

MAY DAY 2024
OUR WORK
OUR LIVES
OUR PLACE



MAY DAY MARCH AND RALLY: BETTER IN A UNION

DATE: Saturday 4th May

ASSEMBLE: 12:00 noon

LOCATION: Writers Square Belfast

This year's annual May Day rally will gather in Writers' Square and feature speeches from leading trade union and community activists followed by a lively and colourful parade through the city centre celebrating trade union unity, resilience and diversity before returning to Donegall Street.

The theme for this year is 'Better in a Union' with keynote speaker Rozanne Foyer, General Secretary of the Scottish TUC.

This is open to everyone, please come along and bring banners, flags, whistles and noise!



MAY DAY FIESTA! FAMILY FUN DAY!

DATE: Saturday 4th May

TIME: 2:00 – 6:00pm

VENUE: Larkins Square

Our Work, Our Lives, Our Place

On Saturday, May 4th, the car park behind the ICTU & the John Hewitt pub (Donegall St Place) will be transformed into 'Larkin's Square' for an alcohol-free family fun day.

Drop in arts workshops will start at 10am, followed by the May Day March

& Rally at 12:00pm departing from Writers' Square.

There will be free drop-in sessions of art workshops, stalls and flea market, a talk on AE Russell and music and poetry. There will be activities for kids including rosette and badge making, a bouncy castle, food trucks and face painting!

The event is being jointly organised by the Community Arts Partnership and Belfast & District Trades Union Council.

OUR WORK, OUR LIVES, OUR PLACE

Our Work, Our Lives, Our Place – this is an ambitious addition to one of the city's most cherished traditions, the May Day March. For decades, May Day has symbolised unity amidst turmoil, standing as the sole cross-community parade during the conflict and continuing to unite all sectors of society to this day.

Community Arts Partnership, along with our partners across the labour movement and progressive sector, is proud to unveil a vibrant inclusive mini-festival of creativity, culture and solidarity.

This isn't just about entertainment and creativity, (but we do promise plenty of that), it's about telling the story of Belfast's trade union heritage, and celebrating the resilience of our city and its people .

Backed by the support of a host of trade unions and a network of local progressive organisations, artists and creatives, this pilot festival aims to be a touchstone for all those who want social change, locally and globally.

So come along, join us as we celebrate our solidarity and our shared identity as a city of welcome, unity, and progress. May Day is more than a date on the calendar – it's a rallying cry for a brighter, more inclusive future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to the below unions for their sponsorship and donations.



PEACE ON EARTH FEATURING LIVE MUSIC FROM JOE SOLO AND TEKNOPEASANT

DATE: Friday 26th April

TIME: 7.30pm

VENUE: The Black Box, Belfast

Organised by the International Brigade Commemoration Committee this an event observing the 87th Anniversary of the Bombing of Guernica by Hitler during the Spanish Civil War and a call

for international solidarity and peace in the present day.

Includes a May Day Greeting from ICTU Asst General Secretary **GERRY MURPHY** and live music from the legendary **JOE SOLO** and **TEKNOPEASANT**.

More info: Lyndaernest@btinternet.com

JOE SOLO
Joe Solo has used writing, music, art, poetry, activism, live theatre and walking machine progress from Scarborough. His musical odyssey began in 1987 forming a bluegrass band at school and has spanned many time countries either as lyricist or pop punk quartet's Lethem Joe or touring with his unique brand of folk, punk and blues in the over night. He began releasing twenty one albums since 2004. Solo has written a series of children's books for Children on social justice and equality and many other projects.

TEKNOPEASANT
TEKNOPEASANT is a Bangor based blues punk rock band from Bangor. Fighting for a better world and an end to war and the destruction of the planet. We like to mix up all kinds of meaningful folk songs and country blues. Bringing his unique brand of rustic rebelliousness and spiritous songwriting into our lives.

