

Winter | 2013

# COMMUNITY TIMES

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Heroes and Princesses!



**An Garda Síochána** | Working with Communities to Protect and Serve  
[www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

# COMMUNITY TIMES

eNEWSLETTER

## CONTENTS

### Editorial Board

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## Editorial

Seasons greetings and welcome to the Winter 2013 edition of the Community Times eNewsletter.

As part of our service at the Garda Community Relations Bureau, we publish 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.

This 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.

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.

We have included an interactive design feature in the eNewsletter, you will notice a number of links to useful websites and materials. When a hand appears over text, just click to follow the link.

### 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.

### Features

Page 1 Supporting Safer Communities

Page 2 Heroes and Princesses Event

Page 4 'Give us a hand'

### Crime Prevention

Page 5 Seasonal Safety Tips

### Features

Page 7 Polish School Limerick Fete

Page 8 Bandon Youth Project Summer Camp

Page 9 The Cycle Against Suicide Campaign

### Around The Country

Page 10 Celebrating the innovations, achievements and happenings in the community

### Notice Board

Page 13 Snippets of useful information



### On the Cover...

Garda Cathal Walsh and Ciara Casey pictured at the Heroes and Princesses event for Aoibheann's Pink Tie.



# Supporting Safer Communities



The Garda 'Supporting Safer Communities Campaign' was held from Tuesday 24th September 2013 to Tuesday 1st October 2013.

It was officially launched by Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan at the Ploughing Championships in Ratheniska, Stradbally, Co Laois at the Garda Community Relations Bureau stand.

During the campaign, the Garda Commissioner launched the Community Text Alert guidelines and convened a national Victim's Forum.

Nationally, many local Crime Prevention and positive public relations events occurred around the country.

The main objective of this campaign primarily focused on:

1. High Visibility Policing
2. Crime Prevention and Reduction
3. Promoting Road Safety
4. Supporting Victims of Crime

During this initiative, the Commissioner placed a particular emphasis on:

1. Burglary prevention
2. Mobile phone theft prevention
3. Bicycle and theft from vehicles prevention

The campaign offered an opportunity to actively engage and work with, all sections of the community, to achieve a common purpose of improved crime prevention and community safety.

by enhancing relationships with communities and encouraging more frequent formal and informal contacts.

A successful 'Supporting Safer Communities Campaign' is achieved by visible, accessible and proactive Garda involvement, in the various community partnerships and crime prevention initiatives operated in their local areas.

The key to achieving this is being more accessible and looking at the Community as our partner with a view to preventing and reducing crime, and decreasing road deaths.



An Garda Síochána 'Supporting Safer Communities Campaign', afforded An Garda Síochána another valuable opportunity to Support Safer Communities







# Heroes and Princesses Event

continued on page 3

**A**oi bheann's Pink Tie is a charity registered with the Irish Cancer Society and affiliated with St John's oncology ward, Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin. It assists the families of children suffering from childhood cancer and organises a series of events for the children.

The charity was set up in 2010 when Chairperson Jimmy Norman's daughter, Aoi bheann, passed away. During their long battle with cancer, Jimmy met with a number of parents going through the similar trauma. He specifically identified with the financial burden that inevitably follows diagnosis.

Aoi bheann's Pink Tie provides financial and practical help to those families who need it. This allows the families to focus on their child and working through their illness.

On Saturday 13th July 2013 at Dunboyne Castle Hotel, the charity held a "Heroes and Princesses" party for the Children from the oncology ward. It was attended by children from all over the country who are currently receiving cancer treatment or have just finished treatment.

The event was supported by a number of Garda National Units



Region Armed Support Unit, a Garda Vauxhall Victor vintage car and a special aerial display from the Garda Air Support Unit.

All of the children received a Garda 'goodie bag' containing Garda colouring books, pens, pencils, medals, chocolate and toys. Staff at Garda Stores, Santry, kindly volunteered their services in donating material and preparing the bags.

In addition to Garda activities, the event included magicians, comedians, face painters, street dancers, Irish dancing, shooting ranges, karaoke, DJs, nail painting, refreshment stalls, pony rides and much more.

