

# Tíocfaídh Ár Lá

For Celtic & Ireland

Ezine Issue No.2 April 2010



# PLC

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**



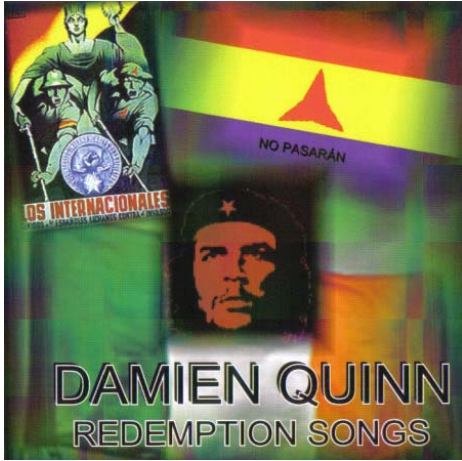
**PLC - TIME TO GO**

**PAUL HEATON**

**BLOODY SUNDAY**

**FUCK OFF!**

**ANTI-FASCISM**



## DAMIEN QUINN REDEMPTION SONGS

Track Listing: *God Bless This Lovely Land*; *Freedom Walk*; *Viva La Quince Brigada*; *Redemption Song*; *Auld Triangle*; *The Contender*; *Black Is The Colour*; *Deportees*; *Ordinary Man*; *Hiroshima Nagasaki*.

Damien Quinn's new CD is one that has rarely been off my CD player since I received it... Not only is it an Irish rebel album, its political content reaches out beyond the immediate rebel music buying public. The reason for this is Damien's selection of some fine tracks, which are obviously personal favourites and politically inspiring to him.

*God Bless This Lovely Land* is a great opener that is upbeat and full of optimism, sure to lift the spirits in any political climate.

Paddy McGuigan's *Freedom Walk* is a beautiful ballad that was also a call to action- well delivered by Damien and backing vocalist Karen Mathews.

*Viva La Quince Brigada* needs no explanation to readers of this fanzine. Still one of our favourites and well played and sung by Damien. The folksy arrangement of *Redemption Songs* works surprisingly well and gets the thumbs-up from this Bob Marley fan.

Brendan Behan's *Auld Triangle* and the traditional *Black Is The Colour* are two old favourites rarely performed these days.

*The Contender* is my favourite track on the album. Sentimental, melancholic, this true story delivered in song is very moving. Damien and Karen's vocals are outstanding on this track. As they are on the remaining tracks, all Christy Moore classics ably tackled by Damien... *Deportees*, *Ordinary Man* and *Hiroshima Nagasaki*... Songs that represent Damien's own broad politics.

By Talman

# Song Of The Diaspora

By Deano Provorhino

Throughout our Irish history we have journeyed 'cross the seas,  
We've fled from famine and oppression, persecution and disease.  
For one reason or another, our lovely land we've left behind,  
To the Irish diaspora, may your God to you be kind.

Well many sailed the sea to Glasgow from the homes of Donegal,  
They met with bigotry and poverty, the situation did appal.  
But a priest named Brother Walfrid kept the people from their grave,  
When he formed the Celtic Football Club the Irish poor to save.

People crossed the broad Atlantic to that land so far away,  
To be met at Ellis Island by the Lady in the Bay.

In the land we call America, their homeland never more to see,  
In their new lives far from Ireland in that land of liberty.

Some were sent off to Australia, on coffin ships they sailed,  
Many died during the journey, death and cholera prevailed.  
Bodies dropped diseased into the sea, in a watery grave they sleep,  
And to this day their ghosts still haunt the Ocean floor so deep.

And some journeyed o'er to England, to a place where they'd been told,  
That the neon lights shone brightly and the streets were paved with gold.  
But the reality was different, Paddy met with quite a shock,  
He faced hostility and predjudice when he landed on the dock.

Many people they despised us, and our' children lived in fear,  
There were signs "No Irish Need Apply", "No Blacks or Paddys wanted here"  
We were made to feel unwelcome, people treated us with scorn,  
"Second Class" the English called us, for in Ireland we were born.

We built the roads and railways while "John Bull" was still in bed,  
And we had our share of porter, but our families got fed.  
The work was fucking brutal and the ganger had no heart,  
But we'd line up every morning hoping Lang gave us the start.

They would take you down to Paddington and throw you in a cell,  
Beat you black and blue, and then some more, you'd think you were in hell.  
Then they'd frame you for a bombing, like they did to Paddy Hill,  
Sixteen years for being Irish-fitted up by the Old Bill.

From the Rocky Road of Holloway to the bars in Boston town,  
From Cricklewood to Queensland, Irish children they are found.  
To the far flung corners of the globe the Irish race has roamed,  
But our hearts remain in Ireland, that dear place that we call home.

So if you're a Southside Paddy or a New York Fenian Bhoys,  
From the Hills of Connemara or the Fields of Auchnacloy.  
My friend embrace your Irish history, your heritage and name,  
And be proud to be of Irish blood, never hang your head in shame.

