Robert (Bobby) Crilly

SEFF remembers Robert (Bobby) Crilly who was murdered by PIRA terrorists 39 years ago today on 3rd January 1980.

Bobby was a part time member of the RUC, he joined the force in 1972 and was a Reserve Constable. Bobby had two brothers and three sisters (two of his sisters are alive today), he was unmarried at the time of his murder but he was engaged for many years.

Apart from serving on the RUC reserve Bobby also ran his own garage business in Newtownbutler for many years, it was within his garage on the 3rd January 1980 where a car pulled in, two men got out and opened fire. A neighbour’s 12-year-old boy, who had been watching him at work, saw him die. Bobby died before an ambulance arrived while the gunmen escaped towards the border of County Cavan.

Bobby had a great interest in his Church, Galloon Parish Church where he was an active member; he was very much involved in work with the young people and in particular encouraging them away from sectarianism. He was also a very keen badminton player.

Bobby is remembered on SEFF’s latest Memorial Quilt - A Patchwork of Innocents. His patch includes a spanner and an engine to depict his work and his garage along with a badminton racket to show his interest in playing the sport.

Bobby was said to be an extremely generous person not only to his immediate relatives and nephews and nieces but also gave up much of his spare time for the benefit of others. He was one of the many quiet unassuming gentlemen of his generation who was more interested in helping others rather than thinking about himself.

Recently a Nephew of Bobby’s made contact with SEFF and has since been down to Fermanagh on a number of occasions, he is committed to honouring his Uncle’s memory in fighting for justice, truth and accountability around the circumstances of his murder.

The Crilly family circle are in our thoughts and prayers today and every day.