



The Tim Parry



Johnathan Ball

Foundation for Peace

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Legacy Update

From the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace



News Update



It has been a while since our last newsletter and we want to update you on all that has been happening and what is planned. This edition of the Update primarily focuses on our 'The Legacy: Learning from the Past, Making a Better Future' conference, and final residential weekend held in October.

Keith Hudson shares his reflections on both events and we've included photographs to share with you all. There is also details of an event in Leeds where Sue Hanisch, one of our participants, will be speaking on behalf of the Forgiveness Project.

From the Legacy Project we would simply like to express a huge thank you to all who attended and sent us good wishes. We felt the conference was a huge success as Paul Goggins, the Minister of State for Northern Ireland, and the keynote speaker remarked how evident it was that the project had been useful to a large number of people over the past six years.

The highlight for us was the involvement of participants who spoke movingly and eloquently about their own experiences, and added a richness to the whole occasion.

We would like to thank those who travelled up from the Armed Forces Memorial Service at the National Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire. This was a hugely significant day for a number of you, and it was wonderful to hear first hand how special that day had been when some of you travelled up to be with us for the weekend.

We are still awaiting a funding decision from the Big Lottery Fund about the bid for 'Survivors for Peace' and we should know the outcome by the end of November. In the event we don't get funding, the Foundation will continue to try to secure smaller amounts and keep some work going but there are no guarantees. We will keep you posted.

Regardless of the outcome for 'Survivors for Peace', the

Legacy Project as it ends on the 30th November. To mark the end of the Project, we will be planting a tree at the National Memorial Arboretum on Saturday 24th November. Details of this event are enclosed with this newsletter, and the closing date for responses is Monday 19th November. We hope you can join us.

On 31st October, Colin Parry invited Gerry Adams to take part in a debate on the subject of 'Exploring Different Routes to Peace'.

Neither man had met the other before but, recognising that the Northern Ireland Peace Process has come a long way, Colin invited Gerry Adams to share this platform with him.

Speaking at the event Colin said: "Now I can tell you that inviting Gerry Adams to join me tonight was NOT (as you might imagine) easy for me (and my wife)... but...it was INFINITELY easier than holding my son as he died.

"It was INFINITELY easier than carrying him for the final time in his coffin and saying my final farewell. I can also tell you that talking with Gerry Adams is INFINITELY easier than fighting him and talking with Gerry Adams is INFINITELY easier than him or me inflicting pain, suffering or humiliation upon one another in the name of our beliefs or politics.

"These are conscious choices I have made of my own free will, but they are choices that were never available to my son Tim."

A report on the event and the full text of Colin's speech can be found on our website www.foundation4peace.org

A final brief newsletter for the project will be published at the end of the year, where we hope to be able to tell you about our future plans.



Keith Hudson's reflection on the Legacy conference and residential

Over the weekend of the 12th to 14th October 2007 the Legacy Project held a Conference and Residential at the Peace Centre. I met people who I had come to know well over the last 4 years. The conference was opened by Colin Parry who warmly welcomed us to the event, and was chaired by Dame Helen Reeves.

The 1st guest was Paul Goggins Minister of State for Northern Ireland who talked about the changes to Northern Ireland in the past year. Jo Dover was next up and talked about the work the project had covered over the past 6 years. She also told us about the future, the bid that has been submitted to the Big Lottery Fund, and how they will have to wait until the end of November to find out if the cheque is in the post.

We then heard from two people who had lost love ones during the 'Troubles', Annie Bowman and Brian Bethell. Both Annie and Brian made us understand the pain of losing some one. Annie was very brave as she told her story and many hearts were touched. Brian told of the day



he lost his son in 1990 and the visit from the Padre. The pain was felt by many, including myself, as my son had been to Northern Ireland and had returned home safely.

Then came the roll out of STEPS. Evelyn Bitcon and Pam White rocked the house with their presentation. I was very impressed by the hard work both of them had put into this, and the appreciation was shown with the warm applause that greeted both the Ladies. At the end Jo and Sarah were presented flowers from the group. Phil Howlett, who is also a member of STEPS, then presented a hand made gift to the Peace Centre which was later signed by all members of STEPS.



So, 'follow that!' I thought, so I did and took a deep breath and made my way onto the stage. I made my presentation and return to my seat. This allowed Sean Coll from Northern Ireland to take over and give his CIRAG presentation which helped us to understand the work more clearly.



The final presentation by Jo Berry also hit home, not only by the way it was delivered, but also because it was the anniversary of the death

of her father in the Brighton Bombing in 1984. I know I was thinking 'where was I on the day I heard about the bombing'. Jo also talked how she went on to meet the man who killed her father. This was a powerful presentation which brought to a close to the morning session of the conference.



Taking a lunch break allowed us to meet up with guest who were attending from other victims and survivors groups. During lunch I spent some time with Margaret Lockwood Croft from Marchioness Action Group whose son Shaun was killed while attending a party on MV Marchioness in August 1989. She was telling me about the changes that have happened on the River Thames since the group was formed.

