

Ógra member Shaun Campbell laying the wreath to remember fallen comrades from the Battle of Petigo

CUMANN AND LOCAL UPDATES



DONEGAL TOWN

Raymond Jordan, the Secretary of Donegal Town Sinn Féin Cumann is looking forward to a full resumption of Cumann activity as COVID19 restrictions ease in July. Membership numbers of Donegal Town have significantly increased and to maintain contact since the onset of Covid-19 they

too have been added to the cumann's WhatsApp group, along with members in Glencolmcille.

Donegal Town Cumann always work as a team with our comrades right through to Glencolmcille in terms of canvassing, leafleting, poster and campaign

planning etc. Throughout the pandemic, Raymond Jordan and the other Cumann members have remained busy with Party Activity and assisting the local community.

Cumann member Stephen Thomas serves on the County Officer board as Cathaoirleach, and Anne

Cleary is the Officer Board Minute Secretary. Donegal Town Cumann members Sean Campbell, John Bradley, and Francis Cassidy laid the wreath at Clar Chapel to honor our patriot dead on Easter Sunday 2021. Sean is a member of Ogra Sinn Féin and an enthusiastic Donegal Town Cumann member.

LETTERKENNY

The cumann was formed in 1982, was named after IRA volunteers George McBrearty and Charles 'Pop' Maguire who were killed in a shootout with the SAS in Derry in 1981.

Members are involved in various local community groups, the mica campaign for 100% redress and tidy towns. Several members were involved in Chef aid at the start of the pandemic delivering meals to vulnerable or isolated

members of the community during lockdown.

Members are active in local golf and sports clubs.

There has been a small increase in the number of members from different nationalities and they have been helped and guided by comrades on issues such as housing, social welfare and integration into the local community.

CUMANN AND LOCAL UPDATES



MOVILLE/GREENCASTLE

The Antoine Mac Giolla Bhridghe cumann was reformed in 2017 after a period of inactivity. It has a small but active membership.

Comrades have been involved in the following: a Go-Fund me campaign to raise funds which purchased 100's of bottles of Vitamin D, distributed free of charge to anyone in the community in the fight against Covid-19. Championing the rights of the fishing community, involvement in resistance to prospecting for gold mining, campaigns against excessive quarrying and supporting environmental groups.

Members with a shop had a Palestinian display in the window, selling the produce of Palestinian growers at cost price, more positive than simply boycotting Israeli goods

Activists plan to visit newly joined members of Sinn Féin and find new cumann members.

GWEEDORE

Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh and Anne Gallagher from the Phádraig Mhicheail Airt Cumann distributed hand sanitizer to the local churches.



Cllr. John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh

John Sheamais Ó Fearraigh and Father Ferry in Derrybeg



DONEGAL SINN FÉIN'S FRONT BENCH TEAM IN THE DÁIL

PEARSE DOHERTY TD

Deputy Dáil Leader & Finance
Spokesperson



Pearse Doherty

Pearse Doherty has been busy in Leinster House, challenging the Government's failed housing policies while also continuing to advocate for the people of Donegal.

Our county is hugely affected by the lack of adequate infrastructure and transport, so the limited services we do have are vital to our rural communities.

PEARSE HAS RECENTLY:

- ▶ Highlighted the urgency for a new vessel for those living in Tory Island.
- ▶ Pushed for the restoration of the Donegal to Dublin flight as many people heavily depend on both these services.

Road users are also feeling the brunt, with car insurance skyrocketing he has outlined Sinn Féin's solution to hold the insurance industry to account and reduce extortionate premiums.

Although the government voted to block this legislation, Pearse won't be stopped.

PÁDRAIG Mac LOCHLAINN TD

Chief Whip & Spokesperson on Fisheries



Pádraig led the charge in Leinster House and across the national media demanding a 100% mica & pyrite redress scheme for families in Donegal and Mayo, and he will continue to fight for the people of Donegal until the new scheme is agreed and rolled out.

As Sinn Féin's fisheries spokesperson Pádraig has stood with fishing families from across Donegal and the country calling on

an end to the long-running injustices in the EU's Common Fisheries Policy.

Pádraig is fighting for equal burden sharing of the loss of fish quota arising from the EU/ UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement amongst the fishing fleets of all EU Member States, and for a commitment from Government that it will fight tooth and nail for Ireland's fair share of the fish in our waters.



