

[Click Here!](#)

[icBirminghamJobsHomesDatingPostMailMercury](#) [WOW What's On](#)

Monday 16th April 2007

Search icBirmingham for:

- Home page
- ▼ Birmingham Post
 - ▶ News
 - Sport
 - Business
 - Culture
 - Thrive
 - Post Blog
 - Travel
 - Post Picture Galleries
 - Company Guide 2006
 - ePaper
 - Diners Club
 - Restaurant Reviews
 - Contact the Post
 - Competitions
- ▶ Birmingham Mail
- ▶ Sunday Mercury
- ▶ Healthy Happy Kids
- ▶ WOW What's On
- ▶ Restaurant Awards
- ▶ ePaper
- ▶ Videos
- ▶ PhotoSales
- ▶ Birmingham Forums
- ▶ Blogs
- ▶ Book An Ad
- ▶ Business
- ▶ Business Property
- ▶ Classified
- ▶ Shopping
- ▶ City Living
- ▶ Fantasy Football
- ▶ Sports Results
- ▶ Horoscopes
- ▶ Dating **NEW**
- ▶ Ex-Pats
- ▶ Local Services
- ▶ Jobs Midlands
- ▶ Motors Midlands
- ▶ Homes Midlands
- ▶ Play Games and Bet
- ▶ Restaurant Booking
- ▶ Travel
- ▶ TV & Radio
- ▶ Weather
- ▶ About Us



Tell us the truth about pub bombs

Apr 6 2007
By Tom Scotney

The scars of the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings were reopened yesterday after it was claimed Sinn Fein was withholding information which could bring the killers to justice.

A total of 21 people were killed and 182 were injured in the two blasts, which were blamed on the IRA.

Irish deputy premier Michael McDowell told the Irish parliament, the Dail, yesterday that Sinn Fein could be withholding information on who planted the devices.

And yesterday Birmingham woman Maureen Mitchell - who suffered severe injuries in one blast - told The Birmingham Post she believed Sinn Fein could provide vital information which could lead to closure for the families of victims.

Mrs Mitchell, of Acocks Green, suffered internal injuries after being hit by a piece of shrapnel, and has a permanently disfigured left arm as a result of the Mulberry Bush attack.

She said: "I definitely think they are still holding information.

"My personal opinion is that it was something that went wrong, and they don't want to admit it.

"For a lot of people it might help them put things behind them not to mention it again, but for me it would be closure to find out."

But she said that after all the years since the bombings, she finds it difficult to believe the truth will ever come out, saying: "I'd like to think it could happen, but I don't believe it will."

Mrs Mitchell said for her there has never been been closure, "and there probably never will be".

"I'd like to be able to put a name to somebody who did this to me."

Speaking at a public inquiry into the 1974 Dublin Monaghan bombings, Tanaiste (deputy premier) and Justice Minister Mr McDowell said: "When the deputy is calling for a public inquiry into that particular atrocity, we must remember that on November 21, 1974, 21 people were killed in Birmingham and there was a massive miscarriage of justice.

"We have never had an inquiry and people much closer to him (Sinn

Find singles in your area:

I am a

seeking a

postcode e.g. SW10

powered by DatingDirect.com

Post Forum

POST TRAVEL

top local shop

[Click here to find out more](#)

Fein Dail leader Caoimhghin O Caolain) know the truth of all of that."

Pat O'Neill, the chairman of the Irish Community Office, said that among the Irish community in Birmingham, the bombings were an issue that would never be forgotten.

But he added: "We have moved on from that. It's all water under the bridge now, and relationships between communities are very strong, and we wouldn't want to ruin that."

Blame for the Birmingham pub attacks at the Mulberry Bush and the Tavern in the Town - was put at the door of the IRA.

At 8.14pm on November 21, 1974, a man with an Irish accent telephoned The Birmingham Post and said that there was a bomb in the Rotunda which housed the Mulberry Bush pub.

Police rushed to the area to try to clear the crowded pub, but twelve minutes later the bomb exploded.

Warnings had just reached the equally crowded Tavern in the Town pub in New Street, when a second bomb exploded.

Six men from Northern Ireland were jailed for life for the bombings but had their convictions overturned in 1991 after forensic evidence was found to be unsafe.

The men, Hugh Callaghan, Patrick Hill, Gerard Hunter, Richard McKilkeny, William Power and John Walker, had lived in the city since the 1960s and became known as the Birmingham Six.

The IRA has never admitted responsibility for the bombings.

In 2004 Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams expressed his regret at the atrocities.

Since the bombings, Mrs Mitchell has worked with the peace movement, and said that the work helped her come to terms with what happened.

She said: "The work has helped me turn things round. It's helped me go from a victim to a survivor.

"I'm not affected by it in a negative way any more.

"It took me working with the peace movement to realise that there could be a positive side."

[▲ Top](#) | [◀ Back](#) | [E-mail to a friend](#) | [Printable version](#)

Copyright and Trade Mark Notice

© owned by or licensed to Midland Newspapers Limited 2007
icBirmingham™ is a trade mark of Midland Newspapers Limited.
Please read our [Terms and Conditions](#) and [Privacy Statement](#) before using this site.

Advertisement Links

[Cheap Credit Cards](#), [Homeowner Loans](#), [Used Cars & Nearly New Cars](#), [Jobs Midlands](#), [Homes Midlands](#), [Classifieds listings for Birmingham](#) [Classifieds listings for Coventry](#)