



THE BELFAST TELEGRAPH WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU.



Book by 28 February and save up to £200 per person\*  
\* SEE WEBSITE FOR TERMS & CONDITIONS

- [News](#)
- [Sport](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Life & Style](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Cars](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [Classified](#)

- [Local & National](#)
- [World](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Property](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Environment](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Video](#)
- [Family Notices](#)
- [Crime Map](#)
- [Sunday Life](#)
- [The CT](#)

The digital gateway to Northern Ireland news, sport, business, entertainment and opinion

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Local & National](#)

## Hamill inquiry hears of 'collective memory loss'

By Lesley-Anne Henry  
Saturday, 14 February 2009

Some witnesses at the Robert Hamill inquiry have taken a "collective decision" to blank the events of April 27, 1997 from their memory, a barrister claimed yesterday.

Barra McGrory QC, counsel for the Hamill family, suggested an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding Mr Hamill's murder and the subsequent investigation was hampered because witnesses recall nothing from the night.

"This inquiry has a problem because there are a number of people who seem to have blanked this completely from their memory," he told the sitting at Belfast Interpoint Centre yesterday.

"There are a number of people in Portadown who have taken a collective decision to come to this inquiry and say they can't remember anything," added Mr McGrory.

Mr McGrory's comments were made during cross examination of Stephen Bloomer, who had been making his way home from a night out when he came across the fight.

In a statement given to RUC murder investigation officers in the weeks after the incident, Mr Bloomer recalled seeing people "beating the heads off each other".

At that time he told police no one was lying on the ground and also recounted seeing a policeman with a baton gun. "I didn't want to be anywhere near the place," he told police.

In the witness box yesterday, however, Mr Bloomer said his details of April 27, 1997 were now "virtually non-existent" because he had "a lot of alcohol taken that night".

Search

**Bookmark & Share**

[Digg It](#) [del.icio.us](#)

[Facebook](#) [Stumbleupon](#)

What are these?

Change font size: [A](#) [A](#) [A](#)

### In Pictures: Northern Ireland Nightlife



Had a big night out? Click here to send us your pics

### Are you finding debt an uphill struggle?



### Post a comment

Limit: 500 characters, left: 1000

[View all comments](#) that have been posted about this article

Offensive or abusive comments will be removed and your IP address logged and may be used to prevent further submissions. In submitting a comment to the site, you agree to be bound by BelfastTelegraph.co.uk's [Terms of Use](#).

\* Name (only this field displayed)

\* Email

\* Town/City

\* Country/State

\* Required field  
 Remember Me

Posts submitted in UPPERCASE letters will be rejected.

### Also in this section

- [Dunne urges shoppers: go to Northern Ireland](#)
- [Irish golfer loses eye after being hit with his own ball](#)

**AllClear**

**It is with AllClear Travel Insurance**

[Click Here for a Quick Quote](#)

**Cancer**  
**High Blood Pressure**  
**Stroke**  
**Asthma**  
**Diabetes**  
**Depression**

- Obama's Ireland visit may not be Offaly long shot
- Letter throws fresh doubt on Finucane killing probe
- Stormont must put jobs first

Results by

[Tiletec Ceramics](#)  
Tile Suppliers, Distribution,  
Retail, Showroom,  
Adhesives, Accessories  
[Flooring Services](#)

[Property Link NI Ltd](#)  
Buying, selling, letting?  
We have it covered, with  
over 30 years experience,  
you're in safe hands.

[Letting Agents](#)

[I.M.S Driver & Rider  
Training](#)  
Experienced Driver  
Training, lessons by  
professional instructors,  
Advanced and Beginners  
[Driving Schools](#)

[Mullan Training](#)  
Computer Training  
Specialists - Delivering in  
Belfast & Throughout  
Ireland - Microsoft ...  
[Computer & Internet  
Training](#)

[Valu Van Hire](#)  
Van Hire Short & Long  
Term Hire  
[Van & Truck Hire](#)

### Northern Ireland Troubles Gallery



1988 - Corporals stripped, beaten and shot dead

### In Pictures: Fashion & Showbiz



What's hot on the catwalks

### Most popular

1. In Pictures: Funny football chants
2. Exclusive: Amazon selling rape simulation game
3. Who's the daddy? Two boys contest 13-year-old Alfie's claim
4. In Pictures: Tough Guy Challenge 2009 - world's ultimate endurance test
5. Jade's agony? It's for real, you know ...
6. Colin Howell: The dentist to the stars
7. Chaos at the Odyssey as 2,000 teens arrive for under-age disco
8. Zoe skates on despite injury
9. In Pictures: Ireland beat Italy in Rome

### In Pictures: All Our Yesterdays



Ulster under snow

Call free: **0800 4402942**  
Visit: **www.Chooboo.com**



Results by

[Commercial Vehicle Auctions](#)

Plant and machinery, light & commercial, heavy commercial, visit our website for latest ...

[Auctioneers & Valuers](#)

[Choc-O-Bloc Chocolate workshop](#)

Fun For Kids - Big & Small. Novelty Chocolate Making - A Great Day Out

[Adventure & Activity Centres - Children](#)

[Wilsons Auctions](#)

Auctioneers & Valuers

[Precision Industrial Services](#)

Property Utility & Environmental Solutions


[Cleaning - Commercial](#)

[Totallymojo](#)

Healthy Eating Soul Cafe, Gifts / T-shirts Etc Bagels & Panini's Coffee & Juices

[Cafes & Coffee Shops](#)

Running a Business?



[Go](#) [Advanced Search](#)