

PUBLISHED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE PRISON OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

PRISON OFFICER

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019



Medal Presentations were made to staff in the Midlands Prison who reached 21 and 30 years' service.

See pages 7 to 9 for further information and photos of recipients. See pages 13-14 for more information on this event.



The POA are delighted to help raise awareness of ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS WEEK by the Irish Kidney Association.

See pages 14 to 15 for further information



This year's Annual Remembrance Mass for deceased members, deceased former members and deceased relatives of members of the Irish Prison Service will be held on Thursday 11th April 2019 at 8.15pm in St. Joseph's Church, Berkeley Road, Phibsboro, Dublin 7.

EDITORIAL



Colleagues,

Welcome to the Spring 2019 edition of the Prison Officer Newsletter. As you may be aware there is a new Director General appointed to the Irish Prison Service. Ms Caron McCaffrey has been appointed to the role and we look forward to working with the new D/G in the future. Our initial engagement with Ms McCaffrey on the 26th February 2019 was constructive where we raised the issues of the Implementation of the Revised Civil Service Disciplinary Code into the Prison Service, an update on the National Review of P19s, a commitment to previous Agreements, the reopening of the Training Unit, the National Flow Plan, Campus Structure Proposals, Matters relating to the Dochas Centre and the use of body worn cameras.

Pay

The remaining Pay and Pension Provision measures provided for under the terms of the Public Service Stability Agreement 2018 – 2020 are as follows:

- 1st September 2019: 1.75% pay adjustment
- 1st January 2020: The Pension levy threshold will move up to €34,500. This is worth €250 per annum. The measures is for non-fast accrual grades and grades that are in the new Single Public Service Pension Scheme.

- 1st October 2020: 2% pay adjustment.

There was a meeting held on Friday 25th February 2019 at FORSA Headquarters between the Officer Board of the ICTU Public Services Committee and the Prison Officers Association. This meeting was part of a consultation process between the Officer Board of the ICTU Public Services Committee and affiliated Trade Unions to discuss the implications of LCR21901 relating to the Nurses dispute for Trade Unions affiliated to the ICTU Public Services Committee.

The Union raised a number of issues with the Officer Board of the Public Services Committee including getting a similar review to that taking place in the nursing area, ongoing attacks on fast accrual pension terms in the Trades and Nursing areas, Prison Nurse pay issues, Incremental Scales and matters relating to the Public Service Single Pension Scheme. The Officer Board of the ICTU Public Services Committee informed the Union that there would be further discussions with affiliated Trade Unions when the terms of the new Nursing contracts to be negotiated under LCR21901 are known.

Bank Holiday Payments: There have been a number of queries received at POA Headquarters arising from the

fact that Saint Patricks Day this year falls on a Sunday. When this situation arises the Sunday allowance will not be paid. As Sunday 17th March 2019, is a Bank/Public holiday, Staff rostered to work that day will be paid a Public holiday allowance. The Prison Service has never paid two allowances for the one day, the higher allowance was always the one paid. In the case of five-day liability staff, Monday 18th March should be granted as Public Holiday in lieu of the Public Holiday falling on Sunday 17th March.

National Officers Branch Meetings Nationwide

Continuing the practice of the four full time national officers visiting every branch to give an update on current events and ongoing issues, meetings were held in all branches between the 30th of January and the 12th of February. All branches were circularised prior to the meetings to forward any specific issues that they wished to raise with the national officers which were then discussed on the day of the meeting. The issues covered in every prison were Pay and Pensions, Provisions for Bank Holiday working, National Violence Reduction Unit, Competitions and Recruitment, Transfer Policy, Prison Admin Grades,

Code of Discipline, OID Claim, Night Duties and Staff Canteens.

Revised Civil Service Disciplinary Code

It was reported at the February NEC meeting that the POA had raised concerns with the Staff Side Secretary General Council relating to the implementation of the Revised Civil Service Disciplinary Code into the Prison Service for the purpose of having these matters raised at point 2 of the Agenda at the January General Council meeting. There was a copy of a response from the Official Side to these matters issued in the March executive file which outlined:

Disciplinary Code Claim: DPER are currently liaising with the Attorney General's Office with a view to addressing three different conflicting pieces of legislation to allow for the introduction of the Revised Civil Service Disciplinary Code into the Irish Prison Service. The POA has been advised that the current likely timeframe for implementation is end 2019.

Staff Recognition

At the time of this newsletter going to print, site visits to all locations will have been completed. The Staff Recognition Policy has been agreed and will be available for viewing on the IPS website. The cornerstone of this policy is the establishing of a Local Staff Recognition Committee. It is also important to stress that any member of staff can nominate their peers for recognition, it does not have to be left to the manager to nominate someone.

Irish Kidney Association Organ Donor Awareness Week 2019 (30 March-6 April)

The POA are delighted to help raise awareness of this very important initiative by the Irish Kidney Association. A donor has helped one of our own Simon Walshe who retired from his job as a prison officer two years ago after 30 years' service and this year is celebrating the longevity of the successful kidney transplant which he underwent 25 years ago, in February 1994. Prior to his life saving kidney transplant he had been undergoing haemodialysis treatment at Beaumont Hospital three times a week for close to two years. Simon worked at Loughan House Prison, St Patricks and Mountjoy.

