

COMMUNITY TIMES

COMUNIDY LIWES



Crowds Flow in at Waterford Open Day!



COMMUNITY TIMES

eNEWSLETTER

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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 Autumn 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.

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Community Crime Prevention



Well done to everybody in Kilcloone (pictured above) who got their community alert up and running on the 19th June 2012. Garda Cathal Walsh is the community Garda for the area and joined Sergeant Dean Keirns at the meeting, where a talk on Crime Prevention was also given to the large crowd present.

Keirns. TD Ray Butler and Town Councillor Ronan McKenna also attended the launch to offer their support.

It was a fantastic day in Moynalty at the Steam Threshing held on 12th August 2012 (pictured above, right).



Brilliant work by all Gardaí, committee, catering staff, stewards and volunteers at the event who helped to keep everything running nice and smoothly. The weather didn't dampen the spirits of those attending the threshing. All had a good day out. Hi-Vis jackets, internet safety booklets for teenagers and adults, information on Road

There was a large turn out for the launch of Boyerstown, Navan Neighbourhood Watch scheme on the 8th August 2012 (pictured below). Garda Tony Brady the Community Garda for the area explained what was involved in Neighbourhood Watch and Sergeant Dean Keirns, Meath Crime Prevention Officer offered Crime Prevention advice.



Congratulations to the communities from Eldergrove and Avondale (pictured above) who were involved in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch group in Trim on the 22nd June 2012. Superintendent Mary Gormley and Sergeant Tom Mahon chaired the meeting, and a short talk on Crime Prevention and home security was given by Meath Crime Prevention Officer, Sergeant Dean

safety for adults and children and crime prevention information were dispensed on the day. Pictured is Sergeant John O'Dwyer, Kells along with Meath Crime Prevention Officer, Sergeant Dean Keirns.

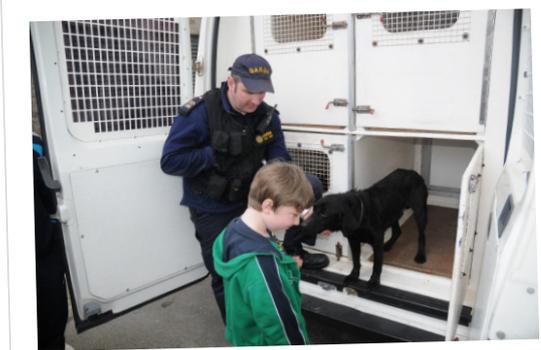




Open Day at Waterford Garda Station

On Saturday 3rd March 2012, Waterford Garda Station opened its doors and invited the public to take tours of the station and check out the facilities.

Garda Patrol Cars including the Specialist vehicles such as the Command and Control Vehicle, Public Order Units, Traffic, Community Policing and the Dog unit, who travelled down specially from Cork to be part of the day.



This was the first time an open day had been held at the station. Sergeant Gavin Hegarty said, "This is the people's Garda Station and we are not hiding behind the walls. We want to open it up to the people and everyone is welcome to come along."

Over 1,600 people visited over the course of the day, helped in no small way by a week-long advertising campaign on Waterford's local radio station WLR (provided free of charge).

Over the course of the day, visitors were able to experience and see all sides of policing, from the variety of

Long queues were seen for the tour of the Garda Station to see the AFIS room, Intoxyliser, CCTV & Control Room and, of course the cells. They were also given a very informative presentation by Garda Aidan Slattery of the Scenes of



Crime Unit.





Supporting Safer Communities

The 10th Garda 'Supporting Safer Communities' Campaign is taking place from Tuesday 25th September to Tuesday 2nd October 2012.

Deputy Commissioner W.I. Rice officially launches the campaign at the Ploughing Championships in Heath Park, New Ross, Co Wexford. During the campaign a National Victim's Forum takes place, as well as an 'Age Card' awareness campaign targeting 3rd level students.

This 'Supporting Safer Communities' campaign primarily focuses on Crime Prevention/Reduction of Burglary, Road Safety and Supporting Victims of Crime.

