



UNITY

Printed & Published by the Communist Party of Ireland

For Peace, Independence and Socialism

10.8.19 Vol. 31 No 27 (Print Day Wednesday) WEB page

Don't let the shipyard slip

By Lynda Walker

BELFAST without the shipyard will leave a massive void, in the 70's it was still renowned for shipbuilding. The notion of grass growing on the slipways was not considered but the stark reality hit the headlines over the past couple of weeks with the news that it was to close.

On Monday the 5th of August Owen Reidy, Assistant General Secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions said in a statement "On this day, the entire trade union movement across these islands stands as one with the workers at the shipyard". (Statement on p. 12)

The 5th of August was the deadline for administrators to take control of the affairs of the iconic shipyard and the future of the Harland & Wolff workforce who are now without wages. The workers have vowed that they will continue to occupy the yard. Solidarity in the form of demonstrations have taken place and on the 2nd of August the Belfast City Council held an emergency meeting and passed a motion calling on the government to take action.

It is seeking an urgent meeting with the Northern Ireland secretary to discuss the future of the shipyard, now mostly used for repairs and building wind turbines. Though it no longer employs the thousands that it used to, the shipyard has potential, it should re-nationalised and turned over to the community, there has to be a future

for manufacturing here and this should be part of the plan. All political parties should put their shoulder to the wheel in support of this issue.

Belfast but not as we knew it, this week saw the occupation of Belfast with hundreds of people coming take part of the Féile an Phobail/the People Festival and Belfast Pride.

The Féile an Phobail now going into its 31st year, is bigger than ever giving



space to debates, many of a left and progressive nature, for example, solidarity with Palestine, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, it is an opportunity to examine politics at home and abroad in the debates. The arts, music, exhibitions and sports are also in the programme.

Belfast Pride began in 1991 when just 60 people marched in support of gay rights. Now it is almost a carnival with thousands lining to roads to cheer

the marchers on. Of significance was the growth of banners from the women's movement, Alliance for Choice, Belfast Feminist Network and others, demanding that abortion law reform promised by Westminster materialises in October.

It is astounding to believe that the Féile grew out of internment when on the 9th of August 1971 over 300 men were interned without trial, when the British Army were lining the streets with armoured cars and tanks and guns.

The following years on the 9th of August protests were held and many people, especially young people were injured in the riots that took place.

The idea to hold a peoples festival where political action and debate would be the alternative to violence was born. It is true to say that there are critics of the Féile, but the positives outweigh the negatives.

Some events in the Féile expose the injustices and torture that are still waiting to be re-dressed. These include the murder of the 11 people in Ballymurphy by the British Army in 1971 and the case of the 14 Hooded men who were tortured during internment.

Friday 2nd August, Paddy Joe McClean, republican and civil rights activist, one of the 14 men who died without recourse to justice, making a total of five now gone. The times they are a changing, not always in the right direction, the fight goes on.

Editorial

Unity is published each week
by the Communist Party of
Ireland.
PO Box 85, Belfast BT1 1SR.

Class is the issue

WHEN Boris Johnson made his first visit to Northern Ireland as Prime Minister, Sinn Fein President Mary Lou McDonald commented that he was only concerned with looking after "British interests," whatever they may be.

That is where we as Marxists part company with the nationalist rhetoric as we see things from a class point of view and in doing so would argue that Johnson and the Tory Party put their class interests before anything else.

Of course they would see those interests as 'British' after all they consider anything outside their mode of thinking as alien, hence the media onslaught against Jeremy Corbyn.

Irish News columnist John Manley wrote under the heading Analysis that the Euroseptic project is led by English nationalism which is not really an analysis as it has been stated countless times that people voted to Leave for all kinds of reasons.

Manley in his analysis fails to mention that Wales voted by a majority to leave and whilst Scotland returned an overwhelming Remain vote more people voted Leave, 1018,322 than voted for the SNP in the 2017 General Election, 977, 569.

Such language used by McDonald and Manley certainly fits the nationalist narrative.

For all their praise of James Connolly one wonders whether some nationalists take the trouble to read his writings. In his "Chapter of Horrors," he writes of the radical differences between Daniel O'Connell and one of his "most capable lieutenants," Fergus O'Connor.

On being returned to Parliament O'Connor came to the conclusion that the miserable condition of the real people of England in whose interests Ireland was supposed to be governed was due to oppression by the same class who had impoverished Ireland and that the solution of the problem in both countries required the union of the democracies in one common battle against their oppressors.

It is significant that Connolly quotes such people as Fergus O'Connor. What he would make of the present day voices of Irish nationalism and their EU fanaticism is anybody's guess.



This year marks the 26th anniversary of Foyle Pride.

The Festival will run from Saturday 18 August to Saturday 24 August 2019. The Pride Parade will take place on Saturday 24 August 2019 departing at 2.00pm from the Waterside Train Station and proceeding to Guildhall Square, Derry
Further info from:
Tel: (028) 7126 7284E-
mail: eimear@foylepridefestival.com

Unity Appeal Fund

We hope we will continue to have the support you have so generously given us - both in donations and words of appreciation.

