

## DUNGIVEN

Textile workers from county Derry in support of ship yard workers in Belfast

# “Down is the wrong direction to point your head in”

As the workers at Harland and Wolff and their trade unions are trying every avenue to save their jobs and one of the world's most prestigious factories, the number of people who express solidarity with their pledge and show disgust at the “dumping” of the shipyard by Fred Olsen and his ilk after getting it “handed on a plate” along with a number of financial incentives from tax payers’ money years ago, is growing.

Last week many ex-shipyard employees, trade unionists and members of the public went to the yard to express support, the workers at “Ferguson Marine” Shipyard in Scotland and their union GMB sent a message of solidarity and so forth.

Textile workers in County Derry have added their voices just now. Flax Mill Textiles, the County's only active linen – weaving – mill is owned by a woman who has a long history of being a member of and since her self-employment supporting her trade union, first in Germany where she started her working live and now here.

Weaver Marion Baur and members of her team at the Flax Mill are going to visit the



Marion Baur, owner of county Derry's only linen weaving mill will host a public talk on Harland and Wolff shipyard.

Shipyard within the next few days. Speaking at the mill in Derrylane outside Dungiven, Marion said: “What we see at Harland and Wolff is exactly the same as what many of our colleagues in textile-manufacturing had to go through – ruthless destruction of the high skills this country's economy was once built on.

There is no need for this – ‘Fred Olsen Associates’ not only own the Belfast Shipyard, they run many of the big cruise-liners we are being told about and which are to ‘bring prosperity’ to the

North when they come to Belfast.

Getting just one of these big ships not built in South East Asia where the workers earn pennies but at H&W would save the jobs there for a number of years – how greedy for extra profit can people get?”

Marion is making a linen tea-towel for the workers in Belfast which she will print with the trade union slogan: Save the Shipyard – re-nationalise it!

“Irish Linen symbolises long lasting friendship. I think friendship, standing

together and solidarity is very needed these days. Down is

the wrong direction to point our heads in” she said.

The Scottish government is just showing that the powers to be can act in the interest of working people. They have declared their intention to intervene in the threatened closure of the Ferguson Marine Shipyard which employs around 350 people.

Marion Baur: “Why can the same not be done here? Are the workers at one of the most prestigious industrial units in the world not worth every attempt to save their jobs and the future of the Shipyard?”

Talk at the Flax Mill Open Day

The organisers of the 26th Open Day and Yard Fest at the Flax Mill on September 14 have decided to add a public talk on the subject to the programme.

Ernest Walker will speak on the subject “Can the Shipyard be saved?”

Walker has been in engineering all his working life. The union activist and worker's representative for many years is Sheffield born and based in Belfast now.

Marion Baur is delighted about his coming.

“Ernest is a good orator and knows the subject inside-out. With many visitors from all over the world, I think the Open Day is a good opportunity to let them know the truth from an informed source,” she said.

The talk is going to take place in the mill-cottage at 12 noon and will need pre-booking because space is limited.

Contact [flaxmill@gmx.net](mailto:flaxmill@gmx.net) or 02877742655.



Can the shipyard be saved? will be the subject of the talk scheduled to take place in September.

## McGlinchey welcomes £198k investment for St Canice's GAC

Sinn Féin Councillor Sean McGlinchey has welcomed the investment by Causeway Coast and Glens Council, from its Capital Programme of some £198k in the St Canice's GAA

Club's proposed development at Páirc na nÓg on Dungiven's Garvagh Road.

He said: “This will go a long way to delivering changing rooms, showers and

additional facilities on the site. I would also commend the club as they too have invested a considerable sum of money and effort into bringing what had previously been a virtually

unplayable surface owned by council to the high standard it now is.

“This is evidence of continued partnership development between council, clubs and other

community groupings within the Dungiven area for increased provision and I know this will be the case. “We as a community need first class facilities to serve the huge number of young

people involved in their respective sports, Councillor McGlinchey also welcomed assistance of £244k for the Eoghan Rua GAA Club in Coleraine which was passed at council last week.”



## Generous donation to the Sperrin Unit at Altnagelvin Hospital

The Western Health and Social Care Trust (Western Trust) gratefully acknowledges a generous donation along with several pieces of equipment including a large fridge and digital radios, from the O'Neill Family, Feeny.

The family made the presentation in memory of the late Marie O'Neill. Staff in the Sperrin Unit accepted the donation from the family who also donated £750 to Macmillan Support.