With these themes in mind, and the college year begun, it is important to consider bicycle security as they are often an easy target for thieves.

When you first get your bicycle there are a number of matters you should attend to:

- Take at least one distinguishing coloured photograph of your bicycle.
- Keep a written record of the make, model and frame number of the bike and any unique features that the bike may have e.g. extra fittings, attachments, markings etc.
- Security mark your bicycle in at least two separate places. Your security mark should be clearly visible and not capable of being easily removed or camouflaged. Consider also advertising the fact

that the bike is security marked with an appropriate label/sticker etc.

- Consider insuring your bicycle, either through a separate policy or through your home contents insurance.
- The owners of very valuable bicycles should also consider having an electronic tracking device covertly inserted within the frame.

When at home, your bike should be kept in a secure location out of public view. Avoid leaving your bicycle unattended in your driveway, even for short periods. Garages and sheds are frequently used and these should be kept locked. It is also a good idea to secure your bike within the garage/shed by fixing or locking it to a wall or other immovable object. If keeping it outdoors, secure the bike to an immovable object - do not leave it lying around and un-locked.

When out and about on your bike there are a number of precautions you should take:

- Always lock your bike, even if leaving it for a few brief moments.
- Lock your bike to an immovable object e.g. a metal railing or lamppost. Be aware, if using a lamppost, of the possibility of lifting the locked bicycle over the lamppost.
- Lock your frame and wheels if at all possible.
- Where bicycle parks are available, use them.

- Take all accessories and easily removable objects with you.
- Consider replacing quick release levers with normal nuts and bolts or with special locking nuts and bolts.
- Do not leave / park your bike in isolated, dark or dimly lit places
- Try not to leave / lock your bike in the same place every day.

There are many different types of lock available that can be used for locking your bicycle. When choosing a lock you should consider how much your bicycle is worth, where you will leave it, how long it will be left unattended and the strength and weight of the lock etc. Most bicycles are locked using the following means:

- D locks / U locks
- Cable locks
- Chain and padlocks
- Click locks





Afternoon Tea at Mount Falcon Estate

The first ever joint venture between An Garda Síochána and Age Action, was organised by the Community Liaison Office at Swinford Garda Station, and with the support of Superintendent Colm Fox of Swinford District HQ.

The Afternoon Tea Party was held in the West of Ireland at Mount Falcon Estate on Tuesday 29th May. It was a fun filled afternoon of singing, seanos dancing, and refreshments. There was also entertainment by Sandy Kelly and Tommy Marren of Mid West radio who was MC on the day.

Garda Anne-Marie Duffy said 'that due to the positive feedback and overwhelming support received for the event, it is envisaged that this will become an annual event from now on'.

She went on to say that, '2012 is European year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations so we particularly welcomed the opportunity to bring young and old participants and organisers together this year to help explore the theme, which is the reason the event was organised for May, to celebrate Bealtaine 2012.'

Age Action believe that this year and

the next few years are going to be very tough for older people, particularly in the rural areas.

The money raised at the event will be used to fund the Age Action Care and Repair Programme and ongoing events for the older people in the area. Older people in rural areas are becoming very isolated and need the support of the Community Relations Programme to continue to engage and have an involvement with people in their own community.

The Care and Repair Programme enables Age Action volunteers to call to people's houses and carry out small repairs and maintenance for them free of charge. This service can enable someone to stay in their home for as long as possible.

In 2011 13,000 people asked Age Action for help. The Afternoon Tea Party was a celebration of these older people who live a good life and add value to our Society but who may find that they need a little support around the house doing odd jobs, making their house secure, home care, and light repairs to mention just some types of assistance.

To show just how important the Care and Repair Program is; here is John's story, one of the people they helped

in January. John is an 87 year old man who was left sitting in the dark because he could not replace his light bulb. He said "when the bulb blew I had no means of putting it back up and I'm waiting to see somebody and I mightn't know them at all. "Excuse me, would you be so kind as to put up the bulb" ... having to ask that I feel very humiliated, it is an awful problem" John rang the helpline and one of the volunteers called to him, replaced his bulb and completed a few other tasks around the house, even arranged to have a volunteer call to cut his grass. This has made a real difference to John's life.





