

SEFF NEWSLETTER

Supporting Victims and Survivors, Strengthening Communities



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

SEPTEMBER MEMBER'S MEETING

WEDNESDAY 26th September 2018 at 7.30pm

Watching a DVD recording of the 2018 European Victims Day at Stormont including Testimonies from Paul Donley, Rajaa Berezag & Marie & Anthony O'Reilly.



The SEFF Office is open
Monday -Friday,
9am - 5pm for general
office business

If you require support or help with completing DHSS or other Welfare forms **Tina/Norman** will be available to assist with this service.

As much as is possible, Tina will be in the office on **Tuesdays** from **10am - 5pm.**

However, if you require help outside these times, please contact the office, leave your name and number and someone will contact you to arrange a suitable time. Remember Norman Kirkpatrick is also now available to assist you with Appeals/Tribunal Representation work.

Dear Member,

We have reserved most of the front page for two very important SEFF events coming up over the next two weeks and we appeal for your support. Please attend these events and encourage family members, friends and others who support our objectives to do likewise.

In this month's Newsletter I want to begin by welcoming Rachel Glover and Aitor Martinez to SEFF's Advocacy service and indeed the wider organisation. I've no doubt that both will make a very positive contribution within the roles of which they've been appointed.

In the past month SEFF has formalised its' outreach presence through the launch of The West Tyrone Gateway Service, based in Newtownstewart (taking on offices formerly held by West Tyrone Voice)

Meanwhile in South Down SEFF will take on the running of offices formerly held by South Down Action for Healing Wounds who have also taken the decision to dissolve as a group.

(Continued overleaf)



SEFF's

**Remembrance & Thanksgiving Service-
Sunday 7th October
2018 at 3pm**

In Ballygawley Presbyterian Church.

WITH REV. NICK COOPER

THEME: UNITING INNOCENT VICTIMS

(UNIENDO VICTIMAS INOCENTES)

The service will include the dedication of a new Memorial Quilt honouring innocent victims of PIRA terrorism committed in Mainland Europe and ETA Terrorism committed in Spain.

Light refreshments will be served afterwards within the Church hall.

We call upon the SEFF Membership to get behind this initiative.

SEFF

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Lisnaskea

Co Fermanagh
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028 677 22242

E-mail: info@seff.org.uk

Website: www.seff.org.uk

SEFF's 20th Anniversary Dinner Dance

Marking 20 years serving victims and survivors of terrorism and the broader community



1998



2018

Friday 5th October 2018 at 7pm
Lisgoole Suite, Killyheolin Hotel

Music by: The Originals
Admission by ticket only.

Tickets: €35 each
No. 001

T. 028 677 23884



Seff Lisnaskea
Seff Victims

September 2018 - Issue 144

A special Launch event will be held in Rathfriland on Wednesday 7th November 2018 of which SEFF will be sending a bus so please show your support to innocent victims/survivors of terrorism within the south down area by attending this event. Please call the SEFF office to reserve your place on the bus.

I want to also take this opportunity on all your behalves to thank our Advocacy service team, led by Ken Funston for their substantive efforts in ensuring that as many of you as possible were facilitated in engagement with the NIO Legacy Consultation process. SEFF has submitted a strong, fair and realistic response (compete with our own alternative proposals) and we await the outcome of the NIO's response to what they have received over the duration of the Consultation period.

Finally I make reference to Joan Clements who is leaving VSS and moving on to a new role in Fermanagh via The Ely Centre. We are sad to lose her and thank her most sincerely for her efforts and support of SEFF down the years

A Covenant with Seriously Injured Innocent Victims/Survivors of Terrorism

SEFF's Advocacy Support Service (AfIV - Advocacy for Innocent Victims) in conjunction with partner groups is committed to advocating on behalf of those who bare the physical scars of terrorism and criminal violence.

This constituency of victims/survivors have been marginalised and overlooked by Government. There have been minimal advancements made around their needs and rights to reparations, access to justice and broader welfare related issues.

We have become deeply concerned at the politicised arguments which have prevailed to date and which have prevented innocents from being supported as is the duty of this State.

