

North-City

ANARCHIST

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Anarchist Book Fair Comes to North Inner City

Saturday, March 3rd will see Dublin's Second Anarchist Book Fair, a free, public event packed to the brim with radical bookstalls, meetings and social events. Last year, the event was held in the Meath Street Area and proved a great success. This year, due to the increased demand for stalls and meetings, we've moved to a larger venue, in the Teachers Club, 36 Parnell Square, in Dublin's North Inner City.



The Book Fair is organised by the Workers Solidarity Movement, an Irish anarchist organisation, which has been active for several years in Dublin's North Inner City. From fighting against the Bin Tax, to organising in the Anti-War movement, to helping to fight for justice for Terence Wheelock, we're active in our communities, helping to bring about a more just, equal and democratic society.

The Anarchist Book Fair will bring together more than 20 radical political organisations, campaign groups and book distributors. There are meetings on a range of topics throughout the day as well as book-stalls and a social event on Saturday night. Entry is free and all are welcome. Come along, browse the bookstalls, catch a few meetings and see what radical groups are fighting to change our society for the better.



Dublin Anarchist Book Fair 2007

12 pm - 6.30 pm Saturday, March 3rd

Teachers Club, 36 Parnell Square - Free Entry, All Welcome



Caution: GARDA at work!

To people living in the North Inner City, the recent revelations at the Dublin City coroner's court at the inquest into the death of young Terence Wheelock will not come as a surprise. Terence went into a coma from which he never recovered, after sustaining injuries in Store Street Garda station. One witness to his arrest said the Gardai 'whacked Terence's head off the side of the van and twisted his broken arm behind his back'.

Sadly, this will not come as a surprise to anyone who has witnessed the operations of the Gardai when dealing with the citizens of the city. There has always been something of a siege mentality amongst the enforcers of law and order in our streets. They appear to have little problems with the force part, whereas their efforts at winning respect within the community have been negligible. Indeed one of the Gardai that quite visibly lost the run of himself on the 'Reclaim The Streets' in May 2002, turned out to be a community guard. Obviously on that sunny evening, when he covered up his numbers and flayed his baton wildly into people, thugery came easier to him than did his community work.

The issue is that the Gardai appear to have precious little respect for the people that they're supposed to be there to serve. Their purpose has always been to protect the property of the bosses, and they appear to be able to get away with murder after that. As long as normality is maintained, then they have carte-blanche to deal with the public.

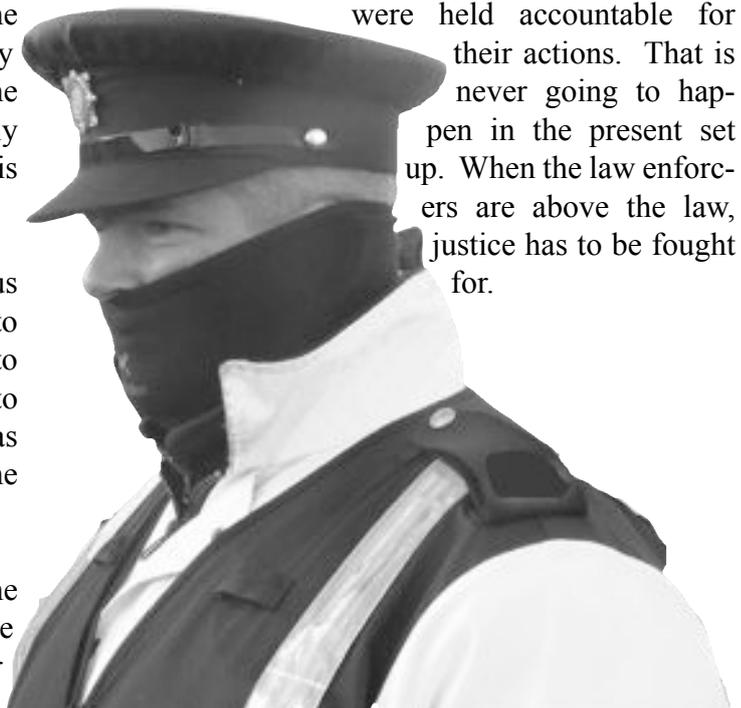
Every year there are over 1200 complaints to the Garda Siochana Complaints Board. Many of these don't appear to go anywhere. Less than ten per cent appear to reach some sort of conclusion and

they get reported in vague bureaucratic language like they were 'informally resolved at local level'. Many complaints appear to get withdrawn or appear to be deemed 'inadmissible'. In 2004 the Director of Public Prosecutions only managed to start proceedings against a mere 3 Gardai, in respect of just 2 complaints.

The feeling is that this is an exercise in futility, complaining about the cops to a board that is made up of ex-cops who know where they stand on the issue long before they've heard the any statements.

The campaigners for Terence Wheelock are brave. They have shone a light into a dark corner of how the state conducts its business and we should all be grateful for that. The call for an independent inquiry must be heeded and it is about time the boys in blue

were held accountable for their actions. That is never going to happen in the present set up. When the law enforcers are above the law, justice has to be fought for.



