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Eamon Melaugh - a son of Derry who epitomised compassion in an unjust world

Editor


2–3 minutes

Like in other newsrooms across the region, everyone in the Journal knew and respected Eamon Melaugh. He was never idle and looking back on his life it is clear to see that he channeled that drive and energy to extraordinary effect.

It is only in review that you realise just how extraordinary his life was.

Eamon Melaugh had a C.V. as impressive as any of them. A civil rights leader and welfare advocate and advisor, a talented and prolific photographer whose works were published several years back, a social activist, a peace advocate, the founder of a charity that raised almost £1m for, and, crucially, raised awareness of, the plight of impoverished children and those with leprosy. I could go on.

I remember a particularly pleasant afternoon spent with him at his flat in Alexander House for an in-depth article about his life and his work with the charity he founded, Action With Effect, several years back now. He was warm, hospitable, intelligent, quick and witty with knowledge, passion and wisdom that the years had not dimmed.





Derry Journal

The late Eamon Melaugh, Action With Effect, pictured several years ago as he held a free draw in Quayside Shopping Centre to thank the people of Derry for their donations and support for the charities work in India. (2004PG39)

I came away from that interview in awe of Eamon Melaugh. Ever since, one word always springs to mind when I've thought of this son of Derry: compassion. He was deeply concerned with the welfare of others at home and around the world. But concern was not enough. Eamon Melaugh was a doer as well as a thinker, a practical man who understood that if you wanted change you had to be a catalyst for it in a world full of injustice.

So many talk the talk. Eamon Melaugh walked the walk.

-Editor