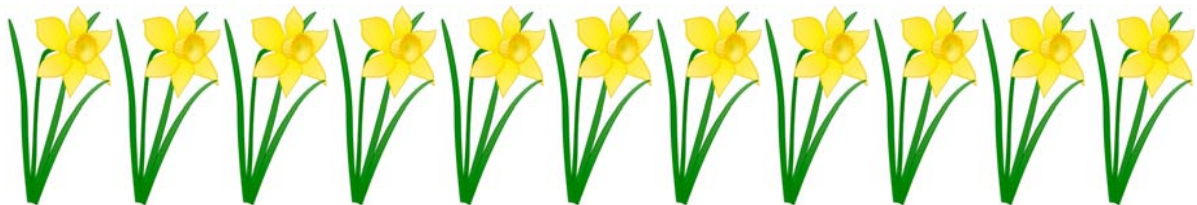


NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 – April 2010



NEW PFC OFFICE IN ARMAGH

This is your invitation to the grand opening of our new Armagh office!

Geraldine Finucane will join us at 12.30 on May 12th at 67 Upper English Street, BT61 7LA (phone: 02837 515191)

We look forward to seeing you and showing you around.

There is ample free parking 100 metres away in "The Shambles Market", at the bottom of the Catholic Cathedral steps.

We are now closer to many of you and easily accessible (no stairs).

Look on it as your new "home from home" in Armagh where the kettle is always on the hearth and a warm welcome awaits any time you want to talk over any concerns – or just have time for a chat and a coffee/tea.

HANDS OFF THE HET! (BUT DON'T PANIC – YET)

Many of you will have been listening with growing concern to arguments over the budget and lifespan of the HET. The chief constable apparently wants it wound-up within three years.

The PFC opposes any such apparent arbitrary timescale, believing that – although the HET is a flawed process and has left some families disappointed – it is still worth pursuing in the absence of any better alternative.

While it may be possible for the HET to finish its work within three years, we think it is unlikely - given current staffing levels and the amount of work outstanding.

Some of you have already received draft HET reports - while other families are waiting, with increasing impatience, for work to begin on their cases.

We are in a state of "prepared alertness" in case the funding situation deteriorates. Should a campaign be required, we will be seeking your support.

Watch this space!

STAFF NEWS

Maggie O Connor travelled to Macedonia as a facilitator on a Criminal Justice and Policing Exchange for the "MOST" (or "bridge") programme. The delegation spent time both in the capital, Skopje, and rural villages - meeting along the way the Macedonian deputy prime minister, human rights agencies, the Ombudsman, police officers, ex-combatants and people involved in teaching and youth justice.

Alan Brecknell continued as an active member of the NI Victims and Survivors Forum and the Southern Region Trauma Advisory Panel (chairing one of its meetings).

Anne Cadwallader spent a day helping the Bloody Sunday families with media relations/interviewing.

Cunningham Literary Prize

The Department of Foreign Affairs has sponsored the "Henry Cunningham Human Rights Essay Award" to commemorate the life Henry Cunningham. He was a 17-year-old construction worker, killed by the UVF when they opened fire on a van taking a mixed workforce home to Donegal along the M2.

The annual competition is open to all transition-year students in secondary schools on the Inishowen Peninsula and has a €500 prize.

BLOODY SUNDAY

The Bloody Sunday families' campaign to "Set the Truth Free" is gathering pace. The families are, so far successfully, battling attempts to release the Saville report for scrutiny to the Ministry of Defence before they see it.

The Campaign has new offices (beside our's in the Rath Mor Centre) – Unit B5. For further information contact: Press Officer Julieann Campbell: 07889 720080, email: julieann@setthetruthfree.org or Mickey McKinney on: 07889 720082, email: mickey@setthetruthfree.org

**OUR NEW FAMILY ROOM, ARMAGH
DROP BY ANY TIME AND WE HOPE TO
SEE YOU AT THE MAY 12th LAUNCH!**



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