

## “Make their dream a reality” - Adams



•East Belfast Sinn Féin rep Niall Ó Donnghaile, Gerry Adams MP and Alex Maskey MLA.

“Our task – our duty – is to make their vision, their dream a reality”. So said, Gerry Adams in his speech at the Memorial Garden in the Market to mark the 30th anniversary of the deaths of Volunteers Paul Marlowe, Joseph Surgenor and Francis Fitzsimons who died in an explosion while on active service in the Gasworks area. The Sinn Féin President was speaking of the three “brave IRA Volunteers who like thousands of other men and women took up arms to defend their families and community, and to resist British oppression and injustice. Their aim, like Tone and Emmet, Pearse and Connolly, was to establish a free Ireland, a United Ireland, in which orange and green can live together in peace and harmony”.

The event was chaired by East Belfast Sinn Féin representative Niall Ó Donnghaile, and was addressed by South Belfast MLA Alex Maskey before the hundreds who attended the parade welcomed the main speaker, Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams MP.

The Sinn Féin President paid tribute to the dead Volunteers of the area and their courageous role in the struggle. He also paid tribute to their families.

Speaking about the role that the Short Strand, Market and Lower Ormeau have played in the ongoing struggle Gerry Adams

said, “The people of the Short Strand, the Markets, and the Lower Ormeau have endured much hardship at the hands of the Unionist regime and the British military machine.

“Sectarian attacks by loyalist death squads have taken its toll. All Catholics were targets and up until recently these neighbourhoods were burying loved ones killed by sectarian death squads...The IRA in this part of our city also lost other volunteers but despite this it remained strong and resolute. But the IRA could not have existed without popular support.

“That support saw ordinary families run enormous risks to feed and clothe and shelter and protect IRA volunteers. Without doubt the Republican people of these neighbourhoods are unbowed and unbroken”.

The Sinn Féin President then went on to speak about the struggle today. “But the IRA is not merely an army of soldiers; it is an army of political activists.

“In every successful liberation struggle there is a phase of reconstruction, of securing peace with justice, of national reconciliation, of nation

building. This demands negotiation and outreach”, he said.

Addressing the recent negotiations at St Andrews he said, “I know that many of you are concerned by developments....Sinn Féin shares these concerns but we have a responsibility to build on the opportunities created by the Republican strategies of the last three decades.

“Our objectives in this round of negotiations were to protect the advances made in our struggle and to secure the restoration of the power-sharing and the all-Ireland institutions set out in the Good Friday Agreement. What does that mean?

“It means moving the anti-Agreement DUP to a position where they are prepared, for the

## Tackling the local housing shortage

Sinn Féin, along with a number of community representatives in the area, have been meeting with Clanmill Housing Association to ensure that those on the housing waiting list from the Lower Ormeau and Market area will be fairly treated when it comes to allocating the housing currently being built on the former North Cricket ground site.

Sinn Féin believes that the best outcome from the Cricket Ground development would be that mostly local people from the Lower Ormeau and Market area are housed on the site. We believe that this is essential in order to tackle the growing housing waiting list in the area. After representations from us Clanmill Housing Association have agreed to discuss this issue with the Housing Executive District Management.

Both the Housing Executive and Clanmill have also agreed to carry out a full audit of the waiting list and Housing Executive stock within the area.

We will continue to keep you updated on this issue.

## Sinn Féin to canvass local opinion

The Nolan/Downey Sinn Féin cumann is to canvass local opinion on what local issues are important to you and what you think the Party should be working on in this area.

Sinn Féin is intent on ensuring that we give you the best representation possible. In order to do this we need to know what issues you feel are important.

This canvass will be launched in the Lower Ormeau and Market areas and will entail our activists calling to your door to ask what are the issues you would like us to be dealing with in your area, and what we can be doing to best represent you.

The Nolan/Downey cumann intends that this will be an ongoing process, beginning in the coming weeks and continuing on a street by street basis throughout the year.

We would urge you to help us to give you the best representation possible by responding to this canvass when we reach your street.

# "Make their dream a reality" - Gerry Adams MP

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first time ever, to accept power sharing with Irish republicans and to participate in all-Ireland political arrangements...Remember, it's not that long ago that Ian Paisley was vowing to smash Sinn Féin. He failed miserably in that enterprise.

"Let me remind everyone here that negotiations have been an integral part of our struggle, of your struggle for some time. What we achieve we achieve together as we move forward in a united and cohesive way".

