The Monthly Newsletter of the Father John Murphy Division, Ancient Order of Hibernians in America

THE CROPPY BOY

MARCH 2024



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY FROM THE FATHER JOHN MURPHY DIVISION

See inside for all the events and goings ons from the Plymouth division of The Ancient Order of Hibernians

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Our full schedule of appearances by the division and events to support our brother Hibernians

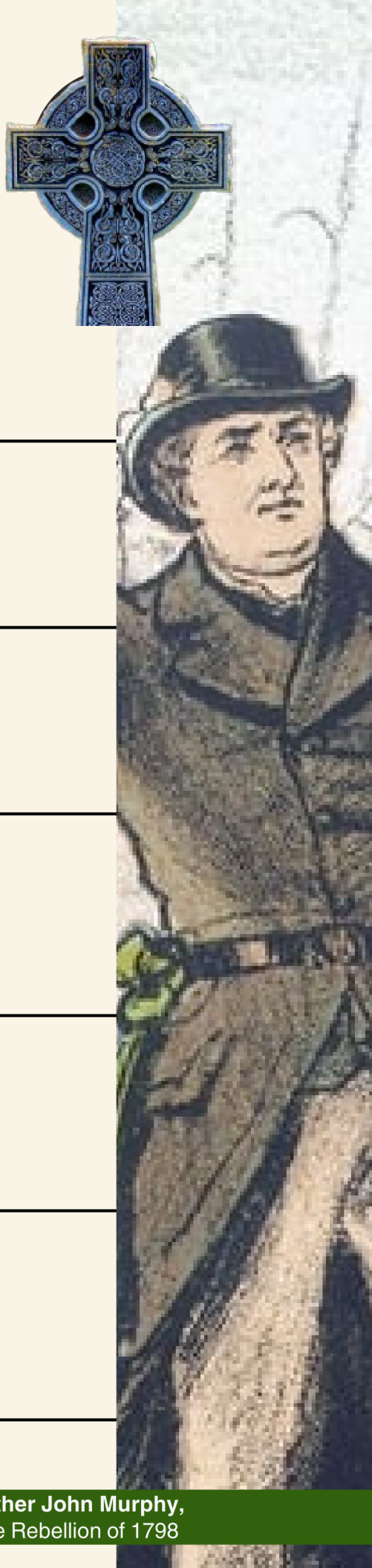
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Father John Murphy,
The Rebellion of 1798

2024 DIVISION 9 OFFICERS

Michael Schilling
President

Michael Faut
Vice President

Thomas McTigue
Financial Secretary

Brendan Burke
Treasurer

John Sullivan
Recording Secretary

James O'Sullivan
Marshall

John Travers
Sentinel

Stephen Cohan
Standing Committee Chairman

NEW MEMBERSHIP

If any current members are aware of fellow Irish Catholics interested in joining the cause of the Ancient Order of Hibernians please invite them to a monthly meeting. New Membership Applications are readily available.

There is strength in numbers and increasing membership is the first step in maximizing our charitable efforts and performing our call to action!

FROM THE OFFICERS' DESK

DUES

Dear Brothers, it is that time of year again. Dues help support the division by paying for per capita to both National and State. As well as help pay for our space that we hold our meetings.

Which have you heard we have moved to Cordage Park?! Come see the new space……and bring your dues along.



RAFFLE

Please bring in any purchased ticket stubs with the associated monies to the March meeting. We will be at the Cape Cod Irish Festival selling raffle tickets so any Brothers in attendance can bring them there as well.

All tickets must be in the hands of the division, sold or not, by March 16th at the latest. Please coordinate accordingly.

calendar of events



5

Plymouth Memorials Committee

5:00pm, Presentation of Dublin Project
Plymouth Townhall

"My Left Foot Screening"

7:00pm, The Reel, Scituate Harbor in support of Scituate Sister City Program

7

General Meeting

7:00pm, Cordage Commerce Center
Monthly meeting of the Father John Murphy Division

10

Event for Greg Hanley

J.P. Ryan's Tavern
Abington, MA

9

Cape Cod Irish Festival

Irish Village Resort
Hyannis, MA

17

St. Patrick's Day

- Scituate St. Patrick's Day Parade, 11:00am, Scituate Senior Center
- St. Patrick's Day @ East Bay Grille, All Day

musical calendar

Dates, locations and times where you can find Hibernians or Friends of the Division playing in the Plymouth County area.

