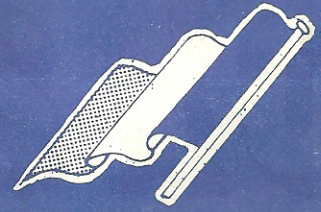


# THE LOCAL NEWSLETTER SAOIRSE



BY THE JACKIE GRIFFITH SINN FEIN CUMANN

DUBLIN SOUTH EAST AREA WHICH INCLUDES RINGSEND, IRISHTOWN, TOWNSEND STREET, PEARSE STREET, SANDYMOUNT, BALLSBRIDGE, DONNYBROOK, BAGGOT STREET AND RANELAGH.

All correspondence to: 22J Pearse House, Pearse Street, D2.

MARCH 1983



RINGSEND JOBS IN

## CLOSURE THREAT

ROBERT WILSON, the pet food manufacturer, has been in the hands of a receiver for the past three weeks. The factory is situated near the water-front (the Point) in Ringsend. It presently employs about 30 people. The original workforce of 100 was reduced by means of voluntary redundancies in October of last year.

Since the receiver took over, the factory has maintained production. It seems that there is still a strong demand for its produce. The Ringsend factory, which is one of about ten in the group, is considered to be quite efficient; this would appear to be the case as the receiver has maintained operations.

### HOPE

Apparently there are a few parties interested in taking over the factory. While this does not necessarily guarantee the workers their jobs, it holds a ray of hope for them. It seems quite inexplicable that where an obvious demand remains for a product that companies should go into voluntary liquidation.

The whole area of companies taking this option should be closely examined as this practice is clearly open to abuse and malpractice. It remains to be seen whether or not that is the case here.



● THE WHIDDY ISLAND DISASTER

## LPG DANGER

DESPITE the recent decision by the High Court dismissing an appeal by the Clontarf Residents Association against Dublin Corporation's granting of planning permission for a liquid petroleum gas (LPG) cavern facility in Dublin Bay, **SAOIRSE** and Sinn Fein still remain opposed to what still appears to be a venture fraught with danger.

The choice of Dublin Bay is inappropriate and irresponsible. The main factors in choosing the site are financial and ease of access. It seems that financial considerations are more important than the safety of the people of Dublin.

Should a major incident occur at the site, 250,000 people could be put in immediate danger. The fire and safety services, because of their lack of equipment and experience in dealing with such an unknown quantity, would be rendered ineffective.

Do we have to wait for a major disaster on the scale of Whiddy Island to make us realise the folly of this project? Whiddy

would be dwarfed by the scale of loss of life should a major leakage occur.

It should be noted that the Chief Fire Officer has expressed his opposition to the project, but it seems that the advice of a person qualified to know the dangers has been ignored by the bureaucrats in the Corporation.

We have been assured by the experts that his project has been successfully operated in other countries — this is a blatant misrepresentation.

The fact is that this would be the first time that caverns such as these would be carved out of limestone, hardly a reassuring fact. The constant transposition of L.P.G. in such highly populated areas must be fraught with many dangers. The security of the site against vandalism and the like could not be guaranteed.

Sinn Fein proposes that a high-risk venture such as this be experimented with in a more appropriate and safer site. The thought of a major disaster occurring even if it is slight, should weigh uppermost in the minds of both planners and residents alike.



COALITION BUDGET HITS UNDERPRIVILEGED & WORKING CLASS AGAIN

# The price of capitalism



● Alan Dukes can afford to laugh — we can't!

**THE STRATEGY** of the latest budget is to squeeze the already hard-pressed workers and under-privileged sections of society even further so that the rich can maintain their dominant position.

The price the worker has to pay for daring to try and better his/her standard of living is very high indeed. Every conceivable avenue of taxation on workers and social welfare recipients was implemented with a vengeance by Alan Dukes. People might have borne the agonies of such a budget if the minister had applied an equally savage determination

to make the richer sections pay their share. Alas, that was not to be.

## SICK JOKE

The so-called 'property tax' that the Labour Party has been using as a salve to its social conscience has become a sick joke. A decision on the implementation of the tax has been deferred until the publishing of the Finance Bill.

