

# THE IRISH JOURNALIST



Newsletter of the National Union of Journalists in Ireland

Spring 2019



## #WeStandwithLyra



We gather in grief. We gather in anger.

Grief at the loss of a woman of passionate commitment, of integrity, imagination and generosity. Anger at the murder of an innocent worker killed because she was in the wrong place at the wrong time: collateral damage in a senseless act of politically motivated violence.

We also gather in hope.

Lyra McKee refused to accept that change is impossible. She knew well what it was like to struggle against great odds, but she never lost hope. She belonged to a new generation and sought to achieve change with love in her heart and without an ounce of hatred.

Lyra marched to the sound of a different drum.

To you who took her life; to those who supplied the gun; to those who exploited the alienation of young men living without the sense

of purpose which propelled Lyra McKee I can only say: There is nothing 'new' in what you have to offer.

Lyra represented the future.

Lay down your guns and look for a new path away from senseless violence.

The voices of workers, of victims, of long-suffering communities deserve to be treated with respect. Too many workers have had to wear the unrequested crown of martyrdom.

Workers like the former secretary of NUJ Belfast branch, Martin O'Hagan, so long a feature of the May Day rally in Belfast.

Our message is clear. The violence must cease. No more martyrs. No more victims.

— Séamus Dooley, Irish Secretary,  
May Day Rally, Belfast

INSIDE: NUJ stands with Lyra: pages 2-4; May Day in Belfast and Derry: pages 6-7; Living history: pages 10-11

## #WeStandwithLyra

### EDITOR'S NOTE

# Standing together

Journalists and allies around the world marked this year's UNESCO World Press Freedom Day just weeks after the senseless killing of journalist Lyra McKee in Derry.

At a seminar in Belfast, Séamus Dooley, Irish secretary, recalled Lyra and the late Martin O'Hagan. He reaffirmed the NUJ's unwavering support for justice to be delivered in those cases, and for journalists Trevor Birney and Barry McCaffrey.

He also warned of ongoing threats to journalism. Noting that newsrooms are being starved of resources, he said, "If we are to serve democracy then we need the resources to report, to critically analyse and to engage in

informed, investigative journalism."

We stand with Lyra and Martin and everything they exemplified – courage, integrity, the relentless pursuit of truth through the best of investigative journalism. Such journalism is at the heart of democracy.

And we also stand together against threats to our profession and its standards, mindful that these threats do not come from external forces alone.

### Stay in touch

The Irish Journalist wants to hear from you. Let us know what's happening in your branch. Contact the Irish Journalist by email at [irishjournalist@nuj.ie](mailto:irishjournalist@nuj.ie).

*Carolyn Farrar, editor  
Derry and North West branch*



Outgoing Vice President of the European Parliament, Mairéad McGuinness, flanked by Dearbhail McDonald, left, and Aileen O'Meara take part in the vigil walk from the Garden of Remembrance in Dublin. Photo: Courtesy of Sasko Lazarov.



#WeStandwithLyra

# Stanistreet slams hypocrisy

The NUJ has condemned an attempt by the dissident group Saoradh to intimidate media through a statement that the union described as “menacing and arrogant”.

The statement from Saoradh came after the PSNI carried out a series of raids in Derry on May 16th, in relation to last month’s fatal shooting of journalist Lyra McKee.

Saoradh claimed a film crew was with the PSNI and claimed the crew “took part in the home invasions and where [sic] clearly complicit in the attacks on Republican families”.

The Saoradh statement said this “may in future, given the environment, endanger members of the press who do go about their profession in an impartial and objective manner”.

In a joint statement, Michelle Stanistreet, General Secretary, and Seamus Dooley, Assistant General Secretary, said journalists would not be intimidated by direct or indirect threats in their coverage of the police investigation into Lyra’s murder.

The NUJ statement said: “We note the statement issued by Saoradh. The tone is menacing and arrogant. This is a clear attempt

to intimidate journalists covering the investigation into Lyra’s murder.

“The NUJ has confidence in the ability of our members to cover this story in a professional manner. We are unaware of the specific circumstances of yesterday’s raid.

“The concern expressed for human rights and for the safety and welfare of working journalists is hypocritical in the context of the murder of our member Lyra McKee. So too is the demand for an NUJ investigation into the presence of media representatives in the area during the raid.

“We understand that in the statement issued to the media, Saoradh provided pictures of the media crew, clearly intended to send a ‘message’.

“Our message to Saoradh is clear and unambiguous. NUJ members will continue to do their work in a professional manner and will not accept either threats or lectures on standards from an organisation which responded in such a callous fashion to Lyra’s murder.

“The best way we can honour the memory of Lyra McKee is to continue her fearless work in exposing social justice and inequalities.”



News staff at Q Radio paused to stand with Lyra McKee on the day of her funeral in Belfast.



West of Ireland branch members Stephen Corrigan, Bernie Ní Fhlatharta, Declan Tierney and Judy Murphy signing the Book of Condolences at City Hall in Galway which was opened by Mayor Niall McNelis.

#WeStandwithLyra



Former NUJ president Barry McCall, Member of Honour Kevin Cooper, Belfast, and Dublin members at the vigil outside the Hugh Lane, Parnell Square. From left, Ronan Quinlan, Barry McCall, Kieran Fagan, Kevin Cooper, Gerard Cunningham, John Brophy, and Seamus Kelly.

## ‘I know this is my vocation’

By Kathryn Johnston

At the foot of the steps of St Anne’s Cathedral in Belfast I watched as mourners carried out the coffin of my friend and colleague Lyra McKee.

I was part of a 100-strong NUJ Guard of Honour standing there to mark her passing, the latest victim of the Northern Ireland Troubles. Lyra had been eight when the Good Friday Agreement had been signed 21 years to the day from her death. Now she had joined its more than 3,000 victims.

The long shrill calls of a couple of seagulls echoed through the silence as her body was carefully placed in the hearse which would take her to her final resting place in Carnmoney cemetery on the outskirts of her native North Belfast.

The silence was in stark contrast to the spontaneous applause which had erupted from the huge crowds who paid tribute to her life, work and spirit as she was carried into the cathedral at 1 pm that afternoon.

Just one week before, at exactly 1 pm, I had been sitting in the assembly hall of St Louis Grammar School in Ballymena as six victims of the Troubles from the Wave Trauma Centre brought in their photographic exhibition, ‘Injured on That Day’.

History and politics teacher, Denise Johnston, had launched the school initiative to help prevent teenagers from supporting violence.

‘We want to give them an objective narrative of the past.’

When Lyra was the same age as these pupils, she won the Sky News Young Journalist of the Year Award, 2006. She had just finished her GCSEs at St Gemma’s school in North Belfast, where the 16-year-old wrote about the high rate of young male suicide, one of the most tragic legacies of the Troubles.

The night after that school launch, on Easter Thursday, Lyra had been reporting on riots in Creggan, when she was shot by a gunman from the dissident group the New IRA who fired blindly towards police, journalists, and onlookers. She died instantly.

That morning, she had phoned me to hear how the St Louis event had gone. Lyra had a deep and questing curiosity of the Troubles, which had largely finished before she went to secondary school.

She was on her way to Derry, to meet the love of her life, Sara. The two had met twelve months before and Lyra planned to propose to her when they went on a trip to New York this May. The ring was in her mother’s house in Belfast.

She died by Sara’s side, in pursuit of the second love of her life, investigative journalism. In 2006 she had told the BBC, in an interview about her Sky award: ‘I know this is my vocation, this is just what I want to do.’

*(Continued on page 5)*



## #WeStandwithLyra

As the funeral of Lyra McKee began in Belfast, RTÉ staff gathered to give her a minute's applause.



*(Continued from page 4)*

The interview makes for hard watching. The slight, glowing schoolgirl in uniform, grinning confidently. 'It's shown me what I can do.'

I had known Lyra since 2006. Lyra was a kind, courteous and thoughtful young woman, desperately eager not to offend the sensitivities of those, like me, who might be twice her age. I remember having lunch with her in the Kitchen Bar, on the corner of Belfast's Victoria Square, when I got momentarily irritated with her for explaining hashtags to me.

We ended up laughing, as we so often did. I don't want to make Lyra sound like a plaster saint. She had a feisty temper. She also had the dirtiest laugh I had ever heard. And she didn't back down.

Many of her published investigations have been shared around the world in these past weeks. She had crowd-funded and written her first book, 'Angels With Blue Faces', about what she told me was the real story behind the murder of the Rev. Robert Bradford MP, which is due to be published by Excalibur Press this year. She was halfway through the first of a two-book publishing deal from Faber & Faber.

