

PUBLISHED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE PRISON OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

PRISON OFFICER

Issue 5 - September 2014

IRISH PRISON SERVICE STAMP LAUNCH 7TH AUGUST 2014

See page 4 and 5





EDITORIAL

Colleagues,

In this newsletter you will find a tribute to John Allman Arbour Hill who sadly passed away since the July edition of the magazine. May he rest in peace.

NEC Meeting

At the NEC Meeting on the 3rd September 2014 there were two applications for sanction of industrial action from Mountjoy and Cloverhill. After a comprehensive briefing on the difficulties that POA Members face on a daily basis, sanction for industrial action was sanctioned by the NEC.

Other issues discussed at this NEC Meeting were Reports from Transformation Team, Rent Allowance for New Entrants, PMDS, RPO Pay, PASO Rate of Pay, LRC Advisory Service, Meeting with the Minister, Departmental Council, Short Notice Leave, National Officers Competition, Diary and Health Screening Report. Any Member seeking clarification on any of these matters please contact the NEC Member who attended the meeting.

IPS Stamp Launch

In this newsletter you will find the photos from the IPS Stamp Launch which took place on the 7th August 2014 in the GPO, Dublin. The Guard of Honour and Colour Party were resplendent in the magnificent setting inside the GPO. Speakers at the launch included the Minister for Justice, CEO An Post and Michael Donnellan Director General Irish Prison Service.

FESSEF Open Day

Another display from Prison Staff took on place on Saturday 6th September 2014 where a Guard of Honour marched from Wood Quay to the Royal Hospital Kilmainham. The Irish Prison Service together with a number of other emergency services took part in a parade and display of services as part of FESSEF (Frontline Emergency Security Services Eire Forum) Open Day. Inside this newsletter you will find photos of this Open Day. Great credit again to all the staff who participated in this event.

CPL Health Screening Report

As mentioned earlier in the editorial the NEC were issued with a copy of the report of the Health Screening. A copy of this report is available for any Member to read in the Members Section of the POA website www.poa.ie any member who wishes to access the members section of the POA Website please email admin@poa.ie and a username and password will be issued to you.

Ice Bucket Challenge

As the Ice Bucket Challenge has gone viral online it is the St. Patrick's Staff who have taken the plunge and challenged Cork Prison to follow suit. Please see article and photos inside.

IPS Athletics

I would like to thank Mick Dooley for the regular contribution to the Prison Officer magazine. Please see article in this magazine.

Branch News

I would encourage more Branches to submit articles for inclusion in the Prison Officer magazine. Again we have the regular contributors so please pass on your articles through your Branch Secretary or direct to Headquarters at admin@poa.ie

Website and Email Access to POA Information

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Members who have signed up for the Members Section of the website and to receive regular information streams from Headquarters.

I cannot stress the importance for Members to sign up for information access.

Any member who wishes to sign up for Website and Email Access please email admin@poa.ie and an username and password for the Members Section will be issued and your personal email address will be added to the 1,000 other Members who regularly receive updates from Headquarters.

Industrial Action Cloverhill Prison and Mountjoy Prison

At the time of this newsletter going to print the Industrial Action in Cloverhill Prison on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th September 2014 went ahead with one hour stoppages from 2.00pm to 3.00pm. Please see Press Statement below 18th September 2014.

EDITORIAL CONTD.

Press Statement from the Prison Officers' Association, 18 Sep 14

The Prison Officers' Association can confirm that industrial action, in the form of a work stoppage went ahead at Cloverhill Prison today and a further one hour stoppage is planned for tomorrow.

Jim Mitchell, Deputy General Secretary, POA, said this evening, "We are bitterly disappointed that talks at the Labour Relations Commission on Tuesday last, which could have resolved this industrial action at Cloverhill, were unnecessarily delayed.

Today's industrial action has gone ahead primarily because of a lack of staff on the landings in Cloverhill - and the knock on safety issues, which have developed. Prison Officers at Cloverhill are understandably concerned about the types of prisoners being housed there and the increased risk associated with this".

Mitchell went on to say, "There is a lack of application of Health and Safety measures at Cloverhill - and this is a direct responsibility of prison management.