THE INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE INVITE YOU TO OUR MAY DAY EVENT
26TH APRIL | 7:30PM
The Black Box | BELFAST
TICKETS £7.00 WAGED | £3.50 UNWAGED

THEME: PEACE ON EARTH
OBSERVING THE 87TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBING OF GUERNICA BY HITLER: 26TH APRIL 1937

We are delighted to announce that Gerry Murphy will be joining us to bring a May Day greeting from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. We will be emphasising the need to build a peace movement to end all wars

For further information contact: lyndaernest@btinternet.com

DERRY | THURSDAY 25TH APRIL | 7:30PM | SANDINOS
BELFAST | FRIDAY 26TH APRIL | 7:30PM | THE BLACK BOX

ANNUAL MAY DAY LECTURE: COMBATING RACISM AND THE FAR RIGHT

DATE: Wednesday 1st May

TIME: 7:00pm

VENUE: Irish Congress of Trade Unions, 45-47 Donegall Street, Belfast

This year's Annual May Day lecture from

Belfast & District Trades Council will be delivered by Dr Stevie Nolan, director of Trademark Research and Training organisation and host of the successful podcast 'A Workers Guide to Everything'. Dr Nolan, author of the recent TUC

paper on 'The Rise of the Far Right – building a trade union response', will be discussing the significant rise of racism across Ireland and beyond and how this is going hand in glove with a dangerous resurgence of far-right politics and organisation. Importantly Dr Nolan will consider what approaches trade unions and other civic society organisations can take to combat the far right and

provide an alternative and progressive voice for working people.

Chaired by Kerry Fleck Vice President of Belfast & District Trades Council

More info:

belfasttradescouncil@hotmail.co.uk

KEN LOACH'S 'THE OLD OAK', FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

Join the Belfast & District Trades Council on the eve of May Day 2024 for a screening of the powerful and emotive **KEN LOACH** film **THE OLD OAK**. The movie is entred on changing demographics and struggles of a former mining town in Durham brings to the fore issues around class, poverty and solidarity.

This event is a BYO with donations collected at the door for medical aid for Gaza.

DATE: Friday 3rd May

TIME: Doors Open 6:00pm

VENUE: Irish Congress of Trade Unions, 45-47 Donegall Street, Belfast

More info:

belfasttradescouncil@hotmail.co.uk

The movie will be followed with a discussion chaired by **KERRY FLECK** and led by **STEPHEN BAKER**, Lecturer in Media, culture and politics at Ulster University. Stephen will be considering where the history of the miners struggle sits today in working class culture and the popular imagination and what implications this has for the enduring power of solidarity.



DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
Friday 26th April	Peace on Earth: Joe Solo and Tecknopeasent	7:00pm	Black Box
Wednesday 1st May	BDTUC Annual May Day Lecture: Combating Racism and the Far Right	7:00pm	ICTU
Friday 3rd May	Safe, Secure, Homes - Ban No Fault Evictions!	7:00pm	Redeemer Central
Friday 3rd May	"The Old Oak" Screening and Discussion	6:00pm	ICTU
Saturday 4th May	May Day Fiesta An Inclusive, alcohol-free family fun day	10:00am - 6:00pm stalls from 2pm	Larkin's Square
Saturday 4th May	Photo Exhibition: A History of May Day, photographic exhibition	10:00am - 12:00 noon, 3:00 - 5:00pm	ICTU
Saturday 4th May	Talk on 'AE Russell and the Co-operative Movement' by Michael McKernan	11:00am	CAP 2nd floor
Saturday 4th May	Face Painting, Bouncy Castle and Food Trucks	11:00am - 4:00pm	Larkin's Square
Saturday 4th May	Art Workshop 1: Banner & Button Making	10:00am	CAP 1st floor
Saturday 4th May	Art Workshop 2: Carnival Arts	11:00am	CAP 1st floor
Saturday 4th May	May Day March & Rally	12:00 noon	Writers' Square
Saturday 4th May	Stall and Flea Market	1:00pm	Larkin's Square
Saturday 4th May	Chidambaram Samba	2:00pm	Larkin's Square
Saturday 4th May	After the Rally, live music with Eddie Booth	2:00pm	Duke of York
Saturday 4th May	Trade Union Renewal	2:15pm	CAP 2nd floor
Saturday 4th May	Eamonn of Judas DJs	3:00pm	Larkin's Square
Saturday 4th May	Art Workshop 3: Carnival Arts	3:00pm	CAP 1st floor
Saturday 4th May	Poetry Sound Off	4:00pm	Larkin's Square
Saturday 4th May	Blind Dog Floyd	5:00pm	Larkin's Square
Saturday 4th May	Traditional Session	6:00pm	The John Hewitt
Sunday 5th May	Radical Belfast Walking Tour	2:00pm	ICTU
Thursday 9th May	Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions: Organising For Palestine	6:30pm	ICTU