Pádraig Mac Lochlainn with local fishermen at Leenan Pier, Inishowen

MARTIN KENNY TD

Justice Spokesperson



Martin continues to hold both the Justice Minister and Garda Commissioner to account. Martin has called for Drew Harris to come before the Justice Committee after the Commissioner was forced to apologise to the hundreds of victims who had their 999 calls cancelled.

Martin is pushing for urgent reform of our antiquated and unjust coroners' system with the Justice Minister. He is seeking increased resources and improved training as well as a standardised assessment of coroners and the provision of legal aid for families who need it.



Martin Kenny holding the Minister to account in the Dáil

Martin is also a strong advocate of community policing with increased visibility in cities, towns and villages and will publish recommendations in the coming months.



MICA PROTEST



JUNE 15TH 2021 WILL FOREVER BE REMEMBERED AS AN EXTREMELY PROUD DAY IN THE HISTORY OF DONEGAL.

Over 10,000 men, women and children – the vast bulk of them from this county – descended on Dublin and demanded 100% redress for homeowners affected by mica.

Neighbours, family members and friends of those whose homes are crumbling came together as one community and demanded equality with those from Dublin and north Leinster affected by pyrite.

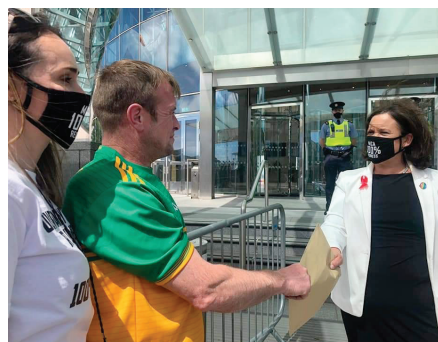
To that end, Sinn Féin stands four-square behind the campaign and will continue to support this people's movement to its successful conclusion.

Mary Lou McDonald has twice travelled to Inishowen to meet affected homeowners and witness the scale of the problem for herself. She has subsequently taken this issue to the floor of the Dáil and met with protest leaders outside the National Convention Centre to accept a letter with their demands, again affirming her support. In addition, Eoin O'Broin, as our housing spokesperson, has developed policy which will secure 100% redress should Sinn Féin enter government.

Further, the significance of the government agreeing not to oppose the Sinn Féin motion on 100% redress cannot be underestimated. The successful motion, moved by Pádraig Mac Lochlainn and Pearse Doherty, means that the democratic will of the Dáil stands with the protesters and the families living in Donegal's crumbling homes.

This is an issue which Sinn Féin representatives will continue to champion at every level. From our party members, our councillors and our TDs right up to our party president, we are committed to the delivery of the equal treatment that our people are rightfully entitled to.

The people of Donegal will not stop until 100% redress is in place and we will stand with them every step of the way.





UNITY NEWS



Recent online debate between Pennsylvania State Representative Kevin Boyle and Pearse Doherty TD

UNITING IRELAND CONVERSATIONS

A referendum on Irish Unity is coming and we need to prepare now. The changes over recent years combined with decades of campaigning have significantly raised the profile of the conversation, and given it significant momentum, more than at any time since partition. It is in this context that Donegal Sin Féin has initiated a series of Uniting Ireland Conversations.

Irish America is playing a crucial role in the discussion around Irish Unity, so it was fitting that the first of our Uniting Ireland Conversations featured Pennsylvania State Representative Kevin Boyle talking with Pearse Doherty TD, hosted by Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher.

Kevin is a son of Irish Immigrants and he spoke warmly of his childhood memories of his brother Brendan and himself being taken to demonstrations in support of the hunger strikers. He provided insightful analysis on the history of Irish American political support for Irish Unity and the Good Friday

agreement, the effects of Partition, and why we need to counter the anti-unity voices.

Sinn Féin recently published 'Inclusion and Reconciliation in a New Ireland', setting out our position on the importance of ending partition and eradicating sectarianism, essential for the achievement of an agreed, united Ireland and for national reconciliation.

Speaking at the recent online national conference on Uniting Ireland Mary Lou McDonald urged republicans to bring the case for unity into our local communities. "The job of securing and winning the unity referendum is the job of every single activist."