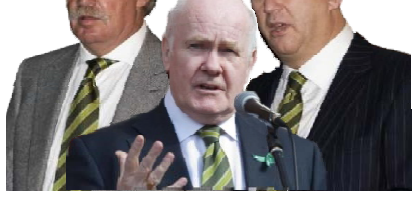
## TAL FANZINE

[www.talfanzine.com](http://www.talfanzine.com)

<http://talfanzine.proboards.com/>

Contact: [talfanzine@googlemail.com](mailto:talfanzine@googlemail.com)

# PLC



## FUCK OFF!

The dust had hardly settled on the departure of Tony Mowbray and his replacement by reserve team coach Neil Lennon than we suffered our most humiliating defeat of several years, going down 2-0 in the Scottish Cup semi-final to Ross County. If any defeat this season summed up the complete lack of fighting spirit in this Celtic side, then this game was it. Along with the 4-0 humiliation to a team that could not beat a 9 man rangers team only a few days before, the Ross County match summarised all that is wrong with the club.

It also brings into question the role of the PLC in selecting a suitable man for the Celtic job.

On the surface of it, Mowbray looked a reasonable bet, but his track record as a manager was not exactly littered with glory and should have been forensically examined by those who made the decision to appoint him.

It now seems that it is a *fait accompli* that Neil Lennon will be the next manager of Celtic, not because he has any particular ability as a manager, but more that he will come cheaper than anyone else mentioned as possible successors to Mowbray. And therein lies the rub...

Celtic PLC are operating on the cheap, downsizing while still selling the myth to the supporters that they have the best interests and continued success of the club at heart. Clearly on the evidence of the last two seasons at least, this is not the case. Little in the way of a budget was offered to Mowbray when he first arrived at Celtic Park and the addition of Robbie Keane and other loan signings in the January transfer window was too little too late.

But this has been a long time coming, only the dismal state of rangers when Strachan was in charge camouflaged the lack of investment by the PLC.

E-Tims, Steve Clarke put it well when he wrote recently:

*"...football is not a typical business. It does not conform to normal business rules and it does not have a standard product/customer relationship. In fact if it did then the vast majority of clubs would go out of business overnight. Disasters happen when boards lose sight of football's unique qualities. Investment has to be made with these qualities in mind, get it wrong and there is a mess to be cleaned up. The Celtic board have got it wrong, big style, they just do not have the guts to admit it. They just have not realised that a football club cannot be run as just any other business, they appear to believe there is no difference between Celtic Football Club and Primark."*

Clarke's conclusion – one that we at TAL fully agree with - is that those 'business brains' currently in charge at Celtic are not fit for the purpose of running a football club.

There has not since the days of the old board been a wider gulf between the board and the supporters. However, even now in our darkest hour in many years, the board still attempts to manipulate the anger of the Celtic fans and divert them from any close inspection of their stewardship of the club. John Reid's recent outbursts about the state of refereeing in Scotland was a cynical political manoeuvre that unfortunately hoodwinked two of the most respected supporters organisations – the CSA and The Celtic Trust – into making an ill-advised statement threatening to boycott away matches should the SFA refuse to initiate a new review procedure. The fact that the SFA were already privately considering and agreeing to a new reviews process was probably known to Reid, but not to the supporters who were taken in by him.

If there's one thing that we should learn about John Reid it is that he has spent his life spinning stories for his own political ends. He was a political fixer for the Labour Party all his life and now he has assumed the role of political fixer at Celtic. Reid and his ilk must be removed from the board of Celtic PLC.

The Celtic Trust is a very laudable organisation, with much the same goals of fan ownership of the club that this fanzine has championed since day one. As the only viable alternative to the PLC strategy of maintaining profit at all costs (including on-the-pitch costs) the Celtic Trust deserves our support. TAL FANZINE would urge all Celtic fans who really do have the best interests and continued success of Celtic FC at heart to join the Celtic Trust and help them in their campaign to have the supporters represented at boardroom level, and ultimately to replace the present PLC with a football club that is truly of the fans, for the fans, and by the fans.

<http://www.celtictrust.net/>

By Talman

## TAL EDITOR'S COLUMN

The first issue of the TAL Ezine went down very well, judging by the reaction to it. We'd like to thank all of those who read it and commented on it.

One article that aroused much controversy was our criticism of the Alerta Network. In general, the consensus of our forum members was that we said what needed to be said in relation to the issues of anti-nationalism, pro-Zionism and anti-fascism. It was necessary for TAL to clearly define our own political anti-fascism and the differences between our approach and that of Alerta and the groups within its network. As republican socialists we cannot encourage a relationship with any Israeli grouping that does not challenge Zionist imperialism in the Middle East, and which does not recognise the very borders that it lives within and the injustices done by the Israeli Defence Force in the enforcement of the occupation and blockade of Palestinian land. Those few individuals that did visit our forum to register their disagreement with our views were, in general, abusive, incoherent and politically inconsistent.