In 2012, in a disarming tongue-in-cheek essay for her online publication, Muckraker, that listed Northern Irish investigative journalists she described herself in this way: 'Me: Works through to 3am most nights, permanently exhausted. Needs a haircut but doesn't have time to get one.'

<https://muckrakerdotme.wordpress.com/2012/08/07/whats-next-for-the-muckraker/>

By 2016, Forbes magazine had echoed her

confidence by including Lyra's name in their elite international list of 'Thirty under Thirty' people to watch.

In St Anne's Cathedral, I sat behind British Prime Minister Theresa May, Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Karen Bradley, First Minister of Northern Ireland Arlene Foster and her Deputy, Michelle O'Neill.

I joined those in the congregation who spontaneously rose and applauded when Belfast priest Father Martin Magill asked: 'Why in God's name does it take the death of a 29-year-old woman with her whole life in front of her to get us to this point?'

Mourners outside joined with us inside as we saluted her life and echoed his words. Viewers watched the unprecedented scenes live-streamed by Sky News and BBC. In Queens, New York, where they had heard that Lyra and Sara had planned to get engaged this year, the Irish Writers and Artists Association watched as they planned a festival and reading of Lyra's work in June.

In her foreword to Paper Trailers, *The Cold Case Detectives*, a collection of victims' stories, published by victims' campaigner, writer and researcher, Ciarán Mac Airt, Lyra wrote:

'Every story has a beginning, a middle and an end. So does this one. It can be summarised as a bullet, a bullet and a bullet.' She gave her share of proceeds from those sales to Paper Trail, a charity which helps all survivors of the conflict investigate the deaths of their loved ones during the Troubles.

We echo the words of Ciarán Mac Airt: 'The story of Lyra McKee does not end with a bullet. Her family and friends will see to that.'



## #WeStandwithLyra



Members and officers of the Derry and North West branch at the vigil for Lyra McKee, organised by the branch and the Derry Trade Union Council on Good Friday at Guildhall Square, Derry. Following a minute's silence, the hundreds of people gathered broke into spontaneous applause in honour of Lyra. Photo: Tom Heaney, nwpresspics.



Hundreds of people observed a minute's silence in memory of Lyra McKee at Newry Town Hall during a special vigil on April 20th. Photo courtesy of BBC.



Media professionals in Limerick took part in a vigil co-ordinated by the NUJ Irish South West branch on Tuesday, April 23rd. Branch chairperson Norma Prendiville reminded those attending of President Michael D Higgins' words: An attack on journalists, in any part of the world, is an attack on truth. Photo: Michael Cowhey, courtesy of Limerick Leader.



NUJ members were among the thousand people who gathered at Belfast City Hall on April 19th for a vigil to remember Lyra McKee. Above, John O'Doherty, director of The Rainbow Project, read from Lyra's, "A Letter to My 14-year-old Self". Photo: Kevin Cooper.



'And we're still at it in our own place, Still trying to reach the future through the past, Still trying to carve tomorrow from a tombstone': Noel O'Grady sings "The Island" at the Dublin vigil. Photo: Sasko Lazarov.



# NUJ hails victory for student journalism at Trinity College

THE NUJ has warmly welcomed the outcome of a referendum at Trinity College Dublin rejecting an attempt to cut funding of the University Times newspaper.

University Times is published by the TCD Students Union but enjoys editorial independence.

Editor Eleanor O'Mahony found herself the subject of a sustained campaign following an expose revealing initiation ceremonies by a secretive, all-male society known as the Knights of the Campanile.

The NUJ responded to request for support from the University Times editorial team.

In a statement supporting the UT, NUJ Ethics Council Chair, Prof Chris Frost, described the way editorial staff investigated the practice of hazing by a secretive male-only society at TCD as being "beyond reproach and consistent with the highest professional standards of public interest, investigative journalism."

The investigation into activities by members of the Knights of Campanile was published in the March 19th edition of the newspaper. UT reporters stood close to the apartment of the president of the society and overheard taunts, jeers and degrading insults as an initiation ritual was conducted.

As a result of the investigation, the newspaper was accused of breaching ethics standards by the editor of rival newspaper, Trinity News, while the Students Union called a referendum which would have starved the newspaper of funding.

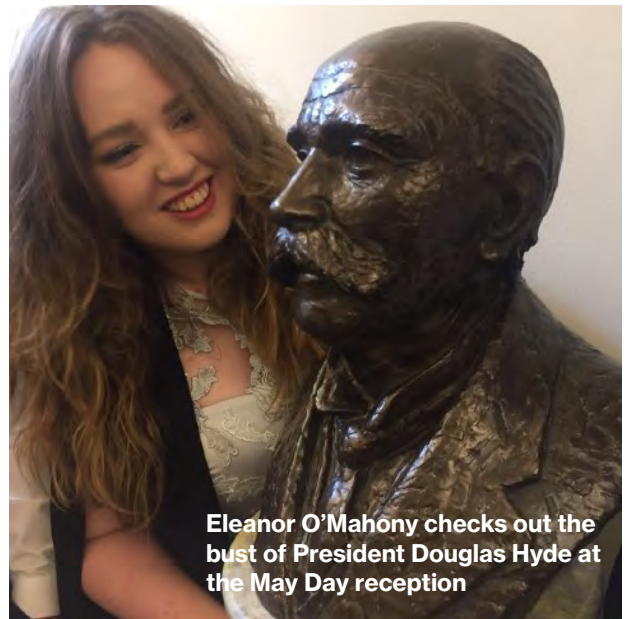
However, returns showed 74 per cent voting against the funding cut in the April referendum.

In the run up to the referendum Séamus Dooley, Irish Secretary, addressed a public meeting in TCD and stressed that the role of University Times was the same as any other community newspaper. The issue was no less important because it was a student newspaper and as student members the journalists were entitled to support.

The support of the Ethics Council, the NEC and the IFJ was greatly appreciated by the new



"Well done, congratulations" was the warm May Day greeting of President Michael D Higgins to the editorial team at the University Times when introduced by Séamus Dooley, Irish Secretary. Pictured, from left: Edmund Heaphy, former editor; Séamus Dooley; President Higgins; Eleanor O'Mahony, Editor; and Donal MacNamee, Deputy Editor. The president was aware of the recent threat to funding at the title and in his address stressed the importance of independent student journalism.



**Eleanor O'Mahony checks out the bust of President Douglas Hyde at the May Day reception**

members at University Times. In a letter to the Irish Secretary, Eleanor said:

"This is obviously so much bigger than just one story and one newspaper and I hope that this national conversation that has been started does good in the long-term for the media in Ireland and particularly for student journalism."

The editorial team were guests of the NUJ at a May reception hosted by President Michael D Higgins to celebrate youth activism and were introduced to the President by the Irish Secretary.



## May Day in Belfast and Derry



Bernie Mullen, branch secretary and joint chair of the NUJ's Irish Executive Council, addresses the May Day rally in Derry. Pictured on right are Derry and North West members Paul Gosling; branch officers Felicity McCall and Phil Mac Giolla Bháin; and Bernie Mullen, branch secretary and joint chair of the NUJ's Irish Executive Council, at the May Day rally and march in Derry.



Owen Reidy, assistant general secretary, ICTU, at left, and members of the Northern Ireland Committee, Congress join the NUJ outside Belfast City Hall. Photo: Kevin Cooper.



## May Day in Belfast and Derry



Séamus Dooley addresses the May Day rally in Belfast. Photo Kevin Cooper.



Lyra McKee's sisters Joan and Nichola stand shoulder to shoulder with the NUJ outside Belfast City Hall for the May Day rally and march on May 4. Above, from left, Séamus Dooley, Robin Wilson, Joan, Nichola, and Bob Miller. Photo: Kevin Cooper.



NUJ members walking in silence through the streets of Belfast accompanied by members of the McKee family. Pictured, from left, Séamus Dooley, Irish Secretary, Lyra's sister Nichola and her husband John, Lyra's sister Joan, and Kathryn Johnston. Photo: Kevin Cooper.



# Carson leads Stormont tribute at Workers' Memorial Day ceremony

'Let Lyra's light continue to inspire hope for communities'

At a wreath-laying ceremony to mark Workers' Memorial Day on April 29th in the grounds of Stormont, trade unionists stood in tribute to murdered journalist Lyra McKee.

The victim of the shooting in Derry at Easter was recalled as "a journalist's journalist" by Gerry Carson, joint cathaoirleach of the NUJ's Irish Executive Council, who paid tribute to Lyra's dedication and commitment to her profession.

Organised by the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, the annual event marks the annual commemoration of those killed or injured in the course of their work.