BROTHER STEVE KERR

Traditional Sessions

The Snug Pub - Hingham, MA, Mondays 5:30pm
The ICC Pub - Canton, MA , Fridays 7:00pm

BROTHER DENIS O'GORMAN

St. Patrick's Day Appearances

Saturday, March 16th
The Tinker's Son - Norwell, MA 1pm - 3pm

Sunday, March 17th
ThreeV - Cordage Park 1pm - 4pm
Dillon's Local - Plymouth, MA 5:30pm - Late

Sunday, March 24th
The Red Rose Irish Pub - Weymouth, MA

WEEKLY TRADITIONAL SESSIONS

THE SNUG PUB

116 North St., Hingham, MA
Mondays, Starting at 5:30pm

MARTINI'S BAR & GRILL (FEATURING STEVE LINDSEY)

50 Court St., Plymouth, MA
Mondays, 5pm - 8pm

THE TINKER'S SON

707 Main St., Norwell, MA
Wednesdays, 6pm - 9pm

THE COTTAGE BAR

26 Union St., Weymouth, MA
Thursdays, Starting at 6:30pm & Sunday afternoons

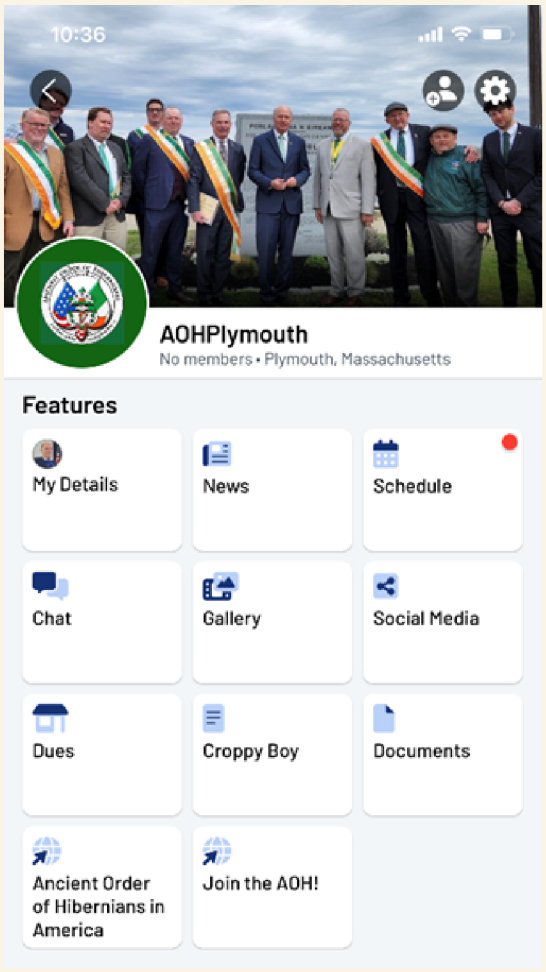
CJ'S BAR & GRILL @ JOHN CARVER INN

225 Summer St., Plymouth, MA
Saturdays, 6pm - 9pm



New Membership App

The Father John Murphy Division is jumping into a new age with an app through the Stack Team App. This App will give you schedules, news and information on all our activities and meetings. In addition the monthly Croppy Boy newsletter will be available on there as well, both current and back issues. The ability to get direct notifications on anything new and chat directly with members and officers. This is also a division promotional tool as in the public will have access to certain items and the rest will only be available to members.



So as you sign in and get yourself up and running you can invite potential members to take a look at what we have going on as well.

If any brothers need help downloading and setting up the new app we will set aside some time at the beginning of the next several monthly meetings to help them get up and running. I hope everyone gets on board as in it will be a great way to constant contact and communication for the division.

Below is the information, as a simpler way I can also text you a direct link to download the app. If any brother wishes to do it that way please text me at 781-706-6209 and I can send it along.

To get the full features of this app please go to the App Store or Google Play and download Stack Team App onto your mobile device, then follow these simple steps:

1. Sign-up to Stack Team App. You'll be sent an e-mail to activate your account.
2. Log-in and search for AOHPlymouth, then request to become a member.

