



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

May 2020

SEFF NEWSLETTER

Supporting Victims & Survivors, Strengthening Communities



Issue 116



**South East Fermanagh
Foundation**

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**SEFF Community
SEFF Victims and
Survivors**

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

**If you require support or
help with completing
Welfare forms Tina /Nor-
man 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.**

Dear Member,

In spite of these difficult times we have faced there are very many blessings to be found and in this month's Newsletter we celebrate the birth of new life into this world, and within your families you will also have had caused to celebrate and rejoice in things that have happened over this COVID-19 period.

Within SEFF we have continued to play our part in supporting the efforts of those working within health and social care settings, under the direction of Sonia Johnston our quilters made over 100 masks which were presented to local Nursing homes, we also secured finance from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Community Foundation N.I to provide groceries for vulnerable members across the community.

You will have noted in recent times that the UK Government and N.I Executive have released plans around how we emerge from the period of lockdown. The virus has stolen thousands of lives across our United Kingdom and the wider World and it has and will continue to have an immense impact upon the economic health of so many Nations, Regions and businesses etc.

At SEFF we are committed to trying to restore services, at least 1-1 support services at the earliest possible opportunity. We are keeping under review these matters and will advise when we are in a position to do so. We would wish to re-integrate staff back to work, restore counselling, welfare, advocacy and health and wellbeing caseworker support services.

Realistically complementary therapy and group-based activities and services are unlikely to be able to return for some time yet.

We will continue to keep you updated through this N'letter when we hear of developments, but be assured SEFF is working tirelessly on your behalf - whether that's campaigning or lobbying on victim/survivor policy issues (ie Pension for the seriously injured, The Regional Trauma Network, reparations for the bereaved, the introduction of new legacy structures etc) and we continue day and daily to challenge the Provisional Republican Movement re-write Programme, this is our responsibility and we pledge to continue to do so.

We want to hear from you if you have welfare queries, if you feel you need the support which can be offered by telephone-based counselling, if you feel a weekly telephone call would be helpful to you, if you need a grocery drop, if you wish to speak to an advocacy or health and wellbeing caseworker; remember all these individuals are still being paid to support you., whether in the office or within their home, they and I are here for you.

I want to say a word of recognition to Wendy Parkinson who finished up with SEFF at end March, thank you for your efforts in the role. I would also wish to welcome Anna Waterworth to the role of Clinical Coordinator/Administrator (p/t 3 days per week) who starts with us on Monday 1st June 2020 and Emma Moore who has been appointed Office Manager (30 hrs per week) and who we hope will start with us on Wednesday 1st July 2020. Both of you are warmly welcomed to the SEFF Staff Team and the wider SEFF Family.

I conclude by sharing some positive news; we have secured an additional £40,500 via The Executive Office (and its' Central Good Relations Fund) to deliver an education and culture-themed project in collaboration with Carrosyl Community Association. This Project will be delivered over the 2020-2021 financial year.

RENEWING SEFF Membership 2020/21

We are fast approaching the new membership year at SEFF; **1st July 2020.**

We would like, where possible that as many of you renew your membership through a **Standing Order** process so that you don't need to be reminded each year to pay your fees and therefore you won't miss out on the chance of availing of our many services and activities if not up to date with your membership.

If you cannot do **STANDING ORDER** through your bank, we accept payments for subscriptions by either cheque or cash.

*If you want to set up a **standing order** please call the office and we will give you the bank details for SEFF needed to set up a standing order through your bank. **Regrettably we cannot do card payments over the phone or in the office.***

Membership fees are as follows: £10 per adult

Post primary school age (12 - 16 yrs old) is £5 each and under 11's are free.

August will be the last month that we will send out SEFF newsletters to all those current 2019/20 members before we implement the updated 2020/21 membership database

We would appreciate if you could pay membership fees before **31st July 2020** and if possible that you would also sign up for gift aid if you are paying tax on your income, if you have not already done so.

Your cooperation is much appreciated.

We have been updating our membership forms to include member's GP information, and your GDPR permission which we need in order to hold your data on our systems. Also if any of your details have changed ie: marital status, address/mobile/phones/ postcodes etc, please call the office to update these!

MEMBERSHIP going forward - Changes to Membership renewal Date

To keep in line with the recognised financial year the next membership year will be; 1st July 2020 - 31st March 2021. Thereafter, the membership year will run from 1st April -31st March, from 2021 onwards.

