

# COMMUNITY TIMES

COMMUNITY TIMES



Neighbourhood Watch Champion Honoured



# COMMUNITY TIMES

2015 ANNUAL

## CONTENTS

### Editorial Board

Chief Superintendent Karl Heller

Inspector Niall Featherstone

Sergeant Alan Keane

Garda Ian Leslie

Ms Jacqueline Martin



## EDITORIAL

As newly appointed Chief Superintendent of the Garda Community Relations Bureau, I would like to welcome you to the 2015 Annual edition of Community Times.

As part of our service at the Garda Community Relations Bureau, we publish an annual for the information of our partners representing such crime

prevention initiatives as Community Alert, Neighbourhood Watch, Joint Policing Committees and Local Policing Fora.

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

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

We acknowledge all of the hard work by those engaged in community policing who have displayed motivation and commitment to initiatives that have benefitted our communities. Without their personal drive for making things happen and achieving results, a host of successful initiatives that support and protect the community would not be achieved.

### 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.

### National News

News on National events and initiatives.

### DMR News

News on events and initiatives happening in the Dublin Metropolitan Region (DMR).

### Eastern Region News

News on events and initiatives happening in the Eastern Region.

### Southern Region News

News on events and initiatives happening in the Southern Region.

### South Eastern Region News

News on events and initiatives happening in the South Eastern Region.

### Western Region News

News on events and initiatives happening in the Western Region.

### Northern Region News

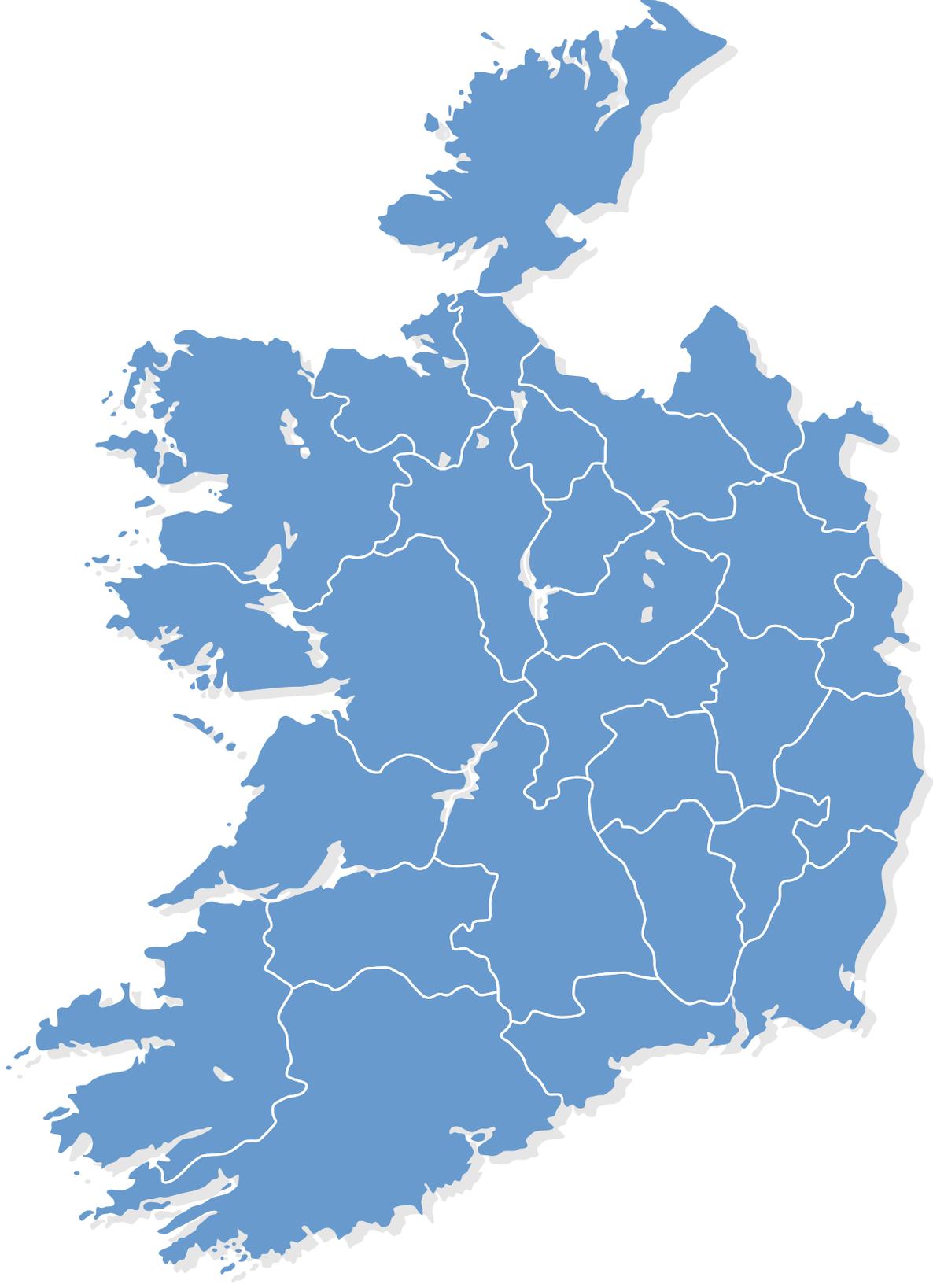
News on events and initiatives happening in the Northern Region.



### On the Cover...

Garda Commissioner honours Mr Patrick Walsh for outstanding achievement and contribution to Neighbourhood Watch. *Full article on page 1.*

# National News





# Commissioner Honours Patrick Walsh

**M**r Patrick Walsh was a founder member of Neighbourhood Watch, with the launch of the Ard na Mara Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Malahide in 1985.

He has given 30 years continuous service to Neighbourhood Watch in various capacities including Area Co-ordinator of Ard na Mara, "R" District Neighbourhood Watch Chairperson, and Chairperson of the Dublin Neighbourhood Watch Regional Committee (D.N.W.R.C.).

However, the hallmark feature of Mr Walsh's service to Neighbourhood Watch has been his positive, energetic and constructive service to improving the identity and standing of Neighbourhood Watch. In challenging times he has steadfastly maintained his continued support for Neighbourhood Watch to the benefit of Neighbourhood Watch.

Mr Walsh made a number of particular contributions that are worth remembering and no more so than now:

- i. "The Challenge for the Future – Neighbourhood Watch" which was compiled as a forward thinking strategy for the organisation and development of Neighbourhood Watch, in 1997. Mr Walsh contributed a significant amount of time from his professional life over a 2 year period, which included travelling the length and breadth of the country to address Neighbourhood Watch Development Meetings.
- ii. "Police and Community: An Evaluation of Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert in Ireland". As Chairperson of the DNWRC he assisted, contributed and supported this most comprehensive review of Neighbourhood Watch in Ireland. This document still stands as the most comprehensive document capturing the practice of social crime prevention programmes in Ireland.
- iii. "Task Force on Security for the Elderly": This Department of Social Welfare initiative made funding available to Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert schemes in Ireland. Mr Walsh made a very significant practical contribution towards managing the direction of funding so that Neighbourhood Watch and Community Alert schemes

could directly access and utilise funding in a professional and accountable manner. This initiative alone contributed to activity levels within schemes throughout the country since the mid 1990's and helped improve life for so many older persons.

- iv. "Civic Receptions for Neighbourhood Watch" – numerous. Over the years Mr Walsh organised, behind the scenes, several public presentation ceremonies by the President of Ireland, Lord Mayor of Dublin and the Fingal Council Authority for those who have given good service to Neighbourhood Watch. This involved the presentation of Certificates as a mark of public gratitude for the outstanding civic mindedness of those who volunteer in our communities.

There are too many other contributions to mention but the series of D.N.W.R.C. Annual General Meetings that he sought sponsorship for and co-managed and which attracted hundreds of attendees (including observers from every Garda Region, Northern Ireland, and England) are particularly memorable. They helped to promote the identity of, and energise Neighbourhood Watch, and succeeded in drawing greater support for community co-operation with An Garda Síochána.

Mr Walsh's sincerity and loyalty in supporting Neighbourhood Watch is very much valued.

*Article written by Sergeant Denis Beakey, Crime Prevention Programmes Office, Garda Community Relations Bureau*





# New Supply of Bogus Caller Cards

**H**ome Instead Senior Care has once again partnered with An Garda Síochána by sponsoring the printing of 300,000 bogus caller cards for issue to the community.

There are many documented incidents of people representing themselves as Gardaí, local authority workers, ESB officials and others who have talked their way into homes of older people. Such people have deceived and stolen from older people, either by distracting them or by charging them for work that has not been carried out. The perpetrators of these crimes are very persuasive once they enter into conversation with their target.

The object of the Bogus Caller Card initiative is to empower the older person when dealing with unwanted or unknown callers. It helps to reduce the need for older people to engage in conversation with callers. While the primary advice is to not open the door to strangers, inevitably there are times when they will open the door and engage with these callers. Once the engagement begins, the perpetrator takes control of the situation and uses their skills to deceive their target.

To counteract this and to reduce the opportunity for this engagement, the National Community Policing

Office have produced a card based on the Cork City Community Policing initiative. The older person can give the card to unwanted callers advising them to leave their business card or contact details. This eliminates the need for any further conversation and provides the older person with a means to ending the conversation without argument or discussion. The genuine caller will have no difficulty with this proposal, and it should make life a little more complicated for the unwanted caller.

Some general advice is printed on the reverse side of the card:

- Do not open the door
- Use the door chain/limiter
- Give this card to the caller
- Do not enter into conversation
- Genuine callers will leave their details

The cards will be issued to Community Gardaí around the country this week, who will distribute them to older people in the community.



*Article written by Garda Ian Leslie, Garda National Liaison for Older People, Garda Community Relations Bureau*



# Supporting Safer Communities

article continued on page 4

Home security, and burglary prevention were the focus of the Supporting Safer Communities Campaigns held during May and September of this year.

Figures from An Garda Síochána Analysis Service indicate a rise in the number of reported residential burglaries over the last year. They show that two out of three burglaries are residential burglaries.