SCITUATE SISTER CITY PROJECT INVITES YOU TO ITS

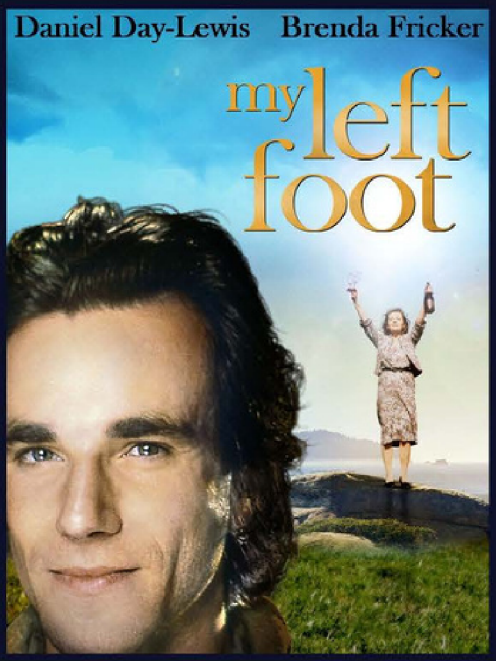
2024 WINTER FILM FESTIVAL

Where: The Reel, Scituate Harbor

When: Tuesday, March 5th

Doors Open 6.30 pm, Film begins 7 pm

My Left Foot



Look out for pre-movie specials at
The Hibernian, The Rivershed, & TK's!

Recommended $ 10 *donation*

Easter Rising Commemoration

This year's Easter Rising Commemoration is scheduled for Sunday, April 21st at 1:00pm. With the success of last year's program we have again reserved the Parish Hall at St. Mary's in Scituate as the venue for the event. We are in the process of finalizing the list of speakers but to date we have decided on the theme to be "The Women of The Rising". As part of the panel we have an individual who has familial ties to Cumann na mBan as well as an individual from the Burns Library at Boston College who will bring artifacts from the era to have on display at the event. Further information will be availavble at the April generla meeting.

Division 9 Open House
Saturday, June 22nd, 2024

At this past officer's meeting we scheduled an open house for the new hall and as a membership recruitment event for June 22nd. We will also take advantage of this day to invite the Consul General Sighle FitzGerald to Plymouth to tour the "Dublin" neighborhood and has her as our guest to our open house where she will be a guest speaker. We have received the approval from Cordage Commer Center that we can extend our event into the main hall so that we can have music and possibly some "pop-up" vendors at the event as well. We are creating this almost into a "festival" like atmosphere and we plan on approaching the Black Raspberry to be involved as well.

We will be looking to put together a committee to help in the planning and coordination of an event of this size so that we can be assured that it is a big success! If any brothers wish to be put on the committee please email President Mike Schilling or raise your hand at the March meeting.

POLITICAL EDUCATION

TROUBLES INQUESTS DELAYED TO RUN DOWN CLOCK UNTIL LEGACY LAW KICKS IN, SAYS FORMER UK MINISTER

By Abbie LLewelyn
PA Political Staff, breakingnews.ie

A short intro or kicker of the article will go here. This part acts as a bridge between the headline and the article itself.

Troubles-related inquests are being delayed by UK state bodies "running down the clock" until May 1st, when they will be discontinued, according to a former UK Northern Ireland secretary.

The UK government's new Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act says any inquests that have not reached a verdict by that date will cease.

In their place, a new fact-finding body will be established and will provide conditional immunity from prosecution for those who co-operate with investigations.

"I have been told authoritatively that key legacy inquests will be deliberately delayed so they lapse as the Act stipulates on May 1st," Labour peer Lord Hain said.

In the UK's House of Lords, he asked Northern Ireland Office minister Lord Caine: "In relation to legacy inquests that are currently under way in Northern Ireland, is the minister not extremely perturbed, indeed embarrassed, by the fact that state bodies appear to be openly running down the clock to May 1st, when the due process that we set such store by in the United Kingdom will no longer apply in Northern Ireland, thanks to the shameful Legacy Act?

"In one case, a Ministry of Defence official told an inquest that 'we only have a single officer supporting Northern Ireland inquests'.
"And in another, the legal representative of the PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland) admitted that further resources could be deployed, and more progress made, but said in terms 'what's the point'?
"Is this not a disgraceful way to treat victims of the Troubles who have suffered so much already?
"And an abject failure by the state officials and agencies to produce the necessary files in anything like a timely fashion continues despite the relevant state bodies being directed to do so by a serving coroner acting with the full authority of the Lady Chief Justice.



“What on earth makes the minister think that a body which the Legacy Act sets up outside the judicial system headed by a retired Lord Chief Justice, however distinguished, will fare any better?

“Or, as many suspect, will those who will be denied proper inquests have to make do with a vastly inferior process on the cheap?”