We will be including regular reminders within our monthly newsletter. This also means those of you who currently pay via standing order contacting your Bank/Building Society to have arrangements changed.

In assisting SEFF administratively we would call on more members to take up this opportunity ... An insurance policy of support for 20 pence per week, there's not many of those policies around.



We welcome SEFF's Office Manager - Emma Moore

A little about me: I am a charity and voluntary management professional with over 15 years' experience in the Not-For-Profit industry in both Northern Ireland and globally in Australia, where I have lived for the last 9 years.

Within my highly successful career so far, I have provided senior management knowledge and expertise in the areas of; capital building fundraising, community services project management, volunteer program management, training and assessment, fundraising, donor, and sponsorship acquisition, events management, submission, and grant writing, and in leading the way in community services innovation in practise.

As a native of Fermanagh I grew up in Lisbellaw, where I attended the local primary school, moving from there to Enniskillen High School, The Collegiate Grammar School, Staffordshire University, where I gained a BA (Hons) in History of Art and Cultural Studies, and later Queens University, where I studied a Masters of Irish Migration Studies.

My previous success in Northern Ireland was in heading up a major fundraising project to build Horizon West Children's Hospice in Fermanagh, and fundraising and marketing has been an ongoing strength in my work, in order to ensure sustainability of projects and thriving communities.

Currently I am a senior leader in a large community services organisation, Feros Care, based on the Gold Coast in Australia, bringing a wealth of experience gained in several senior management roles in Australia, and in managing innovative service delivery and business growth in the areas of; volunteer management, project management including most recently, two major national Australia wide programs, grant and submission writing, fundraising, community development, and service delivery management in disability, mental health, aged care, carer support, and child safety.

I am really excited to travel home and commence this exciting new challenge with SEFF, bringing my experience to ensure the smooth running of my portfolio as Office Manager, and growing the role into the future as the organisation grows and strengthens its reach across the community. I look forward to sharing my skills and supporting and mentoring the teams to create great success together.

SEFF's Clinical Coordinator/Administrator

My name is Anna Waterworth and I have been working with SEFF as an associate counsellor for 9 months. I am very much looking forward to continuing my practice in SEFF in my new role as clinical coordinator in June 2020.



I am a BACP accredited counsellor and I have over 7 years' experience working in the counselling profession. Throughout my practice as a counsellor, I utilise an integrated therapeutic model, combined with evidence - based practices when working with clients. I have a wide range of experience in working with mental disorders, including generalised anxiety, bereavement, depression, Trauma and complex trauma.

I therefore incorporate a range of therapeutic practices and techniques when working with clients. An important aspect of my practice as a counsellor is to create a safe, non-judgmental space for individuals, so that they can feel empowered and fully included in the therapeutic process. I believe that this is a fundamental part of the recovery and healing process for many clients.

Farewell from Wendy Parkinson:

It is with regret that the post, Monitoring and Admin Support Officer has come to an end within SEFF. I will miss speaking to you all when you popped in to the office, attended events, rang or emailed.

It was lovely to be in touch with members I hadn't been speaking to in a long-time and to meet new faces. I heard many sad and harrowing stories and it is good to have an organisation like SEFF to support your needs.

We are living in strange times at present and I hope you remain safe and well. A fond farewell to you but I'm sure I'll meet many of you out and about when the isolation period is lifted.

Goodbye, Wendy

Hi Baby David,

The SEFF Family are delighted for the Glover family and for our Rachel upon the birth of their second child - David Nathaniel Glover (weighing in at a healthy 8lb 2oz)



David Jnr will be wonderful company for little Lily.

We look forward to seeing them all post the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.

The Glover family will be in our thoughts and prayers in the times ahead.

Hello to Poppy Aiken



Its nice to have some good news to relay in these times. Our Joy, SEFF's Project Coordinator, safely delivered her new baby daughter, Miss Poppy Aiken on Sunday 5th April 2020, weighing a healthy 7lb-2oz, with a full head of dark spikey hair!

We are all dying to meet and get cuddles from this lovely bundle of joy.

Congratulations to Joy, John & big sister Maisie from all your colleagues and SEFF members!



[TAI CHI to Improve Immunity and Reduce Stress](#)

(We have been asked to share this information by a Tai Chi Instructor)

The world has changed now with COVID-19. The present measure of social distancing and self-separation aims to slow down the spread of this virus. But experts are saying it will still spread.