The analysis also shows that on average over 50% of burglars enter through the rear of the home, and 20% enter through an unlocked door or window. In June this number rises to 30%.



Speaking at a campaign launch Sergeant Kelvin Courtney of the National Crime Prevention Unit said:

“Burglars like easy opportunities. If they have to make a lot of noise, spend a lot of time or risk being seen, the chances are they won’t bother. A good rule of thumb is the 3 minute delay test. If you can deny entry for 3 minutes or more – chances are the burglars will go elsewhere.

Robust doors and windows, properly fitted with quality locking systems present a good physical barrier to the burglar. However, if a door or window has been left open, their security qualities won’t make any difference.

Good neighbours are priceless, particularly when you’re going away. Leave a key with a trusted neighbour. Get them to collect your post and your deliveries if you haven’t already cancelled them. They might even leave their spare car in your drive way when you’re away. Remember the



burglar is looking for signs of an empty house so don’t give them any.

It’s always a good idea to join a Community Crime Prevention Programme like Neighbourhood Watch or Community Alert. There’s security in numbers.

The Home Security Checklist Challenge, available on the Garda website, is a simple survey that takes only a few minutes to complete and shows householders just how secure their home is.”

An Garda Síochána recommends that people take the following steps

# Supporting Safer Communities

article continued from page 3

to reduce the chances of their home being burgled:

- Secure all doors and windows.
- Light up your home and use timer switches on lights for when you are out.
- Store keys safely and away from windows and letterboxes.
- Record details of valuables and don't keep large cash amounts at home.
- Use your alarm, even when you are at home.

A short video providing tips from the National Crime Prevention Unit on home security is available on the Garda Press Office YouTube channel - [www.youtube.com/user/GardaPressOffice](http://www.youtube.com/user/GardaPressOffice)

During the second campaign,



launched at the National Ploughing Championships in September, the first ever Garda children's colouring competition was held by the National Community Policing Office over the three days.

There were over 200 entries. Each of the winners were notified of their win on the day of the competition. The winning child was given a Garda activity pack, and had their photograph taken at the national stand. The backdrop for the photos was the brand new Garda stand-in, cut-out featuring some of the characters from the Garda Activity Book. The photos were posted on the Garda social media accounts.

As part of 1st prize, the winner also won a Garda activity pack for everyone in their class at school.

The local Community



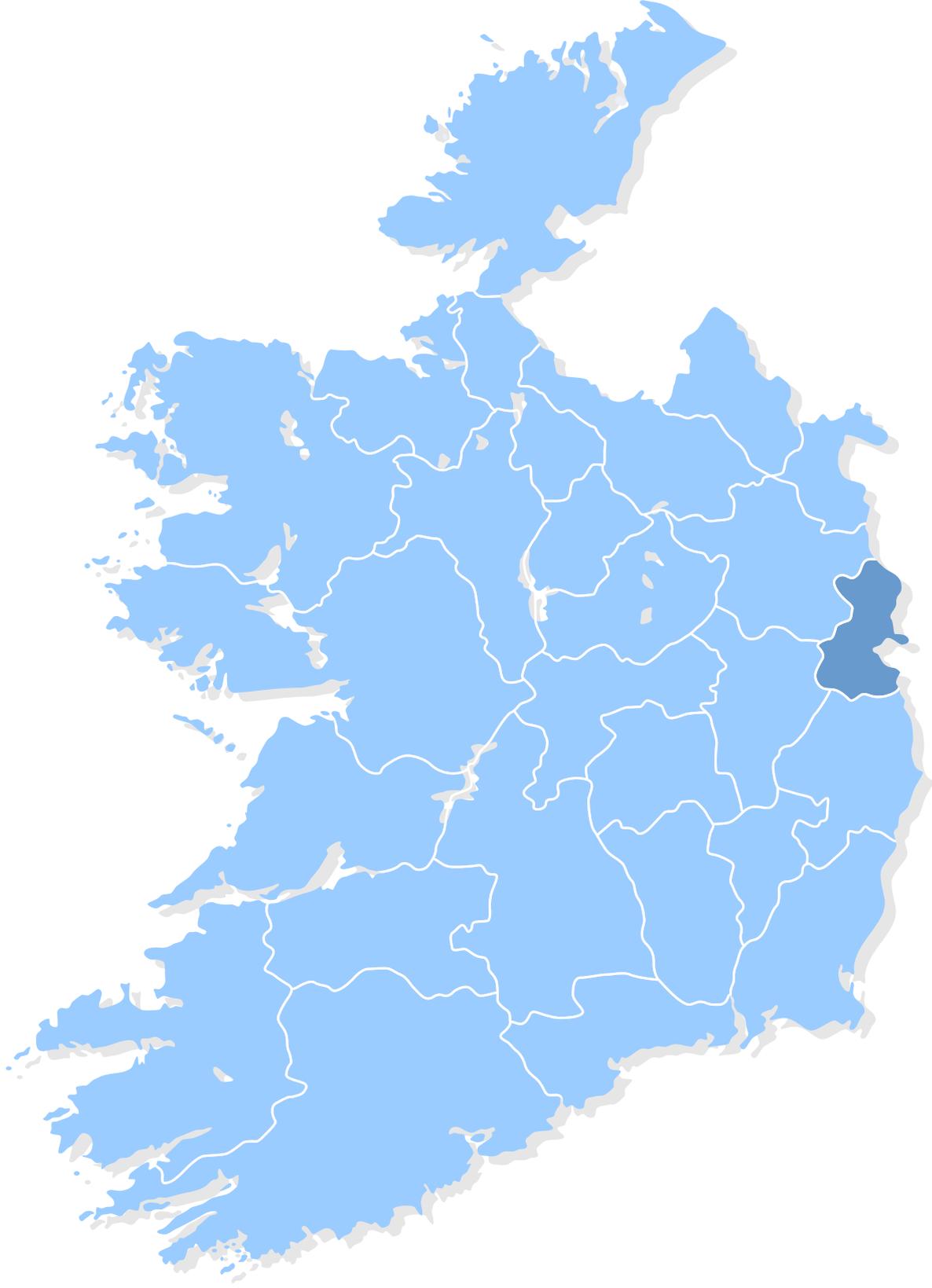
Garda visited the school of the 1st prize winner and presented the activity packs to each of the winners' classmates.

This was an excellent opportunity for the Community Garda to engage with children in the local school.

*Article written by the National Community Policing Office, Garda Community Relations Bureau*



# DMR News





# Home Security Event - Raheny

The Age Friendly Raheny Community Club held an event in CARA Hall on Wednesday 14th October 2015.

Sergeant Jim Clavin and the Community Policing Unit at Raheny were very involved in this initiative, and provided home security advice to the attendees on the day.

This event was an excellent initiative, proudly supported by An Garda Síochána



Article submitted by Superintendent Joseph O'Connor, Raheny Garda Station

Photographs taken by: Leo "George" Devitt





# Clonskeagh Intercultural Day 2015

On Saturday, 21st March 2015, Gardaí from Donnybrook Garda Station attended the Islamic Cultural Centre Annual Open Day.

They hosted an Information Stand, and provided advice on Home Security and Personal Safety.

Donnybrook Gardaí were also joined at the event by the Garda Mounted Unit, Traffic Unit Blackrock, and the Garda Racial, Intercultural & Diversity

Office.

A Great Day was had by All.

*Article submitted by Superintendent Gerry Delmar, Donnybrook Garda Station*





# Blackrock Older People Initiatives

In July, the Community Policing Unit in Blackrock brought a group of older people on a day trip to the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin. Gardaí Niamh Colfer, John O'Shea and Kitty Murray accompanied the group on their botanical adventure.

During the visit, the Community Gardaí took the opportunity to advise the group on aspects of personal safety and home security, especially on dealing with unwanted callers.

A great day out was had by all.

*Article submitted by Sergeant Pat McDonald, Blackrock Community Policing Unit*



*Article submitted by Garda Catherine Murray, Blackrock Community Policing Unit*

On Saturday the 19th September 2015, Gardaí Catherine Murray and John O' Shea, Blackrock Community Policing Unit, organised an outing for the Blackrock Active Retirement Group to visit Áras an Uachtaráin, home of the President of Ireland.

This was a very successful trip. Approximately ten older people were invited to take a guided tour of the Áras and its gardens, in the Phoenix Park, Dublin.

The trip was extremely successful, and the entire group thoroughly enjoyed their tour.





# Cycle Show RDS 2015

**O**n Saturday 18th, and Sunday 19th April 2015, the Annual Cycle Show took place at the RDS Ballsbridge, Dublin.

An Garda Síochána attended the Show, and gave Crime Prevention Advice on Bicycle Theft as well as Road Safety. The Garda Stand was attended by Garda Darragh O'Brien, Donnybrook Garda Station; Sergeant Seamus Ryan, Dun Laoghaire Garda Station; and Sergeant Kelvin

Courtney, National Crime Prevention Unit, Garda Community Relations Bureau.

*Article submitted by Superintendent Gerry Delmar, Donnybrook*





# Garda Schools Programme

**A** Garda Schools Programme initiative involving Donabate Community College was organised by Sergeant Kevin Toner and Garda Dong Dong Zheng of Swords Garda Station.

The Programme involved a six week interaction with Transition Year students focussing on dispelling false perceptions on both sides between Gardaí and young people.

The course covered anti-social behaviour such as egging, bin theft, drug and alcohol abuse, knife crime, and the organisation functions of An Garda Síochána.

The group was taken to Westmanstown for the National Support Open Day to experience Garda services at work, such as the Garda Dog Unit and Garda Mounted Unit.

On completion of the programme, certificates were issued to the participants by Inspector Noel Eiffe. The Garda Band led by Inspector Pat Kenny was present to provide a celebratory atmosphere to the ceremony.

*Article submitted by Sergeant Kevin Toner, Swords Garda Station*





# DART Patrol Joint Initiative

**O**n Friday 25th September, 2015, a Preventative Burglary Patrol involving two Garda Divisions and DART personnel was performed between 12pm and 3pm.

