
- Double check on at risk or vulnerable people
- Pass on any crime prevention advice that has been distributed by Liaison Gardaí or issued on the Garda Website
- Report any suspicious or unusual activity

Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert schemes are well placed to support and assist their own communities in partnership with An Garda Síochána. Last winter, during the cold spell, many Community Alert and Neighbourhood Watch schemes were instrumental in leading community action to assist older and vulnerable people during the freeze. It would be useful to bear such initiatives in mind at this time of the year again.

Continue to check out [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie) for up to date advice and [www.winterready.ie](http://www.winterready.ie) for some useful information on planning for winter.





## Where To Turn

Free APP!!!

An App for young people by young people

This app is aimed at young people ages between 15-25 years of age to give them information and help on mental health. It is designed to give you contact information on services available in Ireland and **WHERE TO TURN** if you need help with a mental health issue or if you just feel the need to talk to someone who can help you.

Download Now!!!



Available on the App Store

Coming Soon for Apple!!!



Created by the members of Ratoath Senior Foróige Youth Club

# Where To Turn

A phone app has been created and developed by the Ratoath Senior Foróige club with the assistance of their Community Garda Aisling Connor attached to Ashbourne Garda Station. The app includes information, a short quiz, and a game.

This App is free to download and is aimed at people aged 12-25 years to give information on services available locally and nationally. They also created a website which contains all of the information - [www.wheretoturn.ie](http://www.wheretoturn.ie).

The App "Where to turn" promotes positive mental health, if you are having problems, feeling down, anxious and don't know where to turn.

It contains a wealth of information - lists of services e.g. headstrong, Pieta House, H.S.E, D Doc, Aware, Shine etc. Ratoath Foróige young people also designed bookmarks, posters and leaflets describing this app with a barcode on each item allowing the app to be downloaded with ease on Android phones.

The Foróige members are still working with Apple to develop this app for I-phones and they hope to have it completed in the near future. When the app for the I-phone is developed it can be scanned using the 'QR barcode scanner app' onto the I-phone.

This app was designed by young people for young people and can be a beneficial tool for members of An Garda Síochána to promote mental health awareness to young people.





# LEABHAR DATHÚCHÁIN



An Garda Síochána | Oifig Náisiúnta na Póilíneachta Pobail  
www.garda.ie

# COLOURING BOOK



An Garda Síochána | National Community Policing Office  
www.garda.ie

## Garda Colouring Book

The Garda Colouring Book for young children has recently been designed and produced by the Design Team at the National Community Policing Office, Harcourt Square. The idea, as with many recent initiatives, was initially generated through our Community Policing network, via material featured in the Community Times newsletter.

We received an enquiry from the Community Policing unit in Tralee asking if we could produce material such as a colouring sheet, suitable for distribution to children at a local Garda Open day for an event entitled 'children's colour corner'.

We researched material used by police services internationally and felt that a colouring book would work well. As an important added feature we felt that a short, age-appropriate Crime Prevention message should be included on each page.

The Garda Colouring Book was launched in English and Irish on the Garda Website, the Garda Portal and the Garda Facebook Page during the first week in November 2012. We have received a huge amount of positive feedback from around the country.

**The Irish Mail**  
ON SUNDAY

The Irish Mail On Sunday 4th October, 2012, commented:

*Boys in blue have colourful new initiative*

*THEY won't face any penalties for swerving outside the lines, but young recipients of new Garda colouring books are sure to be careful not to mix up red, green and amber.*

*The Garda-themed children's colouring book features eight line drawings including an officer, a patrol car, a Garda bicycle, a helicopter, a boat, a member of the dog unit, a motorbike and the An Garda Síochána emblem.*

*It was published as part of the force's continued support and engagement with Community Gardaí, who are supposed to use the activity book when interacting with children in playschools, children's art competitions and youth groups.*

**THE DAILY EDGE**

The Daily Edge website commented:

*A challenge for you: The Garda colouring book*

*Don't worry. We won't arrest you if you colour outside the lines.*

*WE WANT TO see your talents. Print off the Garda colouring book – which we have pounced on with glee upon discovering it on the Garda Síochána website – colour it in (or get your kids or other smallies to do it) and send us pictures or scans of the results.*

*We'll put the best ones in a slideshow. Well, we'll put all of them in a slideshow. We're sound like that.*



WorldIrish website commented:

*Have You Heard About The New Colouring Book From An Garda Síochána?*

*An Garda Síochána, The Irish police, have released a downloadable Children's colouring book. The book, available in both English and Irish versions features 8 line drawings and also contains good advice from the Community Policing team from: 'if you get lost, ask a Garda for help' to 'be careful at the seaside, don't go swimming on your own'.*

In the first three days, the Garda Facebook received 4087 views, 101 'likes', 34 shares and 11 comments. The Colouring Book was also tweeted by Garda Traffic section.