At this time, it is very important to proactively build our inner strength so that you have a better chance to be healthy and improve your immunity. The immune system is like an army within our bodies that fights against germs and cancer cells quietly every day to keep us safe and well. COVID-19 affects people with lower immunity much more severely. Tai chi has been proven by medical studies to improve immunity. Here is something you can do now to be healthier for the future, as well as learning something new and enjoyable.

Tai chi does not just improve your immunity, and reduce your stress, it also improves almost all aspects of health. Over 500 medical studies have shown that. This means it would give you a better chance if there are mutation or other new viruses coming in the future.

There are many other benefits to be gained by learning Tai Chi for example, Co-ordination, Balance, Posture and a higher threshold of pain, and not forgetting the social aspects.

If anyone is interested you can Google, TAI CHI for Health by Dr. Paul Lam, where you will find a wide range of topics. Or contact the office and we can direct you to a Qualified Instructor.



SEFF at the heart of the Community



Over the last week-10 days, ten talented ladies within SEFF came together in a common effort to produce masks for frontline Health and Social Care personnel based in the local area.



The ten ladies produced 100 masks between them. The ladies were all members of SEFF's craft or sewing groups.

Facilitator Sonya Johnston provided the template for the ladies to work from.

Gortacharn received 40 - these were presented to Nurse Sinead Leonard, 35 were presented to care assistant Diane in the Colorado Nursing Home, and Caroline McDermott of Lakeland Care was also presented masks from Valerie Brown.



SEFF is a Big Family and it is an organisation which is at the heart of the community.

Our ladies were determined to contribute to a broader effort in supporting our health and social care workers who are carrying out heroic work, day in - day out, during the COVID pandemic. But also before the pandemic ever struck and who often weren't recognised for their efforts.



Thank you to our team of ladies, to Jenny Ferguson for acting as a conduit and we thank all of you within the health and social care sector who do what you do.

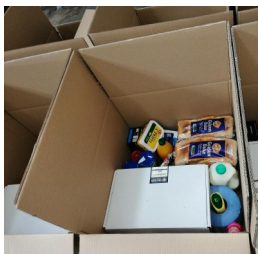
With your skills as health professionals and the power of Prayer with God's divine healing, COVID-19 will be defeated.

SEFF's April Care Packs



Thursday 30th April saw SEFF volunteers and staff getting the boxes of essentials for our SEFF members packed into cars in readiness to be delivered across Co Fermanagh & the Clogher Valley area.

The boxes held a huge variety of groceries for those living on their own and also for families.



The food items were sourced from Irvine's Family Butchers, SuperValu, Newtownbutler and MD Health store (our neighbouring unit in Manderwood Park who kindly put the boxes together)

Groceries will go out to circa 150 homes (across Fermanagh, N.I Republic of Ireland and Great Britain) on 28th May 2020 funded via The Victims and Survivors Service and Community Foundation for Northern Ireland. Please call the SEFF office if you are experiencing financial hardship or do not have support from family or others to source groceries for you.



As well as delivering groceries to our own immediate membership, SEFF also teamed up with three local groups Inishmacsaint Mother's Union Derrylin Church of Ireland Parish and Garrison Group of Parish to provide groceries to vulnerable families across the community (particularly based in West Fermanagh) This initiative was funded via Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

An example of feedback comments from our Members

"Thankyou for the very generous food parcel; very much appreciated".

"I am so overwhelmed with the box of groceries delivered by SEFF.

Thanks to all in SEFF".

"Very Generous well thought out food parcel; very happy for this kindness, well done to SEFF and the team".

"Such a kind gesture, which is much appreciated".

To all in SEFF; "A special Thank You".

"I want to say a very big thank you for the care pack, I am extremely grateful".

"To Kenny, we would like to thank you & staff for the wonderful donation of groceries left on our doorstep".

"Thankyou, very much for the hamper, much appreciated, SEFF are doing a BRILLIANT job".

SEFF 'READ IT' BOOK DROP SERVICE

Many people are using the current lockdown situation to curl up on the sofa at home, or in gardens while it's sunny, and lose themselves in a good novel. Perhaps your keen to learn how to cook some new meals, take up a hobby or learn a new language.

Whatever your interest, SEFF have a library of books, kindly donated by members. During this time of isolation, we are keen that housebound members can avail of them.

