



# Quon Stothers Journey

Berkeley / Los Angeles / Ireland

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Newsletter February 2014

## The Chinese Year of the Horse . . . .



The cartoonist from the Good Relations Council picked up on Marda's comment

Happy Chinese New Year of the Horse. Such a beautiful animal especially when galloping gracefully. The new year began on 31 January and off to a gallop.

We were delighted to be invited to Mayor Máirtín Ó Muilleoir's Reception. This was a networking event for faith based groups working for peace in North and West Belfast. The mayor

welcomed us, said we do good work and that churches do not have good PR. Then the Good Relations Officer greeted us and introduced a cartoonist who was going to record the results of the meeting. A cartoonist, and food, for our networking meeting! We told you artists are being used to encourage peace. During networking Anne came over to Marda and

asked if she was a potter. Shocked, her, she then said, I bought a piece from you at the Skainos faire.

This event was part of a project called the 4CornersFestival. The best link is on Facebook and has photos and comments for each event. Each event was wonderful in different ways.

The Burns Night celebrated the Scot, Robert Burns, and was held at a local Catholic church. Father Magill saw us a week before and encouraged us to come. He wasn't sure if it would be well subscribed in his Catholic community.

Well no worries they had to find more tables and chairs and set them on the stage of



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## ... galloping so gracefully

the parish hall. Complete with kilts, haggis tatties and neeps, bagpipes, fiddle, tin whistle, ballads and recitations. We knew Philip and Mike, and we met Mike's wife who is head of the psychologists for the prisons. Interesting

The Jo Berry/Patrick

Magee event at Skainos was memorable. It was billed as LISTENING TO YOUR ENEMIES. Jo Berry's father, a Tory MP, and was killed in the Brighton bomb which was planted to kill Margaret Thatcher in 1984. Patrick was convicted as one of the Brighton bombers. He



Fr Reynolds brought along his book of Burn's poetry to follow along seriously

Special prayer points

- PRAISE for special gifts and kindnesses. PRAY for sustained monthly gifts. **We are \$300/mo short.**
- PRAY for Jon Kennedy who joined us in March 2013, for sustaining the work of The Loom
- PRAY for a call for Donna Quigley a gifted rector.
- College Avenue Presbyterian Church, in Oakland, Pastor Monte and congregational growth.
- PRAY for poetry to flow and the Book
- PRAISE for new friends and weaving relationships
- PRAISE Sunday morning prayer will continue
- PRAISE for team building relationships
- PRAISE for discussions about walls coming down.
- PRAISE for expansion of Townsend church vision and the people to implement it.



Which is the RC priest; which the Methodist minister?

Marda is the local contact and she has plans like what some of you have experienced for seeing Belfast and Northern Ireland at a gallop.

Concurrent work is the publication of Ward's book *Plain Drink Tea*. It is in Carolyne, the editor's hands now, and we await the camera ready manuscript.

Lent starts soon so we will practice meditation and quiet to offset any activity anxiety.

We continue to pray together at 7:30 every Monday, every morning at 9 and Marda goes to well.com for midday prayer on Friday. We will attend a Northumbria Community organized Quiet Day on Saturday morning before the students arrive. Work and rest.

served 14 years in prison. Jo said two days after the bombing, if only I could meet these people and try to understand, everything will be alright.

Jo and Pat met in 2000 and have made over 100 appearances together on the topic. We like dialogue and planned to attend.

We were not prepared for the protest and the riot police. People yelling at us "are you going in to hear the IRA bomber talk?" We were between the row of police in riot gear and the protestors some draped with flags.

We did get in and about 200 people heard a powerful discourse. Not without some anxiety, we got safely out the back door. Some news criticized the rioters for heckling pensioners. That was us.

The closing event of the

4CornersFestival was in the renovated 174 Trust. There were two singer/song-writers and poet El Gruer. Visit her [website](#) and find her recitation of her poem on the Hood. It's the first [video](#) on the left side of the page. She is a great poet.

The 174 Trust Centre for Arts, Culture and Heritage looks great and we attend rehearsals for the Together Stronger choir to sing at the community reception next Tuesday. Ward and Marda fake it but Jon is singing a small solo for the song "Lean On Me"

We are attending a ten week training series on Intercessory Prayer. God answers prayer. When we came to Townsend church two years ago we determined to start a pre-worship prayer time. We pray for the church. People have come and people are coming. The latest is a Pentecostal pastor named

Ernie who started a church in our War Memorial halls on Sunday afternoons.

Our next project is the study visit from Jennifer Ramos and 12 political science students from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles in the first week in March.