In wishing to honour his deceased organ donor he was the instigator of two initiatives between the prison service and the Irish Kidney Association (IKA). One was an approach to approach the then Governor of Mountjoy Prison, John Lonergan with an idea which resulted in prisoners making benches and landscaping a garden at the IKA Renal Support Centre located on the grounds of Beaumont Hospital. In 1992 he also suggested the introduction of a Prison Officers pay deduction scheme for the Irish Kidney Association which then began and has raised over €200,000 for the charity. He is not sure of the exact amount which was raised over two decades and if the scheme is still running since he retired. Simon is also a former Chairperson on the Dublin North branch of the Irish Kidney Association.

Annual Mass

The remembrance mass for deceased members, former members and families of the Irish Prison Service will take place at 8.15 pm on Thursday 11th April 2019 in St. Joseph's Church, Berkeley Road, Phibsboro, Dublin 7.

Branch News

I thank the Branches that have contributed to this newsletter. This section outlining Branch news of every magazine is underutilised and I would however encourage more Branches to submit articles for inclusion in the Prison Officer magazines. Please pass on your articles through your Branch Secretary. I would also encourage members to submit articles, photos and anything of interest to be included in the Summer edition of the magazine.

Website and Email Access to POA Information

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 1,600 other Members who regularly receive updates from Headquarters. The website is now mobile friendly for quick and easy access on your smartphone.

Paul Purcell Editor

PAY

Public Service Stability Agreement (PSSA) 2018 - 2020

**FOR CERTAINTY, FOR SECURITY,
FOR PROGRESS -**

PAY UPDATE

The Pay and Pension levy adjustments contained in the Public Service Stability Agreement 2018 – 2020 are as follows:

- **1st January 2018:** 1% pay adjustment ✓
- **1st October 2018:** 1% pay adjustment ✓
- **1st January 2019:** Pension levy threshold up from €28,750 to €32,000 (worth €325pa). This is for non-fast accrual grades and all grades in the new Single Public Service Pension Scheme ✓
- **1st January 2019:** Pension Contribution will cease on non-pensionable pay for example additional hours and overtime payments ✓
- **1st January 2019:** 1% pay adjustment for those earning less than €30,000 ✓

The remaining measures are as follows:

- **1st September 2019:** 1.75% pay adjustment
- **1st January 2020:** Pension levy threshold increased to €34,500 (worth €250pa) for non-fast accrual grades and all grades in the new Single Public Service Pension Scheme
- **1st October 2020:** 2% pay adjustment.



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Overview of Staff Recognition Policy

The Irish Prison Service Staff Recognition Policy is broken into 3 distinct categories.

1. Long Service Awards (Prison based service only)

Long Service Awards are by their title designed to recognise specific milestones in the service of a Prison based staff member and mark the significant contribution that the staff member has made to Irish society through the service they have provided.

A Long Service Award may be made to a staff member who possesses the qualifying service for the Award.

Under this policy the following awards will be presented on reaching the qualifying service or retirement from the Prison Service:

- 1.1.1 The Irish Prison Service Medal for Twenty-One Service
- 1.1.2 The Irish Prison Service Medal for 30 Years' Service
- 1.1.3 The Irish Prison Service Medal for Forty Years' Service
- 1.1.4 Citation of Service on Retirement

2. Recognition on Retirement

Under this Policy all retirements from the Irish Prison Service will be officially marked, subject to the agreement of the retiring staff member, to formally recognize the service given over the course of their career. Staff may choose to have their retirement marked privately.

3. Merit Awards

Merit Awards recognise acts of bravery, outstanding heroism or merit which have been performed by staff of the Irish Prison Service.

Awards will recognise an exceptional act that was beyond the normal expectation of the member of staff and taking account of their experience and training.

The awarding of Merit Awards is determined by the Staff Recognition Committee who take cognisance of the recommendation of the local Governor or management team.

All Merit Awards will be presented to officers at a formal ceremony to be held annually in their prison and at which the Director General will be present. All staff members receiving a Merit Award may invite their immediate family to attend the ceremony.

The decision to accept a Merit Award rests with the individual staff member and they have the right to refuse an Award if

they so choose. In addition staff may choose to receive their Award in private.

There are three levels of award, depending on the degree of bravery, heroism or merit. The Award will consist of a medal and ribbon with a clip and/or a certificate containing a short citation of the deed involved and the category of the award. The Awards are as follows:

The Stack Medal

The Stack Medal was introduced in June 2013 and is the highest honour than can be bestowed upon a member of staff of the Irish Prison Service. The Stack Medal is presented to a staff member by the serving Minister for Justice and Equality and is recognition of an act of exceptional personal bravery by the nominee.

The Distinguished Service Medal

The Distinguished Service Medal was introduced in June 2013 is an award which can be bestowed upon a member of staff of the Irish Prison Service by the Director General and may be awarded for the following actions:

- I. Prevention of an attempted escape;
- II. An action that preserved life or prevented serious harm to others;
- III. Acts that displayed exceptional commitment under duress e.g. riots, volatile situations;
- IV. Other such significant events that the committee deems appropriate for consideration.

Special Commendations

The certificate of Special Commendation was introduced in June 2013 and may be issued where the Staff Recognition Committee consider that a particular deed of a staff member merits official recognition. The Certificate of Commendation is presented by the Governor of the Prison.

