

Postal worker's death sparked Limerick Soviet



Tributes: Pictured in Mount Saint Lawrence following the commemoration were historian and former mayor, Frank Prendergast, Jeffrey Hoare and Mike McNamara, of the Limerick Council of Trade Unions, Brian O'Grady, Plasterers' Union, Cllr Maurice Quinlivan, Joe Kiely builders' union, and John Cantillon SIPTU

Life of Robert Byrne marked

NICK RABBITTS
News Reporter

THE life and times of socialist revolutionary Robert Byrne has been celebrated at a special event organised by the Limerick Council of Trade Unions.

Some 35 people attended a commemoration on Monday of the man whose tragic death sparked the famous Limerick Soviet of 1919.

Post office worker and IRA prisoner Robert Byrne was shot dead after being rescued from St Camillus' Hospital after he was taken prisoner there by the British army.

His funeral was attended by tens of thousands of mourners. In an attempt to restore calm, British forces tried to prevent any movement in or out of the city, placing military barricades.

It was this which prompted the Limerick Soviet, a two week struggle, where workers effectively ran the city, circulating their own money.

As part of Monday's event, Mike McNamara, president of the Council of Trade Unions, led a parade into Mount Saint Lawrence, where a wreath was laid at the

grave of Robert Byrne.

Following the commemoration, a special ceremony was held in the Mechanic's Institute in Hartstonge Street, where a collection of articles and memorabilia from the time of the Soviet was donated by Mr McNamara, and others to Seamus Quinn, vice president of the builders' trade union.

Former Labour TD and noted historian Frank Prendergast gave a lecture on the Limerick Soviet, and also highlighted other workers struggles.

Speaking at Mr Byrne's graveside, Sinn Féin councillor Maurice Quinlivan - whose great granduncle Dominic Kennedy was involved in his aborted rescue - drew comparisons with the struggle back then, and that of now, citing the striking Irish Cement workers, and staff who have staged sit in protests at GAME.

"The story of Robert Byrne and the Soviet is one in which working people in Limerick should take immense pride. That the story continues to be told today is due in huge part to a small band of writers and activists," said Cllr Quinlivan.



Cllr Maurice Quinlivan, Mike McNamara of the Limerick Council of Trade Unions, and former mayor Frank Prendergast.

Presentation R.F.C.

will holds its AGM on Friday 25th May

in the Maldron Hotel from 7pm - 9:30pm

Any nominations or motions have to be with the Secretary no later than 12pm on Friday 18th May

THE STABILITY TREATY

FOR A WORKING IRELAND

INVESTMENT, STABILITY, RECOVERY

VOTE YES

ON THE 31ST OF MAY, THE IRISH PEOPLE WILL BE ASKED TO VOTE ON THE STABILITY TREATY. PASSING THIS TREATY WILL HELP ENSURE A WORKING IRELAND.



MINISTER MICHAEL NOONAN TD

KIERAN O'DONNELL TD

GLEN TAVERN

1-2 Lower Glentworth Street, Limerick City.
www.glentavern.ie
glentavern@eircom.net
Tel: 061-411380



"A REAL PUB OF DISTINCTION"

Breakfast served from 9.30am-11.30am Daily

Full Breakfast €6.95

Mini Breakfast €4.95

Evening Meals now served till 10pm

Great Food @ Great Prices



LOYALTY CARD

for All Food and Hot Beverages

Wed 9th

J.J.

Thu 10th

Aristocrats

Fri 11th

Dermot Sheedy

Sat 12th

The busker

Sun 13th

Barry Purcell