



PRISON OFFICERS'
ASSOCIATION

PRISON OFFICER

SUMMER 2020

**If they
won't say it
we will**

THANK YOU

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ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

I am now inviting submissions to be included in the Autumn Newsletter.

Any Member who wished to submit articles and photographs, please send submissions by Friday

25th September 2020

to admin@poa.ie

or through your local Branch

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Colleagues,

Welcome to the Summer 2020 edition of the Prison Officers Magazine. It gives me great pleasure to present to you my first edition of the Prison Officer Magazine. Sadly, this year we have lost six of our

colleagues Mary O’Riordan ACO Cork Prison, Owen Hiney WTO Wheatfield Prison, Jane Deegan Nurse Officer Portlaoise, Noel Tolan Prison Officer Mountjoy Prison and Richie Brennan Prison Officer OSG Midlands Prison. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary, Owen, Jane, Noel and Richie’s families, friends and colleagues in Cork, Wheatfield, Portlaoise, Mountjoy and Midlands Prisons. May they rest in peace.

I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor Paul Purcell for his professionalism, dedication and commitment to the Prison Officers Association and the Trade Union movement, during his 10 year tenure as Information Officer. The Prison Officers Association wishes Paul and his family the very best of luck, health and happiness on his retirement.

I would also like to wish outgoing National Officers Declan Mullally and Tom Delaney all the best in their future endeavours. Both Declan and Tom were part of the team that guided us through some very difficult times and as a direct result have left the organisation on a firm footing. The Prison Officers Association wishes Declan, Tom and their families the very best of luck, health and happiness.

PAY

The Union received correspondence from the Secretary of the ICTU Public Services Committee on Wednesday 13th May 2020 giving an update on the position on Public Service Pay. This correspondence outlined that the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform in the last Government had repeatedly indicated his desire to negotiate a successor to the Public Service Stability Agreement. The ICTU Public Services Committee have no reason to believe that this position has changed. The ICTU Public Services Committee has not received any indication from the Official Side of an intention to seek to cancel or postpone the final phase of the PSSA. However there

was little prospect on moving matters forward with the Official Side prior to the formation of a new government.

During the General Election Campaign all the major political parties including Fianna Fail, Fine Gael and the Green Party who are now in government indicated a desire to reach a successor agreement to the PSSA. The ICTU Public Services Committee has written to the new Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform seeking a meeting to discuss issues around Public Service Pay, including the negotiating of a new agreement. The Programme for Government states clearly that the new three – party coalition will seek to negotiate a new public pay deal with the Public Service unions.

INCOMING AND OUTGOING NATIONAL OFFICERS

The National Elections of President, Vice-President, General Treasurer and Information Officer commenced on Monday 2nd March 2020. There were two out-going National Officers and nine other nominations totalling eleven members that contested the positions of President, Vice-President, General Treasurer and Information Officer. The Election concluded on last post, Tuesday 24th March 2020 and were counted on Wednesday 25th March 2020 by the Returning Officer. You will find messages from both outgoing and successful incoming National Officers in this edition.

COVID-19 SUMMARY

The COVID-19 pandemic reached the Republic of Ireland on 29th February 2020 and within three weeks has spread to all counties. The virus brought with it the need for respiratory etiquette and social distancing.

It is with great pride and admiration that yet again Prison Staff across all grades and disciplines stepped up to the challenge of a global pandemic and did the job and did it well. The achievements you have made to date have not been replicated at any other jurisdiction and must never be forgotten by the management of the Irish Prison Service. Please see more information in relation to COVID-19 Summary in this edition.

RECRUIT PASSING OUT

On Friday 6th March 2020 the Recruit Prison Officers Class 09/19, graduated from the Irish Prison Service College. 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. Photos of RPOs can be found in this edition.

BRANCH NEWS

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

AWARDS NIGHT MIDLANDS

On Monday 9th March 2020 an Awards Ceremony took place in the Midlands Prison. A total of 17 Distinguished Service Medals and 14 Commendations were presented to Staff by the Director General, IPS, Karen McCaffrey and Governor Ethel Gavin.

ARBOUR HILL HISTORICAL ARTICLE

The verbally gifted Paddy Fitzpatrick proved an excellent choice to deliver the maiden talk as his chosen subject, Pádraig Anraí Mac Piarais, is most relevant to current contemporary issues during this decade of centenaries. Paddy both held the floor and our attention throughout the presentation from the great vantage point over the city that is Arbour Hill.

RUSTY RAMBLERS

In early June the magnificent seven Rusty Ramblers hiked around the outskirts of Durrow Co Laois better known as the Leafy Loop 23 kilometres of woods, trail and the River Nore. Read about their adventure later in the magazine.

REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN COLLEAGUES

Sadly this year we have lost six of our colleagues. See individual obituary's for Mary O'Riordan ACO Cork Prison, Owen Hiney

WTO Wheatfield Prison, Jane Deegan Nurse Officer Portlaoise, Noel Tolan Prison Officer Mountjoy Prison, Richie Brennan Prison Officer Midlands Prison, Retired Clerk Brendan Doorhey and Detective Garda Colm Horkan.

MEMORIAL UNVEILED AT PORTLAOISE PRISON.

On Tuesday 23rd April 2020 Laois Offaly TD and Minister for Justice and Equality Charlie Flanagan was joined by the Irish Prison Service Director-General Caron McCaffrey to unveil the memorial at Portlaoise Prison in the presence of Prison Staff, management and members of the Prison Officers Association. The colour party consisted of ACO JD Corcoran, Officer Robbie Brothwood and Officer PW Dunne.

WEBSITE AND EMAIL ACCESS TO POA INFORMATION

In order to access information on the website you must be signed up as a member. Information is restricted to members and can only be accessed by signing up. Any member who wishes to sign up for Website and Email Access please email admin@poa.ie and a 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 undergoing a radical overhaul and it is our intention to launch our new website in October 2020.

CONCLUSION

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you the member for reading this magazine. It is vital that information both Industrial Relations and Local News is disseminated to members to ensure an accurate account of how the Prison Officers' Association carries out its business. I cannot emphasize enough the vital importance for members to regularly attend meetings, check notice boards, sign up for emails and check the POA Website. This enables you the member the opportunity to keep up to date with all that is going on within the Union. I would also like to thank Shirley, Bernadette and Dave for all their assistance during the year. Their work is invaluable for the running of our organization.

Dermot Kelly Editor



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO THE Prison Officers Association JULY 2020

Colleagues,

As you are all aware, we had to postpone our Annual Delegate Conference this year due to the Covid19 pandemic so this is the first opportunity that I have had to address you and express my gratitude to you for returning me as your President for another term. I was truly humbled with the vote I received and I hope that I will be able to repay your faith in me over the next 5 years.

I would also like to take time to thank Declan Mullally, Tom Delaney and Paul Purcell for the dedicated service they gave as National Officers during their tenure. Declan continues to serve in the Midlands and Tom has taken a career break so I'd like to wish them well. Paul has very recently retired and I'd like to wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.....condolences Fran!!!

To Dermot, Mark and Billy, Welcome aboard. You have big boots to fill but I've no doubt that each of you are more than capable of meeting the challenges and the Association remains in good hands.

It has been a tough year for our members in the Prison Service. Over the past 12 months we have lost five serving members and I would like to ask you to take a moment to remember Owen Hiney (Wheatfield), Nurse Officer Jane Deegan (Portlaoise) ACO Mary O'Riordan (Cork) , Noel Tolan (Mountjoy) and most recently Richie Brennan (Midlands). Our thoughts, prayers and sympathies go to their families and friends. These colleagues will be remembered when we can hold our Deceased Members Mass in due course.

Finally, we are living in strange times, this pandemic is unprecedented in our lifetime but once again our members have risen to the challenge. We have again gone above and beyond and surpassed even the wildest expectation of the medical profession by keeping our prisons Covid19 free despite the challenges presented such as lack of proper PPE. Not one case among the over 4000 prisoners in custody. Every single member of every grade represented by the Prison Officers Association should be extremely proud of this achievement. We are the forgotten Frontline Service but we deserve all the same gratitude and plaudits that are afforded to our other Frontline colleagues.

Stay Safe.

Tony Power, President

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 ✓
- **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 ✓

The remaining measures is as follows:

- **1st October 2020:** 2% pay adjustment.
-

Incoming National Officers



BILLY DENNEHY (Incoming Vice President)

Colleagues,

I would like to extend my gratitude to the membership of the POA for electing me as the new Vice President for the next five years. The support and trust placed in me from each prison is humbling and I will faithfully repay that trust by carrying out my duties as Vice President of the organisation in an honourable, transparent and principled manner. I would also like to thank the outgoing Vice President Mr Declan Mullally who served with distinction and has left the organisation in a stronger position for his service.

We are in the middle of an unprecedented period due to the Covid pandemic. A period where we have seen dramatic changes in our lives and how we go about our daily routines both in work and at home. There is a huge congratulations due to all prison staff who have successfully managed to keep the Corona virus at bay and out of the prisons. This is down to the professionalism and dedication shown by you which is now the standard bearer for Europe going forward. With the restrictions placed on the country during lockdown being eased somewhat and we are returning to something which resembles normality we will also see our workplace return to a setting which we are more accustomed to. To this end it is important that we all work closely together so that a sensible approach is taken and that we maintain the high standards of professionalism which have kept us safe to date. I would again like to thank the membership for the trust that you have placed in me and I look forward to representing you into the future.

Is mise le meas, Billy Dennehy, Vice President POA



DERMOT KELLY (Incoming Information Officer)

I would like to express my boundless gratitude for the confidence placed in me by the membership and with an unswerving resolve to honour that trust, I am humbly honoured to be elected as Information Officer. I wish to extend my deepest respect and appreciation to all our members for their strong support.

