In Memoriam - 2025

A feature of Umskin Press publications was the In Memoriam section, an idea of Jack McGinley's to record the passing of those serving the movement. In many cases, the notice of their deaths in the Umiskin books was the only printed record of their passing. The Irish Labour History Society has decided to maintain Jack's idea by publishing annual lists under the heading In Memoriam. Suggestions for additions to the listings can be sent to poduibhinn@gmail.com.

William 'Bill' Abom, a former SIPTU Official, Lead Organiser with Mandate, 2014-2021, and community activist, was a dedicated campaigner for worker justice and migrant rights, developing and promoted progressive policy initiatives. He became Director, Migrant Rights Centre Ireland. He died on 30 November 2025.

Frank Barry, a Dubliner and specialist in health and safety, was active in TASS, MSF – serving as National President in 2000, Amicus and Unite. A Labour Party activist, he died on 2 February 2025.

Mary Bradley was active in the SDLP and a Councillor in Derry in 1985, serving as Mayor, 1991-1992. From 2003-2011, she served as MLA for Foyle. She died on 30 December 2025, aged eighty-three.

Margaret Anne Bruton, born in Sheffield in 1941 and Communist Party of Great Britain member, in 1968 she moved to Belfast and joined the Communist Party of Ireland, serving on its National Executive Committee until 2020. A member of the Irish Communist Party and International Brigades Memorial Trust, she contributed to *Unity*. She died on 26 November 2025.

Terence 'Terry' Bruton was a lifelong Communist Party member and served on the Executive of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association. Active in the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance, he died on 26 July 2025.

Colm Bryce, a central figure in the Derry Anti-War Coalition which occupied the Raytheon plant in 2006 in opposition to arms being sent to Israel, was described in local papers as a 'socialist, environmentalist, musician and academic' and 'a powerhouse of social justice'. He had lived in Glasgow but died in London on 12 April 2025.

Seán Buckley was an ITGWU/SIPTU Official in Limerick and Clare. He worked in the Limerick Fire Service and local radio. He died on 29 August 2025.

Joe Byrne served as SDLP Councillor on Omagh District Council and MLA for West Tyrone, 1998-2003 and 2011-2015. He was held to have played a significant role in negotiations for the Good Friday Agreement. He died 30 December 2025.

Christopher 'Kit' Callaghan, originally from Little Island, Cork, was a Labour Party stalwart in Balbriggan, County Dublin from the 1960s and active in the FWUI/SIPTU. He died on 3 April 2025.

Michael Calnan, a Secondary School teacher and Vice Principal Maria Immaculate School, Dunmanway, was a Labour Party County Councillor in the Skibbereen area from 1974, serving as Cathaoirleach Cork County Council in 1988 and 1992. After contesting several General Elections, he was elected to the Seanad on the Agricultural Panel, 1993-1997. He died on 21 October 2025.

James 'Jim' Cooke, a native of Kilmacow, County Kilkenny, taught in Ringsend Technical Institute,1968-2002, holding responsibility for Adult Education. He published *Technical Education & The Foundation of the Dublin United Trades' Council, 1886-1986*, (TUI, 1987); *A Musical Journey, 1890-1993: From Municipal School of Music to Dublin Institute of Technology,* (Technical University of Dublin, 1995); and *A History of the Irish Vocational Education Association, 1902-2002*, (2009). He died on 1 February 2025.

Ian Corr, best known as RTÉ Head of Radio Sport, as a sound recordist was a Shop Steward in the ITGWU and then served the National Union of Journalists in the RTÉ Trade Union Group. He died on 19 April 2025.

Margaretta D'Arcy, born in London on 14 June 1934, was an actress, writer, playwright and activist. A member of Aosdána, she campaigned for women's rights, peace, civil liberties and self-determination. She was imprisoned

in 2014 for protesting at US military stopovers at Shannon. With her husband John Arden, in April 1975 their twenty-four-hour production of *The Non-Stop Connolly Show* was performed in Liberty Hall. She died in Galway on 23 November 2025.