The event was also supported by the Dunshaughlin and Civil Defence fire engines which allowed the children to operate the water hoses and experience a ride on the Civil Defence



and the Community Policing Unit at Dunboyne & Ashbourne. Garda Cathal Walsh, Community Policing Dunboyne helped to make the event memorable for the families. He coordinated, with the assistance of the National Community Policing Office, a range of activities which included the Garda Band, Garda Mounted Unit, Garda Northern





# Heroes and Princesses Event

Hagluund amphibious tracked vehicles. Members from the Dublin hurling team also attended to lend their support.

The National Media were present and articles have since been published in a number of national and local papers. Irish Times photographer Alan Betson took all of the official photos for Aoibheann's Pink Tie on the day.

RTE had commissioned a documentary about Aoibheann's Pink Tie. The Production Team filmed activities hosted by An Garda Síochána, The Irish Army, Civil Defence, Fire Service and local entertainers who all helped to make this fun day such a success. The documentary was broadcast in September 2013.

A big thank you to the all of the Gardaí who participated in this

event and in particular Garda Aishling Connor, Sergeant Dave Campbell, Sergeant Alan Keane, the National Community Policing Office and all of the staff at Garda Stores in Santry for their work and contributions.







## 'Give us a hand'

**T**he Irish Coast Guard held a summer water safety campaign designed to protect children on beaches and near coastlines. They distributed thousands of free waterproof wristbands under the 'Give us a Hand' campaign.

Parents or guardians could write their phone numbers on the wristband so that lifeguards, members of An Garda Síochána or members of the public could contact the child's parents if the child became lost or separated.

The wristbands carry a message reminding the public to call 112 and ask for the Coast Guard for beach, water or cliff emergencies. Loosing a child at a busy beach is a very stressful experience for both parent and child. Coastal or waterside areas present further dangers with open water, sand dunes and exposed cliffs all adding to concerns.

The wristband concept is very simple: it's made of water resistant Tyvek material which is strong and difficult to tear. The bands were designed and developed free of charge by Coast Guard volunteers and are a practical, simple way to assist families. Following a day at the beach, the band can be easily removed and disposed

of by a parent or guardian.

This was the latest stage in the Irish Coast Guard's summer safety campaign which began in May this year and was aimed at holidaymakers, those engaged in water sports, people enjoying cliff walks or engaging in coastal activities throughout Ireland.



Thirty thousand wristbands were made available to the National Community Policing Office for distribution to members of An Garda Síochána around the country.





## Seasonal Safety Tips continued on page 6

### Safe Driving Over Christmas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Slow down.

### Staying Safe When Out Shopping

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

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

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

Never keep your wallet in your back pocket.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Keep the car door locked, even when travelling.

Don't leave your house keys in your car.

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

### Staying Safe On A Night Out

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

Carry your mobile phone (charged!).

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

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



Safety Tips continued on page 6







### Going Away For The Festive Holiday

Make your home look like someone is living in it.

Cancel any newspaper or milk deliveries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### At Home

Lock and bolt your doors and windows.

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

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

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

Never leave keys in view of the windows or doors.

Put presents under the Christmas tree early on Christmas morning.

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







## Polish School Limerick Fete

The Polish School Limerick is a weekend school attended by approximately 500 students ranging from ages 4 to 16 years old. Students travel from as far as Galway, Clare, Tipperary and all over Limerick city and county. The curriculum at The Polish School mirrors the official curriculum of schools in Poland and is recognised by the Polish Ministry of Education. All the students attending this school also attend their local mainstream school.

Garda Hennessy initiated contact with the school in September 2012 and, accompanied by Reserve Garda Olimpia Donczyk has given a number of talks at the school during the school year as well as arranging for two of the classes to visit Henry Street Garda Station.

An invitation was extended to Garda Hennessy and his colleagues to attend the Polish School summer fete on the 26th May 2013. The summer fete is a social day where parents and students enjoy displays of Polish culture produced by the students as well as sports day for the children. This year's event was attended by over 800 people.