In his remarks to the cross-union gathering, Gerry said: "Democracy dies in darkness. That's the strapline which the Washington Post carries proudly on its website and on its front page.

"However, when darkness threatens, it takes but one small candle to shine its light and point to a hope for much more brightness. That darkness fell swiftly just 10 days ago when a light which shone ever so clearly, was extinguished by the bullets fired by a criminal with death in his intent," he said.

"Lyra McKee, our journalist friend and colleague, so strong in her membership of the National Union of Journalists, a rising star of news and literature, a prize winner with prospects of a glittering career, cut down in the name of freedom, by the assailants who sent youth into cowardly action, will live on in the memories of those who held her dear," Gerry said.

"Darkness did indeed descend on the Creggan district of Derry that evening, a community which had long thought that the mayhem of the all too recent past was fading into history.

"And that darkness was enlightened by the spotlights of world headlines when on the following day, politicians of all parties here joined together to inspire a hope that the candle which was Lyra, would shine ever more brightly in her death.



**Gerry Carson addresses the Workers Memorial Day ceremony at Stormont.**

"How she must have felt honoured when at her funeral, there with her partner Sara, and her mother Joan and family, politicians from all shades from Ireland, and the United Kingdom, gathered to celebrate her life and renew that call for progress and more light on our failed political systems.

"Journalists are killed worldwide for simply doing their job. And that is precisely why Lyra was on the streets of Derry ten days ago. She was doing her job. She was a journalist's journalist. Let her death not be in vain.

"And let her light continue to inspire hope for communities, for those marginalised for whom she was a committed advocate, and for those we entrust to act as our leaders," he concluded.



# Eugene McGee: proud champion of the local

By Fran McNulty

It is sometimes difficult to separate the man from the myth. Not so when speaking about Eugene McGee. Anyone who knew Eugene, knew that the image of being gruff, direct and sometimes lukewarm did not explain Eugene McGee. It was a manifestation of his shyness: He was reserved, considered and charitable, but exacting.

McGee was a tough newspaper editor. He demanded standards and expected his staff to perform. Alongside that he had an appreciation for how tough it was to work in local media. When he took over the Longford Leader it had come through a torrid and lengthy strike.

He remained a member of the NUJ and when veteran reporter and NUJ activist John Hughes died suddenly, McGee invited NUJ members to a gathering in his honour at his desk.

Despite an extensive career in the national media he had a real love for local journalism, and the contribution it could make to communities. Eugene McGee earned his first pound in journalism in the Irish Press, where he worked as a sub-editor. He also worked with Brendan McLua in the Gaelic Weekly. When McLua moved to London to establish The Irish Post, McGee followed. But his time there was short and he returned to Ireland.

On McLua's recommendation he became the lead GAA writer for the Sunday Press, the biggest selling newspaper of the time, selling half a million copies every week. Despite this, McGee once recalled his mother remarking that she never saw his name mentioned in the paper and questioned whether he was working there at all! He, like many others, was writing under a pen name, which according to McGee himself, "was all the rage at the time".

In the 1980's he worked under Editor Vincent Browne at the Sunday Tribune, as a GAA writer, alongside Eamon Dunphy and David Walsh. Few might recall that for a period he was also a panellist on the Sunday Game on RTÉ Television. Having written at a national level for all those years in his own words, "I graduated then into the Longford Leader."

This speaks to Eugene McGee's view of local media; he saw it as a step up. He would assume the title of Editor, which ranked high in rural Ireland, alongside County Manager, State Solicitor or Bishop, but rubbing shoulders with



Eugene McGee with Mick O'Dwyer at the 2014 launch of his book 'The GAA in My Time' by Eugene McGee. Croke Park, Dublin. Photo: Matt Browne / SPORTSFILE

the elite was not his wont. Those who worked under him as Managing Editor all speak of a tough but fair boss; a kind man, who took reporters under his wing and minded them. He could be searingly tough but tremendously kind and decent when it came to personal matters.

Journalists think of Eugene McGee as one of our own. The country thinks of him as a GAA man. He was both and he managed to marry both quite well. His time as Offaly manager – delivering All-Ireland winning glory – was mixed with his career as a journalist and he once described that as writing behind his own back. There was a conflict and it did not sit easy. It was a time as a journalist which McGee himself said, "I never enjoyed so much."

Eugene was a GAA man to the hilt. He could openly criticise the organisation because he was of it, he understood it. He started that apprenticeship as a young boy travelling to games in Croke Park with his brother, Fr. Phil McGee. Later in the 1970's as a student in UCD he was involved in the administration of the club and training teams. In a sense he was a new broom in the GAA. In later years when the old guard was resisting the development of coaching, he became a huge advocate. McGee spent years selling the concept of coaching at grass roots level, some in the GAA saw it as a move towards professionalism. Eugene saw that as a good thing.

Most of all things Eugene McGee was a family man. Through the years, I remember him a few ways. Sitting together in Gerry Greggs sharing a quiet drink of a Thursday evening. Behind the large desk in the old Leader office on the Market Square, resplendent with sleeve garters. In later years I see him walking up the Battery Road, with his beloved daughter Linda, breathing in the fresh air, at his happiest I imagine.

*Fran McNulty is the Chair of the NUJ RTÉ sub-Branch, an NUJ activist and Longford native.*

## CELEBRATING LIVING HISTORY

# Tony Mulvey: A remarkable 60-year career



Front row, from left: Garry Cotter, editor, Nenagh Guardian; Seamus Hayes, freelance, formerly sports editor, Clare Champion; Carol Byrne, Clare Champion, incoming chair, NUJ SW; Tony Mulvey; Norma Prendiville, Limerick Leader, outgoing chair, NUJ SW; Colman Garrihy, freelance; Anna Nolan, freelance; and back row, from left: Mary Dundon, head of journalism, University of Limerick; Nicola Corless, marketing and communications manager with Lero; Dan Danaher, Clare Champion; Tracey Walsh, chief sub editor, Clare Champion; Gerry McInerney, deputy editor Clare Champion; Austin Hobbs, former editor, Clare Champion; Nick Rabbitts, secretary NUJ SW, Limerick Leader; Jessica Quinn, Clare Champion; Missy Knowles, freelance. Photo: John Kelly

On Thursday, November 22nd last, the Irish South West branch held a special event to mark the retirement of Tony Mulvey from The Clare Champion after 60 years of service with the company.

To mark this extraordinary achievement, the branch honoured Tony with a citation and the presentation of a piece of sculpture commissioned in recognition for his outstanding contribution to journalism and to his union throughout that time.

At the event, Tony produced memorabilia including his late father George's union dues book – between them they had more than 80 years' service to journalism.

Tony's union involvement began in 1971 when he was a founder member of the Clare Champion Chapel, a chapel that still boasts full union membership and continues to strive for better pay and conditions for our workforce.

Tony was also to the fore in representing the chapel as part of a national movement that sought and won an overtime allowance. This was when the NUJ initiated a work to rule nationally and Tony ensured that the chapel did not give an inch.

Tony also served his time as a branch officer with Irish South West. At a time when this branch looked after Cork, North Tipperary, Clare, Kerry and Limerick, he served in the very difficult role of treasurer for a number of years.

Tony marked his 60th anniversary week at the Champion rather quietly. He submitted his copy from the Liscannor coursing meeting and wrapped up a few stories he still had in his notebook. Professional to the very last.

Two major awards highlight his enormous contributions: Some years ago, he was presented with the Hall of Fame Award by the Clare Association in

Dublin and he was also the first journalist to be accorded a civic reception by Clare County Council.

On Monday, October 5, 1959, Tony Mulvey opened the door at O'Connell Street for his first day at work at the Champion. One of Tony's first major stories – an international scoop – was the initial siteworks for the Shannon Free Zone in the early 1960s.

"Nearly 60 years on, I'm proud to say I broke this story. The free zone is the most important business and industrial location in the Mid-West; it evolved on the back of the airport," Tony said.

But when it comes to politics, Tony is in his element.

"I love it. Local, general, presidential or European elections, it doesn't matter, it gives you plenty of material to write about. I've a good rapport with politicians and supporters of all sides; they know I've a job to do and they know I will give a right of reply. That is something young journalists should remember," he said.

Appointed chief reporter in 1974, Tony served as acting editor on many occasions up to his retirement in 2006. He was delighted to be given the opportunity by the Galvin family to pursue his love of journalism on a part-time basis since then.

"It was my ambition to reach my 60th anniversary milestone with the Champion and it's great to achieve this," he said. "I can look back at working with some great reporters, some of whom went on to work in other newspapers or other media forums. I have enjoyed my work and have been privileged with the opportunities journalism has given me."

