

**The Official
Shrewsbury 24
Campaign
We Never Gave Up**

**Chairperson: Harry Chadwick
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The Shrewsbury 24 Campaign is delighted to announce that after 15 years we have finally achieved victory

For the first time the full story of this case has been told in a book entitled, *A Very British Conspiracy: the Shrewsbury 24 and the Campaign for Justice*. It has been written by the Campaign's Researcher & Secretary, Eileen Turnbull and published by Verso Books.

The book tells the full story of how the state prosecuted the North Wales building workers and the campaign that was established to overturn this miscarriage of justice. It shows how the state used the criminal justice system to secure convictions,

revealing how, in the absence of hard evidence, the Police and prosecution went to extraordinary lengths to criminalise trade unionists.

All proceeds from the sale of the book will go to The Casa in Liverpool.

On the 3 and 4 February 2021 three appeal court judges heard the appeals of the pickets in the Royal Courts of Justice in London. Convicted pickets Terry Renshaw and John McKinsie Jones, with his wife Rita, joined Eileen Turnbull, Harry Chadwick and supporters in Court 4 to view the proceedings. Terry

A VERY BRITISH CONSPIRACY

The Shrewsbury 24
and the Campaign for Justice



EILEEN TURNBULL

Sadly, some pickets passed away without ever knowing that their names had been cleared.

The 12 pickets who were represented by the Campaign at the Court of Appeal and had all their convictions quashed were:

Trial 1: Des Warren, John McKinsie Jones, Ken O'Shea.

Trial 2: Michael Pierce, Malcolm Clee, Alfred James, Roy Warburton.

Trial 3: Terry Renshaw, Kevin Butcher, Bernard Williams, Graham Roberts, John Seaburg.

Two of the original applicants withdrew from the campaign and legal case in autumn 2017 when it was turned down by the CCRC.

and John said on the steps of the court, “We have waited over 47 years for this day and nothing would have stopped us attending the Royal Court of Justice in London for the hearing”.

We had to wait a further agonising six weeks after the two-day hearing for the appeal court judges to hand down their judgement. On the 23 March 2021 they held, unanimously, that the prosecution’s destruction of witness statements and the withholding of that information from the defence denied the pickets a fair trial. The convictions therefore could not be allowed to stand.

The Campaign had instructed Bindmans solicitors, the leading Human Rights lawyers. Our legal team was headed by Danny Friedman QC of Matrix Chambers

and junior counsel Ben Newton of Doughty Street. Jamie Potter and Kate Goodman, senior partners at Bindmans, were also in attendance.

Danny was on his feet for the whole of the first day, addressing the three judges, headed by the Vice President of the Court of Appeal, Lord Justice Fulford. All the evidence relied upon by the pickets at the hearing was obtained by the Campaign’s researcher, Eileen Turnbull, over a period of 12 years.

Danny gave an excellent account of our case in court, which was recognised by *The Lawyer* magazine when they named him Barrister of the Week for his outstanding presentation of the case. Jamie, who had acted for the pickets and the Campaign, was named Lawyer of the Week in *The Times*.

All convictions of all pickets in all three trials were quashed

The convictions of all the pickets at all three trials in 1973-74 were quashed. This is a magnificent victory for the pickets and the whole of the trade union and labour movement. The pickets and the Shrewsbury 24 Campaign are absolutely overjoyed.

The families of the pickets spoke about the dreadful times that they went through in 1973-74, when the media demonised the North Wales building workers.

Six of the pickets were sent to prison for periods ranging from six months up to three years in the case of the leading picket, Des Warren. All the convicted pickets faced great hardship after the trial as many were blacklisted. They never thought that the day would come when the truth would come out and they can now hold their heads up high in their respective communities in north Wales.

Our victory was won with your support – thank you

The Shrewsbury 24 Campaign and the pickets wish to thank all the 21 national trade unions, hundreds of trade union branches, trades councils, Labour Party branches and many individuals who have supported us over the years. We also had unwavering support from many past and present Labour MPs, notably Jeremy Corbyn, John McDonnell, David Anderson, Ian Lavery, Diane Abbott, Richard Burgon, Ian Mearns, Dan Carden, Ian Byrne, Grahame Morris,

Andy Burnham and many others.

We would also like to thank other justice campaigns that have helped us, with special mention to the Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign and all the Hillsborough justice campaigners—**they never gave up**.

Without this support and solidarity, we could never have succeeded.

Affiliations

As a result of our historic victory at the Court of Appeal the campaign is winding down. We will no longer be seeking affiliations or donations from our labour movement supporters. We greatly appreciate the contributions that we received as this enabled us to fund the pickets’ case over the past fifteen years. For further information please see our website or contact our Secretary, Eileen Turnbull.