As well as being an opportunity to showcase the community aspect of An

Garda Síochána, it was also identified as an ideal platform to promote the Supporting Safer Communities Campaign. To this end a Garda Síochána display stand was sourced and manned by Garda Hennessy and Reserve Garda Donczyk.

Crime prevention leaflets and Road Safety leaflets in both Polish and English were distributed. Assistance from Henry Street Traffic Unit was greatly appreciated. Garda Eddie Ryan attended with the Garda motorbike, and was able to offer advice on road safety for motorbike enthusiasts. Garda Mary Flynn was present to offer advice on Road safety to motorists. Garda Michelle Fahy of Henry Street Community Policing Unit demonstrated some safe cycling techniques to those present. Garda Tom Dilleen and Garda Sharon Ivory also attended in the community policing patrol car. The Garda vehicles and members present were a big attraction with many children and adults taking advantage of the opportunity to get a close look at our modes of transport and even pose for a few pictures.

The presence of Reserve Garda

Olimpia Donczyk, a native of Poland, ensured we had no language barriers. Indeed her presence has been a major asset in developing communication and showcasing An Garda Síochána as a professional, inclusive and culturally aware organisation.

Indeed all Garda members who assisted in this initiative should be commended for the professionalism and the enthusiasm they showed in interacting with both the children and adults in promoting safer communities. The school principal, Daniel Walowiak, has given very positive feedback on the reaction of the parents in particular to the presence and interaction of the Gardaí on the day.

*Article submitted by Garda Michael Hennessy, Henry Street Community Policing Unit*





# Bandon Youth Project Summer Camp

A number of organisations came together and organised a teen fun week in Bandon which ran from Monday 29th July to Friday 2nd August 2013. Louise Hackett in the Bandon Family Support and Community Wellbeing Centre, Valerie Wongkumad and Marie O'Connor of the Bandon Justice Project and Garda Lisa O'Sullivan of Bandon Community Policing organised a number of activities which were all held locally.

The week started on Monday with a workshop with Gary "GMC" McCarthy on writing rap songs which was a creative way for everyone to get their own thoughts and ideas out. The young people were shown how to use rhyming effectively and wrote three amazing songs, which they then recorded. The fact that they were able to produce such great work in one day was remarkable.

The rain (mostly) stayed away on Tuesday for our sports day. We played soccer, rounders, held a pool tournament and had a few games of cards when trying to keep up with teenagers got too tough.

Wednesday was break-dancing day with instructor Adam "Dusto" O'Connor. He showed the young people a few moves and then broke it down step by step to give them an idea of what you would be doing if you chose to study the type of dance.

Adam was back again Thursday for a workshop in Graffiti art. He explained that there are designated areas in Cork city for creating graffiti. He also showed how

interesting it can be when time and effort is put into a piece.

On Friday, the young people completed their artwork on the garden wall of the Bandon Justice Project house in Deerpark. They learned different techniques and worked together to complete three different pieces, along with putting their own unique tags on the walls also.

Thank You's

There are a few people we wish to thank for helping us out during the week, and helping to make it a success.

Sarah Mulcahy, the Bandon Community Drugs Worker helped out and took part, along with volunteers William O'Kelly and Tús worker, Teri Cort Dains. Their time and efforts were greatly appreciated. Many thanks also to Des Prendergast and John Crean in Bandon Town Hall for allowing us to use the space all week and graciously helping with anything we needed.

We wish to thank the following for their monetary contributions towards the camp; Bandon Youth Diversion Project and Foróige; Kevin Early of the Early School Completion Programme; Lorraine O'Donovan of the Strengthening Families Programme as part of the West Cork Development Partnership and Louise Hackett, Coordinator of the Bandon Family Support and Community Wellbeing Centre.

We were supported by local businesses all week who provided us with lunches for the young people free of charge.

Thank you to the following; Martin Carey's Butchers (South Main Street); the Bread Basket (Market Street); Niall's Café (Riverview Shopping Centre); Caulfield's Super Valu (Riverview Shopping Centre) and Centra at Kevin O'Leary's Garage (Irishtown, Bandon).

Finally, I wish to thank all the young people who took part during the week. They were a pleasure to work with and were polite and enthusiastic throughout. They were a credit to themselves and I hope they are all proud of what they achieved over the week.