The Gardaí - Community Policing "W" District (Sergeant McDonald, Gardaí Murray, Phelan and Gibbons), Community Policing Bray (Gardaí Heffernan, Carrick, Connolly and Saunderson), and Community Policing "F" District (Garda Greene) -

under the supervision of Sergeant Pat McDonald, and with the assistance of DART Personnel, performed the Preventative Burglary Patrol between Booterstown DART Station and Greystones DART Station.

As part of Supporting Safer Communities Week, the theme of "Preventative Burglary Patrol" was the main focus of the initiative, and it also encapsulated Social Welfare Fraud and Anti Social Behaviour.

Gardaí used this opportunity to highlight Burglary Prevention techniques. Over 500 "Illuminate to Eliminate" and "Home Security Checklist Challenge" leaflets were handed out to the public.

This joint Multi Agency operation between DART and An Garda Síochána was extremely successful, and gathered positive feedback from members of the public. It also showed high visibility presence on public transport.



Article submitted by Garda Catherine Murray, Blackrock Community Policing Unit





# Bike Theft Prevention Initiatives

article continued on page 12

Nearly 6000 bikes are stolen every year, with highest percentage being in Dublin at nearly 75% of all thefts reported there.

Those who steal bikes are wide and varied, and can range from the opportunist who acts on the spur of the moment, taking an unlocked bike and selling it on for a small amount of money. Then there are the more organised individuals who are well equipped and organised. They have vans and effective lock breaking tools at their disposal. They usually sell the bikes on for near market price, and usually online. They may change some items such as the seat or pedals in an attempt to avoid detection.

The Local Policing Forum in Dun Laoghaire have used different approaches in an attempt to tackle these issues. They analysed the problem and considered numerous responses. What measures would address the location, the victim and the offender in one fell swoop? The answer came in the form of an oddly coloured bike with a message on it for all to see.

The Gardaí examined similar methods used in the United State and the UK, and the use of an "info bike" ticked all the boxes. Similar initiatives have

proven successful in the following jurisdictions:

- London Metropolitan Police - 33% reduction.
- British Transport Police - 45% reduction.
- Tulane University Police (US) - 40% reduction.

The Gardaí painted an 'end-of-life' bike and placed a sign on it with information for all to see. One side says "Gardaí monitoring this location" and the other side asks "Have you securely locked your bike?" The bike was then locked at an identified hot-spot for bike theft.

The bike has been greeted with many puzzled looks, but it has been devised taking into consideration the theories and concepts of environmental criminology. The bike attracts a lot of attention, which increases "natural surveillance". The bike, by definition, is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). For



such a odd looking bike, it achieves a lot of the desired goals which should ultimately lead to a reduction in bike theft - and this appears to be happening in Dun Laoghaire.

It was introduced in October 2014, and for the first 4 months of its use, coincided with a reduction of 25% compared to the previous three months in the Dun Laoghaire sub-District. Further assessment will be required to determine how much of these reductions can be directly attributed to the introduction of the "info bike".

Additional complimentary measures have also been put in place with the 'info bike' to maximise its effect. This includes full use of the town's CCTV system to ensure hot-spots are routinely monitored. Gardaí on beat duty include these hot-spots on their rounds with particular emphasis being placed on the racks where the info bike is placed. Plain-clothes members were also occasionally used to monitor hot-spots, and target known offenders as they entered the targeted locations.

Superintendent Martin Fitzgerald has praised the initiative, which has also led to the identification and arrest of offenders who specialise in this form of crime. "This has resulted from a



# Bike Theft Prevention Initiatives

article continued from page 11

collaborative approach taken by An Garda Síochána and Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council. The challenge for An Garda Síochána is to actively participate in Government policy to nurture a safe cycling environment by providing assistance to local authorities and secondly, combat the correlated bike thefts”.

Inspector Thomas Condon agrees: “The “info bike” does a great job in educating the public as it uses a combination of a u-lock with a long cable. You should consider spending up to 10% of the total cost of your bike on security. The use of two security devices is a great idea as it’s an additional inconvenience for the determined thief and usually proves to be an effective deterrent. Using a U-lock and cable together also ensures you are locking both wheels and the frame to a fixed point such as a bike rack”.

The public can also play their part by ensuring they keep a record of all details of their bike such as the serial number, and an up to date photograph. There are also good online sites for registering details such as bikeregister.ie.

*Article written by Sergeant Seamus Ryan, Dun Laoghaire Garda Station*



**O**n Sunday the 29th March, 2015 a Crime Prevention Advice Afternoon was organised at the Riversdale Estate Neighbourhood Watch Group, Ronanstown. It was organised by Garda Arlene Begley, Ronanstown Community Policing Unit, to highlight Vehicle Security, and in particular Bicycle Security.

Garda Begley was accompanied by her colleague Garda Alan Fitzpatrick. They operated an Information Stand, and provided advice in relation to Bicycle Security at home and in public places.

Garda Arlene helped those present to fill out an Information Form recording the particulars of their bicycles, while Garda Alan photographed and recorded the bicycle serial numbers. The property marking kit was on hand for any bicycles without serial numbers.

Despite poor weather conditions there was a great community turn out for this event. The Community Policing Unit at Ronanstown hopes to organise more similar community events in the future.

*Article submitted by Divisional Office, Blanchardstown*



# Rathmines Crime Awareness Day

**R**athmines Community Gardaí held a Crime Awareness Day at Beechwood Luas Stop and the Swan Shopping Centre, Rathmines. Raising awareness of Burglaries in the area, the Gardaí demonstrated how key fishing incidents occur.

The Gardaí handed out Crime Security Checklists to commuters and shoppers, and gave Crime Prevention advice.

*Article submitted by Garda Brendan O'Byrne, Rathmines Community Policing Unit*





# Joint Water Safety Event

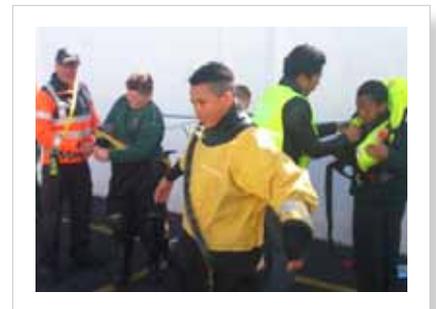
**O**n Thursday the 28th of May 2015, Sergeant Mark O'Doherty, Community Policing Unit Store Street Garda Station, organised a Water Safety Awareness event with the Irish Coast Guard.

Aimed at the schools based in Sheriff Street, Dublin 1 the children from St. Laurence O'Toole's Girls and Boys Schools attended the event which took place in Sheriff Street, Dublin involving An Garda Síochána, the Irish Coast Guard and Water Safety Ireland. The children were shown DVDs relating to water safety, and learned practical safety skills relating to CPR and the use of water rings and other equipment.

The event was a great success and on Friday 26th of June, the last day of term for both schools, Mark organised an Awards Ceremony for pictures drawn by the children relating to the Water Safety Event. The Ceremony, which took place in St. Laurence O'Toole's Boys School, was attended by Minister Paschal Donohoe, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, who presented the Awards. The Head of Canada Life, the Irish Coast Guard Management and staff, and Water Safety Ireland were also present, along with An Garda Síochána.

Fergus Cooney of the Irish Coast Guard made a presentation to the Principals of both the Boys and Girls Schools of a touch screen laptop each, which will be of great benefit for the education of the children with special needs and disabilities in the schools, and also a cash donation of €200, which was provided by Canada Life, with the total donation valued at over €2,000.

Well Done to All Involved.



*Article submitted by Sergeant Mark O'Doherty, Store Street Community Policing Unit*





# Streetwise Programme - Ballymun

**O**n the 23rd March, 2015 the Community Policing Unit Ballymun commenced the Garda Streetwise Programme with 10 members of St. Michael's House from Northbrook, Ballymun.

Each participant attended the programme every Monday over an 8 week period. The aim of this course is to help familiarize the participants with local Gardaí and increase their awareness regarding personal safety. The course included weekly presentations by Community Policing members on the role of An Garda Síochána, Understanding the Concept of Crime and its consequences, Personal Safety at Home and in the Community, and Road Safety.

On Monday 18th May, 2015 the participants were given a tour of Ballymun Garda Station where they had the opportunity to see the cell area, the interview room and the patrol cars. Superintendent Finbarr Murphy then presented each individual with a Certificate for completing the Garda Streetwise Programme.

The Course was very well received and overall a great success.



*Article submitted by Garda Elaine Doyle, Ballymun Community Policing Unit*





# Raheny/Clontarf Fair Play Tournament

**O**n the 26th of February 2015, Gardaí from Community Policing in Raheny and Clontarf held their annual Fair Play Tournament for nine of the local Primary schools in the District. A total of 220 children took part in the tournament on the day. This is the fifth consecutive year that the event has taken place.

The tournament was the culmination of fair play and anti racism program for nine local primary schools, which involved Gardaí and FAI officials giving 5th classes presentations on anti racism and fair play in sport. Approximately 400 pupils received the presentation.

The objective behind this initiative is to use sport to re-enforce the message of anti-bullying and anti-racism through inclusion, fair play and team building. Talks are based around the concepts delivered in the Garda Schools Program on personal safety and bullying, and through the FAI "show racism the red card" program.

The schools which took part in the program are;

1. St. Brigids Boys National School, Howth Rd, D.5
2. St. Brigids Girls National School, St. Brigids Rd, D.5
3. Scoil Neasain, Harmonstown, D. 5

4. Springdale National School, Lough Derg Rd, D.5
5. Howth Rd National School, Fairview, D. 3
6. Belgrove Senior Girls School, Seafield Rd, D.3
7. Green Lanes National School, Seafield Ave, D.3
8. Scoil Assaim, All Saints Dr., D.5
9. Scoil Aine, All Saints Dr, D.5

The initiative is an excellent example of interagency co-operation, and one which works in tandem with the Garda schools program.