The afternoon was split into three, and was opened by Sarah Alldred with a 'Learning the Lessons' discussion session which allowed us to put forward our points. This was followed by workshops. I attended Sara Cook's storytelling workshop. It was good to see Sara who had just returned from Boston to Derry/Londonderry to work for Towards Understanding and Healing.

During the quick coffee break I was able to talk to Simon Keyes from St Ethelburga's in London. This was the church that in April 1993 was devastated by an IRA bomb.



We had only a short time to talk as we had to return to the final part of the afternoon, when we heard from Clare White, the Chief Executive of the Foundation for Peace, who talked about the



future work of the Foundation.

The day was then rounded off with a Question and Answer session before Helen Reeves drew to a close what had been a great day.



One of the highlights was meeting a guest from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport who was very impressed by the STEPS presentation. She offered the group an opportunity to present their work in front of her team in the Humanitarian Assistance Unit in London. This is now being planned.

The warm handshakes as others left made us think of the weekend residential that was now ahead of us. I will not go on in length about the weekend. I know I got a lot from it as I have always done when attending. It is nice to be with people who understand that we all have problems that we are facing and coming to terms with, and it helps knowing that you're in a safe place to reflect on your problems with others who care. We talked about our achievements in facing our problems and other things that we had done.



I found the balloon exercise hard to face as something from my past was biting at my heels. As I let the balloon go I was recalling

those who had been killed by the IRA that I had known.

That night we had a camp fire. We were entertained by Jo, who's singing surprised us all. Also Karl with his stories and jokes, where does he find them? Then others told some strange tales of mystery, which brought an end to a great Saturday.



On Sunday we talked about the future as this was to be the last residential under the Legacy banner.

But deep down I know that the Lottery will tell Jo that the cheque is in the post, and that she will be planning more under the new Flag.



The final workshop made us look forward and back. I made a model from clay that was a man sitting on a rock with a map and a bag. The idea behind it was to show we are moving forward so we need a map.

He was sitting thinking of the route he had taken with a small bag on his bag full of memories to help him on his trip. The lighting of the candle was for the future. I had not forgotten my past, this I could never do as it is part of my make up.



I would like to thank Jo, Sarah, Sara and Karl who brought the knowledge to make sure the week end went well. They made us feel important as we put our points across. They guided us along a road that helped us all. Finally to Anne whose cooking was 5 star as always, so thank you Anne.

I am looking forward to the next time which I hope is not too far away.

Keith Hudson, member of STEPS and the Victims Advisory Panel.

Jo and Sarah would like to thank Keith for sharing his memories of the weekend and also for the speech that he made at the Conference, which was as powerful as the other speakers on the day (you are too modest Keith!)



Together for Peace event in Leeds



Sue Hanisch, a recent participant and supporter of the Legacy Project, will be speaking at Leeds University as part of Together for Peace's week of activities:

<http://www.togetherforpeace.co.uk/>

Sue will be speaking on Friday the 23rd November on behalf of the Forgiveness Project and will talk about her own experience of violence and forgiveness. Sue has said a good debate will follow the talk, and all are welcome to come and join in!

The event will take place at 6.30pm in the Parkinson Building, which is part of Leeds University, and for those who want to do a multi-map the postcode is: LS2 9JT.

The whole week of activities look excellent, so we really do recommend you dipping into some of the activities, especially Sue's!

Creative Section

We felt it was appropriate to include the lyrics to this song, which was played at the Conference during the STEPS presentation. This song gave us all goosebumps as we watched the Group present their work to the assembled audience. We hope you enjoy it!

PROUD—M People

I look into the window of my mind
Reflections of the fears I know I've left behind
I step out of the ordinary
I can feel my soul ascending
I'm on my way
Can't stop me now
And you can do the same (yeah)

What have you done today to make you feel proud?
It's never too late to try
What have you done today to make you feel proud?
You could be so many people
If you make that break for freedom
What have you done today to make you feel proud?

Still so many answers I don't know (there are so many answers)
Realise that to question is how we grow (to question is to grow)
So I step out of the ordinary
I can feel my soul ascending
I'm on my way
Can't stop me now
And you can do the same (yeah)

What have you done today to make you feel proud?
It's never too late to try
What have you done today to make you feel proud?
You could be so many people
If you make that break for freedom
What have you done today to make you feel proud?

(yeah) We need a change (Yeah)
Do it today (yeah)
I can feel my spirit rising
(change, yeah) We need a change (yeah)
So do it today (yeah)
'Cause I can see a clear horizon

What have you done today to make you feel proud? (to make you feel proud)
(let me hear ya X3) So what have you done today to make you feel proud?

(yeah) 'Cause you could be so many people
Just make that break for freedom
So what have you done today to make you feel proud?

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