



Justice for the Shrewsbury Pickets

CAMPAIGN UPDATE – March 2007

Motion put to the Scottish Parliament

That the Parliament notes the recent launch of a campaign to secure justice for the 24 construction workers charged with conspiracy during the 1972 building workers' strike who many believe were viciously victimised; further notes that the Shrewsbury 24, as they become known, were taking part in a legal and legitimate official strike when they were arrested and charged, with six men receiving harsh gaol sentences and the 18 others being branded criminals for life and receiving two year suspended sentences; condemns the brutal treatment meted out by the establishment against these workers whose only "crime" was to oppose the exploitative use of "cash-in-hand" employment and the lack of health and safety practices afforded to workers in the construction industry; salutes the courage of the Shrewsbury 24 for standing up for workers' rights despite the intimidation of the employers and the state and demands that the conviction of these men be immediately quashed and a terrible wrong be addressed 34 years after the convictions which relied upon an 1875 law on unlawful assembly; notes with concern the recent comments of Terry Renshaw, one of the Shrewsbury 24, when he said "despite our fight for proper protection for workers, which cost us so highly, the death rate on construction sites, the highest in any industry, remains the same today as it was 34 years ago"; supports the Justice for the Shrewsbury 24 Campaign, and demands greater safety conditions for all construction workers.

Tommy Sheridan (Glasgow)

A number of MPs have said they support the campaign and it is going to be raised in the House of Commons.

There has also been a meeting with David Hanson MP and Sandy Mewies Welsh Assembly Member, to get the issue raised.

About 200 people attended a successful meeting held in Shotton, North Wales. This was important because the majority of the pickets are from that area.

Future meetings across the country are to be held in:
London – May, Shrewsbury, Preston, North East, Scotland.

A documentary about the Shrewsbury Pickets to be shown in the BBC series 'ONE Life' on Tuesday 27 March 2007.

The relaunching of 'The Key to My Cell' will take place at the Writing on the Wall Festival in Liverpool on Tuesday 15 May at the Dean Walters Building on Upper Duke Street.

Joe Sim, Professor of Criminology at JMU, will discuss the use of legal drugs by the state to control prisoners and Steve Tombs, Professor of Sociology at JMU, will discuss corporate crime and the state of the construction industry today.

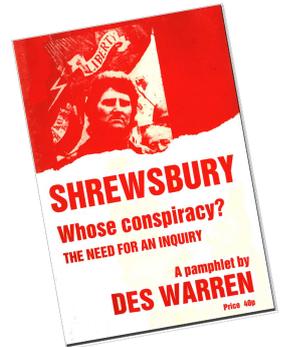
We need people to form a delegation to go to the **Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival** in Dorset (13 - 15 July) and also the **Durham Miners Gala** Saturday (14 July 2007).

You can help the campaign by getting your union branch or political group to pass resolutions of support. Donations are welcome. Cheques to: 'Shrewsbury Pickets Campaign'.

For more details, for donations or for orders, contact:

Justice for Pickets: c/o Merseyside Hazards & Environmental Centre
85/89 Duke Street, Liverpool, L1 5AP, 0151 709 9948, Justice4pickets@yahoo.co.uk
or see: www.billhunterweb.org.uk

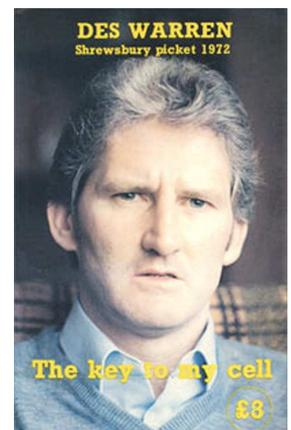
Support the campaign



'Shrewsbury Whose Conspiracy'
£2



Justice for the Shrewsbury 24
£8



'The Key to My Cell'
by Des Warren.
To be reprinted
May 2007
£8

Orders now being taken