

1981 Hunger Strike Martyrs

5th May	IRA Volunteer	Bobby Sands MP	dies after 66 days on hunger strike
12th May	IRA Volunteer	Francis Hughes	dies after 59 days on hunger strike
21st May	INLA Volunteer	Patsy O'Hara	dies after 61 days on hunger strike
21st May	IRA Volunteer	Raymond McCreesh	dies after 61 days on hunger strike
8th July	IRA Volunteer	Joe McDonnell	dies after 66 days on hunger strike
13th July	IRA Volunteer	Martin Hurson	dies after 46 days on hunger strike
1st August	INLA Volunteer	Kevin Lynch	dies after 71 days on hunger strike
2nd August	IRA Volunteer	Kierán Doherty TD	dies after 73 days on hunger strike
8th August	IRA Volunteer	Tom McElwee	dies after 62 days on hunger strike
20th August	INLA Volunteer	Mickey Devine	dies after 60 days on hunger strike

We also remember, with pride

Volunteer **Michael Gaughan** died on hunger strike in England, 3rd June 1974.

Volunteer **Frank Stagg** died on hunger strike in England, 12th February 1976.

Young People Remember the Hunger Strikes

Saturday 12th August 2006
3:00 pm

Republicans who were teenagers in 1981 during the Hunger Strikes will talk to present day teenagers about how the hunger strike impacted upon them and shaped their lives.

This is a free event as part of the West Belfast festival and an ideal opportunity for us to explain a seminal events in our lives to our children.

For further details (including venue) contact Dominic Adams in the Belfast Coiste office
Coiste 048 9020 0770 (26 counties) 029 9020 0770 (6 counties)
or email dominic@coiste.com

Coiste na nIarchimí (Dublin)

Newsletter

Number 10 - July 2006

Dominick Court
40 Lower Dominick Street
Dublin 1

www.coiste.ie

Tel: 01 873 3199
085 103 8939
email: coistedublin@eircom.net

Coiste Summer School

Tí Chulainn Cultural Centre

Mullaghbawn
Co Armagh

16/18 August 2006

The 2006 Coiste Summer School will again be hosted in South Armagh. This year it will focus around the theme of cherishing the children of the nation equally. All will be welcome.

More information can be found on page 3.

"let our revenge be the laughter of our children"

National Hunger Strike

25th Anniversary

Commemorative Rally

Sunday 13th August 2006

@ 1:00 pm

Assemble: Dunville Park, Belfast

Man with a van

available for
house removals, deliveries, and collections

Contact **Les Kinsella**
01 451 9603 / 087 955 0261

Painter and Decorator

Reasonable rates
Contact **Tony**

086 396 3958

Video Tar Isteach

Video Tar Isteach has commercial quality equipment and experience in filming:

- Commemorative events
- Community Group Activities
- Archiving and record keeping
- Promotion work (commercial, political, community, etc)
- Social events

Videotape and DVD formats are available

Work is done to a professional standard at affordable rates.

For more information contact Gay Clery at 087 797 5266

Political Tours

Political tours are offered to individuals and groups to educate and allow space for reflection on the events over the past three and a half decades. Contact as below:

Belfast

Caoimhin or Ciara at Coiste na nIarchimí, 10 Beechmount Avenue, Belfast, BT12 7NA
(048 902 00770). www.coiste.ie/politicaltours/

South Armagh

Brendan at Cumann na Meirleach, Tí Chulainn Cultural Activity Centre, Mullaghbawn, Co. Armagh (048 308 866 92). www.southarmaghpoliticaltours.com

Dublin

1916 Rebellion Walking Tour. Shane or Lorcan (086 858 3847). www.1916rising.com

Support Republican Businesses

Advertise your business or event here

Do you want to advertise, for free, in this space.

If so contact the Coiste office on 01 873 3199

Coiste Web Site

Coiste na nIarchimí is online - www.coiste.ie.

The website has been available for some years now and has proved to be a valuable resource for our people finding out what is going on and also for people researching on prisoners issues. Of particular importance is the section that deals with our current POW's—this is updated as soon as change is known to us.