In fact, the minister, mindful of the undoubted repercussions, has chosen not to reveal a great deal in his budget. The effect of the proposed cut-backs on local authorities and semi-state bodies

will be disastrous — services will be fewer, but they will be considerably dearer. The minister obviously felt that this would be too bitter a pill for the people to swallow; all will be revealed in the Finance Bill. Rather underhand, to say the least.

## MAKE THE RICH PAY

The tax on the banks is derisory and the minister's intention is to phase it out altogether in the future! The so-called Capital Gains Tax, which replaced the Wealth Tax, raises even less revenue than its predecessor did.

# SANDYMOUNT

'SCALLET HILL', as the area now called Sandymount was once known, was a rabbit warren covered with furze. An unpleasant marshy area it was populated by groups of fishermen who fished the once lucrative Dublin Bay which abounded with herring, 'the finest fish of all times'.

However, in the 1730s it was discovered that the soil around the area was ideal for brickmaking. Brickfields were soon booming as Georgian Dublin grew and they quickly became the main local source of employment. (Dublin craftsmen were indeed renowned for their skills throughout Europe, during this period.)

The workforce built their homes around a Common (now called Sandymount Green) and this area was named Brickfield Town, which expanded to take the shape of Sandymount as we know it today.

Inevitably the building extravaganza came to a halt and the brickfields fell into decline by the beginning of the 19th century.

## TOURISM

Sea-bathing had become popular at this time and the local residents were not slow to adapt to their new industry — tourism. The name Brickfield Town soon gave way to the more exclusive and inviting Sandymount. Guest-houses began to appear and Sandymount even boasted a hotel to cater for the visitors. The early 1800s saw Sandymount prospering

as a resort and although hit by a recession in the early 1830s it survived to make a successful comeback.

The saviour arrived in the form of the steam engine, commonly known at the time as the 'Atmospheric Railway', which opened in 1834 and ran from Dublin to Kingstown (Dun Laoire).

## HIGHWAYMEN

Sandymount had previously been rather inaccessible to Dubliners because of the river Dodder and the bands of highwaymen and robbers who plagued the roads. The railway solved this problem and soon the day-trippers were pouring in and Sandymount once again prospered and expanded.

The population of Sandymount in 1850 was 1,142 people and the area had taken the shape we know today. The trams (introduced in 1901) completed the process of integrating Sandymount with the rest of Dublin.

The area is no longer a holiday resort but thankfully it has retained its character and tranquility.

Is e mar is fearr do dhaoine agus ta suil againn go bhfanfaidh an sceal amhlaidh.



# Interview with John Crabbe

**JOHN CRABBE** is the community officer for the Jackie Griffith Sinn Féin cumann in Dublin South-East. **SAOIRSE** interviewed him in the recently opened Sinn Féin advice centre.

**SAOIRSE:** John, you have been running the centre for a few months now. Prior to opening, were you active in local affairs?

**JOHN:** Although I was not actively involved in local affairs, I became increasingly obliged to do so because of the mounting problems in the area.

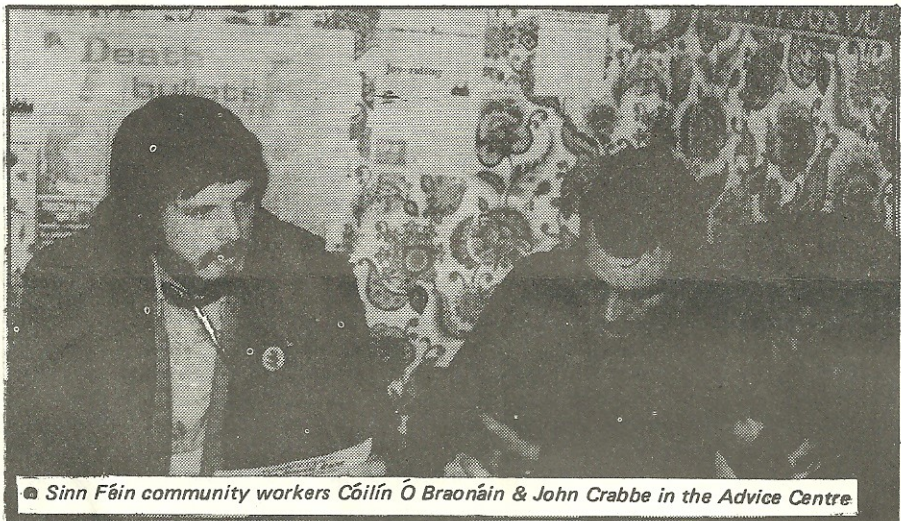
**SAOIRSE:** Is there a need for an advice centre such as this?