Phone the SEFF office, or text Jenny Ferguson (07786 019909) or Doreen Mullan (07860 850015) to put in a request for a **BOOK** drop.

We will pick up to 4 books from the Library, based on your areas of interest, or by author, and deliver them to your door in a box, this will be used to renew them upon request to the contacts provided.

The service can be offered to members living throughout the Co. Fermanagh and Clogher Valley area.

The books are in excellent order and rather than gathering dust in Manderwood offices we would like to see them out on the ground, within homes being utilised.

There are still many people who prefer to turn the crisp pages of a book as opposed to finger scrolling with a kindle. We are here at SEFF to try to cater for the diversity of need within the membership.

Categories of BOOKS in the SEFF Library

Fiction - Fantasy, Adventure, Romance, Thriller, Historical fiction
(Many well known authors)

Memoir/Autobiographies

Cooking-main meals, cakes, vegetarian

Health-Self-help-Personal Development-Help to Sleep...

Travel - learn a new language, Italian, Spanish

Hobbies-Gardening-Knitting-Sewing-Crafts, Art

Children's-Fiction

And much more



Loved One's

Anniversaries

If you have a loved one who was murdered and whose Anniversary is coming up, ie: 25th, 30th, 40th or 50th and you'd wish for us to feature the Anniversary within our Newsletter then please contact the office on: 028 677 23884 and we'll endeavour to include details.

Remembering Loved One's through live-streaming via Facebook

Over the period of the COVID-19 restrictions we are conscious that families will not have the opportunity to have formalised services of remembrance commemorating their loved ones.

In addressing this we are offering families the opportunity to have a short Christian service (with Prayers and family testimony) facilitated by SEFF and Rev Ala Irwin. The services are then shown on SEFF's Victims and Survivors Facebook page @ 11am on the day of the Anniversary.

Upcoming services:

Tuesday 2nd June 2020 (Mjr Michael John Dillon Lee 30th Anniversary)

Sunday 7th June 2020 (Richie Latimer 40th Anniversary)

Please contact the SEFF office if you would wish to have this opportunity extended to your family (Milestone anniversaries will be covered; 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 yrs since the murder(s) were committed)

Meanwhile SEFF's series with Clergy - **God's Healing for Us** continues. Each Friday morning @ 11am a different member of the Clergy or Faith spokesperson will share a message of Hope and Healing, as found within the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Friday 29th May 2020 will see contribution from Bob Little (Faith Mission)

Fraudsters and Scammers

We are aware that people are being targeted with emails, text messages, telephone calls and WhatsApp messages, and leaflets offering advice surrounding the Covid-19 virus.

There are also several fake websites selling products and offering treatment for the virus as well as sites asking for donations for victims suffering from the virus. We are asking you to remain vigilant, to ignore potential scam products such as anti-virus kits which falsely claim to cure the virus, and not to answer the door to anybody not familiar to you.

While there are genuine groups of volunteers offering help during the outbreak, we are urging you to look out for signs that may put you or your neighbours at risk from doorstep criminals. Always ask for ID from anyone claiming to represent a charity or a voluntary organisation.

Stop: Take a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or passing to someone information that could keep you safe. Never provide personal data such as your full name, address and date of birth - scammers can use this information to steal your identity.

Challenge: Could it be fake? It's okay to say no, refuse or ignore any requests. Criminals will try to rush or panic you into making a decision that you might regret.

Bank: Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam.

Shopping online: If you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first; ask a friend or family member for advice before completing the purchase. If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, as most major credit card providers insurance for online purchases.

Email: Be sceptical if you receive an email, text or WhatsApp message about the coronavirus;
Never click on any attachments or links that you don't recognise.

Donations: Do not allow yourself to be pressured into donating money and never make donations by cash or gift card, or send money through on-line sites that do not look authentic.

Doorstep: Don't be deceived by organisations offering to arrange to collect money from your home to pay for goods.

Do not buy goods on your doorstep. Before answering the front door, make sure the back door is locked. If you have a door chain, remember to use it before opening the door. If not, we recommend you get one installed.

Ask the caller for their identification and check it carefully.

Ask them to wait outside and close the door - genuine callers will not mind.

Police: If you consider it necessary, ring 999; if it can be dealt with as a non-emergency, then call the police 101 service.

If you need to look at further advice, please check the following website: -

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/scamwiseni>

IN SHORT:

We are aware that there are fraudsters and scammers calling at people's houses, or sending bogus emails during the present virus pandemic. Please be careful and if necessary ring 999 or the non-emergency 101 line. For further information please look at the following information on the NI Direct website.