We accept that a couple of our assertions were incorrect - minor errors - such as the inclusion of Bohemians Prague in the Alerta Network. This group is not a member of Alerta.

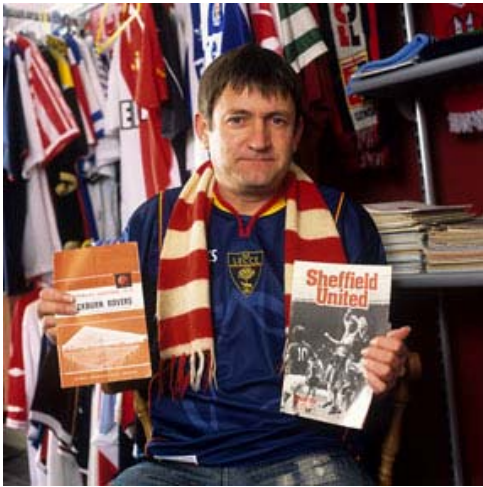
There is a more important point of confusion, which gives the impression that the term *No Nations No Borders* is applied to Alerta as an organisation, but in fact when read another way actually points the finger at 'Alerta's leadership' which is very clearly interpreted throughout the article as being the Ultras Sankt Pauli. That point should have been more clearly put as the following - *"One of the slogans favoured by the USP is the laughable 'No Nations - No Borders' "*

We want to make it very clear to our many friends at Sankt Pauli that the political critique of the USP is simply that - a critique of the politics of the USP. It is not a political critique of ALL St Pauli fans and should not be interpreted as such. We recognise that the USP is only one group at St Pauli and that, although it is loud, it does not represent the political views of the majority of St Pauli fans.

We will return to the issue of building a principled anti-fascist alliance among football supporters in Europe in the next issue of the Ezine. In the meantime, we look forward to developing our contacts with those groups and individuals who agree with the basic AFA principle of fighting fascism, both physically and ideologically.

# Paul Heaton - Sharp Blade

Former Housemartins and Beautiful South frontman Paul Heaton was a recent guest in the Green Room, TAL Forum's interview area. Paul discussed music, football and politics with us in what turned out to be one of the best ever interviews given to TAL.



Will there ever be a Housemartins' reunion, even for a big one-off gig?

**PAUL:** As far as the Housemartins are concerned, I don't go back to wet T-shirts.

Have you ever encountered bias or bitterness in the music industry because of your political views?

**PAUL:** The Housemartins were removed from Number 1 at Christmas on the morning of the charts, directly in response to something I'd said live on radio 1 about Margaret Thatcher.

The Beautiful South had the fastest selling British album ever with 'Carry On Up The Charts', how did you find it so hard to get a recording deal for your latest album with stats like that behind you?

**PAUL:** Unfortunately history counts for little in the current climate. Otherwise it would just be me and a series of Black Lace / Brotherhood of Man type acts in the charts. Now we'd all want that wouldn't we?

In regards to bands reforming do you think this has a negative effect on new music?

Looking at last year's Glastonbury line-up the headliners were almost all older groups Bruce Springsteen, Neil Young, CSN, Madness, Specials, Blur, Nick Cave etc. Although there has always been the older crowd puller but now festivals seem saturated by them and it seems to me a lack of ambition in promoting new music over the tried and tested big sellers/crowd pleasers.

**PAUL:** I absolutely agree with that even though I am what you would call an older artist. There seems no point in going to a festival just to see what you can hear on a jukebox.

Are you a fan of any Spanish, or I suppose more broadly speaking, international groups that don't sing in English? Maybe when doing international festivals you will

have had the chance to see other groups that may not be well known in the UK but are famous in their respective countries?

**PAUL:** I am a fan of quite a bit of French hip-hop, Rajan and Sajan Mishra, the Spanish band Edwin Moses, particularly their *Love Turns You Upside Down* album, and of course, Manu Chao.

What bands influenced you growing up and if you could get to duet with anyone dead or living, who would it be?

**PAUL:** From an early age I listened to Soul and Country and also was physically moved into joining a band by Punk. Any music played well and sung well still inspires me. If I had to choose one individual person to sing with it would involve a time machine and Memphis Slim, the Blues singer.

Is 'The Rising of Grafton Street' by the Beautiful South in reference to the Easter Rising?

**PAUL:** Not intentionally  
LOL - but we can claim it for Ireland anyway!

**PAUL:** You certainly can!

Can you give us an insight into the Lyrics of the song "Poppy" and the motivation for writing it?

**PAUL:** It was roughly to say any imperial war is always likely to be a case of hoodwinking the working class.

The bands that you've been part of have run as collectives with all being equal and getting an equal share, what kind of reaction did you get from record companies and other artists to that kind of socialist approach in a band?

**PAUL:** I've only ever been greeted with bafflement and patronisation when it comes to my politics. Don't forget, during a Red Wedge meeting I walked out because when I suggested that the record business should be nationalised I was shouted down. These are the artists that you thought had a socialist approach.

