

Remembering 1913 in 2013

A full listing of events commemorating the 1913 Dublin Lockout is available on www.1913committee.ie. Below are a few highlights:

Wednesday, August 21st, 6.30 pm

From Lockout to Rising in Inchicore, lecture and slide show by Liam O'Meara
Inchicore Library, 34 Emmet Road, Inchicore

August 20th - 24th and 27th - 31st, 8 pm

James Plunkett's The Risen People will be performed by the East Wall PEG Variety And Drama Group
East Wall Community Centre, St. Mary's Road, East Wall

SATURDAY AUGUST 31ST: RE-ENACTMENT OF 'BLOODY SUNDAY', O'Connell Street – see back page for details

Tuesday, September 3rd

Premier of new play on the Lockout by RADE
Smock Alley Theatre, Temple Bar
Contact info@rade.ie for further details

Saturday, September 14th

Plaque to be unveiled on Merchants' Road, East Wall, commemorating the strikers' families who were evicted by Merchant Warehousing in 1913

Saturday, October 5th – Monday October 7th

Re-enactment of the arrival in Dublin of the SS Hare, a food relief ship commissioned by the National Transport Workers Federation in 1913 help feed starving Dublin workers. To mark this event, when UK workers came to the aid of their Irish comrades, a ship sponsored by trade unions will set sail from the Liverpool docks to Dublin.

Re-enactment Schedule

State Commemoration of 1913 Lockout followed by
COMMUNITY RE-ENACTMENT OF BLOODY SUNDAY
Saturday, August 31st 2013

11.00 am Assembly points for Community Re-Enactment participants:

Dockers (men): Custom House

If coming as a docker, please wear dark trousers (not jeans or combats) with a belt or braces, collarless shirt with a muffler or handkerchief around the neck, dark waistcoat or jacket, hat or cap and dark shoes (no trainers). Contact: Des Bonass 087 7925120

Jacobs Workers (women): Rear of Central Bank

If coming as a Jacobs worker, please wear a dark ankle-length dress or skirt, a light-coloured blouse and dark boots or flat shoes (no trainers). If possible, please wear a dark coloured or straw hat.
Contact: Patricia McCarthy 087 9172749

Poor of Dublin (men, women and children): Gloucester Diamond

Men, women or children coming as the 'poor of Dublin' should wear old, torn or shabby clothes (see notes for men and women above) and very old shoes (no trainers). Contact: Terry Fagan 087 9210673

The audience may wear any of the above, or any Edwardian costume (such as those worn on Bloomsday).