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/scamwiseni>



Richard (Richie) Latimer - 7th June 1980 (Remembered 40 Years On)

William Richard Latimer was born in the townland of Cornacaghan, Newtownbutler on 6th February 1942 to Richard & Emily Latimer. Richie was one of six, (three girls and three boys)

Richie attended Wattlebridge Primary School and then Newtownbutler Priamary School. Richie was an industrious young man and became attached to JWH Johnston's Hardware at age 14. He worked hard between the hardware business and the family farm.

Richie then purchased the hardware section of JWH Johnston's and was making a success of the business employing members of the local community.

Richie then married Bonnie Gould of main street, Newtownbutler on 18th June 1966. The couple were building their lives together and had two children; Gordon and Jill. The family home was also based on the main street, Newtownbutler.



Richie joined the USC following his brother George, Richie's second brother Robbie also joined, upon the disbandment of the USC the three brothers joined the UDR on the same day committed to playing their part in the defence of the Country and the people of the Fermanagh borderlands.

Richie enjoyed playing Badminton through the local Church. Riche and the late Bobby Crilly (also murdered by the Provisional IRA) were partners and both enjoyed the social aspect of the sport. Richie was also a member of Wattlebridge Accordion Band and the local Orange Lodge 391. On 7th June 1980 Richie was working in his own shop, assisted by 12-year-old Cyril Brown who also came from the local area. A masked gunman entered the shop and shot Richie in the back, Richie died instantly suffering a fatal wound to the heart.



The second gunman was waiting outside the shop and after the shooting, the two terrorists escaped across the border via the Wattlebridge road. The terrorists struck Richie when he was at his most vulnerable; serving the public within his local shop, serving the public. There was outcry following Richie's murder, with demonstrations held in the local community.

The Latimer family had been targeted on numerous occasions over the early years of the 1970's, there was a concerted campaign of ethnic cleansing waged by The Provisional IRA against the Protestant population.

Had Richie lived he would have saw four grandchildren and a great grandchild. Richie is remembered by his widow Bonnie, son Gordon and daughter Jill and his siblings; George, Violet and Doreen.

SEFF CALLING SERVICE UPDATE

The last few months have been difficult for us all as we cope with the COVID19 virus. It is a surreal experience. Did anyone in their wildest dreams ever envisage a total lock-down as the world has been experiencing?

The worst part of all this is the separation from our families. Grandparents unable to hug their grandchildren or to be attend the funeral of family or friends, the total separation from normal contact with family & friends.

We will come out the other end of this because of our resilient nature, we are the descendants of a country that has gone through two world wars and the terrorist campaign waged on our communities by the Provisional IRA and others.

This period can help us reflect on our past and things we used to enjoy and prioritise; be it in our relationship with nature, others in our community or family. What we took for granted is no longer certain. There is evidence to show that nature is healing from the effects of pollution and destruction by humans. We have to look at the positive side of this pandemic, it is a time of reflection and healing.

But as we know there will also be a downside. That is hopefully where we at MSC can offer a little help. We can do this by being a listening ear, a chance for a wee chat an opportunity to vent our feelings. Please get in touch with the main SEFF office on 028 677 23884 if you think you would like to avail of this service. As we come out of lock down there will be a lot of adjusting to be done by all of us and it could well be a worrying time for many. But, be assured we are thinking about you and we will be here to support you all as best we can.

All our thoughts and love
Anna and Rita MSC.



BEFRIENDING May

Hi All, 2020 Update



Hope you are still managing to keep busy and keep well.

We are continuing to keep in contact with all befrienders and trying our best to abide by government guidelines, we are still only allowed phone contact and essential prescription or grocery drop offs. We make decisions on hospital transport on very strict criteria and only where the appointment is extremely urgent, even then only if a befriender is willing to take the risk.

Volunteers are still providing an extended Good Morning Seff Calling service working from home and if you feel a quick chat would brighten your day or help you through this difficult time then let the office know.

It will be some time before our coffee mornings and home visits return but we are doing the best we can to continue helping our members.

Please stay safe and where possible stay at home

Regards,
The Befriending Team



SEFF New In-House Counsellor - Jo-Ann Beatty

I am delighted to be joining the SEFF team, my role in SEFF will be the Lisnaskea In-house counsellor. I feel that I have been destined to work in this area due to my own background. My father was in the forces and met and married my mother whom he met in Belfast on his first tour in 1969. Most of my early childhood was spent travelling as far as Hong-Kong and Germany and squeezing Ballykelly in too.

