

Pól Kinsella Cumann
&
81 Committee



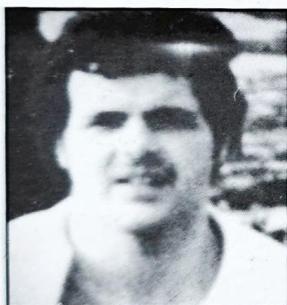
Annual Function
Saturday 25th November 2006



Eamonn 'Bronco' Bradley
1958 - 1982



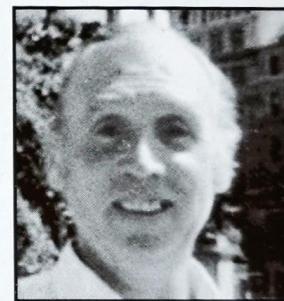
Patrick Doherty
1954 - 2004



Ciaran Fleming
1959 - 1984



Bosco Doherty
1958 - 2000



Alan Patterson
1942 - 2005



Peter McCallion
1958 - 1998



Tony Quigley
1945 - 2005

The Rhythm Of Time

There's an inner thing in every man,
Do you know this thing my friend?
It has withstood the blows of a million years,
And will do so to the end.

It was born when time did not exist,
And it grew up out of life,
It cut down evil's strangling vines,
Like a slashing searing knife.

It lit fires when fires were not,
And burnt the mind of man,
Tempering leadened hearts to steel,
From the time that time began.

It wept by the waters of Babylon,
And when all men were a loss,
It screeched in writhing agony,
And it hung bleeding from the Cross.

It died in Rome by lion and sword,
And in defiant cruel array,
When the deathly word was 'Spartacus'
Along with Appian Way.

It marched with Wat the Tyler's poor,
And frightened lord and king,
And it was emblazoned in their deathly stare,
As e'er a living thing.

It lights the dark of this prison cell,
It thunders forth its might,
It is 'the undauntable thought', my friend,
That thought that says 'I'm right!'

It smiled in holy innocence,
Before conquistadors of old,
So meek and tame and unaware,
Of the deathly power of gold.

It burst forth through pitiful Paris streets,
And stormed the old Bastille,
And marched upon the serpent's head,
And crushed it 'neath its heel.

It died in blood on Buffalo Plains,
And starved by moons of rain,
Its heart was buried in Wounded Knee,
But it will come to rise again.

It screamed aloud by Kerry lakes,
As it was knelt upon the ground,
And it died in great defiance,
As they coldly shot it down.

It is found in every light of hope,
It knows no bounds nor space
It has risen in red and black and white,
It is there in every race.

It lies in the hearts of heroes dead,
It screams in tyrants' eyes,
It has reached the peak of mountains high,
It comes searing 'cross the skies.

By Bobby Sands

On behalf of the Pól Kinsella Cumann, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to this year's event. I would like to pay a special tribute to the families of our honourees. This year we have chosen to remember those blanket men from Derry who have sadly passed away since their release from prison. They are Eamonn "Bronco" Bradley, Ciaran Fleming, Peter McCallion, Bosco Doherty, Patrick Doherty, Alan Patterson and Tony Quigley. It is fitting to celebrate the lives of these seven men as this year marks the 25th Anniversary of the 1981 Hunger Strike and it is during this significant period that we wish to remember them with pride as we remember our ten comrades and all those men and women who took part in the blanket protest in the H-Blocks and Armagh gaol.

Throughout this year there have been numerous events to commemorate the Hunger Strikers. In particular, the 5th May march in Derry and August 13th in Belfast, where thousands of Republicans turned out to remember with pride the sacrifice made in 1981. The Pól Kinsella Cumann is honoured that it is working in conjunction with the 81 committee to remember these seven blanket men and we must acknowledge the part that each of these men have played in the prison struggle. The determination and commitment shown by these seven men and their comrades in the face of British brutality, degradation and criminalisation should be followed by all us today as we continue the struggle to achieve our Republican objectives

Michael Henry
Chairperson
Pól Kinsella Cumann