During the same period the Garda website received 8,000 views. The Colouring Book was downloaded 7,350 times.

Article submitted by Design Team, National Community Policing Office





## Louth Crime Prevention

**C**ongratulations to Sergeant Vincent Jackson, the Crime Prevention officer for Louth Division and Community Garda Patricia Flynn, Ardee Station for hosting the Garda Crime Prevention stand at the recent Age Friendly Expo. The very successful event, helping to promote and support Louth as a leading Age Friendly County, was held at Darver Castle, Dundalk, Co Louth on Sunday 7th October.

I had the pleasure of joining Vincent and Patricia on the busy Garda stand. There was great interest from the large crowd attending the expo in the impressive selection of literature as well as the safety and security advice provided.

Gavin Duffy of Dragon's Den, who opened the event, kindly helped us to promote our newly designed Crime Prevention Doorhanger, both during the opening and later at the Garda stand. We received very positive feedback from the many people who had seen the doorhanger for the first time and approximately 400 of them were distributed over the course of the day.

Article submitted by:  
Garda Ian Leslie, National Community Policing Office.

**B**eat the Burglar Exhibition in the D Hotel, Drogheda on Saturday the 27th October 2012.

The Beat the Burglar Exhibition was held on Saturday the 27th October 2012 in the D Hotel, Drogheda from 12noon to 4pm. This event was hosted by An Garda Síochána in conjunction with that committee.

Superintendent Gerry Smith, the District Officer for Drogheda Garda District has spoken of his concern in the recent rise in Burglaries in the Drogheda Area.

While in the past 4 years there has been a reduction in burglaries in the Drogheda District, 2012 has shown an increase in the trend. As part of a wider crime reduction strategy it was deemed necessary to heighten awareness for members of the public in relation to the vulnerability of their homes and places of business to intrusion by burglary.

The event was free to the Public and it is our hope that the exhibition was inspirational for both home owners and business people. It showed the public the latest electronic and physical protection which is available to protect their premises. The Divisional Crime Prevention

Officer, Sergeant Vincent Jackson was available to give up to date Crime Prevention Advice.

He spoke of the need for people to constantly review their home security and examine its strengths and weaknesses. The Beat the Burglar Exhibition was an opportunity for the Security Providers to display different products which are currently available. The range of products on display ranged from Intruder Alarm Installers, CCTV, Electric Gates, Retractable Trellis, Access Control Monitors, Locksmiths, Oil Tank Security, Garda Crime Prevention, Road Safety, Community Service for the Elderly.

The 1500 in attendance showed a keen interest in Home Security. Others were on the lookout for something that would fit their specific needs. The Beat the Burglar Exhibition provided a wonderful educational opportunity in Crime Prevention.

Article submitted by:  
Sergeant Vincent Jackson, Crime Prevention Officer.





# Roscommon Road Safety Day

An Garda Síochána, Roscommon County Council and the Road Safety Authority (RSA) held a Road Safety Awareness day in Roscommon Town on Saturday 6th October 2012 from 12noon to 4pm. There was great support from the community who called to the Square throughout the day.

The RSA had their interactive shuttle bus and the roll-over simulator in the Square. The RSA roll-over simulator is fitted to a hydraulic platform which can simulate a 90 degree and 180 degree roll-over. It demonstrates how it would feel if you were a driver or passenger involved in a less than desirable incident.

Demonstrations were given by Roscommon Fire Service and the Ambulance Service showing what happens at a collision scene in terms of extracting victims from a car and treating their injuries. One observer commented that it was like taking a traffic collision from a quiet country road in the middle of the night and placing it in the centre of the town. It created a real sense of reality to the road safety message.

The Traffic Corps from Roscommon/Longford Division displayed some of their equipment designed to detect

offenders who breach the most common life-saver offences.

The Midland Motor Club exhibited a rally car. Anthony Dolan, a rally driver with the Midlands Motor Club explained the many safety features that distinguish his rally car from a standard road vehicle.

This Road Safety Day was also kindly supported by the following local businesses who offered special safety advice for motorists and cyclists. Further information is available by calling to:

- Casseys Car Sales, Lanesboro Road
- Dermot Hughes' Toyota, Athlone Road
- Keanes' VW, Lanesboro Street
- Castle St Tyre Centre, Castle Street
- Roscommon Tyre Centre, Circular Road
- Neilan's Cycles, Lanesboro Road
- The Bike Shop, Castle St

High-Vis jackets and armbands were distributed by the Road Safety Officer from Roscommon County Council and Roscommon Gardaí.







