



Ulster Unionist Party
for all of us

24th November 2008

You are here » Home » Newsrooms » Latest News » General

Site last updated 21st November 2008

Search site



UUP Newsroom

- ▶ Latest News
- ▶ General
- ▶ Environment
- ▶ Health
- ▶ Agriculture
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Europe

Objectives and Policy

- Objectives
- Standing up for Northern Ireland
- A Competitive Economy
- A Northern Ireland for Everyone
- Protecting our Environment
- Quality Public Services
- Stronger, Safer Communities

Young Unionists

About

Login

Username

Password

Remembering Mountain Lodge 25 years on - Danny Kennedy



Remembering Mountain Lodge 25 years on - Danny Kennedy

"Throughout Northern Ireland's recent turbulent past a number of incidents stick out in our minds reminding us of the horrific atrocities that have been carried out in our own Province.

For me the incident which occurred on the night of 20th November is one of those memories that will stay with me. Being only 24 at the time, I felt it was all the more harrowing as it was within a few miles of my home village of Bessbrook.

It came at a very dark period in Northern Ireland and created an atmosphere of fear within the Protestant and unionist community in South Armagh and along the border generally.

Although it is fair to say that I and the general public throughout Northern Ireland had become accustomed to seeing the very real images of the troubles on our television screens, a place of worship had never in the past been attacked in such a way and there was widespread revulsion, anger and distress at the INLA perpetrated incident.

I remember hearing the news on the Sunday night after my own Church service in Bess brook. On the particular night in question I attended an after church meeting run by the Christian Workers Union as I did every week and it was here that I had to break the news to them. As the actuality of what had happened set in, we all sat down and special prayers were said to offer support and sympathy to those involved

County Armagh as a whole consists of many small church groups and assemblies who very often meet in small buildings and places of worship in isolated places. In the aftermath of the murders, greater security measures were taken as the security forces feared there would be further attacks. This had a huge impact on people locally who were genuinely afraid. It also had an impact on church attendance on a whole as congregations were anxious going out to church on a dark winter night. I honestly believe that it took a considerable period of time for this apprehension and angst to subside.

As we reflect on the Mountain Lodge murders 25 years on I would like to pay tribute to the now deceased Pastor of Mountain Lodge, Bob Bain. During this difficult and emotional time, he along with his congregation showed true Christian leadership. They did not react with calls of vengeance or display feelings of hatred. In contrast to this they have continued to show great Christian fortitude and a true Christian spirit through their suffering. They were able to remain dignified in their grief and sorrow and I commend them for that.

While we remember those that lost their lives and their families we must also today pay our respects to those who were injured as a result of the shooting. Many of those caught up in the attack 25 years ago have had to live with scars both emotionally and physically on a daily basis - my thoughts are with them and their families. Those who were murdered will never be forgotten and those who were injured deserve our ongoing prayers and support."

Join us today
As a Full or Associate Member.
[Join online now](#)

Unionist.TV
Video and interactive services from the UUP.
[Find out more](#)

Your Local UUP
Find a local contact
[Look here](#)

Get involved
Have your say and show your support

Broadcast Yourself™

Promoted By

Ulster Unionist Party
First Floor, 174 Albertbridge Road,
Belfast BT5 4GS
Tel: 028 9046 3200
Fax: 028 9045 6899

About the UUP

- History
- Structure
- UUP Women
- Young UUP

Get Involved

- Join the UUP
- Renew your membership
- Make a donation
- Unionist.TV
- Contact Us

Using this website

- Accessibility
- Privacy Policy
- Site Map
- Terms of Use
- Links