It is most regretful that management could not have made a more constructive effort to resolve the very real safety issues for our members at Cloverhill and in doing so could have avoided today's industrial action".

The industrial action at Cloverhill Prison will also proceed tomorrow (Friday) from 2pm to 3pm, as will the industrial action planned for next week at Mountjoy Prison. This is the current position unless management can find a way of addressing the key safety issues, which have been clearly identified.

Paul Purcell, Editor

YOU HAVE HEARD OF THE DRUNKEN SAILORS, MEET THE DUNKIN JAILERS



See more photos from St. Patrick's Ice Bucket Challenge on Page 16

Stamp Launch



PRISON OFFICER



POMAS

YOUR HEALTH
INSURANCE UPDATE!

“PAY AS YOU GO”! For your health insurance through salary deduction— no hidden costs, easy payments through your fortnightly payroll deduction.

Prison Officer’s Medical Aid Society –POMAS – Your society dedicated to providing comprehensive Health Insurance for the members and families of the Prison Service.

A recent Healthcare Plan comparison independently conducted by Mercer of the Value for Money of your plan compared to plans from LAYA VHI and AVIVA clearly placed POMAS ahead on the Basket of **Everyday** Health Costs that we cover, let alone the “Dental Cover on the POMAS plan is far more comprehensive than on any of these market plans.”

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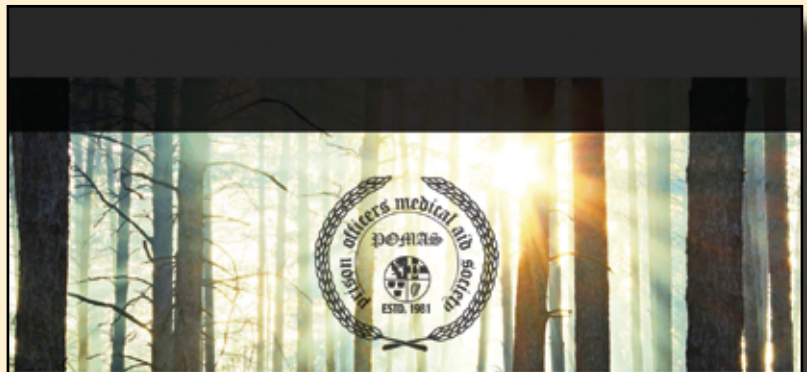
Do you know Insurance Loadings are here to stay! – From May 1st 2015 any Adult that does not have Insurance cover will face a premium for the rest of their lives at the rate of 2% per year.

