

90 years later - Limerick Soviet revisited

by Marie Hobbins

Two walking tours on April 11

AN opportunity to join a free walking tour of the sights of the Limerick Soviet presents itself on Easter Saturday, April 11, when local historian and expert in the peri-

od, Dominic Haugh, leads the walk in commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the general strike in Limerick.

The walking tour will feature the sights of all the main events and an introduction to this often overlooked episode in the history of the city.

There will be two walks, at 12noon and at 3pm, starting at St. Camillus' Hospital,

Shelbourne Rd. Participants are encouraged to pre-book by contacting Ann Orr on 0877675890.

Haugh said: "In the weeks around Easter in April 1919, workers throughout Limerick took strike action against British militarism and the imposition of martial law in the area.

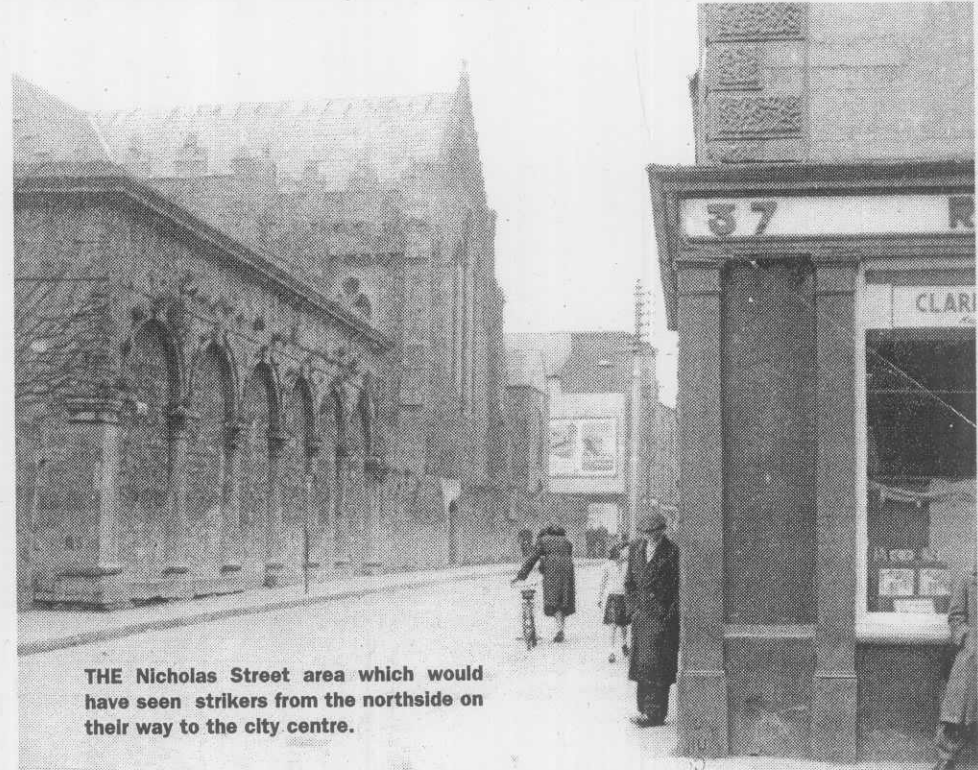
"During this general strike, they took control

of the running of the city, running shops, factories and even printing their own money! As a result, the Trades Council became known as the 'Limerick Soviet'. These events shook not only the city but the entire country, and became a focal point for workers, trade unionists and socialists throughout the country.

"Unfortunately, they have largely been forgotten about - hidden away but hopefully, this walking tour and the many other events being organised over the next weeks, can help make the people of Limerick aware of this chapter of our history - this forgotten revolution.

The walking tour should be of interest to anyone interested in Limerick or labour history, whether students of the period, visitors to the city, or lifelong Limerick men and women."

The tour is being organised by the Limerick branch of the Socialist Party and is free to all, but donations are welcome. All proceeds will go towards



THE Nicholas Street area which would have seen strikers from the northside on their way to the city centre.

the Joe Higgins' European Election campaign fund.

Spokesperson for the Socialist Party, Ann Orr, says:

"Joe Higgins is well-known for his years in the Dail fighting for the rights of working class people. His was the strongest voice of opposition to the specula-

tion and profiteering in property and housing that saw a generation of workers shackled to punishing 40 year mortgages - all of which has now crashed the economy with devastating consequences for work-

ing people, students and youth. Now more than ever it is important that Joe's voice of protest is heard, that is why we have decided to ask for donations to his campaign".

Dominic Haugh is a

qualified history teacher, who has authored a thesis and done extensive research on this period of Irish labour history with particular relevance to Munster and the Limerick Soviet.

Community activist goes on election trail

Limerick City East Fianna Fáil candidate Christy McInerney, has been a committed community activist for the past 10 years and is all too aware of the effects the economic downturn and loss of jobs is causing in the city.

"However, there are positive things happening in our city and we have to look to the future - I've seen major changes on the ground since the Fitzgerald Report was introduced, and the regeneration process is something very positive for Limerick," he comments to this newspaper.

Crediting the presence of Defence Minister Willie O'Dea and Minister of State, Peter Power at the cabinet table as the positive element in securing the largest regeneration process ever undertaken by this country for Limerick, the City East candidate pays tribute to the regeneration agencies' implementation of various elements of the masterplan in the city.

"However, the most significant visible change that our city has seen is the presence of additional gardai deployed on the streets, as well as an ERU presence and a new armed response unit for the city," he concluded.

Law Link



Cure for rheumatoid arthritis on way

A LEADING UK rheumatologist predicts that a cure for rheumatoid arthritis is in sight, ending constant pain for complainants.