William 'Liam' Delaney, a plumber by trade, was a conspicuous figure at Belfast Trades Council events, generously giving his musical talents to raise funds for Cuba, Palestine, socialist and progressive causes. He died in Belfast on 29 March 2025.

Paul Depuis was a popular, long-serving Industrial Organiser in SIPTU's Manufacturing Division based in Cork. He died on 2 May 2025.

Patrick 'Pat' Fitzgerald, a glass blower, was a highly-respected Convenor for the Amalgamated Transport & General Workers' Union/Unite in Waterford Crystal. As Branch Chair, he led many campaigns on social and international solidarity issues. He died as a result of an assault on 3 August 2025.

Gerard 'Gerry' Fleming, active in the Connolly Youth Movement, was General Secretary, Irish National Painters' & Decorators' Trade Union and then Head of Construction for SIPTU. He served on the Employment Appeals Tribunal and as a Rights Commissioner. He died on 18 July 2025.

Francis 'Freddie' Fox was a SIPTU Representative in Dublin City Council's Water Works and served on the union's National Executive Council. He died on 19 November 2025.

Dan Gallin, born in 1931 in Lvov, then Poland now Ukraine, was sent to Switzerland in 1943 where he was educated. He joined the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Tobacco & Allied Workers' Associations (IUF), serving General Secretary, 1968-1997. He was President, International Federation of Workers' Education Associations (IFWEA), 1991-2003, and an early ILHS member. He died in Geneva on 31 May 2025.

Desmond 'Des' Guckian, a history teacher, was active in the Association of Secondary Teachers, Ireland and Longford Council of Trade Unions. An Independent County Councillor, he published *Deported Jimmy Gralton 1886 - 1945 The Story of Jimmy Gralton, Effernagh, Gowel, County Leitrim* in 1986. He died in the North West Hospice Sligo on 22 May 2025.

Rita Higgs, born McNulty in Gort a' Choirce, Dún na nGall, assisted in producing the paper *Lámh Dhearg***,** with Irish Communist Organisation involvement, and was active in the Workers' Association. She moved to London and worked for the Transport & General Workers' Union (TGWU). She married TGWU National Secretary Fred Higgs who became General Secretary, International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine & General Workers' Unions (ICEM), 1999-2006. He died in 2015. Rita moved back to Dún Laoghaire and died on 15 February 2025.

Gerard 'Gerry' Mcintyre, a long serving ITGWU/SIPTU Official, contested Artane for the Communist Party of Ireland in the Artane constituency in 1977. A tireless fighter for his class, community and peace, he championed worker education and was universally respected. He died on 23 October 2025**.**

Pearse McKenna, shot by the UFF in 1991 when going to work in Ormeau Bakery, served on the Belfast Trades Council Executive in the 1990s. An ardent campaigner against sectarianism, he was a long-standing activist in the Communist Party of Ireland/Irish Communist Party and an ATGWU and GMB activist. He died on 1 February 2025.

Cathal Mac Liam was an activist for Irish unity, neutrality and independence, opponent of Apartheid in South Africa and of the threats to sovereignty from membership of the European Union. Active in the Connolly Association and Wolfe Tone Society, he became a long serving Industrial Official with the ITGWU/SIPTU. He died on 14 July 2025.

Patrick 'Pat' Meade was Branch Secretary in the ITGWU/SIPTU representing insurance and bus workers. He died in Cóbh on 18 April 2025

Eamon Melaugh, a socialist, political campaigner and activist, helped found the Derry Housing Action Committee and the Derry Unemployment Action Committee. He was involved with the Northern Ireland Civil Rights

Association and the Workers' Party, contesting the Foyle seat for the Republican Clubs/Official Sinn Féin. He died on 8 December 2025, age ninety-two.