Independent crossbench peer Baroness O’Loan, who was the first police ombudsman in Northern Ireland, added: “What is happening in Northern Ireland is outrageous at the moment and causes huge distress to victims.”

Their comments came as the upper chamber debated changes to the Windsor Framework that emerged as a result of the deal between the UK government and the DUP to restore the Northern Ireland Assembly and devolved government in Stormont.

The deal, secured by DUP leader Sir Jeffrey Donaldson, is set to reduce checks and paperwork on goods moving from Britain to Northern Ireland.

Lord Caine is set to respond to peers later.





Freedom For All Ireland

Mary Lou McDonald believes Irish unity referendum will take place by 2030

By Irishcentral Staff
irishcentral.com, March 1st, 2024

McDonald was speaking at the Irish Unity Summit in the Great Hall of New York's Cooper Union on Friday.

McDonald was speaking at the Irish Unity Summit in the Great Hall of New York's Cooper Union on Friday. The event, which was organized by a number of Irish-American organizations, featured presentations, panel discussions, and speeches about the next steps on the potential united Ireland.

Standing on the same stage once used by Abraham Lincoln and James Connolly, McDonald said the Irish and British Governments must "face up to the reality that a momentous current of change is pulsing throughout Ireland".

"A new chapter of Irish history is being written. Change is real and happening in real-time," McDonald told the audience on Friday.

"For the first time ever, we have a nationalist leading government in the north of Ireland in a state designed and engineered to ensure that this could never happen. A state designed and engineered to ensure a permanent unionist majority," McDonald said.

"That is now gone. Sinn Féin leads the executive and local government. Combined nationalism outpulls combined unionism."

McDonald added that the partition of Ireland in 1921 has "failed since the start", adding that there has been a "profound" political, economical, and social cost to partition.

"The policies implemented by the Tory government over the last decade have spelt disaster for the North, for nationalists and unionists alike. Tory austerity has ravaged vital public services and it's damaged the lives of workers.

"Tory governments in London never cared for the people of the North of Ireland."

In the event of a united Ireland, McDonald said she would treat anyone who identifies as a unionist as an equal.

"I see every person who argues for the preservation of the union with Britain, every person of British identity as an equal," McDonald said. "No caveats, no exceptions. All equal."



"To those citizens of a unionist or British tradition, I say, we seek a future of partnership, equality, and progress. The New Ireland we seek belongs every bit as much to the families of the Shankill as the families of the Falls. Every bit as much to the families of Ballymena as it does to the families of Ballymun."

McDonald pointed to a recent report published by civic organization Ireland's Future, which includes proposals for a unity referendum by the end of the decade.

"I believe that that is the timeline. I believe that that is achievable. More and more people are now seriously considering the future and the shape of constitutional change."

As per the Good Friday Agreement, only the British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland can call a referendum on Irish unity. The landmark agreement states that Northern Ireland will remain part of the United Kingdom until a majority of people in Ireland and Northern Ireland choose otherwise.

McDonald also said a general election is approaching in Ireland and added that Sinn Féin will put "reunification at the very heart of our agenda" if the party forms a government.

he pointed to the success of the Good Friday Agreement in establishing peace on the island of Ireland in 1998 and said the agreement empowered the citizens of Ireland to decide their own future.
She also said the success of the Good Friday Agreement proves that peace is attainable in Gaza, drawing widespread applause from the audience.

"The success of the Good Friday Agreement teaches us that no conflict is intractable," McDonald said.

We need to fuel a peace process based on international law. Based on the two-state solution, with the aim of achieving self-determination and freedom for the Palestinians and a secure Israel. Because you see, even in the darkest of times, we must seek the light. We must bring the light."

Earlier in the day, New York Governor Kathy Hochul addressed the summit and said that the Good Friday Agreement must be protected at all costs.

"It is now upon all of us, whether you're Irish Americans, Irish New Yorkers, or direct from the Emerald Isle, to uphold this peace, this unique time in our history, where people can come together and put aside their differences and say that we want the violence to end," Hochul told the Summit.
"Let what happened with the Good Friday Agreement - and its endurance over the last 26 years - give hope to other parts of our world that are in conflict today.
"Let that be an inspiration to those who are out there fighting to protect their citizens, their homeland."