**John:** Yes. The centre was opened to enable people to come and learn how to help themselves. Sinn Féin advice centres differ in that they do not deceive people into believing that they can obtain preferential treatment. The main political parties use (abuse) their centres merely as a vote-catching device. They dispense favours rather than advise people as to their rights and benefits.

**SAOIRSE:** Can you give us some examples of cases encountered?

**John:** All cases are confidential, but the most common problems arise about housing and social welfare.

**SAOIRSE:** Some people view Sinn Féin simply as an anti-British movement that is not concerned with day-to-day problems of people. What have you to say to this?



■ Sinn Féin community workers Cólín Ó Braonáin & John Crabbe in the Advice Centre.

**John:** There are 30 elected Sinn Féin councillors in the 26 Counties and 5 elected Sinn Féin representatives in the North. They are there because of their hard work and involvement in both local and national issues. Sure we want the British out — and all other exploiters of Ireland and the Irish people too.

**SAOIRSE:** What in your opinion are the greatest problems facing this area?

**John:** The Dublin South-East area has varying problems: unemployment, housing conditions, dense traffic, lack of recreational facilities, property speculation, crime, etc. Sinn Féin has tackled and put forward suggestions on these ailments. We have no quick or magic

solutions but the system is so corrupt that it needs a totally different political change for ordinary people to get a fair deal.

**SAOIRSE:** The youth of today have borne a great deal of the burden of these recessionary times. What kind of future do you foresee for them?

**John:** Frankly, unless the youth work politically for a totally different and alternative political system, their prospects are bleak. Unemployment has sapped their will and enthusiasm. Sinn Féin has a very progressive youth policy and is very much a party that the youth of today can identify with.

SECTION 31

## Censorship is always bad news

*"THE DENIAL of Sinn Féin to access to the electorate through the state monopoly's radio and television continuously for ten years now places an unbearable handicap on a political organisation seeking the people's support and virtually hamstringing Sinn Féin in parliamentary elections in the 26 Counties."*

Those were the words from the president of Sinn Féin, Ruairi O Bradaigh, at the recent Ard Fheis where he condemned the continued use of Section 31 to ban republicans from putting their views to the people.

### LOYALISTS

Yet RTE have no qualms about allowing loyalists to have these basic rights despite the fact that some of them could be charged regularly for 'incitement to violence'.

But loyalists pose little threat to the political careers of Dublin politicians. After all, republicans wish to make Ireland Britless; republicans wish to share the nation's wealth and resources among the people; republicans want to decentralise power giving the people real control over their own affairs.

That threatens the privileged and

therefore in the eyes of the state must not succeed. Section 31 is one way of attempting to enforce this.

We say abolish Section 31 now. Censorship is always bad news.



## Thanks

SINN FÉIN would like to thank everyone in the area who contributed so generously to the recent collection for the jailed Ranks workers

## SPECULATION

**SHELBOURNE ROAD** will soon have a massive new office block if the planning permission is granted. This development is the intention of the multi-national Rohan Group in conjunction with an Irish group. The 34 intended offices, car-park, etc, is to be built at 162 Shelbourne Road.

Reaction by residents is mixed. Some are disinterested while quite a few are tooth and nail against the ever-increasing development by speculators of whatever name. But as one woman said:

*"The residents' association for Shelbourne Rd./Grand Canal St. may protest but you wait and see, they'll be beaten in time."*

What she obviously was referring to was the apparent ease with which these companies can get planning permission from An Bord Pleanála.