The Uniting Ireland campaign is underway and as we start to move out of Covid restrictions it is important that local areas start to think about their own local UI work plans. Now is a good time to ask, "What can I do to promote inclusion and reconciliation as we move towards a New Ireland?"

FULLERTON COMMEMORATION



Tírconail Commemoration Committee marked the 30th anniversary of Cllr Eddie Fullerton highlighting the ongoing campaign by his family for justice and truth.

The Tírconail Commemoration committee, chaired by Maria Doherty organised a series of initiatives and events to remember Eddie and to highlight the fact that his case remains unresolved.

Cllr Eddie Fullerton was murdered 30 years ago in his home in Buncrana. Eddie was Donegal Sinn Féin's first councillor, elected in 1979. He served the people of Donegal and Republicans diligently until his assassination. The March edition of An Phoblacht carried an article written by Roy Greenslade giving us an insight into Eddie's life and an update on the case.

On the 1st of May we unveiled a large commemorative banner on the Eddie Fullerton/Bobby Sands republican centre in Letterkenny to remember both Eddie and Bobby Sands on this the 40th Anniversary of the Hunger strike.

A commemorative badge was produced and distributed to Family and SF members and friends.

A one-hour online tribute was compiled to remember Eddie. We heard from his family, friends and comrades in SF including from party president Mary Lou Mc Donald. Eddie's legacy as a tireless worker and United Irelander shone through the tribute in particular the way he was so committed to his community and to his Republican politics for creating an Ireland of equals.

Over 10,000 people watched the online video and it was covered by all the local newspapers and the Irish Times. The chairperson of the organising committee did interviews on Raidió na Gaeltachta Barrscéalta and Adhmhaidin and TG4 Nuacht. Highland Radio also interviewed Eddie's daughter Amanda on the case and again carried an interview with Maria Doherty.

On the date of the anniversary, 25th May, the documentary made 16 years ago by Scun Scan for TG4, 'Fullerton' was shown. This was followed by a panel discussion about collusion and the legal case, moderated by Paul O Connor from the Pat Finucane Centre, lawyer Kevin Winters, producer of the documentary, Dónall Ó Maolfabhail, journalist Anne Cadwallader, Amanda Fullerton and SF TD Pádraig Mac Lochlainn. Almost three thousand people watched the documentary online.

Commemorative posters were produced that were erected in Eddie's hometown of Buncrana and we put up two billboards advertising the Online tribute and the Documentary.

Many thanks to those involved in the organising committee, Cllr Albert Doherty, Cllr Jack Murray, Ciaran McGuinness Chair of the Fullerton, Mac Lochlainn, O' Hagan Cumann in Buncrana and Eddie's daughter Amanda Fullerton. A special mention to Liam Lappin from the Six County Cúige who filmed and edited the online tribute, many thanks Liam, and thanks to the background teams who supported the online events, Dara O Neill in Donegal SF, Paul Hayes from Cúige West and the Islands and SF Head office press staff for their support.

The Fullerton family continue to be determined to pursue legal action against the British state, on the grounds that it is ultimately responsible for Eddie's murder, whether by commission or neglect. They deserve to know the truth about the conspiracy to have this man of the people assassinated. Maria Doherty, Chair of the commemoration committee said:

"The events and initiatives organised provided us all an opportunity to remember our friend and comrade, whose legacy lives on in the political movement that he helped grow in Donegal, and is now stronger and bigger than ever."





INTRODUCING THE DONEGAL OFFICER BOARD



**Cathaoirleach
STEPHEN THOMAS**

Stephen Thomas is my name. I am the serving Cathaoirleach (Chairman) of the County Donegal Sinn Féin Officer Board. One of my responsibilities is to make sure that each Officer Board meeting is planned effectively, conducted according to the constitution of Sinn Féin and that matters are dealt with in an orderly and efficient manner.

The Chair must coordinate the Officer Board to ensure that appropriate policies and procedures are in place for the effective management of the Party and is responsible in conjunction with the Vice-Chair, to ensure that any projects or campaigns that are undertaken by the CC are completed.

Within my own cumann I work alongside cumann secretary Raymond Jordan co-ordinating the "Big Barnesmore to Donegal Litter clean up".

When not busy doing all that, you may know me as a musician in a well-known band called The Bellies and I can tell you that I am very much looking forward to enjoying more music events once restrictions ease again.