Adult Aged 38 will pay 8% **LOADING**

Adult Aged 46 will pay 24% **LOADING**

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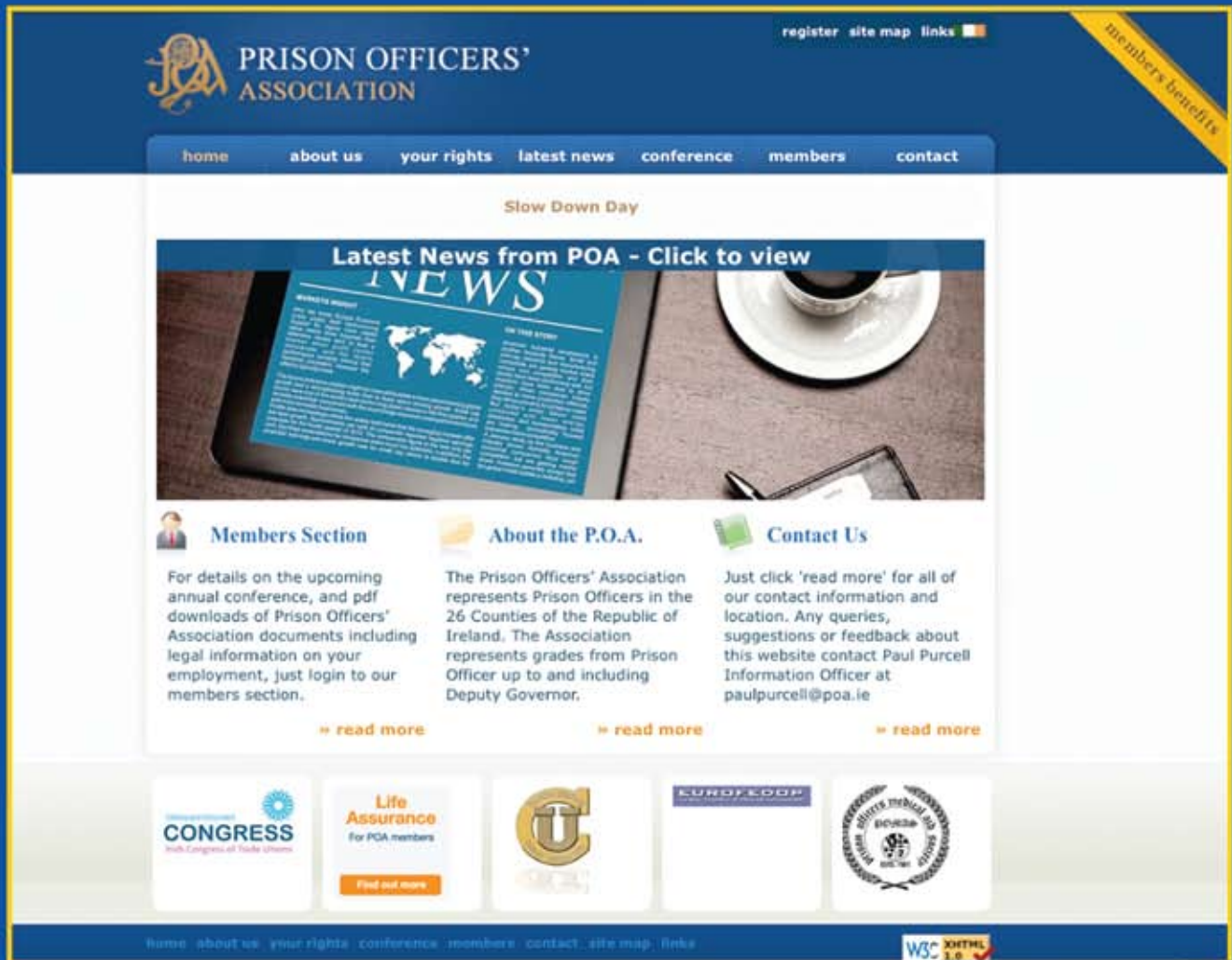
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FESSEF - DAY TO REMEMBER



PRISON OFFICER





John Allman R.I.P.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of our colleague and friend John Allman. The suddenness of his passing had everyone in shock. John was a character in the Irish Prison Service and was larger than life with all his stories of his exploits with his comrades and would repeat these stories to anyone who would listen. In reality John was like a rolo; hard on the outside and soft on the inside. John would do you no harm and would always be first in line to help you out if you had a problem.

John loved his family and spoke passionately about his brothers, sisters, daughters and grandchildren to his close friends. On visiting John in hospital we couldn't get over his courage and bravery in the face of the heavy news that his illness was terminal. John would say "Ah, horse, I can't turn the clock back; I will just have to deal with the hand I'm dealt." John was so excited about his family and especially his daughters coming up to visit him while in hospital. He was like a child waiting for Santa to come. He was beaming after that visit.

John will be sadly missed by his entire family, the Irish Prison Service and all the friends that he made over his near 30 years service; especially his closest, and best friends of which he had so many. John will also be greatly missed by Elsie, who was his long term partner.

John's other passion was fishing. He loved to be out in the open air. The stories he told about his fishing trips you would think he was after catching the Lough Ness monster - the fish were getting bigger every time he told the stories but John was an excellent fisher man.

John made a great and lasting impression on everyone he met. John was "John."

"Horse" was John's catchphrase; and he used it a lot; everyone was "Horse" to John. Even the prisoners of Arbour Hill were shocked at John's sudden passing. One prisoner had said that he was "...such a good man. He would always look after you. Mr. Allman will be missed. He was great craic. He was a gentleman and we will miss all of his stories."

We were all privileged to know John Allman; and to his family we extend our deepest sympathies. We will miss every aspect of John - his stories, his company, his friendship and his great wit and tremendous sense of humour that he kept with him to the very end. But most importantly, we will miss the Giant that was John.