Family Play Day at Castleblayney

Garda Frances Merrick, with the assistance of Garda Eadaoin Campbell, nine female students from Youthreach Castleblayney and their teachers, organised a Family Play Day at Mindszenty Park, Castleblayney on Saturday 30th June 2012. The event was co-ordinated through Monaghan County Council who availed of funding from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

The event was mainly advertised through primary and preschools in the area via a colouring competition, resulting in 245 entries and over 150 children and their families participating on the day.

Monaghan Sub-Aqua Club, whose clubhouse adjoins Mindszenty Park and slipway runs through the park to the Gas Lake allowed full access

of their facilities and, because of the earlier inclement weather smaller children were facilitated indoors by Youth Reach students with face painting, (pictured below, left) colouring, games, balloon animal making and a tutor from Monaghan Partnership led 'Buntus' games.

On site, Youthreach staff and students cooked and served "Sausage and Chips" followed by lots of cakes and goodies to all in attendance.

Outdoors, assisted by Garda Caroline Doherty, Carrickmacross, Garda Pat Merrick, Castleblayney a soccer tournament, obstacle course, fancy dress, penalty shots, hoola-hoop and skipping competitions and many more activities took place.

Sergeant Mick Bracken, Ballybay drew a large crowd as he donned the 'Red Man' suit (pictured above) and became the target for children keen to try out their skills with the baton following a demonstration in its use.

Castleblayney Fire Brigade came straight from a call-out to Mindszenty Park to give

children the opportunity to see the engine, uniforms and have a blast of the siren. Civil Defence members were also on hand to tend to injuries and showcase their work.



Monaghan County Council's anti-litter mascot, Benjamin, (pictured above) was on hand to spread the message that looking after our environment is very important. He took part in all the activities, adding humour to the events.

The Play Day, which was scheduled from 1pm to 3pm, eventually had to be called to a halt at 4.45pm as happy and exhausted families returned home.





National Bike Week 2012

National Bike Week 2012 was held from the 18th to the 24th of June. It was coordinated and funded by Monaghan County Council.

To incorporate National Bike Week into the Garda Schools Programme, Community Garda Frances Merrick at Castleblayney arranged a bike course with primary schools in the Castleblayney area and the Central School, Ballybay. In the larger schools the course was given to fifth class but in the smaller schools first to sixth classes were included.

Practical bike work was carried out with all the schools. Prizes of t-shirts,

bags, drink bottles, puncture repair kits, bike reflectors, water and fruit for each school taking part were supplied by Monaghan County Council as part of National Bike Week.

The course consisted of a short discussion on bike safety and rules of the road. This was followed by practical bike work on balance, control and hand signals, which took place in the school yard for the children who brought in their bikes and helmets.

A safe cycling competition was held at the end of each course and prizes presented to the winners. All participants received a certificate of participation in Bikeweek 2012.

A total of 106 children took part in the programme, 93 of those completing the outdoor practical bike work.

There was very good feed back from the principals and teachers at the schools and felt it was a very worthwhile exercise.





Ennis Age Friendly Initiative

The Community Policing Unit attached to Ennis Garda Station, County Clare. Contacted the Coláiste Mhuire Secondary School in September 2011 to enquire if transition year students would be interested in helping with an initiative to make Ennis an Age Friendly Town. The transition year group had decided to take on "Ageism" as their project for the Young Social Innovators Award.

A number of meetings were held to discuss how they could help change the attitudes of individuals and relationships between the old and young within the community on a permanent basis.

Ennis Community Police distributed 300 questionnaires to older people in the Ennis Area and discovered from these questionnaires that the older people did not feel safe crossing the road at certain points in the town and would feel safer if pedestrian crossing times were increased.

In December 2011 a proposal was submitted to Ennis Town Council. An Garda Síochána felt that the most effective way of promoting safety in collaboration with the Town Council, was to erect signs in the town and by lengthening the time period for crossing the road at various junctions

for the benefit of the elderly. The sole initiative is to prioritise safety and minimise danger for older people.