4. Excellence and Innovation Awards

Excellence and Innovation Awards recognise actions by staff, including Headquarters staff (as individuals or as part of a project team) to introduce new initiatives for the benefit of the Service. These awards are designed to reward creativity, ingenuity that has been proven to aid the management of the Service, the management of prisons or the management of offenders.

Matters relating to Excellence and Innovation Awards cannot cross over, compromise, undermine or interfere in any way with the normal industrial relations or collective bargaining procedures that exist within the Irish Prison Service.

Excellence and Innovation Awards are also an attempt to acknowledge individual achievement both within and external to their work environment which brings honour to the job and to the Service. These Awards can also acknowledge excellence and professionalism of staff in the conduct of their duty while also acknowledging their excellence in service to the community.

The Excellence and Innovation Awards will be introduced with effect from 1 January 2019.

The NEC held on the 6th February was informed that site visits would take place to outline the policy to the Local Management and Local POA Branch Committees. The site visits took place as follows:

- 11 February: Mountjoy/Dochas/Arbour Hill
- 19 February: Portlaoise
- 25 February: Castlerea/Loughan House
- 27 February: Shelton Abbey
- 8 March: Midlands
- 12 March: Cloverhill/Cloverhill/Wheatfield
- 22 March: BSD/OSG
- 25 March: Cork/Limerick

One of the purposes of these site visits is to look for the formation of a Local Committee who will look after all applications for Merit, Excellence and Innovation Awards. The Committee will be chaired by a Governor grade with POA representatives also sitting on this committee. Any recommendations from the Local Committee will feed up to the National Staff Recognition Committee for consideration.

It is also important to stress that Staff Recognition comes in many forms and applications forms will be available in the near future on the IPS website. The policy document will also be available to view on the IPS website.

It is also envisaged that Staff Recognition/Medal presentations will take place once a year in each location. It is also important to stress that the presentations of Long Service Medals and Merit Awards are totally voluntary. If any Staff member wishes to receive their award in private then that will be facilitated in each location. For further information on this policy please contact your Local Branch Committee.

Midlands Prison, Staff Recognition Medal Ceremony 19 February 2019

After a long absence the presentation of long service medals returned for the staff of the Midlands Prison. Long service in the Irish Prison Service was rightly acknowledged with the presentation of medals, a service ribbon and a certificate in a frame. (Kudos to the Midlands framing shop).

In attendance at the Killeslin Hotel on the night and making the formal presentations were the Director General Caron McCaffrey in her first medal ceremony since her appointment and the Governor of the Midlands Prison Ethel Gavin. National Officers of Prison Officers Association were represented on the night by the President Tony Power and Vice President Declan Mullally, both of whom received medals on the night, and Information Officer Paul Purcell.

After the formalities of speeches, presentations and photos all could settle in to enjoy the banter and the food provided.

The work of the staff recognition committee should be acknowledged and it is hoped by the committee to add Merit awards to future ceremonies.

Anyone unable to attend on the night can still collect their medals from the Governor. Those who received medals on the night were:

30 YEAR MEDALS:

Officer	Gerry Ennis
WTO	Eileen Fennelly
Officer	Anne Marie Fogarty
Officer	Jim Gorman
Officer	Julie Madden
ACO	Siobhan McDonald (retired)
WTO	Declan Mullally
WTO	Joe Murphy

21 YEAR MEDALS:

A/G	Fran Baker
ACO	Gay Campbell
Officer	Ian Carroll
Officer	Fergal Carroll

WTO	Pat Cuddy
ACO	Mick Cummins
Officer	Stephen Dennehy
WTO	Peter Doyle
Officer	Willie Gaffney
WTO	Pat Gilmartin
Officer	Derek Hovenden
ACO	Mick Hyland
Officer	Stephen Keane
Officer	Dave Maher
ACO	Niall Maxwell
WTO	Terry O'Neill
A/G	Des O'Shea
Officer	Greg O'Sullivan
Officer	Siobhan Payne
Officer	Tony Power
Officer	Brian Purcell
Officer	Mick Redmond
A/G	Liam Spacey
Officer	Paul Tucker



Des O'Shea



30 Year Group



21 Year Group

PRISON OFFICER



Gerry Ennis



Eileen Fennelly



Anne Marie Fogarty



Jim Gorman



Julie Madden



Siobhan McDonnell



Declan Mullally



Joe Murphy



Fran Baker



Gay Campbell



Ferghal Carroll



Ian Carroll



Pat Cuddy



Mick Cummins



Stephen Dennehy

PRISON OFFICER



Peter Doyle



Willie Gaffney



Pat Gilmartin



Derek Hovenden



Mick Hyland



Stephen Keane



David Maher



Niall Maxwell



Terry O'Neill



Greg O'Sullivan



Tony Power



Brian Purcell



Mick Redmond



Liam Spacey



Paul Tucker



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RUSTY RAMBLERS

My first mountain hike with the Rusty Ramblers. So today I went hill-walking with the Rusty Ramblers. Sounds nice, right? That fabulous piney smell, a spot of relaxed strolling through nature and the feeling of well-being that comes with gently pushing your body a teeny bit past its limits.

Ahem.

To be fair, it started great. The first half hour or so was through woods, which I always adore. It was squishy but totally lovely and when the guys realised I was a bit worried about my shoulder (surgery last November...) they were always there with an elbow or a heave to get me over anything slippery. So nice.