SAFE, SECURE, HOMES. - BAN NO FAULT EVICTIONS!

DATE: Friday 3rd May,
TIME: 7:00pm
VENUE: Redeemer Central, 101
Donegall St, Belfast BT1 2FJ

Currently, private tenants who are not in a fixed-term tenancy or licence agreement can be evicted at any time and without a reason. In 2022/23, Loss of Private Rented Accommodation was the second most common reason for people presenting as homeless to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, behind Sharing Breakdown/Family

Disputes. Between 15% and 20% of homelessness presentations are directly attributable to a Loss of Private Rented Accommodation.

CATU Belfast is launching a new campaign for Safe, Secure Homes for all in the private rental sector. Join us for a discussion on the state of private rentals in our city and our proposals to tackle this unjust and unfair system.

Organised by the Community
Action Tenants Union –
belfast@catu.org



A HISTORY OF MAY DAY, PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

DATE: Saturday 4th May
TIME: 10:00 – 11.30am / 2:00 – 5:00pm
VENUE: Irish Congress of Unions,
Donegall Street, Ground Floor.

A photographic exhibition collated by the ICTU including images of historic Belfast May Day rallies and posters with

a light breakfast, tea and coffee before the Rally. Access via side door facing John Hewitt Beer Garden.
Everyone welcome!

Organised by Northern Ireland
Committee of Irish Congress of Trade
Unions.

TALK ON 'AE RUSSELL AND THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT' BY MICHAEL MCKERNAN

DATE: Saturday 4th May
TIME: 11:00am
LOCATION: CAP 2nd floor

Author, and founding member of the George Russell Society, Michael McKernan will speak to AE's influence

in Ireland's rural cooperative movement as well as his ongoing impact.



SAMBA WITH CHIDAMBARAM

DATE: Saturday 4th May
TIME: 2:00pm
VENUE: Community Arts Partnership,
'Larkin's Square' (Donegall St Place)

Just as the May Day parade reaches its dispersal point in Donegall Street, this all woman samba band will be kicking off with grooves for the masses leading the way into Larkin Square where they will be performing on an outdoor stage to continue our day of family fun.

Chidambaram is a lively all woman samba band playing regularly in Northern & Southern Ireland, with commitment to musical development, empowerment to women and FUN! They mix standard samba grooves with inventive & original compositions.

More info on Chidambaram via FB
[@Chidambaramsamba](https://www.facebook.com/Chidambaramsamba)



TRADE UNION RENEWAL AND PAVING A WAY TO A BETTER FUTURE, IN CONVERSATION WITH TRADE UNION LEADERS

DATE: Saturday 4th May
TIME: 2:00-3:00pm
VENUE: Community Arts Partnership,
'Larkin's Square' (Donegall St Place)

Hosted by NI Actor and comedian Alan McKee this event will feature open discussion with leading trade unionists from across all employment sectors discussing recent industrial actions and the importance of building on this to secure fair treatment of working people and their families moving forward.