Tony is married to Margaret from Killimer and they have four children, George, Shane, Claire and Mairead; and five grandchildren.

*From a story by Austin Hobbs that ran in The Clare Champion, and a story submitted by Carol Byrne, chairperson of the NUJ SW branch.*



# Jim Eadie at 90

Jim Eadie is one of only two living trade unionists featured in Vol 2 of *Left Lives in Twentieth Century Ireland*, which was launched last month in Liberty Hall, Dublin.

Edited by Francis Devine and Kieran Jack McGinley, *Left Lives* is published by Umskin Press. Jim, the first secretary of the NUJ in Ireland, features alongside veteran Dublin Council of Trade Unions Secretary Sam Nolan.

James (Jim) Eadie was born in Stonepark, Roscommon town on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1929, so the publication comes on the eve of his 90th birthday.

Jim is profiled by his friend and successor Séamus Dooley in an essay which recalls Jim's career as a journalist and union official but also, at his insistence, dwells on his sometimes overlooked prowess as a Gaelic footballer.

Entitled "The Accidental Official", the chapter gives an insight into Jim's early life as a journalist before he was appointed Irish Organiser after the original nominee Pat Nolan opted not to accept the post in curious circumstances outlined by Séamus.



Jim Eadie at the launch of *Left Lives in Twentieth Century Ireland*, Vol 2. Pic: NUJ

## Ten shillings for smoking, pictures and dancing

Jim Eadie was educated at Roscommon CBS and earned a reputation as a tough, uncompromising half forward when he lined out on the school Gaelic football team in the Connacht Colleges Cup Final in 1947, the year of the Big Snow, against St Jarlath's College, Tuam.

Such was his prowess on the sports field that he was encouraged by the Christian Brothers to repeat his Leaving Cert in 1948, but a successful objection by St Jarlath's in the first game of the season saw Eadie disqualified and instead acting as umpire alongside future All Ireland winner Frankie Stockwell of Tuam.

The partisan Eadie provoked controversy as he and Stockwell disagreed on every score. "We lost that game despite my best efforts. I abandoned secondary school, leaving college football and umpiring behind me."

Eadie decided to pursue a career in journalism, joining the female dominated secretarial course at Roscommon Vocational School, "sitting in the back row learning shorthand and typing".

Keeping up his interest in football with St Coman's club, he got to know Roscommon Herald sports journalist and future editor Michael O'Callaghan, who encouraged the youthful Eadie's interest in journalism.

O'Callaghan's advice was direct and sensible.



NUJ rejects: Jim Eadie with Eoin Ronayne and Séamus Dooley. All three encountered difficulties joining the NUJ but went on to serve as Irish Secretary.

"Keep on reading, keep on writing. Stick at it."

O'Callaghan's colleague Jim Flanagan was equally encouraging. In 1950, Roscommon Herald shareholder and County Surgeon Dr Jock

*(Continued on page 14)*

# Recruitment should be a top priority, branches are told

Branches were asked last November to focus on recruitment for the week of November 12th, under the theme, “Strength in Numbers – Building Your Union.”

Events that branches in Dublin held during that week drew particular attention to the ongoing and wide-ranging work of the NUJ across Ireland and across the sectors.

Those events included a screening of the documentary, “No Stone Unturned”, accompanied by a panel discussion with producer Trevor Birney; a seminar on covering courts with Chief Justice, Mr Frank Clarke; a Women at Work lunch at the Gresham Hotel with special guest Sian Jones, NUJ president, and guest speaker Dr Laura Bambrick, ICTU social policy officer; and a seminar on making the FOI work for you with journalist Ken Foxe.

But while that week may have come and

gone, the need to build our union must continue to remain a priority for all of us.

Recruitment is of critical importance following the decision of last year’s NUJ Delegate Meeting to reject an increase in membership subscriptions, which has left membership growth the only way to maintain current services.

We all have a role in this. Branches should be in touch with chapels to see how this work of recruitment can be facilitated on the ground in workplaces. Every one of us can talk to colleagues who are not members about the value of NU membership. Don’t limit recruiting to your workplace – talk to other journalists, staff and freelance, that you see in your travels.

The Dublin office can provide literature and links useful for recruitment to branches or chapels.

As ever, we’re stronger together.

## Ten shillings for smoking, pictures and dancing

*(Continued from page 13)*

O’Hanrahan was sufficiently impressed to offer Eadie the opportunity of a probation, with the approval of his partners, Paddy Nerney and C.E Callan.

Probation meant long hours and hard work. “Two pounds and ten shillings a week. Ten shillings for smoking, pictures and dancing and the rest on digs in Boyle. On Monday morning my mother gave me cash for the bus from Roscommon and Boyle.”

As a general reporter he was also required to tout “for sales and advertising”. Eadie recalled hearing of the advances made by the NUJ in the national agreements of 1947 and decided to apply for union membership to the now defunct Athlone and District branch. He was admitted to membership on April 1st, 1951, but not without a disagreement.

He was at first refused admission to the branch, on the basis that he was only a probationer. The logic applied was that the

union was for permanent staff and if they took on probationers they would have to defend them if they were not taken on permanently. It was an experience which shaped his attitude to trade unionism and as a full-time union official Jim Eadie was always committed to the welfare of young recruits. He was especially alive to the use of union rules to unfairly restrict entry to the profession.

Coincidentally his successor as Irish Secretary, Eoin Ronayne, was also refused membership of the union first time round, because he had been working on an illegal pirate radio station.

In turn, Séamus Dooley succeeded Ronayne, having also suffered the indignity of rejection by Athlone and District branch in 1981 on the basis that he was “a Communications student masquerading as a journalist”, the Eighties equivalent of a probationer!

*From Left Lives in Twentieth Century Ireland, Vol 2.*



# NUJ President attends 'Women at Work' event in Dublin

NUJ President Sian Jones told a Women at Work lunch organised by the Irish office of the NUJ that childcare was a barrier to women becoming more involved in the union.

A mother of young children herself, Sian admitted she would not be able to do her job without the necessary additional family support.

Sian was the special guest at the lunch, held at the Gresham Hotel as part of the union's Strength in Numbers recruitment week programme.

The guest speaker was Dr Laura Bambrick, Social Policy Officer with ICTU, whose opening presentation detailed the historic development of women in the workplace.

Bernie Mullen, joint Cathaoirleach of the IEC who hosted the event with the NUJ President, welcomed the opportunity for women to get together to discuss how they can play a more active role based on their experiences.

She said she hoped that the event would be the first of a series of such meetings aimed at helping to develop a union-wide strategy to recruit more women and encourage them to become more active at all levels of the NUJ.

Addressing the need to recruit more women, Sian said: "The number one reason they don't join is because nobody has ever asked them." She said she joined the NUJ during a "recruit a colleague" push while relatively new to her workplace.

Urging women members to invite others to sign up, she said: "Do ask them to join, ask them to do something and give them support in terms of childcare," pointing out that the NUJ will pay for childcare for those who want to attend a delegate meeting.



NUJ President Sian Jones pictured with some of the NUJ women who attended the 'Women at Work' event in Dublin during Recruitment Week.

"And if people say no, let's find out the reason behind that," the union president added.

She said the NUJ continued to be "a really vibrant union" that can bring about positive change for its members not just in terms of the employment and legal protections on offer, but also for the professional networking, campaigns and policy work it actively leads.

The working lunch was attended by NUJ women activists from the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland, drawing women from provincial and national print, broadcast, freelance, communication and PR sectors, as well as DIT staff and media students.

Participants also took part in a roundtable discussion on ways to recruit more women to the NUJ and to encourage more participation by women at all levels of the union.

The issue of the gender pay gap also came up for discussion, as well as concerns over job security for women returning from maternity leave.

During the discussion, the role of Irish women journalists was also recognised in terms of achieving social change.

# Noteworthy offers new funding model for investigations

Public asked to indicate what are the stories they would like to see probed

Journalist Ken Foxe has teamed with TheJournal.ie on a platform they hope will offer a new model for funding investigative journalism that the public wants to see.

A beta version of the site, Noteworthy, has been online at [www.noteworthy.ie](http://www.noteworthy.ie) since April, and accepting submissions from the public.

Noteworthy asks the public to tell them about the stories they want to see investigated, and use those ideas to create proposals, determining how best to tell those stories in depth, and how much they will cost. Noteworthy then publishes the proposals, asking the public to fund their team of reporters to research and tell those stories.

The initiative raised more than €8,000 in its first week, enabling them to fund seven projects. Noteworthy is also supported by Google's Digital News Innovation Fund.