I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor Paul Purcell for his professionalism, dedication and commitment to the Prison Officers Association and the Trade Union Movement, during his 10-year tenure as Information Officer. Tom Delaney and Declan Mullally are also outgoing National Officers, I wish them both well in their future endeavours. Tom and Declan are true dedicated Trade Unionists who have left the POA on a firm footing.

February of this year brought upon us all unprecedented times with the arrival of the coronavirus (COVID-19). As a nation our way of life was altered drastically. Prison Staff needed to be flexible and change the way we worked in prisons and as always you delivered. I would like to pay tribute to all prison staff who faced this challenge head on ensured the virus did not enter our prisons. Recently the Prison Service submitted a paper to The World health Organisation as a best model for contact tracing. This would not have been possible without the commitment and dedication of our members. Far too often we are the forgotten heroes. Finally, I would again like to thank all members for giving me the opportunity to represent you and I am honoured by the confidence placed in me by the membership.

Is mise le meas, Dermot Kelly, Information Officer POA



MARK MORRISON (Incoming General Treasurer)

Colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to express how deeply humbled I am to have been elected to the position of General Treasurer of the Prison Officers Association. I will endeavor to work hard to repay the trust and belief that the membership, have shown in me. I would like to acknowledge the service of my predecessor Tom Delaney, it has been quite some time since the POA have not had a member of the Delaney family on the Administrative Council and I wish him and his family all the best in the future whatever path they follow.

It goes without saying the strange times that we find ourselves in, some of us have lost family members, friends and some colleagues during this time, I would like to express my deepest condolences to all who have lost someone dear.

During this pandemic, the members of the POA have shown, through their dedication and professionalism how they kept all prisons free from Covid19. As we head towards reopening to a somewhat normal position in the prisons, we must continue with our resolve to keep each other safe.

I am looking forward to representing Prison Officers at a national level and I would like to thank you for this opportunity.

Is mise le meas, Mark Morrison, General Treasurer

Outgoing National Officers

TOM DELANEY (Outgoing General Treasurer)



Dear members

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you that supported me over the years, your support was very much appreciated. There have been some very difficult and challenging times over the years and in my opinion as a result of our strong leadership and unity, thankfully we prevailed. I can honestly say that everything that has been done has been for the benefit of the wider membership.

I would like to wish Paul Purcell and Declan Mullally well both of whom concluded their terms of office at the same time as me and I wish the three new National officers well in their efforts to represent staff. I would also like to thank the staff in POA headquarters Shirley, Bernadette and Dave for their support over the years. Finally it has been a privilege to represent you both at local and National level over the last 25 years and I can assure you that the level of representation from the existing National Officers John, Jim, Tony, Gabriel and Karl is exemplary and you will always have my support.

Regards, Tom Delaney

PAUL PURCELL (Outgoing Information Officer)



Colleagues,

As I write this article for the POA magazine I'm officially retired from the Prison Service. I joined the Prison Service on the 12th March 1990. I served in Wheatfield when it had just opened and remained in Cork for the rest of my service. From early days I could see the many benefits of the Prison Officers Association. I decided to put myself forward for the local committee in Cork where I was elected Assistant Secretary in 2001. I then was elected Chairperson in 2004 and 2007 until I ran for national office in 2010. I was elected to the position of Information Officer and held this position until May this year. The step up from local office to national office was a different experience as the work I have done in Cork was now transferred to national level. During my 10 years as Information Officer I visited every location and it was great to meet most committee members. Each location obviously has different dynamics but overall, each location has a very proactive branch.

I have been involved in many matters pertaining to the POA. Staff Recognition, Infection Control, Diary, Magazines, IT, Website, Criminal Injuries and the ONE Cork Project to name but a few. ONE Cork is a great experience as a staff representative where we regularly met with other union members from 17 unions in Cork. Experiences from other unions have shown me that the POA is way ahead on many issues involving members. For those members who give out about the POA and the famous motion to conference a couple of years "The POA do something". I can tell you the POA do plenty. The POA has had numerous claims that have been successful (e.g. PFOC, Environmental Allowance Portlaoise, Amalgamation of Rent Allowance into basic pay), representation at legal forums, IR forums and POA benefits. The main issue I see with members who perceive that the POA National Officers do very little or nothing at all, should go to Branch meetings held after every actual NEC Meeting for a full briefing. They should also sign up for emails and look at the Headquarters Report from Annual Delegate Conference to see what the POA does for its Members each year. Remember the pay you are on now has come directly from POA representation at national pay talks, departmental council and general council. At national level in particular National Officers Meetings were at times challenging but the most important thing for the POA was the recommendations that came out of a national meeting have borne fruit for all members. I refer in particular to the PFOC (AH). This has given all prison officers including those who joined after July 2005 an 8% operational allowance and up to 360 additional hours. I must also refer to the amalgamation of the rent allowance into pay, I personally have benefited greatly from this as I now have the entire rent allowance amalgamation in my pension.

I have to thank the national officers that I served with (each with a different quality), John Clinton, Jim Mitchell, Gabriel Keaveny, Karl Dalton, Declan Mullally, Tony Power, Tom Delaney, Stephen Delaney and Eugene Dennehy. To each one of you I would like to thank you for the contribution that you make and have made on a daily basis to the membership. I would like to in particular thank my class mate John Clinton. John is and has been a voice of reason in his dealings as general secretary. His work ethic is unreal and his standing in the wider trade union movement is one of great respect. A sign of this respect was his appointment last year to the executive of ICTU. I extend my best wishes to the former national officers that served with me up to May this year, Declan Mullally and Tom Delaney and to the new national officers Billy Dennehy, Mark Morrison and Dermot Kelly who have started a five-year term. During my time as a staff representative for the last 19 years I have met various individuals but I must mention two that I have the utmost respect for. Mick Moloney Limerick was a constant source of support for me in Cork and as a national officer, he is a very committed POA Chairperson and gave me counsel on many occasions. I also must mention Colm Cronin ex Chairperson Fort Mitchel and current Branch Secretary Cork. I cannot count the many occasions that we have discussed issues that needed attention in Cork and nationally. Colm comes from a great trade union family and I was delighted that he was elected on the executive of ICTU as the trade's council representative.

To conclude I thank all POA Committee Members and POA Members that I have encountered over the last 19 years in particular the Cork Branch Committee and Cork POA Members. I wish all well for the future and I thank all that have rung, text and messaged me on my retirement.

Kind regards, Paul Purcell

CORK PRISON RETIREMENTS

There have been a number of retirements in Cork prison over the last number of months and to all of these we wish them the very best going forward and to all, a long, happy and healthy retirement. Working in the prison service invariably brings out the best qualities in everyone. The cohesiveness that is brought about from working in our unique environment creates lifelong friendships which will, hopefully, remain in place long into the future. I read recently “when you work, you work as a group. When you retire, you retire alone”. I certainly believe that this is only a choice and while it is true that the dynamic of the day to day interactions with your colleagues will change it is a choice to let them lapse. The friendships which were cultivated throughout a long career in the prison service should be strong enough to last into the future and so to the retirees I have this to say, please keep in touch, and please also attend all the social outings (whenever they resume) which will be planned into the future. It was a pleasure to work with you all. Here are some of the retirees on their final tours of duty in Cork prison.



