

[News & Opinion](#) | [S](#)[Sport](#)[Business & Recruitment](#)[Going Out](#)[Business Directory](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Family Notices](#)[Property](#)[Pix](#)

- [Latest news](#)
- [Features](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [Editorial](#)
- [Your letters](#)
- [Your texts](#)
- [Blog](#)
- [Podcasts](#)

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Disgust as martyr mural is defaced

Andersonstown News Thursday

Joe Diamond

LISBURN Sinn Féin representative Sam Baker has angrily called on vandals who defaced a mural of the Gibraltar Three in Twinbrook at the weekend to stop immediately.

The three unarmed IRA volunteers – Mairead Farrell, Sean Savage and Dan McCann – were assassinated by an undercover SAS unit in Gibraltar in March 1988.

Eyewitnesses said they were shot without warning and deliberately finished off at close range as they lay wounded.

Councillor Baker said the mural had been commissioned by the Colin Commemoration Committee to mark the 25th anniversary of the killings, and added that the communities of Twinbrook, Lagmore and Poleglass are generally very respectful of all memorials in the area because there is an unwritten rule that murals to victims of the Troubles are left alone.

“There is normally very little damage – maybe the odd small bit of vandalism, but nothing like this. Over the weekend a number of young people systematically destroyed the mural by drawing over the faces and writing their names everywhere.

“I would call on all young people to think about the effect this has on the volunteers’ families and also on the wider community, who still hold them in very high esteem.”

Councillor Baker called on those responsible to desist and not to damage the mural again after it is repaired.

Arder Carson of the Colin Safer Neighbourhood Project said local young people are welcome to discuss the mural’s significance at any time.

“If anyone wants to talk about the importance of the mural to the area, feel

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free to contact me or Sam," said Arder.

Among the names clearly defacing the mural are Kevy, Anto, Ciara, Aisling, Leeane, Deborah and Sean. Anyone with information about their identities is asked to come forward. Any of the young people who may have had their names scrawled on the wall without their permission are also asked to come forward.

Leading South Belfast restaurateur Michael Deane toasts his inclusion in the Belfast Media Group's fourth annual Belfast Business Top 50 listing. The top chef will be recognised, along with 49 other recipients, at a glittering event in Stormont's Great Hall this Thursday, 25 September. Click on the image to see all of this year's recipients.



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The Wedding Planner



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