

UNITED IN ACTION

A Unite web newsletter for all
Northern Ireland members

MAY 2009



**BELFAST
MAY DAY
PARADE**

Getting ready for the parade



UNITE CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY IN BELFAST



Meeting up with old friends ...

Pictures: Kevin Cooper



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I remember when...





Enjoying the camaraderie



STEPPING OUT



Visteon workers lead the May Day rally in Belfast



Unite's Jimmy Kelly speaking at the May rally in Belfast

The message is ...

“Without a strongly placed organised workplace the union movement will not move forward,” said Unite’s Irish Regional Secretary Jimmy Kelly when he addressed the May Day parade in Belfast.

“As we in Unite have shown, the occupation of Visteon has delivered a deal that was acceptable to the majority of our members. And this shows that by fighting back we can get a result.”

He went on to say that being in a union means that individuals have a collective chance to withstand the actions of bad employers.

“But as an individual without union protection you will be picked off one by one,” he warned. He went on to say: “Each trade union needs to act in solidarity with each other when under attack. If we fail each other in a time of need we not only fail our comrades but ourselves.

“And to those outside Ireland who cannot organise because of the regime they live under I say, unless we are strongly organised here, we will not be able offer meaningful support in the cause of international workers’ rights.”

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Senior Convenor at Visteon John Maguire addressing the rally in Belfast

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**James Larkin (Jack) Jones, trade unionist,
born 29 March 1913, died 21 April 2009**

Jack is pictured above receiving a lifetime achievement award from union colleagues, Tony Woodley (Unite joint General Secretary); Jimmy Kelly (Irish Regional Secretary), and Jack Dromey (Deputy General Secretary).

A true comrade

“All his life Jack James Larkin Jones was a good friend of the Irish Region. Jack and his Family were frequent visitors to Ireland and had a large network of friends, colleagues and comrades both in the Trade Union Movement and of course in the International Brigades Memorial Trust.

“I’ve had the pleasure of Jack’s company at the unveiling of Monuments to the Irish men who joined the International Brigades in 1936 to fight Franco and Fascism, from Belfast to Dublin and in my own native city of Waterford.

“It was a great pleasure on my part both as the Waterford Crystal Convenor but also in my capacity as the President of the Transport and General Workers Union to welcome Jack and his son Mick as visitors to Waterford Crystal where they enjoyed the Tour of the Waterford Glass Factory (Jack even tried his hand on the Cutting wheel) and meeting the Branches, the Shop Stewards and the Workforce

“True to his spirit and beliefs Jack sent a message of congratulations to the workers at Waterford Glass during the recent occupation of the Factory, a message of solidarity and congratulations that was read from the platform of a mass meeting of over 10,000 Workers by the President of the Waterford Council of Trade Unions.

“One of the most recent monuments unveiled by Jack J.L Jones was in Inistioge, Co Kilkenny last June. The Monument was to commemorate George Brown’s contribution and ultimate sacrifice - for the Spanish Republic. This monument was unveiled in the presence of Tony Woodhouse the President of our union UNITE.

“Jack and his fellow International Brigader Bob Doyle received a presentation of two hurleys and two sliotars from the legendary All Star Kilkenny hurler Eddie Keher. Seeing Jack make practice swings with his new hurley was really good fun.

“Our task now of course is to build a Union that Jack would always be proud of, a Union that gives the Shop Stewards the respect that Jack always encouraged. On International Workers’ Day as Jack Jones is laid to rest I extend our sincere condolences to all his family and friends on behalf of the Irish Region.”

THEN COMRADES COME RALLY
AND THE LAST FIGHT LET US FACE
THE INTERNATIONALE
UNITES THE HUMAN RACE

JIMMY KELLY
IRELAND REGIONAL SECRETARY UNITE