Irish History

On this day: Bobby Sands begins hunger strike at Long Kesh Prison

By Frances Mulraney
irishcentral.com, March 1st, 2024

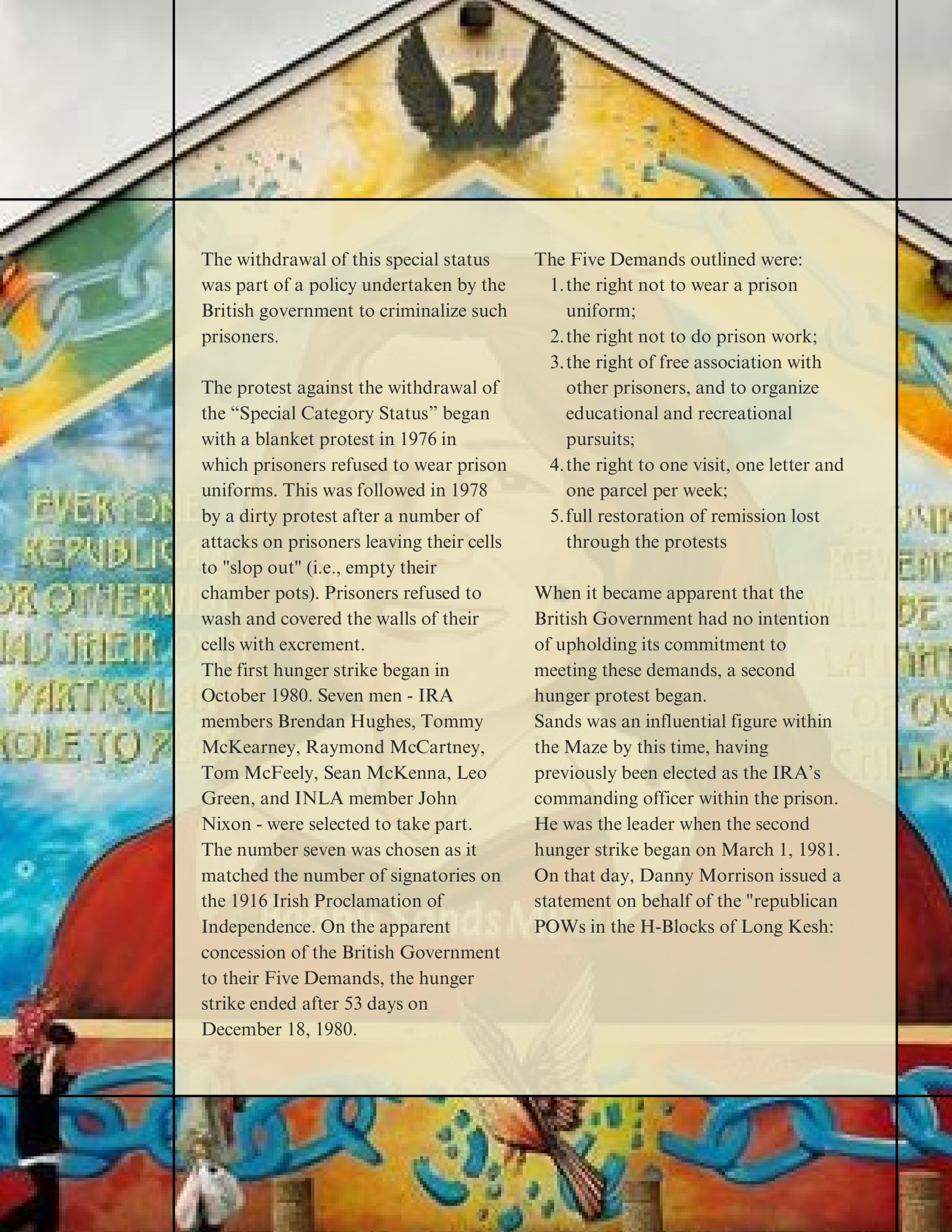
Bobby Sands mounted a hunger strike in the Maze prison in Northern Ireland to protest against the withdrawal of the “Special Category Status."



On his release in 1976, Sands returned to his original role with his local IRA unit as well as working to tackle the social issues that faced the Twinbrook area as a community activist.

Within six months, Sands had been arrested again. Captured by the RUC following a bomb attack and a gun battle, Sands and six others were taken to Castlereagh Detention Centre and brutally interrogated, but Sands refused to give any information other than his name and address. He was held on remand for 11 months. When his case finally came to trial in September 1977 he refused to recognize the court, as he had previously done when first arrested.

