

City Council - 2016

'Our Army': A People's History of the Irish Citizen Army

During 2016, the SIPTU Dublin District Council in conjunction with local community groups and Dublin City Council unveiled a series of plaques to commemorate the working class men, women and young people who served in the Irish Citizen Army in the areas where they lived.

There was considerable interest in the unveiling of these plaques was within the local communities involved. Events were organised to coincide with the unveilings and research undertaking to rediscover the radical history of these communities during the revolutionary period.

Many of the revolutionaries that emerged from these working class communities to serve with the Irish Citizen Army fought for Irish independence and for the liberation from exploitation of the workers of Ireland.

As the constitution of the Irish Citizen Army stated: "The first and last principle of the Irish Citizen Army is the avowal that the ownership of Ireland, moral and material, is vested of right in the people of Ireland."

In order to commemorate these unveilings and bring the history of the Irish

Citizen Army to a wider audience a series of short films based around each plaque location were commissioned. The Dublin historians Liz Gillis and Donal Fallon worked with SIPTU Dublin District Council to create 'Our Army': A People's History of the Irish Citizen Army.



Dublin Welcome Centre

Since 2016 SIPTU has opened Welcome Centres across the country, including Dublin, with the aim of bringing our Union back into workers communities.

Our Welcome Centre staff offer information on employment rights matters as well as advice and support on a variety of work related issues. We understand the issues workers face on a day to day-today basis and we are committed to providing up-todate and accurate information on workplace issues to all workers who visit our Centre. Workers can call or "drop in" to our Dublin Welcome Centre and talk to us on a confidential basis. Our contact details are:

Dublin Welcome Centre 33 Eden Quay, Dublin 1 Monday to Friday 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Telephone: 1890 747881



"When I found out that my employer of more than ten years had directed that I not receive teaching in the next academic year, I contacted SIPTU and made an appointment to talk to someone in the Welcome Centre. In the middle of a stressful situation, I found the staff there to be kind and concerned to help me. The organiser who met me listened to my story with understanding, and contacted the union's Education Official who came to speak to me too. At the end of the meeting, the union became my advocate, and within a few months, my employer recognised my legal entitlement to continued employment. I will always be grateful to the staff in the Welcome Centre who did everything to help me that day."



The Dublin District Council was established as part of the restructuring of SIPTU into an organising union. It is comprised of representatives drawn from the members of the five divisions of the union in the city; Health, Manufacturing, Public Administration and Community, Services and Transport, Energy, Aviation and Construction. Nationally almost 200,000 are members of SIPTU with circa 70,000 working in the Dublin Region.

The purpose of the District Council is to provide a forum for members to pursue strategic objectives and local campaigns that will improve conditions for all workers, citizens and residents of Dublin. This will be achieved by setting priorities for collective action that will be pursued in conjunction with union members, civil society, community and voluntary organisations and by engaging with political parties and their activists.

The District Council has recently consulted with members in order to determine initial priorities for action. Five areas of concern were identified as relevant both to workers, their families and communities, and to the wider population, particularly those experiencing increased poverty and hardship.

The five priority areas are:

• Increasing employment and skills training

opportunities;

- Opposing privatisation and protecting existing jobs;
- Actively campaigning for decent wages and a living income;
- Providing adequate housing and rented accommodation to tackle the crisis in the city;
- Protecting and maintaining community based services and jobs in Dublin.





This plaque commemorates the men, women and young people from the surrounding area who served with the Irish Citizen Army during the revolutionary period 1913-23

A SIPTU Dublin District Council