From the first woods we scrambled up to another one, which apparently has the oldest trees in Ireland. Spectacular scenery, it was like your stereotype of a Norwegian noir film set; I kept waiting for someone called Bjorn and his flowing locks to gallop past on a big white stallion.

We were heading up to a waterfall (no idea what it's called; they did tell me but it was getting steep so I was distracted) and the group was splintering into smaller groupings. Claire trotted on with the fit people and I trudged away bringing up the rear. Still quite comfortable, but God never designed me for speed in anything except milling Dairy Milk.

Got to the waterfall and I had the choice of (a) climbing up the side of it, or (b) taking a road up to the top. A road, a road!! I'm good on roads, I thought smugly. I walk them around town every day; sure I'm a great walker...

Sweet holy mother of divine merciful Jesus, that F***** road. It went on FOREVER. At least 176 miles. Steadily uphill. It was getting much colder as we climbed and eventually we entered cloud or a fog. Which made it easy for them to lie to me and tell me we were nearly there because I couldn't see a fricken thing.

"There" turned out to be a gap in the woods where we started back cross country.

In the snow.

Still uphill, always uphill but worse, worse, worse because there was what I like to call the



shlippy-shlidey factor. Ten steps up and sliding four back down. Tripping on tree stumps and sticking my foot in mucky holes.

At this stage I was COMPLETELY out of puff. My legs were still strong but I had no breath, couldn't force the air into my lungs fast enough. And I have to say, the patience and kindness that Ann, Hovie and Paudie showed me was beyond anything I could have expected. No reproaches about my slowness, constant encouragement and lots of funny stories about the times they were in the same boat. They kept reassuring me that they like stopping a lot to take in the view...except you couldn't see five yards in front of you for most of this - the whole world was a blank white.

Then finally we reached The Top. Yes my friends, today I stood on the highest point of the Slieve Bloom Mountains. Not enjoying it in the slightest and absolutely mute with misery at the time but still... I did it :-)

And oh, that blessed downhill! Bounce, bounce, bouncy bounce! Using all new muscle groups that were fresh and rested. And while we were still standing in the snow the fog/cloud cleared and before us was the most spectacular 180 degree vista you could ever wish for. And it was green and sunny down there; gimme, gimme!!!

We stopped for a coffee/sambo/chocolate break for a few minutes and I don't know if it was the food or the rest but I started feeling really giddy. Having been Sullen Susie for the last hour I now got all Chatty Cathy. With hindsight there may have been a teeny spot of dehydration going on and it explains the occasional strange glance I was

getting from the other three. I didn't care - I had an eighteen part version of the Hallelujah Chorus playing in my head with every step that brought me closer to the car.

Fields. Fences to climb. More woods. And then a forest track. Mostly gloriously downhill. And then we rounded a corner and I saw Claire standing beside my car. Now you might think my first thought would be "Yay, there's my buddy!!". But in fact, my first thought upon seeing her was "If she's all upbeat and saying she enjoyed this I will RAM THIS POLE SO FAR UP HER H*** THAT IT'LL COME OUT HER STUPID PERKY GOB!!!"

Claire came to me and said "Wasn't that horrendous?!" I said "Awful!!!" and we fell into a hug. Now Claire and I don't hug. We don't believe in it. But we clung on like limpets to each other. Survival.

Having made it back, I suddenly realised that I wanted to cry. Which, like the hugging, I rarely do. I think I'd have been fine if lovely Val hadn't come over with such genuine delight for me and given me a hug. But no, I had a full five seconds of tears falling in a public place. Totally out of character for me but I think I'd been stripped raw at this stage.

The pics included are Val's and give you a bit of an idea of the conditions. What nothing can show and what I can't explain is the overwhelming joy of stripping off all the gear and getting into a fleece lined tracksuit, dry cotton socks and light trainers. Literally the best moment of my year so far and it involved stripping in a car park and 99c socks from Sports Direct. Odd.

So what did I learn today?

1. There's 'walking on roads' and there's Walking on Roads.
2. Joy can come through socks.
3. People you barely know can show you a level of kindness and support when they see you struggling that's absolutely humbling.

Ann, Hovie and Paudie,
you are absolute heroes xxx



CORK BRANCH NEWS



On Friday February 15th, Vienna Woods Hotel hosted the Cork Prison Officers' Sports and Social Club Annual Dinner Dance. As the crowd gathered in the bar prior to the main event it was great to see all the new faces who have joined since last year. As the crowd entered the main function room they were treated to each table being decorated with Valentine treats tastefully selected by Nikki, our leader and Olivia, our resident socialite. Also present on the night were four retirees with Governor Pat Dawson and wife, and POA Branch Chairman Billy Dennehy and his wife.

After a superb meal the club secretary John O'Reilly began the speeches by welcoming everybody. Governor Dawson gave a brief speech and thanked the Sports and Social Club for doing a great job. John went on to welcome the various tables taking the time to thank Fergie for negotiating a peace deal involving North and South Mayfield by bringing Gazza and Clive to the table. It was also stated that things must be quiet in the jail because Joey was present which must mean that there was no SHS or handy hospital escorts on.

