

Special Jan 2004
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Fuascailt

Newsletter of the Wolfe Tone Society

Collusion Campaign to take protests to London

At a press conference on 20 January 04, chaired by Martin McGuinness, details were announced of a protest by Firinne - the campaign group made up of families of victims of collusion -- at MI5 headquarters in London.

Martin McGuinness said: 'Yesterday's confirmation by the Police Ombudsman that there was no serious attempt to find those responsible for the murder of Sean Brown in May 1997 underlines the multi-layered nature of collusion. Today the Finucane family are in court in an attempt to have the murder of Pat Finucane properly examined. The lengths to which the British government has gone to prevent this is itself confirmation of how much the British system has to hide. Collusion - the control and direction of the loyalist death squads - was a British state policy endorsed at the highest political level of the British government. Investigating collusion, the head of the Metropolitan Police, John Stevens, confirmed that British state agents had been involved in collusion - including involvement in murder'.

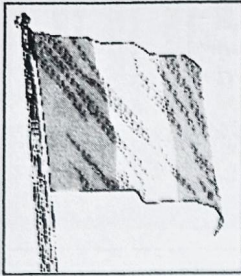
He said British Intelligence had 'recruited, or placed, large numbers of agents in the loyalist paramilitaries' and Loyalist paramilitaries 'were armed with modern weapons'. He added 'In December 1987 over 300 weapons were brought into the north of Ireland, with the full participation and knowledge of British Intelligence, and distributed among the loyalist death squads. British Intelligence updated and organised loyalist intelligence documents to ensure that targeting by the loyalist death squads was, to quote a British intelligence report, "more professional"'.

He said 'The British state created an efficient sectarian murder machine and set it loose on the nationalist community in the north of Ireland. Hundreds of people were killed, and many more injured and maimed, in a vicious campaign of state-sponsored murder'.

He pointed out that no member of the Special Branch or British military Intelligence had been 'indicted for these crimes in which they were centrally involved' nor any political leader held accountable for the policy. 'Indeed' he said 'the policy of collusion has never been reversed. It remains intact. The British agencies, which executed this policy, remain in place today'.

He said on February 4th 2004, 100 relatives of the victims of this policy would be in London to protest at this policy of state sponsored murder and would 'picket those directly responsible for the policy of collusion in Ireland - the Ministry of Defence, MI5 Headquarters and Tory party headquarters in central London'. (See events diary on back page).

On behalf of Sinn Fein he endorsed and pledged support for support the families 'in their search for the truth and their campaign to expose these activities of British state agencies over the last three decades'.



WOLFE TONE SOCIETY

DINNER & DANCE

Working for a United Ireland

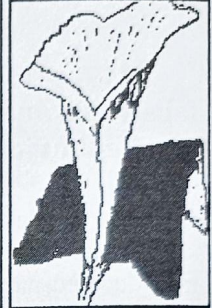
Friday 5th March 2004

Guest of Honour

**GERRY KELLY MLA
SINN FEIN**

At The Emerald Rooms, GAA Club Ruislip,
West End Road, South Ruislip HA4 6QX

Doors open 7.30pm Tickets £30.00
Limited Tickets book early Tel: 020 8442 8778



Editorial

This year the WTS are having their 1st Annual Dinner & Dance at the GAA Ruislip club in North West London. This has been achieved through the active participation of members of the Wolfe Tone Society, many of whom have been working on the ground for Irish Unity and Freedom over the past 35 years and longer.

We are starting this year of political campaigning, by supporting the lobby of parliament by *Firinne* - the campaign group made up of families of victims of collusion between the security forces and loyalist/Fascist death squads, as mentioned on the front page.

We will be organising our 3rd annual march to commemorate James Connolly / Bobby Sands MP on Saturday 15th May through central London. We want people to support this march and to demand the reinstatement of the Good Friday Agreement. Local council elections in the 26 counties and European elections in all of Ireland will be held on Saturday 11th June. We hope to see a huge increase in the vote for Sinn Fein both in the 26 counties and in All of Ireland (Our ex treasurer Maurice Quinlivan will be running in Limerick City for the Council Elections). Many of us will be going to Ireland to help our comrades in the electioneering process.

This summer we are bringing a group of children from the Short Strand, Ardoyne, and South Antrim to London for a holiday. We want these young people to share a week filled with activities and fun that will give them a different reality from what they have to endure day by day at the hands of Loyalist bigots. We will be fundraising for this visit over the next few months.

A United Ireland is at the forefront of Sinn Fein's agenda. Every step they take brings that vision nearer and we must steadfastly work towards that same agenda. Join and help. This generation has a real chance to bring the vision of Wolfe Tone, Robert Emmet, James Connolly, Padraic Pearse, Bobby Sands and Diarmuid O'Neill, to name a few, to fruition without more volunteers dying for our rights as free women and men.