We submit that the Northern Ireland Office Legacy structures offered an opportunity for some redress to be made but sadly the current proposals are a continuation of what has gone before - the Injured are not viewed a priority.

The UK Government's rationale that Pensions for the seriously injured and a Mental Trauma service are devolved matters is not a sustainable rationale when set against a backdrop of limited prospect of a timely return to devolved Government.

Moreover the overarching improvement in reconciliation and good relations within the community can't be achieved by a dismissive approach to innocent victims and survivors and their legitimate issues.

Airbrushing the terrorist campaign, OTR letters, Royal Prerogatives of Mercy, and a relentless cultural war are all counterproductive and fuel sectarianism. Government must recognise the harm that has been done and rebuild trust with the innocent victims/survivors of terrorism.





(The Covenant as set out overleaf has been developed by SEFF's Advocacy support service in conjunction with partner groups across the victim/survivor sector and follows advice from individual seriously injured victims/survivors)

We call for delivery on the following issues which **MUST** be legislated for:

- 1 (a) The current definition of victim (N.I Order 2006) must be reviewed and replaced to take account of the issue of innocence. The current definition is at the core of flawed victims' policy.
- (b) We call for a UK-wide definition of victim/survivor of terrorism which would include innocent victims/survivors of terrorism in the Northern Ireland context alongside recent victims/survivors of Islamic-inspired terrorism, Al Qaeda/Daish etc.
2. (a) A pension for the seriously injured which allows for innocents injured through no fault of their own to receive this reparation package. (This must apply across the entirety of the United Kingdom as well as Republic of Ireland)
- (b) An appeals process should exist which would consider any case where an individual who has been proven of, or is suspected of criminal activity, would have their circumstances tested against their willingness to show contrition for their previous activities as well as providing information for those who they wronged through their unjust actions.
3. A mental trauma service must be introduced which responds to the needs of those who suffer acute mental trauma as a result of their experiences over the years of the terrorist campaign.
4. An urgent review of the operations of The PIP benefit (Personal Independence Payment) concerning the difficulties experienced by victims/survivors. Those seriously injured should not have to undergo an assessment process where they are forced to relive Troubles related events.
5. The seriously injured must have access to justice, truth and accountability pathways previously denied them. Any potential new investigative process introduced must incorporate the legitimate rights of the injured to be fully involved.



Classes & Courses

COURSE	DATE / TIME	LOCATION	COST
First Aid (Accredited) Tutor: David Watson	Wednesday 3rd, 17th & 24th October 2018 7.30-9.30pm 3 weeks	SEFF Offices	£15 / person 
Art Tutor: Ruth Elliott	Tuesday 9 th October 2018 7.30-9.30pm 6 weeks Oil painting including a Christmas Scene to then be developed into a card.	SEFF Offices	£20 / person 
Yoga Tutor: Genny Brown	Tuesday 9 th October 2018 7pm 6 weeks	SEFF Offices	£20 / person 
Kangoo Class Tutor: Ausra Klimaityte	Tuesday 6th November 2018 6pm—7pm 6 weeks Please note we require shoe sizes and individuals body weight (if over 12 stones). Max. weight for the kangoo boots is 18 stone.	SEFF Offices	£20 / person 

FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE 2018

Saturday 3rd November 2018

Bus departs from SEFF at 2.30pm, pick ups on route.

Stopping for a 2 course meal.

Attending the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance in the Waterfront Hall.



Cost is £25 per person—includes transport, meal and ticket to the festival of remembrance.

If interested in attending please phone the office on 028677 23884 to **register your interest by Friday 28th September 2018.**



Complementary Therapies

We are now taking names for Q1 of the new financial funding year covering the **September—October 2018** period.

The treatments on offer are as follows (5 sessions) of:

- **Massage** (Therapist: Sandra Johnston)
- **Aromatherapy** (Therapist: Gordon Hayhurst)
- **Reflexology** (Therapist: Gillian Johnston)
- **Physiotherapy** (Therapist: Nicola McCullagh-Daley)
- **Indian Head Massage** (Therapist: Gordon Hayhurst)
- **Hopi Ear Candle Therapy** (Therapist: Ruth Watson)
- **Health Kinesiology** (Therapist: Marilyn Robinson)

Please contact the office to register your interest on 028 677 23884 or 677 22242.