It was then time to begin our presentation to our four retirees namely Martin Godfrey, Paudie O'Hara, Ann Marie McCarthy and Mairead O'Flynn. John gave a quick description of each officers' time in Cork Prison (never let the truth get in the way of a good story!) and each was given a small token of appreciation from the staff for their service in Cork, presented by Matty O'Neill (The Money Man) and Olivia (Babe). As is the case with all jailers, "Cash Is King" so then it was on to the draw for the officers present on the night and the various spot prizes. Ken O'Donoghue, Tom Weste, Eddie Byrne and John Kelly were winners of the main cash prizes. Gerry O'Mahony won two Rod Stewart tickets (seated thank God for Gerry's sake).

With the various draws finished, all that was left to do was wish everyone a great night and to remind them we would be receiving the negatives from the fun Photo Booth for distribution on main notice boards at a later date. The rest of the night was given over to smooth moves on the dance floor to the fantastic Love Bugs Band and evidence of same was recorded by our resident photographer Doug Minihane.

A great night was had by all, preparations are already underway for next year's dinner dance.

Nikki O'Donovan, John O'Reilly, Matty O'Neill and Olivia Fox would like to thank everyone for coming.



CORK BRANCH NEWS (CONTINUED)



THE INAUGURAL CORK PRISON COMMUNITY COACHING COUCH TO 5K

The inaugural Cork Prison Community Coaching Couch to 5K run took place on Tuesday 20th of November 2018. Over forty hardy souls toed the line on what was an ideal day for running and the event was officially launched by the Lord Mayor of Cork City Cllr. Mick Finn.

Prior to the off, Assistant Governor Peter O'Brien presented a cheque, for money raised, to the value of €1,000 to Head Teacher Edel Cunningham for the Dillon's Cross Project. The Dillon's Cross Project is an educational project located on the North side of Cork City which provides support and educational opportunities to female relatives of people in prison.

Race participants included Prison staff, PSEC staff, Teachers, Probation and Psychology staff, IASIO Staff, staff from the Trades department and prisoners who were either present or past participants of the Community Coaching Course.

The course comprised 11 laps of the interior of the Prison. First home,

after lapping everyone at least once, was Finbarr O' Dwyer (PSEC). Finbarr was followed home by Ger Moore (Cork Prison) in second place and Don Horan (Trades Department) in third, despite Don being sent out for a twelfth lap by (now retired) race marshall Mick Dooley.

The race, which was primarily for the prisoners participating in the Community Coaching Course, was a resounding success due to the buy-in from all prison staff and our multi-disciplinary colleagues. This participation, along with the presence of the Lord Mayor, provided a sense of occasion and a buzz throughout the prison. Special thanks must go to the Cork Business Houses Athletic Association (BHAA) who came into the prison and provided the finish line clock as well as looking after the entries and results.

It is our hope that this initiative, combining prison management, staff, services and the prisoners participating in the Community Coaching Course, will ensure that the race becomes an annual event in the Cork Prison calendar.



Cork Prison Officers Male Voice Choir

We are back rehearsing since early January getting ready for a few events at which we have been asked to sing. On Friday March 1st we have been invited by Sunshine and Umbrellas (a fundraising group for Arc House and Cork Cancer Support) to sing a few tunes at the drinks reception before their Black Tie Ball which is taking place in the Clayton Hotel Silversprings.

This promises to be a great night, and something different to our usual events. We are delighted to be asked to perform at such an event with all proceeds going to an extremely worthy cause.

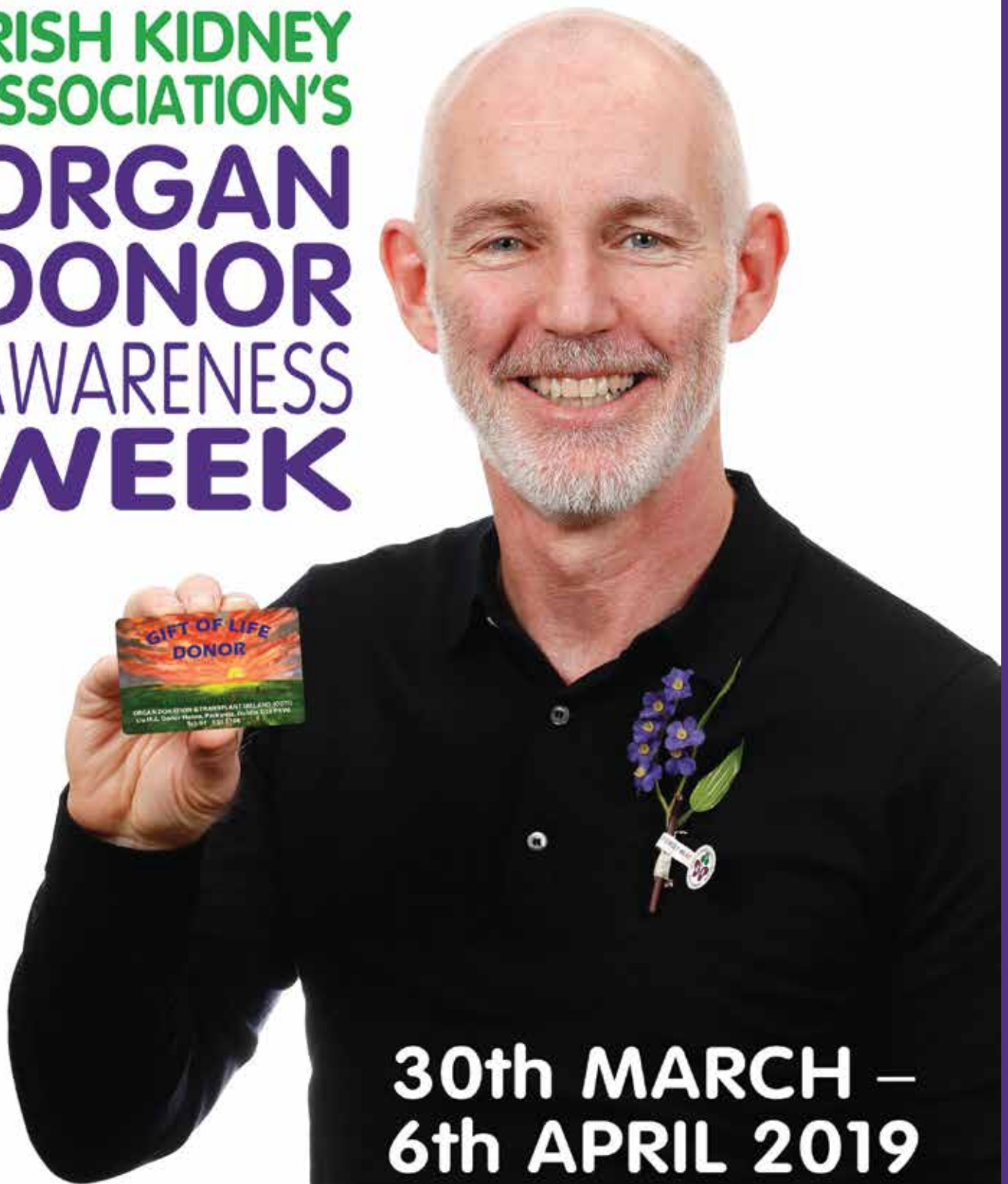
We are then taking to the road in April when we will head to Dublin to sing at the Deceased Members Mass in Berkley Road. Having previously sung at this Mass it's a great opportunity to meet former colleagues and catch up on all the news from around the country.

