



Remembering: “Petals of Hope”

Artistic responses to the Omagh Bomb

Conversations with Carole Kane and Malachi O’Doherty

Patsy Gallagher

“And then from all over the world, they did know us and they started writing.”

I was reading them there last week again. A lot of people could relate. They had maybe lost a son or they had a son of the same age, maybe going on to be a mechanic or something like that. He was in bodywork, you know; they related through that. Or they had somebody belonging to them who had died young, killed in a road accident, or by suicide or something like that.

Aidan was 37 yesterday. They were saying that they had children of the same age, so they're going to be 37 or round that as well, so it would be difficult for me to now sit down and start writing to them because you are not writing to the person that wrote to you. You're writing to a person that's a lot older and has moved on.

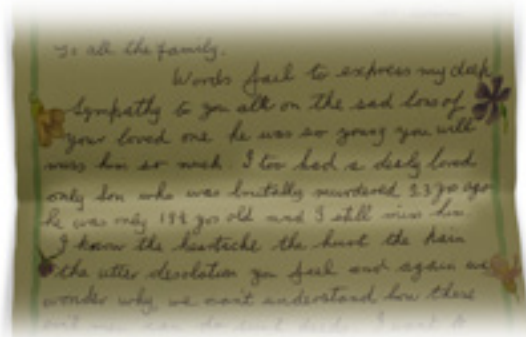
And if they had a tragedy they would probably be the same as myself. They would be getting round it, coming to terms with it. I mean, all you could really do is thank them for thinking of you at the time and for their support.

And you know when somebody dies in the house you think, well it's only the neighbours that know and relations but in his case, it seemed to be everyone who knew.

It was definitely comforting, but you know, at the time that you were getting them, you just wanted him back. But it was comforting that the people were relating to you and that. But still in all, you know, your head wasn't in the right place. You still wanted him back.

And I remember at the funeral, there was a man and woman and they couldn't do anything. They just got into the car. They were from Belfast and they drove and they found out where the graveyard was and they arrived for the funeral that day, because they had a son that was killed as well.

You know and that was, that was something that I thought an awful lot of.





libraries ni


irresistible learning


Omagh
DISTRICT COUNCIL

VS VICTIMS &
SURVIVORS
SERVICE

This publication has received support from the Victims Support Programme for Groups Working with Victims and Survivors, which is administered by VSS on behalf of the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Victims and Survivors Service.