Irish Congress of Trade Unions

May Day Festival 2013

Celebrating a Hundred Years of the Trade Union Movement

1913 2013

An Injury to One is an Injury to All!

Equality Diversity Solidarity
Welcome to the May Day Festival 2013.

In this centenary year of the 1913 Dublin Lockout, we have a programme of events which reflects on the significance of the Lockout to the labour movement on these islands as well as charting the rise of the labour movement, in Belfast in particular.

Working closely with Belfast City Council, we have planned a series of special events which will be held in Belfast City Hall, details can be found in this brochure as well as on the Belfast City Council website www.belfastcity.gov.uk

On May Day Saturday 4th May the trade union movement will once again take to the streets of Belfast for the annual May Day march and rally which will see us pledge to continue to campaign for a better, fairer alternative to the devastating effects of austerity and cuts.

We look forward to welcoming you to the May Day Festival 2013!

For further information, contact the ICTU office on 028 9024 7940
May Day March and Rally
Saturday 4 May  Writer’s Square, Belfast.

Equality, Diversity, Solidarity – there is a Better Fairer Way!

Join the trade union movement for the biggest May Day rally and march on these islands.

Assemble Writer’s Square, Belfast for speeches at 12 noon, March-off at 12.30

Come back to Writer’s Square afterwards for an afternoon of family entertainment with the Festival of Fools.

The Festival of Fools is a world renowned street theatre festival bringing artists from all over the globe to Belfast. This year they are welcoming the trade union march back to Writers Square where there will be street theatre shows all afternoon.

The programme for Writers Square will include the acrobatics, juggling and aerial routines from the Belfast Youth Circus, as well as a magical tea ceremony set in a specially created Shanghai Pavilion tent. Bring the kids along and make a day of it!

See foolsfestival.com for full line up and details.
A specially commissioned show of words & music by
Jane Cassidy & Maurice Leyden

Tuesday 7 May 2013, 7.15pm

The Centenary Programme with Belfast City Council will be launched by a show which has been commissioned specially for this programme.

Jane Cassidy and Maurice Leyden will tell the story of the 1913 Dublin Lockout and the Belfast Dockers’ Strike which preceded it, through words and music. They will be joined on keyboard by Rod McVey and guest musicians Nollaig Casey and Barry Gleeson.

Jane Cassidy is a singer, broadcaster and writer who has toured extensively in Europe bringing her own blend of traditional Ulster music and self-penned songs to folk audiences. She has also written extensively for BBC Radio 4 Drama and has had six of her plays broadcast.

Maurice Leyden is a folk-song collector, singer, broadcaster and writer with a passion for Ulster folk-song. Maurice is much in demand as a lecturer and authority on local folk-song. In 2008 he was invited to give a lecture on his collection of Linen songs at the Library of Congress in Washington.

Tickets are FREE but must be booked in advance from the Belfast Welcome Centre on 028 9024 6609.
**Therese Moriarty**

**Wednesday 15 May 2013, 7.15pm**  
Belfast City Hall

By 1913 women were to be seen everywhere in the struggles of a century ago. They were active in the industrial struggles of Dublin, within the communities, the collective responses to the hardship of the industrial conflict and the political claims of these years.

While Dublin is the main focus of the talk, the Belfast arena of struggle will be part of this account.

**Therese Moriarty** is an independent researcher and has published studies of Belfast’s 1906 linen strike, women’s early trade unionism as well as work on Dublin household responses in 1913 and International Women’s Day. She has also published writing on figures such as Mary Galway and Delia Larkin.

Tickets are FREE but must be booked in advance from the Belfast Welcome Centre on 028 9024 6609.

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**John Gray**

**Tuesday 21 May 2013, 7.15pm**  
Belfast City Hall

Supping at the ‘bitter gourd’: struggles of the Belfast Labour movement 1906-1932

**John Gray** covers the highlights of the Labour experience; the 1907 Dock strike, the electoral high watermark with twelve Labour councillors in 1920 and the Outdoor Relief protest movement in the years up to 1932.

It is a history that has to embrace the workplace expulsions of 1912 and 1920, and the point in 1920 when those twelve Labour councillors did not dare attend council meetings. While Labour was a victim of Unionist state formation it faced almost equal hostility from a deeply conservative Catholic community.

John was Librarian of the Linen Hall Library from 1982 to 2008. His book, City in Revolt – James Larkin and the Belfast Dock Strike (Belfast, 1984: Dublin, 2007) is an acclaimed and pioneering study. Gray has a history of trade union activism himself and remains a member of Belfast Trades Council.

