

Colin Coyle

COLIN Coyle drowned on 6 March 1997 in a Lancaster canal. He was 26 years old.



Colin joined Workers' Liberty in early 1994. He had been a labour movement and Labour Party activist and a socialist all of his adult life. Colin was widely respected throughout the Lancaster labour movement for his continued involvement in and commitment to workers' struggles, both locally and nationally. Colin a born and bred Lancastrian, had been unemployed for a number of years.

An avid reader who explored ideas with relish, Colin decided to join the AWL after reading and being convinced by Lenin's State and Revolution. He had, and worked to develop, a keen knowledge of working-class history.

Colin could often be shy about expressing his ideas, but he was an independent and sharp thinker. He took the publications of his organisation very seriously and was conscientious about using them to spread our ideas. Although initially nervous he took immense pleasure in his first successful public sale. For Colin, the greatest insult anyone ever threw at him was when he was jokingly called a dilettante. He wasn't.

Colin's other great joys in life were walking and music, at least when he wasn't in the pub! He spent a lot of time walking in the Lake District and in the countryside around Lancaster

Colin had varied music tastes from Teardrop Explodes to Scott Walker and The Smiths. His evangelising failed to entirely convince the branch to share his preferences.

Colin was involved in the mini-bus accident in the summer of 1995 in which two of his Lancaster comrades, Jo Walker and David Hague, were killed. He had been depressed for a while and it is likely that he took his own life. For his friends and comrades this is a particularly hard fact to come to terms with.

Colin earned enormous respect and affection from his comrades. His dry sense of humour was always appreciated even when we were the butt of it.

He was much loved and will be much missed.

Members of the Lancaster Alliance for Workers' Liberty 1994-97