Ennis Community Police then held two coffee mornings with the help of local priests and students at Coláiste Mhuire. The initiative was explained to the older people in the community and they all signed up for the loyalty card, grave cleaning and Paired Tasking.

On the 8th February 2012, along with students from Coláiste Mhuire Ennis Community Police attended Dáil Eireann where the students made a presentation in relation to the importance of road safety for the older people within the Ennis Area.

On the 9th February 2012 along with students from Coláiste Mhuire Ennis Community Police attended Dublin Castle where President Higgins spoke in relation to the "European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations"

On the 25th April 2012 students from Coláiste Mhuire again attended Dáil Eireann to meet with An Taoiseach Enda Kenny in relation to the Age Initiative and presented him with a loyalty card.

In addition to the proposals, the

following initiatives were undertaken by Ennis Community Police and Transition Year Students in Coláiste Mhuire, Ennis:

- Erection of Road Safety signs and increased crossing time at pedestrian lights.
- Paired Tasking - this involves two students visiting an older person on a weekly basis to assist with shopping, tasks or simply accompanying them on a walk outside.
- Graveyard cleaning for those who are unable to tend to the graves of their loved ones.
- Music Playing at community centre every second Monday.
- Loyalty Card which offers discounts of 20% in local coffee shops, taxi companies and hairdressers.

An Garda Síochána hope that this initiative will help change the attitudes of individuals and relationships between the old and young within the community on a permanent basis. With the help of Coláiste Mhuire in piloting this initiative, teamed with the support of An Garda Síochána, we are hopeful that this initiative will enhance the community.



Garda Youth Achievement Award 2011

Seventeen year old Sean O'Neill, from Balyard in Tralee was announced as the overall winner of the Lee Strand Kerry Garda Youth Achievement Awards 2011. Over two hundred people from across the county attended the Lee Strand Kerry Garda Youth Achievement Awards 2011 in the Brandon Hotel in Tralee on Friday, February 25th 2012.

Sean was presented with a specially commissioned crystal trophy and an overall winner's certificate to mark his achievement. Sean is on the management committee of Jigsaw Kerry. Last year he received a Bronze Presidential Award, a Gaisce Award, and is presently participating in the Silver Gaisce Award process. In achieving this Gaisce Award, Sean worked in a charity shop, 'Action Lesotto', for 2 hours every Saturday. He undertook to learn sign language and he is a member of Tralee Rugby Club.

At CBS, The Green, Sean has undertaken and participated in many positive initiatives, including becoming a mentor for young students in easing the transition from primary to secondary school, becoming a County Enterprise Board Finalist with his mini business "Munch Lunch", which gave students

alternative lunch time, competing with fellow students in the DCS National Energy Saving Competition in order to assist his school in reducing overall cost and energy consumption and being part of the Green Team in his school which promotes recycling and guides his school in becoming as Eco friendly as possible. All these efforts contributed greatly to CBS, The Green in winning an An Taisce Green Flag Award.

In 2010 Sean completed a course in Life Saving Skills. In 2011 he allowed his head to be shaved for a cancer fundraiser. These selfless acts of Sean, not only benefits his local community, the Town of Tralee and his School Community at The Green but is also benefitting communities beyond the limits of our own shores.

The four Certificate of Distinction Award Winners were James Crean, Camp; Juliette Kelly, Gortroe, Killarney; Kerry O'Sullivan, Cahersiveen and Cathy Shannon, Lenamore, Ballylongford. The School Award was awarded to St Brigid's Secondary School, Killarney and the Voluntary Group Achievement Award was presented to YAPS (Youth Advisory Panel) – Jigsaw Kerry.