Rest in peace, horse.



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ARBOUR HILL SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Arbour Hill Sports and Social Club organised a trip with Dublin Bay Cruises, we had the best day of the year for our trip. The trip was very interesting with beautiful scenery of our coastline and a running commentary on the history of the islands. It was lovely to see the wildlife; not on the boat; all the different birds/dolphins and seals. We were dropped off in Howth 90 minutes later, where we retired to O'Connells bar and restaurant

for a few beers and a bite to eat, a big thank you to Simon the owner who gave us a great deal for the fabulous food. We will be back. All on board enjoyed the day. Our fishing trip to Kilmore quay had to be cancelled we will organise this for another time. At the time of going to print we are heading off to Dundalk to the races I will report in the next magazine. Congratulations to all who have retired may you have a long happy and

healthy retirement. We also hope to do the Glasnevin historical tour in the near future, it is well worth doing and very interesting, if you have not done it before. To all who have lost loved ones, we offer our deepest sympathies especially the family of our late colleague and friend John Allman later in the year we hope to unveil a plaque in Johns memory in the Staff Quarters in Arbour Hill.

CORK

Cork Prison Officers Male Voice Choir

This year the choir affiliated itself with the Irish Guide Dogs Association and through singing at Blarney Castle and bag packing in Cork City centre we have raised over 2000 euros so far for this worthy cause.

The Irish Guide Dogs approached us to see if we would be able to record a cd for them to be able to sell at the National Ploughing Championship this year as a fundraising drive.

After many long evenings, we produced a cd that will be going on sale, containing 7 songs we believe it is good value for money but more importantly this is a great cause. We would hope that the Prison service staff gets behind this worthy cause and gives the support needed so that the Irish Guide Dogs can continue their vital work.

We would like to thank the following people in their help getting this cd to production.

The management and staff of Cork Prison for their support and encouragement.

Jackie and Emma O Connell we owe them big time. THANK YOU.

There is plenty of others to thank but a special mention to Liam Duncliffe who is the driving force behind the choir and is without doubt the reason the choir is so strong today.

We hope that you enjoy the cd and thank you for support in a great cause.

Yours sincerely

William Gould
Cork Prison Officers Male Voice Choir



Liam Duncliffe	Sean Nason
William Gould	Sean Mulqueen
James O'Connell	Pat Holland
Jarlaith McCarthy	Billy Dennehy
Noel O'Connor	Liam Foley
Tom Foster	John Duggan
Mick Walsh	Simon Drislane
Eamon Breen	Tony O'Sullivan
Dominic Cahill	Ed Thornhill
William Cremin	Kieran Casey
Gerry O'Donogue	Ger Cody
Ethan Haskett	Jackie O'Connell
Brendan Pierce	Emma O'Connell
Des Goodwin	John O'Shea
Denis Keane	
Dan Murray	
Denis Sheehan	
Damien Sheehan	

CORK

Ring of Kerry

On the 5th July 2014 a group of ten cyclists from Cork prison headed to Killarney to partake in the now infamous Ring of Kerry 180km charity cycle. Prior to this there was intense preparation by all involved. What started out as a charity cycle soon turned into a race. Training was intense, strict diet adhered to and eventually the dirty tricks campaign began! Such was the tension in the build up to the cycle that three of the cyclists decided on the day to go it alone leaving the magnificent seven to compete. Team Stack

were favourites to take the yellow jersey although rumours filtered back in previous days of ice-cream stops and take-aways while out training leaving the other cyclists confident of a no-show from the Stacks on the day! Finally the day had arrived. The weather was perfect. Temperatures were only to reach the mid teens with a slight sea breeze coming in from the Atlantic. Such was the pressure put on the Stacks by Team Quinlivan that a false start was declared and the Stacks were disqualified leaving five cyclists in the peloton. After

a gruelling 180km in the saddle including two hard climbs on Coomakista and Molls gap a delighted Eddie Byrne secured yellow closely followed by Tony Noonan and John Quinlivan. Soon after John Kelly and Denis Keane(still telling stories!)crossed over the line. Following objections from those disqualified samples were taken and the results only confirmed what suspicions we had! Well done to all(even those on EPO) and hopefully next year the legend Seamie 'Cocko' Coughlan will be back in the saddle. Roll on 2015!!!



