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UNITED IRELAND

That was the week that was

A letter from Ireland

a Chara,

It has been quite the week. Last weekend, Belfast hosted the annual Sinn Féin Ard Fheis (party conference). The sun was out, and the Waterfront Conference Centre was the perfect venue for our meeting.

This was the largest Ard Fheis in several years. There was a huge sense of optimism in the air. Debates and discussions were had, friendships renewed, and pints downed. The focus was on Irish unity, the cost of living, and international events. It is always inspiring to see a new generation take the stage and speak with passion.

The most intense debate was over hunting foxes with hounds. The debate was respectful, and the foxes won out at the end of the day.

The Ard Fheis, with an audience of over eleven hundred, was brought to a close with a rousing speech by the re-elected Sinn Féin President Mary Lou McDonald. The speech laid out the challenges and opportunities of the coming year. Delegates filed out of the hall and into the warm Belfast evening with a fire in their bellies for the days ahead.

Later that evening, a new opinion poll was released. In the South, Sinn Féin had increased its lead.

Since the Irish General election of November, Sinn Féin, under the continued leadership of Mary Lou, has regained ground from 19% and now sits at 25%, while

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In advance of the Ard Fheis, Friends of Sinn Féin USA hosted an event to commemorate Rita O'Hare in Áras Uí Chonghaile. The centre celebrates the life of the Irish revolutionary and labour leader James Connolly. It is a must-see for anyone visiting Belfast.

It was the most fitting venue to remember Rita; Connolly's teaching guided her life as a republican activist. She worked tirelessly to ensure the centre's development, even though the British Government refused to let her travel to Belfast.

The Friends of Sinn Féin dedicated a bust of James Connolly in her honour. Stories were told, and memories shared between her family and friends. It was a great event.

This week also set the date for two byelections (special elections) - one in Dublin and another in Galway. These will be a real test of the standing of the Government parties.

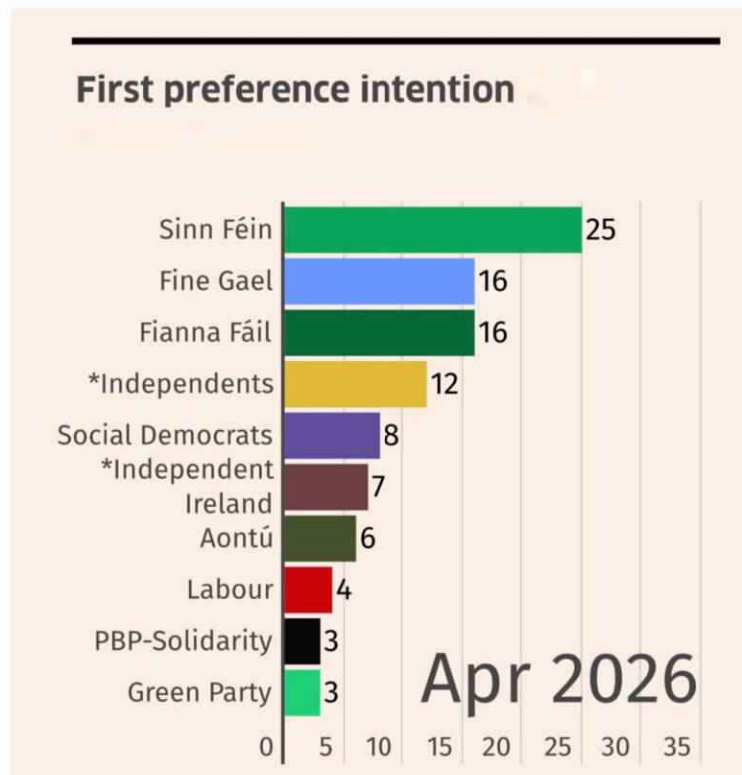
On the Sunday evening, as the weekend drew to a close, news broke that a small dissent Republican had forced a pizza delivery driver to transport a bomb to a police station on the outskirts of Belfast. This attack does nothing to advance the cause of Irish unity and they are devoid of any community support.

They are part of a splintered alphabet soup of groups and devoid of strategy. The outcome of their sporadic attacks is potential death and injury, and years lost in jail cells. All to no end. We now have a peaceful and democratic pathway to unity, one denied to previous generations. It is past time for these groups to respect the community's wishes and end their actions.

On a lighter note, I think my work in North America may have had unexpected consequences. At the Ard Fheis, an older woman tapped me on the shoulder and whispered, "I really support the work of you Irish Americans, it's just your President I don't like." Obviously, she had not heard my accent!

Have a great weekend.

Is mise,

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Sinn Féin extends their lead over all other parties in Ireland. The latest Red C poll shows that Sinn Féin Ireland position at the top of the polls continues to grow.

Mary Lou McDonald commends Springhill/Westrock families on their steadfast pursuit of truth

Speaking on Thursday, Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald said: “I commend the families of the Springhill/Westrock victims for their steadfast pursuit of truth over more than 50 years. Their determination and courage has ensured that the events of 9 July 1972 are now openly acknowledged.”

“Today, we remember teenagers John Dougal, David McCafferty, Margaret Gargan, and Paddy Butler and Fr Noel Fitzpatrick, and all their loved ones, including those no longer with us.

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was followed by a concerted effort to conceal the truth. Key records remain missing, and false accounts were advanced with the backing of the British state.

“Without the resolve of these families who remained undeterred for fifty-four years, these facts would never have emerged.

“Today’s verdict vindicates the innocent who were killed on their own streets, and their families.

“This must be viewed in the wider context of legacy issues and ongoing attempts by the British government to shield its forces from accountability. Such efforts would deny truth and justice to victims.

“The Springhill/Westrock killings stand as a stark example of the harm inflicted during the conflict and the long struggle required to secure accountability.

“Sinn Féin continues to call for a legacy process that is rights-based, has the confidence of families, and is capable of delivering truth and justice as set out in the Stormont House Agreement. Any form of amnesty for British soldiers is totally unacceptable.”



New Video Update

In our latest video update, we review a successful Ard Fheis, the latest political and legacy news from Ireland, and more!

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Sinn Féin Vice President Michelle O'Neill to speak in San Francisco in June

Join Sinn Féin Vice President Michelle O'Neill for a conversation about uniting Ireland. This event is open to all. Registration is required and suggested donation amounts are \$10 for students, \$20 for supporters, and \$32 for Champions for Change.

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Sinn Féin Vice President Michelle O'Neill

Friday, June 5, 2026 - 7:30pm
United Irish Cultural Center
San Francisco, CA



Rita O'Hare honored at Áras Uí Chonghaile

Uachtarán Shinn Féin Mary Lou McDonald TD along with Mark Guilfoyle, President of Friends of Sinn Féin USA, unveil a beautiful bust of 1916 leader James Connolly in Áras Uí Chonghaile on Belfast's Falls Rd in memory of veteran Irish republican activist Rita O'Hare who passed away in 2023.

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Irish Unity Education Webinar with Rose Conway Walsh TD

Join us for a conversation with Rose Conway-Walsh, Sinn Féin TD for Mayo and member of the Oireachtas Good Friday Agreement Committee.

We will discuss the latest bill to come out of the committee in support of planning and preparing for Irish Unity, how Citizens Assemblies work, and more. You do not want to miss this one! It's free and all are welcome - registration is limited.

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