

# 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 rationalisation plan.

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

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

The rest of the current Kanturk Garda District, including Millstreet and Rathmore will be subsumed by Macroom.

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

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

in Feb 2013. However, because 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 Carrigrohilly will be run from Middleton while Glanmire will be run from Mayfield.

Carrignavar village will be

policed from Gurrabraher 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

decrease in garda numbers 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 needed.

However, concerns have been raised that a long-promised new garda station

in Glanmire may now not materialise, despite promises earlier this year by Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan. Fears have been raised locally that Glanmire gardaí may be transferred to Mayfield.

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

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 added.



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

# 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 soccer.

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 point.

DJ, who won an All Ireland Intermediate hurling medal with Meelin in 2010, has no doubt the club will get into 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

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.

Munster, bar Tipperary. We’ve had inquiries from Kilkenny as well. It’s generated phenomenal interest,” club spokesman Kieran Linehan said.

# 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 book.

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

revealing nuggets of information 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.

Clearly a labour of love, he stressed the work was not undertaken for financial gain.

“Listowel people all over the world have been getting copies and the book makes them very proud of where they came from. That gives me huge satisfaction and a feeling that the job was worth doing.”

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



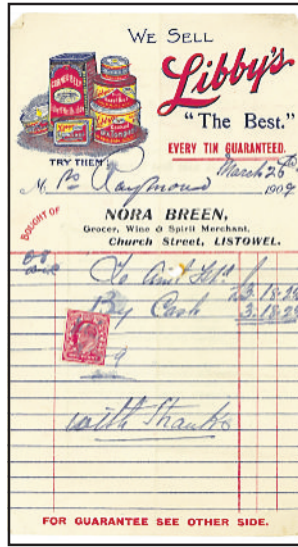
Listowel Square, showing part of the northern and southern side, in 1904. Right: A bill-head for Nora O'Brien, of Church St.

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

# Council turns matchmaker for Culture Night

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.

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 *Glenanar*.

There will be dozens of opportunities to experience some of the finest arts, music, theatre, dance, and film

that the county of Cork was to offer — all for free.

Now, however, the pressure 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.

Anybody interested in putting their names forward for participation must contact the Cork County Arts Office by Aug 30.

Interested artists or venue owners should phone 021 4346210 or email cian.heffernan@corccoco.ie.

● culturenightcorkcounty.ie

# Fire service billing HSE for call-outs to road accidents

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 the ambulance service can request fire fighter assistance without being billed.

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 authorities have traditionally provided this type of assistance.

“However, in recent years, the

HSE has in some circumstances been presented with bills from the fire service for assisting patients.

“The NAS is in discussions 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 immediately 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.”