December 2019



September 2019



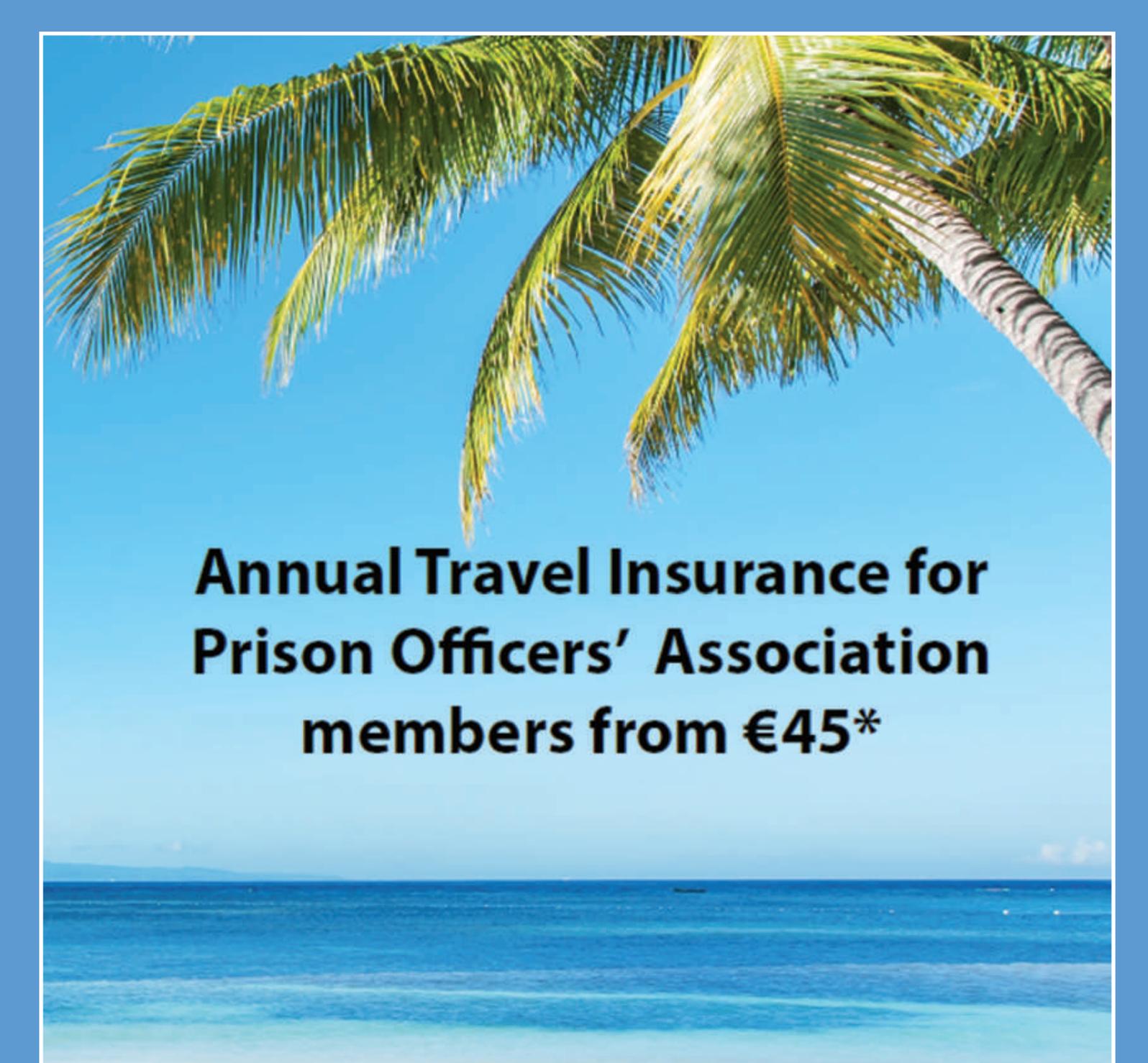
November 2019



December 2019



November 2019



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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)

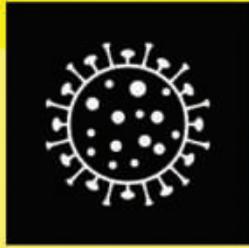
There are 3 options to choose from on the left of the home page:

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



Coronavirus **COVID-19**

A big thank you for a job well done – COVID 19 summary briefing

Colleagues, it's difficult to summarise in a couple of paragraphs the excellent work that our members have done across the various locations since the outbreak of Covid 19 in Ireland. The achievements you have made to date have not been replicated at any other jurisdiction and must never be forgotten by the management of the Irish Prison Service.

The first exchange with the IPS regarding the Corona virus took place on 24th January 2020. The POA wrote to the Director of Care & Rehabilitation seeking clarification on a reported suspected case at Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital for symptoms associated with coronavirus, which at that time caused 18 deaths in China. Also on this date the HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre issued an interim guidance document.

Due to the gravity of the situation, the Union sought information regarding what specific measures the IPS would put in place for advising staff regarding the risk factors involved in this instance. Initially, the focus was on Cloverhill Remand Prison as it has a significant turnover of Inmates and previously encountered a number of infectious disease outbreaks; however it was not too long before all other Prisons were included in the discussions as developments occurred on an almost hourly basis.

We strongly believed that staff should be advised as a matter of priority of what precautions to take if a suspected

case of this virus presented at one of our prisons. To be honest we could not have envisaged what changes were ahead for society in general and in particular for the Men & Women working in the Irish Prison Service.

It was evident at an early stage that the POA would have to approach an issue of this magnitude in a clear and concise manner, and at the same time be able to respond in a flexible way as the virus changed and developments occurred both globally and nationally from a public health perspective. Following a number of engagements with the IPS it was decided to put in place a national structure to deal with any and all issues that emerged regarding Covid 19. POA HQ asked all local branch committees to put in place a Covid point of contact to liaise with our two Assistant General Secretaries on any local issues that emerged. All such matters were subsequently raised at our national forum where it was easier to obtain a clear position at a senior IPS level which in turn was more beneficial for our membership.

Items discussed at this forum included:

- Staffing and operation of an Isolation Unit at Cloverhill Prison
- Isolation areas across the Prison estate
- Management of all committals including GNIB
- Alterations to attendance arrangements for staff with childcare issues
- Staff with underlying health concerns, or immunocompromised family members
- Cessation of Staff Parades
- Alteration of meal breaks to ensure social distancing
- Flexibility regarding arrival and departure times to ease pressure on searching
- Levels of PPE across all sites with a particular focus on our healthcare & isolation areas
- Up skilling of Prison Nurses to undertake Covid 19 tests
- Operation of PSEC/Courts/Video linking/CCJ
- Ensuring supplies of basic commodities such as food & medicines
- Alteration and correct implementation of Regime Management Plans
- Discontinuation of Visits & installation of Video Phones
- Contacting tracing carried out by IPS staff

Weekly update reports were provided (up to the commencement of Phase 1 reopening roadmap) each Friday to all Branch Chairpersons & Secretaries. This ensured that local branches had the most up-to-date information on any developments emerging. It should be noted that local POA Officials worked tirelessly during the crisis with a lot of this hard work going unnoticed. Thanks to all concerned.

On Friday 27th March all physical visits to prisoners from their families ceased. Branch Committees were requested to enter dialogue with local managers regarding the appropriate location of video phones. The predicted dooms day scenario by some senior managers did not occur and life continued at a slower but more organised fashion. The real reason for this of course was the correct implementation of a RMP at almost all

locations. The POA had been advocating this safe system of work for some time now but Governors never really grasped the concept. One thing for sure as we move to the next stage of this process there is absolutely no doubt whatsoever that our position on an RMP (when correctly implemented) can never be challenged by Governors again.

On Sunday 29th March our members were one of the first workers in Ireland to undergo screening prior to entering their workplace. OSG staff was primarily involved in rolling out this new work model where staff had to answer a short questionnaire and have their temperature taken. It's interesting to note that organisations such as the GAA are now following a similar route. Again Prison Officers fully embraced this new safety measure without issue and it now can be viewed as a model of best practice which has undoubtedly contributed to the success to date.

Like all other parts of society the focus on the Union is now firmly on a specific roadmap to safely reopening some services. As the IPS sees light at the end of the tunnel they are already forgetting some of the huge sacrifices made by its staff. They have not too unexpectedly reverted to the media to give themselves a pat on the back (with no mention of staff of course). The POA will continue to focus on lessons learned from this unfortunate situation. We have identified our priorities such as ongoing correct implementation of the RMP so as to ensure a safe working environment, discontinuation of childish practices e.g. Staff Parades, further use of video linking to Courts, implementation of a property & cash policy, more workshops operating across the seven days to improve safe access to name just a few. Discussions with the Official Side commenced on Friday 19th June 2020. Updates will be provided to local Branches and the NEC as they occur. No doubt challenges lie ahead but our agenda is clear.

As we hopefully enter a more positive stage in coping with this horrible virus there is very little certainty in life – however the commitment and dedication of Prison Officers and their families cannot be questioned. Yet again Prison Staff across all grades and disciplines stepped up to the challenge of a global pandemic and did the job and did it well, in the most challenging of circumstances. Thanks to you one and all for a job well done.

RECRUIT PRISON OFFICERS GRADUATION

On Friday 6th March 2020 the Recruit Prison Officers Class 09/19 graduated from the Irish Prison Service College. 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 each day. If any RPO wishes to receive their photo from the graduation ceremony please contact POA President Tony Power at TonyPower@poa.ie

6th MARCH 2020



RPO PASSING OUT



RPO PASSING OUT



There's an old saying that a camel is a horse designed by a committee. Never more so than now was this saying applicable to the Irish Prison Service. As we heard the national news that

IPS are industry leaders in tackling Covid, our international colleges sought advice on IPS policies and best practice to tackle the virus. As the Longford policy makers took the plaudits let's not forget that while they worked from home, it was our members on the front line who put themselves at risk to make those policies work. As the prison service patted themselves on the back the IPS officials thanked the prisoners, the red cross and everyone else except the staff, we really are the forgotten service. Well I say to each and every one of you well done and once again through adversity we showed our courage and dedication. On a better note we can look forward to our

2 per cent pay restoration in October and with the recent government formation we can eagerly await talks on a new pay agreement. On a local front I would once again like to welcome all the recent additions to the Cloverhill staff, and to say your branch door is always open.

Any concerns or worries call in and talk to us. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new national officers, Billy Dennehy as vice president, Mark Morrison as treasurer and Dermot Kelly as information officer. Well done on your election and we look forward to working with you all during your term. I would also like to thank outgoing officers Declan, Paul and Tom for all your help and assistance over the years.

Neil Brady, Branch Secretary

"Strange times"; one of the most commonly heard phrases in recent months, but it captures the mood. The world around us, our home lives and our working lives have all been shaken to the core. As a country we have distanced, washed hands, isolated and cocooned through this. At home we have coped with no school or creches, family members remote working or laid off. Tragically, some of you and your colleagues have had to deal with the illness and death of loved ones.

Funeral restrictions have meant in these cases a greater grief and no chance of expressing that in the way we all would hope for in normal times. To those who have suffered loss at this time we can only say, with the thoughts of an outstretched hand and a warm grip, we are sorry for your troubles. Sadly, once again, we must acknowledge the passing of serving colleagues. Our thoughts are with the family, friends and colleagues of Noel Tolan of Mountjoy. Tragically our own Ritchie Brennan (OSG Midlands) also passed away after a battle with illness. To his family, close friends and all in the OSG and Midlands our deepest sympathy. We should also mention the tragic death of Detective Garda Colm Horkan. His sacrifice on behalf of the state, is felt by us all but especially his family including our own colleagues Deirdre Horkan and Liam Breheny. May they rest in peace. Our working lives have been severely affected too. Anxiety has mostly given way to the new normal. We have read, listened, and watched reports of the remarkable achievement of thus far keeping Covid-19 out of prisons. There is some reflected pride

in these reports. Indeed, emergency planning teams, infection control teams and Red Cross volunteers have performed very well. Disturbingly though, those reports in many ways portray staff as a cog in the big wheel of all this or worse as passengers, protected by all that is around us, -RUBBISH! Make no mistake, staff have been at the very heart of all that has been achieved to this point.