IRA New Year Message

In its New Year message, the leadership of the IRA has again called on others, particularly the British Government, to fulfill their commitments to facilitate progress in the Peace Process. Here it is reprinted in full.

The leadership of Óglaigh na hÉireann extend New Year greetings to all our Volunteers, friends and supporters at home and abroad. We send solidarity greetings to our imprisoned comrades and their families and to the families of our dead Volunteers.

In this, the tenth year since the declaration of our complete cessation of military operations in 1994, we affirm our commitment to our objectives of a united, independent and free Ireland.

Throughout the past ten years, republicans have faced many challenges. Despite the difficulties created by others, particularly in their failure to fulfill their commitments, we have not abdicated our responsibilities. We have acted, unilaterally on a number of occasions, and taken significant initiatives to keep the Peace Process alive. During the past year we again demonstrated our readiness to facilitate progress in a clear and meaningful manner.

In October 2003, as part of a detailed agreement and an agreed sequence, we:

- Met with the IICD with a view to implementing a process to put arms beyond use at the earliest opportunity
- Carried out a further act of putting arms beyond use under the agreed scheme. This involved the largest amount of arms to date.

After that, the sequence was put on hold. Since then, the two governments have not honoured their parts of it. Consequently, there has been no progress on the range of issues involved. The British Government bears the primary responsibility for this. Its failure to deliver is of deep concern.

The leadership of the IRA have kept our word and fulfilled our commitments. Others must do the same.

P O'Neill, Irish Republican Publicity Bureau, Dublin.

Glastonbury, Leeds, Reading, Homelands Workers Beer Company

Fuascailt, the Newsletter of the Wolfe Tone Society, has been involved over the last six years in raising funds for the WTS at music festivals working for the Workers Beer Company.

The Workers Beer Company is a major fundraiser for the Battersea and Wandsworth Trades Council as well as dozens of progressive groups throughout, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England.

First of all I would like to thank everyone, who, over the years, has volunteered for us at these events. This year we again need servers to work in bars at festivals such as St Patricks Day in London, Glastonbury, Respect festival, Reading and many more. This is an important way for us to raise funds for the Wolfe Tone Society and campaigns associated with us i.e. Colombia 3 campaign, the release of all Political Prisoners, Peter McBride, Friends of the Garvaghy road etc..

For every server who works a bar shift (5-6hrs) at these concerts, the workers wages goes to Fuascailt and the profits from the bar goes to the Workers Beer Company. The server gets free transport and entry to the festivals, and also gets special camping facilities (toilets, showers, etc), cheap food and drink.

Every year we have more servers at every festival. If you would like to go to the above festivals or any others that have stalls organised by the WBC please contact Peter Middleton on 07956 919 871 or 020 8442 8778 and I will forward details of events in 2004.

WOLFE TONE SOCIETY EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event & Venue</u>
4th Feb	Protest by Firinne - the campaign group made up of families of victims of collusion. Starts 2pm at MI5 HQ, Millbank, SW1, then to the Tory Party HQ and the Ministry of Defence in Central London. (see article page 3) Ring 07956 919 871 for more exact times.
21st Feb	Benefit Social with Banna Strand Mannions Pub - Prince Arthur, Broad Lane, Tottenham, N15 (Nearest tube Seven Sisters) Tickets £3
5 th Mar	1st Annual Dinner & Dance at the GAA Club Ruislip. Guest Speaker Gerry Kelly MLA Sinn Fein Tickets £30 Please read article in Newsletter re this Special social.
14th Mar	St Patrick's Day parade. The Wolfe Tone society will have a section on parade. Assembles 12 noon at Hyde Park corner for parade through central London. Parade is in alphabetical order so we will be near the back.
19th Mar	Bring Them Home—Columbia 3 Campaign Benefit social @ The Norbury Hotel, 1300 London Rd, Norbury, West Croyden with 'Wallop the Cat' & DJ till late. Speakers Caitriona Ruane MLA and Dan Connolly Tel 020 8442 8778
26 th Mar	Race Night—Mannions Prince Arthur, Broad Lane, Tottenham, N15 (Nearest tube Seven Sisters) Sponsorship forms for horses and races from Shelagh Tel: 020 8442 8778 or 07956 919 871
11 th April	Easter Sunday Commemoration for all those who died for Irish Freedom. London Irish Centre Camden, Murray St, London NW1. Mass 1pm followed by music from Sean Brady at 2.30pm at same venue.
15 th May	Annual James Connolly / Bobby Sands march through Central London. More information in near future.

Join the Wolfe Tone Society

Membership is open to all those who support our aims. If you would like to become a member of WTS, please complete the application below and return to WTS , BM Box 6191, London WC1N 3XX

Membership fee: Individuals: £10 working, £5 non-working, Organisations: £20 per year. Cheques & PO made payable to Wolfe Tone Society

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post code: _____ Tel: _____

email: _____

Signed: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____