Don't miss a chance to engage with those leading the fightback for a better life for all, tea / coffee and refreshments are available.

Organised by Northern Ireland
Committee of Irish Congress of Trade
Unions

'AFTER THE RALLY', SOLIDARITY AND MUSIC WITH EDDIE BOOTH

DATE: Saturday 4th May
TIME: 3:00pm
VENUE: Upstairs, The Duke of York

After the Rally live music event organised by Unite the Unions Organising Team, taking place immediately following the May Day Rally with Live Music from Co Down musician guaranteed to 'lift the spirits' and keep that May Day vibe rocking into the evening.



EMONN OF JUDAS DJS

DATE: Saturday 4th May

TIME: 3:00pm

VENUE: Larkin's Square

JUDAS DJs have been tag-teaming through genre-hopping sets and throwing down their own private remixes and mashups for longer than is entirely polite to mention.

ROCK AND BLUES WITH BLIND DOG FLOYD

DATE: Saturday 4th May

TIME: 5pm

LOCATION: Community Arts Partnership, 'Larkin's Square' (Donegall St Place)

To wrap up the day's events in Larkin's Square we have a live gig from Belfast's newest blues rock combo Blind Dog Floyd. The three piece band is made up of Breeze Brisbane on lead guitar, Jim McLarnon on bass and vocals, and Danny McQuillan on drums.

With Breeze's laid-back guitar and punchy lead work Blind Dog Floyd offers a sound that brings a unique dimension to the Blues/Rock genre.

The rhythm section powerhouse is made up of bassist Jim and drummer Danny with a combined playing experience of 70 plus years. Jim is a multi instrumentalist, songwriter and vocalist. He has recorded many of his self-penned songs. On drums is the veteran of the band, Danny, whose track record stretches back to the early 1970s. A combination of power and subtlety defines their style and drives the band complimenting the vocals delivered by Jim and Breeze.



TRADITIONAL SESSION

DATE: Saturday 4th May

TIME: 6:00pm - 10:00pm

VENUE: The John Hewitt

Come along to the John Hewitt's traditional Saturday session, running for over 20 years. With trad musicians from across the City.

WALKING TOUR OF RADICAL BELFAST WITH LABOUR HISTORIAN JOHN GRAY

DATE: Sunday 5th May

TIME: 2:00pm-4:00pm

STARTING POINT: ICTU Building, Donegall Street, Belfast.

Led by John Gray, radical and labour historian. The Radical and Labour Belfast Tour will follow in the footsteps of the United Irishmen when Belfast was the most revolutionary centre in the British Isles. Chart the emergence of the trade unions during the era of Belfast's breakneck industrial expansion. Visit the battlegrounds of the 1907 Dock Strike. Recall James Connolly's last Belfast speech. Many of the sites involved have vanished or changed out of all recognition so feats of imagination are involved. Consider the chequered

history of Labour politics and of the trade unions in the modern era.

Numbers are limited so please register in advance.



BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT & SANCTIONS AND ORGANISING FOR PALESTINE: PANEL DISCUSSION

DATE: Thursday 9th May

TIME: 6.30pm

VENUE: Irish Congress of Trade Unions, Donegall Street, Belfast

This event is brought to you jointly from Trade Union Friends of Palestine and the Belfast Trades Council. A panel of speakers both local and international will debate how we work together across society to make the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions campaign effective and real for people who wish

to support freedom for Palestine and oppose the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

Speakers will include:
Patricia McKeown – Unison
International Speaker TBC



Writers' Square
rally assembly point



'Larkin's Square'

BURC

The John
Hewitt

CAP

ICTU

'Larkin's Square' entry
(Donegall St Place)

Donegall Street

Duke of York



Register with the QR code
or the link below.

bit.ly/MAYDAY2024



Belfast
City Council

STRONGER TOGETHER
CONGRESS
Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Northern Ireland Committee



RECLAIM the
AGENDA