A merit award certificate was also presented to each of the twenty Merit

Award 2011 Winners including North and West Kerry winners Shannon Carey, (Tralee); Daniel Carmody (Tralee) & Luke Stafford Lacey, (Banna, Ardfert); Niamh de h-Ora, (Baile an Fheirtearaigh); Josiah Dempsey, (Nano Nagle Listowel); Aislinn Dowling, (Ardfert) & Kelly O'Connell, (Tralee); Gerard Dowling, (Listowel); Sam Fitzgerald, (Moyvane); Jack McGaley, (Tralee); Gary Naughton, (Killorglin); Sam Nealon, (Tralee); Teresa O'Neill/Chloe Quilligan, (Tralee) and Daniel Piere, (Tralee).

Chief Superintendent Pat Sullivan said that "An Garda Síochána believes that young people who carry out voluntary work in the community should be acknowledged and we are delighted to have an opportunity to do so once again this year. The nominations for the 2011 awards were particularly impressive and reflect favourably on the youth of Kerry today. This is the 14th year of the Kerry Garda Youth Achievement Awards and from the beginning Lee Strand Milk has been a loyal and generous supporter and I publicly thank them for that. I want to congratulate all award winners and pay tribute to the parents, teachers and the many voluntary organisations in Kerry which encourage and facilitate young people to undertake such worthwhile work in the community."





Community Policing in Bantry

Garda Damian White has been the Community Garda in Bantry since 2007, and over the years, he has been involved in a variety of projects with the local community.

Bantry Driving Academy was established by Mary Keohane in February 2011. The Academy provides a purpose built facility which is ideal for those who are getting ready for the driving test, or getting more confidence in their driving skills, and also the Academy provides an excellent location for schoolchildren to learn more about Road Safety in a practical way. To celebrate their 1st Anniversary, the Academy launched a Road Safety Poster competition amongst the national schools in the West Cork area, and the winning entry came from Kuba Ratajczak, a pupil in 5th class at Saint Finbarr's Boys National School in Bantry. The prize was a trip to the Academy, where all of his class were given instruction on Road Safety, including Cycle Safety, and Beer Goggles Experience. As part of the day, Garda White gave a talk to the class on Road Safety, and



took questions from the students.

As part of his involvement with the community, Garda White visits the local Montessori and Pre Schools in the area, as part of the Garda Schools Programme. On a recent visit to Seskin Montessori and Pre School, Garda White gave worksheets concerning the role of the Garda, and pictures for the children to colour, in the week before his visit. This set the children thinking about the Gardaí, before the actual visit. Garda White spoke about Road Safety, and how the Garda is a friend, and not to be afraid of the Gardaí. The marked patrol car was an attraction on the day, and a visit to see the Garda Station was arranged for June 2012.

As part of National Supported Employment Week, Garda White assisted with the Job Shadow Initiative. This is a national project designed to give people with disabilities an opportunity to shadow a workplace mentor, as they go about their normal working day. Colman

O'Riordan, who is originally from Donoughmore, but attends the National Network in Bantry, where he participates in a horticultural course, was chosen to be the participant in the initiative. Colman was fitted out with a Garda uniform, and had a full guided tour of the Garda Station, and he also assisted Garda White while he was giving a tour of the Station to a class from the local Secondary School. Colman thoroughly enjoyed his day, and went home happy after his experience.



Around The Country...



A Little Lifetime Foundation (formerly ISANDS) officially thank An Garda Síochána and in particular The Garda Bureau of Fraud Investigation and many local Garda Detective Units for their outstanding achievement in putting an international fraudster who had stolen the identity of deceased infants behind bars.



Glenties Garda District (Event Team No. 1) lead the participants of the Letterkenny 'Relay for Life' event onto the track at 6pm on the 26th of May 2012. Glenties Gardaí manned a community relations stand for the 24 hours, assisted by members from Letterkenny District, Letterkenny Traffic Corps and 2 members of the Garda Reserve.



Community Policing members from Navan, Garda Charley McNulty and Jamie McKeown, entered a Garda selection in the Ruth Maguire Perpetual trophy competition. It was held at Scoil Naomh Eoin, Navan on Wednesday the 13th June 2012. The tournament was in memory of Ruth Maguire, 14 years, who passed away in her sleep in 2011 and all monies raised went to CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) and Our Ladys Hospital, Crumlin.