As the fun week was successful this year, we will hope to run a similar week next year.

For more info on the camp or any of the organisations involved contact:

Garda Lisa O'Sullivan, Community Policing, Bandon (023 885 2200 / 087 980 2528); Valerie Wongkumad (086 780 0091) and Marie O'Connor (086 045 5012) of the Bandon Garda Youth Diversion Project; Louise Hackett of the Bandon Family Support and Community Wellbeing Centre (086 025 3705 / 023 886 8107).

*Article submitted by Garda Lisa O'Sullivan, Bandon Garda Station*





# The Cycle Against Suicide Campaign

**T**wo Carlow Gardaí took on the challenge of a 14 day cycle which covered 1,400km to help raise awareness of mental health issues and to assist in suicide prevention.

25-year-old Garda David O' Sullivan was one of three Gardaí who completed the entire cycle. He raised almost €2,000 for the benefit of CONSOLE and Cork Bereavement Services. Garda Ralph Holmes from the Carlow Community Policing Unit also completed one leg of this cycle from Castlebar to Sligo, a total of 100km.

The Cycle Against Suicide charity event was a huge success as over 4,000 mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, brothers and sisters participated in the suicide awareness campaign which took place over 14 days.

Returning on the final leg of their journey from Dundalk to Dublin, the sea of orange was led into The Garda Boat Club, Islandbridge, by Irish celebrities Bressie, Roz Purcell, Colm Hayes and Brent Pope. The cyclists received an amazing welcome from the hundreds of supporters backing the awareness campaign.

The idea behind the project was developed by entrepreneur and businessman Jim Breen. Speaking at the event, Jim said: 'What an amazing last two days! Who would have thought that we were going to get 2,500 people cycling on these last two days alone, considering that our original target for the full two weeks was 1,000 people! What an incredible

show of strength that together, shoulder to shoulder, we can break the cycle of suicide in Ireland. I'm so proud to have been involved in this journey, along with so many others, including the Gardaí, the Civil Defence, The National Suicide Research Foundation, The National Office of Suicide Prevention, The Institute of Guidance Counsellors and Mental Health Ireland'.

Irish musician and star of RTE's 'The Voice', Bressie, spoke of his involvement with the cycle: 'The Cycle has had a massive impact on me personally and the positivity surrounding the cycle is immeasurable. I have been humbled by the stories my fellow cyclists have shared with me and I have been privileged to be able to tell my story to such receptive audiences. It's time to break the cycle'.

Top Irish model Roz Purcell, who had put her work schedule on hold to participate in nearly all of the two week cycle, said: 'I came on board for Cycle Against Suicide thinking of it as a physical challenge, not realising that what we are doing is changing the way a nation is thinking about mental health'.

After a short rest, the cyclists went on to swap their sports gear for their glad rags as they attended the Cycle Against Suicide After Party at the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Golden Lane, which was hosted by 2fm's Colm Hayes, who had also joined the cyclists for most of their journey.

Speaking at the after party, Colm said

"The support has been phenomenal, from the cyclists, all the volunteers who have helped out along the way and the Irish public who have cheered us along the roads each day. Lifelong friendships have been made, cycling clubs born, and wonderful memories created. This is something I, and everyone who has been involved with the Cycle Against Suicide in some way, will never ever forget."

The After Party featured live music entertainment from the Heathers, Gavin Glass, Roisin O and Taken.

For further information on Cycle Against Suicide, visit [www.cycleagainstsuiticide.com](http://www.cycleagainstsuiticide.com), follow @CASuicide on twitter or visit Cycle Against Suicide on Facebook.

The project is supported by The Institute of Guidance Counsellors, An Garda Síochána, National Suicide Research Foundation, National Office for Suicide Prevention, Mental Health Ireland.