The agencies which played a role in the success of the event are;

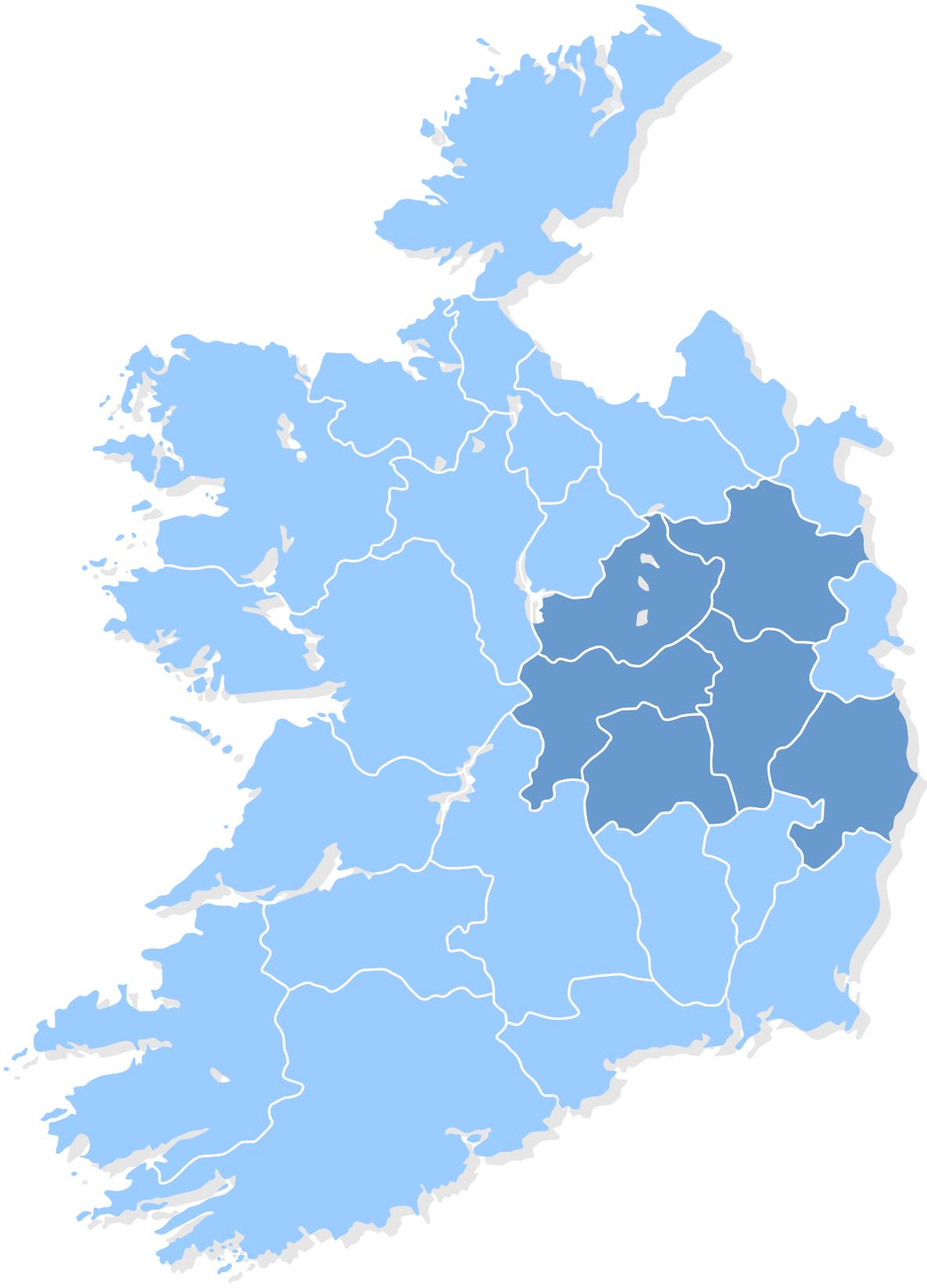
- An Garda Síochána – Providing medals, pencils, manpower and organisation.
- Garda photography section – coverage and recording of event
- FAI – Provided Fair Play bands, Kits, manpower and organisation.
- Dublin Bus – Supplied a bus for the event.
- Dublin City Council – Provide two buses for the event and use of their All Weather complex.
- Raheny Business Association – Sponsorship of trophies and engraving.
- Order of Malta – provision of ambulance and medical cover



*Article submitted by Sergeant Jim Clavin, Raheny/Clontarf Community Policing Unit*



# Eastern Region News





# Ashbourne Safer Cycling Initiative

**O**n the 10th December 2014, Garda Ashling Connor received a “Leading Light” award from the Road Safety Authority in the emergency services’ category at Farmleigh House.

As the Community Garda for Ashbourne, Garda Connor had received complaints from members of the Ratoath community regarding the behaviour of some young people on bikes.

Garda Connor invited 6th class students of the Ratoath Senior National School, along with school principal Ms Lorraine Butler, to work with her on the issue. They came up with a ‘safer cycling initiative’.

Each child was issued with a bike licence, and a licence number which was to be displayed on their bike. The young people came up with three golden rules which had to be adhered to:

1. Always wear a helmet.
2. Dismount from bike before entering school grounds and.
3. Always obey the safe cross code.

A contract was drawn up by the students that both the cyclist and parent had to sign before being issued with the bike licence, and if a golden rule was broken a penalty

point was issued.

There was a limit of 3 penalty points within a week. The young people designed the bike licence, along with Michael Finnegan (former Chief Superintendent) Road Safety Officer for Meath Co. Co., and took ownership of this initiative.

The 6th class students also took on the role of ‘bike police’, and along with Garda Connor, patrolled the gates each morning and afternoon at school opening/closing times.

Garda Connor nominated this fantastic group of young people who put in so much work along with Ms Lorraine Butler for a leading light award for the ‘primary schools’ category which they won.

Other principals have heard about the initiative and want to start it with their own pupils. Ratoath pupils came up with the golden rules themselves and designed the licences, and above all complaints from the community have reduced as a result of this innovative school and Garda collaboration.

Garda Connor also delivers talks on road safety at her local parish church and at various community groups, and has demonstrated a strong commitment to road safety throughout her career.

*Article submitted by Superintendent James Cannon, Ashbourne Garda Station*





## 'Pop Up' Garda Station in Bray

A 'pop up' Garda Station was in situ on Bray's Main Street in June 2015. Members of Bray's Community Policing team manned the station for two days, and answered any questions the public had.

A steady stream of people called in to find out what it was all about.

Sergeant John Fitzpatrick said that the initiative was received very well, with members of the public, and retailers,

saying that it was a very good idea.

This initiative was part of the Supporting Safer Communities campaign. Information on how to keep your home safe was available, and answers to any queries on general policing. Sergeant Fitzpatrick said that running another similar pop up station is something that they will certainly revisit in the future.

With the focus on home security, people were instructed on how to

take steps to secure their houses, at any time and also when on holidays.

People who may not have come to the station on Convent Avenue called in to the pop up. A man who is deaf attended it, and made the Gardaí aware of issues he has with contacting the station, for example.



*Article submitted by Sergeant John Fitzpatrick, Bray Community Policing Unit*



## Good 2 Talk Cycleathon

To mark World Suicide Prevention Day 2015 Good 2 Talk, a Counselling and Psychotherapy Support Service located in Mullingar and Longford, hosted a Cycleathon in the Market Square, Mullingar on September 12th 2015.

The aim of the Cycleathon was to promote awareness of mental health and to help raise funds for the counsellors and a psychotherapist.

Good 2 Talk Counselling and Psychotherapy Support Services has been running for just over two years and engages in one-to-one counselling for help with a range of issues including: depression, grief, anxiety, stress, relationship difficulties, suicide ideation and self-harm.

The Community Policing unit Mullingar were delighted to be asked to submit a team for the event. The cycle started at 12 midday, each member had to cycle for 45 minutes

before a change over for the next person.

The cycle attracted positive attention from the public as they went about their business on a busy Saturday in Mullingar Town. Each team raised hundreds of euro in sponsorship, and there was a bucket collection at the event.

There was an added dimension to the Cycleathone which was the team that cycled the most miles won the title of Mental Health Champions.

We are proud and delighted to say that the Community Policing Unit are now the holder of the Mental Health Champions Cup, and look forward to the challenge next year of retaining the title.

The CEO – Pat Gavin was very appreciative of the Garda team and all the money raised. Due to its success the organisers hope to host the event on a yearly basis.

*Article submitted by Chief Superintendent Lorraine Wheatley, Mullingar Garda Station*





# Annual Navan Christmas Party

Last year's Annual Christmas Party for older people was held in St Mary's Parish Hall on Tuesday 9th December 2014. This was the 5th year that Navan Gardaí arranged and hosted a Christmas Party.

It was a very festive occasion with a splendid traditional Turkey dinner served up by Garda Jaime McKeown, Garda Helen Smyth, Garda Tony Brady, Garda Paddy Skehan, Garda Catherine Cronin, Reserve Garda Malgorzata Bialek Szymanska and Inspector Martina Noonan.

The catering was professionally carried out by Seamus Connolly Catering. The Guests had a visit from Santa Claus, after he was captured in Navan by Sergeant Jim Flannagan, while dinner was being served.

A wide variety of entertainment was provided - Carol Singing by Pupils of St Anne's School; Traditional Music by Navan Comhaltas; a stand up comedian named Peadar Farrelly; and music by Ray Murtagh and Pat Deigan.

The well known Presenters of the early morning radio show on LMFM, Seamus and Christy, were also in attendance and sang to the crowd.

Any Guests who required transport to and from the party were collected by Gardaí with buses generously provided by Flexibus.

The Party was attended by the Lord Mayor of Navan, Sinead De Burca, accompanied by Cllr Joe O Reilly. The staff of Navan meals on wheels service had the day off, and they got to dine with their friends of the service.