£25 contribution for 5 sessions -

****WHEN TAKING UP ANY OF THESE SESSIONS YOU ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE MONITORING FORMS AND PAY THE MONIES BEFORE SESSIONS COMMENCE, OTHERWISE YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO AVAIL OF THESE TREATMENTS.**



MORNING SEFF CALLING

Well now that the school holidays have finished, the roads have become extremely busy with traffic. Over the last few weeks the media has brought to us the news of several fateful traffic accidents. Unfortunately most of these accidents involved young people. Statistically, the majority of road traffic accidents are caused by speed and young drivers. Is it the confidence of youth, carelessness, inexperience or could it be that country roads in Northern Ireland are not built to take the amount of traffic on them or a combination of all these? Whatever the reason, our roads have become even more dangerous. When we are young we cannot wait to leave home, earn a wage, grow up and so on. Why are we in such a hurry?

Next is that we cannot wait to retire, put our feet up or do the things you dreamt of doing when we finally retire.

Before we know it, life has passed us by. We spend most of our lives wishing the time away. If only those young drivers would slow down, think and enjoy each day that we have on this earth. Take each day and enjoy it as life is so precious. Unfortunately we do not always pay heed until it is too late.

If you are a paid up member of SEFF and would like to avail of our telephone service, where we can call you on a specific day, either Monday or Thursday, then get in touch with either Joy or Mandy in the office. We give you a free, confidential and friendly listening ear where you can have a wee chat to help alleviate some of your loneliness or pain or to just let off steam about something that is annoying or troubling you.

Best wishes, Ann and Rita (MSO)

SEFF's Walkers & Talkers



Please see below upcoming walking dates for SEFF's Walkers & Talkers. Please do feel free to come along and join us on our weekly walks which take place across County Fermanagh and Tyrone every Wednesday morning at 11am.

As we are now in Autumn the weather will undoubtedly start to take a turn for the worse therefore we would like to inform you that if on any morning of a scheduled walk we are experiencing severe weather conditions we may need to cancel and will do so by sending out a text to our membership. For anyone who does not receive texts we would advise you to phone into the office on 028677 23884 to check if the walk is going ahead.

DATE	TIME	DESTINATION	MEETING POINT
WED 26 th SEPT	11AM	CASTLE ARCHDALE	TEA ROOMS CAR PARK
WED 3 rd OCT	11AM	KNOCKMANY FOREST (Travel towards Fintona from Augher approx. 2 mile along the road you will come to a full crossroads – the car park is on the right at this junction.)	CAR PARK
WED 10 th OCT	11AM	BELLANALECK	CAR PARK AT THE MARINA
WED 17 th OCT	11AM	ROUND LAKE, FIVEMILETOWN (Hoping to take in part of Blessingbourne)	CAR PARK AT ROUND LAKE
WED 24 th OCT	11AM	ENNISKILLEN - ROUND O	CAR PARK AT ROUND O
WED 31 st OCT	11AM	ELY LODGE	PARK AT RIVER BEHIND PHONE BOX

BEFRIENDING SEPTEMBER UPDATE

Hi All,

It's that time again, the months seem to be flying in and the dark nights are approaching so please keep in mind anyone that needs company, if you can offer your time, offer them a lift into SEFF events or refer them into our Befriending service.

We have quite a few interesting coffee mornings coming up after our summer break so get your pen out and mark the following **Dates for your Diary**:

Thursday 27th September 2018 - 10:30am - 12:30pm - Breast Awareness and Cervical Screening - this involves a practical demonstration of how to self-examine the breast, discussion around smear tests and signs and symptoms of cervical cancer. This will be very beneficial for our female members so ladies, please make an effort to attend.

Thursday 11th October 2018 - 10:30am to 12:30pm - Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning - a few weeks later than usual but we are hosting our annual fundraising coffee morning for Macmillan so any members who bake, please feel free to contribute to our cake sale and if you don't bake then come along and buy some lovely home-made goodies and support this very worthy charity.