It is intended to re-engineer the website during 2006. Coiste would welcome any comments or suggestions as to how the site could better serve our needs. There have been some suggestions so far:

- Would it be appropriate to allocate a page on the site to each local group
- Would it be a good idea to advertise or list services and businesses of people
- Should this newsletter be available and archived online

Anything you can think of we can examine and include if possible.

Have a look at the existing site and tell us what you think.

It is there as a service to you.

Coiste (Dublin) has moved back to Dominick Court

Full address

**Coiste na nIarchimí
Dominick Court
40 Lower Dominick Street
Dublin 1**

We can be contacted by phone on 01 873 3199 or 085 103 8939.

Help us stay in touch

With more regular mailings to the republican ex prisoner community it has become apparent that our mailing list has become out of date with many contacts having moved. Additionally, some records were lost in the recent fire.

If you have moved and would like to receive the Coiste newsletter and other Coiste mailings at your new address please forward your address to the office. Also, if we have never managed to send you a mailing directly and you would like to receive our communications let us know.

Coiste na nIarchimí will be the only people who will access your address we will never give your addresses to other people.

Email and phone numbers would also be useful

Gathering of the Clans

5th - 7th October 2006

**Sliabh Beagh Tourism Centre,
Knockatallon,
Co. Monaghan**

Coiste is organising a Gathering of the Clans to be held over the weekend of October 5th 6th and 7th. This event has been held over the years as a reunion for the families of those prisoners who have been imprisoned in England, it is a very successful and enjoyable event.

There will be an exhibition relating to the English experience. As always we are hoping to expand this. Please contact the Dublin office (01 873 3199) if you have relevant material we can keep or borrow for this purpose. Any photographs, articles, clippings, campaign leaflets etc. will be very welcome, including previous Gathering of the Clans

For more information contact the Dublin Coiste office at 01 873 3199.

West Belfast Festival 2006 6th to 13th August

This August community-led festival is now entering its 19th year. The programme of events is available on the web at <http://www.feilebelfast.com/august/> which details the complete itinerary for the ten days and nights of music, concerts, exhibitions, discussions and debates. There are community events, children's events, literary events and theatrical events. For the more energetic there is a carnival parade and Sports, Tours and Walks.

Initially set up to highlight the creative and dynamic community that resides in West Belfast and to promote the community on the world stage; each year sees world-renowned acts appearing as well as local talent.

Remembering the 25th anniversary of the 1981 Hunger Strike there will be a number of events including a Hunger Strike book launch, Prison Experience discussions, cemetery tours,

The Belfast Coiste group will be leading Walking Tours every day at 11:00 am from the Divis Tower. Contact Belfast Coiste 048 9020 0770 (26 counties) 029 9020 0770 (6 counties)

Coiste na nIarchimi Summer School

Tí Chulainn Cultural Centre, Mullaghbawn, Co. Armagh

16/18 August 2006

Cherishing all the children of the nation equally?

The summer school will bring together a wide range of speakers to look not only at the future we create for the next generation but also look back at the lives previous generations had. Rosie McCorley of Coiste described the Scoil Samhraidh as: "An opportunity to reflect upon where we have come from and where we hope to go to. This is the 90th anniversary of the Easter Rising and the Proclamation and the quote, "cherishing all the children of the nation equally" is a very relevant one today in a rapidly changing Ireland. This is also the 25th anniversary of the 1981 hunger strike and we recall Bobby Sands's words, "our revenge will be the laughter of our children" so having a focus on children and generations and imprisonment is very appropriate for us. Young people demanded their civil rights in the 1960s and in the three decades that followed it was mainly young people who filled the prisons. Those people today are working for a better future for the next generation with a hope that they don't have to go through what we all endured."

Wednesday 16 August	2:00 pm	The future we give our children
	8:30 pm	Keynote speaker - Mary Lou McDonald
Thursday 17 August	10:00 am	Children of the '60's - raising a radical voice
	2:00 pm	Children of the conflict - a generation imprisoned
Friday 18 August	10:00 am	A new generation - following tradition or breaking new ground

For further information contact Coiste.

