Senior gardaí insist station closures will not mean cut in service

by Sean O'Riordan

Senior gardaí are insisting the public will get the same level of service despite plans to disband two Garda districts in Co Cork.

Garda management will host public information meetings ahead of the November closures of the Cobh and Kanturk districts which are being axed as part of a countrywide rationali-

sation plan. The Mallow Garda District will subsume most of the Kanturk Garda District and will become one of the largest garda districts in rural

Mallow will take over the administrative running of garda stations in Kanturk, Newmarket, Meelin and Boherbue.

cluding Millstreet and Rathmore will be subsumed by

It is expected all clerical officers will be transferred from their current headquarters in Kanturk to Mal-

There has been no inspector appointed to Mallow since the last one retired

The rest of the current in Feb 2013. However, be-Kanturk Garda District, in- cause of the increasing workload which will fall to Mallow, the vacancy will be

filled by November. There will be an even greater carve-up of the Cobh Garda District. Stations at Cobh and Carrigtwohill will be run from Midleton while Glanmire

will be run from Mayfield. Carrignavar village will be

while the rural area, north of it, will come under the remit of Fermoy gardaí.

Concern has been expressed by some politicians that the closure of the two districts could lead to a lesser service. However, senior garda sources said this is not the case.

It is understood that the move will not lead to a operating in the areas concerned.

For many years, garda management has seen Glanmire as part of Cork City and Mayfield is far closer to Glanmire than Cobh if emergency back-up is need-

However, concerns have been raised that a longpromised new garda station materialise, despite promises earlier this year by Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan. Fears have been raised locally that Glanmire gardaí may be transferred to May-

"While we all acknowledge that Glanmire is only 3km from Mayfield, it has a distinct population of 20,000 people. There are

policed from Gurranabraher decrease in garda numbers in Glanmire may now not many towns in this country which have less and there is no question of closing their stations," Senator John Gilroy (Lab) said.

"I will be holding the Garda Commissioner and Minister for Justice Alan Shatter to the promise that was made to provide a new station so the gardaí [will] stay in Glanmire," he



Meelin player DJ O'Sullivan and his bride-to-be Jacqueline Murphy from Boherbue who are due to be married on Sept 21.

Stag put on hold as Meelin togs out for world's biggest hurling match

by Sean O'Riordan

"Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that.'

The famed quote was Liverpool legend Bill Shankly's take on

In the north Cork village of Meelin, hurling is taken just as seriously — having precedence over stag or hen nights.

Pre-nuptials, it emerged, are on hold as the village gears up next weekend for a Guinness Book of Records attempt at the biggest hurling match ever staged. And

the organisers are confident. Every man, woman and child is being mobilised for the record attempt which will take place at the GAA club's pitch on Sunday.

DJ O'Sullivan, 26, is postponing his stag celebrations as a result. He readily admits that all his friends are taking part, so there wasn't much DJ, who

won an All Ireland Intermediate hurling medal with Meelin in 2010, has no doubt the club the Guinness Book of Records. He's due to tie the knot next month with Jacqueline Murphy, who

owns a beauty salon in Boherbue and who will

also attend the record attempt. 'We'll definitely break the world record. Everybody is getting involved," said David,



DJ O'Sullivan and Jacqueline Murphy with young Meelin players.

who works in Newmarket Motors. "You don't have to be mad to live in Meelin but it certainly

helps." Club members on a recent trip to Dublin distributed fliers in some

pubs about the event and had inquiries as a result.

"In general, we've had offers to send teams from all counties in

Munster, bar Tipperary. We've had inquiries from Kilkenny as well. It's generated phenomenal interest," club spokesman Kieran

Age is no barrier but the

Guinness Book of Records is

insisting each person taking to the field plays for at least 10 minutes. "Having 800 people playing on the day is very realistic. And 1,000 is not out of the question,"

Mr Linehan said. Cork legend Seán Óg Ó hAilpín has agreed to start the mammoth match with throw in at

12 noon. Other Cork stars who will line out — if Jimmy Barry Murphy doesn't call them for training at the same time - are expected to be Anthony Nash, Lorcan McLoughlin, William Egan and

Mark Ellis. "Newmarket are sending three juvenile teams to take part and this year's All Ireland Senior Camogie champions, Milford, are coming as well.

