

Heroic Young IPA Member

By B. Colvert

I don't know anyone who needs an excuse to visit the pleasant Borough of Dun Laoghaire; Thursday 3rd of April was sunny spring day when I travelled there, the town lived up to its reputation as the 'Dublin Riviera', temperature 17° carried on a gentle breeze wafting up from the Sahara, the yachts bobbing in the Marina and people in light attire sauntering along the piers that embrace the harbour. I am informed that these piers were designed by Captain Bligh of 'The Mutiny on the Bounty' fame. What could menace this idyllic scene?

On the previous Thursday this locus was full of drama; 10pm on a cold wintry night; man in the water at the East Pier, action stations as a small Garda crew



Photo by B. Colvert

Probation Garda Diarmuid Moriarty, member of the IPA



Photo by B. Colvert

The Victorian fountain was restored in 2002

peered into the cold water 25 feet below and saw a man struggling unable to reach a buoy that had been cast out to him by passers by. With no time to spare a young Garda was lowered by rope holding a buoy and reached the drowning man just as he lost consciousness from hypothermia. With the aid of the R N L I inshore lifeboat the man and young Garda were rescued from the water; the victim was taken to St Vincent's Hospital and our young IPA friend went back to the Station, changed into dry uniform and resumed duty.

Here I pay tribute to 20 years old Probation Garda Diarmuid Moriarty, Garda Joe Griffin and Sgt Con Mulhall. Looking down 25 feet into the water even in daylight is a daunting prospect, but as Diarmuid relates, with the flow of adrenalin he was hardly aware of the descent and of the shock of staying in cold water for over ten minutes. When he reached the man he managed to keep his head above water awaiting the arrival of the lifeboat. In our service the senior man carries responsibility and I am sure Sgt Mulhall was greatly relieved to see his colleague hauled into the R N L I lifeboat.

Mission accomplished! We are pleased to report that the victim has made a recovery.

It was fun to meet Diarmuid in the Garda Station where he is subjected to good natured banter and ribbing; it would never do for him to get a big head. Diarmuid takes it all in his stride and it is easy to see that this Station Party has got the right spirit. In discussion with some of the senior members I found that Tom O'Keefe is fondly remembered. Tom gave years of dedicated service, as Treasurer, to Section Ireland and is commemorated by the annual 5-aside Football Competition & Cup.

Diarmuid Moriarty hails from Anglesboro in County Limerick where he went to school and later to CBS in Mitchelstown before joining An Garda Síochána. He has not got immediate relatives in the garda service but he told me that he has a cousin in NYPD who recommended him to join the IPA. He expects to graduate at Garda College in August.

He comes from farming stock and describes Anglesboro as a cross road village. Students of Irish history will know that General Liam Lynch was born there in 1893; a man renowned for honour and fearlessness. Anglesboro is in County Limerick but is close to the borders of Tipperary and Cork so wherever the stork deposited the baby it was bound to thrive in the spirit and lore of hurling.

I recommend you to visit Dun Laoghaire to enjoy this Victorian & modern town; it has



View of the harbour; the projection on the East Pier (middle distance on the right) was the scene of the rescue

excellent shopping, restaurants, hotels, cinemas and museums. Stand and watch the giant ferries bringing tourists and business, watch the yachts competing in the bay, walk the shore and piers, relax and revitalise yourself. Water demands respect and caution is necessary; that is why the map shows 67 life buoys all round the waterside. If you do miss your step and topple in pray that the tide is in, that the water is warm and that you will be rescued by a handsome young IPA member with courage and skill.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution is a charity that provides a 24 hour life saving service all around our coast; it does not receive Government funding and relies for its existence on donations.

Please send donations to:
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