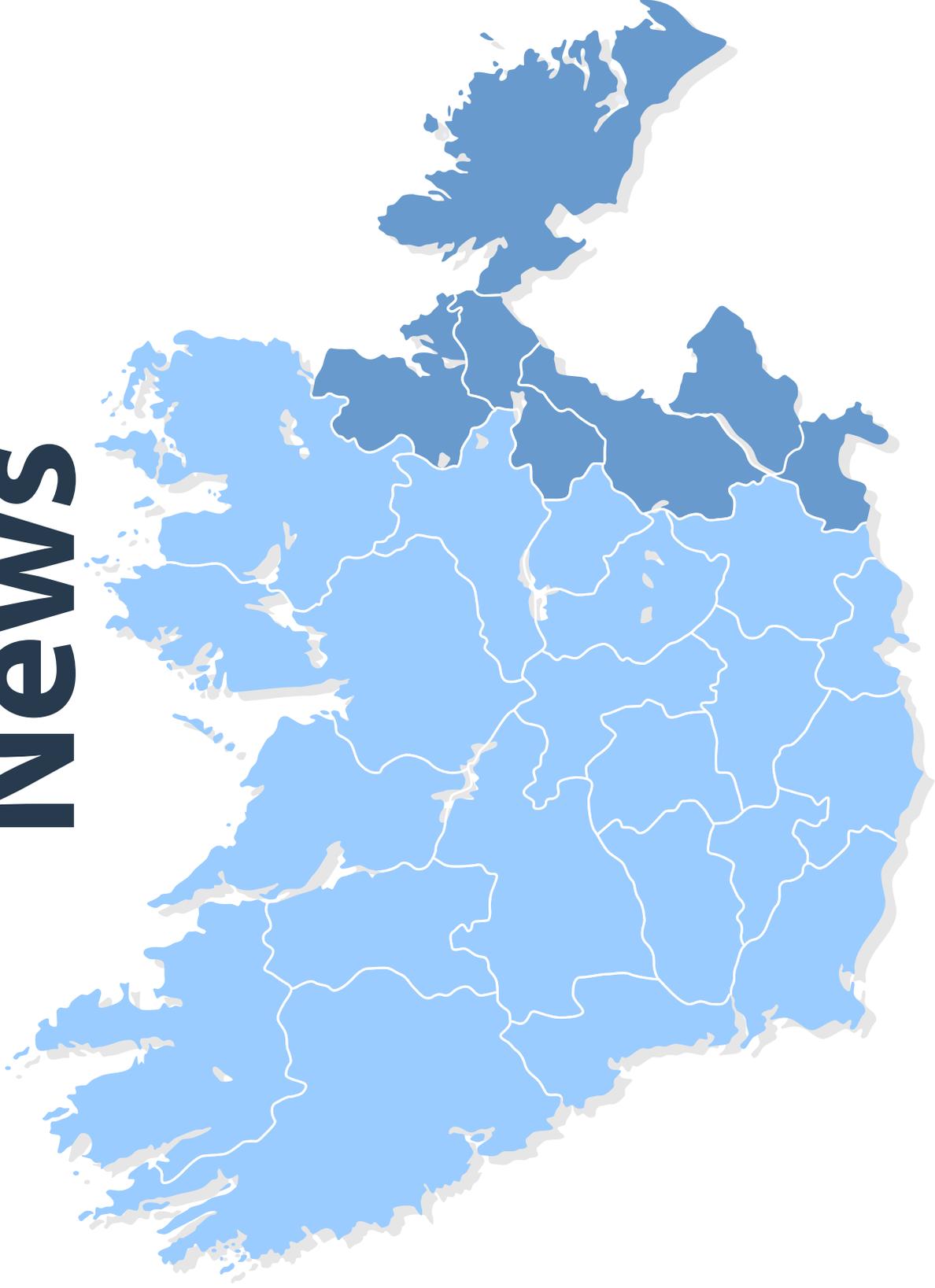
Sergeant Dineen and his Colleagues wish to thank: all those who

supported the event; Fr Hurley, St Mary's Parish for the use of the Hall; Flexibus who provided the transport; the entertainers; The Order of Malta staff; and those who gave spot prizes for the raffle.

*Article written by Sergeant Brian Dineen, Navan Community Policing Unit*



# Northern Region News





## Ceejay's Big Day Out at Garda H.Q.

**C**eejay McArdle is a 3 year old boy from Castleblayney, Co Monaghan who was diagnosed with leukaemia in September 2014, and is currently undergoing long term treatment in his battle against cancer.

Ceejay and his family, parents - Marcus and Susan, are very much supported in the local community at Castleblayney. Ceejay has a huge love for all things relating to police which is widely known in the community

and he likes nothing better than to interact with any Gardaí he meets in the area.

Given Ceejay's fondness of police, local Gardaí Derek Rochford and Frances Merrick at Castleblayney sought the assistance from Sergeant Alan Keane at the National Community Policing Office to arrange a surprise visit to Garda HQ for Ceejay.

On Wednesday the 16th September 2015 Ceejay was given his big day out

to Garda HQ. First off, he was made an honorary Garda for the day, and was issued with his own Garda uniform in order for him to perform his duties!

Ceejay's duties consisted of: playing in, and conducting, the Garda Band; a Traffic stop; and an inspection of the Garda Mounted Unit at their stables in Aras an Uachtaráin.

In recognition of his bravery, Ceejay was awarded a Garda medal with his name engraved. Ceejay finished his day with some complimentary refreshments provided by the staff at the Garda HQ canteen.

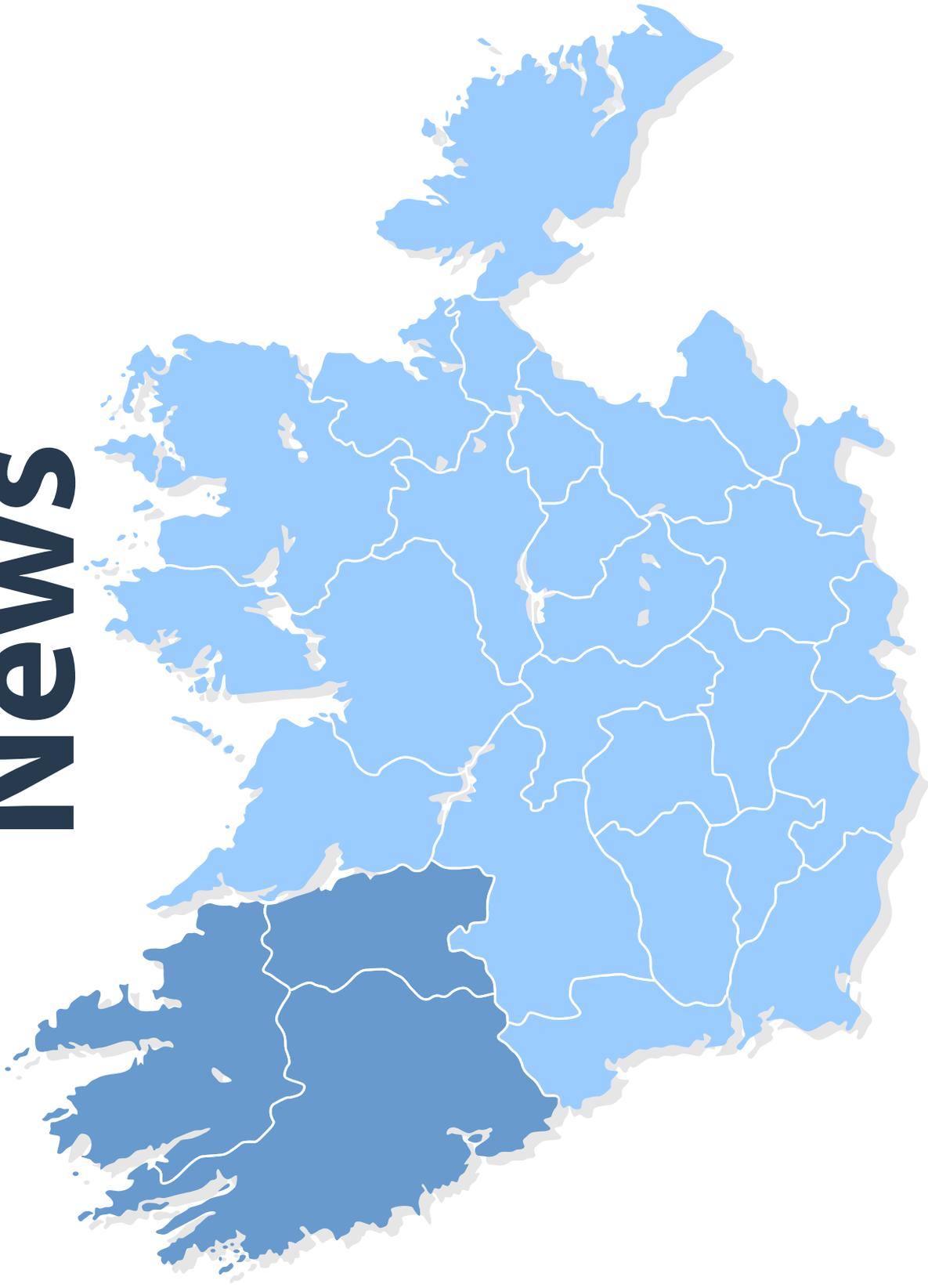
A special thank you to the management and staff at the Jury's Inn Hotel, Parnell Street, Dublin who accommodated Ceejay and family for their overnight stay in Dublin.



*Article written by Sergeant Alan Keane, National Community Policing Office, Garda Community Relations Bureau  
Photographs courtesy of the Garda Photography Section*

# Southern Region

## News





# Tralee Garda Soccer Blitz 2015

The Annual Garda Soccer Blitz was held in Tralee at the KDL Pitch Mounthawk.

The successful occasion was put on the Southern Region's Facebook page to show the work being done in communities.

Organised and run over the past number of years by: Garda Patricia Fitzpatrick, and other members of the Tralee Community Policing Unit; Killarney Juvenile Liaison Gardaí;

along with the Youth Justice Workers from The Kerry Garda Youth Diversion Projects .

The summertime competition has grown yearly and now involves teams from Castleisland and Killarney as well as the perennial Tralee sides.

This year, over 160 players across three age groups along with a large number of supporters descended on the KDL for a day long display of top quality 7-a-side soccer. The

younger divisions of U12s and U14s were dominated by the Shanakill teams with Shanakill winning the U12 division and an all Shanakill final in the U14 division where Shanakill Athletic overcame Shanakill FC in the final while in the U18 final, JRH FC defeated Lucious Lunatics.

This year's event made efforts to promote healthy eating habits with the traditional fizzy drinks, chocolate and sweets being replaced by the healthier options of bottled water, sandwiches and fruit.