From fighting to introduce infection control measures for years, to the modification of the plans presented to us, to road testing and implementation of every single measure and assuming ALL of the risk. This was done all the while knowing that there was no-one standing at their door with a round of applause- it's just what Prison Staff do. All we ask in return, is to recognise that the job is only halfway done and as our Rusty Ramblers would tell you, most accidents happen on the way back down the mountain! Locally, between the madness, time marches on. We welcome the many transfers into the Midlands, we look forward to getting to know you all. We have had several retirements recently and to one and all we wish you a very happy and healthy retirement. A special word to John Wynne who was Treasurer of the Local Branch when he retired. John spent more than half his service representing staff in the Midlands. We wish him well and we are sure that our loss will be fishing's gain! Hopefully sometime soon all those that retired can mark the occasion properly and social (less distanced) pint can be had.

Paul Tucker- Chair Midlands Branch.

News so far this year on the singing front is very quiet as a result of Covid 19. We had our last rehearsal in early March and stopped then as a result of the Public Health Advice at the time. We had a few events lined up and they were cancelled but the biggest disappointment of all was a trip we had planned at the end of April to Spain for a Choral Festival also had to be called off.

While we were disappointed with that it paled into insignificance when you think of the amount of people who have lost loved ones to the Coronavirus. Never was a truer word spoken than "your health is your wealth". We acquainted ourselves with Zoom and had an online get together every Tuesday night which is our rehearsal night. As we have a good few retired member in our Choir it was

good to keep the contact going so, we just chatted and slagged for those meetings. A few of us even went as far to join an online Virtual Choir, "Virtual Voices With Shane". We would normally finish up at the end of May anyway so we are officially finished now for the summer.

The plan is to resume again in September but we will again be guided by the Public Health Advice then. Fingers crossed we can carry on as planned but only time will tell. Hopefully for the next magazine I will have some news about singing and concerts so in the meantime enjoy your summer and stay safe.

Gerry O'Dwyer

The Prison Officers' Association

Sign up NOW

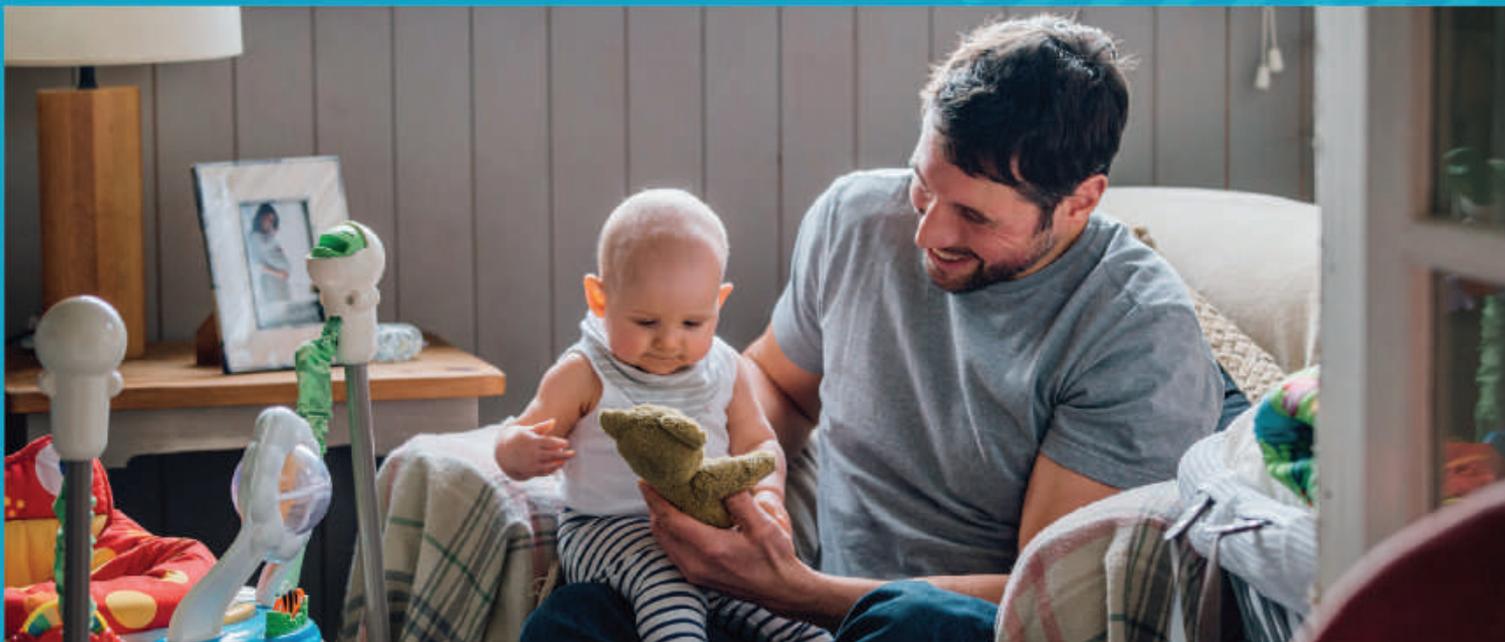
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MIDLANDS AWARDS CEREMONY

MIDLANDS AWARDS CEREMONY

On Monday 9th March 2020 an Awards Ceremony took place in the Midlands Prison. Staff were presented with merit awards that were sanctioned by the National Staff Recognition Committee as their deeds and acts in the course of their duty deserved recognition. A total of 17 Distinguished Service Medals and 14 Commendations were presented to Staff by the Director General, IPS, Karen McCaffery and Governor Ethel Gavin. The Local Midlands, Staff Recognition Committee are to be commended for organising this event, which was a great success.

February 2020



MIDLANDS AWARDS CEREMONY



MIDLANDS AWARDS CEREMONY



DO IT FOR DAN

Staff and wellwishers turned out in force to support the greats Bruno McCormack and Aidan Rox Keenan fundraising by running a full marathon in circuits of the roads of Portlaoise around the prisons. #DoltForDan



Photography: Crocky Maher



Always there to
serve your needs

Jan to June 2020

News from the Prison Officers Medical Aid Society

Supporting Prison Officers and their Families for almost 40 years - The Medical Aid Society continues to meet all your healthcare needs.

For the first 6 months of 2020 - We have paid out **€7.5 MILLION** for our Members

- During this time, we have managed to maintain a full operational service for the Society and process your claims.
- We redirected anticipated savings made in this period to our Members.

Our offices are **OPEN** and working at **FULL CAPACITY** for **CLAIMS PROCESSING**, and work involved with **Third Party Injury cases**.

Rest assured - Your Society will look after everyone's needs during this time and into the future!



€597,000

Prescriptive Drug Claims Paid



€240,000

Scans Paid



€4,086,000

Paid out for
Hospital Care



€269,000

Casualty / Outpatient / Other



€690,000

GP Care



€326,000

Dental



€99,000

Optical



€862,504

Covid-19 Emergency
April - June Potential Savings
Refunded



€412,000

Consultants

ARBOUR HILL

Many thanks to our colleague and gifted raconteur Paddy Fitzpatrick for delivering, just prior to the lockdown, the inaugural lunchtime talk to our recently formed informal lunchtime circle; enigmatically named *The Informal lunchtime Circle*.

The verbally gifted Paddy Fitz proved an excellent choice to deliver the maiden talk as his chosen subject, Pádraig Anraí Mac Piarais, is most relevant to current contemporary issues during this decade of centenaries. Paddy both held the floor and our attention throughout the presentation from the great vantage point over the city that is Arbour Hill. His depth of knowledge and powers of recall have indeed set the bar very high. I reproduce here just a small vignette of Paddy's excellent delivery and I hope my scribbled notes of the day can do it justice. Well done Paddy.

Ambrose Murphy

'I went down on my knees as a child and told God that I would work all my life to gain the freedom of Ireland.'

Saturday evening 29th April 1916

The sun has only just dipped below the horizon but the temperature has dropped significantly in Pearse's cell at Arbour Hill detention prison. Only a short time has elapsed since his encounter with General Maxwell at Parkgate Barracks but he is exhausted and forlorn.

Sunday 30th April 1916

The Capuchin, Fr. Murphy, arrives at Arbour Hill to find Pearse, lying on his bunk, totally dejected and defeated.

Volunteer garrisons across the city have mostly capitulated in response to their commander in chief's order of unconditional surrender, given to General Lowe at the top of Moore Street, on Saturday afternoon.

However, many are unsure if the order is a ruse of the English military. Pearse re-issues the order in writing for the Capuchin father.

Monday 1st May 1916

Dick Mulcahy, wearing civilian clothes and escorted by two policemen, visits Pearse at Arbour Hill. Mulcahy's men are holding DMP sergeant O'Reilly hostage until his return. Pearse confirms the validity of the surrender order to Mulcahy.

He informs Mulcahy that the prison guards have observed a detachment of Sherwood Foresters at the prison. They are pacing out an area in the northeast of the exercise yard just aback the northern boundary wall. They have concluded that it is to be a grave. Possibly for as much as one hundred souls.

Pearse accepts his fate. His destiny. He welcomes it. He has planned for it.

He spends the rest of the evening writing a letter to his mother. He attaches a P.S. to it, knowing that it will be read by Maxwell's forces, confirming his contacts with Germany.

His destiny is sealed.



