



A new phase of struggle:

Organising for Unity

The Nolan/Downey Sinn Féin cumann would like to thank all of those who voted for Sinn Féin and who helped with our campaign during the recent European elections. These elections saw Bairbre deBrún re-elected as an MEP for the Six Counties, topping the poll in the process. This was an historic development, the first time since partition that Sinn Féin has topped the poll.

This result comes in a year that Republicans have been marking the 90th Anniversary of An Chéad Dáil Éireann. A united Ireland built on equality as outlined in the Democratic Programme of An Chéad Dáil Éireann is the live political project for republicans in 2009.

Our strategy involves building the necessary political strength to achieve our objectives. We seek to maximise popular opinion in active support of Irish unity. That is why, within a week of Sinn Féin topping the poll in the Six Counties, we launched a Task Force on Irish Unity.

This Task Force has a responsibility to roll out a series of events throughout every Irish county and to mainstream their work into every elected forum on the island of Ireland. In addition it will work to mobilise the Irish diaspora, and those who have supported our struggle, in the USA, Australia, Europe and Britain to encourage them to put their weight behind the campaign for Irish re-unification.

Thousands have already attended events addressed by Party President Gerry Adams in the US while a similar event has taken place in England.

The Six County state was founded upon sectarianism. This was a direct consequence of British colonialism and modern day partition and a section of the unionist political class remains wedded to that ideology.

Because of the sectarian foundations of the state and because unionism cannot be trusted to govern fairly, the current political institutions are all-Ireland in nature. There are also many equality and other legal safeguards such as compulsory power-sharing and partnership political arrangements in place. It has taken some time, but the majority of Unionism is now locked into these arrangements. There can be no going back on this.

Moving forward, the struggle for Irish freedom continues to develop in this new phase where



• SOUTH BELFAST MLA: Alex Maskey

a peaceful and democratic path to a united Ireland exists. But there is still a significant way to go. The next stage is the completion of the job of uniting Ireland, our primary political objective. We believe that we have a strategy and a political project that will deliver a united Ireland.

Activity by small militarist factions will not advance the cause of Irish freedom. Whatever their motivation they offer no realistic alternative to the strategy pursued by Sinn Féin which has been endorsed by the

vast majority of Republicans and nationalists in the Six Counties.

The Good Friday Agreement contains a legislative, peaceful and democratic mechanism to set up a new and democratic Ireland. The economic and political dynamics in Ireland today make a united Ireland a realistic and realisable objective in a reasonable period of time.

For Sinn Féin it isn't a matter of IF we will get a united Ireland. It is a matter of HOW and WHEN.

Caithfidh Rialtas na Breataine agus an Feidhmeannach gníomhú ar ghlaio na NA don Ghaeilge

Dúirt FPE Shinn Féin Bairbre de Brún go gcaithfidh Rialtas na Breataine agus an Feidhmeannach gníomhú i ndiaidh an ghlaio ó Choiste Náisiún Aontaithe ar Chearta Eacnamaíoch, Sóisialta agus Cultúrtha ag iarraidh orthu Acht Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm.

Dúirt an Iníon de Brún, "Léirigh coiste na Náisiún Aontaithe an imní atá orthu nach bhfuil cosaint ann go fóill don Ghaeilge agus do chainteoirí Gaeilge i dTuaisceart na hÉireann, in ainneoin reachtaíochta oifigiúla in Albain agus sa Bhreatain Bheag ag cosaint a dteangacha dúchasacha.

Tá an coiste an-soiléir ina mholadh go gcaithfidh Rialtas na Breataine agus an Feidhmeannach Acht Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm, agus d'iarr orthu 'eolas mionsonraithe a thabhairt ar an dul chun cinn atá déanta ina chéad tuarascáil thréimhsiúil eile.'

"Caithfidh Rialtas na Breataine agus an Feidhmeannach gníomhú i ndiaidh an ghlaio ó Choiste na Náisiún Aontaithe ar Chearta Eacnamaíoch, Sóisialta agus Cultúrtha ag iarraidh orthu Acht Gaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm.

Hatfield Street Drains

After being contacted by a number of residents from Hatfield Street about the state of the drains in the street we contacted Belfast City Council and asked them to clean out the drains.