This time last year we were getting ready for Children of Lir in the Opera House and were unable to take part in the St. Patricks Church Choir Summertime Concert so we are delighted to have been asked back again to perform at this year's concert in May. We have always performed at this concert and were disappointed when we were unable to do so last year.

Gerry O'Dwyer

Ray D'Arcy asks you to support

IRISH KIDNEY ASSOCIATION'S ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS WEEK



30th MARCH – 6th APRIL 2019



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RAY D'ARCY BECOMES AMBASSADOR FOR THE NATIONAL ORGAN DONOR AWARENESS CAMPAIGN 2019

The Irish Kidney Association is delighted to announce that Ray D'Arcy has agreed to the voluntary role of ambassador for organ donor awareness 2019 taking up the baton from Claire Byrne who fronted last year's campaign. Ray, the popular RTÉ TV and radio broadcaster was also the ambassador for the campaign two decades ago. Since then he has continued to champion the life-saving cause on national airwaves. He will front the 2019 Organ Donor Awareness Week campaign which will take place from March 30th until April 6th encouraging the public to support organ donation for transplantation by letting their loved ones know their wishes. #Have the Chat

Ray will feature in radio advertising and posters as well as attending the national launch of 2019 Organ Donor Awareness at the Mansion House Dublin on Tuesday, March 26th.

Ray said, "It's such an honour to be asked to be ambassador for this year's campaign. Organ donation is something that I feel very strongly about. Listening to people's stories down through the years about organ transplantation, dialysis and organ donation, sometimes heart-warming and at other times heart-wrenching, I honestly believe that there is no better gift in life than the gift of organ donation".

"I have heard from grieving families about the solace they have got from donating the organs of someone they have loved knowing that other individuals and families have benefited. The news of a person receiving a transplant affects the families involved and it ripples through communities around Ireland."

"I have also heard how people's lives have been transformed through organ transplantation and I commend the donors who have made this possible. There are approximately 550 people in Ireland awaiting an organ transplant and hopefully these people's lives will be saved through organ transplantation. I would encourage everyone to discuss organ donation with their family members as I have done with mine. It

doesn't have to be a long conversation, but it is such a vital and potentially life-saving one. The legacy of organ donation by selfless deceased donor families is profound."

Chief Executive of the Irish Kidney Association, Mr. Mark Murphy said, "It's wonderful to have Ray D'Arcy, who enjoys household name recognition, lending his support once again to the Irish Kidney Association twenty-one years after first fronting the annual campaign. Ray has always demonstrated great empathy for people touched by organ failure. To have such a popular figure representing the Irish Kidney Association (IKA), a charity organisation of patients and carers, carries with it huge impetus to the work we have undertaken advocating and caring for our patients".

The IKA is the organisation charged with the promotion and distribution of the organ donor card in Ireland through Organ Donation and Transplant Ireland (ODTI), the organ procurement service of the HSE.

There are approximately 550 people in Ireland awaiting life-saving heart, lung, liver, kidney and pancreas transplants. Thanks to the gift of organ donation almost 4,000 transplanted people in Ireland are enjoying extended life.

The focus of Organ Donor Awareness Week is to remind individuals to talk to their families about their organ donation wishes and keep the reminders of their decision visible by carrying the organ **donor card** and permitting **Code 115** to be included on their **driver's license or downloading the 'digital organ donor card' APP to their smartphone**.