# Around The Country...



Longford primary school students made their way to Slashers on Thursday June 20th, to participate in the third annual Garda Sports Day. The Senior classes in all primary schools in the Longford District are invited to take part in the sports day, which is an initiative set up by the Community Policing Unit. 'The children take part in a range of activities', explains Ursula Hussey, Community Garda, 'from obstacle courses to water events, and at the end of the day, the best school is awarded, not based on points but on participation. It's good for us to have this positive link with the schools. It went well and we look forward to continuing similar events in years to come'. This year's event was the most successful to date, with more than 600 children taking part.



The Glencullen Community Gathering (Co. Dublin) took place on Friday 28th June to Sunday 30th June 2013. The event included an organised fair, vintage car rally, Irish dancing and a historical tour of the area. The event was attended by the Garda Mounted Unit, members from St. John Ambulance, local politicians including Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Cathaoirleach Carrie Smyth and people from far and wide. Well done to all who organised and participated in this event, which was a resounding success.



The 5th Annual Garda 7-A-Side Soccer Blitz was held on the 18th July, at the KDL Soccer Pitch, Cahermoneen, Tralee. The event has been organised by Garda Patricia Fitzpatrick, Community Policing, for the past five years and was run in conjunction with the KDYS Garda Youth Diversion Projects. This year resulted in the biggest turn out yet. Teams from all over Tralee town toggged out in the summer sun with over 100 youths participating and a large number of supporters turning up to encourage the players from their own areas of town. On the day, the teams contested at U14 and U18 age grades and the competition was fierce throughout, with Bruach na hAbhainn winning the U18 division and Cois Coille FC winning the U14 division.



A Garda Road Safety Stand was featured at the Feile na mBlath Festival in Tralee, Co Kerry on the 15th June. The stand generated a lot of interest on the day. Included in the photograph are Garda Pat Rice and Garda Patricia Fitzpatrick along with members of Road Safety Authority Team.



Residents of Maryborough Village were encouraged to report any suspicious activity in their estate by Portlaoise Gardaí at the launch of their Community Alert, last week. The launch was attended by the Residents Association's committee members including chairperson Robert Lee; Siobhan Mannion, secretary and Declan Mannion, treasurer. The Committee plan to meet in a few weeks to plan future fundraising events. They have also set up a facebook page which includes the estate's latest newsletter and details of the launch. The launch was also attended by four representatives of Portlaoise Garda Station: Inspector Declan Dunne, Sergeant Justine Reilly, Garda Tara Reddin and Reserve Garda Valerie Byrne.



# Around The Country...



The message in a bottle emergency information scheme was launched in Balbriggan on Tuesday the 23rd July at the Senior Citizens Hall, High street, Balbriggan by An Chaitleach, Peadar O'Kelly and Acting Mayor of Fingal, Tom O'Leary. The initiative is being supported by Balbriggan Community Gardaí, Fire and Ambulance Services, HSE, Doctors, Chemists, Senior Citizens group, local Clergy, St Vincent de Paul, Order of Malta Fingal Home Care, Balbriggan Town Council and Fingal County council.



Dundrum Community Garda Unit attended at the Kilcross Estate Family Fun Day on 28th July. Garda Linda Byrne and Garda Catherine Murray were a big "HIT" with the local children, as were the Garda Vehicles on display.



1,011 people of all ages joined hands for a lap of the Wilton Shopping Centre in Cork on Monday morning to set the World Record for the largest game of Ring-a-Rosy in aid of the Cork City Hospitals Children's Club. Joined by the Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. John Buttimer, local Community Gardaí and a host of Disney characters and princesses, the Cork City Hospitals Children's Club, along with the help of the Cork public, successfully broke the previous record of 909. The event was the culmination of several months of planning by the committee of the Cork City Hospitals Children's Club, a voluntary organisation which provides fun and exciting events, holidays and trips of a lifetime for recovering or terminally ill children and children affected by bereavement, family illness or other personal circumstances.



Reaction to a drugs awareness campaign by An Garda Síochána and a number of local national schools in Cork has been very positive. Overseen by Superintendent Michael Comyns the aim of the initiative was to alert young people to the dangers associated with drug use. A poster competition was organised in conjunction with the schools programme and schools' liaison officer, Garda Denis Motherway had the pleasant task of visiting 3 schools and presenting students with their book token prizes.