'We might use part of the event for a match between them and the Meelin men," Mr Lenihan said.

Plea to US-owner of Georgian villa to back park plan

Group hopes to transform house into tourist site

by Eoin English

A voluntary group driving efforts to save one of the country's finest Georgian villas has made a public appeal to its wealthy USbased owner to live up to his responsibilities and help them with the ambitious project.

The Grange Frankfield Partnership in Cork, trying to secure the future of the listed Vernon Mount House on the city's southside, said California-based Jonathan Moss has ignored all of their efforts to discuss the future of the dilapidated property with them.

"We have written to him and emailed him several times over the years — but he has ignored us," said partnership spokesman Ger "We just don't know what

the condition of the inside of the house is - and that's a shame. It's a building of national historic importance and it has been left to rot.

"We would appeal now to Mr Moss to help us and at least allow entry to the house so that a survey can be done. That would be the least he could do."

The appeal comes ahead of the launch this week of the Vernon Mount Lecture Series which will highlight the importance of the historic building, and its potential as a key visitor attraction in the proposed Tramore Valley super-park.

Vernon Mount, perched high above the South Ring Rd, was built in the 1780s and is one of the few remaining Georgian mansions on the south side of Cork.

It is a listed building containing important murals 18th century artist Nathaniel Grogan.

But it has fallen into dereliction since 1998 after a company of which Mr Moss was a director failed to



Vernon Mount House is owned by Jonathan Moss who is a member of a large angel investment network in the US.

secure planning permission for a residential and hotel

development on the site. Finally, after years of local campaigning, Cork County Council used its powers under the 2000 Planning and Development Act last year to step in and repairs its leaking roof.

Mr Lehane praised council officials for securing funding for the project which he said will limit further damage and protect the house from the weather. "This was a very signifi-

cant step by the county council, and we are most grateful for their action and support of the conservation of this house," he said. But the authorities have

been unable to gain access to the building to assess conditions inside. Mr Moss's cooperation

will be crucial to undertake further conservation work.

A maths and engineering graduate from Trinity College, San Diego-based Mr Moss is an active member of Tech Coast Angels, the largest angel investment network in the US, specialising in investing in hi-tech

The partnership has now gathered several influential and expert speakers to discuss the house, the super

by Áilín Quinlan

Cork County Council has

turned matchmaker to the

region's artists and venue

owners in a bid to connect

them ahead of next month's

colourful Culture Night.

park plans and the conservation of the area.

"We really want people to come along to these lectures and experience the rich history and heritage of the area in which we all live,' Mr Lehane said.

On Thursday, landscape architect and conservationist, David Bosonnet, will deliver the inaugural lecture, as part of Heritage Week. As a partner at Brady

Shipman Martin Architects, he has worked on key projects such as the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre, the Cork South Docks Local Area Plan, the Shannon Free Zone Masterplan, and the Cork City Harbour plan.

The free lecture series, which is being supported by Cork City Libraries, will also include discussions by experts on the art of Cork's 'big houses', Cork's merchant princes, and what ordnance surveys reveal about the heritage and history of the area.

The Grange Frankfield Partnership is a voluntary community organisation established in 2010 to support the creation of a 'super park' on the south side of the city and to highlight the importance of the conservation and renewal

Council turns

matchmaker for

Culture Night

Book offers snapshot of Listowel's rich history

by Donal **Hickey**

It's the kind of book that ought to be compiled about every town in Ireland; a fascinating view of the past through old photographs and bill-heads from businesses - some of which still survive.

Listowel has a greater literary output than most towns and the latest magnum opus will have a worthy place in the growing local library of the north Kerry town.

Retired postman Vincent Carmody spent more than 20 years collecting and often rescuing relics of a lost world for his self-published

Attics, offices, personal

collections and even rubbish skips have yielded up treasures in the form of photos of an everyday townscape, people, crafts, public houses, historic occasions

and groups of laughing,

barefoot children.

Bill-heads from various shops are, in many cases, works of art and tell of a time when extra care was taken with design and customers were valued in a personal manner rarely seen nowadays. It was an era when Lipton's tea, Lifebuoy soap and the blood-warming Oxo drink were staples in households.

