

C.Desmond Greaves (1913-1988)

C.Desmond Greaves, whose work and writings inspired the foundation of this Weekend School, was one of Ireland's leading labour historians. He was author of *The Life and Times of James Connolly*; *Liam Mellows and the Irish Revolution*; *Sean O'Casey: Politics and Art*; *Wolfe Tone and the Irish Nation*; *History of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union: The Formative Years*; *The Irish Crisis*, and two books of verse, *Four Letter Verses* and *the Mountbatten Award and Elephants Against Rome*.

Desmond Greaves opposed the application of Britain and Ireland in 1961 to join the supranational European Economic Community (EEC). He believed that in the era of the EU and the near-global domination of Transnational Capital, the most important political task for democrats and the Labour Movement was to join in an international campaign in defence of the Nation State as the fundamental locus of political democracy and the only mechanism which history has evolved for imposing social control on private capital. He saw this as applying James Connolly's views on the national question in present-day circumstances.

Desmond Greaves believed that the peaceful way to end the partition of Ireland was to secure maximum equality between Nationalists and Unionists in the Six Counties, thereby removing any rational basis for Unionism as an ideology that justified domination over Nationalists and opening the way for Northern Unionists to rediscover in time the political implications of the common Irishness they share with their Nationalist fellow countrymen and women.

As an activist in the Connolly Association, London, and editor from 1948 to 1988 of its monthly newspaper *The Irish Democrat*, he pioneered the idea of a campaign for civil rights as the way to shatter Unionist political domination, which was taken up by the 1960s Northern Civil Rights Movement.

BOOKINGS AND ADMISSION

Full school €25
Individual sessions €6
Students/unwaged half-price



ENQUIRIES

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DESMOND GREAVES SCHOOL WEBSITE

www.greavesschool.com



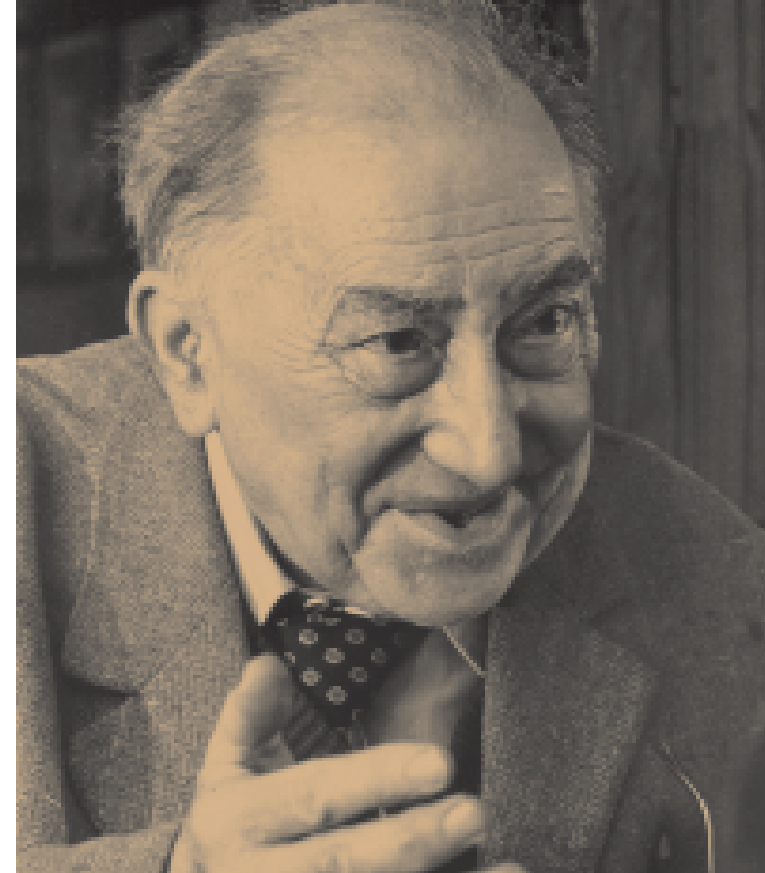
BOOKSTALL

Books and pamphlets on Irish history and politics will be on sale at the Weekend School, especially those offering alternatives to the current official and academic orthodoxy.



HOW TO GET THERE

The Ireland Institute, 27 Pearse Street, is along the north side of Trinity College in the centre of Dublin. It is the former home and family business place of the 1916 leaders Patrick and Willie Pearse. The Weekend School will be held in the new hall at the back of the building.



29th DESMOND GREAVES SUMMER SCHOOL 2017

*A weekend of political thought and discussion
from Friday to Sunday, 8-10 September 2017,
at the Ireland Institute, 27 Pearse Street, Dublin 2,
beside Trinity College*

TOPICS

Centenary of the 1917 Russian Revolution
*The 1960s Northern Civil Rights Movement –
a missed opportunity?*
Syria, Russia and the mainstream media
The challenge of Brexit

TWENTY-NINTH DESMOND GREAVES SUMMER WEEKEND SCHOOL 2017

FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 7.30pm

1. *The impact of the Russian Bolshevik Revolution on the foreign policy of Irish Labour and the First Dáil Éireann, 1918-21*

Irish and Soviet political and diplomatic exchanges 1919-1922

Michael Quinn, author of *Irish-Soviet Diplomatic and Friendship Relations 1917-1991* (Iontas Press, Maynooth, 2017)

Irish Labour and the October Revolution

Emmett O'Connor, Ulster University, author of numerous books and articles on Labour history

CHAIR: **Mick O'Reilly**, former Regional Secretary, UNITE Trade Union

SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 11.00am

2. *Northern Civil Rights Movement – a missed opportunity?*

The 1960s background to a new departure

Anthony Coughlan, who was present at the foundation meeting of the NICRA and the 1968 civil rights marches

The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA)

Kevin McCorry, organizer for the NICRA from 1969 to 1975

CHAIR: **Deaglán de Bréadún**, author, broadcaster and columnist with *The Irish News*, Belfast

SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2.30pm

3. *Northern Civil Rights Movement - its relevance today*

Dr. Martin Mansergh, historian, former TD, Senator and Taoiseach's adviser, played a key role in the Northern Peace Process and the lead-up to the Good Friday Agreement

Professor Patrick Murphy, educationist, member of several public bodies in Northern Ireland and Britain, former member of the NICRA, weekly columnist on current affairs in *The Irish News*

CHAIR: **Roger Kelly**, former senior social worker; member of the Belfast-based Campaign for Democracy in the 1990s; active in the retiree branch of NIPSA

SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 11.00am

4. *The conflict in Syria, the mainstream media and Russia – a saga of lies and propaganda*

Vanessa Beeley, investigative journalist focused on the Middle East; critic of media coverage of the Syrian conflict; author of influential reports from Aleppo when it was under siege

CHAIR: **Roger Cole**, Chairman, Peace and Neutrality Alliance (PANA)

SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2.30pm

5. *The challenge of Brexit*

Dr Karen Devine, Lecturer in International Relations and specialist in EU affairs, Dublin City University; former Fulbright scholar

Lynn Boylan, MEP for Dublin, Sinn Fein

Brian Denny, official in the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers Union (RMT), advocate of Brexit in the British Labour Party

CHAIR: **David Gibney**, Communications Officer, MANDATE Trade Union

SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

Bar-food and meeting place at

The Long Stone (upstairs),

Townsend Street