Organ Donor Awareness Week also serves as a fundraising exercise for the Irish Kidney Association. Throughout the Week (March 30th - April 6th 2019), the Association's volunteers will be out on the streets, and in shopping centres throughout the country, distributing organ donor cards while selling 'forget-me-not-flower' emblems, brooches, pens

and shopping trolley discs. All proceeds go towards the Irish Kidney Association's aid for patients on dialysis and those patients fortunate enough to have received a kidney transplant. The Irish Kidney Association's charitable activities include the provision of a 13-double bedroom, free accommodation facility for patients and their families in the grounds of Beaumont Hospital and plans for the development of a similar facility at Cork University Hospital are underway. Patients, many who would otherwise be unable to travel and take family holidays due to the constraints of dialysis treatment, can avail of IKA holiday centres located in Tramore, Killarney and Tralee. The Irish Kidney Association also provides patient advocacy, advice, counselling, financial aid and rehabilitative, health promotion through sport and the provision of kidney patient information and education through its head office in Dublin and its 25-branch network of volunteers nationwide.

Information fact files, which accompany the free organ donor cards, are obtainable from the Irish Kidney Association and are available nationwide from pharmacies, GP surgeries and post offices.

Organ Donor Cards can also be obtained by phoning the Irish Kidney Association tel. 01 6205306 or **Free text the word DONOR to 50050**. Visit website www.ika.ie/card You can now download a free 'digital organ donor card' APP to your phone.

For further information contact:

Gwen O'Donoghue, Connect Communications, on behalf of the IKA
mob. 086 8241447
email gwenodonoghue1@gmail.com

Mark Murphy, CEO, Irish Kidney Association, Tel 01 6205306 mob. 087 2571235 email markmurphy@ika.ie

(Photo release by Conor McCabe Photography tel. 085 7057255)

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RAISE THE ROOF CORK

11th March 2019

Trade unions and community groups came out in force in horrendous weather conditions at a rally outside Cork City Hall demanding radical action on the State's housing crisis. Over 1,000 people marched from City Hall to Connolly Hall for the rally.

The rally coincided with a motion being initiated at Cork City Council by Lord Mayor Cllr Mick Finn, which demands urgent action to address housing problems nationally and locally. It calls for significant investment in public housing construction through local authorities, action on evictions and rent certainty for tenants and a legal right to housing.

Barry Murphy, spokesman for Cork Raise the Roof, said there were record levels of homelessness, record numbers on housing waiting lists and huge levels of insecurity in the rental sector.

"The protest rally is a chance for the people of Cork to show their dissatisfaction with failed Government policy on housing and to demand action on the single greatest problem facing our society today."

A Raise the Roof rally in Dublin last October in support of an Opposition Dáil motion on housing saw an estimated 15,000 people gather to call for greater State involvement in the provision of housing.



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Recruit Prison Officers Passing Out

On Friday 18th January and 8th March 2019 two classes of Recruit Prison Officers passed out from Brian Stack House. After 12 weeks of training these men and women have been posted to their assigned prisons for further training and development. The Prison Officers Association would like to take this opportunity to wish these new members to the Prison Service well in their future careers. Best of luck to one and all. Please see in the following pages photos that were taken on both days.

18th JANUARY 2019 PASSING OUT



18th JANUARY 2019 PASSING OUT (continued)



**8th MARCH
2019
PASSING OUT**





Inspire Workplaces - On line Resources

Inspire Workplaces 24/7 counselling service is available to all Irish Prison Staff (formerly Carecall). This is an important enhancement of the Irish Prison Service EAP, Prison staff still have full access to local SSO's and centrally based EAO's and are encouraged to continue to engage with local SSO's and EAO's who are available to provide advice and support on a range of issues and may well suggest a referral to Inspire Workplaces where more focused emotional support is considered to be helpful. The EAP can be contacted at 043-333 5316 or at eapsupport@irishprisons.ie

The Counselling Service is a confidential employee support service designed to support employees resolve personal or work related concerns, through telephone and on-line support and telephone or face to face counselling (up to 6 sessions) free of charge to all serving Prison staff.

Attendance at counselling sessions must be undertaken when off duty. Appointments are available in the evenings and at week-ends. However, once counselling sessions are scheduled for you, any cancellations within 24 hours or non-attendances for whatever reason will be included in the 6 sessions allowed. Should you cancel your appointment within 24 hours or indeed not turn up for one of your scheduled sessions this incurs a financial cost but more importantly your benefit from the course of 6 sessions provided is reduced as a consequence. You are strongly encouraged to attend all scheduled sessions and when it is necessary, to provide more than 24 hours' notice to your counsellor in the event you need to cancel or reschedule your appointment

In addition to the counselling service proved by Inspire Workplaces, prison staff also have access to extensive on-line support provided by Inspire Workplaces via their website, www.inspirewellbeing.org.

When you are browsing the website, Inspire Workplaces have a menu of options on the top right hand corner, one of which is a login option. The log in details for this service, for prison staff are:

Login: [irishprisonservice](#) Password: [ips@eap](#) (all lower case)

There are 3 options to choose from on the left of the home page:

1. On-line tests – This section includes optional self-report tests on Stress and Alcohol consumption and may well provide an indication that further support is warranted.
2. Self-help library – This sections includes advice and support on topics including amongst others anger, anxiety, bereavement, my family, sleep, stress, and my work. Under each of these topics there is a number of sub-categories. For example, if you click on My Family, you are directed to advice on 'empty nest syndrome' and 'single parenthood' and the advice and guidelines contained in these sections are certainly well worth a look.
3. Useful reports – this section lists reports on key topics like Mindfulness and Mental Health and Work and also includes reports from the World Health Organisation report.