Are there many/any others who have the courage of their convictions?

**PAUL:** There are, but their convictions have changed.

With regard to Red Wedge, what do you think of Paul Weller's politics, was he too close to Labour at that time and has he shifted right or left since then?

**PAUL:** Paul Weller has always swung from centre right to centre left but remained a great writer. He is never going to shift massively either way again, but that's not a criticism.

**Billy Bragg** however seems to be moving onto dangerous ground with some of his recent arguments. Check out <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4DxBm8>

Any plans to play Glasgow soon and will you be cycling here? Can you tell us what the *Pedals & Beer Pumps Tour* is about and where we can catch you on tour?

**PAUL:** Details are on [www.paulheatonmusic.co.uk](http://www.paulheatonmusic.co.uk)

You were born in Merseyside, ended up in Hull and you're a big Blades fan, what is the connection with Sheffield United and what is the first match that you remember going to?

**PAUL:** I moved to Sheffield when I was 4. My first United Match, 5-0 against Villa. All downhill from there!

What was your first steel city derby match and what was the score?

**PAUL:** Probably Gerry Young testimonial 1970 0-0

Who is your favourite Blades player of all time and current time. and why?

**PAUL:** Geoff Salmons - style and grace

Have you ever been to an "OF" match?

**PAUL:** I've never been to an "OF" match, never been to a match in Scotland.

I believe that you have watched football in countless countries, what is your favourite other team, and have you updated your Top 5 detested teams since 2005? If so what are they?

**PAUL:** Lecce in Southern Italy... As for hated sides that changes every hour of every day.

What got you into Italian football?

**PAUL:** My Dad got me into Italian football, he had style and grace.

I hear you're a good friend of Sheffield United's BBC lads (Blades Business Crew). Did you ever get caught up in any trouble at the football with them, and if so what was the most memorable 'ruck' you were involved in?

**PAUL:** There are those on the coach that tell jokes, there are those on the coach that fall asleep, then there are those on the coach who like to fight. I was the one who told a joke that caused half the coach to fall asleep and the other half to fight. No comment!

Favourite Adidas Trainer?

**PAUL:** Any Adidas Yoshimura, particularly black ones

What are your thoughts on the state of the modern game of football?

**PAUL:** Footballers as the work force are surely only the pimple, the beer gut, double chin of what the industry itself is devouring. When those in the upper echelons "why have those representing the game become so bloated?" they have to look carefully at the expensive swill that they have offered as bribes and treats to the already bloated. Ha! Weren't expecting that were you?

Ha ha! – No, I wasn't.

You are quoted as saying "everything is political", a view shared by most here. Has it led to many sticky situations for you?

**PAUL:** No, not at all. I'm proud of my politics, I'm proud of a long line of political argument in this country and all over the world. There is nothing that unites me with a person, stranger or friend like a good discussion, argument or fall out over something that both people value.

I read an interview you gave when you were playing in Ireland and you mentioned an instance in your Housemartin days where a man was wearing a 'Hang Nelson Mandela' t-shirt at the front of the gig, and you and the band took direct action against him. Were there any other notable instances of when the band took direct action against racists and was that sort of thing common at shows?

**PAUL:** He wasn't wearing a t shirt, he was wearing a badge and I immediately noticed another badge stating 'kill a commie for mommy'. He was working as a roadie and I told him that I was a commie and what was he going to do about it? I then made him take the jacket off which he did and turned it inside out, spat on it and made him put it back on again. The only other time we had trouble with the vocal right was when somebody 'sieged' at a Northampton gig, whereby I picked up my microphone stand and attacked him.

As a Marxist and anti-fascist, what do you think is the best way to tackle the rise of fascism and the BNP in Britland?

**PAUL:** Firstly argument, secondly the bombing of the press and other medias, thirdly direct physical action.

Following on from what you were saying about tackling anti-fascism... What are your opinions on the UAF and how they are tackling the situation with the 'EDL' - right approach, or wrong approach?

**PAUL:** I would only repeat firstly the argument to them how many Muslims do you actually know? The answer is always none. How many radical Muslims do you know? The answer is always none. Does your suspicion of the community of Islam arise from any first

hand experience? The answer is always No. Finally, does your impression of Islam come from anything other than the paper you read and the television station you watch? These people in the EDL are not the people who speak to Muslims they are not the people who socialise with Muslims they are the people who know the least, so why are these people the know alls of the Muslim community? Because they're fed on the same swill that fed the English masses in the 70's and 80's about the Irish.

I'm personally of the opinion that the UAF are giving far too much publicity to the EDL and are taking peoples eyes off what the BNP are doing. I'm also not sure that screaming 'racist' all the time helps... Anti-fascists working in the community to build against fascism is the most sensible way, don't you think?

