

ROOM FOR GROWTH

Life's too short to be unhappy at work, and although it is often daunting to make a mid-life job change, the rewards can be worth it. Careers adviser **Dearbhla Kelly** meets three people who made the big leap

Right now is an anxious time for parents of teenagers who might have landed a place on a college course that was not their first choice. But it's nothing compared with the low-level anxiety felt among those who are dreading getting up tomorrow morning to go to a job they dislike, one that seemed like the perfect fit when they started but now doesn't suit their personality, lifestyle or world view.

You might be one of those who feel like you are stuck in a rut, at too late a stage in life to do anything about it and clueless as to how you might even begin the process. You are the kind of people I meet every day.

But there's no such thing as stuck — it's never too late, and 39-year-old Chelley Marley is living proof. This time a year ago, law and order were foremost on her mind when she woke up every morning, but these days she is more preoccupied by the natural order, having swapped her handcuffs for pruning shears. Marley packed in a secure career in the force for one running a garden centre and tea shop, and she hasn't looked back.

Marley joined the gardai in 2001 and even completed a master's degree in criminology but, after a few years, she felt she wasn't going to reach her potential in law enforcement, especially after she was assigned to a rural outpost and began to miss the buzz of the



Green fingers

Former garda Chelley Marley, above and right, now runs a garden centre and tearoom in Cloghan, Co Donegal