General John Grenfell Maxwell arrives in Ireland on Friday 28th April 1916 as Military Governor of a city under martial law. He is determined to deal with the 'rebels' before Field General Court Martial and ignore the constraints that DORA would burden him with.

Tuesday 02 May 1916

Pearse is taken, under heavy guard, from Arbour Hill to Richmond Barracks, Inchicore.

At 1pm that afternoon Pearse is observed walking circles in deep thought under military guard. He is dressed in the uniform of a Commandant of volunteers complete with slouch hat and military greatcoat. Much to the chagrin of his custody escort he acknowledges and returns the salute of his men.



Brig.General Charles Guinand Blackader



Lt. Colonel George German



Lt. Colonel William John Kent

He is shortly thereafter brought before the now convened Field General Court Martial.

Sitting in Judgement are: Brig.General Charles Guinand Blackader, Lt. Colonel George German, Lt. Colonel William John Kent.

Prosecuting is Lieutenant W.E. Wylie (Later a High Court Judge of the Irish Free State)

Field General Court Martial does not provide for either defence counsel or right of appeal following sentence.

Pearse is charged with armed rebellion, waging war against His Majesty The king, and doing so with the purpose of assisting the enemy. (Germany)

There are only two witnesses for the prosecution. 2nd Lt. S.O. King of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and Constable Daniel Coffey DMP.

No defence witnesses are called but Pearse takes the opportunity to make a speech outlining his reasons and motivation and asks that clemency be shown, not for himself, but for his followers.

The whole process is complete in less than twenty minutes. Blackader imposes the only sentence allowed to him by Maxwell. *Death at dawn by firing squad.*

There follows, in rapid succession, the 'trials' of MacDonagh and Clarke. Death by firing squad at dawn.

Tuesday 2nd May 1916 (late afternoon)

Maxwell confirms the death sentences and all three are brought to Kilmainham Gaol to await execution of the order.

Tuesday 2nd May 1916

At Kilmainham the commandant of the prison, W.S. Lennon, a Dubliner and former district police inspector receives the order to allow the execution. There is no

signature of a person with authority to sign attached to it. This must be rectified before he will accept it.

It has been decided that the firing party will be provided by a detachment of Sherwood Foresters. They have taken heavy losses earlier in the week at Mount Street Bridge compliments of Volunteers Michael Malone and Seamus Grace.

Captain Arthur Dickson describes the bravado of the inexperienced Sherwood Foresters as they are marched to Kilmainham for the duty. They are overheard saying that they would bayonet the rebels to save on cleaning their rifles after the task. (This naivety will soon change)



Captain Arthur Dickson

Captain Arthur Dickson describes his orders. (He will take charge of a firing party on 8th Apr)

I was to march my firing-squad of a Sergeant and 12 men to a space cut off from the execution-point by a projecting wall; halt them to ground arms there; march them forward 12 paces to halt with their backs to their rifles, each of which I was then to load and replace on the ground. Thus no man knew whether his rifle had been loaded with blank or with ball; each was therefore left not knowing whether he personally had shot the man or not.

Lomas kept a diary of the week's events and in it he describes marching in the early morning hours to Kilmainham with the party detailed to carry out the executions scheduled for 03 May 1916. (MacDonagh, Pearse, Clarke)

We paraded at the time appointed and marched to Kilmainham Jail.

At 3.45am the first rebel Thomas MacDonagh was marched in blindfolded and the firing party placed 10 paces distant. Death was instantaneous.

The second, Pearse, whistled as he came out of his cell.....

The same applied to him.



Company Sergeant Major Samuel Lomas (Sherwood Foresters)

3rd May 1916 (3.30am)

Sergeant Michael T. Soughley DMP decides he will proceed to the prison at Kilmainham. He wants to speak with the three now awaiting their fate in order that he may arrange for their family to visit before sentence is carried out. He has decided this of his own accord.

As he approaches the prison gates he observes volunteer Commandant Ned Daly (he will be shot the following morning) under heavy guard being conveyed to the prison for a final visit with his friend Thomas Clarke. Daly is too late. As he enters the gates, Soughley records the thunder of the first shots ringing out. MacDonagh has fallen. Within twenty minutes Pearse and Clarke have followed.

Inside, the initial bravado of the Sherwood Foresters is soon to be dissipated.

As the blindfolded MacDonagh is brought out, the firing party is already formed up. In the close confines of the stonebreakers yard they are a mere ten paces from their victim. Pinned to MacDonagh's left breast is a small white patch. The aiming point. Present with the firing party is Major W. W. Rhodes, assistant provost marshal and organiser of the executions. He will be relieved of his duties later that day. Becoming mentally ill as a result of his experiences that morning, he is discharged from the army by November of that year.

The fire order is given and within milliseconds the rounds have reached their target. The .303 ball ammunition tears through MacDonagh's chest, shattering his rib cage and forming hundreds of fragments, propelling themselves through the lungs and soft tissue of MacDonagh's body. He falls to the ground of the yard. His body and the ground around him, a mass of blood and tissue. The young inexperienced Sherwood Foresters are aghast. Their stomachs are sick but this firing party has two more to go. MacDonagh's body is hurriedly dragged to a small covered area to the side.

Pearse is brought out. He is offered the blindfold. He is not concerned if they put it on him or not. The rifles are swaying now. The firing party can feel the nausea rising within them.

"Fire !".... and not all but enough rounds have found their target. Pearse falls and moments later he too is dragged to be reunited with his comrade.

The officer is conscious that the resolve of the firing party is beginning to wane. Clarke is hurriedly brought

into position. They can barely hold their rifles at the aim position now. As the fire order is given and Clarke's body drops to the gravel, it is soon clear that the execution is botched. The officer walks forward and administers the coup de grâce .

Minutes later, Ned Daly is on his knees praying the rosary in the stonebreakers shed over the blood bespattered bodies of his fallen compatriots. He will join them in the same shed less than twenty four hours later.

The morning's ghastly deeds are not complete however. The bodies must be quickly removed to their mass quicklime pit at Arbour Hill Prison before Dublin awakes.

They are hastily loaded onto the back of an army truck, covered in army blankets, and rushed to Arbour Hill for burial. Some ambiguity surrounds the order of burial. The court martial file of Clarke (held at British Archives, Kew) indicates on a pencil drawn map, the graves of the dead men.

In 1932 Jerome O'Connell, a civil servant of the British administration in charge of military lands, wrote to the Irish authorities. He outlines the intended order of burial. He also seeks to assure the Irish authorities that the fourteen are buried in consecrated ground, as a graveyard had been in existence at the site since 1848.

However O'Connell was not present at the actual burial and it was unlikely that the burial party would be in a position to recognise the executed. The bodies of the first three were not identity tagged and soldiers, burying the result of military execution by firing squad, would not relish prolonging this task to find out who was first or second off the cart. The claim that they were buried in consecrated ground does not stand up to scrutiny, as the pit was dug inside prison walls, separated from the graveyard.

Perhaps O'Connell's letter is better understood when we consider how difficult it must have been for him living in the Dublin of the 1930's, a former senior official of the enemy.

Today, the resting place of the senior figures of the era, is among the least visited of the national monuments. Many are of the mistaken view that the graves of the signatories of the 1916 proclamation are at Glasnevin.

We are asking you to consider Becoming a Platelet donor

Be a platelet Donor?

You may already be a blood donor, or giving blood maybe something you always wanted to do. But there is an extra special gift you can give, to help save or improve the lives of Irish patients. The Irish Blood Transfusion Service would like you to consider becoming a platelet donor.

What are platelets?

- Platelets are a precious component of blood
- Produced in the Bone marrow and essential to enable blood to clot properly.
- Platelet donations needed frequently as these cells have a shelf life of just five days

Who needs platelets?

Children and adults with cancer or leukaemia need platelets after having chemotherapy and radiation treatment.

Platelets are also needed by:

- New born babies
- Bone Marrow and organ transplant patients
- Burns victims and patients undergoing extensive surgery

How are platelets collected?

The donation process is quite simple and takes from 60 to 90 minutes depending on the procedure. Your blood is processed through a cell separator where it is separated into the different components. The platelets are removed and collected in a bag, while the remaining components are returned to your body.

To be a platelet donor, you must:

- Be between 18 and 59 years of age (before 60th Birthday)
- Weigh 60 kg or more (9 stone 7 lbs.)
- All blood groups are needed O, A, B and AB

You cannot become a platelet donor if:

- You have ever received a blood transfusion
- You are female and had a pregnancy of any gestation
- You are required to take aspirin or ant-inflammatories regularly

Where can I give platelets:

Platelet donations can be made at our special platelet Centres in:

- IBTS, National Blood Centre, James's Street, Dublin 8
- IBTS, Munster Regional Transfusion centre, St Finbarr's Hospital, Douglas Road, Cork

When you give platelets you give someone:

- Another birthday
- Another school day
- Another summer day
- Another laugh
- Another chance



Pictured is Greg Flanagan prison officer from Arbour Hill Prison. He has donated 244 platelet and blood donations to date. Greg is one of our amazing donors who has donated throughout COVID-19. Greg became a platelet donor because he knew his donation of platelets would help Leukemic and cancer patients. Without platelet donors like Greg we could not supply platelets to all of the Hospitals in Ireland.