Left to right: Denis Keane, Eddie Byrne, Tony Noonan, John Quinlivan, John Kelly.



Left to right: John Kelly, Tony Noonan, John Quinlivan, Ed Stack, Denis Keane, Mary Stack, Eddie Byrne.



MIDLANDS

Midlands Rusty Ramblers

On Wednesday the 20th of August the Ramblers embarked on their biggest adventure to date. Our Wild-Camping overnight event took place in the Galtee Mountains, Lough Muskry. We had 15 members who took to the hills on one of our most successful events as a club.

This event was in the planning for a year and after its great success it proved all the work was well worth the effort. We had fantastic sponsorship from several organisation including, IPS Official Club Contribution Scheme, IPSSLA, Mess Committee and Governor of Midlands Prison. We would like to thank all involved for their generous contributions.

The event was designed as the fore runner to an annual inter-prison event that the club plans to run for anybody who has similar interests in hill walking and outdoor pursuits. Thankfully, with the sponsorship we gathered this year, we were in the lucky position to supply the club with enough camping equipment for the event. Owing to equipment limitations, this first year was limited to the members of the Midlands Rusty Ramblers but next year this event is planned to be open to all members of walking clubs within the Irish Prison Service.

So on Wednesday morning we met in Cahir and headed for the hills on the Galtees. After parking we did a final check of our bags and at an average weight of 20kgs a bag we set off. Paul had the lightest bag at 14.5kgs and the trophy for the heaviest bag went to Tom at a whopping 25kgs!! Of course we asked him what he had in the bag to which he replied "well I have my own tent because I snore so bad it wouldn't be fair on the rest"!! Fair play Tom!!

It didn't take the group too long to hike to the camp site (thankfully) where after a quick lesson on how to pitch our tent the group set about settling in. We had our lunch at this idyllic location on the shore of Lough Farbreaga. The weather was just perfect for our day and after lunch most, but



not all of us, set off for an afternoon walk. We decided to climb up a gully and reached summit after an hour or so. Peter, shattered after nights, was one who stayed behind and retired to his tent while Jason went for a swim in the Lough. Luckily for Peter who was in the tent and the rest of us who were too far away to see, it was a sight none of us had to endure!

Our climb up the gully was strenuous and steep. There were parts of it that were almost too difficult but the group rallied together and

we all made it to the top! EVEN Paudie!!! It was a welcome return for Paudie who after 5 months recovering from his "little fall" made it to summit with the rest of us proud of his happy return. Unfortunately however it was not without incident. Poor Marty had the unfortunate luck of having a boulder fall from a height down on his foot. It didn't take long to know he had badly injured the foot but credit to him for continuing on the walk back to the camp.

Back at camp our resident Nurse Trish attended to Marty while the rest of us started on our dinner. Although it was the first time most of us cooked using our new portable stoves and pots nobody burned their dinner! Well not that anybody admitted to at least! Our last member of the group, Gerry, also joined us just in time for dinner. With dinner over we set up our fire for the night ahead. The fire was not part of our plan originally but the group rebelled against better judgement and snuck up a few fire logs and so began the camp fire on the shore. (Sorry Paul)

For most this was where we broke out the social drinks that the group has become accustomed to after a walk. Obviously some have a certain fondness for particular drinks like Alan and his Pepsi Max addiction, so it was no surprise to see him break out a few bottles. We won't divulge too much about the



MIDLANDS

rest of the drinks we had that night! Needless to say though we had a great night around the fire and plenty of craic and slagging a plenty.

Next morning, no surprise to us but possibly to you the reader there were no hangovers but the weather had turned slightly so it was time to pack up after breakfast. Sleepy hollow Alan was last to rise but that was no surprise given his record at "clocking-in" anyway! "unlock". The group kept to its ethos of leave no trace and the site was cleaned thoroughly and the fire and surrounds returned to its idyllic setting.