Although unable to prove Sands’ involvement in the bomb attack, he and the other three passengers in the car at the time of his arrest were each sentenced to 14 years in prison for the presence of a handgun involved in the gun battle in the car.
By this time, the “political prisoner” status of those charged with acts of terrorism had been removed, sparking five years of protest by convicted paramilitary prisoners. The withdrawal of “Special Category Status” meant that these prisoners were no longer treated similarly to prisoners of war – they now had to wear prison uniforms and carry out prison work.



The withdrawal of this special status was part of a policy undertaken by the British government to criminalize such prisoners.

The protest against the withdrawal of the “Special Category Status” began with a blanket protest in 1976 in which prisoners refused to wear prison uniforms. This was followed in 1978 by a dirty protest after a number of attacks on prisoners leaving their cells to "slop out" (i.e., empty their chamber pots). Prisoners refused to wash and covered the walls of their cells with excrement.
The first hunger strike began in October 1980. Seven men - IRA members Brendan Hughes, Tommy McKearney, Raymond McCartney, Tom McFeely, Sean McKenna, Leo Green, and INLA member John Nixon - were selected to take part. The number seven was chosen as it matched the number of signatories on the 1916 Irish Proclamation of Independence. On the apparent concession of the British Government to their Five Demands, the hunger strike ended after 53 days on December 18, 1980.

The Five Demands outlined were:

1. the right not to wear a prison uniform;
2. the right not to do prison work;
3. the right of free association with other prisoners, and to organize educational and recreational pursuits;
4. the right to one visit, one letter and one parcel per week;
5. full restoration of remission lost through the protests

When it became apparent that the British Government had no intention of upholding its commitment to meeting these demands, a second hunger protest began.
Sands was an influential figure within the Maze by this time, having previously been elected as the IRA’s commanding officer within the prison. He was the leader when the second hunger strike began on March 1, 1981. On that day, Danny Morrison issued a statement on behalf of the "republican POWs in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh:

""We have asserted that we are political prisoners and everything about our country, our arrests, interrogations, trials, and prison conditions, show that we are politically motivated and not motivated by selfish reasons or for selfish ends. As further demonstration of our selflessness and the justness of our cause a number of our comrades, beginning today with Bobby Sands, will hunger-strike to the death unless the British government abandons its criminalization policy and meets our demand for political status."

Unlike the first strike, prisoners joined at staggered intervals hoping to gain more public attention and support.
Just five days after Sands began his hunger strike, the independent Republican MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, Frank Maguire, died, which resulted in a by-election for the constituency. Sands stood as the Anti-H Block candidate. He won the election beating the Ulster Unionist Party candidate Harry West to gain a seat in the British House of CommonsThe desired attention was finally drawn towards H-block. Despite hopes of a compromise, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was unwilling to negotiate.

We are not prepared to consider special category status for certain groups of people serving sentences for crime," Thatcher said during the 1981 hunger strike. "Crime is crime is crime, it is not political."

After 66 days on hunger strike, Bobby Sands died on May 5, 1981. Three further strikers were to die in the next two weeks: Francis Hughes, Raymond McCreesh, and Patsy O'Hara. Thatcher still refused to negotiate.

The further deaths of Joe McDonnell and Martin Hurson caused concern amongst the hunger strikers' families and ratcheted up the pressure to find a way to end the strike.

The strike began to falter on July 31 when the mother of Paddy Quinn requested medical intervention to save her son's life. More deaths followed: Kevin Lynch, Kieran Doherty, Thomas McElwee, and Michael Devine.

As more families announced their intent to allow medical intervention to save their sons, the strike was officially called off on October 3 but not before a total of ten hunger strikers lost their lives.
Despite the apparent initial failure of the hunger strike, the hunger strike's main figures, especially Sands, became heroes among the Republican movement and led to further support for Sinn Féin as a mainstream political party.

Although Thatcher seemed to have defeated the strike, she became a figure of Republican hatred and IRA recruitment was boosted by the heroic nationalism of the strike's martyrs. Sands' election, in particular, was seen as a massive propaganda victory for the movement.

Good & Welfare



Parade Sash order has arrived!!!!!

For anyone who ordered one they will be available for pickup at the March meeting. If you have not submitted payment please bring it with you!!!

P.S. They are grand!

PRAYERS FOR.....

This area is to share names of the sick and deceased for which Brothers would like the division to keep in their prayers. Please submit via email or at the next meeting.



Gaeltacht Corner

Initial

English - Hello

Irish - Dia dhuit!

/Jee-ah ghwitch (throaty gh)

Reply

English - Hello

Irish - Dia is Muire dhuit!

/Jee-ah iss Mwir-eh ghwitch