By phone: 028 9020 0770 (from 6 county area) or 048 9020 0770 (26 county area)
email enquiries summerschool2006@coiste.com

**Details are on the website
www.coiste.ie**

Adare 1996 - The Facts

In June 1996 an attempted armed robbery occurred in Adare, Co Limerick. In the course of this action Detective Garda Jerry McCabe was shot dead and his colleague, Detective Garda Ben Sullivan, was wounded. An IRA statement accepted responsibility stating that the operation had been carried out by IRA volunteers.

When the Good Friday Agreement was signed in 1998 it was agreed that all prisoners who were affiliated to organisations on ceasefire would qualify for release under the early release provisions. This included all IRA affiliated prisoners.

The men convicted of the killing of Garda Jerry McCabe remain in prison despite falling into this category. Their continued detention is a breach of commitments made by the Irish government in the Good Friday Agreement. They are the only qualifying prisoners who remain in prison.

The men convicted of killing Jerry McCabe are serving sentences for manslaughter recognising that the killing was unintentional. Four other prisoners convicted of capital murder of Gardaí have been released under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement.

In October 2003 a deal was agreed between the British and Irish governments and all political parties which included the release of the Adare prisoners, again in December 2004 a deal was negotiated which included their release. Both deals collapsed and the men were not released. This demonstrates that it is political considerations rather than justice that the case is decided on. This was not the case for all other prisoners in the same situation throughout the 32 counties of Ireland, and indeed those imprisoned in Britain.

Judgements in both the High Court and the Supreme Court rule that these men are qualifying prisoners under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, yet the government refuses to release them.

It has further been ruled that the Minister for Justice has the discretion to release them, we call on him to use that discretion in the interests of fairness and natural justice and release these men to rejoin their families.

On 28 July 2005 the IRA formally ended its armed campaign and went on to put all its arms beyond use.

Republican Women

During the course of the Belfast Festival Mary McArdle intends to launch a book dedicated to the memory of Republican women who were imprisoned from the 1970's on and have now died. Mary request short biographies or pen portraits and photographs.

Clearly there is a very short time frame for these and they can be forwarded, in the first instance, to the Dublin or Belfast Coiste offices. Email to info@coiste.com

Republican POW's

Prison	Name	Birthday	Sentence	Release Date
Castlerea	Kevin Walsh	April 6th	14 yrs	August 2009
	Pearse McCauley	November 9th	14 yrs	August 2009
	Gerry Sheehy	June 15th	12 yrs	February 2008
	Michael O'Neill	February 10th	11 yrs	May 2007
	Sean Kind	November 12th	6 yrs	2007
	Walter Nagle	August 23rd	5 yrs	July 2006
Portlaoise	Niall Binead	July 27th	4 yrs	November 2007
	Stephen Birney	February 13th	4 yrs	December 2007
	Thomas Gilson	July 7th	4 yrs	December 2007
	John Troy	January 6th	4 yrs	December 2007
	Patrick Brennan	January 13th	4 yrs	December 2007
	Sean O'Donnell	March 22nd	4 yrs	December 2007
Maghaberry	Patrick Leonard			

Castlerea Prison, Castlerea, County Roscommon

Portlaoise Prison, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, County Laois

Maghaberry Prison, Roe House, Old House, Ballinderry Upper, Lisburn BT28 2PT, Co. Antrim

Demand the release of all our political prisoners of war by contacting their jailers, in the respective governments. Some useful addresses are

Bertie Ahern TD,
Constituency Office,
St. Luke's, 161 Lower Drumcondra Road,
Dublin 9

1890 227 227

Michael McDowell TD,
Constituency Office,
54 Ranelagh Village, Ranelagh,
Dublin 6.

01 498 8084

Tony Blair MP,
Constituency Office,
Myrobella House, Fairfield Terrace,
Trimdown Colliery,
County Durham. TS29 6DU

01 429 882 202

Peter Hain MP,
Secretary of State,
Stormont Castle,
Belfast. BT4 3TT

048 905 20 700