We have been advised that while the drains have now been cleaned out and unblocked, at least two of them will need replaced in the future due to old-age and wear and tear.

Sinn Féin will continue to monitor the situation to make sure that this takes place as soon as possible.

Text to join

Joining Sinn Féin is now as simple as sending a text message. Just text the word 'JOIN' followed by your name and address to:

60060

Be part of Building an Ireland of Equals

Ritchie must deliver on promises to Market community

South Belfast Sinn Féin MLA Alex Maskey has called upon Social Development Minister Margaret Ritchie to deliver on her promises to the Market community.

Alex's comments came after the Social Development Minister's Department received a further £20 million of funding from the Assembly Executive to fund social housing, repairs and other schemes. However, despite this additional funding being made available Minister Margaret Ritchie is still blocking the implementation of the Environmental Improvement Scheme in the Market area, a scheme which would see improvement work carried out in the community, a scheme she had previously committed her Department to carrying out.

Alex Maskey said, "This scheme has been promised for this area for the past number of years but as yet not been delivered. Phases

3 and 4 should have been completed some considerable time ago but the Minister's Department has so far refused to provide the necessary funding.

"Recent weeks saw the Department of Social Development receive a further £20ml from the Assembly Executive. The fact that Margaret Ritchie is refusing to spend any of this additional money on the Market Improvement Scheme while at the same time having approved millions of pounds of funding for other projects in recent months is indicative of the contempt that the Minister



• COMMITTED TO THE AREA: Alex Maskey MLA

continues to show for this community.

"Sinn Féin is committed to delivering for the people in this area. Along with local community representatives we will continue to pursue this issue on behalf of residents."

Festivals promise to be best yet

This year sees three community organised festivals take place offering something for everyone in the Lower Ormeau and Market areas.

With so many community organisations, including the MDA, LORAG, An Droichead and St John Vianney Youth Centre, organising these festivals it should make this year's festivals an even bigger success than in previous years.

First up is the Market Community Festival which kicks off on Sunday 2nd August and runs until Sunday 9th August. This festival has something for all age groups with events taking place throughout the week including the launch of three new community murals, a Market Photographic History Exhibition, a visit to the area by Martin Rogan who will help launch a

local boxing exhibition, sporting tournaments day trips, quizzes, entertainment and much, much more. Also, not forgetting that the origins of our festivals lie in commemorating internment there will be a discussion on Civil Rights and Internment.

The Lower Ormeau festival kicks off with a fun day for all the family on Monday 24th August with various fun and games. The rest of the week will run in a similar vein with street games, sports events, multi-cultural food fests, a dragon boats race on the river Lagan, multi-generational bingo and tea parties will be taking place in LORAG to name but a few.

Residents can join in and organise something for your Street, Drive, Mews or Terrace, while LORAG will be running a youth and children's summer

program which will include various activities and trips including Watersports, swimming, go-karting, football, cinema trips to name but a few.

Also, based in the Lower Ormeau, An Droichead will continue their excellent work in promoting the Irish language and culture with the Féile '09 Irish culture and traditional music festival which will run from 27th August to the 30th August. This will involve concerts, workshops, dances, lectures, exhibitions and music sessions.

If you want to take part or get involved in organising some local activities as part of any of these festivals, or if you simply want further information on any of the events then contact: LORAG on 90312377, the MDA on 90248338, or An Droichead on 90288818.

On the 28th May the Market community, and indeed the wider Republican family, lost a great friend with the death of Jeff O'Neill.

Jeff passed away after a lengthy battle with cancer which he saw through with tremendous courage and immense dignity. Throughout his illness Jeff was determined to maintain his personal dignity and was adamant to the end that he would not be a 'burden' on his family.

On behalf of the republican movement, once again we would wish to express our condolences to Jeff's family and in particular his sisters Peggy and Kay. Throughout his illness Jeff's family gave

him their love and support 24 hours a day. This is also true for a number of his very close and caring neighbours. Indeed all of those who cared for Jeff will miss him dearly as he was such a large part of their own lives.