**PAUL:** Possibly UAF are doing that whilst the BNP thrive, but for the BNP and the EDL to thrive we have to not look at the UAF but to look at the Media and in particular the journalistic notions of the Mail, Sun Express Times Telegraph. Are these to be the establishments we trust with accurate information about racial harmony? My own daughters go to school with every single race you can imagine in perfect harmony. I often walk into the playground thinking, this is a BNP nightmare. If this is to be the one last question I answer tonight, I would say the BNP the EDL, the Mail, and their right-wing cohorts will forever be on the back foot. This next election maybe Blue, but the future is black, white and brown!

What's your views in general about politics in Britain at the present time - what choices do the working class have now that every politician from local to national seems to have their nose in the trough and all the mainstream parties appear to have shifted to the right?

**PAUL:** It's tempting as a working class voter to feel alienated, desperate and de-democratised, but this has always been the case. Any voter as old as myself or older will know that working class people have only at the very best of times been represented by 5 or 6 people in parliament. The time came a very long time ago, as it has again now, to question parliament, parliament's existence and the very existence of democracy.

What is your opinion on the current situation in Britain whereby you cannot cross the street, open a newspaper or watch TV without being faced with some 'tribute' to or collection for the British armed forces?

**PAUL:** I'm absolutely gob smacked that the state and their army are blindly controlling millions of people to think that if you give a penny to troops in Afghanistan that they will give a fuck to you when your husband or wife at-

tempts to raise an issue in parliament. By that I mean, when finally the parliamentarians tramp on every civil liberty we ever had, are these troop groups and 'help for heroes' going to come to our rescue, or are they going to be propped up from the turrets outside the house of commons?

Can you envisage a reunified Ireland in your lifetime, which is unfettered from Britain? It is for many on this forum the political question of all political questions...

**PAUL:** Yes I can, for the very reason that if the empire of Britain finds a more pertinent thing to scratch they could easily leave the British in Ireland behind. It's worth remembering the most disloyal Britons are the ruling class and royalty. They will abandon Northern Ireland, and abandon Britain if and when a new carrot is dangled in front of them.

Speaking of the Irish, what were your own views on the situation in Ireland when the IRA were at war with the British state?

**PAUL:** My own views were gagged at the time. By that I mean interviews where I mentioned the republican struggle in a positive light 'disappeared'. Earlier on I was asked about a Housemartins reunion, and a previous question asked about my feeling on the current climate politically. Lets just say that when i look at the financial sector of the City of London, when I look at the baying politicians with their noses in the troughs of working class taxes, I say to you. P.I.R.A - couldn't you reform for one last gig? It would be a blast.

Many thanks Paul, for coming on to the TAL Forum and speaking so freely to us about music, football and politics. It has been an absolute pleasure and a privilege.

**PAUL:** Ok, I'll get going now and I want to thank you for all your questions, but mainly wish you all the best in your lives, your conversations, and where those lives and conversations take you. Up the Blades! And bless you all. X

*Thanks to all the Talsters who fired the questions: Sheaf, GRB, Victor J, Talman, Celtic Lhad, Greengo, Karl, Barney, Bandit, Ryanbhoy, Ruahri, Dreenan, GSI, Red Clydeside, Pilgrimhoy, Big Moog...*

*Very special thanks go to Sheaf for arranging the interview with Paul Heaton.*

Pedals & Beer Pumps Tour  
www.paulheatonmusic.co.uk



# JUSTICE FOR BLOODY SUNDAY?

Lord Saville has finally completed his exhaustive twelve- year inquiry into the events that took place on the streets of Derry on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1972. His findings have been fully collated and his conclusions have been drawn. As far as Lord Saville is concerned, we have reached a point where this independent inquiry is finally ready to be introduced into the public domain. Except of course that this has not yet happened. So, why the delay?

When the families of those injured and killed by the Royal Parachute Regiment campaigned tirelessly for the events of Bloody Sunday to be re-examined they did so in the knowledge that, should an independent inquiry be commissioned, it would be subject to the mechanisms and political machinations of the British Government. That said, it is not unreasonable to suggest that the delivery of an independent and historically lengthy inquiry should have some semblance of independence about it. This does not appear to be the case: Saville could have elected to publish the report himself rather than to leave this task to the government, thus circumventing the numerous issues and allowing receipt of the report to be on an equal and fair footing. Sadly, this will not be the case as Saville is not willing to entertain this idea. The fear is that the process will be long and protracted, prey to Westminster politicking and adding further hurt to the victim's families.

Over the course of the next few days we hope to hear news from The British 'Secretary of State for Northern Ireland', Shaun Woodward, that the report is to be released to the House of Commons. If we fail to hear this news, then we can only assume that the assurances of the British government given to the families have once again been reneged upon.

Early in 2008 I met with John Kelly, whose brother Michael was amongst those murdered on Bloody Sunday. He was kind enough to detail the way in which the report was to be delivered to Parliament. At that time, the arrangements appeared to be wholly unsatisfactory to the families. Two years on, there has been some significant movement to make this delivery more palatable to the families. Whilst this movement has not heralded any real concessions to the families, it does represent an indication that Shaun Woodward has been prepared to ne-

gotiate towards more acceptable terms. However, that is far from the level of fairness and parity that should be afforded to the victims of the massacre that took place in Derry. This past week, I revisited John Kelly at the Museum of Free Derry to hear what the present arrangements are and to examine the present concerns of the family with regards to the publication of the report.