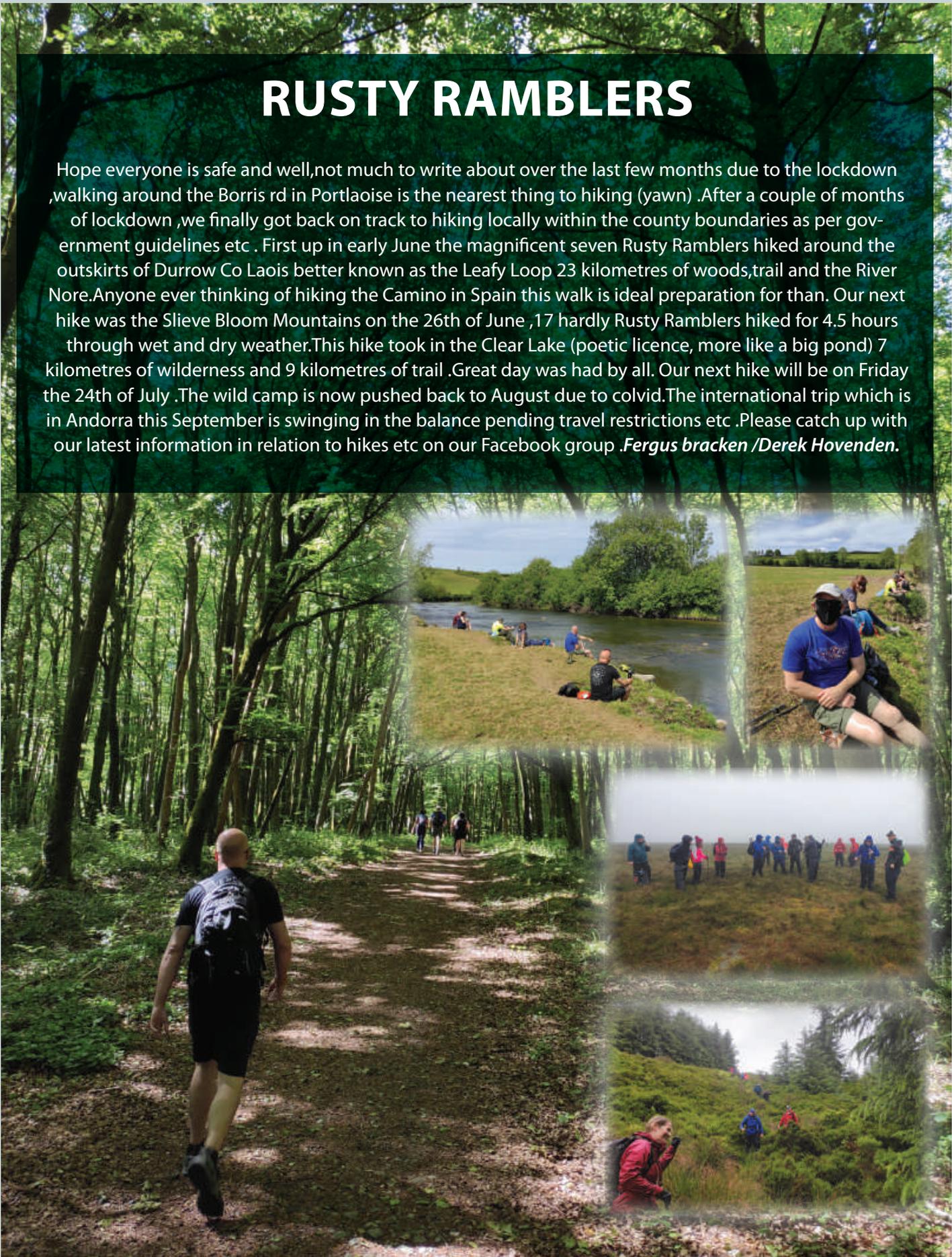
HOW CAN I BECOME A PLATELET DONOR?

- You can register your interest on www.giveblood.ie
- Text PLATELET to 53377 (to receive platelet donation information)
- Fill in the platelet application form (free post)

Call to book an assessment -
Cork – 021 4807429
Dublin – 01 4322833

RUSTY RAMBLERS

Hope everyone is safe and well, not much to write about over the last few months due to the lockdown, walking around the Borris rd in Portlaoise is the nearest thing to hiking (yawn). After a couple of months of lockdown, we finally got back on track to hiking locally within the county boundaries as per government guidelines etc. First up in early June the magnificent seven Rusty Ramblers hiked around the outskirts of Durrow Co Laois better known as the Leafy Loop 23 kilometres of woods, trail and the River Nore. Anyone ever thinking of hiking the Camino in Spain this walk is ideal preparation for that. Our next hike was the Slieve Bloom Mountains on the 26th of June, 17 hardly Rusty Ramblers hiked for 4.5 hours through wet and dry weather. This hike took in the Clear Lake (poetic licence, more like a big pond) 7 kilometres of wilderness and 9 kilometres of trail. Great day was had by all. Our next hike will be on Friday the 24th of July. The wild camp is now pushed back to August due to colvid. The international trip which is in Andorra this September is swinging in the balance pending travel restrictions etc. Please catch up with our latest information in relation to hikes etc on our Facebook group. *Fergus bracken /Derek Hovenden.*



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Borrow €25,000 over 5 years
Fortnightly repayment €216.14
(Total cost of loan €3,096.98)
Loan Rate 4.75% (APR 4.86%)

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Loan Rate 4.75% (APR 4.86%)

Borrow €10,000 over 2½ years
Fortnightly repayments of €163.27
(Total cost of loan €612.04)
Loan Rate 4.75% (APR 4.86%)





Mary Reddington (nee O'Riordan)

ACO

CORK PRISON

18th February 2020

At 6pm on Tuesday Feb 18th I received the phone call I had been dreading but knew was imminent, my buddy, my Guardian Angel in Cork Prison had finally gone to sleep for the last time after bravely fighting with enormous courage and dignity that horrible disease cancer.

I met Mary for the first time when we joined the Irish Prison Service together in March 1990. First impressions are often misleading and mine was that this lady wouldn't last one week, how wrong would I be. After Recruit Training Mary was posted to Cork Prison where she served for most of her service but for a short period she worked on Spike Island after being promoted to Clerk in the General Office. She returned to Cork to work in the Office there and could always be relied upon to help with problems big or small. On handover of the General Offices to Clerical Staff, Mary was promoted to A.C.O. Detail. I had the pleasure of working alongside her here and God Help you if you tried to pull a fast one on her as you would quickly feel the temper that simmered just under that red hair. She was a considerate boss who treated everyone equally and had the patience of a saint at times. Mary had one weak spot....."she loved chocolate" and could always be relied upon to have something nice for the tea break.

Mary began her battle with cancer 12 years ago and at various times required hospitalization and as she fought each battle she never once complained, and if you asked her about it she would always turn the conversation around to how you were and your family.

Sadly the cancer returned just before Christmas last and again she faced it with courage as if it was just "another hill to climb". I was lucky enough to be able to visit her in hospital on the Saturday before she passed and as I entered the room, Sean her husband was getting a telling off because he had bought her a fleece which she felt was not big enough for her, such was the spirit of this lady that she was more worried about style than her illness. Sadly this was my last time to talk with her as she entered the last stage of her illness. I visited her on the following Tuesday to say goodbye to a great colleague but also a great friend who will always be remembered.

To Sean, her much loved husband and absolute gentleman, I say you and Rocco, her beloved dog, were her two true loves in this world. She couldn't have asked for a most kind and considerate husband.

I say to everyone who's path crossed with Mary... We were the lucky ones...

She is finally at peace.

Ar dheis De go raibh a nanam

John O'Reilly



Owen Hiney

WTO

WHEATFIELD PRISON

16th February 2020

16th February 2020 was a dark day for the Hiney family with the untimely death of Owen. Owen joined the Prison Service in 2007 and served in Wheatfield Prison as a WTO Catering. Owen had recently got news of his transfer to the Portlaoise Prison. He was excited and was looking forward to his transfer, that would take him closer to home and his family he loved so much. Owen was a proud family man who thought the world of his kids, Conor, Darragh, Rachel and Bronagh. He was especially proud of his two sons Conor, Darragh who both played on same team with his club. He always talked about them at work.

Owen recently completed the professional cookery course in Athlone. To say Owen was dedicated to his work is an understatement. He was dedicated, reliable, professional and approachable as a member of the Catering Staff and was always willing to impart his knowledge, skills and experience to his colleagues and anyone that had an interest in cooking. Owen brought a great sense of humour to the Kitchen and was always up for a sneer or a bit of devilment.

Owen made the best Bakewell tart in Ireland and we all miss them. He had a great interest in most sports particularly hurling and rugby. He watched Home and Away religiously everyday at half-one and you could hear a pin drop in the room when it's was on. Owen was very dedicated to his fitness and completed numerous marathons. He was really looking forward to heading to Portlaoise and a new challenge. He was at planning stage to building a new house with his partner Brid. Owen was a kind gentle soul and was adored by everyone who crossed paths with him. Owen will be fondly missed by his loving family and all his colleagues in Wheatfield Prison and the wider Prison Service. May he rest in peace.

Ar dheis De go raibh a nanam

Mark Murphy



Jane Deegan (nee O’Riordan)

NURSE OFFICER

PORTLAOISE PRISON

20th February 2020

On the 19th February 2020 we lost our colleague Nurse Officer Jane Deegan.

Jane was married to Hubert and had three children Patrick, Kate and Sarah.

Jane worked in Tullamore General Hospital before joining the Irish Prison Service in May 2002.

She commenced her service in Cloverhill Prison and worked there for 6 years, she transferred to Midlands Prison and worked there for 10 years and spent her last year and a half in Portlaoise Prison.

Jane was a valued nurse and a great team player, she was kind and compassionate to all she looked after both prisoner and staff.

Jane was involved in the Red Cross Project in Midlands Prison and in Portlaoise Prison and enjoyed the interaction with all involved.

The surgery team+ were often treated to her culinary skills in baking and her lemon drizzle was a hard one for someone to beat.

Jane was always cheerful, came into work with a smile and we all will miss her dearly.