Jeff was born to Geof and Liz 69 years ago. Well educated but eager to support his family in those lean times Jeff left school much to the disappointment of his teachers to earn a living as he did all through his hard working and industrious life.

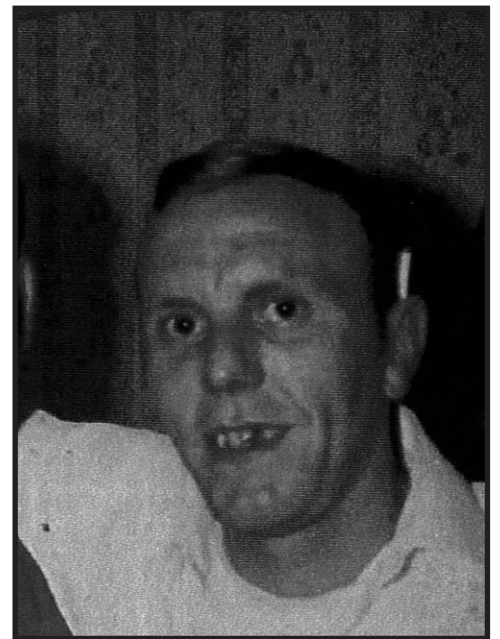
Jeff joined the republican struggle at the end of the 1960s and remained committed to the safety of his community, equality for all the people and winning Irish

Freedom.

Jeff O'Neill was interned for his beliefs in the early 1970s and continued to do his "bit" within the struggle for many, many, years after. All throughout Jeff's illness he remained well informed, crystal clear in his beliefs, and straight to the point as always when he had something to say.

The attendance by so many at Jeff's funeral was itself testimony to the esteem in which he has always been held and especially so in his beloved Market area by people of all political opinions and none.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.
- **Alex Maskey**



• **COURAGE AND DIGNITY:**
Jeff O'Neill

Sinn Féin community safety initiative begins to pay off

As you may be aware, over the past number of months Sinn Féin members and community workers in the Lower Ormeau community have been involved in an ongoing engagement with the PSNI. The focus of this engagement has been to press the PSNI to develop an action plan which would see them work with the local community to tackle the issue of criminality and drug dealing in the area.

While much work remains to be done in this field this engagement has met with some success with bail conditions being enforced more stringently and a number of arrests taking place for burglary, with some of those arrested now on remand awaiting trial.

More recently there has been some notable success in

tackling the drugs issue. A number of searches were conducted in the area and significant amounts of Class A and Class B drugs were found and two arrests were made.

Republicans will continue to work with community workers and residents in the area to ensure that the PSNI maintain their focus on criminal activity in this area.

Ensuring accountable Policing

We are currently engaged with the PSNI in an attempt to try and create a non-political police service that serves the needs of our community. In order to achieve this we need your help.

If we are to achieve the police service that we are entitled to we need to hold the PSNI to account. This includes presenting them with evidence of when they have not provided an acceptable service to our community.

In order to do this we need your feedback on dealings that you have had with the PSNI; we need to know if they are not providing the type of service which we would expect from a civic police service.

Also, if you wish to ask questions of the PSNI about their service or plans for the area, or if you have suggestions on how they can improve, you can put them directly to the PSNI through the District Policing Partnership. You can also forward them to us via email, phone, or by calling into our Ormeau Road office and we will assist you in putting your questions, concerns, or suggestions to the PSNI.

Thank you for your support, and with your help we can create a police service that will serve the needs to our community.

National Hunger Strike Commemoration

Speaker: Gerry Adams MP

**Sunday 16th August
Galbally, Co. Tyrone**

Buses will be departing from this area for those wishing to travel to this commemoration. For further information contact our office on the Ormeau Road on 90243194



Hunger Strikers' families condemn false allegations

FAMILIES of IRA and INLA Volunteers who died during the 1981 hunger strike have condemned those who have been making false allegations that their loved ones died needlessly.

The families privately met with Sinn Fein and a representative of the Bobby Sands Trust on 17th June, at the invitation of the party's president Gerry Adams.

Those present included relatives of Francis Hughes, Raymond McCreesh, Patsy O'Hara, Joe McDonnell, Martin Hurson, Kieran Doherty, Tom McElwee and Mickey Devine (his nieces and his son Mickey óg).