Tickets are FREE but must be booked in advance from the Belfast Welcome Centre on 028 9024 6609.
Padraig Yeates

Thursday 30 May 2013, 12.30pm
Belfast City Hall

The Dublin Lockout of 1913 - A Very British Conflict

From August 1913 until early 1914 Dublin employers engaged in a lockout of most of the city’s manual workers in a systematic attempt to destroy the Irish Transport and General Workers Union and the 'new unionism' espoused by its leader Jim Larkin.

They saw the 'new unionism' or 'Larkinism' as they dubbed it, as the most virulent form of godless, Anglo-Saxon materialism that threatened to swamp Irish national culture and identity.

The Lockout is usually viewed as a prelude to the Easter Rising of 1916 but at the time it was a unique event that emphasised class differences rather than national ones.

Padraig Yeates is the author of 'Lockout: Dublin 1913'; 'A City in Wartime: Dublin 1914-1918' and 'A City in Turmoil: Dublin 1919-1921'.

Tickets are FREE but must be booked in advance from the Belfast Welcome Centre on 028 9024 6609.
Other May Day events

Belfast and District Trades Union Council presents

Annual May Day Lecture
Thursday 2nd May
7pm to 8.30pm

Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre
45/47 Donegall Street, Belfast

Public lecture including Q&A session
– All Welcome

‘Who profits from peace?’
Is the price of peace the sell-off of public services? Will decent manufacturing jobs be replaced by low paid jobs in the finance or services industry?

The ‘double transition’ – towards peace and neoliberalism – has been evident in the world of politics, finance, law and accountancy. This talk will examine who the winners and losers are in the peace process and will also explore ‘who really profits from peace?’

Speaker: Dr Conor McCabe

Conor is an author, academic and lecturer at the Equality Studies Centre in University College Dublin. Conor has produced many articles and given a range of talks on various aspects of the economy and the drive towards neo-liberalism. He is author of ‘Sins of the Father’, which is a cutting analysis of Ireland’s economy beyond the banks to the issues of class and history, that lie at the heart of our problems.

NO PASARAN!

Friday 17th May, 7.00pm

Keeping the spirit and principles of the International Brigades alive

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Ebro which was the longest and bloodiest battle of the Spanish Civil War. It took place between July and November 1938.

International Brigade Commemoration Committee in partnership with the ICTU Youth Committee present a May Fest Event.

Venue: Sunflower Pub, Union Street Belfast. Doors open: 7.00pm: starts 7.30pm.

A night of discussion and music with:

Marc Navarro - Speaking from Unity against Fascism and Racism-Barcelona
AND
Pádraig Mackel - Speaking from Irish Congress of Trade Union, Youth Committee

On the Agenda: the fight against fascism, racism and youth issues of today.

Followed by

Ruairi Creaney on acoustic guitar
AND
TEKNOPEASANT, banjo driven, gypsy, folk, punk, poet.

Contact for further information: Ernest Walker: 07751951785
Stephen Royle's presentation will examine the famine of the 1840's and its impact on Irish migration. Increased death rates and increased emigration saw the population of the island fall dramatically.

Prominent amongst these was Belfast where the population grew from 71,477 in 1841 to 415,151 in 1926. Shipbuilding and engineering enterprises employed thousands of men; many women could find work in the linen mills. This lecture considers the impact of the migration on the form of the city, also on the economy and its labour history.

**Professor Stephen Royle** is Professor of Island Geography at Queen's University and in addition to his work on islands, he contributed to Belfast 400 (edited by Sean Connolly, 2012) and his most recent book on Belfast is Portrait of an industrial city, ‘Clanging Belfast’, 1750-1914 (1911).

This lecture will discuss the recent migration into Belfast, particularly following the expansion of the European Union in 2004 and then again in 2007. It will outline the experiences of migrant workers in the workplace and in the wider community, as well as discussing the impact of ‘new’ migration on the City's cultural and social landscape.

**Agnieszka Martynowicz** has an academic interest in migration and asylum policies and practice and has led research on the experiences of migrant workers and on inclusion and integration in Northern Ireland. She has also conducted an investigation into immigration detention for the NI Human Rights Commission in 2007.

Free tickets available for all City hall events from the Belfast Welcome Centre. Phone 028 9024 6609 or call into the Welcome Centre at 47 Donegall Place, Belfast.