diversions BS

who sparked off what turned into a bit of a around Westminster and in the end was left

Tebbit was, of course, with his wife, a victim of righton bombing in the at very publicity.

Meanwhile, Gerry Adams'
Irish publishers quite simply circunrvented the ban by redesignating the launch of his book as a
"press conference". Who says the
Irish are not resourceful?

Conservative government. His opinions seem stuck in a groove moulded then and he sees red whenever Sinn Fein, whom he thinks of as at least apologists for the IRA, are even mentioned.

Such a fuss did he create that the Speaker of the House of Commons, the normally eminently, sensible Betty Boothroyd, felt slie had little alternative but to slae had little alternative but to slae had little alternative but to slae had little alternative but to slee had little alternative but to said had little alternative but to said had not be used for the promotion of a commercial venume—flew in the face of precedent but the word is she acted under immense pressure from the British government.

Ironically, however, the only victim so far of the new ruling has unned out not to be Gerry Adams but the face of the little sleep had agreed to do the

heroes

unsung

Sligo's

They went off brimming with confidence and youthful good humour. Of those that made it back, many were manned for life, some having lost arms, legs, eyes, hands or ears. Some finished their days back in Ireland in Family homes and psychiatric hospitals, reliving the horrors of the trenches. This is, of course, a reference to the many lish men who fought against Germany in the "war to end all wars" and author James McGuinn has just published a slim volume highlighting those who went off from his native Co. Sligo to die for God knows what. James would be the first to admit that his book is far from exhaustive — his register of Sligo men killed in action during World War I extends to just 420. Clearly, many more from Sligo enlisted, so

my Paxman devours
it it seems he is just a big
oman Linda Duffy being
s London headquarters for
e. she was too damned rude.
staff like fellow news
etition demanding that she
in of the Shepherds Bush
but insisted that she change
is all the more remarkable
in: "You're crap, you are!".

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left quite in the dark as to where the alternative venue might be.

As it turned, it was not far away. Brendan O'Leary, with wry humour, made the best of it—thanking Betty Boothroyd for the distinction she had conferred upon his efforts by her action and for affording him an extra fillip of middlicity.

LONDON VISIT: Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams was in London last week to launch his latest book, in Free Ireland: Towards a Lasting Peace, in which he discusses the republican movement from the early sixtles through to the currently ongoing peace process.

His publishers, Brandon, got around a House of Commons ban on launching the book there by reconvening the launch as a "press conference".

Gerry Adams is pictured above by TERRY SMITH outside the House of Commons following the launch.

See also 'Alarms and diversions'.

his book by way of a new edition.

Photographs of the deceased would be especially helpful to James in giving readers some sort of feel for

not

changes were inevitable.

He acknowledges that guidelines on the right procedures to follow during interviews were produced in January 1993 by the Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers but concludes: "All is still for the concludes: "All is still for the concludes that the concludes that the concludes that the concludes that the concludes the concludes that the co

"First," investigations that the than suspect-driven. Second, information elicitation and case-building has to be the focus, rather than obtaining confessions that may later be retracted or disputed. This change in focus means that if a confession is obtained then this becomes the beginning of the end, not the end as such. After obtaining a confession, police are obviously reluctant to pursue further verification, far less falsification, but

this has to be done under this new focus."

The author nonetheless concludes in rather optimistic fashion that the British police have learned the errors of their ways from the likes of the more spectacular Irish wrongful, convictions and, that "against all the odds — negative public perception, shrinking unit of resource, escalating workloads and stress levels — the police have attempted to bootstrap themselves into an ethical and professional fighting force"

Copies of his article can be had in the mid-June issue of SPA by contacting the BAAS at 23 Savile Row, London WIX 2NB, telephone 0171-973 3051.

on a

Action! The old film starting call continues to be a simile for films in Ireland.

After a hugely successful 1994, thanks to inspired forethought by the Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht, Michael D. Higgins, and generous tax allowances, 18 films were completed in the Republic One of them, An Awfully Big Adventure, is currently to be seen throughout Britain and Mel Gibson's blockbuster Braveheart, which used into about the partier lich barny as

Inp is any interest in figurate and sure in gently completion in figuration in figurat

Sad to relate the recent death in Hull of 63-year-old Pairick "Punch" Bruen, who, true to form, worked right to the end at the Irish Centre he ran at the town's Chamberlain Road.

Paying tribute to him the other day, club member and close friend Richard Leeson recalled: "He was a fun-loving fella. He had time for everybody. The kids

rount in helping cement s between the English and mmunities.

and strains in running a man strains in running a

70II Ireland

just about the entire Irish army as extras, opens soon. Pat O'Con nor's Circle of Friends, adopted from Maeve Binchey's best-sell ing novel, opens this week, starring Chris O'Donnell, Minutio Driver and Geraldine O'Rawe.

This year looks set to be every better for the horde of Irish technicians, camera crews and suppliers catering to the needs on big-production films. A film version of Moll Flanders is being shot at Ardmore Studios. Guilt Tip is another foreign production negating completion in Ingland. St.

Hull's rish Loss for

tracks on the Back

After nearly 40 years, the old railway station in Donegal town will re-open its doors to the public from 1.00 p.m. on Saturday, June 3. Of novelty value to some, it will surely prove to be a nostalgic trip for many more people.

Once a triving junction on the County Donegal Railway, the largest narrow gauge system in Britain or Ireland with a peak route mileage of 124 miles, the ancient building is being give a new lease of life as a heritage centre.

Careful restoration work over the past twelve months by the past twelve months by the past twelve months by the past point Donegal Railway Restoration. Society (SDRRS), helped by the building's current owners. Bus Eireann, means that the station will be full of displays, photographs and other memorabilia aimed at preserving for future generations the memory of this unique system.

generations unique system.

"Local people still regret the closing of the Wee Donegal" said Jon Williams rather wistfully when he spoke to this column. He is chairman of the SDRRS and pointed out how the restoration is already of practical value to the local community with eleven workers employed full-time on workers through the Dublin

Would Peter Lally, formerly of Boggauns, Ballygar, Co. Galway, please make contact with his sister, Mary Finn of Cloonaweema, Charlestown, Co. Mayo, URGENTLY

Charlestown, Co. Mayo, URGENTLY

1. Tel.: 00-353 94 54418 September 15.

Pat The Cope Gallagher, the MEP for that part of the country, will officiate at the centre's opening on June 3.

Donegal's narrow gauge railway system served the people of that county for the best part of a century, outliving its contemporaries through eco-

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