A worrying factor of this is that one of our local representatives in 'Dole Eireann', Labour's Ruairi Quinn, Minister of State for the Environment, is himself a partner to speculation and most unlikely to stop the rot.



# Oscar's in trouble

THE 280-SEATER Oscar Theatre in Serpentine Avenue, Sandymount, may have to close at the end of May. That is unless Chris O'Neill (ex Michael of 'The Riordans') can raise the necessary £100,000 needed to keep it open. Its closure would be a major loss to the community.

At this stage you might be wondering why the Oscar is seeking publicity to raise this massive sum. Part of the reason is that the owner had hoped for a grant from the Arts Council or some other government facility which he did not get (he did however obtain a loan) nor is help likely to be forthcoming in the present economic recession.

The theatre plays an important part in our life. It provides a medium for expressing aspects of our culture which are fast disappearing in this consumerist society.

## SURVIVAL

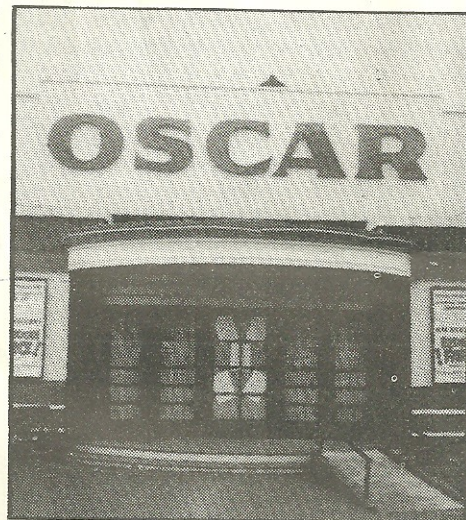
Should the Oscar have to close, not

only will a number of jobs be lost but also the chances for potential actors/actresses as there is a recognised school of acting attached. This takes on 12 to 20 students annually with hundreds unfortunately being turned away.

But none of this bears notice from the government. The Arts Council has failed to provide a grant. The government itself takes a savage 30% plus VAT, making survival difficult, if not impossible.

It is up to the people of the area to rally around and ensure that the curtain does not go down on the Oscar permanently.

*A season's membership costs £1 — a sum well spent in a good cause.*



# Donnybrook break-ins

AFTER the most recent spate of break-ins in the Donnybrook area, particularly in and around Pembroke Gardens, we hear yet again of the appalling lack of concern shown by the Gardai for the plight of people affected by such terrifying incidents.

Highlighting such neglect was the case recently of where three houses were broken into, all of which were occupied by elderly people. The Gardai were duly alerted about the incidents but, in their typical 'law and order' fashion, ignored the call. A day later they sped into the area wondering what all the fuss was about.

The delay by the Gardai on arriving becomes all the more curious when one realises that the station is only 50 yards away from where the break-ins took place.



● Pembroke Cottages

## IT'S A CRIME!

SINCE the foundation of the Free State, the emphasis has been on political rather than community policing. The state can afford to spend huge amounts of money and maintaining the British partition of our country with its strong 'security' presence along the border.

The rising crime rate is due to the social and economic crisis facing this country.

Capitalism, by its very nature, is discriminatory and divisive and while it remains, the inequalities inherent in it will always breed discontent.

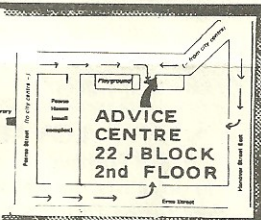
This discontent in capitalist countries facing similar crises throughout the world also manifest itself in a rising crime

rate. Sinn Féin, while in no way condoning the actions of anti-social elements who prey on the weaker sections of society, are fully aware that this bankrupt political system holds out no hope for any improvement in the situation.

Crime is a symptom of a declining and uncaring capitalist society — to end the symptom we must remove the cause.

**Sinn Féin**

**Advice  
Centre**



## Draw results

### FEBRUARY DRAW

- 1st (£50) : No. 4, K. Trolan;
- 2nd (£25) : No. 150, Mr Farmer;
- 3rd (£10) : No. 13, J. Dolan;
- 4th (£5) : No. 20, G. Slattery