The yearly blitz continues to provide an entertaining day for a range of ages and its growth in popularity is sure to continue.

*Article submitted by Tralee Community Policing Unit*





# Cycle Against Suicide

**A** number of Gardaí took part in Cycle Against Suicide, Blarney spin off which was held on 17th January 2015:-  
Garda Tony Gardiner, Garda Sean O'Dwyer, Sergeant John O'Connor, Garda Joan Meany, Garda Sheila Griffin, Garda Margaret Murphy, Garda Maurice O'Mahony, Garda Maria Gibbons & Garda Kathryn Byrne.



*Article submitted by Cork City Community Policing Unit*





## Launch of “Gardaí, Youth and the Law”

The launch of the booklet, titled “Gardaí, Youth and the Law”, was attended by parents, youth leaders, teachers, and young people from secondary schools, and community and voluntary organisations, from across the Cork West Garda Division. Judge James McNulty, District Court Judge for West Cork, and Councillor Alan Coleman, Mayor of County Cork, and Councillor Michael Collins were also present on the evening.

Chief Superintendent Tom Hayes officially launched the booklet, and went through the content. It included topics covering: Bullying, in particular Cyberbullying; Public Order; Theft and Fraud; Criminal Damage; Drugs

and Alcohol; and Road Safety issues.

Chief Superintendent Hayes said that the primary reason for the publication of the booklet was to create a better understanding of the law by young people.

Chief Superintendent Hayes acknowledged Kinsale Youth Support Services (KYSS), who acted as partner to An Garda Síochána in bringing the publication of the booklet to fruition.

Honor O’ Brien then spoke on behalf of Kinsale Youth Support Services (KYSS), and outlined the roll of KYSS. KYSS has a primary focus on creating a greater awareness of positive mental health, and Honor mentioned some of the events and talks that have been organised by KYSS. She also acknowledged that KYSS were delighted to be associated with the launch of the booklet with An Garda Síochána.

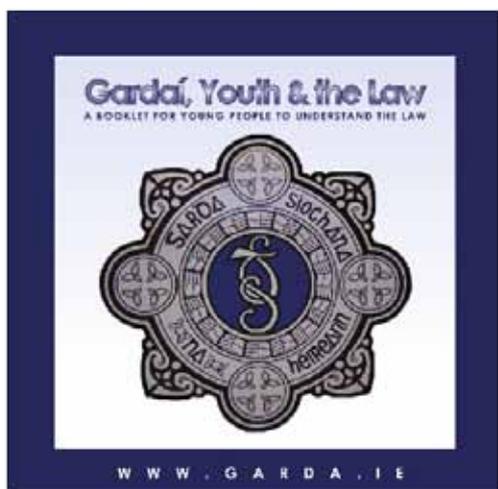
The guest speaker on the evening was Mr. Michael Pattwell, retired District Court Judge, who outlined some of his own experiences while District Court Judge and his interactions with young people. He also spoke about the consequences that bullying has on young people both in the

short and long term. Mr. Pattwell then concentrated on the consequences of crime, and in particular for the character of the offender. If any person receives a conviction, it has a major impact on their ability to travel, and he praised the work being carried out by the Gardaí and voluntary groups such as KYSS in keeping young people out of trouble.

Garda Damian White, Community Garda based in Bandon, was M.C. on the evening. He referenced that when many people encounter the Gardaí, they assume it is when something is wrong; there has been an accident or tragedy. Garda White reflected that much of the work done by An Garda Síochána is in keeping young people out of trouble, and not trying to get them into trouble.

Garda White also thanked their partners in the schools and community based organisations that provide such valuable support to the youth. It will be through those people on the ground that the 10,000 booklets will be distributed to get to the young people.

*Article submitted by Bandon Community Policing Unit*





## Joint Anti-Social Behaviour Initiative

In February 2013, Community Garda O'Neill was receiving a large number of calls to Mahon Point shopping centre in relation to antisocial behaviour. On most of the call outs the behaviour was more of a nuisance behaviour with no offence taking place. This made it difficult for Gardaí to deal with.

The behaviour was causing a considerable amount of concern to Mahon Point, in the running and safety of centre for both workers and shoppers. As the young people involved were from The May Project (the Garda Diversion project) Garda O'Neill made contact with the coordinator of the project and discussed meeting with the management at Mahon Point and also the JLO. Garda O'Neil organised the first meeting and all concerned discussed the matters arising. Mahon Point were willing to come on board to assist the project in dealing with the young people.

From this meeting, a number of discussions took place in an effort to look at the most effective way to deal with the behaviour as a joint approach to tackle the problem. The young people were aware that their behaviour was not necessarily coming under the Garda Diversion Programme, and in turn they felt that

they were getting away with it. It was decided that the parents of the young people would need to come on board also for the Joint action to work.

A decision was made to start with three young people and to invite them, their parents, Mahon Point Security Management, the JLO, Community Policing, and the Coordinator of the May Project. The aim was to meet in a restorative like meeting allowing each party to speak of how the behaviour was effecting them, and to give the young people a venue to discuss why they were behaving the way they were, or what in turn would help to change that behaviour.

The May Project were running a program called a "Life of Choices", so it was decided that this new initiative would come under the umbrella of the Life of Choices program. Throughout this process all parties had a number of meetings and derived a behavioural contract. This was agreed and signed by all parties. This initiative was on a trial and error basis.

To date, five young people have gone through the program proving quite positive for the last two young people. The first three young people engaged for a number of weeks, but

they then in turn stopped engaging, and so did their parents. However, the effects of the program have still reduced the antisocial behaviour and nuisance behaviour of young people, proving to be a positive outcome. The program is continuing to work with the young people, and in some cases it depends on what consequence will be most effective for each individual young person.

Garda O'Neill and the Coordinator, Evelyn Richardson, of the May Project have documented the program. It has been documented in an effort to assist other Garda Diversion programs in dealing with similar incidents in shopping centres like Mahon Point. While the initiative is under the umbrella of the Life of Choices program run through Foroige, it will only allow that other Garda Diversion Projects or Foroige run projects role out this same initiative.

*Article written by Garda Marie O'Neil, Blackrock (Cork) Community Policing Unit*



# Mizen Coastal Watch

**M**izen Coastal Watch was launched on Friday 19th of June 2015 in the picturesque harbour village of Schull. This initiative was driven by Sergeant James O'Donovan and local Gardaí attached to Schull Garda Station, to assist in the prevention of the theft of marine equipment and leisure craft.

Theft of such equipment has occurred periodically on the peninsula over the years, and there has been an increase in numbers of these types of thefts over the summer months. The initiative is also aimed at promoting the reporting of suspicious activity of any vessels or boats on the Mizen Coast line.

The Mizen Peninsula can have anything up to 1000 boats and marine leisure crafts moored and docked at pontoons over the summer months. This is not taking into account boats or leisure equipment that may only be brought to the area for a short period of time.

The initiative was launched by Superintendent Brendan Fogarty of Bantry who acknowledged all the various agencies who were involved in the set up of the initiative namely: Cork County Council; R.N.L.I; Irish Water Safety; Schull In Shore Rescue;

Schull Community Council; Coast Guard; Crookhaven and Schull sailing clubs; and local Marine Centre; along with boatyard owners from across the locality. The Superintendent outlined how this initiative shows: the importance of bonds between all of the agencies along the Mizen peninsula; in working together in promoting for both Water Safety; and reducing the opportunities for Marine related thefts.

Sergeant Ian O'Callaghan, the Cork West Divisional Crime Prevention Officer, stated that such a new initiative will increase awareness amongst the boat owning and user community in the prevention of and reduction of thefts of marine equipment, and will give such persons useful tips to protect their property.

Sergeant James O'Donovan explained that the new Coastal Watch system is based on an email alert system. Crime prevention literature relating to boating and outboard security has been distributed electronically, and to marine centre outlets and shop in the locality.

This will be a two way communication flow where An Garda Síochána will encourage members of the public to contact them without delay on seeing suspicious activity along the

coast line. Mizen Coastal Watch will be utilised also in the distribution of Water Safety advice from Cork County Council and Irish Water safety.

Councillor Michael Collins, on behalf of the local community, complimented everybody for coming together in this worthwhile initiative.

Pupils from Scoil Mhuire primary school in Schull have designed a logo for the Mizen coastal Watch and the chosen design will be the recognisable emblem of the Mizen Coastal Watch.

*Article written by Sergeant James O'Donovan, Schull Garda Station*



## Irish Red Cross Defibrillator Initiative

**T**ralee Garda Station were grateful recipients of a Defibrillator donated by Irish Red Cross and accepted on behalf of the local Garda Station by Inspector Donal Ashe.

The Defibrillator was one of several purchased by the Irish Red Cross following a successful fund raising drive in 2014. The Irish Red Cross is currently endeavouring to equip as many buildings as possible with a Defibrillator, and Tralee Garda

Station has become one of the first public buildings in Kerry to have this potential life saving device.

Training for members of Tralee Garda Station in the use of the Defibrillator and other life saving techniques is currently being organised by Garda Patricia Fitzpatrick of the Community Policing Unit. The training will be delivered by Majella Forde, Charlie Harnett and Linda Murphy who are volunteers of The Irish Red Cross.

In the coming months The Irish Red Cross will equip more and more locations around Tralee with the defibrillator device, and will also provide further training to members of the general public. Should you be interested in learning more about this training, please contact the Irish Red Cross on 087-3931359.



*Article written by Garda Patricia FitzPatrick,  
Tralee Community Policing Unit*



## Ballylongford Community Text Alert

The Ballylongford Community Text Alert Scheme was officially launched in March 2015 at a meeting in Ballylongford Community Centre.

The scheme was jointly launched by Mr. John Wren, Chairman of Ballylongford Community Alert, and Inspector Pat O'Connell of Listowel Garda Station. It was organised to coincide with An Garda Síochána's National Crime Prevention Day of Action.

This is the first Community Alert Group in Listowel District to register for the scheme, and get it up and running in their local community.

During the launch, Inspector O'Connell acknowledged the great work of the local volunteers from Ballylongford under the chairmanship of Mr. John Wren and Secretary Mr. John Kennelly who have worked extremely hard in partnership with Garda John McEnery and Sergeant Paula Kelleher to bring this project to

fruition.