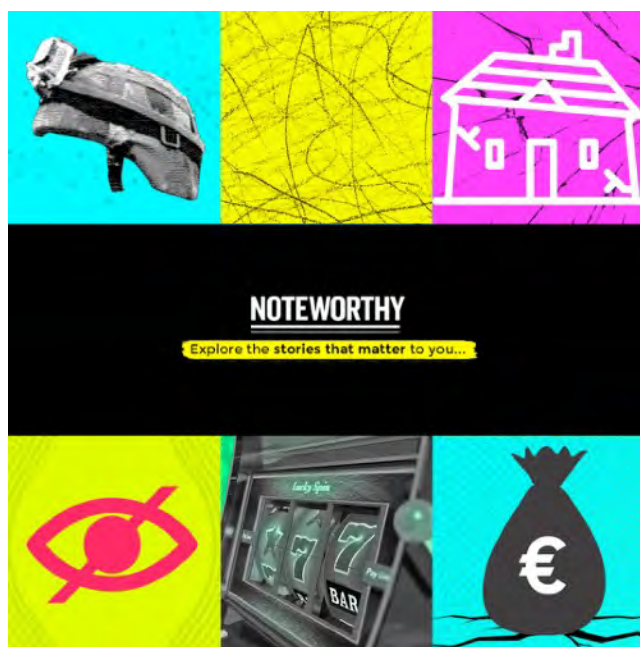
"So far it's worked quite well," Ken said. Ken is editor of Noteworthy, working with Adrian Acosta, chief executive, Journal Media; Peter Bodkin, special projects and investigations editor at TheJournal.ie; Barry O'Sullivan, developer; and Palash Somani, web designer.

Completed Noteworthy investigations are published online at TheJournal.ie and [noteworthy.ie](http://noteworthy.ie).

Stories published so far cover a broad range, including: Meningitis C vaccination rates of 'critical concern' as anti-vax sentiment pushes take-up rates below targets; Not so fast: Only 10 of 27 developments given special strategic planning have begun construction; and 'Nobody seems to care': Why some children face years of waiting for 'early intervention'.

Ken said the project also tries to create close connections with readers.

"If they have issues, local or national, that aren't getting the attention they deserve we'll try to turn them into proposals," Ken said. "We



know more in-depth investigative journalism is a difficult proposition for a lot of media organisations at the moment because the old funding models are somewhat broken, and they don't lend themselves to investing a lot of time or resources into stories.

"It's something everyone is dealing with," he said.

Noteworthy has been receiving a lot of story suggestions, and the team determines which are suitable to become a proposal. Some may also need some tweaking – the ideas may be too vague, for example, or too small a scale.

## Funding models

Noteworthy offers two funding models – crowd-funding for specific proposals and a general fund for projects that perhaps cannot be made public or are otherwise unsuitable for crowd-funding.

As Noteworthy develops, they would like to create work for freelance journalists and look at partnering with regional newspapers and other local media organisations.

"If there were issues they felt they didn't have the resources or time to get stuck into, maybe we could come up with an arrangement to work on things together," Ken said. "Those things are for the future."

*Ken can be contacted at [ken@noteworthy.ie](mailto:ken@noteworthy.ie).*



# Marking UN World Press Freedom Day



The NUJ joined with other trade unionists to mark the United Nations World Press Freedom Day with a joint seminar, *Why Journalism Matters*, organised by the NUJ Belfast and District branch and the United Nations Association of Northern Ireland. The seminar, dedicated to the late journalist Lyra McKee, was held on May 3rd in the Linen Hall Library in Belfast and included several speakers and a panel discussion and question-and-answer session.

A photographic exhibition, "News and Views", compiled by former Belfast Telegraph photographic editor Gerry Fitzgerald, opened the exhibition, and on show was the Plaque dedicated

to former NUJ Belfast Branch secretary Martin O' Hagan, who was murdered by loyalist killers in 2001 for simply doing his job.

The panel of speakers, above, from left: Gerry Carson, joint cathaoirleach, NUJ Irish Executive Council; Trevor Birney, Fine Point Films; Séamus Dooley, Assistant General Secretary, NUJ; Jim Boumelha, European Federation of Journalists; Pat Irvine, chair, United Nations Association of Northern Ireland; Colin Wrafter, former Irish Ambassador to South Africa and director of human rights unit at the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and Angelina Fusco, former BBC TV news editor. Photo: Kevin Cooper.

## Council of Europe backs freelance rights

The NUJ welcomed the Council of Europe's determination confirming self-employed workers are entitled to collective trade union representation and negotiations with their employers.

The decision of the Council of Europe's committee of ministers followed an earlier decision of the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) and relates to a complaint that was originally lodged on behalf of self-employed workers by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU). The complaint was supported by the NUJ and our sister unions,

including the Services Industrial Professional and Technical Union (SIPTU), the Musicians Union of Ireland and Equity, the trade union for creative practitioners.

The determination affirmed the European social charter in regard to the right to collective bargaining and applied this principle to self-employed people, including freelance journalists.

It was also decided that restrictions based on existing competition law or commercial law are not legitimate or necessary in a democratic society.

The European decision was in line with the Irish Competition Amendment Act (May 2017), which allowed collective bargaining for journalists and artists. The changes in Irish law were the result of trade union campaigning.

Seamus Dooley, NUJ assistant general secretary, said, "It is another breakthrough in the battle to assert the rights of freelance workers. For too long competition law has been granted primacy over the rights of workers."

## AROUND THE HOUSES

# Success for Belfast Media Group

The newly reorganised chapel at the Belfast Media Group (Andersontown News, North Belfast News, South Belfast News) scored a big success after the company announced plans for redundancies.

The company said it needed to make two reporters, one photographer, one layout and design person, and one sports reporter redundant. Ian McGuinness, Irish Organiser; Gerry Carson, joint Cathaoirleach of the IEC; and the FOC met with management.

Three staff members applied for voluntary redundancy and NUJ urged the company to go to the LRA to avoid conflict, after the company refused the NUJ's request to open its accounts to an agreed third party. Eventually the company

agreed to go and progress was made at the LRA, but a fourth staff member later volunteered for redundancy.

At the end of the LRA meeting, the NUJ shared with the company a unanimous statement from the chapel saying they wanted to be balloted for industrial action if the company proceeded with making anyone compulsorily redundant, and that it would vote in favour of industrial action and take it.

After receiving four applications for voluntary redundancy, the company does not intend to force the issue on the final post.

There were no compulsory redundancies, one redundancy did not proceed, and the chapel laid down a marker that it would not simply accept what management wanted it to do.

## Contracts issue dominates the agenda at RTÉ

The issue of bogus self-employed contracts continues to dominate the industrial relations agenda at RTÉ.

A significant measure has been reached with management on regularising the employment status of workers engaged on bogus self-employed contracts.

However, RTÉ has insisted that even workers with long service are not automatically entitled to retrospective rights and will be granted contracts with a start date of 2019.

Irish Secretary Séamus Dooley told the April meeting of the IEC that retrospection is a "core principle" not just of the NUJ but of the ICTU.

"If a worker has been wrongly categorised as self-employed and forced to accept a wrong contract there is no justification for not recognising past service. Failure to recognise service has implications for pensions, for the unfair dismissals act, for rights under redundancy law and can lead to a denial of various payments. Management want to discuss retrospective right after contracts have been signed but we feel this must be sorted out as part of the initial process," he explained.

Recently an unemployed member working for another media outlet won a landmark case against her employer who had forced her to accept a bogus contract. An investigation by the



Scope section of the Department of Social Protection revealed that she was wrongly categorized and as a result the employer faces significant penalties and a tax audit while the reporter secures retrospective payment. She decided to take the case having been denied career's' allowance on the basis of her [false] self-employed status.



# Busy times by the Lee

Since the acquisition of the Examiner Group by The Irish Times, the Group of Unions has secured a number of improvements to terms and conditions.

An additional two days annual leave were given to new joiners, with anyone on 20 or 21 days moving to 22 days; those on 22 days moving to 25 days after five years' service; and those on 25 moving to 26 after 10 years' service.

New fathers will get a top-up of their social welfare payment for the two weeks they are off, to bring their income up to their weekly norm.

The company has agreed that if operationally feasible, people will be able to take an unpaid block of leave during term time, and can spread the resultant reduced salary over 12 months.

The company will also provide digital journalism training and said it will consider any training proposal from journalists that would help them develop skills beneficial to the company.

Also, staff members taking an education course relevant to their employment or in line with the company's objectives would have their course tuition fees paid by the company on completion of the course.

The company has also agreed to undertake an audit to see what software, hardware, and



equipment is needed for journalists to do their jobs.