Thursday 25th October 2018 - 10:30am - 12:30pm - Male Domestic Abuse - where someone will come along to talk about Male Domestic Abuse that is unfortunately prevalent in today's society. In the past we mostly thought of Domestic Abuse as happening to the female population but statistics show many men coming forward to report instances of abuse they have suffered. Please come along and support this event and pick up some useful information, even if not for yourself, it may come in useful for someone you know.

Regards,

The Befriending Team

SEFF'S COMMUNITY HALLOWE'EN FESTIVAL 2018

Tuesday 30th October 2018 at 6.30pm

At the Archdale Hall, Lisnaskea

Come along for lots of fun activities including face painting, bouncy castle, BBQ.

SEFF representatives met with Defence Minister Gavin Williamson MP

SEFF representatives met with Defence Minister Gavin Williamson MP on Friday night last held in The Killyhevlin Hotel c/o Arlene Foster MLA.

Kenny Donaldson, SEFF's Director of Services stated: "We welcomed the opportunity of engaging directly with the Secretary of Defence Gavin Williamson MP on Friday night last. We found the Minister to be genuinely interested to speak with us around a range of issues including; the call for reinstatement of the War Widows Pension for a grouping of widows who remarried but who fall outside previously introduced legislation".

"The Minister took the time to speak with one such affected War Widow, it is clear that Defence have signed off on the proposal but that further work is needed to bring others within the cabinet over the line on the issue. Belatedly the Government must do the right thing and bring some comfort to those who have been so grievously wronged, it must act now before further widows pass away. To not do so is in breach of the very principle and ethos of the Military Covenant".

"We had a useful exchange concerning the debate around issues connected with a statute of limitation and we also raised the need for the UK Government to at times be 'less British,' (in terms of its' acceptance) to be prepared to take its' gloves off and challenge the Republic of Ireland State on its' failings over the years of the terrorist campaign, including holding that State accountable in terms of its' Article 2 compliance in respect of Troubles related murders and deaths within its' jurisdiction".

"We left the Minister with the message that as UK citizens impacted by terrorism that our members expect the UK Government to advocate on behalf of their needs just as the Republic of Ireland State is selectively prepared to do so in particular cases," concluded Mr Donaldson.

Left to right: Kenny Donaldson (SEFF's Director of Services) Gavin Williamson (Minister of Defence) Ken Funston (Advocacy Services Manager) and Eric Brown (Chairman)



AGM 2018

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SEFF's Annual General Meeting

will take place on

Tuesday 23rd October 2018 at 7pm in

The Archdale Hall, Lisnaskea

7pm - 8.30pm - Annual General Meeting

(Guest Speaker: Ms Joan Clements, formerly of VSS)

8.30pm - 9.15pm - Supper

9.15pm - 10.30pm - Entertainment from Omagh Protestant Boys Flute Band

including short Film tribute they have produced in respect of

The Ballygawley Bus Bomb.

We request that you would make an extra effort to attend this meeting and support the work of the organisation.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

SEFF's Annual Act of Remembrance is due to take place this year on Friday 9th November 2018 at 10.45am at SEFF's Memorial in the grounds of Holy Trinity, Church of Ireland, Lisnaskea.

Refreshments and victim/survivor testimonies will follow in SEFF offices afterwards.

Further detail around SEFF's Remembrance events will follow in next month's newsletter.



The Walled City Tattoo Respite in the Millenium Forum, Londonderry on Saturday 17th November 2018

The Walled City Tattoo returns to the stage this year headlined by Stick-Stoff, the Basel based drumming sensation.

Depart from SEFF Offices at 3pm - pick-ups on route - SEFF, Maguiresbridge, Tempo, Fintona, Omagh Park & Ride, Newtownstewart.

Cost is £25 per person - includes transport, a 2 course meal on the way and tickets to the Tattoo performance.

To register your interest please phone the office on: 028 677 23884 no later than Friday 5th October 2018. We particularly encourage our new West Tyrone Gateway Service members to get involved in this activity.

