



# Remembering: “Petals of Hope”

Artistic responses to the Omagh Bomb

**Conversations with Carole Kane and Malachi O’Doherty**

# Michael and Patsy Gallagher

"It has never worked."

If you bought a car at £50 and something wrong with it, wouldn't you take it back? You know, you wouldn't just keep it. And that was £250,000 and nobody complained about it. Well, we complained about it but nobody listened to us.

My complaint is not just about the mirrors; I think the garden itself is very clinical. It would remind you maybe of the war graves that you get in France for the First and Second World Wars where its all granite and you go there and you pay your respects and leave. But the garden we had earlier, you had trees in it and you had chairs in it. Wildlife came into it. It was a more natural space.

Some people hung pictures of their dead on the wee tree, you know, and you could just sit there, it was so peaceful. And then they made it into that.

We went to the meetings and we tried to get them to make it just like a rose garden, you know, nice. They wouldn't hear tell of it. They did what they wanted; they didn't do what any of the people wanted for a memorial.

We sat on the Memorial Working Group for eight years, we made several suggestions. Where that glass obelisk is, all we wanted was a small plaque. Actually there is a small plaque on the wall, just to mark the spot.

We just wanted the same type of garden enlarged, a wee bit bigger, so that we could have room for everybody but for what reason, I don't know, they refused us.

But I think that's been very true about a lot of things that's happened in Omagh, we've never had the common touch.





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