There were no acting up allowances, but the company has agreed to pay one when a person acts up for a block of more than five weeks. The company will also conduct an audit of the expenses and allowances policies to ensure that they are in line with best practice and taking into account Revenue Commissioner guidelines.

The company has also agreed to engage with the Group of Unions on a Dignity in the Workplace policy and an Equal Opportunities policy.

## New NI agreement an INM first in sixteen years

A new house agreement was signed with INM NI, giving minimum pay rates for journalistic posts, an extra day of public holidays, improvement to annual leave entitlements, and a 2 per cent pay increase.

There were some significant increases to the pay of posts, including an increase of £2,500 for journalists/reporters.

The pay claim of 2 per cent was applied back to the start of the year, while the increase in minimum pay rates took effect on March 1st.

The agreement was signed with the assistance of the Labour Relations Agency,

after our members voted overwhelmingly to take industrial action, up to and including strike action. Following that vote, and some press coverage, talks took place with the Irish Organiser and senior management, which brokered the deal.

This is the first house agreement at INM in 16 years and is a great achievement for FOCs Christopher Woodhouse and Steven McAllister.

Meanwhile a new chapel with reps has been established at the Western People newspaper, which is owned by The Irish Times, via the Examiner Group.

**'NO STONE UNTURNED'**

# Judicial review is expected to begin this month

The judicial review brought by journalists Barry McCaffrey and Trevor Birney, into the legality of PSNI search warrants used to raid their homes and offices, is expected to begin in Belfast High Court later this month.

The documentary film by Barry and Trevor, "No Stone Unturned", investigated the UVF massacre of six civilians in Loughinisland in 1994 and raised questions of collusion in the RUC investigation into the murders.

The NUJ and its members have strongly supported the two journalists since police raided their homes and offices in 2018 and arrested the men over the alleged theft of confidential documents relating to the massacre.

Trevor and Barry were met by a large number of supporters outside court on March 20th, when lawyers representing them challenged the search warrants and argued in court that there was no evidence in the public interest for the redactions made to the search warrant applications by Durham Constabulary and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

The joint event held in March outside the court, organised by the NUJ and Amnesty International, was addressed briefly by NUJ Irish Secretary Séamus Dooley and Patrick Corrigan, Amnesty International's Northern Ireland Programme Director, and also attended by Alison Millar, vice president of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), in a show of support.

Speaking in front of the court in March, Séamus called the hearing technical in nature but hugely important.

"Justice should be administered in daylight and not in the dark," he said. "In order to comprehend the reason why the original warrants were granted it is vital that the entire proceedings are available. Barry, Trevor and their legal teams cannot adequately vindicate their rights with their hands tied behind their back.

"It is obvious that barriers are being put in place at every turn in this case," he said. "The strain on two working journalists and their families cannot be underestimated. Amid the legal arguments and technicalities it would also be easy to forget that those responsible for the Loughinisland murders remain at large, grieving families are still denied justice and only journalists seeking the truth are at risk of



Pictured outside the court in Belfast at the joint event held in March are, from left: Alison Millar, Trevor Birney, Barry McCaffrey, Séamus Dooley and Patrick Corrigan.

criminal convictions."

In December, the meeting of the NUJ's IEC expressed its outrage at the further bail imposed on Barry and Trevor at that time. Members of the IEC also attended a protest at Musgrave PSNI station in December.

Joint Cathaoirleach of the IEC, Gerry Carson said at the time: "The continued targeting of the two journalists by the police is simply unacceptable. Members stress that the PSNI should be concentrating on bringing the killers to justice, not arresting journalists who bring to light vital information that is in the public interest."

Gerry also said that as the IEC met in December, preparations were under way for a special showing of 'No Stone Unturned' at the NUJ's headquarters in London, one of a number of special screenings of the film held across the union in recent months.

"So the PSNI and Durham Constabulary should be under no illusion that the NUJ in Ireland and Britain is standing shoulder to shoulder with our colleagues and will continue to do so for however long their ordeal continues," Gerry said.

"The PSNI needs to stop this fishing expedition and instead invest their efforts into catching the killers," the joint cathaoirleach said.

Trevor and Barry have also received a message of solidarity from the NUJ Black Members' Council.

Paying tribute to the two journalists, BMC Chairperson, Marc Wadsworth, said: "This is of crucial importance to journalists everywhere. This is a critical battle for the right of journalists to tell stories."



# Live tweeting from court limited to journalists and lawyers

The Chief Justice, Mr Justice Frank Clarke, has announced a new practice direction that limits the use of tweeting in a courtroom to bona fide journalists and lawyers.

The chief justice made the announcement at a seminar on courts and court reporting that the Dublin Press & PR branch of the NUJ hosted for journalists last November.

“It is clear that there needs to be guidelines regarding the ‘who, when and what’ of using social media in courtrooms,” the chief justice said. The practice direction, signed by the presidents of all the court jurisdictions, limits the use of court-based data messaging and electronic devices to bona fide members of the press and bona fide lawyers with business in the courts.

“Both sets of professionals know the limits of what they can report and when. Others in court will be unable to text or message from the courtroom – in any form,” the chief justice said. Gerry Curran, media relations advisor with the Courts Service, told the Irish Journalist that court reporters had sought this clarification, which for the first time formally extends the permission to use electronic and social media in the courtroom to journalists.

Speaking at the seminar, the chief justice added that “if the experience of the operation of this practice direction provides evidence that it needs to be reinforced by new legislation, we will ask for this to be considered”.

He also said that the issue of legal reform of contempt and privilege should be addressed to take cognisance of the new reality of instant communication.

“The impact of any changes needs to be discussed with the legal professions, DPP, CSS, and An Garda Síochána,” he said.

## Integrity of a Fair Trial

The Chief Justice told the NUJ seminar that “the key legitimate concern of the courts is to



ensure the integrity of the trial process and the maintenance of a fair trial system. The potential for unregulated social media to have an impact on the fairness of the trial process itself is, in my view, a legitimate and particular concern of the judiciary.

“To date it has been rare that courts in Ireland have had to use contempt of court laws to curb inaccurate and disruptive online communications about cases. But it would be extremely naïve of us not to plan for the future in this regard.”

At the same time, he said that the print and broadcast media have given very little cause for concern in how they report and comment on court cases, saying, “In general they do so honestly, diligently and with great skill.”

However, he said, “We must acknowledge that some concerns over social media are both widespread and real. There are genuine concerns over the dissemination of false and malicious claims – which damage social debate, learning, and understanding.

“Such false claims can come just as much from the organised and powerful as they can from the single contrarian in a basement, or a ‘hobby journalist’ in a courtroom,” he said.

# Unlocking a hidden family history

What journalist, writer, and broadcaster Felicity McCall thought would remain a family story has become her latest book.

*Tombstones Lie, An Imagined Memoir* (Hivestudio Books, 2019), grew into a deeper work of uncovering hidden relationships, and a new appreciation for sacrifices of past generations. Felicity began that journey about four years ago, armed with four sepia-toned photos and family lore.

She wanted to know more about her father's family. She knew her grandmother, Jinny, was not married when Felicity's father was born, and that Jinny died at age 40 after an unhappy marriage.

"For any girl who wanted to keep her child and acknowledge her child, it inevitably meant a very, very hard life," Felicity said.

Felicity also knew her father was partly reared by Maggie, a woman who had also looked after Jinny. Both women died before Felicity was born; her father passed away in recent years.

In her memoir, Felicity brings the women to life through inherited stories. Maggie was a brave figure, rearing her own children as well as her younger siblings. She put her philandering husband out of the house. Jinny never revealed the father of her oldest child. These women did not take an easy road.

Ultimately, the information she uncovers transforms her understanding of those relationships and particularly of those women.

A member of the Derry and North West branch and a near 40-year member of the NUJ, Felicity was with the BBC for 20 years in news and current affairs; and is the author of 21 works, including novels, non-fiction, and plays.

*Tombstones Lie* has struck a chord with audiences at readings and its recent Derry launch, and Felicity is planning workshops to support women in telling their own stories. She would like her memoir to serve as a



Felicity McCall reads from her new book, *Tombstones Lie, An Imagined Memoir*, at the Derry launch at the city's Central Library.

catalyst for people to explore the women in their families.

"It's just about finding out who those women were, and acknowledging them, and paying tribute to them," Felicity said.



## Ann's latest novel is a chart hit

The latest novel by well-known Irish Examiner court reporter Ann O'Loughlin, 'My Mother's Daughter', entered the Irish bestseller charts in its first week of publication.

'My Mother's Daughter' (Orion, 2019) was launched at Dubray Books on Dublin's Grafton Street.