He rounded off his speech by calling on those present to help move our struggle forward. "Today Irish republicanism is stronger and there are more Irish republicans on this island than at any time since partition. We have to continue to build political strength as we advance our republican goals...Standing



•The Guard of Honour, Colour Party and a section of the crowd gather at the Memorial Garden

here today I see many people who have been involved in this struggle for more years than we care to remember. I also see many young people.

"In the time ahead we need you to join with us in advancing the republican goals.

"In their (Joe, Francie and Paul) time the only way to demand

our national rights was through armed actions...Joe, Francie and Paul responded to that. Now there are other options. Now we are in a phase of transition from an unacceptable form of society towards a national republic".

"Our task – our duty – is to make their vision, their dream – a reality".

## Maskey highlights concern at Maghaberry situation

South and East Belfast Sinn Féin has expressed its concern at the conditions being experienced by those prisoners being held in the segregated wing at Maghaberry Gaol.

South Belfast MLA Alex Maskey highlighted the Party's position saying, "In August 2003 Sinn Féin made it clear to the British Government that the practice of forced integration which they were attempting to operate within Maghaberry was flawed and doomed to failure.

"Shortly after this the British Government did introduce a segregated section within Maghaberry to house Republican prisoners in the face of opposition from the Prison Officers Association." He continued, "Unfortunately it appears that

the regime being imposed on those being held in the segregated wing differs greatly from the other parts of the prison.

"Sinn Féin have been contacted by a number of families of those being held in Maghaberry concerned about the repressive nature of the regime in operation in the segregated wing and problems arising on visits especially with the use of a sniffer dog which has led to a number of visits being cancelled as they were about to commence".

Alex Maskey said that Sinn Féin had been given numerous accounts of persistent strip searching, petty regulations and difficulties accessing adequate education facilities.

"There is a firm belief that the men being held there are pawns in a wider battle between the prison administration, the NIO, and the Prison Officers Association, the latter of which certainly resists prisoners held in segregated conditions being given equal and fair treatment", said the South Belfast MLA.

He concluded by saying that the prisoners being held in the segregated wing had now embarked upon a series of protests to highlight their case.

"There must be a realisation that all prisoners have the right to be treated in a humane fashion regardless of their political or religious affiliation and that conflict within the prison system is in nobody's interest".

# Victory as Council overturns McClure Street land sale decision

Alex Maskey has hailed the decision by Belfast City Council to overturn plans to sell off a strip of land at McClure St to private developers as a victory for local residents.

Sinn Féin has long argued that the 0.73 acre stretch of land on McClure Street should only be used for family homes and social housing which would help meet the housing need in the area. We have consistently argued against other councillors that the sale of the land should not be merely profit driven at the expense of those who live in the

surrounding area.

Speaking about the original plans to sell the land to private developers, Cllr. Alex Maskey MLA said, "Unfortunately, there were many who wished to sell the land to the highest bidder with profit being the only motivation. This original proposal would have seen a block of luxury apartments built in the area. Sinn Féin argued that the phenomenon of building luxury apartments throughout South Belfast has, more often than not, merely benefited the developers and profiteers at the

expense of local community cohesion.

"We also argued that land which is already in public ownership should be used to tackle the housing need in areas such as the Ormeau Road instead of being sold off to private developers. In short, public land should be used to benefit the people".

After much lobbying by Sinn Féin a vote was taken at the Council to scrap the current sale of the land to private developers.



•Cllr. Alex Maskey MLA

This will mean that it is likely that any future attempts to build homes on this land will have to include a social housing and benefit the people of the area. We will also continue to lobby for the local community to be fully consulted on any future plans for the site. Sinn Féin will keep local residents informed of any future developments in relation to this site.

## Economic regeneration failing local communities - Seán Hayes

By March 2007 Lagside will be wound up. No one can argue it hasn't helped to transform this city. However, living and working in an area which is enclosed by Lagside's area of remit provides a different perspective on this initiative.

For inner-city working class communities the real impact of Lagside regeneration has been the further marginalisation and disaffection of our community.

Increased commuter parking has left our streets choked not only with exhaust fumes, but blocked to the point that emergency services have difficulty with access.

Lagside created over 10,000 jobs yet our community still has one of the highest unemployment rates. Put simply the skills levels of the local population do not match the requirements of the

major employers.

Small wonder given the education system has failed our communities so badly that 67% of the adults locally have no educational qualifications whatsoever. Rather than use the opportunity the Lagside development created, areas such as ours were simply left out. Despite calls to do so not one trade apprentice from any local area was trained up in over 20 million construction hours.

This is clearly a class issue, compounded by sectarianism, whereby inner-city working-class communities are overlooked in the interests of middle and upper-class business and property speculation.