I believe that the role of Cathaoirleach on the Officer Board of Donegal Sinn Féin is made easier and much more rewarding by my comrades on the board in terms of how dynamic and representative they are in gender and age, coupled with the wealth of their political experience.

I have served as Cathaoirleach for several years, and although the role is challenging, I enjoy it very much and feel honoured to serve Donegal Sinn Féin in this role.



**Leas Cathaoirleach
JO FOWLER**

I became Leas Cathaoirleach, Vice Chair of the Officer Board within the last year. My role, which I absolutely love, is to support the Chair, help with whatever he needs me to do, and to attend Officer Board meetings. I am the secretary of the Moville Greencastle Cumann, and help on the editorial board of this publication.

Although brought up in the North of England, the first political party I ever heard of was Sinn Féin. As the elder daughter and granddaughter of Stranorlar republicans, and in the company of two uncles, I was exposed from infancy to talk of Sean McCool and Peadar O'Donnell, so it was a natural step to support and then join the party when my husband and I moved over to Donegal. As organic farmers we were forced to make the change during the foot and mouth epidemic of 2001, but the move was without doubt the most satisfactory outcome from that disaster.

A united Ireland with social equality has been a lifelong dream, so to serve within the party in any capacity, and work towards that end, I regard as an honour.



**Public Relations Officer
RÓISE COLLINS**

I joined the Officer Board in 2020 as the Public Relations Officer, while finishing my degree in journalism at TU Dublin. During my studies I developed a keen interest in politics. I visited Leinster House with Pearse Doherty in my first year of college for a debate and I will never forget the thrill of witnessing the political process first hand.

I was born in Belfast and grew up in Donegal. My upbringing meant I was no stranger to republicanism. I've been involved with Sinn Féin from a young age and can remember the excitement of being taken on a leaflet drop as a kid. I loved the buzz in the build up to an election. As I am sure everyone can agree - it is a great feeling being around so many people who are so passionate and dedicated.

During the lockdown I wanted to try and find that buzz again, so I decided to start this newsletter as a way of connecting members, cumainn and communities. I really enjoy my role, I am so grateful for this opportunity and to everyone who has helped me. I look forward to continuing to work with Donegal Sinn Féin and the Officer Board.



CONGRATULATIONS

***Congratulations to
Cllr. Jack Murray
who was elected as
Cathaoirleach
of Donegal County
Council/ Mayor of
County Donegal.***



LOGAINMNEACHA



Cnoc Fola

Is í 'fola' an ginideach den focal 'fuil'. De réir an tseanchais is í fuil Bhalair a maraíodh ar an chnoc atá i gceist. Ach i ndáiríre faigheann sé a hainm ón dóigh a lasann grian an tráthnóna imir dhearg nádúrtha na mbeann eibhir.

'fola' is the genitive form of 'fuil' meaning blood. According to tradition it refers to the blood of Balor who was murdered on the foreland. The modern day meaning of the name refers to the way the evening sun colours the stone as it sets.

Dún Luiche

Is sráidbhaile beag é ag bun na hEar-agaile. Deirtear go raibh Dún anseo agus Lugh a chur suas é. Ball de na Tuatha Dé Dannan agus ar cheann de na déithe is iomráití é Lugh.

Dunlewey is a small village at the foot of Errigal. It is said that there was once a fort here that Lugh built. Lugh was a member of the Tuatha Dé Dannan and one of the most notable ancient gods.

HISTORY



EITHNE NÍ CHUMHAILL

One of Donegal's Republican war of independence heroines

BY JAMES WOODS

Eithne Ni Chumhail (1897-1985) was a steadfast republican activist, committed to freeing Ireland from British rule. A letter from Tom Barry and Peadar O'Donnell dated 19 April 1945 in support of her application for the IRA pension noted the fact that she was targeted during the Civil War by Free State forces who 'regarded her more as an IRA officer than as Cumann na mBan organiser, which was indeed her dual role'.

Born in Killult, situated between Falcarragh and Gortahork, she was the youngest of seven children. She joined Cumann na mBan in 1917 and became active in fundraising and anti-conscription campaigns. Her father died aged 36, attributed by Eithne to the pressures of being evicted by unscrupulous landlords.