There was one final notable reflection made by the group on the return back down to the car. Curiously on the way up the weather was clear and fine but on the return it was misty and wet. Normally we attribute the bad weather to somebody else in the group but this time the title goes Gerry who

wasn't with us on the way up but did join us for the return! Marty made a painful but successful effort back to the car. The group rallied and one half returned to the car with his bag while the rest helped Marty make slow progress back. Fair play to you Marty for sticking with it and keeping our record clean! No mountain rescue needed with us!

This being our first year to run this event, it was a huge success for the group. We plan to run a similar event soon and we also plan

to make this an annual event on the hills. We continue to run monthly walks and our next stage as club is to train up to 12 members in Mountain First Aid by running a course in the near future. If there are others outside the club who may be interested in attending this course please feel free to contact us.

As always we welcome anybody to join us on our walks and we would love to see you join us soon!

On behalf of the club, Alan



ST PATRICKS

ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE JAILER STYLE – ST. PATRICK'S

Many of us, our families and friends have taken up the Ice Bucket challenge to help raise funds charity. As usual, much maligned Prison Officers, in their own quiet way, do their bit to benefit the wider community. Prison Officers are now raising funds to assist St. Francis Hospice, which does marvellous work in caring for MND patients. Our former colleague Sean Barry is amongst those being cared for, somebody very close to many of us.

In the normal Ice Bucket challenge, buckets, bins, bottles, and many other receptacles containing iced water were poured over the intrepid Jailer who ended up soaked to a greater or lesser degree.

However, the Jailer felt that this wasn't enough. There was the risk the despite everyone's best efforts, there remained the real possibility that the Jailer wouldn't be 100% soaked.

Now as everybody knows, the Jailer is a very conscientious creature, and felt guilty that those who donated ran the risk of being short changed.

However, the Jailer applied his (considerable) logic to the problem, and devised a masterly plan to ensure the donors would be guaranteed to see their nominated victim 100% drenched.....instead of pouring the water over the Jailer, pour the Jailer into the water!

In this version of bringing Mohammed to the Mountain, the Jailer would be led to a (VERY) large container of (VERY) cold

water.....a skip to be precise.....and immersed in the (VERY) cold water.

100% drenching guaranteed without fail, thus delivering 100% value to anyone wishing to donate to this very worthy cause.

On a serious note, it takes guts to do this, and well done to all who took the plunge, we're proud to call you friends and colleagues.

We nominate Cork Prison



You have heard of The Drunken Sailors, Meet the Dunkin Jailers



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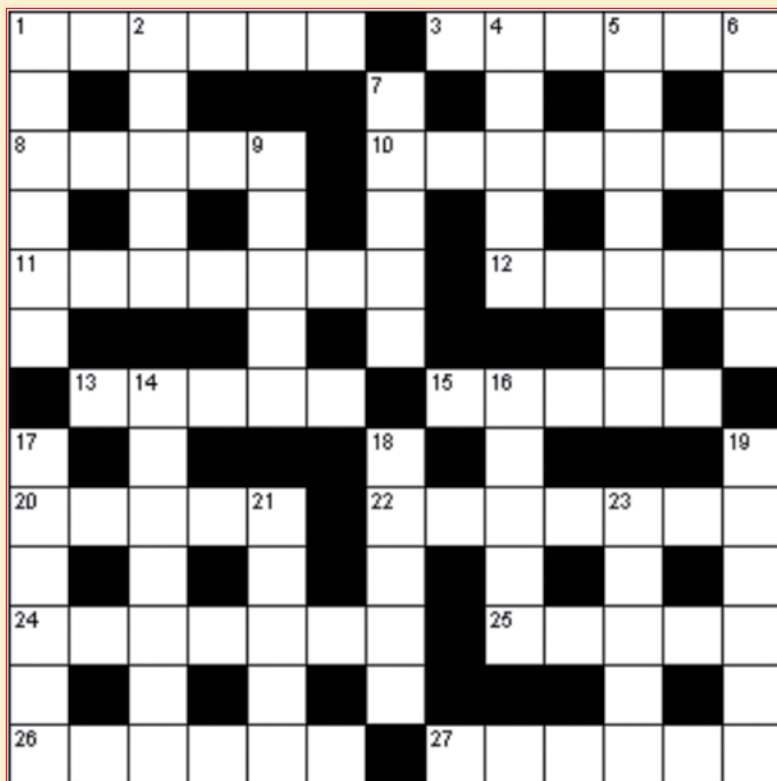
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BRAIN EXERCISES

CROSSWORD



PLEASE SEND COMPLETED CROSSWORD ENTRIES TO
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5 prizes of €25 will be awarded to winning entries.