Ann's debut novel, *The Ballroom Café*, was a worldwide Kindle bestseller and an Irish bestseller. Her other two novels, 'The Judge's Wife' and 'The Ludlow Ladies' Society', were also Irish bestsellers.

Ann's books have been translated into 10 languages and are also published in the United States and Australia.



Hilary McGouran, Deputy Director of RTÉ News, Ann O'Loughlin, author, and Clare Hey of Orion Books at the launch of Ann's novel, 'My Mother's Daughter', in Dubray Books, Grafton Street, Dublin. Photo: Conor Ó Mearáin

A French court case about two children swapped at birth is the inspiration for Ann's fourth novel, 'My Mother's Daughter'.

## Photography's rights and restrictions

A new book by freelance photographer Michael O'Flanagan details the rights and restrictions on taking and publishing photographs in Ireland.

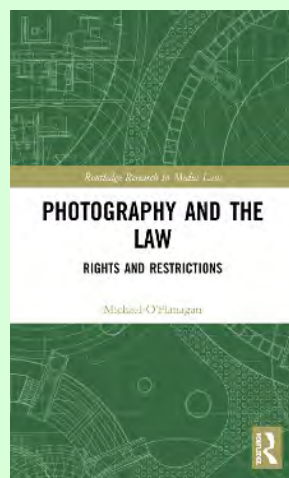
"The taking of photographs is one issue," Michael said. "Publication is completely separate."

"Photography and the Law: Rights and Restrictions" (Routledge, 2018), Michael's first book, is based on his PhD thesis at National University of Ireland Galway's School of Law.

"There are a number of books on laws for journalists, but there wasn't a book dealing specifically with legal rights and restrictions on taking and publishing photographs, so basically it's filling that void and it's very much to the point," Michael said.

Photographers and publishers enjoy a wide range of legal rights, though these rights are not absolute. Michael's work analyses the legal restrictions and prohibitions that may affect those rights under Irish, UK, and EU law, and offers an analysis of the current legal standpoint on the relationship between privacy and freedom of expression.

Michael also suggests reforms and enactments to rebalance the relationship between an individual's rights, the responsibilities of the state, and the protection of photographers' and publishers' rights.



"Photography and the Law: Rights and Restrictions" is written for academics, law students, photographers, publishers, and editors, Michael said. "It lays out what the law is, both from the statutory point of view and from a constitutional point of view, and how that law is interpreted by

the courts," he said.

Michael, a member of the NUJ's Irish South-West branch, has won 71 awards (five gold, 45 silver, and 21 bronze) for his photographic work at the Irish Professional Photographers' and Videographers' Association's annual Photographer of the Year awards.

His NUI Galway doctoral research, *Taking and Publishing Photographs: The Legal Rights and Restrictions*, was funded by the university's School of Law RDJ Glynn Doctoral Research Fellowship.

"*Photography and the Law: Rights and Restrictions*" is available on Amazon and in bookshops.

## Seeking members' thoughts on stress in the workplace

The Irish Executive Council wants to hear from members about their experiences with work-related stress, and the tools they believe would be useful in addressing those pressures.

The Irish Executive Council is planning to organise a seminar around well-being in the workplace, in light of increasing demands on members.

At the December 6th meeting of the IEC, the council agreed on the seminar and established a working group to begin planning discussions for the event. IEC

members Siobhan Holliman, Carolyn Farrar, Phil Mac Giolla Bháin, Emma Ní Riain, and Anton McCabe were named to the working group.

The group would like to hear from members as they discuss plans for the event, to see what members feel would be of use to them. They hope to hear from people who are on staff and from freelancers.

Members are urged to send any suggestions to [irishjournalist@nuj.ie](mailto:irishjournalist@nuj.ie) by June 15th.

## Call to survey members in online and social media

The IEC has been asked to gauge the extent of union membership in online journalism and social media, and to survey journalists' experiences in those fields.

The Dublin Freelance branch has passed a motion calling on the IEC to ascertain membership in the sectors and consider running a 32-county survey of those members to determine their experience in the sectors, how the NUJ can help them, and how their co-workers who are not members might be encouraged to join.

The motion was proposed by Derek Speirs and seconded by Gerard Cunningham.

Gerard said: "Clearly the industry is changing and changing very fast and very dramatically, and that

obviously also has an impact, particularly on freelancers – how copyright is now dealt with in a business where it takes two keystrokes to reuse a photo, for example."

He said because of the level and rate of change, the branch felt the union should get an update on where the industry is, where people are working, and where the NUJ's resources should be targeted.

The motion arose from discussions at branch meetings and the joint NUJ-SIPTU freelance meeting held in 2018 on whether the NUJ could more effectively organise potential union members working in precarious and low-income jobs in the online journalism and social media sectors.

## NUJ welcomes Belfast ruling on protection of sources

The National Union of Journalists has welcomed the judgement in the Northern Ireland Crown Court which recognises the right of journalists to protect confidential journalistic sources and material.

In February, Mr Justice Colton rejected the application brought by Alex McCrory, one of the co-accused in an ongoing criminal trial involving Colin Duffy and Harry Fitzsimmons, against a Sunday World investigative journalist and NUJ member Paula Mackin.

Irish Secretary Séamus Dooley paid tribute to Paula Mackin and Northern Editor of the Sunday World Richard Sullivan for their strong stand in defence of media freedom. He noted that Mr Justice Colton, in setting out his reasons for rejecting an application to have the journalist hand over material and disclose information to the applicant had drawn heavily on the landmark Goodwin case, which the NUJ had successfully taken to the European Court in defence of press freedom.

The application sought three things, an order compelling the journalist to disclose source material; an order compelling the disclosure of journalistic source(s) who provided journalistic information; and compelling that journalist to attend the criminal trial and give evidence about the former matters.

The Defendant's application arose out of a series of criminal investigative reports published by the Sunday World.

The Court heard evidence from the investigative journalist and remarked that the journalist in reporting about certain events "was simply doing her best to recollect and communicate the gist" to her readers, and that the newspaper articles "related to a wide range of individuals who may be classed as dissidents".

When asked under cross-examination to disclose her sources she emphatically told the court that she was not prepared to disclose any sources. In protecting her sources and source material she informed the court of the confidential nature of sources and of their source material, and also of the risk to her life and also to her source's life. Justice Colton stated that Paula Mackin gave truthful evidence and he declined the defendant's application.

The defendants in the criminal case also made an unsuccessful attempt to compel disclosure of confidential journalistic source(s) and source material in the High Court.

Séamus Dooley said: "Paula and her editor stuck by the fundamental principles of the NUJ Code of Conduct. Coming in a week where members Trevor Birney and Barry McCaffrey have secured the right to a judicial review of police actions against them this is a good week for journalism in Northern Ireland."

He said, "Journalists must be able to do their work without fear of compromising their professional standards."

IEC joint Cathaoirleach Gerry Carson had represented the NUJ at the hearing.



# The need for transparency in online political ads

By Michael Foley

Legislation forcing social media giants such as Facebook and Google to disclose the source of funding for any political advertising that appears on our timelines and feeds is expected to be in place before the next general election.

The legislation was introduced by James Lawless, Fianna Fáil TD for Kildare North. The Online Advertising and Social Media Transparency Bill is modest in terms of the wider debate about regulating social media, protecting people's privacy and even combating fake news. But in the light of the advertising that appeared on social media sites before the referendum on the 8th Amendment, its simplicity is what might make it effective in bringing clarity to online political advertising.

As well addressing advertising during elections and referendums, it would also ensure transparency of the use of advertising during an industrial dispute.

The NUJ supports Mr Lawless' bill.

Irish Secretary Séamus Dooley and I, as vice chair of the Ethics Council, spoke at the Joint Committee on Communications, Climate Change and Environment when it considered the bill last June. Late last year a policy forum was held in Dublin Castle to consider issues surrounding online transparency and political advertising, attended by the Minister for Communications, Richard Bruton, Mr Lawless, NGOs involved in online regulation and privacy issues, lawyers, civil liberties groups, representatives of social media companies and the NUJ.

The wide-ranging discussion reflected the need for online regulation and the confusion surrounding the issues.

Richard Bruton spoke of the positive side of the Internet and its ability to strengthen democracy, but added that its 'destructive side' raised serious questions. There were powerful forces, and the internet presented a new way of waging war, he said.



Dr Alessio Cornia of Dublin City University said a study of the recent US presidential election identified real concerns about the influence of online advertising that came from "suspicious groups", many believed to have been Russian.

Something with "more teeth" than a voluntary code was needed to regulate online political advertising, he said.