I learned that the Saville report is being 'checked' by five lawyers from various Government agencies, including the Ministry of Defence and MI5. These checks are, at least ostensibly, in place to ensure the report does not compromise any issues of national security and 'right to life'.



This process began on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2010 and was expected to take two weeks. During this time, the report has been subject to controlled access to these five lawyers by Lord Saville. The argument of the victims' families is that this privileged access constitutes de-facto release of the report prior to its presentation to Parliament. They fear that the report "will fall victim to selective leakage and other partisan usage long before the full report sees the light of day."

There is a very real concern that the British Government could avail of this opportunity to allow the Whitehall spin -doctors to deflect, defame and diffuse the negative (and potentially damning) aspects of the report which are expected to appear. Furthermore, the appointment of a team of lawyers with the potential to advise Woodward to ask Saville to redact, edit or remove certain portions of the report means the document could be construed as no longer being purely of the 'Saville inquiry' but the release of a Government-edited version.

In the event that there be any areas of concern which cannot be agreed upon between Saville and Woodward, we would be left with a situation whereby the report could be the subject of a Judicial Review. This would open up the document to the perusal of further sets of Government-appointed eyes and the inherent risk to the integrity of the docu-



ment that this brings. As well, of course, as the delay this would bring to the ultimate publication of the report.

Should we reach a point where these issues have been addressed to the satisfaction of Saville, there are arrangements in place for the physical delivery of the document into the public domain. These include the provision of copies of the report to the Guildhall in Derry. On the morning of the release of the report in Westminster, lawyers acting on behalf of the families (and, somewhat incredibly, those of the soldiers) will be allowed controlled access to the report. That afternoon, one family member of the victims of these murders will be allowed to view the portions of the report pertaining to their family. After thirty-eight painful years without answers, without the truth and without justice it is incredible that **only one** family member would be granted access to the report. After all these years it appears to be too much to ask for a hand to hold or a shoulder to cry on when their quest for truth is finally to be realised. John Kelly was unequivocal in rejecting this offer: the most hurtful aspect of this viewing process for the families is the fact that the soldiers accused of carrying out these murders are to be given exactly the same viewing rights as the victims, a completely inappropriate and undeserved parity of victimhood. That the perpetrators of these murders are being extended this same courtesy serves as evidence, if any more were needed, of the esteem in which the British Government holds its victims.

If these were not strong enough reasons for the immediate and un-redacted release of the findings of the Saville inquiry, then there is the issue of the impending British general election. If Saville and Woodward are unable to agree the release of the report prior to the dissolution of Parliament, then Saville will retain control of the report until such time as a new Government is formed. If Labour retain power (a realistic enough scenario given recent polling data showing Brown to be a not-insurmountable four

points behind Cameron and the strong showing of Clegg making the likelihood of a Lib-Lab pact after the election a distinct possibility), then the existing protocol for the release of the document should remain in place under Shaun Woodward. As testing as the dealings have been between the families and Woodward, what has been established is at the very least a working relationship.

However, should the Conservative party come to power, then we will be open to the whims and instincts of the new incumbent of the position of Secretary of State. The dialogue opened between the families and the shadow Secretary of State, Owen Paterson, have been less than fruitful. There are genuine and real fears of his pro-Unionist agenda, as evidenced at Hatfield House (that bastion of Lord Salisbury's anti-Home Rule rallies) in January 2010 by the Pavlovian/atavistic Tory response of Paterson's convening of a secret meeting (subsequently leaked to the press) with the DUP & UUP, a move which the SDLP's Alasdair McDonnell described at the time as "a sinister development." The Lib Dem's NI Spokesman, Alistair Carmichael, best articulated the fears of many involved in northern affairs following the Hatfield House meetings: "How would Owen Paterson, if he were ever to be Northern Ireland secretary, possibly hope to command any confidence with the nationalist community? It is incredibly irresponsible."

It should also be noted that Paterson has publically aired his ambitions to 'unpick' some of the Good Friday & St Andrews Agreements to prevent the future election of a Sinn Fein First Minister in Stormont. Therefore, given his form to date, it is not unreasonable to suggest that his candid pro-Unionism does not augur well for the future and may result in the total fudging of the release of the report; the relationship between a partisan Tory administration and the victims' families would certainly be, at best, more adversarial. Other Tory candidates for the role of Secretary of State include Dominic Grieve, presently shadow Justice Secretary, whose legal background may prove preferable to the pan-Unionist outlook of Paterson. Either way, faith in the integrity of the party who was in power in 1972 and who commissioned the Widgery whitewash is understandably low.