The launch was also used as an opportunity to re-enforce a message encouraging personal safety and security. A range of crime prevention leaflets were provided which in turn were distributed to the local community via their local network.

Inspector O'Connell also used the opportunity to reassure those present that An Garda Síochána have made significant progress in the investigation of the armed robbery in Tarbert, and an appeal was made for any further information which would assist the investigation in bringing those responsible before the Courts.



*Article written by Inspector Pat O'Connell, Listowel Garda Station*

# South Eastern Region

## News





# Community Policing Seminar

**O**n the 15th January 2015, Tipperary Division held its annual Community Policing Seminar at St Patricks College, Cathedral Street, Thurles, Co Tipperary.

On opening the seminar, Chief Superintendent Kehoe welcomed Assistant Commissioner Jack Nolan, the Management Team of the Tipperary Division, Community Gardaí, Elected Representatives, and members of the community from across the Tipperary Division.

Chief Superintendent Kehoe particularly welcomed a number of distinguished

guests who during the course of the evening were presented with Community Awards in recognition of their outstanding contribution to community life in their locality.

The Tipperary Garda Divisional Community Policing Seminar set out An Garda Síochána's priorities for 2015. It gave an opportunity for members of the community to discuss their concerns and share information in an informal community setting.

During the evening Gardaí from across the Division made a number of presentations on topics such as Community Policing,

Drugs/Crime Strategy, Garda Dog Unit, Crime Prevention, Divisional Traffic Corps, Text Alert, Divisional Initiative 'Know Your Patch', and the Garda Victims Office.

Before and after the Seminar, Community Gardaí from across the Division displayed tables which provided the public with an opportunity to meet their local Community Gardaí and gain an insight to a wide spectrum of work performed by An Garda Síochána everyday in the Tipperary Garda Division.

Information leaflets were distributed and the contact details of the local Community Garda were made available to the public under the 'Know your Patch' initiative.

Over 300 people attended the event, and given the poor weather conditions of the night, the support from the public ensured the event was a huge success.



*Article submitted by Chief Superintendent Kehoe, Thurles Garda Station*





## National Job Shadow Initiative

**O**n the 11th of December 2014, Garda Damian Cleere held a Job Shadow Day in Thurles Garda Station.

The two ladies who came to Thurles Garda Station were Joan Madden and Mary Long. Both Joan and Mary have special needs and are members of Inclusive Opportunities based in Thurles. From 10am to 3.30pm, both ladies accompanied Garda Cleere and helped him in his duties at Thurles Garda Station, as well as meeting all the Gardaí and civilian staff. An Garda Síochána, Thurles, plays their part in supporting people with disabilities in the community.

The Job Shadow experience provides people with disabilities the opportunity to shadow a person in their workplace through a normal working day. It is designed to allow the participant to explore the world of work, while at the same time promoting and encouraging an inclusive workplace.

The duties were carried out in a safe environment for Joan, Mary and Garda Cleere. It was a fantastic experience for all concerned.

*Article written by Garda Damian Cleere, Thurles Community Policing Unit*





# Road Safety Education Initiative

Over the last 5 years there have been 62 road fatalities on Tipperary's roads. In 2014, 17 people lost their lives.

Members of the Tipperary Division Traffic Corps have produced a Road Safety programme that is dedicated to educating young drivers who have yet to experience driving on the roads, targeting in particular Transition Year students in schools from across Tipperary.

In October/December 2014, Traffic Corps members in the Division held a two day Road Safety Seminar at Rockwell College Cashel and the Garda College Templemore with students from schools in Thurles, Nenagh, Tipperary Town, Cahir and Clonmel Districts attending.

The 'It Won't Happen to Me', a road safety presentation devised by the Road Safety Unit at Dublin Castle formed the basis for each seminar. In addition, students received a number of presentations on topics such as driving licences, modified vehicles, and forensic collision investigation. Since October 2014, Mr. Barry Murphy, guest speaker from Thurles, himself a survivor of a horrific road traffic collision, has given up his free time assisting Gardaí in providing students

with his firsthand experience of his traffic collision and his recovery.

The most recent Divisional Road Safety Seminar was held on 24th April 2015 at the Garda College, Templemore, and on this occasion was run in conjunction with Tipp FM's Road Safety Week.

Assistant Commissioner Jack Nolan, Kilkenny, and Chief Superintendent Kehoe officially launched the 'Tipperary Safer Driving Initiative'. The concept which was devised by Inspector E Golden was coordinated by Garda Regina McCarthy, and Garda Niamh Dooley, Divisional Traffic Corps, offered each student the opportunity to sign a certificate of undertaking to play an active role in keeping the roads in Tipperary safe.

The Tipperary Safer Driving Initiative incorporates six components namely;

1. Obey the Rules of the Road
2. Be Observant
3. Buckle Up (seatbelt)
4. Obey speed limits
5. No mobile phones and
6. No alcohol /drugs

Following consultation with school Principals, who have fully supported the Divisional initiative, the certificate now forms part of each student's school record and has affirmed that

students are willing to make a positive contribution to their road safety and that of other road users.

The school year 2014/2015 saw a total of five road safety seminars take place across the Division. To date, in excess of 1,000 Transition Year Students have taken part in our Divisional Road Safety Programme and Tipperary Safer Driving Initiative.

*Article submitted by Chief Superintendent Kehoe, Thurles Garda Station*



# Roscrea Community Policing Initiatives

**R**oscrea Lions Club in conjunction with An Garda Síochána have launched a novel but very important initiative in the shape of a small wallet size card on which personal and medical details can be recorded. This is so that in the event of an emergency, medical personnel will know about existing conditions and medication being taken, as well as the name and contact details of the next of kin.

The idea came from Garda Michelle Murphy who saw it being used by a Lions Club in the UK. She approached Lions Club President Paddy Collison and so with the cooperation of both Lions and Gardaí, 3,000 cards were printed and distributed free of charge.

Cards will also be available through Doctor's surgeries, Dentists, Pharmacies, any Lions Club member, or at Roscrea Garda Station.

Pick up a card, fill it out...it could save a life....your life!

*Pictured above at the launch: Seamus Dennison, Inspector Oliver Henry, Lions President Paddy Collison, Garda Michelle Connolly, Liam Spooner and Bill Smith.*

*Article submitted by Inspector Oliver Henry, Nenagh Garda Station  
Photograph taken by Brian Redmond*

**G**arda Michelle Murphy has produced a newsletter to create awareness amongst the general public, of the community initiatives currently in situ in the Nenagh District. It is hoped that the newsletter will aid people in the community in implementing initiatives they might like in another part of the district (eg, Message in a Bottle).

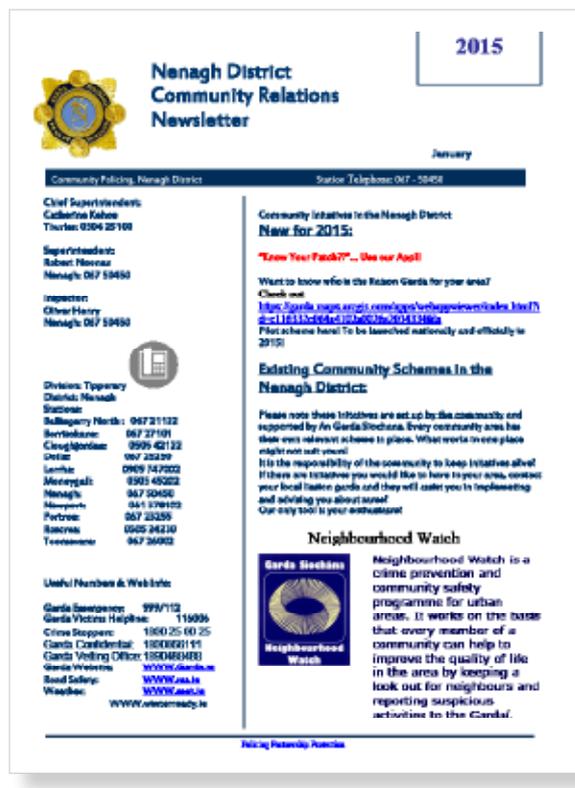
The newsletter was presented to people attending the Tipperary Divisional Community Seminar on the 15 January 2015. Following the event, Garda Murphy issued the newsletter to the public through the Garda station, Credit Unions, Shops, Houses of Prayer, Schools etc.

Also at the Community Policing Seminar, Garda Murphy created a localised 'Nenagh District children's activity bumper pack'. This included the Garda Colouring book, and other colouring pages on personal safety etc. Garda Murphy created word searches for children to locate their local Garda station, local Garda initiatives, and also their local Garda station phone number.

