

Corin Redgrave Memorial Lecture. 18<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

*“So, what do you do for a job?”* Like a complete ignoramus those were my very words to Corin Redgrave when I met him for the first time. He smiled that broad smile at me and politely told me he was an actor. I subconsciously leaned back and looked at him and thought to myself *‘now you come to mention it, you do look vaguely familiar.’* My second thought was *‘Redgrave, I have definitely heard that name before.’* Later, I was severely admonished by my fearless wife Sue for being so stupid.

This was around December 1997 and Corin was standing by himself at the bar of the Chelsea Theatre in London and I was standing next to him ordering a drink from the otherwise bored barman.

In my defence I was never one for films or the television. I simply never had the time and during that period Sue and I were up to our necks in fighting for justice for Sue’s brother, Eddie Gilfoyle. He was wrongly convicted in 1993 for the murder of his wife Paula. We were spending every waking minute fighting the justice system, fighting the State and going up and down the country trying to get people to listen to Eddie’s plight. With genuine interest Corin asked me all about Eddie’s case.

Sue and I were at the Chelsea Theatre at the invitation of Malcolm Tierney. We had met him and his comrades earlier that year through the Bridgewater Four Case. Malcolm’s monologue at the Chelsea Theatre *‘Just Not Fair’* was about Jimmy Robinson’s experiences of incarceration and subsequent release from prison after spending nigh on 18 years in jail for a crime that he and the other three men did not commit.

The play brought me close to tears as I related the sentiments to how Eddie must have been feeling locked up and alone in his prison cell. I sat there watching Malcolm’s often humorous but deeply touching performance and on reflection I suppose I was overwhelmed by the whole experience, which might go some way to explain the gaffe I made meeting the very famous Corin Redgrave for the first time.

Corin pledged that he and his Party would do whatever they could to help us. As sure as the acorn falls from the tree we started to get the much needed help and advice we desperately needed. All of them helped us to organise meetings, marches and demos up and down the country.

Just prior to this Malcolm and Kika Markham had taken the time to travel to Birmingham to give support to a demonstration outside the offices of the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

We will never forget the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 1998. Corin bravely chaired our public meeting in Liverpool to bring attention to Eddie’s case. This was at a time when the majority of the local populace was against us. He described Eddie’s case to the meeting as *‘one great outstanding miscarriage of justice,’* and said that *‘he was proud to support the campaign for justice*

*for Eddie.*' It is difficult to describe in words what this meant to us at the time. It gave us enormous strength and the courage to fight for Eddie.

Last Christmas Eddie was released on parole and it is a matter of great sadness that Corin never got to meet him. Eddie came with us to the Memorial Lecture and had the opportunity to finally meet all the friends who have supported him over the years. He described the experience to me as one of the best days of his life and was truly overwhelmed by the kindness shown to him by those present.

To bring matters up to date, Eddie is now on a life licence from prison but his case is back with the Criminal Cases Review Commission. His current solicitors at Birnberg Pierce are hopeful that the CCRC will refer the case back for a fresh appeal.

As a campaign we still have much to do and Eddie is determined to expose the corruption in his case through the media. He has the support of the Times newspaper who have printed over a dozen or so articles over the past couple of years. The police and the Crown Prosecution Service are still refusing to hand over evidence that we know they have, that will help Eddie prove his innocence. In a press conference held at the House of Lords last March, Eddie demanded the evidence in his case. Eddie told the press conference that he wanted the withheld material because he was entitled to it so that once and for all he could prove that his wife had committed suicide.

It was an absolute privilege and a pleasure for us to attend the Corin Redgrave Memorial Lecture and we would like to extend our thanks to everyone, especially our dear friend Chris Cooper, for inviting us.

Paul Caddick

Eddie Gilfoyle Campaign.

<http://www.eddiegilfoyle.co.uk/>