It is unclear what will happen in the event of a hung parliament at Westminster, and given the vagaries of the First-Past-The-Post it is difficult to accurately predict the make-up of the next Westminster parliament. As possible potential dealmakers, it is unlikely that the Lib Dems would be comfortable going in to government with a Conservative administration. Therefore it might be assumed that a Lib-Lab pact is more likely, and this in theory would seem to offer no blockage to the speedy publication of

Saville's report soon after the election. However, should the Conservatives seek willing bedfellows, then the Unionist parties would likely be very amenable to the idea. This scenario is perhaps the least favourable to the timely and unhindered publication of the report.

The Saville report is likely to be a document of huge historical importance, attracting massive worldwide media interest. It is not hyperbole to suggest that the ramifications of its findings are likely to shake the establishment to its core. Is this not reason enough to give all the interested parties a fair and equal chance to evaluate this 'independent' document and for its immediate and unsullied release?

Lord Justice Clarke, in introducing the Thames Safety Inquiry report in 2000, identified one of the purposes of a public inquiry as being,

"... [to] restore public confidence by carrying out a full, fair and fearless investigation into the relevant events".

There seems to be a confidence that this is what Saville has attempted to achieve, but whether this is what we will get when the British Government releases the report remains to be seen. The people of Derry, and especially the victims' families, have, for good reason, little to be confident about given the actions of previous British Government administrations. They have been patient and now their patience is being tested further. Fearful of another Widgery, but confident that the truth will finally be set free.

***Since the main body of this article was written, Parliament has been dissolved and a General Election to be held on 06th May 2010. A spokesperson from the NIO has, as expected, revealed that the report would remain in the possession of Lord Saville until such time as he could hand it over to parliament. We have also learned that Shaun Woodward has acceded to the request to allow a second family member to view the document on the eventual date of its publication. This could, of course, be a moot point if publication is not forthcoming and as we have seen, the assurances of the British administration have, to date, been without substance.***

The announcement of the election has brought the disillusionment of the families at this process sharply into focus. For this reason, we invite you to lend your support to the following on-line campaigns:  
[www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=278494903353&ref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=278494903353&ref=ts)  
<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/Savillereport/sign>

For more information on the events of Bloody Sunday, please visit:

[www.museumoffreederry.org](http://www.museumoffreederry.org) and  
[www.setthetruthfree.org](http://www.setthetruthfree.org)

By Rebelbhoy



## Livorno v Lazio

Next month a sizeable delegation from TAL will be attending a gathering in Livorno to mark several events. There will be the first coming together officially of international Livorno supporters organised by the Brigata Amaranto Venticinque Aprile of Berlin and the Brigata Scozzese Livorno. The weekend also marks the 65th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany and A.S Livorno Calcio play their final home league game in Serie A against S.S Lazio of Rome, a club well known for it's extreme right wing ultras groups.

Sadly Livorno's return to Serie A has not gone well and they will be relegated for the 2nd time in 3 years. President Spinelli has made some terrible decisions this season including sacking two managers, selling Candreva to Juve but worst of all ripping the heart out of the team by selling Alessandro Diamanti to West Ham. Players and management as well as the owner have come in for some serious criticism from the curva nord including boycotts, vandalism to players' cars and even disrupting training sessions. One honourable exception to this has been the legendary Cristiano Lucarelli who has worked tirelessly to revive his team's fortunes.

In any case, at a time of upheaval at the club what better way to lift the Livornesi spirits than the arrival of visitors from several European countries to show them that Red Livorno has many friends and comrades behind them.

# ANTI-FASCISM FOR BEGINNERS



**On Tuesday, 23rd February the Green Brigade held a political discussion in Govan on the subject of anti-fascism. In attendance were approx 60 people.**

The 2 representatives in attendance from the IWCA were also long-term members of AFA. They gave a brief description as to why the community politics strategy was engaged with in response to the retreat from the street in 1994 by the BNP (see link 1) (*"No more marches, meetings, or punch-ups"* – Nick Griffin) and the analysis from 1996, as argued in AFA's *'Filling The Vacuum'* document (see link 2), that the political future would be a battle for working class hearts and minds. They spoke with regard to the initial IWCA project in Birmingham's Newtown district (see link 3). They also described the activities of the IWCA in Glasgow, pre and post election, also offering an analysis of what they felt was the strategy needed to combat the rise of the BNP in working class communities.

First on the platform was Professor Willy Maley to talk about his father, James Maley, his role in the International Brigade and politics in general. After a 10min talk during which he explained that a commitment to Communism was the force leading his father to join the Brigade's, he also explained that, although it was recognised that the role of the Brigade was influential, it was the future that held his father's interest upon his return home with further activism a constant. In the questions later in the evening he explained that he felt his father would have been encouraged by the community-based anti-fascism occurring today. He also spoke on his father's work with Irish solidarity groups, his community activism and his views on the growth and fall of communism.