## Garda Air Support Unit Visit

The School Liaison Officer stationed at Borrisokane, Garda Paul Monaghan, organised a visit from the Garda Air Support Unit to Cloughjordan G.A.A. field on for both the No.1 National School and St. Michael's National School Cloughjordan Co. Tipperary.

On the morning of the visit the children from both schools, accompanied by their teachers, arrived at the hurling field. They were all wearing Hi-visibility jackets which Garda Monaghan had received from the RSA and handed out to the children.

As part of the visit, the Thurles Traffic Corps provided assistance. They arrived on their motorbikes and in patrol cars which lead to great excitement from the children. They were allowed to see inside the cars and what was on the motorbikes.

As the Garda Helicopter began to approach the hurling field, the children became very excited. The helicopter came down and hovered over the field and carried out a number of displays.

Eventually the helicopter landed in the field. All of the children were brought up to the helicopter where

they were shown the equipment and were allowed to ask the pilot and crew questions about the helicopter. The pilot and crew were excellent in the way they answered the children and in their demonstrations of the equipment.

As the helicopter departed the field all of the children were waving and cheering as the siren rang out.

This event was a great success and was greatly appreciated by the local community. There was a lot of praise given by the local community to their local Gardaí for this event as many said it is something that the

children will never forget.

Article submitted by:  
Garda Paul Monaghan, Borrisokane  
Garda Station







# Seasonal Safety Tips

## Safe Driving Over Christmas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Staying Safe When Out Shopping

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

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

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

Never keep your wallet in your back pocket.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Keep the car door locked, even when travelling.

Don't leave your house keys in your car.

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

## Staying Safe On A Night Out

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

Carry your mobile phone (charged!).

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

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



Safety Tips continued on page 7



### Going Away For The Festive Holiday

Make your home look like someone is living in it.

Cancel any newspaper or milk deliveries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### At Home

Lock and bolt your doors and windows.

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

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

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

Never leave keys in view of the windows or doors.

Put presents under the Christmas tree early on Christmas morning.

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





# Around The Country...



The Balbriggan "youthreach" group participate in a Criminal Justice and Court Services education module "Lets Look at the Law". The aim is to educate students on specific areas of the Irish legal system. Based on the work done in the classroom the group ran a successful and educational mock Trial at Balbriggan Court house on Friday 22nd June. Each student was assigned a role in the trial which included court registrar, defendant, witness, jury, barristers, solicitors and Gardaí.



On the 31st of October 2012, Dublin City Business Association presented An Garda Síochána with two state of the art urban Segways. The not for profit organisation with responsibility for developing and promoting Dublin City Centre for the last 35 years has donated the Segways in a pilot scheme to improve the mobility and visibility of members of Dublin's Gardaí on the city's high street. The handover which took place on Dublin's Grafton Street has the potential to be a precedent for urban policing in Ireland and will be monitored closely for potential rollout in other cities nationwide.



The Finglas Community Gardaí Schools GAA Tournament took place at Erins Isle GAA Club. Over 170 children took part. All participants received a Gold Medal which was engraved along with a Certificate of participation and the winning teams were presented with a perpetual trophy by Assistant Commissioner John Twomey. The Cups were kindly sponsored by the Finglas Safety Forum. Garda Community Relations Section, Harcourt Square supplied the Gold Garda Medals for the occasion.



The annual Tullow Garda Sponsored U/10 GAA Football Blitz was once again held at St Patricks GAA Club Tullow Co. Carlow on Sunday 9th September 2012. This was the thirteenth running of the tournament and it continues to go from strength to strength. The event saw the participation of over 180 children from GAA clubs from the Tullow Garda Administration area or on its periphery. Each child left the event with a medal and the customary "goodie bag". The blitz was held in great spirit and not even any of the parents were shown a yellow card! The event brought a great buzz and lots of excitement around the club for the day... and the weather held up too!



On the 27th September 2012 a mural was unveiled depicting Irish Amateur Boxing Olympic, World and European Champions, past and present. This mural was the work of youths of the "G" District who attend the St. John Bosco Centre early school leavers programme. Owing to the close ties between members of Community Police Sundrive Road and the St John Bosco centre as well as close links with both Drimnagh and Crumlin Boxing clubs, members of Community Police Sundrive Road were invited to participate in the unveiling of this historic mural and gathering of boxing personalities.



Dublin was the final host port for the Tall Ships Race 2012 from the 23rd to 26th August. Despite the bad weather, the event was a great success with over one million visitors coming to the docklands to see the 40 strong fleet of spectacular Tall Ships and other attractions. Photo is taken from the Event Management Room, Clarion Hotel showing Superintendent John Ward, Chief Superintendent Pat Leahy, Store Street Garda Station and Sergeant Brian Hoey, Kevin Street Garda Station.