Both Ryan Meade of Google and Niamh Sweeney of Facebook agreed on a need for clarity. Ms Sweeney had told the Oireachtas Committee that Facebook supported the bill but wanted clarification on who would determine if an advertisement was political.

"We accept that we have a greater responsibility to act and we are doing our best to do that," she said.

The most forthright contribution came from Joe Lynam, a former BBC journalist now with the European Commission, who told the forum that Russia wanted to break up the EU and would prefer to deal with less powerful nation states. The commission has set up a new unit to monitor and counter false narratives about the EU.

He said society must fight to preserve the truth. "The practitioners of disinformation have tens of millions of dollars in St Petersburg," Mr Lynam said.

An interdepartmental group on the security of the Irish electoral process established in the wake of Mr Lawless' bill found risks to the electoral process were relatively low, but the spread of disinformation online and the risk of cyberattacks on the electoral system posed more substantial risks.

The belated decision by Google to ban adverts relating to the 8th Amendment referendum and Facebook's announcement that they would only allow referendum adverts to be bought by organisations within the Republic of Ireland underlined the need for this legislation.

However, we cannot rely on voluntary actions by foreign-owned tech giants to protect our democracy.

*Michael Foley is vice chair of the NUJ's Ethics Council.*

# NUJ welcomes the end of uncertainty at INM Plc

Irish secretary repeats call for government to set up commission on the future of media

The National Union of Journalists noted the proposed acquisition of Independent News & Media Plc by Mediahuis NV and welcomed the end of a period of speculation about the company's future.

Séamus Dooley, Irish Secretary said the announcement was "of enormous significance.

"We welcome the announcement, to the extent that it ends speculation about the future of the company. That uncertainty, against the backdrop of boardroom battles and the surveillance of employees on the instruction of senior executives, has undermined the confidence of staff and been extremely damaging to morale," Séamus said.

"We note that the proposed purchaser has a track record of investment in editorial resources and states that it 'believes unreservedly in independent and quality journalism'.

The Irish Secretary said he looked forward to discussing with the proposed new owners their future plans for all platforms and titles, North and South.

"In this regard I would call on the current board and management team to remove the threat of

compulsory redundancies in the national and regional titles," Séamus said.

He continued: "In terms of the media landscape in Ireland the divestment of their shares in Independent News & Media Plc by the majority shareholders must be seen as a positive development. The retrenchment of the company and the lack of priority given to editorial development will be their legacy.

"If Mediahuis NV are committed to journalism and are prepared to invest in editorial resources their entry into the Irish media market will be welcomed," he said.

Noting that there are many changes facing the Irish media industry, Séamus said, "We again call on the Irish government to establish a Commission on the Future of the Media in Ireland.

"The issues of ownership and editorial control are of critical importance, but we also need to address funding models, access to the profession, the promotion of diversity in terms of staff, including gender balance, training and the role of public service journalism in the broadest sense," he said.

## Sadness at Indo deaths

The recent deaths of two former Irish Independent production journalists within a short space of time occasioned sadness in the chapel and among former colleagues.

Noel Reid (80) was former deputy father of the chapel at Independent House and was well known as a production journalist, racing commentator on radio and television and renowned in musical society circles.

Declan O'Byrne began his journalism career in the Roscommon Champion and later worked in the Irish Independent. He was an accomplished production journalist, tv critic, broadcaster and motoring journalist. Both worked under the late Vinny Mahon, Chief Sub, who died last year, and were loyal chapel members.

## Getting branches in motion for BDC 2019

It's time to start preparing for BDC 2019.

The biennial delegate conference takes place on Saturday, 16th November, in the Riu Gresham Hotel, Dublin.

Branches will receive their invitations to submit motions at the end of May, with a closing date of July 26th.

The same timetable will apply to nominations for the new Irish Executive Council, which will take up office immediately following the conference.





Jimmy Guerin (left) and his sisters Marie Therese Brannigan and Claire O'Brien, with Professor Brian MacCraith, DCU President, at the naming of the new Veronica Guerin Lecture Theatre at DCU. Photo: Courtesy of Julien Behal.

# Veronica Guerin is honoured by Dublin City University

Dublin City University has named a prominent lecture theatre after journalist Veronica Guerin.

The Veronica Guerin Lecture Theatre was formally named at a ceremony on DCU's Glasnevin campus. The naming forms part of the DCU Women in Leadership initiative, Project 50:50, which represents a commitment by the university to name 50 per cent of its major buildings and lecture theatres after inspiring women.

Professor Brian MacCraith, DCU President said: "The naming of the Veronica Guerin Lecture Theatre is a fitting memorial to her life and work. Veronica was not only one of Ireland's most fearless and dedicated journalists, she was also a trailblazer for equality who became the country's leading crime correspondent, in a male-dominated field."

Speaking on behalf of the Guerin family, Jimmy Guerin, Veronica's brother, said that the Women in Leadership initiative reflected the type of person that Veronica was: talented, ambitious, hard-working and brave.

"Talent must be fostered and encouraged and Veronica's Sunday Independent colleagues,

Ann Harris and her editor, the late Aengus Fanning, believed in Veronica's potential and they gave her confidence and supported her," he said.

Veronica served on the NIHE/DCU governing body from 1982 - 1992. In 2007, DCU's School of Communications and Independent News & Media established a scholarship in memory of the investigative journalist who was murdered in Dublin in 1996.

The Veronica Guerin Ireland Funds Fellowship, funded by the Ireland funds, was also established in 2017 and enables DCU journalism graduates to participate in the News21 programme delivered at Arizona State University's journalism school in Phoenix.

Bursary recipients were also announced at the event. Alix Renaud, a DCU journalism student, received the Veronica Guerin Memorial Scholarship. Alix receives €8,000, which is intended to meet the cost of her programme fees. Rachel Farrell was awarded the Veronica Guerin Ireland Funds Fellowship. This bursary of €10,000 means Rachel will travel to Arizona, where she will be part of a major news reporting investigation over the next three months.

# Training NUJ's reps for the future



NUJ activists gathered in the Teachers' Club, Dublin, recently for a two-day training seminar under the direction of Caroline Holmes.

The stage one Reps Training was a great success and brought together journalists from the print, broadcast and digital sectors, North and South.

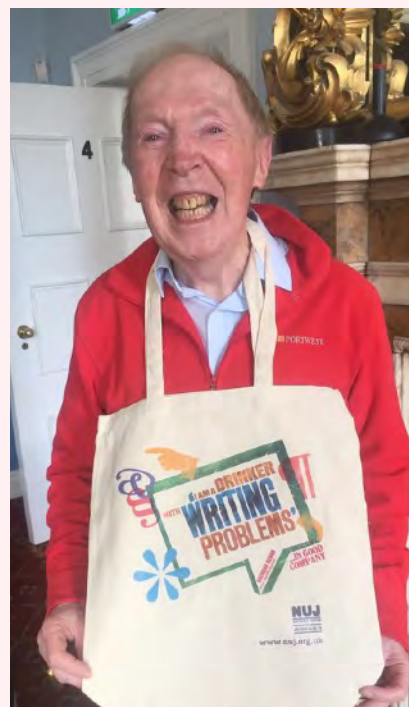
NUJ members attending the course were welcomed by longtime chief executive and friend of the NUJ, Tadhg Mac Pháidín.

Tadhg had a special word of welcome for tutor Caroline Holmes, and the tutor was intrigued to learn that the course was taking place in the

Above: Pictured at the opening of the training seminar were Cearbhall Ó Síocháin, RTÉ; Robbie Byrne, Beat 102/103; and Stephen Corrigan, Connacht Tribune. Right: Long time chief executive of the Teachers' Club, Tadhg Mac Pháidín, had a warm welcome for the participants. Photos: NUJ

same building where renowned music teacher Vincent O'Brien had taught Count John McCormack, Margaret Burke Sheridan and James Joyce.

Tadhg was presented with a tote bag celebrating a notable NUJ member of yore, Brendan Behan.



## NUJ vacancy on Press Council of Ireland

NUJ nominee Deaglán de Bréadún completes his final term on the Press Council of Ireland in July.

The Irish Executive Council will shortly be inviting expressions of interest for his replacement.

The new nominee will attend their first meeting in September.

Deaglán, a member of Dublin freelance branch, succeeded Martin Fitzpatrick, Dublin

(National Newspapers branch).

The following criteria will be taken into consideration: Membership of the NUJ; demonstrable commitment to trade union principles; broad range of media experience; evidence of commitment to professional standards; evidence of knowledge of and commitment to media freedom.

The nominee should be a working journalist with relevant experience in the newspaper sector.