ACROSS

1. Bicycle for two (6)
3. Legal (6)
8. Metal bar (5)
10. Voter (7)
11. Choices (7)
12. Stingless male bee (5)
13. Ire (5)
15. Accumulate (5)
20. Entice (5)
22. Recess (7)

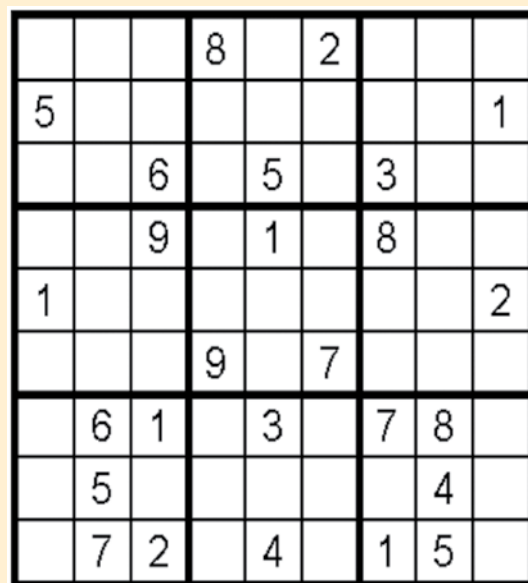
24. Let go (7)
25. Automaton (5)
26. Riding seat (6)
27. Repented (6)

DOWN

1. Sartor (6)
2. Evening (5)
4. Make better (5)
5. Asinine (7)
6. Food store (6)

7. Laconic (5)
9. Fish (5)
14. Wandered (7)
16. Type of musical scale (5)
17. Begins (6)
18. Bet (5)
19. Combined (6)
21. Path (5)
23. Relating to a city (5)

SUDOKU



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The Editor

Prison Officer Magazine,

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— JULY WINNERS —

CROSSWORD WINNERS

PJ Delaney	Midlands	€25
Dennis Collins	Limerick	€25
John Duffy	Portlaoise	€25
Maurice Greaney	Limerick	€25
Linda Rogan	Castlereagh	€25

SUDOKU WINNERS

Andrew Ffrench	Mountjoy	€25
Frankie McKeown	Wheatfield	€25
John Duffy	Portlaoise	€25
John Herlihy	Cork	€25
Jarlath McCarthy	Cork	€25

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— IPS ATHLETICS —

The inter prisons 5k road race was held in Portlaoise on 22nd of August. There was an increase in numbers from last year however the numbers were still small despite the running boom at the moment. The main emphasis was on the team event which proved very exciting with only one point separating the top two teams. The Limerick boys made their trip worthwhile by finishing just ahead of Portlaoise with Wheatfield back in third. The Limerick team were Donal Murphy, Diarmuid Cahill, Liam Vaughan, Jason Hennessey and Jason Deasy. In the Ladies team Portlaoise were Amy Carey 2nd, Claire Foyle 3rd, and Eileen Kerry 6th positions easily taking the team prize. The race was won by Andrew Friel Castlerea Prison in a time of 17-02 minutes just 4 seconds ahead of Don Keohane Cork after a tough battle all the way. Ursula Hayden had another fine run to win the ladies race in 20-20 minutes.



John Fallon, Seamus Smith, Michael O'Brien and Anthony O'Brien.



Donal Murphy Limerick with Wheatfield boys Gordan Boxwell, George Sharp and Paul Cleary.



Jason Deasy, Jason Hennessey, Diarmuid Cahill, Liam Vaughan, all Limerick with Kevin Quigley Wheatfield.



Portlaoise Team, Seamus Smith, Mick Farrell, John Fallon and Martin Carroll.



Mary Rowan Training College with Portlaoise girls Claire Foyle, Claire Dolan and Amy Carey



Eileen Kerry Portlaoise. Lisa Delaney Mountjoy, Sinead Lynch Portlaoise and Anne Marie Lynch Portlaoise.