The Annual Garda 7-a-side Soccer Blitz took place on July 23rd at the KDL Soccer pitch at Cahermonneen, Tralee. This is the 4th year in a row that the blitz was held to the delight of the players. Over 120 kids participated in the blitz with teams representing both the towns of Tralee and Castleisland. The competition was organised and supported By Tralee Community Garda Patricia Fitzpatrick with the assistance from the Kerry Diocesan Youth Service's "Garda Youth Diversion Projects".



The annual Cobh District Soccer Blitz took place on the 10th, 11th and 12th of August 2012 at the Community College Field, Carrignafoy. Upwards of 400 children and teenagers took part in the event this year and according to Garda McCarthy, "The event is getting bigger and bigger as the years go by. I've heard many stories from days gone by about how big the Blitz used to be and I hope that the current tournament is beginning to size up to those of old".



The Garda Older Persons Association (GOPA), Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County, addresses the needs of older persons regarding policing matters, through enhanced consultation, communication and engagement. Through this association, the Gardaí in Shankill became aware of The Lions Club "MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE" initiative. They have distributed material in the Shankill, Loughlinstown and Ballybrack village areas.

Around The Country...



The FTMTA GRASS AND MUCK 2012 took place at Gurteen Agricultural College on May 17th 2012. It was the second running of a national grassland technology demonstration event in Ireland and was a highlight of the farm machinery year. An Garda Síochána were delighted to have an exhibitors stand at this years event. It afforded Sergeant John Crosse of the National Crime Prevention Unit an opportunity to deliver crime prevention advice to those in attendance.



A wonderful community initiative was launched at the West Lodge Hotel in Bantry on 25th July 2012, when Bantry Bay Lions Club introduced their Message in a Bottle project. In front of an invited audience of over 30 community and voluntary groups, details of the project were outlined by Garda Damian White, Community Garda for Bantry, who is also an active member of the Lions Club. These bottles will be distributed free of charge, and Bantry Bay Lions Club would like to express it's thanks to Rowa Pharmaceuticals, who have sponsored and supported the project.



A number of groups liaised to combat anti social behaviour, fishing and litter offences to improve the scenic area of Lough Muckno. Planned Inspections of Lough Muckno Park were carried out during the peak season and as a result a large number of alcohol seizures and on the spot fines were imposed on fishing and litter offenders.



Garda Kate Daly Ní Bhroin and Garda David Sheeran liaised with Paul Keogh, FAI development officer for the district in the running of a football tournament, on the 20th June for youth's aged between 12-21 years within the district. The tournament was held in Glebe North football club, Balbriggan, between 6pm-9pm with the focus on engaging local youths in a socially inclusive and crime preventative programme during their summer holidays from school. This initiative coincided with the Euro 2012 competition and played on a night where no fixtures were set, providing an activity for youths.



The GAA Fairplay Tournament in Raheny was very successful as all of the schools got behind the meaning of the day and all of the games were played without any incident. They had visits from some of the Dublin All Ireland Champions Eamon Fennell, Dean Kelly and Mossy Quinn who encouraged the children, offered advice and got pictures taken with them. They also had a visit from Sam Maguire. Naomh Barrog GAA Club were the perfect Hosts. Martin Nolan, GAA Liaison Officer for the local schools provided help and great sponsorship was received from the Dublin County Board in particular Mr John Costello. The Gardaí that were involved on the day were: Sergeant Jim Clavin, Garda Edel Moore, Garda Paul Daly, Garda Lisa Martin, Garda Colm Tracey, Garda Cian Daly, Garda John Hanrahan, Garda Jamie Jordan, Garda Claire Ryan, Garda Colm Mac Donnachadha, Garda Brion Dolan, and Garda Reserve Sean Power.



Over a great weekend, an U8 competition was played on Saturday 2nd June 2012, an U10 on the Sunday and an U12 on the Monday. 270 Garda medals were given out to all competing teams. On the Tuesday, Gardaí organised a blitz for local national schools in the area, the teams were Tinahely NS, Crossbridge, NS Kilcommon NS, Shillelagh NS, Aughrim NS and Annacurra NS who all received Garda medals.

