



OMAGH SUPPORT AND SELF HELP GROUP

53 Market Street

Omagh BT78 1EL

Tel: 028 8225 9877 Fax: 0288225 9877

E-mail: osshg@hotmail.co.uk



EU Programme
for Peace and Reconciliation

UPDATE

Newsletter
January 2010



New Management Committee

The Annual General Meeting was held on 21st December 2009 and the new committee members are as follows:

Vice Chair: Stanley McCombe
Committee Member: Ann Wilson
Committee Member: Edith White
Treasurer: Michael Gallagher
Asst. Treasurer: Clive McCombe
Asst. Secretary: Denise Kerrigan
Secretary: Godfrey Wilson
Missing from photo is
Committee Member: Colin Wilson



Presidential Visit

OSSHG have been extremely privileged in obtaining a personal invitation from the Irish President Mary McAleese to visit her in her residential home. The visit will include a one to one meet and greet exercise followed by a tour of her exquisite palace and a high tea. A bus will leave Omagh on 27th January 2010, places are limited so please contact the office ASAP to reserve your place. A similar trip is anticipated in the near future for Hillsborough Castle.

Chairpersons Address

Firstly, I would like to wish all our members a happy and peaceful new year and extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all our voting members for their support and confidence in electing me as their new chair. It is both an honour and a privilege to lead the support group forward in 2010.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank our long standing chair and friend Michael Gallagher in his recent retirement. Michael has been a pinnacle figure in the Omagh Support Groups history. He has pioneered the group in its infancy through adverse and challenging times unflinching in his commitment and dedication to the support groups aims, objectives and its members. His efforts extend for a period of over 11 years and he has accomplished many achievements in this time as well as building relations with some of society's most respected figures to gain awareness, value and credibility for the support group's cause.



Chairperson: Patsy Gallagher

I realise on accepting this position that I will have the extremely difficult task of following in Michaels footsteps but I will try as best I can to produce the same high quality standard of work and leadership and I will of course look forward to working with Michael again in his new role as treasurer and public relations officer.

Finally, I would like to welcome our new management committee and look positively to the New Year ahead were justice and truth will remain my highest priority.

Colm Murphy retrial

The Colm Murphy retrial will start in Dublin on 12th January 2010. Anyone interested in attending please contact the office. Transport will be provided.

Task Force

The Management Committee has set up a Public Inquiry Task Force if you are interested in taking part. Please contact Michael Gallagher at the OSSHG office.

Omagh victim's father honoured for campaign



Michael Gallagher was recently presented with the prestigious Memory, Dignity and Justice award at the International Centre for Victims of Terrorism in Madrid.

The activist has been at the forefront of the Omagh families' long quest to bring those behind the 1998 attack to justice.

Ahead of the event at the city's San Pablo CEU university, Mr Gallagher, who was the unanimous choice of the university's board of trustees, said

the award was recognition of all the families' efforts. 'This is a great honour not just for myself but for all those families who have had the courage to stand up and demand justice over many difficult years,' he said. 'We thank Spain for its support and encouragement.' Omagh Support Group would like to congratulate Michael on this honouree award and thank him for his diligent efforts over the past 11 years.

Honorary Officers of 2010 —Who are we?

Vice Chair

Stanley McCombe is a founder member of the OSSHG. His wife Ann Died in the 1998 bombing. She worked in Watsons retail store in Omagh. Stanley previously completed five years as vice chair and was at the forefront of the groups campaigning for justice. Stanley attended various anti terrorist protests in central London and Belfast. He also attended the international conference for victims of terrorism in Bogotá, Colombia in 2005 and Stanley remains a strong advocate for truth and justice.



Secretary

Godfrey Wilson is a founder member of the OSSHG. His fifteen year old daughter Lorraine died in the 1998 bombing. On that Saturday she was working as a volunteer for Oxfam charity shop on Omagh, Market Street. Godfrey and his wife Ann have been long term campaigners for justice and truth. They have both served in the Management committee for six years. Godfrey is one of OSSHG's most proactive members. He has been involved in every aspect of the groups work and was among the delegation that attended two meetings in 10 Downing street with Prime Minister Tony Blair and more recently Prime Minister Gordon Brown.



Treasurer

Michael Gallagher is a founder member of the OSSHG. His 21 year old son Aiden died in the 1998 bombing. Michael is the OSSHG's former chair serving over eleven years. He has represented the support group both nationally and internally. He was instrumental in initiating the civil action along with Victor Barker. Michael was also responsible for developing the archiving project, moving the support group to larger premises and launching the support group charity shop.

