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07 August 2007

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Lá Nua

Conrad Atkinson
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- Home
- This Week's PDF Editions
 - Andersonstown News Thursday
 - Andersonstown News Monday
 - Festival Fever 2007 PDF
 - Property Guide
 - Business and Recruitment
- Top 50 Belfast
- Sign Up for Irelandclick Newsletter
- News
 - Headlines
 - Features
- Festival Fever
- Opinion
 - Letters

- [Your Texts](#)
- [Editorial](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [Squinternet](#)
- [Features](#)
- [Sport](#)
 - [GAA](#)
 - [Soccer](#)
 - [Boxing](#)
 - [Bowls](#)
 - [Darts](#)
 - [TeamTalk](#)
 - [Punter's Guide](#)
 - [Other](#)
- [Notices](#)
 - [Public Notices](#)
 - [Classifieds](#)
 - [Deaths](#)
 - [Memorials](#)
- [In The Community](#)
 - [Eye on the Past](#)
 - [Find It And Fix It](#)
- [BelfastPropertyOnline.com](#)
- [Business and Recruitment](#)
 - [News](#)
 - [Comment](#)
- [Aisling Awards](#)

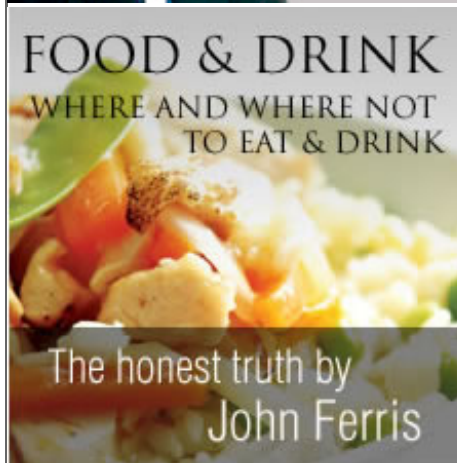
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Headlines

So who are the killers?

The dissident republicans suspected of murdering Joe Jones and Eddie Burns, and of attempting to murder Damian O'Neill, are both in their early 20s. We are not naming them for legal reasons.

The first killer is from Ballymurphy. Last year he blew the leg off Beechmount teenager Conor Weldon in a shotgun attack. This man is believed to have shot Burns and O'Neill at the Bog Meadows. It is understood he was drunk at the time.

Burns died after being struck in the head with a bullet.

O'Neill miraculously survived by playing dead, despite being shot in the neck. He still has the bullet lodged in his body. A second man, who's from the Ardoyne area, was present at the Bog Meadows shootings. The two then travelled across the city to North Belfast where they apprehended Jones at his girlfriend's home and took him to a nearby entry where both men beat their victim to death with spades.

Continuity IRA

They then washed up before driving to the Ligoniel area on the outskirts of North Belfast where they burnt the car they had been using.

A third Continuity IRA man, who sources say is their boss, picked them up in his car and spirited them to a safe house. Within days both men had fled Belfast for Dublin.

Appealing for information on the whereabouts of the vehicles used by the killers, the PSNI said: "Officers from the PSNI Crime Operations Major Investigation Team are trying to trace the movements of a blue Ford Focus estate car, registration number FE52SHJ, between teatime on Sunday, March 12 and teatime on Wednesday, March 14 in or around North and West Belfast. They are particularly keen to hear from anyone who saw the car between midnight on Sunday, March 11 and 5am on Monday, March 12 in Elmfield Street, Ardoyne. Detectives have also made a more precise appeal about the movements of a silver Skoda Octavia car, registration number PKZ 3760, in North and West Belfast between 3am and 8am on the Monday morning. Police believe this car may have been

set on fire at Ballyhill Road in the Ligoniel area and may have been removed by a scrap lorry later on the Monday morning.”

08/03/2007