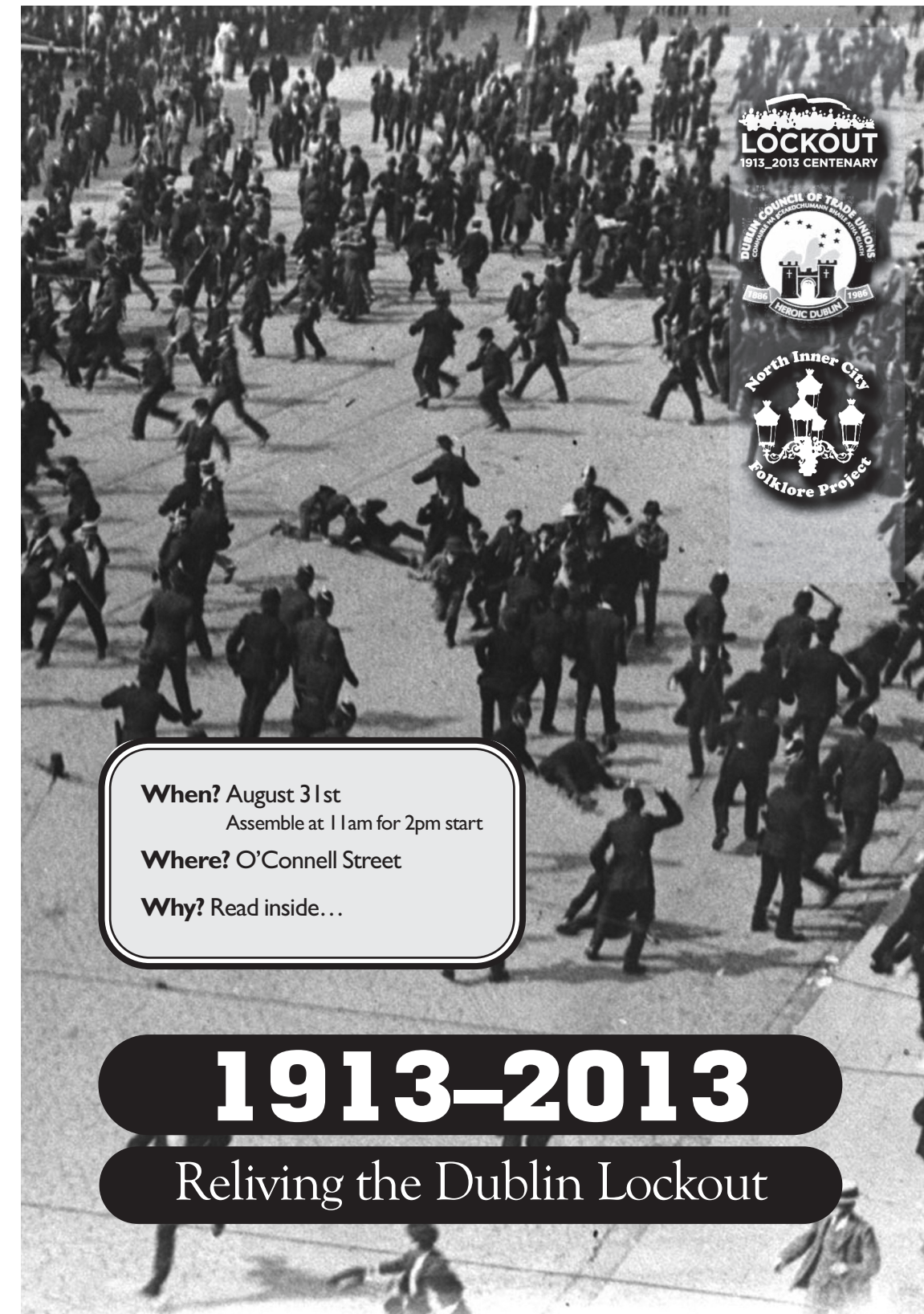
For general enquiries on the re-enactment please contact Brian Treacy on 086 2536130

11.45 am Leave assembly points and proceed to O'Connell Street, gather at Clery's and across the road

12.00 noon Assemble for State Commemoration
12.30 pm State Commemoration starts
1.30 pm Wreath laying ceremony at Larkin statue

1.45 pm **Transition to Community Re-Enactment**
2 pm **Re-enactment of 'Bloody Sunday'**
2.30 pm **Re-Enactment participants move to Foley Street**
3 pm **Unveiling of plaque for those who died**
3.30 pm **Soup kitchen and fleadh in Foley Street**

This leaflet was produced with the support of Unite the Union



When? August 31st
Assemble at 11am for 2pm start
Where? O'Connell Street
Why? Read inside...

1913-2013

Reliving the Dublin Lockout

Why should Dubliners remember the 1913 Lockout?



In 1913, many Dubliners were casual labourers working for starvation wages with no trade union representation. They lived in over-crowded tenements which were home to around a third of the population.

Poverty, overcrowding and lack of healthcare contributed to one of the highest infant death rates in Europe.

In 1909, James Larkin launched the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union

(ITGWU) to represent unskilled workers.

The employers reacted swiftly to this challenge, led by William Martin Murphy, President of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, who owned the Irish Independent Group and controlled the Dublin Tramways Company.

In August 1913, Murphy offered his workers a stark choice: you can join a union or have a job. When ITGWU members on the trams struck for

higher wages he locked them out.

Other employers joined Murphy, locking out any employee who refused to renounce the ITGWU and resign if they were already a member.

On Sunday, 31 August, Dubliners in O'Connell Street were baton charged by the police when Larkin attempted to address them. Up to 600 people were seriously injured.