We left Hampshire and settled in Fermanagh in 1988 due to my father's work where I finished my education and met my husband, whose own father had lost his eyesight during the 'Troubles.' In my younger years I was not really aware of how the effects of 'The Troubles' would be forever present in homes across NI.

The quote 'To shoulder all the burden by yourself to protect your family weighs heavily' really resonates with me as I wish counselling had been as accessible for people years ago as it is today, to enable people to seek the emotional help they need.

This fantastic service offers a safe and confidential environment where you can share and receive support. I currently work with Inspire doing support group work which really helps people live to their full potential. I am married and a mother of three children which can be pretty hectic! However, I now use all of my free time and put wholehearted energy into my role as a counsellor, which I hope will benefit others and promote individual healing and growth.

Jo-Ann Beatty

Why different treatment for terror victims?

You will no doubt have been following the debate concerning the pension for the seriously injured.

The Scheme was due to be open for applications as of 29th May 2020 but has been postponed with no new date yet provided. It was SEFF's probing of these issues over the last week which brought the Truth out into the public domain.

There are thought to be three core reasons for this:

1. Lack of agreement around who pays for the scheme between U.K. Government and N.I Executive through the annual block grant made payable by the Exchequer.
2. No governing department yet appointed who would administer the scheme.
3. Disagreement within the Executive around eligibility. It is believed that Sinn Fein (political wing of the Provisional IRA) are trying to again insist that perpetrators would receive the Pension and this is creating the blockage.

SEFF's Director of Services stated: "We are unsighted as to when the scheme will become operational, everyone is. However, the Scheme must be introduced, law was passed at Westminster and that law must now be implemented".

"On the issue of budget we suggest that a way through this debacle would be for the UK Government to contribute costs related to the set up of the scheme ie the retrospective payments due to beneficiaries from the point of The Stormont House Agreement in 2024 to the point when Devolution returned earlier this year. We also submit that the U.K Government also contribute towards the costs of supporting carers who would receive the payment post the death of the seriously injured victim/survivor. The N.I Executive could then bear responsibility for the year on year running of the scheme and the associated costs"

"On the matter of eligibility, the Provisional Republican Movement cannot be appeased any further. The U.K. Government must see through the job on this issue that it started"

"No payment can be made to perpetrators injured by their own hand and/or who have brought misery to others through illegal activities (in the context of the N.I Troubles)

"If the political will exists (and we're told it does) then these matters will be resolved and a terrible wrong will finally be redressed".

"We call for immediate focus from Her Majesty's Government and the N.I Executive concerning these matters. Legislation was passed, timelines were committed to and a blueprint around eligibility issues was agreed, there is a legal but also moral obligation upon those responsible to deliver this Scheme forthwith".

Support for the Bereaved

Over the past several years SEFF has been campaigning on behalf of Bereaved victims/survivors, calling for effective and just acknowledgement. We all know that previous loved ones cannot be returned, terrorism has a permanence which steals away.

However we also are aware of how shamefully the bereaved were treated (particularly in the 1970's and 1980's) where pitiful levels of compensation were offered or given to those whom had the most stolen away from them. We continue to campaign for an effective remedy to this, that the bereaved would receive a form of acknowledgement pension or payment which would act as a reparation.

Until this is achieved we seek the re-opening of a support scheme administered by the Victims and Survivors Service but which closed on 31st March 2017. Our efforts are paying dividend and it looks likely that a scheme will open over the coming weeks/months which will offer some support and recognition to those currently not registered.

We are calling upon families within our membership (and others known to you) to advise us if you are not in receipt of these support payments. It would mean; £1,000 of support for someone who has had a spouse/partner murdered/killed, or £500 of support for someone who has had a parent or child murdered or killed as a result of 'The Troubles' - and there are no geographical or time-based restrictions.

Please contact the SEFF office on: 028 677 23884 and advise us if your family or you as an individual meet this criteria and are not currently registered with the VSS and receiving this annual financial payment.

The payment is generally made in early April each year via cheque but VSS are considering moving the system to BACS payment.

Please be advised that siblings of those murdered/killed are not eligible for the Bereaved payment although we continue to lobby for a redress of this issue.