SEFF's Welfare & Benefits Service Update

We are aware that a vast number of SEFF members who are in receipt of DLA (Disability Living Allowance) are still awaiting the transition to PIP (Personal Independence Payment).

Tina Grimsley (SEFF's Welfare Officer) along with Norman Kirkpatrick (SEFF's Appeals Officer) are available to meet with people and provide guidance around the various steps of the process and to ensure you have the information you need going forward. Please contact us before you start the process as this can have an adverse effect on your claim.

Are you currently in receipt of any of the following:-

JSA Income Based, ESA Income Based, Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, Housing Benefit (Rental)

Universal Credit has been rolled out in Fermanagh and this will affect you. It will see a number of people lose their benefits or have their benefits capped.

It has to be realised that Universal Credit works differently from the benefits it replaces. Before making your claim you need to know:

Universal Credit will be paid twice a month, although you may request a monthly payment. You will be expected to make your claim online with your own personal email account.

You will receive a single payment for your household if your Universal Credit includes an amount for rent, it will be paid directly to your landlord - however, subject to certain conditions, you will be able to opt out of direct payments and arrange to pay your landlord yourself. The application has to be completed in one step it can't be saved to finish at a later time.

If you are told to change over to Universal Credit please contact SEFF's Welfare service on 028 677 23884 for assistance and make an appointment or if it just advice you wish feel free to speak to either Tina Grimsley (SEFF's Welfare Officer) or Norman Kirkpatrick (SEFF's Welfare Appeals Officer) in the near future we will also be confirming a new member to the

Bereavement Support Sessions

SEFF's Bereavement Support sessions are recommencing on Thursday 27th September 2018 at 12.30pm - beginning with hot food.

The sessions will be facilitated by Rodney Sharpe (who provides counselling within our partner organisation, MUVE in Cookstown) and will take a different format to the last set of sessions. They will be very informal and will function as more of a 'drop in' service for people who have had loved ones pass away. It will give people an opportunity to come together with others who have been through similar experiences and allow them to find some comfort in sharing these experiences. **Do not suffer in silence!**

If interested in attending please phone the office on 028 677 23884.



Coffee & Chat

SEFF's West Tyrone Gateway Service Launches

On Wednesday 12th September 2018 SEFF launched a new outreach service in West Tyrone for the benefit of innocent victims/survivors of terrorism. The service is aptly titled; SEFF's West Tyrone Gateway Service. SEFF was established in 1998 and last month celebrated its' 20th year in existence (formed on the day of The Omagh Bomb) will take on offices in Grange Court, Newtownstewart which was the formerly the base of West Tyrone Voice - that group has now dissolved.

In a statement SEFF's Director of Services Kenny Donaldson explains the reason why SEFF has embarked on an outreach service within the area. Mr Donaldson stated: "Down the years SEFF has enjoyed a close relationship with individual victims/survivors and families based in the Castleberg, Newtownstewart, Strabane, Londonderry/Derry and Claudy areas, such individuals share SEFF's ethos that in the context of Northern Ireland there was never justification for the use of criminal violence in the furtherance of or defence of a political objective".

"SEFF believes passionately in the principle of equality of access for all innocent victims./ survivors of terrorism and in this regard we are committed to ensuring that services are provided as are required. We have a team of staff and service providers who will be based in the Grange Court office and will offer services transcending; health and well-being (counselling and complementary therapies) welfare advice including Appeals and Tribunal representation, Advocacy support for those pursuing justice, truth and accountability, a weekly telephone fellowship service, social support projects including respite, classes and seminars".

Mr Donaldson added: "We were very encouraged by the attendance at last night's launch event held in The Newtownstewart 2000 Centre (well over 100 people in attendance) and we encourage any innocent victim/survivor of terrorism who is not currently linked to or receiving support via The Victims and Survivors Service or another support group to feel able to engage with our services. SEFF has a remit to work with civilians but also the ex security force constituency and their families," concluded Mr Donaldson.





FACT SEPTEMBER 2018 UPDATE

FACT is about to start a chronic pain clinic in partnership with the Oak Healthy Living Centre to assist people who have constant pain on how to improve their quality of life.