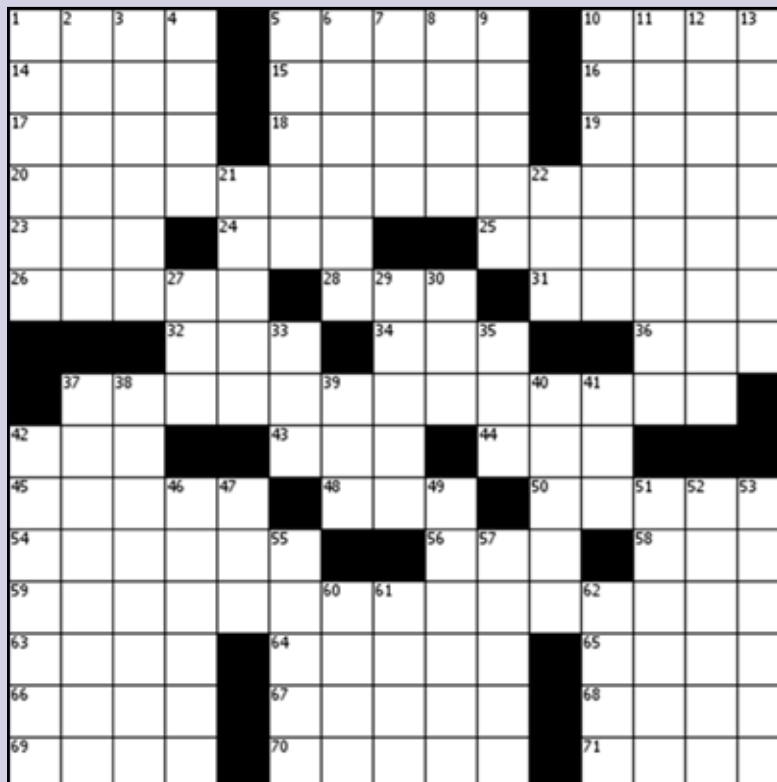
The website also has a section to support students, either yourself if you are studying or one of your children.

If you would like to keep in touch with Inspire Workplaces, you can enter your email address. They can also be followed via Facebook, Twitter and you may wish to view recommended YouTube videos.

To access counselling or telephone support from Inspire Workplaces, you can contact them 24/7 on their helpline number at: 1800 817 433

BRAIN EXERCISES

CROSSWORD



Please send completed Crossword Entries by Friday 28th June 2019 to
The Editor,
Prison Officer Magazine,
18, Merrion Square,
Dublin 2.
5 prizes of €25 will be awarded to winning entries.

ACROSS

1. Partakes in a Halloween activity
5. Divine Bette
10. Room off an ambulatory
14. Words after step
15. Communion site
16. Diez X diez
17. "___ silly question"
18. Alternate tactic
19. "When I Was ___" ("HMS Pinafore" song)
20. Space-saving steps?
23. Q's value in Scrabble
24. Mauna ___, Hawaii
25. Professional obi wearer
26. Film genre
28. Mouth, slangily

DOWN

31. Provide food, uptown
32. What a joke may break
34. Giant, to Jack
36. Commuters' lines
37. Ringlet
42. Kind of artist
43. Notwithstanding, for short
44. "The Raven" monogram
45. "... ___ of meat from the king" (2 Samuel 11:8)
48. Proud-peacock link
50. Sunday song
54. Remedied a badly installed carpet
56. Common article
58. Lead-in for Bravo
59. Gyrating Muslim monk
63. Superlative

64. 1988 Olympics setting
65. Just the facts?
66. Hook's sidekick
67. Yawning gap
68. From the start
69. Towel embroidery
70. Pimlico garb
71. Extract a tooth

DOWN

1. Lacks humility
2. With no profit guarantee
3. Beach wear
4. Have the lead
5. Syrup source
6. "You're darned right!"
7. At bats or runs, e.g.

SUDOKU



Please send completed Sudoku Entries by
Friday 28th June 2019 to
The Editor

Prison Officer Magazine,
18, Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

5 prizes of €25 will be awarded to the winning entries.

— WINTER WINNERS —

CROSSWORD WINNERS

John Sheridan	Loughan House	€25
Ann Whitty	Portlaoise	€25
Maurice Greaney	Limerick	€25
Michelle McManus	Wheatfield	€25
Donal Hayes	Cloverhill	€25

SUDOKU WINNERS

Kevin McGrath	Limerick	€25
John Duffy	Portlaoise	€25
William Singleton	Cork	€25
Stephen Kelly	Limerick	€25
JT Dunne	Arbour Hill	€25

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THE PRISON OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION



Annual Mass 2019

**REMEMBRANCE MASS FOR DECEASED
MEMBERS, FORMER MEMBERS AND
FAMILIES OF THE IRISH PRISON SERVICE**

**8.15 pm on Thursday
11th April 2019**

**St. Joseph's Church,
Berkeley Road, Phibsboro,
Dublin 7**

**Serving members who passed away
during the past twelve months will be
especially remembered**

**Light Refreshments will be served
after the mass in Millmount House,
Drumcondra, Dublin 9**