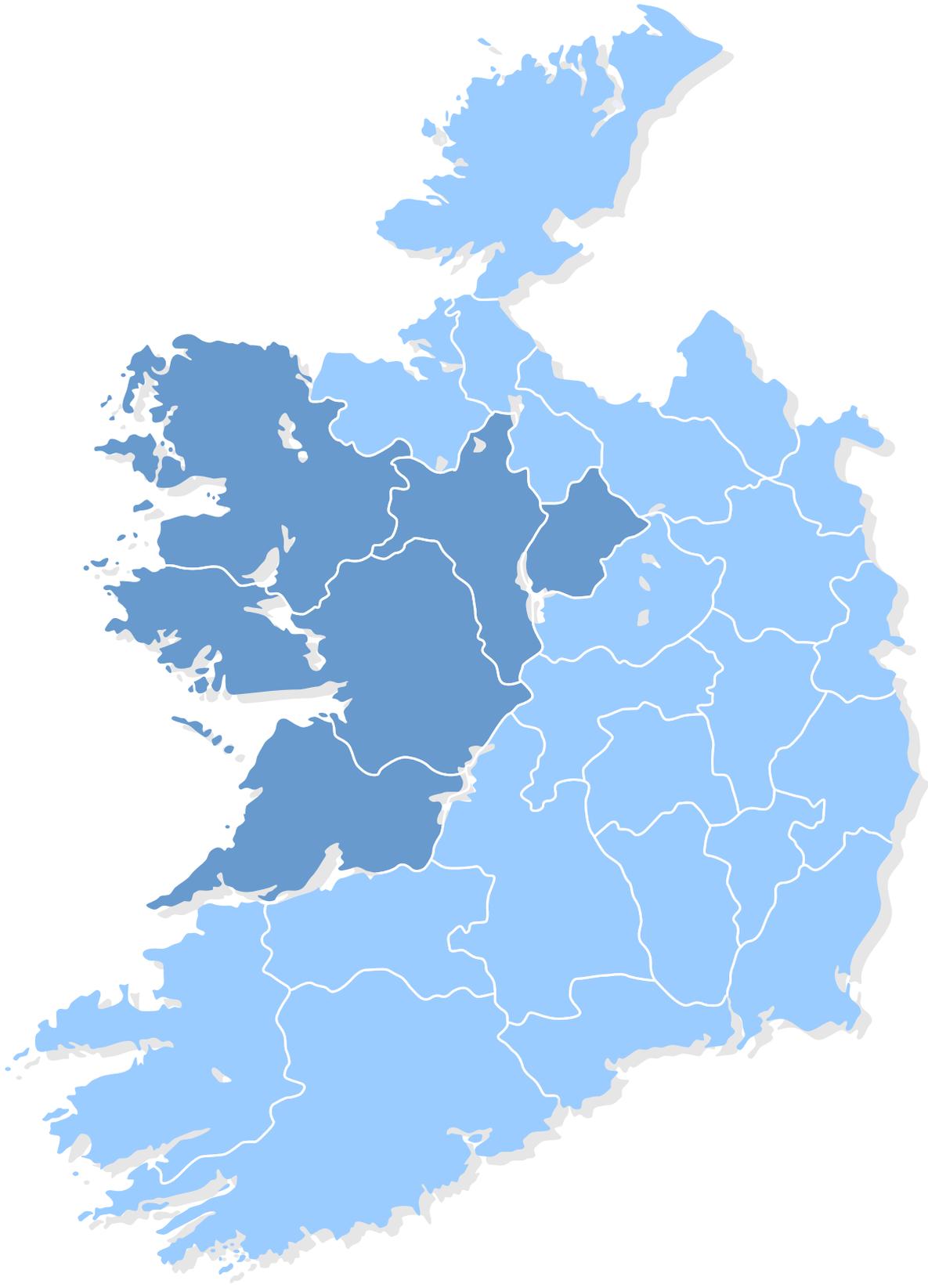
The pack also included: a police badge, colouring pencils, sharpener, emergency whistle, high visibility items, etc.

Garda Murphy was grateful for the assistance of the National Community Policing Office in creating the newsletter, and children's activity packs.

*Article submitted by Garda Michelle Murphy, Nenagh Garda Station*



# Western Region News





## Clare Garda Division Youth Awards

**Y**oung leaders in County Clare were honoured for their outstanding civic awareness and contribution for the first time in a special Garda Síochána led competition which was held on the 3rd December 2015.

The winners of the inaugural Clare Garda Division Youth Awards were unveiled at a special event at the West County Hotel, Ennis in December.

The award has been established by

the county's Community Policing Unit to recognise the selfless efforts of six individuals, and one group, towards others, and/or their community.

Entry forms for the competition are available on the Garda Síochána website [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie), or at the website of awards sponsors Shannon Airport [www.shannonairport.ie](http://www.shannonairport.ie)

The awards are open to teenagers from ages 14 to 19 from across the county, with a separate award for a

group of young people involved in community activity.

At the launch of the event at Shannon Airport were: St. Patricks Comprehensive students; Sergeant Sandra Heela; Julia Collins, Colaiste Mhuire; Superintendent Brendan McDonagh; James Hanrahan, St. Patricks Comprehensive; and Rose Hynes, Shannon Group Chairman.



*Article submitted by Sergeant Sandra Heela, Ennis Community Policing Unit*

*Photographs taken by Sean Curtin, Fusionshooters*





# Longford Top Gear Project

The Longford Top Gear Project is an initiative which was set up by the Longford Community Policing Unit. The concept for the Top Gear Project came about when Garda Kenneth Duggan, Longford Community Policing, sought the help from Sergeant Alan Keane at the National Community Policing Office (NCPO), Garda Community Relations Bureau. Garda Duggan sought to run a project for young people in his area. He wanted to do something new and interesting that would hold their attention, so he sought advice from the NCPO on new projects or good practice.

From Sergeant Keane's involvement with CEPOL, and contact with the Community Policing Sergeant at Devon and Cornwall Police Service, he was aware of a UK police operated programme called "Steer Clear". The initiative involves using remote controlled cars as a team building exercise, along with road safety lessons, youth crime diversion, and positive police engagement. Details and support material of the programme were given to Garda Duggan as a base to formulate the Longford Top Gear Project.

The project is a Model Car building course that takes place over a period of 8 weeks. The cars are Remote Control cars which are taken apart by the students, and then fully rebuilt over the 8 weeks.

During the course, a qualified Tutor guides the students in the stripping down and rebuilding process. They are then tutored on how to control, and race the cars. The Community Policing Unit talk

to the students about Road Safety, and Driver Safety, and give guidance to the future road users.

The young people who participate are referred through: the LEAP Project; The Attic Project; Templemichael College; and any other project that works with young people considered to be at risk of leaving school early.

The Attic Project is part of Foroige, while the LEAP project deals with young offenders and is part funded by the Department of Justice. The Community Policing Unit work very closely with these projects. Some of the young people would have been the subject of the Garda Juvenile Diversion Programme.

The aim of this initiative is to encourage young people to stay in education, and to promote positive interaction with Gardaí.

The course is funded by the HSE, the VEC and the LEAP Project. The initial set up was helped along by the VEC and the LEAP Project which involved the purchase of the RC Cars and all of the equipment. The LEAP Project sponsored the Tutor who gave the course. The Community Policing Unit were present at all times interacting with the young people.

The most recent course culminated on the 29th May, with the participants being brought to Raheny Race Track. It is a specialized race track for racing model cars, located at St. Anne's Park, Raheny, Dublin. The young people were transported to and from the race track in



the Community Bus. A great day was had by all, and the Gardaí received some very positive feedback afterwards. This is a very positive initiative set up by Longford Community Policing Unit aimed at building relationships with young people and encouraging them to stay in education for as long as possible.

*Article submitted by Garda Kenneth Duggan, Longford Community Policing Unit*



# Longford Garda Annual Sports Day

**O**n Thursday the 18th June 2015 approximately 640 children from 15 Primary schools in Longford District attended the Annual Sports Day organised by the Community Policing Unit in Longford.

The event took place at Longford Slashers GAA Club. This is the 5th year of the event which caters for fifth and sixth class students. There were 15 events on the day including: individual; team; and novelty sports.

The Sports day provided an excellent opportunity for local Gardaí to engage with young people in the district, and further enhance links with the 15 primary



schools. An annual award is presented to the school which demonstrates sportsmanship, competitiveness, and encouragement on the day. The winners of the award this year was Gaelscoil, Longford. The cup was presented to the children by Superintendent Fergus Treanor.

The Longford Garda Community Policing Unit is the main organiser of this event. In particular Garda Ken Duggan takes on the lead role, and great credit is due to Garda Duggan for the success of the event. Each school received a letter of invitation in April, and the schools subsequently commit to providing adequate numbers of teachers for supervision on the day. Assistance is provided to the Community Policing Unit by: Longford Community Resources Limited; LEAP project; Youth Service; Acorn; the Volunteer Centre; Transition Year students from St Mel's and the Convent of Mercy; and Longford County Council.

The venue at Longford Slashers GAA Club was immaculately presented and credit to all involved in the club for their assistance in this regard. The event was attended



by Superintendent Fergus Treanor and Inspector Padraic Jones. Valuable assistance was provided by Sergeant Mary Mangan, Garda Marian Mc Dermott Roe, Garda Aidan Lenihan, and Garda Enda Keane.

Many of the 6th class students are now finished in Primary School, and have completed the Garda Primary Schools Programme. They will progress to the various Secondary Schools in Longford, Ballymahon, Lanesboro, Edgeworthston, Moyne and Granard. Members of Community Policing in Longford, and Granard Districts, will continue to engage with these students through the delivery of the Garda Secondary Schools Programme.

It is envisaged that the annual sports day will continue to be a key event in Community Policing in Longford district. In addition to providing enjoyment to hundreds of local children it also provides them, their teachers, and their parents, with an opportunity for positive engagement with local Gardaí. It also encourages and emphasises the value and importance of exercise, teamwork and community involvement in their lives.

*Article written by Sergeant Raymond Tubman, Longford Community Policing Unit*



# Community Engagement Initiatives

**O**n St Patrick's Day 2015, Ennis Gardaí were asked to participate in the parade. Old Garda Uniforms were obtained. Five officers wore these and marched on the day. They were joined by other members of operational units in the modern uniforms.

This was well received by the community on the occasion and all members should be commended for taking part. The officers who took part are: Gardaí James Hanley, David Moran, Dermot O'Rourke, John Reidy, Deirdre O'Doherty, Darren Lynch; Reserve Gardaí Sorcha Flynn, and Martina O'Sullivan; retired Garda Billy Saunderson; and Sergeants Brian Howard, Joseph O'Donoghue, Tim Ryan, and Sandra Heelan.

*Article submitted by Sergeant Sandra Heelan, Ennis Garda Station*



**C**lifden Neighbourhood Watch was launched on 18th February 2015. This is the first Neighbourhood Watch scheme to be launched in Clifden and in the Connemara region outside of Galway city and Salthill.

The Scheme was launched by Chief Superintendent Thomas Curley, Galway Garda Division. In attendance at the launch were local residents and local public representatives along with Garda members:

Chief Superintendent Thomas Curley, Galway Garda Division; Superintendent Sean Glynn, Clifden Garda District; Sergeant Pat Flanagan, Crime prevention Officer Galway Division; Sergeant Noel Gillespie, Community Policing Clifden Garda District; Garda Sean Conneely, Liaison Garda Clifden Neighbourhood Watch.

*Article submitted by Superintendent Seán Glynn, Clifden Garda Station*