We also are looking forward to a combined Tea Dance which is taking place in Armagh City Hotel on the **18th September 2018** Expressions of interest for this event are sitting at 80.

The gardening, walking indoor bowling computer classes are still on going.

Fermanagh members enjoyed a very successful lunch in The May Fly Inn, Kesh where we had a very interesting talk by Rodney Connor of Air Ambulance and we had a loose collection which totalled £160.00, given to this worthy cause.

Digbys was the location for Armagh members' Let's Lunch. All members enjoy the lunches, where gives they had an opportunity to interact with each other, thus reducing loneliness and isolation. The Armagh area is busy with a big intake of interest in IPad, art, swimming and crafts, so much so, that we are organising more of these in the next quarter, in order to get through the large reserve lists.

The Peatlands Park walk in August attracted over 20 participants, and they are looking forward to the September walk at Dungannon Park.

In August members from both areas enjoyed a day out at Enniskillen Show, culminating in a lovely meal at Killyhevlin Hotel.

The Pharmacy Partnership Programme, funded by CDHN, and which has been run successfully in the Fermanagh area last year, is now being rolled out across the Armagh area, starting Monday 8th October. This programme will advise members of the services their local Pharmacist can provide and also look at diet & lifestyle, the importance of exercise, cholesterol, blood pressure, etc thus improving the health & well-being of the over 60's. Arthritis Care will also participate in one of these sessions.

We will be spreading our wings as far as possible in the coming months to ensure that **FACT's** good name is well known and we will continue to network with all agencies to ensure that they are aware of all we have to offer, as we are mindful that June 2019 won't be long in coming round.

Jenny & Gladys

Contact info - Tel: 028 677 22615 Email - info@factni.com



SEFF Fundraising

Just to let you all know that SEFF currently have a book table in Tesco in Enniskillen for the next 2 weeks (up until Friday 28th September 2018).

If you are in need of some reading material we would encourage you to go along and support the initiative.



SEFF's Holiday Club

It was recently suggested about starting a holiday club in SEFF where people could go on various breaks away organised through members of the club.

The holidays **WOULD NOT** be subsidised people would have to pay the full price for the holiday but they can pay it off in instalments.

If interested contact Sally Haire on 07752233892 and we would then propose to have a meeting to discuss further with interested members.

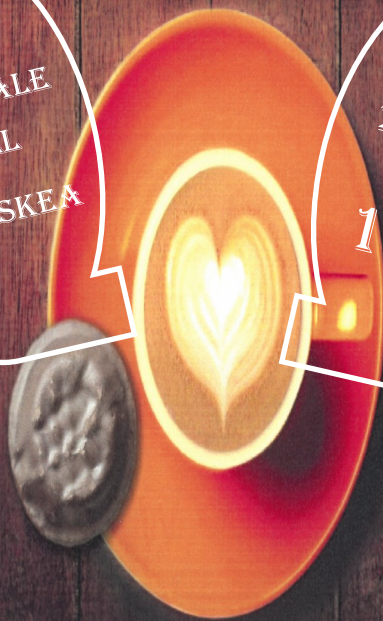
SAVE THE DATE!

A BREW FOR DREW

Saturday 29th September 2018

ARCHDALE HALL LISNASKEA

FROM 10AM



An Institution-wide coffee morning in aid of the Drew Nelson Legacy Project.

DREW NELSON
LIFE & LEGACY

Drew Nelson

South Fermanagh Juniors L.O.L

Concert

Featuring Paul Elliott and Other Artists

Saturday 6th October 2018 (D.V)
in Fawney Orange Hall
at 7.30p.m.

God Save the Queen

Tickets £5

Marking 20 years serving victims and survivors of terrorism and the broader community



1998

2018

Friday 5th October 2018 at 7pm
Lisgoole Suite, Killyhevlin Hotel
Music by: The Originals
Admission by ticket only.

Tickets: £35 each
No. 001

T. 028 677 23884

Tickets are available to purchase from SEFF Office

Augher Clogher Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance
We Remember
Corick House

Wednesday 24th October 2018
at 8pm

Tickets £15 each
available from Harry Alexander
(02885557576)