We still need all the help we can get so we can continue to print Ireland's working class weekly paper published by the Communist Party.

We will be happy to receive donations, no matter how small - or large !

I am sending £.....
to the Unity Appeal Fund.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Please send all donations payable to:Unity Paper,
PO Box 85, Belfast, BT1 1SR

Connolly Youth Movement with Belfast Pride 2019

Dates for your Diary



Saturday 24 August
Annual commemoration of
Internationalist Brigaders
Commemorative march from
Omeath to International Brigades
Memorial, Slieve Foye Forest Park
*Organised by Friends of the
International Brigades, Ireland*
Further information: fibis-
pain36to39@gmail.com



Saturday 7th September
Rally for Choice,
Gather at 1.30pm
Writers' Square, Belfast
Saturday 14th of September
26th Flax Mill Open Day and Yard
Fest. 24 master crafters running
stalls, 12 live-demonstrations and
homemade foodstuffs are just some
of the attractions with the usual concert
taking place in the evening. Songwriter,
accordionist Isabel Neuenfeld, Dearbhla Mc Taggart,
Dungiven's rising star on the Irish Harp,
vocalist, Sal Hanvey with guitarist Paddy
Anderson are among the entertainers.

For all details, booking and programmes,
also hard copies, contact Marian at: flaxmill@gmx.net or
Tel.02877742655

**Saturday 28th
September:**
Abortion Rights Campaign
March for Choice,
Dublin



MEDIA REVIEW

Biggest Danger to Peace

THIS year, 4th April to be exact, marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, (NATO).

It was set up by the United States and included Great Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Canada, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Portugal and Luxembourg.

In March 1948 some of these countries had formed the first post-war, military bloc, the so-called Western European Union.

In 1952 Turkey and Greece joined, followed by the Federal Republic of Germany in 1955.

Writing in the *Socialist Correspondent*, Pat Turnbull states that from its inception NATO was a baleful presence as its aim was to stop the tide of progressive advance after the war and to further the interests of the leading capitalist nations, especially the USA.

What we saw after the Second World War were people's democracies being established in Eastern Europe where the major means of production were taken over and land distributed to the peasantry.

Turnbull gives the example of the Soviet zone of Germany where de-Nazification was taking place with determination and where a 1946 plebiscite held in Saxony approved the expropriation, without compensation, of properties owned by war criminals and active Nazis.

In Western Europe Communist Parties gained big votes in the first post-war elections, gaining 28.6 per cent in France, 20 per cent in Italy and 25 percent in Finland.

In the years 1945, 1946 and 1947, communists were members of governments in nine countries: France, Italy, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Austria, Finland and Luxemburg.

In Britain 'war hero' Churchill and the Tories suffered a huge defeat.

Turnbull also refers to the setting up of the World Federation of Trade Unions in 1946 with members from 56 countries and points out that even up to 1947 representatives from the USSR and the western powers were still able to reach agreement on many important international questions.

However, on March 5th 1946 Churchill made his famous "Iron Curtain" speech in Fulton, Missouri in the presence of US President Truman, implying that the Soviet Union was responsible for the division.

Turnbull argues that on the contrary, it was the west which was drawing an "Iron Curtain" across Europe in declaring political war on its wartime ally.

A year on in March 1947 came the Truman Doctrine where in a special message to the US Congress the president claimed the right to interfere in the domestic affairs of other countries.

Financial and military aid was given to the reactionary monarchist regime in Greece as well as the government of Turkey, and in return the US established bases in both countries.

The Marshall Aid plan was used to attempt to lure the people's democracies, especially Czechoslovakia, into rejoining the imperialist camp, but it failed.

In Western Europe measures were taken to curb Communist Parties and other progressive and peace organisations.

Marshall Aid though accomplished one of its main objectives, that of the economic reconstruction of West Germany as the imperialist spearhead in Europe.



A successful PANA meeting was held in Belfast on Thursday 8th August

As Turnbull writes, as early as 1945 when the subject of anti-Soviet military blocs was first broached in the western press discussion began of the possible inclusion of West Germany.

This could only be done by thwarting the aim of the Soviet Union and progressive Germans for a united truly democratic and de-Nazified Germany.

On June 20th the three western zones of occupied Germany, with no warning or discussion announced a unilateral currency reform and a year later the Bundestag proclaimed the Federal Republic of Germany.

As Turnbull points out among its leaders were people who had collaborated with the Nazi regime.

She singles out Hans Globke who was Secretary of State and Chief of Staff of the West Germany government from 1953 to 1963.

This man was co-author of the laws designed to persecute and annihilate the Jewish people.

She also refers to former Nazi army colonel Adolf Heusinger who not only became a general in the West German army but went on to chair the NATO military committee from 1961-64.

The collapse of the socialist systems in Europe alongside the dismantling of the Warsaw Pact was manna from heaven for NATO which has now drawn in all of the former socialist states and established bases in them.

Turnbull concludes by stating that NATO accounts for three-quarters of all military spending in the world and that it and its leading force, the United States, are the biggest danger to peace.

W. Ows