**BILLY DICKSON ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT 1982**

**From Facebook by Anne** - This evening 38 years ago the INLA invaded our home 31 Broadway Parade, (old Broadway Parade), by smashing the door in with a sledge hammer, they fired 5 /6 shots at Billy who was standing in our hallway talking on the phone to Councillor Eric Smyth. One bullet hit Billy missed all his vital organs, spun round and came out his back. Billy flung our vestibule door shut in their faces, they dropped a radio bomb they were planning to leave in our home after they had shot us both dead, then when the police and army would come in to investigate the crime scene the radio bomb would go off killing or maiming some of them. Billy should have got an award for potentially saving their lives. The INLA made off toward the Falls.

A neighbour across the street Bumper Graham took Billy to BCH in his car, he went so fast the police went after him thinking he was the getaway car. The surgeon said the fact that Billy didn't drink alcohol or smoke helped to save his life. After a few days Billy was transferred to the RVH security wing. He spent another 3 weeks in RVH, when he got out we went to stay at my mum and dad's flat as our home had been bombed, my parents lived in our home with no living room ceiling, busted radiators, no carpet on floor as it had been saturated in water from the radiators, front wall of house was badly damaged and our garden wall was demolished.

The first people at our door the next day was Seamus Lynch, Workers Party and the late Thomas Passmore. My father and a work colleague cleared up the debris for me coming home from the hospital the next day. The then DUP leader Ian Paisley talked about getting a squad up to sort the house out for me coming home, alas it was only talk. We still suffer flashbacks from this horrific ordeal. Billy is very wary about opening the door to people he doesn't know and loud noises which he can’t account for are very distressing. We were grateful to Billy Weir for taking over our children's work while Billy was laid aside. Our neighbours were always watching out for us. When my dad and I were heading up to RVH each day, one neighbour Robert Graham was out like a flash and drove us up to hospital. Another neighbour Ella Aston went with me to the BCH the night of the shooting. We are grateful to Almighty God for bringing us thus far.