Jane was taken away too soon from this world and will be greatly missed.

She is a huge loss to the Irish Prison Service.

Slán a chara, ar dheis De go raibh a hanam.

Sinéad Galvin & Yvonne Guilfoyle



Noel Tolan

PRISON OFFICER

MOUNTJOY PRISON

13th June 2020

Saturday 13th June 2020 was a very sad day for Noel Tolan's family and his extended family in Mountjoy Prison with his sad and untimely passing. Noel passed away following his brave battle with a short-term illness. Noel lived in Balcunnin, Skerries Co. Dublin and joined the Prison Service in 2006. After his training Noel was posted to Mountjoy Prison where he spent all of his service. Noel was married to Pamela and have three beautiful children Isabella, Aaron and Ryan, who he loved so much. Noel was a family man who thought the world of his wife Pamela and family.

On the morning of Noels funeral, the Guard of Honour lined up outside St. Patrick's Church, Skerries, County Dublin. Prison Service Staff lined both sides of the streets all the way to the Church as a mark of respect, one that touched so many hearts especially Pamela and her children. Pamela was so touched by the professionalism of the Guard of Honour, the flag at communion and the attendance of so many of Noel's friends both near and far.

*"I was bursting with pride and heartbroken all at the same time.
We were so proud and will never forget this"*

Many of Noel's colleagues from Mountjoy Prison and the wider Prison Service attended Noel's funeral to pay their respects. Noel was a very popular member of the Prison Service and was highly respected by all that knew him. Noel will be fondly missed by his loving family and all his colleagues in Mountjoy Prison and the wider Prison Service.

Mark Morrison



Brendan Doorey

9th JUNE 1943 – 11th FEBRUARY 2020

All who knew Brendan in the Irish Prison Service were saddened to hear of his death on 11th February 2020.

Brendan was from Ballintava, near Dunmore, Co Galway. He was one of 11 children born to his parents Thomas and Margaret. Sadly, a brother and a sister had predeceased him.

Brendan came to Dublin in July 1962 to work in the Postman's Office in Pearse Street. He worked there for 15 months and left in 1963 to join the Prison Service. On 16th November 1963 he reported for duty at Mountjoy Prison. His surname was entered on the records as Doorhey, and rather than point out the error, Brendan kept the 'h'. Unlike today, no training was given and he was assigned to duties straight away. He took up residence in the old staff quarters within the walls of the prison.

He transferred to Limerick Prison on 3rd October 1964 and stayed there until 1968 before applying for a transfer back to Mountjoy.

In 1972 he worked as an assistant in the Fingerprint Office. He was promoted to the clerical staff in January 1973 and continued in that role until his retirement in 2001. He worked mostly in the General Office but also spent a period of time in the Pay Office and in 'Room 5'.

In his 38 years in the Prison Service, Brendan only missed 8 days' work, due to appendicitis. His work was meticulous. His knowledge of warrants and court procedures was legendary and he imparted that knowledge freely. He was the 'go to man' if you had any queries. He took great pride in maintaining the General Register and the many ledgers used in the office.

Besides collecting stamps, Brendan had a huge interest in historical matters, with a particular interest in prison life. He spent many hours of research in the National Archives and the National Library. He wrote several articles which were published in the Prison Officers Magazine. He was involved in the setting up of Mountjoy Prison Museum and his office typewriter is on display there.

A man of routine and habit, Brendan went on holiday to Jersey every year in June for two weeks. That, and a Christmas visit to Dunmore, satisfied his desire to be outside of Dublin. He maintained a healthy lifestyle with no alcohol, no smoking and regular exercise as he loved to walk everywhere.

Before retiring he moved to his apartment in Drumcondra, an area he loved.

After retirement he worked for a few years in the Legal Department in Allianz Insurance.

In Drumcondra he was very involved in the community there, assisting with Meals on Wheels, together with active involvement with St Vincent de Paul Society and in proofreading the local church newsletter.

There was a very large presence of former colleagues at his Funeral Mass in Saint Columba's Church, Iona Road on 14th February. This was a great comfort to Brendan's family as they recognized the high esteem in which he was held.

His ashes were interred in his parents' plot in Kiltamna Cemetery on 7th March after Mass in a crowded Kiltamna Church, Dunmore.

May his gentle soul rest in peace.

Damien Mara B.L. (retired Clerk 1)



Richard (Richie) Brennan

PRISON OFFICER

MIDLANDS PRISON (OSG)

1st July 2020

Wednesday 1st July 2020 was a dark day for Richie's family and his extended family in the Midlands Prison with the news of Richie's passing. Formerly of Harold's Cross and of late Gleann Na Riogh Nass, Richie passed away peacefully in Beaumont hospital after a long illness, surrounded by his loving family.

Richie joined the Prison Service in 1994. After his training Richie was posted to Saint Patricks Institution and many years later transferred to the Midlands Prison Portlaoise. Richie was married to Celine and have three beautiful children, Josh, Aoife and Finn, who he loved so much. Richie was a proud husband, father and a TRUE DUB. Richie was a loyal friend with a big heart and will be sadly missed, but never forgotten by all.

Richie was a very popular member of the Prison Service and was highly respected by all that knew him. Richie will be fondly missed by his loving family and all his colleagues in the Midlands Prison Portlaoise and the wider Prison Service.

May Richie rest in peace.

Tristan Pearce



Detective Garda Colm Horkan RIP



Colm joined An Garda Síochána in July 1994 and was one of 100 new Garda recruits that entered through the gates of the Garda college in Templemore. Colm served the communities he worked in with distinction and pride during his 24 years as a member of An Garda Síochána. Colm was always a family man who enjoyed music and going to concerts and who loved his local GAA team Charlestown Sarsfield's, as well as his fashion.

Colm was a staunch Liverpool Fan and would be so proud of Liverpool winning the Premier League. The Liverpool motto summed Colm up perfectly "You'll never walk alone". Colm never let any of his family or friends walk alone.

Colm was greatly respected in the community of Castlerea by both the young and old. Colm was described well by one of his former classmates John McCarthy as an "unassuming guy who regularly had the banter with others in relation to football in Mayo". On Thursday evening hundreds of people gathered on the

When we awoke on the morning of Thursday 18th June 2020 all sources of media were reporting that a member of An Garda Síochána had been shot dead while on duty in Co Roscommon in the early hours of the morning. Little did we know, it was the beloved brother of our colleague Deirdre Horkan and cousin of our colleague Liam Breheny. Colm was shot several times after he stopped a man driving a motorbike on Main Street in the town of Castlerea. This was a random and violent act that shook society to its core and has deeply saddened members of the Prison Service.



OBITUARY

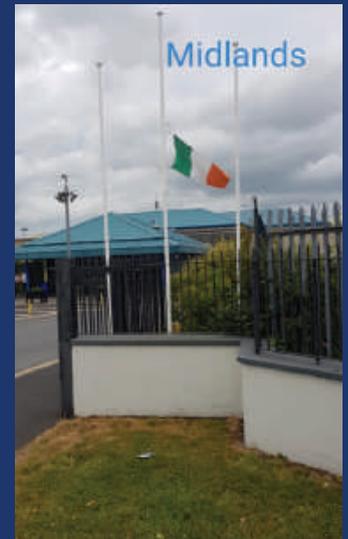
main street in the town centre in Castlerea for a vigil for Colm.

On Sunday Before the funeral service, Gardaí lined the streets of Charlestown as the coffin carrying Colm's body was carried to St James's Church, the same church where he had been baptised. A minute's silence was observed throughout the country as a mark of respect to Colm. Minister for Justice Charlie Flanagan represented the Government at the funeral. President Michael D Higgins led a memorial ceremony for Colm at Áras an Uachtaráin. The Peace Bell at Áras an Uachtaráin, rang at the start and the end of the memorial ceremony, while the President observed one minute's silence.

All Prisons throughout the country flew the tri-colour at half mast, observing a minute's silence. 65 Staff from Castlerea Prison attended Castlerea Garda station for the funeral service while the Staff in the Midlands Prison held a midday parade observing a minute's silence all as a mark of respect for Colm. Colm was the 89th member of An Garda Síochána killed in the line of duty.

On Behalf of The Prison Officers Association and its members I want to express our heartfelt sympathy to Colm's family and to the wider family of An Garda Síochána.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam



BRENDAN DOOREY

(9th June, 1943 – 11th February, 2020)

A PERSONAL REFLECTION

Brendan Doorey was a much-respected colleague and friend. Beneath his slight frame was a man of real principle, ethical standards and a steely resolve. His honesty and integrity were beyond reproach. He insisted on paying for any telephone calls he made on official prison telephones that were not work-related.

He was a compassionate and kind human being. I witnessed more than one impecunious inmate being discharged from custody with money given to him by Brendan from his own pocket.

Brendan was methodical and very much a creature of habit. It is no exaggeration to say that one could set their watch by him. He was quiet, disciplined and reserved. Very much the private man and this added to the sense of mystery of the man. His funeral mass revealed much more about the man, that was heretofore unknown.

When it came to the attention that he paid to his duties in the Prison Service, Brendan was unsurpassed. Descriptions such as meticulous, methodical, diligent, attention to detail and pride in his duties immediately come to mind. His knowledge of court procedures, warrants and legal affairs was both extraordinary and legendary. His counsel was regularly sought, not just in Mountjoy Prison, but from prisons throughout the State. His carefully constructed advice and guidance was always balanced and measured - and communicated in a concise and easily understood manner. He was not one who spoke without good cause or reason. He didn't do idle chat. But when he did speak – the wise person listened and heeded.