The recent opening ceremony of 'Fairlawn/Prospect Hill Community Garden' was attended by Community Police members Sergeant Aiden Flanagan and Garda Dave Mc Kenna. A lot of work went into this project, sponsored by Dublin City Council & the Fingal Centre, working closely with NPU members attached to Finglas. This particular area had been wasteground in the past, which was used for public drinking/anti social behaviour, drug dealing, concealing stolen property, vandalism and graffiti. The NPU members for the Finglas South Area have worked closely with the residents groups particularly 'Finglas South Combined Residents' in this area and there has been a reduction in the types of problems outlined above.



# Around The Country...



Swords Community Gardaí in partnership with Swords Youth Service hosted The Garda Knife Crime Programme on the 15th & 16th of July 2013. This is the fifth year the Gardaí have run the programme changing it each time to adapt to the different needs of the participants. The 2-day programme focused on alcohol, drug abuse and knife crime. Certificates were awarded to the participants on the night of the 16th of July by Inspector Noel Eiffe.



On Thursday 21st March 2013, a Message In A Bottle initiative was launched in conjunction with An Garda Síochána and the Navan Lions Club. At Kells Garda Station Chairman Niall Gogarty received the supply of Message in a bottle for each home in the Hermitage Glen estate in Kells from Eamon Courtney, Navan Lions Club. They were later distributed to each household. The primary purpose of the Message In A Bottle is to provide the emergency services with vital medical information contained in a plastic bottle which is kept in the fridge. Vulnerable people or anyone with a medical condition enter their details on the form provided and this is then kept inside the bottle.



The Road Safety Walk for the primary school children of St. Mary's Primary School, Stranorlar, Co. Donegal took place on 24th May 2013 at 7pm. This event was held in conjunction with the school's 5km run. A total of 199 children took part. Garda medals were presented to all participants and the day was deemed a great success. Sergeant Kevin Lynch, Ballybofey garda station was the Garda organiser of the event which was covered by the local media.



On the 15th May 2013 the Community Policing members at Tralee Garda Station took a group of 55 people from the community on a trip to Dingle for the annual Community Day Out. The trip included a sightseeing trip around Sleat Head and a stop off in Dingle town. They were treated to dinner in the Dingle Skellig Hotel, followed by an evening's entertainment provided by musician Michael Gaffney. The Lions Club have been supporting this event for over ten years to bring members of the community together. The president of the Lions Club, John Naughton said "we are very grateful to Community Gardaí for organising this event, bringing people together and it is a reflection of the good work they do"



As part of bike week, Garda Seamus Moriarty attended school's in Tralee District and gave a talk and demonstration to the students on cycle safety and took the groups out on a cycle. Each student was given a RSA high visibility jacket and cycling helmet.



On Monday 3rd June Garda Mandy Lowe, newly appointed Community Garda for the Stepside / Kilternan area of Dublin 18, organised a coffee morning as an opportunity for a 'Meet and Greet' in the Step Inn. Over 50 members of the local community attended and met several members of the local Community Police unit based in Dundrum and Blackrock Garda Stations. The venture was deemed a major success and, it is felt, will be a help in fostering community consultation in the area.





# Notice Board



The bogus caller cards are now available through your local Garda station. They have been kindly supplied by Neighbourhood Watch in association with 11890, Directory Enquiries. For further information, check out the Garda Facebook page.

The Taxi Driver Check app, from the National Transport Authority, has been developed to help taxi users verify that the vehicle they are about to hire has been registered correctly and that the driver has the appropriate permissions to take the hire.

The app is free to download from Apple's App Store and the Android's Google Play Store.

For more information visit:  
[www.transportforireland.ie](http://www.transportforireland.ie)



The Taxi Driver Check app allows a passenger to check the licence details of both the vehicle and the driver, and to see an ID photo of the authorised driver.



THE GRASP LIFE Foundation, an Irish charity organisation which helps those who are experiencing suicidal thoughts or are worried about someone who is, have launched an app for both iPhone and Android.

Once downloaded, users can access advice as well as contact information for different help organisations, based on their current location.

For more information visit:  
[www.grasplife.ie](http://www.grasplife.ie)