Also present that night was the former Glasgow organiser of Anti-Fascist Action (AFA) to discuss their history, role and strategy within the 1980/1990s; and 2 activists from the Independent Working Class Association (IWCA) who were there to explain the anti-fascist role that IWCA took on after AFA and the type of work that had been undertaken.

The AFA speaker explained the reasons for the AFA "terror" in relation to street activities and the battle for street control within Glasgow and the surrounding areas during this period. And the changes that make this a different prospect in today's climate. With some wit he explained the reasons why it was required and the damage it did to the BNP and other group's infrastructure. As well as admitting tactical mistakes during this period and the injuries which can occur, it was highlighted the inclusive nature of this work in relation to football and ideological differences. The AFA speaker made it clear that an anti-fascism that highlights at its starting point the ideological differences between anti-fascists is not anti-fascism and can only serve to undermine and divide anti-fascists. He pointed out that the promotion of anti-nationalism as the lowest common denominator for anti-fascist unity is a diversion from AFA's basic commitment and founding ideals, which were 'to oppose fascism, both ideologically and physically.'

Then the floor was opened to questions. A good section of this related to the EDL/SDL and the requirement to meet street activity with street activity. The obvious points were raised that the EDL/SDL do not at this stage have the power or threat of the BNP and the eye should not be taken of the ball. The point was mentioned that, as previously with Combat 18 (see link 4), there is the possibility that it is a honey trap with state involvement to gather and control radical elements both on the left, the right and within the Islamic community.

In relation to the political work against the BNP a question was raised regarding putting up candidates against the BNP and, while it was not whole heartedly disregarded, the point was made that it is long term work that would gain most support from working class people, not paper candidates. People have to be seen to be part of their community and standing on real initiatives.

As meetings go, it was a great opportunity for some politically minded people to interact with an audience that may never have had much exposure to political discussion on this level. Thanks should go the Green Brigade for setting up - and attending in strong numbers - this initiative. The hope is that individuals were exposed to some radically different thinking and may be compelled to action, now or at some point in the future. Thanks from all the speakers. A whip round was taken for the room, with additional cash donated to the IWCA.

By PASYBAIRN

## Links:

1. Know Your Enemy (The BNP's Tony Lecomber on Red Action): [http://www.redaction.org/anti-fascism/know\\_your.html](http://www.redaction.org/anti-fascism/know_your.html)
2. Filling the vacuum: [http://www.redaction.org/anti-fascism/filling\\_the.html](http://www.redaction.org/anti-fascism/filling_the.html)
3. Newtown - Communities of Resistance: [http://www.redaction.org/bulletins/community.html#75\\_1](http://www.redaction.org/bulletins/community.html#75_1)
4. C18 HoneyTrap: <http://libcom.org/library/SearchlightForBeginnersLarryOhara2>



## EDL - WHO ARE YA?

By Anti-Fascist Villan

The 'English Defence league' are the latest group to come to the attention of Anti Fascists. They have said they were formed in response to a demonstration related to British Troops returning from Iraq, and also the public conversion of a teenager to Islam.

The organisation says it has no connections to Fascist groups, despite the fact that their website was originally registered in the name of BNP activist Chris Renton, the group also emerged around the same time as BNP member Lee Barnes wrote an article regarding forming a defence team for the BNP made up of amongst others the National Front. Support for the EDL has also come from infamous Fascist 'Wigan Mike's' self styled 'British Freedom Fighters' The EDL have tried to unite football lads under the umbrella group, 'Hooligans United'. They initially held a very disor-

ganised demonstration in Luton where they fought with the Police. They have since held two events in Birmingham which they say were both against 'Muslim Extremism'. On the first demo they could clearly be heard making general racist comments to Asian passers by, and singing 'No Surrender to the IRA' - you couldn't make it up! They proceeded to run through the streets of Brum, generally making a nuisance of themselves.

The second time they came to Birmingham they arranged the timing to coincide with Villa's last pre-season friendly, and called for a national call out, ironically less came than did for their first event.

Unite against Fascism (Vote Against The BNP, i.e. 'vote right-wing, but not too right-wing please!') called a counter demonstration and were as much use as an ANL lollipop. Luckily, the local Asian Youth saw through their usual posturing, and to put it bluntly gave the EDL one hell of a beating!

Those right-wing elements of Villa's firm who turned up got ran and slapped all round the city centre. All decent Villans have no truck whatsoever with the EDL and many of the older Villa lads are not happy about the attendance of people purporting to represent the Villa. Villa Anti Fascists are still in existence and recently their stickers have been plastered all around the Aston area and the City centre. A Villa Anti Fascist Spokesperson was quoted as saying: 'We have seen Fascists and Loyalists off at Villa Park before, and we will again. They build on people's fears and prejudices, any Fascist presence in and around Villa Park will be monitored and dealt with accordingly. Some of the people running with the EDL claim that they are not fascists, however, our meage to them is - if you lie down with dogs, you will get fleas.'

While we should never underestimate the EDL, neither should we overestimate them to be anything more than a diversion from the fight against the BNP in working class areas.