

View from THE BRIDGE




At the end of year we look back and judge our achievements and also our disappointments. Our disappointments are usually in not achieving what we set out to do. But should we be too critical of ourselves?

The Social, Professional and Cultural areas are the main focus of this Association enabling us all to observe and live our Esperanto motto of Servo per Amikeco, Service through Friendship. Many Regions have embraced this and organised activities in a variety of these areas.

You will be aware of social events to raise financial help for deserving causes both inside and outside our police family. Such activity, taking the form of concerts, dances, family gatherings, treasure hunts, hill walking, nature walks, sporting events, group travel and much more, not only helps the targeted beneficiary but also strengthens and enhances the link between police and public.

Professionally, the benefits of exchange and Police Placement Programme between police forces in Europe have been recognised and acknowledged by our Garda authorities and the individual participants alike. The sponsored seminars on police related topics at Gimborn Castle, Germany have been experienced by all ranks of an Garda within our Association, from student to high ranking officer - all profiting from the experience.

The area of Culture is popular to all ages and family members – from our teenagers lucky enough to participate in the International Youth Exchange Programme (Australia last year – Israel next year) and group exchanges to Poland and Britain. An older profile is facilitated by organised trips to interesting cities and cultural events. Some dynamic serving members have reactivated a popular practice that has lapsed and that is night classes to learn a foreign language.

This of course is a very limited outline of IPA activities and opportunities. Your annual calendar details some more and furnishes contact details to activate your choice or choices.

In my opening paragraph I suggested we look back and judge. Why not you be the judge?

If you are one of 1000 of our members chosen at random (by our computer) you will have received during the month of December, a three page Survey Questionnaire asking your views on many aspects of IPA – please complete and return before January '09. Your views and answers are essential to help the National Executive Committee plan the future development of your Association.

If you have not received a questionnaire and wish to air a view or opinion, I will be delighted to hear from you too. You may write direct to me at IPA House, 13 Iona Drive, Glasnevin, Dublin 9 or eMail to presidentipairl@eircom.net.

Servo per Amikeco



Billy Saunderson
President