She notes in her private papers that it was during her fraught childhood that she was left a lasting impression by Maud Gonne, Roger Casement and Padraig Pearse, campaigning in Donegal for the rights of tenant farmers and encouraging resistance to British rule. As head of the Donegal branch of Cumann na mBan Eithne used to cycle from house to house mobilizing members on behalf of Sinn Fein for the general election. Between 1918 and 1919 she lived for a time in Dungannon as a Gaelic League organizer before moving to Co Longford to set up Cumann na mBan branches. At that time, she was regularly harassed by RIC members. Her cycling activities were either surveillance missions or for carrying dispatches (secreted away in her undergarments) for IRA brigades.

During the War of Independence whilst



based in the Longford-Roscommon area, where she subsequently became Roscommon Gaelic League Organiser, she liaised with the local IRA units, providing them with sketches of local RIC Barracks. Eithne was regularly harassed by Black n Tans, her house being vandalised on at least two occasions. She was arrested on New Year's Day 1921 and after a brief court appearance was sentenced to three years hard labour for aiding IRA members. In keeping with Cumann na mBan and IRA policy, she refused to recognize the court. She noted in her private papers, that during the trial, 'I read a newspaper during the whole comedy and only raised my eyes once to tell the presiding officer that he was wasting his precious time, as I did not recognise his sham court, I only spoke Irish so one of the RIC men had to translate my seven words of wisdom. It was in Mountjoy Prison, where she was serving her sentence that she first saw Constance Markiewicz. Eithne said that 'we could only wave at her at Mass on Sunday, we were not allowed to kneel beside her at the altar rails'. Eithne and Linda Kearns, a fellow republican prisoner hatched an escape plan. On 31 October 1921 along with two other inmates Mary Burke

and Aileen Keogh, and with help from sympathetic warders, they scaled the prison wall and escaped in waiting cars driven by republicans.

Following the Treaty Eithne supported the anti-treaty faction. Following its signing she was appointed organiser for Cumann na mBan, the first major organisation against the Treaty in the Northwest of Ireland. She toured Donegal, Derry and parts of Tyrone, finding that many of the local branches had lost members and was forced to reorganise the movement in Ulster. Eithne sought to enforce the IRA boycott on Belfast goods, which met with little enthusiasm, and it was reported in the Belfast Telegraph that Eithne armed with a handgun held up the train near Cashel na nGorr whence she removed all copies of Belfast newspapers before publicly burning them. Not officially sanctioned by Cumann na mBan at the time, her protest became a regular occurrence on that train line between Derry and Burtonport. She was also the official dispatch carrier between the IRA 1st Northern Division and 3rd Western Division, a role that included rowing between Donegal and Sligo to ensure messages were not intercepted.

During early 1922 her clandestine activities saw her frequently arrested by pro-treaty forces although on each occasion she was released without charge. However, in September 1922 Eithne was arrested as part of a clamp-down. Initially held at Ballyshannon she was the first Cumann na mBan member to go on a hunger strike which lasted for seven days. As there was no female prison guard, she was moved to Bunrana Barracks for two weeks, eventually being taken to Mountjoy

Prison, some eight weeks after her initial arrest.

By the time Eithne arrived at Mountjoy there were already several Cumann na mBan members in detention and overcrowding became a problem. She led the women in protests against these conditions. They threw their beds out of the cells and slept on the floor. After six weeks they began another hunger strike. Following an infamous night of terror, they were moved to the North Dublin Union which had previously housed soldiers. Eithne wrote: 'without exaggeration you could dig the dirt off the floors with a spade and leave enough behind for worms'. One of twenty female prisoners to escape on 7 May 1923, she was recaptured the following day.

Appointed to the executive of Cumann na mBan in 1924 she was elected as president in 1926, remaining a member until her resignation in 1941.

As a socialist, she was a founder member of the Republican Congress in 1934 although on 18 July that same year she and fellow Cumann na mBan activist Sheila Humphries resigned after it became clear that it may lead to a feud between IRA factions, which both women hoped to avoid at all costs. After resigning as President of Cumann na mBan she started researching a history of the organisation from 1914 to 1923. She had a keen interest in women from the Six Counties, and from Scotland who were involved in the struggle. She had collected surveys and questionnaires from a range of women, but never published a book on this subject, which is regrettable, since there is nothing like reading the first-hand account of a person who has experienced life as a freedom fighter.



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