Meeting: Death By Cops - Justice For Terence Wheelock Campaign

2.45 pm - 3.45 pm, March 3rd, Anarchist Book fair, Teachers Club, 36 Parnell Square

Laurence Wheelock talks about his family's fight for justice for his brother Terence, a twenty year old man from Dublin's north inner city who went into a coma after sustaining injuries in garda custody in June 2005 and subsequently died in September of that year.



WSM Members Join The Wheelock Campaign on Talbot St

Local Struggles: Dominick St

In times past Dominick Street - developed in the 1750s by the Dominick family - was the “first settlement” of fashionable Dublin and much favoured by “the quality”. It housed such notables as William Hamilton; the mathematician who was elected the first foreign member of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA was born in No.36, horror writer Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu in No.45, and Sinn Fein founder Arthur Griffith in No.4.

However, the street went into decline after the Act of Union and most of the houses had become slums before Dublin Corporation flats replaced them¹. What has yet to be replaced, though, is the fighting spirit of the people in Dominick Street and the surrounding areas. In May 2003 a particularly successful Reclaim The Streets party was held in Dublin – just at the back of the Ilac Centre. Amongst the participants were many local kids and some of their parents. Shortly after some of the residents approached some of the RTS organizers to see could something similar be organized to highlight the dangerous traffic situation on the street – up to 11 children had been injured on the road which motorists were using as a speedy short cut around the councils one way system.

This was a fairly historic meeting between exponents of free rave parties and a long suffering Dublin working class community. Another party was organized followed by a series of joint blockades involving RTS and other small groups of anarchists and some other socialists. Residents issued their demands that “Dublin City Council must make our street pedestrianised or install road ramps”².

And they got them – quietly with out any fuss or comment - traffic calming ramps have appeared relatively recently in Dominick Street. Of course, being



Critical Mass Cyclists Arrive to Help Dominick Street Residents' Traffic Protest

capitalism, the laws of cause and effect need not operate. Ramps appear a couple of years after successful blockades and parties – no connection is implied – no coverage necessary – we wouldn't want people to “feel” their victories too keenly!

2006 and a redevelopment of the flats, planned via Public Private Partnership, is opened by Bertie (or one of his doubles – golly gosh how that man gets around!) with much aplomb. “...it is vital that the local community itself is involved in the development plans in a meaningful way and Dublin City Council have taken some important steps to ensure that this is the case – said he at the launch.”³

It remains to see how this will go but we can be sure that the people of Dominick Street having had their eyes opened and having won twice before - will hardly be fooled again.

1 http://www.irish-architecture.com/buildings_ireland/dublin/northcity/dominick_street/index.html

2 <http://www.indymedia.ie/article/49619>

3 <http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/index.asp?locID=200&docID=2779>

Racism and Immigrant Workers

In 1984, 11 workers in Dunnes Stores, Henry Street, went on strike as they refused to handle goods produced by the racist South African Apartheid Regime. The ten women and one man stayed out for over 2 and a half years, and their courage inspired many people around the world.

Today, many immigrants live in the North Inner City and some people have started blaming them for the social problems of the area.

Like the Dunnes Stores strikers, we believe that we should unite with other workers, regardless of their colour, creed or origin to fight against our rulers, the bosses who don't give a damn about the working class. We

don't want to fight among ourselves for the crumbs from their table - we want the whole cake!

The Anarchist Book Fair will see stalls from **Residents Against Racism and Anti-Fascist Action**. There will be a meeting of **Polish Anarchists in Ireland** at 1.30pm and a meeting about **The Rise of the Left in South America**, at 2.45pm.

ANARCHIST BOOKFAIR 2007

March 2nd & 3rd 2007,
Dublin's 2nd Annual anarchist bookfair



Stalls:

Workers Solidarity Movement
WSM Book Service
Organise!
Revolutionary Anarcho-Feminist Group
Polish anarchists in Ireland
Anarchist Prisoner Support
Street Seen
Anti-Fascist Action
Eirigi
Irish Socialist Network
Red Banner
Barracka Books (Cork)
Just Books (Belfast)
Residents against Racism
Latin American Solidarity Campaign
Rossport Solidarity Camp
Dublin Shell to Sea
Revolt Video
Anarchist Federation (Britain)
Class War (Britain)
LibCom.org (Britain)

Meetings:

12.30 pm

What Sort of Ireland Do We Want?
Speakers from Workers Solidarity Movement, Irish Socialist Network and Eirigi discuss Revolution

1.30 pm

Polish Anarchists in Ireland
ID Cards in Britain: Anti-Working Class?
Anarchist Federation Speaker tackles Big Brother

2.45 pm

Death by Garda
Laurence Wheelock on his family's fight for Justice
The History of Anarchism in Ireland
WSM members speak on the history of anarchist ideas in Ireland

4 pm

The Rise of the Left in South America
Three South American Speakers
Anti-War Meeting
Rossport: In Defiance of the State
John Monaghan from Rossport on the struggle against Shell

5.15 pm

Syndicalism and Ireland
Emmet O'Connor, author of "Syndicalism in Ireland"
Anarchist Women
Speaker from Revolutionary Anarcha-Feminist Group
Organise! - What We're At
Speaker from Organise!
William Thompson and Socialism
Paul Bowman on the ideas of the man that James Connolly described as 'the first Irish socialist'

12 pm - 6.30 pm Sat. March 2nd, Teachers Club, 36 Parnell Square
Entry Free. All Welcome.