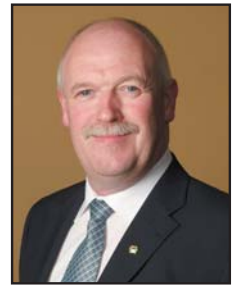


Magnetic North

By Joe Lynch




Oliver Cromwell's Statue in St. Ives

I enjoyed a very pleasant visit recently to a lovely little town in Cambridgeshire called St Ives displaying something that you will not find anywhere in Ireland or in England either. I write of a large statue of Oliver Cromwell who hailed from nearby Huntingdon, some 9 miles from St Ives; a man for whom, even in his homeland, there were very mixed feelings, ranging from extremely good to extremely bad and I'm told that when the time came to erect this statue there were mixed views as to whether he should be honoured or not. The story goes that when the monument was proposed in his honour his home town was having none of it and St Ives took on the task. While there has been an attempt at some revisionism here in Ireland it's fairly safe to say that the same mixed feelings about Mr Cromwell just do not exist here.

In any case it wasn't to see the monument that I visited St Ives; close to this very picturesque little market town lives Alan Carter and his wife Mary. Alan is a former International Secretary General of the IPA and a good friend of this Section. I am fortunate to list Alan and Mary as personal friends; he has always maintained regular contact with many members here in Section Ireland

My visit on this occasion involved another international organisation, Rotary International, the conversation on meeting Alan and Mary inevitably turned to IPA affairs. On the Sunday morning just before Alan drove us to the airport for our return flight I joined him in his study as he worked on his plans for the following weekend. He was arranging a reunion of former PEB and his plans for that event were almost finalised. Alan told me that he was delighted so many of his former colleagues on the PEB, including Phyllis Nolan, would attend in St Ives for a few days. As I enjoyed an hour or two of IPA history we were treated to Mary's freshly made cake and coffee. Alan is still as committed as ever to everything IPA.

This was our second visit to St Ives on Rotary International business and the hospitality that we received on each occasion was second to none. Alan is a Past President of his Club and he and his fellow Rotarians invited us to celebrate with them the 25th Anniversary of their Club. We were chauffeured from the airport on arrival and treated to a social get-together that evening. Next day we visited the American War Memorial Cemetery where row upon row of white crosses dissect the green pasture. Just like the monument to Mr Cromwell it is a sobering place to visit and one that reflects a violent period of history. This setting also puts into perspective the vision that the late Arthur Troop when he began his correspondence and contacts with police officers throughout Europe in the aftermath World War Two.

More IPA Members retire from An Garda Síochána

Matt Tolan recently called it a day and decided to move into that 'Promised Land' of the retired. With each passing retirement function there comes a little voice telling me that soon I will have reached that pinnacle. Has retirement changed so much over the past years? There is a perception among us that it has change radically. Why, for heaven's sake, it's all young folk that are retiring nowadays. I remember thirty years ago back in the days when it was all old guys, men well over fifty who were moving over with the retired. Now, thirty years on, it seems to be all young men like me who are moving on. Funny that. Well, Matt is one such young man; I first met him in 1976 when I did a TT stint in Muff on Border duty. Everyone will tell you that Matt never changed a bit over the years; he is one of nature's gentlemen, a quiet guy who liked his privacy and respected the privacy of others.

Matt spent many years attached to Detective Branch in Letterkenny, the position from which he



Group of IPA/Rotarian members at US War Cemetery, Cambridgeshire.

L-R: Front Row: Ivan Fuery, Cynthia Fuery, Mary Carter, Ann Lynch, Joe Lynch

Back Row: Tony Murray, Ken Sharpe, Alan Carter



Matt Tolan receives the IPA Retirement Presentation from Immediate Past President Joe Lynch

retired. A large crowd attended at Arena Seven for Matt's retirement function. I had the pleasure of presenting Matt with the IPA Statuette. Jim Collins represented the GRA and conferred him with that Associations presentation.

Superintendent Vincent O'Brien spoke of Matt's dedication to service and his contribution to a safer society. On behalf of the

members of the Letterkenny District he presented Matt with a Derryveagh Cut Crystal lamp. Róisín McGowan presented Mrs Tolan with a bouquet of flowers. We wish Matt, his wife and family every happiness in his retirement.

Tom Boyle, Glenties Station, retires

Tom Boyle took the road to leisure recently when he said farewell to policing and moved onto the ranks of the retired. Tom's policing career spanned more than thirty years and included that period of our history when a policeman's lot was not a particularly happy one. Tom spent much of that period stationed in Lifford and it was there that I first met him. A man who always had a happy expression on his face, Tom could cheer up any gathering.

When peace prevailed along the frontier Tom moved from Lifford to Glenties and got back into what we would call "normal policing". Here in Glenties he adapted quickly to a different style of and built up a great relationship with the local people. No doubt his colleagues in Glenties will miss his happy go lucky style and his ability to brighten even the cloudiest of days.

Madeline Crampsie, Glenties station, was the main organiser of the function and acted as MC on the night. As was expected a large crowd attended Tom's retirement and the many guests included Mary Coughlan TD, Minister for Agriculture who spoke of Tom's valuable service to the community. John McGroary represented the IPA and presented Tom with the IPA statuette. John McBride made a presentation to Tom on behalf of his colleagues. We take this opportunity of wishing Tom and his family every good health and happiness in his retirement.



Madeline Crampsie makes presentation to Tom, leaving him speechless for once



Minister Mary Coughlan, T.D. photographed with Tom in one of many light hearted moments at Tom's retirement function