Arthur Mitchell, born in Boston in 1936, gained a doctorate from Trinity College Dublin. In 1974, he published the then ground-breaking study *Labour in Irish Politics: The Irish Labour Movement in an Age of Revolution*. With Pádraig Ó Snodaigh, he published collections of documents on Irish politics and, in 1995, his *Revolutionary Government in Ireland. Dáil Éireann, 1919-1922* appeared. He died on 18 October 2024 in Allendale, South Carolina.

Dominick Moloney was an ITGWU/SIPTU activist in Irish Rail and, latterly, an imaginative member of SIPTU's Limerick District Council. A talented musician and photographer, he died on 11 January 2025.

Edmund 'Ed' Moloney, former *Irish Times* journalist and Northern Ireland Editor, *Sunday Tribune*, was Irish Journalist of the Year, 1999. He wrote *A Secret History of the IRA* (2002) and *Paisley: From Demagogue to Democrat*? (2008). He successfully challenged a court order under the Terrorism Act requesting his interview notes with a paramilitary charged with the murder of lawyer Pat Finucane. The National Union of Journalists awarded him their Gold Badge for his commitment to the union's Code of Conduct and the Principles of Press Freedom. He died in New York on 17 October 2025.

Brendan Murphy was for many years the Picture Editor and Photographer with the *Irish News* and active in the National Union of Journalists. He died on 11 November 2025 in Belfast.

Eamon Murray, an accomplished harmonica and saxophone player, served as Vice President, Musicians' Union of Ireland. He died on 22 June 2025.

Deirdre Ní Bhrógáin served on the National Executive of the Communist Party of Ireland and was predeceased by her husband Feargus. She died in Balbriggan on 7 October 2025.

Séamus O'Donnell, born in Cavan in 1927, worked in retail in Arva, Frawley's of Thomas Street and Brown Thomas, becoming an Official with the Irish Union of Distributive Workers & Clerks/Irish Distributive & Administrative Trade Union. He retired as Assistant General Secretary in 1992 but was closely involved in the creation of Mandate in 1994. A long-serving member of the Employment Appeals Tribunal, he died on 4 March 2025.

Pádraig Ó Snodaigh, Irish language, poet and writer, was a founding Committee member of the Irish Labour History Society and editor of the first three volumes of *Saothar*. A former President, Conradh na Gaeilge, he founded the publishing company Coiscéim. He died on 2 January 2025.

Elsie Perdisatt, a long serving administrative worker in the FWUI and SIPTU College, died on 5 June 2025.

Michael 'Butch' Power was Amalgamated Transport & General Workers' Union/Unite Convenor in Waterford Glass and Branch Chair. He died on 18 September 2025.

Patrick 'Paddy' Reidy was an ITGWU Branch Secretary in Waterford and lifelong activist in the Labour Party. He died on 20 March 2025.

Ciarán Ryan from Dublin served on the Executive of the Civil & Public Services Union and was active in Fórsa. He died on 30 December 2025.

Seán Sheehan, from Tullamore, was ITGWU Offaly Branch Secretary for many years. He died on 24 November 2025.

John 'Johnny' Treacy was the leader of the ITGWU/SIPTU members in Clover Meats, Waterford, winning changes to the Payment of Wages and Social Welfare Acts to favour workers in co-operatives and those on strike. He chaired the Bacon Workers' National Committee. A stalwart in the Credit Union movement, he died on 1 December 2025.

Eamonn Walsh, an art teacher, was a Dublin County Councillor, 1991-2009, serving as Cathaoirleach, 1997-1998, and Labour TD for Dublin Soth West, 1992-1997. He died on 26 January 2025, aged 80.

Seán Whelan from Kells worked for Aer Lingus and was active in SIPTU. A community activist and member of the National Assembly for Older Citizens, he served the Labour Party at local and national levels. A man of high standards, je sought justice and fairness for all in the workplace and the wider society. He died on 20 December 2025.