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My journey from evil bomb tragedy

Oct 17 2007 Thomas Martin Liverpool Echo

PEACE campaigner Colin Parry, whose 12-year-old son was killed in a 1993 IRA bomb attack in Warrington, is set to have a face-to-face meeting with Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams for the first time.

The historic meeting between the two men this month is expected to bring a powerful mix of emotion as Colin, chairman and co-founder of the Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace, hosts a debate on the subject of exploring different routes to peace.

Neither man has ever met the other before but, recognising that the Northern Ireland peace process has come a long way, Mr Parry invited Mr Adams to share a platform with him, not only to mark that progress but also to inform an invited audience of their different perspectives on making political progress in the face of an entrenched and historic conflict.

Mr Parry said: "Meeting Mr Adams and sharing a public platform with him will be very challenging for me. But However, it is a vital step on my own personal journey to reconciliation and a vital step too for the foundation in living up to its charter principles which include developing mutual

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understanding and respect between conflicting parties is the only sustainable way to build trust."

Mr Adams said: "The peace process in Ireland has come a long way. This year especially has seen significant strides forward.

"Of course, the process is not over. There is much work still to be done, particularly in the field of victims, truth and reconciliation. I look forward to meeting Colin Parry and to sharing with him and those attending the event my hopes for the future."

The Irish Ambassador to Britain, David Cooney, will also attend the meeting, scheduled to take place at Canary Wharf in London on Wednesday, October 31. has also agreed to attend the event.

Mr Parry previously met Sinn Fein deputy Martin McGuinness in December 2001 when he visited the peace centre.

The Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Foundation for Peace was set up by Colin and Wendy following the death of their 12-year-old son Tim and 3-year-old Johnathan, three, after the IRA bombed Warrington in 1993.

The peace centre is a unique living legacy and memorial to Tim and Johnathan. It was built with local, national and international support, and was opened on March 20, 2000 – the 7th anniversary of the bombing.

It is a £3m state of the art, fully equipped learning centre.

news@liverpool echo.co.uk where people develop a passion for peace through participating in learning programmes.

The Foundation works with young people, victims of political violence and former military and paramilitary combatants, including former adversaries.

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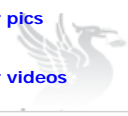
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