Bridie Lynch, sister of Kevin Lynch, was unable to attend but sent Gerry Adams a note expressing her support.

The Hughes' family were represented by two nephews of Francis. Francis's brother, Oliver, who was unable to attend, sent a

letter to be read out at the meeting. Representatives of all the families, including two nieces of Mickey Devine, participated in the discussion, as did Gerry Adams, Brendan McFarlane and Danny Morrison. All family members who spoke, except for Tony O'Hara, were united in their anger at the relentless campaign alleging that the hunger strikers died needlessly.

The families were clear that the British had made no deal with the hunger strikers or their representatives in 1981. Some suggested that a statement should go out appealing to people such as Richard O'Rawe, who instigated the campaign with the serialising of his book in the 'Sunday Times', to stop hurting them; other family members doubted if he would listen.

After the meeting, an offensive and false account of what was said was issued by Willie Gallagher of the IRSP, who was not present. This angered the families so much that the following day they then decided to go ahead and put out a statement. Whilst Tony O'Hara agreed that Gallagher's report was false he declined to join with the other families.

The families' statement repudiated the Gallagher version of the meeting, stating, the "meeting was a very emotional and difficult occasion for all of us, particularly in light of the allegations coming from Richard O'Rawe and the IRSP. All of the family members, who spoke, with the exception of Tony O'Hara, expressed deep anger and frustration at the ongoing

allegations created by O'Rawe. "Tony O'Hara's suggestion that we should meet with Richard O'Rawe and Willie Gallagher got no support and we asked Tony to express to Richard O'Rawe and Willie Gallagher our wish for them to stop what they are doing and to give us peace of mind.

"The account of the meeting published by Willie Gallagher is inaccurate and offensive.

"Our loved ones made the supreme sacrifice on hunger strike for their comrades. They were not dupes. They were dedicated and committed republicans. We are clear that it was the British government which refused to negotiate and refused to concede their just demands."

The letter read from Oliver Hughes to the meeting was met with widespread applause. It said: "I would like to thank Gerry Adams for the invitation to this meeting but unfortunately I cannot make it as I have a prior engagement. However, the Hughes family will be represented.

"I don't believe there is a need for such a meeting and I find it scandalous what people have been saying about the hunger strike. They have no consideration for what it is doing to families like ours. It was twenty-eight years ago and we thought we could have some closure, some rest, even though we will never forget what our Francis and his comrades went through, not just in 1981 but from the time the British withdrew political status. I am referring to

the blanket protest, the beatings, the dirty protest, the solitary confinement, all that.

"Margaret Thatcher and her government killed those men, it is as simple as that.

"Our Francis was a soldier and he went on hunger strike for five just demands. That decision was his and we admire his courage and are proud of him and stand by his memory and will not let it and the hunger strike period be sullied by the likes of Liam Clarke and the Sunday Times and others.


"Those who are now trying to say that Mrs Thatcher was interested in giving in to the prisoners demands are talking rubbish. The British pretended they were going to do a deal in Christmas 1980 and we all know what happened there.

"From all that I witnessed and heard the prisoners comrades on the outside always followed the men's wishes and worked day and night to defend them and help them win their demands.

"It is disgraceful what is going on from people none of whom I ever met or heard of before, people like Richard O'Rawe who publishes a book which the Sunday Times serialises. The Sunday Times which called Francis Hughes and Thomas McElwee and the other hunger strikers 'criminals' and 'terrorists'.

"I'll not be listening to their propaganda."

Signed, Oliver Hughes.

Join Sinn Féin 

HELP SINN FÉIN TO BUILD AN IRELAND OF EQUALS

If you would like to join Sinn Féin fill in the form and send it to:
South and East Belfast Sinn Féin, Unit 3, 174-178 Ormeau Road, Belfast BT7 2ED.

Name:.....
 Address:.....

Tel/E-mail:.....
 Age:.....

Sinn Féin: Working for YOU!

Sinn Féin is an activist based Party intent on giving you the best representation possible. If you need advice or have a problem, no matter how big or small, feel free to contact us at :

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 174 Bothar Ormeau,
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