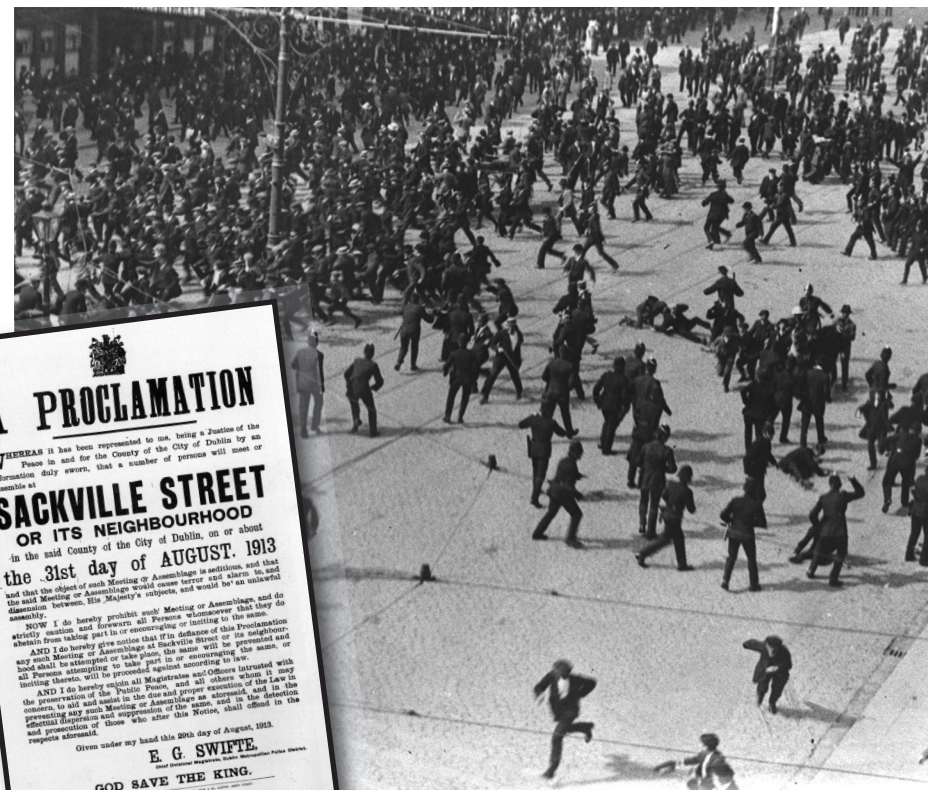
Workers continued

battling for their rights during the autumn and winter of 1913-1914. Dubliners suffered immense hardship during this period, and many would have starved to death were it not for the help received from the TUC, Cooperative movement, Labour Party, Socialist Party and other

organisations in Britain who raised funds and sent food ships that enabled the ITGWU and Dublin Trades Council to feed trade unionists and their families.

The odds were stacked against the workers, and in early 1914 many were forced back to work.

Although employers claimed victory, the workers of 1913 laid the ground work for many of the rights that we today take for granted, ranging from holidays via health and safety rules to the Minimum Wage. However the fundamental right to collective bargaining is still denied to Irish workers.



1913 and the Inner City

The 1913 Lockout was not just a Dublin event – it was above all an Inner City event. Not only did the majority of workers and their families live in tenements north and south of the Liffey, in areas such as Gardiner Street and Inchicore, but these areas also witnessed violent scenes as police officers stormed workers' homes. The front page of the *Daily Mirror*, reproduced here, shows the aftermath of one such raid, on Corporation Buildings on Foley Street.

The police baton charges on Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street), on August 31st 1913, were preceded by furious rioting in Ringsend, Pearse Street, and in the area around Liberty Hall, headquarters of the ITGWU. A food kitchen was established at Liberty Hall, Beresford Place – the site of the current building. The Lockout covered hundreds of workplaces, including the

Jacobs biscuit factory on Bishop Street, mainly involving women workers, and the city's building sites.

For further reading see *A Capital in Conflict: Dublin City and the 1913 Lockout*, edited by Francis Devine and published by Four Courts Press.