Exemplary in how he always conducted himself, Brendan was a true gentleman in the real meaning of the word. He respected all persons with whom he came in contact with. In all my years, I never heard or witnessed Brendan utter a profanity, use foul language, or speak ill of any person - living or deceased.

The one and only time I witnessed Brendan upset was around 8pm on that fateful night of 23rd December, 1997 when word filtered through to Mountjoy Prison that our dear colleague Des Dunne had died suddenly. Des worked closely with Brendan. On being informed, Brendan sank into a chair and as his head bowed, the colour drained from his face.

While he enjoyed the occasional 'banter' that would arise from time to time, he rarely contributed to it. On one occasion that he did contribute – and at my expense it should be said - those present were momentarily stunned into silence before erupting into laughter, cheering and

applause. Despite his best efforts, even Brendan could not conceal his delight as a broad grin on his face gave way to laughter.

The day he retired, a number of us formed an impromptu guard of honour as he exited the main gate of Mountjoy Prison. Brendan had no desire for the limelight and was uncomfortable being the centre of any attention. As he walked away down the driveway, the stark realisation that he would not be returning was very much to the fore in our minds. On our return to the prison, that sense of loss was palpable. More than one person shed a tear that day.

Thankfully, in the years that followed his retirement, Brendan kept in touch with his former colleagues and made numerous visits to the prison, always displaying a keen interest in being updated on any news and developments.

He was a regular contributor to the Prison Officers' Association Magazine where he submitted mainly historical articles on prison related matters. Such articles are a compelling read for any person with an interest in the history of the Irish Prison Service.

The Prison Service Museum – which he was instrumental in setting up and providing countless records to, derived from hours and hours of research in the National Archives and elsewhere - serves as a real reminder to his memory and his contribution to the prison service and the wider public service.

In the years after I left the prison service, I would occasionally see Brendan walking briskly along the streets in that distinctive coat and cap, with the broly tucked under his arm in the event it was needed. His preference was always to walk from place to place. He accepted an occasional lift – but only if the broly was already in use!

I was honoured and privileged to have served alongside him and to have him as a friend. Much of what I learned from him over the years has stood me in good stead.

Brendan went to his eternal reward on 11th February, 2020. The huge attendance at his funeral Mass is a testament to the high esteem and respect in which he was held by all who knew him. This was a source of great comfort to his family. His memory will most certainly live on in the hearts of those who were privileged to know him, and whose lives he greatly enriched.

May his kind and gentle soul rest in peace.

John Ward

Memorial unveiled at Portlaoise Prison

On Tuesday 23rd April 2020 Laois Offaly TD and Minister for Justice and Equality Charlie Flanagan was joined by the Irish Prison Service Director-General Caron McCaffrey to unveil the memorial at Portlaoise high-security Prison in the presence of Prison Staff, management and members of the Prison Officers Association. The colour party consisted of ACO JD Corcoran, Officer Robbie Brothwood and Officer PW Dunne.

This memorial garden pays tribute and honours the service of Prison Officers, Defence Forces Personnel and Gardaí who have served the Irish State through fulfilling

their duties to their country at Portlaoise Prison since the foundation of the State.

The memorial features the bell and stonework from the since-demolished prison chapel. This stone was stored



"This Garden has been commissioned in memory of the staff of Portlaoise Prison who have served our State with distinction since it's foundation, ably supported by members of An Garda Síochána and Óglaigh na hÉireann"

"Hope is not optimism, which expects things to turn out well, but something rooted in the conviction that there is good worth working for"

- Seamus Heaney

PORTLAOISE PRISON MEMORIAL

for many years in the prison complex. The memorial also features a plaque and a memorial garden. Construction of the Memorial Garden commenced in 2018 with the metal work and stone work completed by Staff at Wheatfield Prison.

Minister Flanagan spoke at the official opening acknowledging that.

"This Memorial Garden honours the Irish Prison Service staff who have served over the years in Portlaoise Prison and recognises the unique challenges they have faced, and in particular the part the Prison Service members played and the courage they showed during the most turbulent times of the Troubles, in conjunction with their colleagues from An Garda Síochána and Permanent Defence Forces.

"The Irish Prison Service and Portlaoise Prison have always had a huge connect with the community of Co Laois and its surrounding counties and I believe it is very appropriate to recognise this by putting in place a symbol which recognises their contribution to the State. I would hope that this will give the community an opportunity to pause and reflect as they pass in memory of all that have served in Portlaoise Prison,"

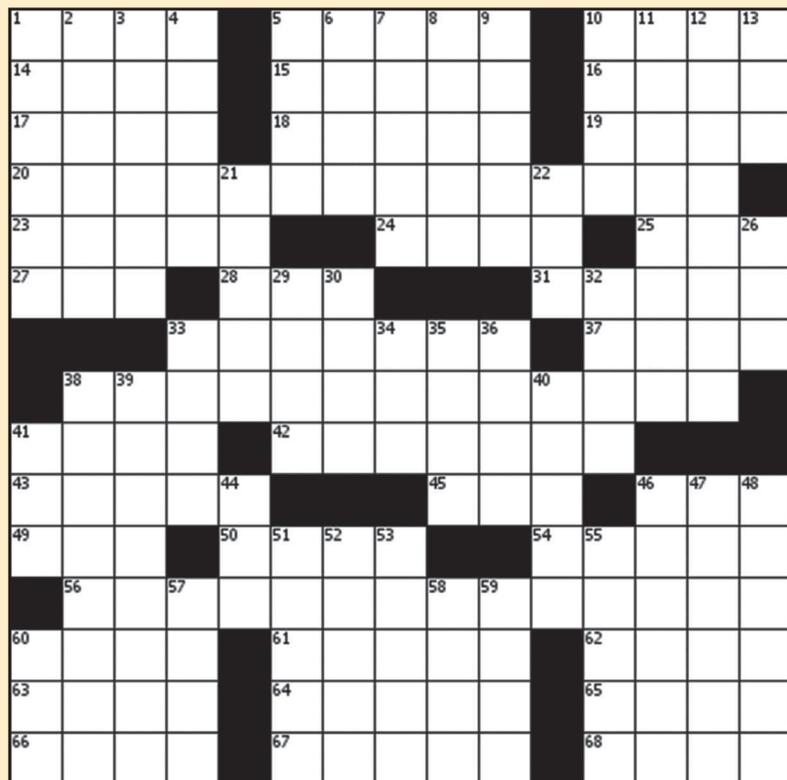
Portlaoise Prison is unique in that it is the only maximum security prison in the State. Prisoners sentenced in the

Special Criminal Court are committed to Portlaoise Prison. Since 1973, all subversive or IRA prisoners have been accommodated in Portlaoise following their transfer from the Curragh Prison.



BRAIN EXERCISES

CROSSWORD



Please send completed Crossword Entries by Friday 25th September 2020 to The Editor, Prison Officer Magazine, 18, Merrion Square, Dublin 2. 5 prizes of €25 will be awarded to winning entries.

Across

1. Spheres
5. Snazzy-looking
10. Type of meet
14. Without ice
15. Workers, collectively
16. Arrived
17. Opera great Pinza
18. Defendant's story
19. Exec's "Right now!"
20. David Letterman's company
23. Musical orphan
24. Paradise
25. NY hrs.
27. Affirmative
28. Nada
31. Delicate leg bone

33. Veer off course
37. Engagement gift
38. Environmental concern
41. "I say!" sayer
42. Parents' aides
43. Leaf gatherer
45. Receive
46. Owns
49. "Wheel of Fortune" purchase
50. Site of Napoleon's exile
54. Make into law
56. O negative
60. Singer Campbell
61. Chevy SUV
62. Shrek is one
63. It's a loch
64. Kilns

65. Hardly bananas
66. Hissed "Hey you!"
67. Rhinoplasty targets
68. Previously, once

Down

1. Kind of ticket
2. Make new area boundaries
3. Clydebank kids
4. Vodka brand, familiarly
5. Barbecue side
6. The Niger River flows through it
7. Play (by), as rules
8. Clad like a judge
9. Drivel

SUDOKU



Please send completed Sudoku Entries by Friday 25th September 2020 to The Editor

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

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

10. Quickly look over
11. Trash collector
12. Gathering
13. Cheerleader's trait
21. Star in the Swan constellation
22. Unwanted picnic guest
26. "To/From" Christmas item
29. "Terrible" tsar
30. Oscar winner Kedrova
32. Colored part of the eye
33. Shower affection (on)
34. Grass appendage
35. Astronaut's drink
36. A great lake
38. Sand particles
39. Portrait, e.g.
40. Allotted, with "out"
41. Bikini top
44. MLK title
46. Cessna home
47. Objects of a squirrel's quest
48. Local thoroughfare
51. Show that you know
52. "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" channel
53. Fireplace remains
55. Rope loop
57. Part of MIT: abbr.
58. Top-notch
59. Not as much
60. U.S. output measure

— WINNERS —

CROSSWORD WINNER

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----|
| Maria Maguire | OSG HQ | €25 |
| Brendan Maher | Arbour Hill | €25 |
| Ger Cotter | PSEC Cork | €25 |
| Kevin McGrath | Limerick | €25 |
| PJ Delaney | Portlaoise | €25 |

SUDOKU WINNERS

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----|
| Paul Geraghty | Loughan House | €25 |
| John Sheridan | Loughan House | €25 |
| Brian Martin | Cork | €25 |
| John Tuohy | Wheatfield | €25 |
| John Breen | Limerick | €25 |



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| | |
|--|---------------|
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| Less CAS Administration Fee | - €350 |
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Warning: The values quoted do not take account of investment gains or losses.

Warning: Pension and Tax Legislation is subject to change.

*Assumes nil investment growth and does not take account of the annual management charge of 1%.