Every image in the 272page publication, Listowel: Snapshots of an Irish Market Town, 1850-1950, has a little story attached, always interesting and sometimes

revealing nuggets of infor-

mation about old families. Mr Carmody, 67, takes us down every street in his hometown, using the images to piece together street histories, the changing nature of commerce and the fortunes of the families.

not undertaken for financial "Listowel people all over the world have been getting copies and the book makes them very proud of where they came from. That gives

he stressed the work was

Clearly a labour of love,

worth doing.' He also records the demise of traditional trades, such as blacksmiths, carpenters and harness makers, and recalls the death of the

me huge satisfaction and a

feeling that the job was



Listowel Square, showing part of the northern and southern side, in 1904. Right: A bill-head for Nora O'Brien, of Church St.

town's last cooper, Paddy Buckley, in 1953. We're told, intriguingly, Paddy's sister Kathy ran the White

House kitchen for three American presidents. There's a photograph of the funeral procession of Private Edward Sheehy, a

Free State soldier who was

the first Civil War casualty

in Listowel, coming through the town square led by the local brass and reed band.

Though the Civil War was fought bitterly in Kerry, the photograph, remarkably, shows men from both sides marching side by side in honour of the young man who had died.



Academics and historians have commented favourably on the book, with Professor Neil McLeod of the celtic studies department, at Murdoch University, Perth, Australia, describing it as "a model that local historians the world over could follow

with profit." • listoweloriginals.com

Performers and owners of galleries, theatre spaces, and community halls have 10 days to make contact with its project co-ordinator as the local authority moves to organise the programme for culture night on Sept 20. In 2012, Cork County's

programme saw more than 6,000 people attend free events at over 80 venues. This year, the number of venues is expected to reach 100, with a commensurate rise in audience numbers.

Some of the highlights this year include 'Voce di Donna' at Fota House; a performance by the Vanbrugh Quartet in St Multose Church in Kinsale; a film screening in Ballyvourney; skiffle band Louisiana 6 in the Sarah Walker Gallery in Castletownbere; and a reading in Doneraile Park of an adaptation of Canon Sheehan's novel Glenanaar.

There will be dozens of

that the county of Cork has to offer — all for free. Now, however, the pres-

sure is on to get everything organised. Project co-ordinator Cian Heffernan said: "We want people to make contact with us as soon as possible because we want to find willing venues and put them in touch with performers of different kinds.

We're looking for people and organisations with suitable venues to make contact with us — we essentially provide a matchmaking service. We try to co-ordinate the process and match the performers to the most appropriate venue.'

This is the third year Cork County is taking place in Culture Night and, Mr Heffernan said, the programme has expanded into towns and villages which have not previously participated. Blarney, Crosshaven, and Rockchapel will all be taking part for the first time.

putting their names forward for participation must contact the Cork County Arts Office by Aug 30. Interested artists or venue

Anybody interested in

culturenightcorkcounty.ie

by Jimmy Woulfe Mid-West Correspondent The fire service is billing the

HSE for call-outs to road traffic accidents where casualties have to be cut free from wreckage.

A HSE spokesman said the National Ambulance Service (NAS)

and the National Directorate for

Fire and Emergency Management

are now in talks. They are hoping

to come to an agreement on when HSE has in some circumstances the ambulance service can request fire fighter assistance without

A HSE spokesman told the Irish Examiner: "On rare occasions, the removal of a patient in a confined area may require assistance from the fire service. Various local have traditionally provided this type of assistance.

"However, in recent years, the

been presented with bills from the fire service for assisting patients. The NAS is in discussions

Fire service billing HSE for call-outs to road accidents

with the National Directorate of Fire and Emergency as well as the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government to agree when the NAS should activate/ request the support of the fire service without being charged."

One ambulance service source said under previous policy when a call out to a major accident came, the ambulance service automatically notified the fire service which would send a tender to the scene. Now, ambulance personnel on site assess the situation before deciding whether fire service personnel are required.

Limerick City Council member Cllr Jim Long has raised the issue

with the health and fire service authorities. He said: "I feel that if there is a serious road accident, the fire service should also respond imme-

diately and not have to be called

on by the ambulance service. 'Time is of the essence, particularly if people are trapped in a vehicle after a crash. I feel this issue of a charge should be done away with."

opportunities to experience

some of the finest arts, music, theatre, dance, and film owners should phone 021 4346210 or email cian.heffernan@corkcoco.ie.