As one major development project ends so another begins. The Victoria Square development has been ongoing now for about

2 years and holds great potential benefit. Despite the negative experience of Lagside local communities are keen to embrace the opportunity.

The DSD, who are largely responsible for tackling social exclusion, stated at the outset that a community forum to address the impact on local communities should be established by September 2006. Unfortunately no one I know of from any local community has been contacted by anyone in regard to this matter.

We have waited 10 years for the "trickle down" economic regeneration that drove Lagside to reach our community. It looks like in 10 years time we will still be waiting for DSD to contact us to address the impact of Victoria Square. Will it be simply Lagside mark 2?

### Support expressed for McAllister family

The McAllister family; Malcahy, Bernadette, Gary, Jamie, Nicolla and Seán, left the Lower Ormeau area for the US in 1988 following a gun attack on their home by a unionist death squad.

The US authorities have attempted to deport the family back to Ireland because of Malachy's convictions for his role in the liberation struggle. The campaign to stop the deportation of the McAllister family has received strong support in the US. Further information can be obtained from the campaign website:

[www.mcallistercampaign.com](http://www.mcallistercampaign.com)

The Nolan/Downey cumann would like to take this opportunity to wish Malachy and his family every success in this ongoing campaign.

# Slógadh Shinn Féin

Sinn Féin's annual Irish language gathering - Slógadh Shinn Féin 2006

Bhí Slógadh Shinn Féin i mBéal Feirste den chéad uair le 15 bliain déag ag deireadh Mí Iúil. Ba léir ón tús go raibh tábhacht ar leith ag baint leis an tSlógadh i mbliana nach raibh amhlaidh roimhe. Seo an chéad Slógadh a bhí ann ó ghlac an Ard Chomhairle leis an mholadh uailmhianach chun an pháirtí a ghaelú. Bhí fuinneamh agus dóchas san aer nuair a tháinig Gaelgeoirí an pháirtí le chéile an uair seo.

Thar an deireadh seachtain bhí Oíche díospóireachta, cheoil agus craic sa suíomh bhreá

cultúrtha Lárionad an Droichead. Bhí gnó tábhachtach idir lámha againn agus muid ann, ionadaí éagsúla ag caint ar Chearta Teanga in Éirinn, rud a bhfuil tábhacht ar leith ag baint leo sa lá atá inniu ann, go háirithe i ndiaidh cás Máire Nic an Bhaird ar na mallaibh. Shuigh Pilib Ó Ruanaí, iar-phríosúnach Poblachtánach ón Trá Ghearr agus ceannródaí teanga sa taobh seo cathrach sa chathaoir. D'fhán muid sa Droichead d'oíche amhránaíochta agus filíocht le Fergus Ó hÍr, Éamonn Ó Faogáin agus léigh iarthóir úr an

pháirtí in Oirthear Bhéal Feirste Niall Ó Donnghaile sliocht de cuid Roibeáird Uí Sheachnasaigh, níor chríochnaigh muid go dtí na huaireanta beaga.

Ba chúis bróid dúinne a bheidh páirteach sa Slógadh i mbliana agus go raibh cuid de lonnaithe taobh istigh de limeastéir comhairle ceantair s'againn. Bhain achan duine a bhí ann an sult as an craic ach go háirithe na himeachtaí tábhachtacha ar ghaelú an pháirtí thar tréimhse 7-10 mbliana, rud a féidir linn uilig bheidh páirteach leis.



•Seanna Walsh: Sinn Féin Roinn an Chultúir

Is é athgabháil na Geailge áthgabháil na hÉireann!

## 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 :

Unit 3,  
174 Ormeau Rd,  
BT 7 2ED.  
Tel: (028) 90243194

Open Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm  
e-mail: [sinn.fein@btconnect.com](mailto:sinn.fein@btconnect.com)

## Have you registered?

The British Government have once again changed the rules on registering to vote!

This time, however, once you have registered you will not have to re-register again for at least another 10 years.

If you have not registered by the November 13th deadline and would like to claim the vote that you are entitled to then contact our office on (028) 90243194, or call into the Ormeau Road office and speak to an advice worker.

# An Phoblacht

Available every Thursday from the Sinn Féin office or it can be delivered to your door. Tel: 90243194

SINN FÉIN WEEKLY

Don't wish for a United Ireland  
Work for it

## 5 reasons to join Sinn Féin

- Saoirse - Campaign for Irish unity and independence
- Síocháin - Advance the peace process
- Comhionannas - Work to build an Ireland of equals
- Feachtas ar son athrú - Deliver change through campaigning locally and nationally
- Ceartas sóisialta domhanda - International solidarity



 **Sinn Féin**

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:.....